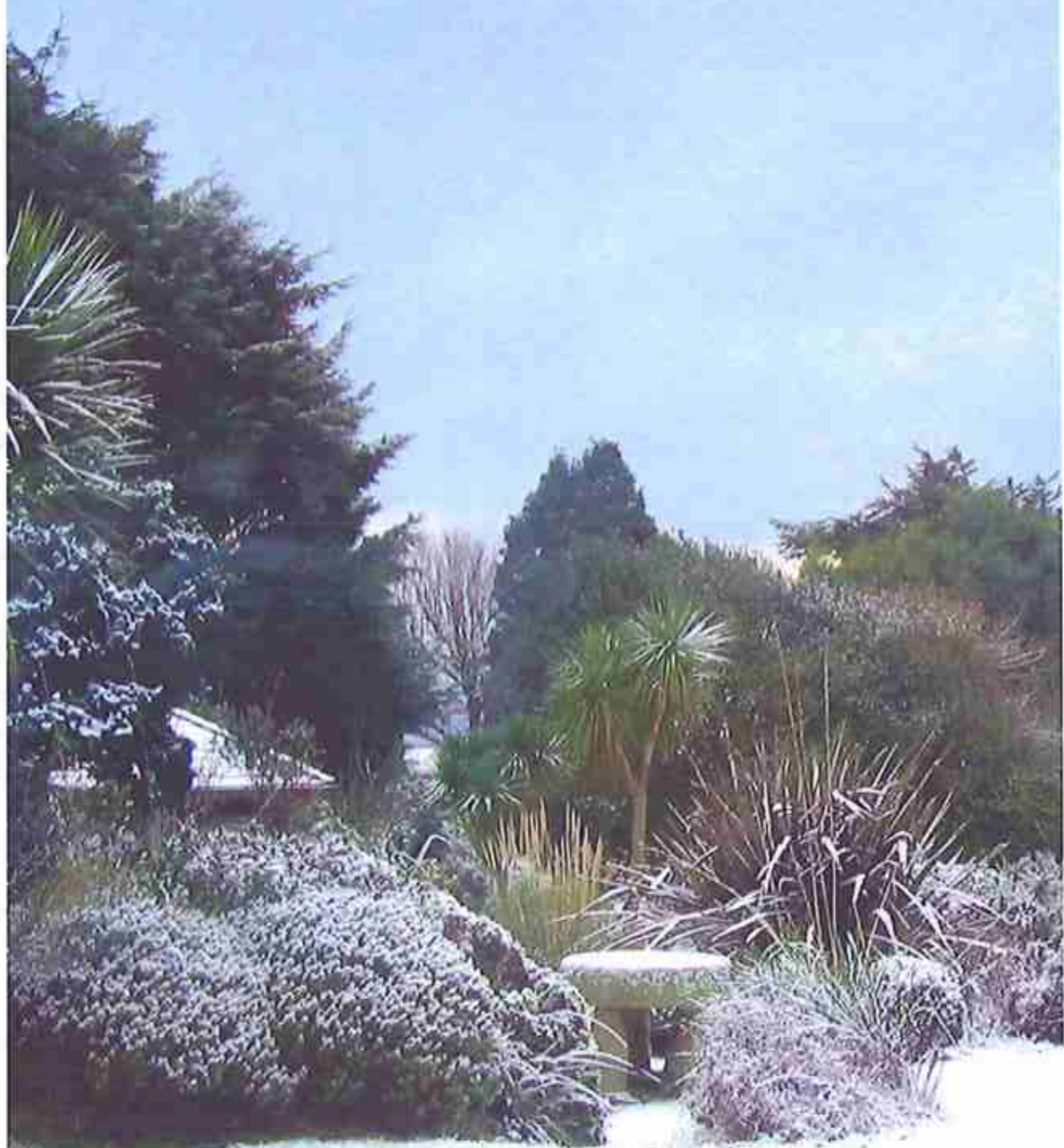


VILLAGE VOICE



December 2010 - January 2011

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone



NUMBER 166
DECEMBER 2010 - JANUARY 2011

Cyber Fibre Fever

Well, Christmas is just around the corner, and our front cover picture, kindly supplied by Margaret Houghton, reminds us that we do occasionally get snow in Thurlestone and so may yet have a traditional white one. Still, winter fuel allowances (thanks to HMG) and the new rash of solar panels sprouting from our rooftops (thanks to the march of technology) should help to see some of us warmly through the worst of the bad weather.

Another manifestation of the march of technology - the fibre optic cable - is currently being dangled in front of us by BT (and Eclipse), presenting us with the devoutly-to-be-wished prospect of a much faster and more reliable Broadband service from the Sutton Cross exchange. While it may seem that God's waiting-roomers here are being urged to join the *Race to Infinity* somewhat earlier than they might have expected, at least a vote cast on a website is likely to precipitate only an earthly paradise (of sorts).

Our campaign for the original Broadband connection was extraordinarily well supported, and the facility quickly put in place. We need our fibre optic push to be equally decisive. So make this your New Year resolution pdq (and 90% of you have yet to vote) as the closing date for voting is 31st December. And, who knows, we might even win the £5,000 of computer equipment up for grabs. *Come on, Delson!*

Front Cover : A white winter at the Old Rectory

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Published Bi-monthly

Parish Hall News

by Chris White



The undoubted highlight of September was our annual Autumn Fair. Once again this event, ably organised by **Pat Macdonald**, broke all previous records, and raised a stunning amount of money for the Parish Hall funds. The event was made all the more special by the presentation of the Award for the *Best Kept Village* Competition, which brought in huge numbers of people (or perhaps it was just the news of the free drink). The atmosphere in the Hall that day was quite unique. My thanks to Pat, POTS, the Parish Council, the Committee, and all the Hall users for their support and hard work which made this such a special day.

In October, a good number of you agreed that the *Kingsmen/Panache Concert* was an event not to be missed, so the two choruses sang to a packed Hall, and a great time was had by all. Huge thanks again to **Pat, Robin, and Jill Munn** for "manning" the bar all evening, and keeping the thirsty customers happy. (More drink – is there a theme here?)

Whilst we were getting out the chairs for this event, we came across two silver charms, that must have been pulled off a bracelet as a kind helper was putting the chairs away at a previous event. If you know who might own them, please call me on 560505.

As I write, we have had a tremendous response to the return of **Tim Kliphuis**, and our organising committee are scratching our heads trying to work out how to fit everyone in. By the time you read this, we will have had to come up with a suitable solution, and I am confident that we will have enjoyed another outstanding evening of the highest international quality entertainment.

The very final event of 2010, and the first of 2011, are one and the same thing – our annual New Year's Eve party. Full details

can be found elsewhere in *Village Voice*. Just let us know if you want to come along.

In addition to our own events, it's been wonderful to see the Hall hosting other highly successful events recently such as the **Puppet Show**, and the visit by the highly talented **Ideford Arts Group**.

We were also very proud to be the venue of the recent Member's meeting for **Thurlestone Golf Club**, a booking which came about purely because of our excellent AV facilities. The number of bookings that we acquire from our presence on the Internet is steadily growing as well, but in spite of that, we are always on the look out for new users for the Hall, and at the moment we potentially have two new classes for your benefit.

The first is a new **Pilates** class to be run by **Jilly Russell** on Friday afternoons, starting in the New Year. Why not make it your New Year's Resolution to tone up your body by joining this class. If this interests you, call **Jilly** on 07989887717 or **June Beven** on 562074.

The second is the potential for **Guitar** lessons from **Pete Metcalfe** who is fully CRB checked. He's offering lessons in Rock, Blues, Folk & Classical. If you're looking for a new challenge in 2011 then contact Pete on 01548 852084, or at his e-mail address petermetcalfe22@btinternet.com.

Both these classes require sufficient numbers to make them viable if they are to get off the ground, so don't delay, dial today.

Whilst it seems a little early, I shall sign off for 2010 by thanking you for your continued support, and wishing you all a very Happy Christmas, and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Parish Council

Meetings held on 4th October & 1st November 2010

News & Views by Citizen

Attendance

The October meeting saw five parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our District Councillor, the District Council Chairman and four members of the public present. At the November meeting seven Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, two Police representatives and four members of the public turned up.

Open Forum

BT are currently carrying out a survey to see who wants a faster broadband connection

Parish Hall

- # Councillor Peter Hurrell reported that railings to prevent the fire doors from blowing shut (opened when moving equipment into the hall) are scheduled to be fitted before Christmas.
- # Scuff marks on the floor could be removed by sanding, but this can only be carried out a maximum of three times.
- # The latest amendments to the hall warm air heating are now acceptable to the majority of the users.
- # The kitchen fire shutter has been serviced.

Highways

- # Councillor Kit Marshall reported that the sign post Chapel Cross had been damaged and, on Buckland Hill, HGVs have caused damage to some trees and road banks. The Parish Council is to write to Devon County Council about excluding such vehicles.
- # The removal of yellow lines in Bantham would cause problems with parked vehicles. The Police can currently remove problem vehicles.
- # Hedges by Nuthatch and Homelea need cutting back, and the Parish Council is to write to Devon County Council.
- # Pot holes are getting worse and a speed restriction sign is needed for Court Park Rd.

Footpaths and Heritage Coast

- # Councillor Geoffrey Stidston has spoken to Grant Thornton about the state of "Post Office Lane".
- # The new gate fitted to the footpath from the telephone box in West Buckland is "pushing" walkers across the edge of the adjacent field.

School

Councillor Andrew Rhymes reported that there was a new "Chair" of Governors. There are currently 119 children at the school, to rise to 123 in January, and 64% come from the Parish. All the building work should be completed by Christmas.

Trees

- # A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) has been placed on trees on the new Whimbrels Edge development to the south of the Mead.
- # Elms opposite Heathfield are dead and need to be removed.
- # Ken Carter, SHDC Officer for trees, will only meet during normal office hours (i.e. he will not attend Parish Council Meetings!).

Best Kept Village

Councillor Kit Marshall said we had received our certificate as winner of the Large Village category. A plaque has been hung in the Yeo Room.

Parish Plan

A final draft of the Parish Plan will be available at the end of November for review – and the final Plan will be placed on the Web.

Forward Development Plan

Councillor Dale Came reported that the latest news was that option 1 is the only location acceptable for new affordable

housing but could be back at some 40 properties! Highways see no problems with such a scheme.

District Councillors Report

District Councillor **Shonaugh Rankin** reminded the meeting that Registration to Vote was required by Law and that failure to do so could result in a £1000 fine.

Bus service changes which could start in May 2011 will be fought by Devon County Council. Sir Simon Day is the contact.

Budget savings of £1.5 million have been made due to SHDC joining with West Devon.

A petition is available up to 30th November 2010 for those wanting an elected Mayor.

Thurstone has 624 properties of which 207 (one third) are holiday homes.

Police Business

Little to report except that a school parent's complaint about parking is to be investigated.

John Baverstock

Councillor **Andrew Rhymes** then introduced Chairman of South Hams District Council **John Baverstock**, who spoke about wanting to listen to Parish Councils, to whom SHDC are grateful for the work they do. Future planning decisions could be handed down to "Communities", the composition of which has yet to be decided, and where a 10% "No" vote could defeat an application. On dog fouling he suggested that the Parish Council write to SHDC detailing the evidence of the problem. If Parish Councils were prepared to pay he could see a special unit formed.

Business by direction of the Chairman

Part of the blue slate edging to the raised footpath in Warren Hill (opposite the gated entrance to the Hotel grounds) needs replacing to prevent a tripping hazard to pedestrians.

A meeting with the National Trust and other interested parties was to be held on 2nd November to discuss the the Thurstone Sands v South Milton Sands issue.

The Parish Council are to ask to meet the

Architects to discuss the "Dormers" rebuild.

Hope Cove Lifeboat

A final decision has recently been made by the Maritime Coastguard Agency that they will no longer operate the Coastguard lifeboat at Hope Cove. However, the Under Secretary of State for Transport stated on a recent visit that, if a viable plan of operation could be presented, the vessel could be gifted to the local community and run as an independent lifeboat.

Plans for the formation of a charitable company were recently put to a public meeting at Galmpton village hall. The packed meeting was attended by locals and second home owners who gave their unanimous support for the project.

The lifeboat would be entirely funded by private or corporate donations and the boat and crew would have to meet extremely high standards to be used as a Declared Facility, and called out in emergencies by the Coastguard. The company is in the process of being formed and charitable status will be sought.

Visits have been made to Sidmouth and Portishead which both operate independent lifeboat services. Both have been extremely helpful and have given information about how they were founded and how they operate.

Hope Cove now eagerly awaits written confirmation of the offer of the boat and premises in which to keep it and, as soon as this arrives and the company is set up, fundraising can begin. As more news arrives it will be published in the local paper and parish magazines. It is also hoped that an e-mail address and phone number can be published soon.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th December at 7.30 p.m. in the Yeo Room.

Forthcoming Events at the Parish Hall

GRAND NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



Friday 31st December from 9.00 pm

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(funny hats to be worn)**

**Tickets £3.00
(Best to reserve a table of 8)**

**Reservations in advance to
Chris White (560505)**



The Stanborough Chorus Presents

'LET'S CELEBRATE'

*A Christmas Concert with
seasonal refreshments*

**Saturday 4th December 2010
7.30 pm
Thurlestone Parish Hall**

**Tickets £8.00 in advance from
Graham Worrall 01548-563016
Tom Gilkes 01548-560973**

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**Saturday 26th February at 7.30 pm
Thurlestone Parish Hall**

Bring your own supper & drinks

**Tickets £10.00
Pat Macdonald (560436)
Judith Le Grice (562135)**

Christmas Greetings From Sarah & Staff at your Local Village Shop

I would like to remind everyone that we still provide a wide range of goods and services for villagers and holiday makers alike, namely:

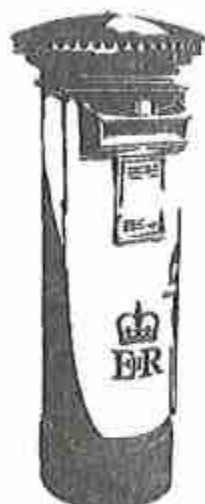
- ❖ Fresh Bread ~ we order a wide range of products daily, including speciality breads
- ❖ Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- ❖ Newspapers & Magazines ~ most popular titles can be ordered if not currently held
- ❖ Dairy Produce ~ inc. milk, cream, yogurts, etc.
- ❖ Hot Drinks Machine
- ❖ Agents for Dry Cleaning & Laundry
- ❖ Off Licence
- ❖ Grocery Delivery * ~ let us bring you your groceries, if you are unable to get to us
- ❖ Grocery Collection* ~ have a selection of products ready for collection from the store on arrival for a holiday or when you return from a holiday.

*24hrs notice and minimum spend required

***Don't forget to order your mince pies and other supplies
in plenty of time for the Festivities.***

Post Office

The Post Office also provides many products and services, with ample free parking outside:



- ❖ Car Tax
- ❖ Free Cash Withdrawals (certain banks only)
- ❖ Christmas Stamps
- ❖ E-Top Ups
- ❖ Gift Cards ~ excellent Christmas presents!

CHRISTMAS POSTINGS

Just a reminder that the last posting dates for Christmas are the **18th December (2nd class)**, and the **21st December (1st class)**. Overseas airmail last posting dates vary, starting 6th December. There will be no collections or deliveries from Christmas Day to 28th December

***May we invite you all to join us for our Christmas Draw
with drinks and nibbles, on Christmas Eve at 11am.
Tickets are on sale from 1st December.***

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Village News Round-Up

Showing Appreciation

When the Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show held its annual general meeting on the 18th October, it was unanimously agreed to donate £200 to Thurlestone Parish Hall in appreciation of its excellent facilities. £200 will also be given to South Milton Village Hall. **Derek Brown** continues as President, **David Coward** of Buckland was re-elected show chairman, **Tom Gilkes** of South Milton is now vice-chairman and treasurer, while **John Lonsdale** continues as show secretary. Dates for next year - the annual plant sale will be on Saturday 14th May at Thurlestone with the show at South Milton on Saturday 6th August.

Found!

Have you lost.....

(1) two silver bracelet charms in the form of high-heeled shoes or

(2) a vital piece of the George Forman grill purchased at the Parish Hall autumn fair?

If so, please contact **Chris White**, Parish Hall chairman, on 560505.

Remembrance Poppies

Organising the poppy selling in our parish is undertaken by **Jean Yeoman**, in succession to her late husband, **Derrick**. The wagon starts rolling when **Sarah Tyers**, our postmistress, collects the flowers, trays and tins from the Legion in Kingsbridge. They are then distributed to the hotel, the golf club, the two pubs, our two shops and to the individual people who bring the poppies to our doors. All this is voluntary work, consuming a lot of spare time and energy and we thank all those who are in any way connected to this operation, some 'regulars' for many years: **Doreen Deare**, **Martyn Grose**, **Patrick Holloway**, **Peter Hurrell**, **John Lonsdale**, **Kit Marshall**, **Mike Taylor**, **Sarah Tyers**, **Liz Webb**, **May Yeoman**, and of course **Jean Yeoman**.

Local Rapeseed Oil

We are hearing more and more these days about the virtues of rapeseed oil, and now we are delighted to find we have a producer almost on Thurlestone's doorstep! Farmer **Geoff Bell**, his wife, **Cherry**, son **Jonathan** and his wife **Rachel** are in business as **Bell & Loxton** at Upton Barton. They are turning their acres of these yellow summer flowers into a golden cold-pressed oil with a subtle flavour much prized by

cooking experts. Processed in this way, it loses none of its nutrient value. The liquid contains the lowest saturated fat content of any culinary oil, with much more Omega 3 than olive oil, it has no artificial preservatives or colours, is trans-fat and GM free and an excellent source of Vitamin E. Thurlestone PO Store and the Red Earth Deli stock the oil - a great home-grown alternative to olive oil, grown and cold-pressed just a few miles away.

Christmas Concert

The Stanborough Chorus will be at Thurlestone Parish Hall on Saturday 4th December at 7.30 pm. 'Let's Celebrate' is a Christmas concert and the tickets (£8), to include seasonal refreshments, can be bought from **Graham Worrall** (01548-562016), **Tom Gilkes** (01548-560973) or at the door. This is just one of a series of concerts the Chorus is performing before Christmas - see elsewhere in this issue for details.

In aid of Children in Distress

Carol Singing House to House in Buckland

MONDAY 20th DECEMBER

Children especially welcome
Meet 5.00 pm by the Old Chapel
Wear warm clothes - Bring a torch
Carol sheets provided
*Finishing with switching on the lights
on the Buckland Christmas Tree
and Carols at approximately 6.30 pm*

If wet, postponed until Tuesday 21st December
If in doubt, ring
Nigel Hurrell (560691) or **Liz Webb** (560090)

Tramp 2011 Programme

Unfortunately, we are unable to include in this issue any details of future Tramp walks, as the 2011 programme remains to be finalised. Until this can be published, any enquiries should be made to **Jill Munn** (560732) the new Tramp co-ordinator, or at the Village Shop.

Autumn Watch

In early November the BBC's 'Autumn Watch' came to film at South Milton with the help of

Bantham's Maya Pass. Maya's intimate knowledge of the natural history of this stretch of coastline and the wetland adjacent proved invaluable in making an excellent film which showed some of the many interesting creatures you can see if you keep your eyes open as you walk in the area.

The establishment of natural sea defences by the re-creation of a sand dune system that will flex with climate changes and rising sea levels has resulted in several nominations and awards. The next project is to try and raise £20,000 to build a bird hide near the water meadows just inland from the beach. This spot is an important stop-over area for many migratory birds and the plan has been sent to the 'Bovril Great Outdoors Revival Campaign', as this well-known firm is donating £100,000 to the top five most popular National Trust countryside projects. So help support this project by visiting the Bovril website at www.bovril.co.uk/revival/

Chinese Talk

This was the first of several events arranged by the National Trust which are due to be held at Thurlestone Parish Hall. On 8th November Odette Bailey gave an illustrated talk about a recent visit to China, taking in famous tourist spots such as the gorges of the mighty Yangtze river, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, finally ending with the Terracotta Army, but telling us quite a lot about modern China en route.

The National Trust

DARTMOOR A SOURCE OF MANY RIVERS

An illustrated talk by Brian Maddock

Thurlestone Parish Hall
Monday 10th January at 2.30 pm

£2.50 including tea & biscuits All are welcome

Pantomime

Jack & The Beanstalk is the show being put on by The Buckfastleigh Pantomime Group this year - Saturday 4th (2pm & 7pm), Sunday 5th (2pm), Friday 10th (7pm), Saturday 11th (7pm) and Sunday 12th (2pm) December. This is an established community theatre company with a new seasonal production, suitable for all the family. It is on at Buckfastleigh Town Hall, Bossell Road, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DD and the tickets cost £6.50 for adults, £3.50 for children, or £16.50 for a family (2 adults, 2 children). Enquiries to 01364-62642 during the day or to 07912-887474 in the evening.

Police Message

This message relates to Crime No. JK/10/693. Between Saturday 2nd October and Saturday 16th October 2010 the following boat and trailer were stolen from the Tidal Road car park in Aveton Gifford, Kingsbridge. They are described as: The trailer was a TRAILERMAID, in good condition with pneumatic tyres. The boat was an 11ft open top DINGHY with a white hull and had a blue flat cover marked TRIDENT UK with 55724 marked on the inside of the back panel. Inside the boat were two oars, a paddle and also a small anchor. Have you seen this boat and trailer? Has anyone offered you these items? If you have any information please contact the Police on 08452 777444 quoting Crime No. JK/10/693. Thank you.

New Reporter

Kingsbridge Community College student, Jemma Came, is now the official correspondent for Thurlestone parish on the Kingsbridge Gazette's villages page. Please advise her, in good time, of anything you would like to publicise in the way of parish happenings. She can be contacted at 562089 or by email to jimjamjemma@hotmail.com

Jemma is also now the provider of our 'Youth in the Parish' page, from which she has modestly omitted that she, too, is a craftswoman at the Youth Market (you may have seen some nice examples of her work at the Parish Hall Autumn Fair). Thanks, Jemma.

Guitar anyone?

Ever wanted to play guitar? Pete Metcalfe is willing to teach guitar to anyone from beginner to improver - classical, folk, jazz - and if enough people are interested in forming a learning group he is willing to run tuition sessions at the Parish Hall. Contact him on 01548 852084.

Pilates

Pilates for beginners is starting at the Parish Hall on Friday afternoons from January. Contact Jill Russell on 07989-887717 or June Beven on 562074 for further details.

Hope Cove Lifeboat

Following on from the report of our last Parish Council meeting (see elsewhere in this issue), we understand that the Hope Cove Lifeboat organisation has now been set up to run the lifeboat and trailer. They have applied for charity registration but at the time of going to press they are still waiting to hear if they have been given official permission by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency for the takeover, and no date has been indicated. There is a website - www.hopcovelifeboat.co.uk



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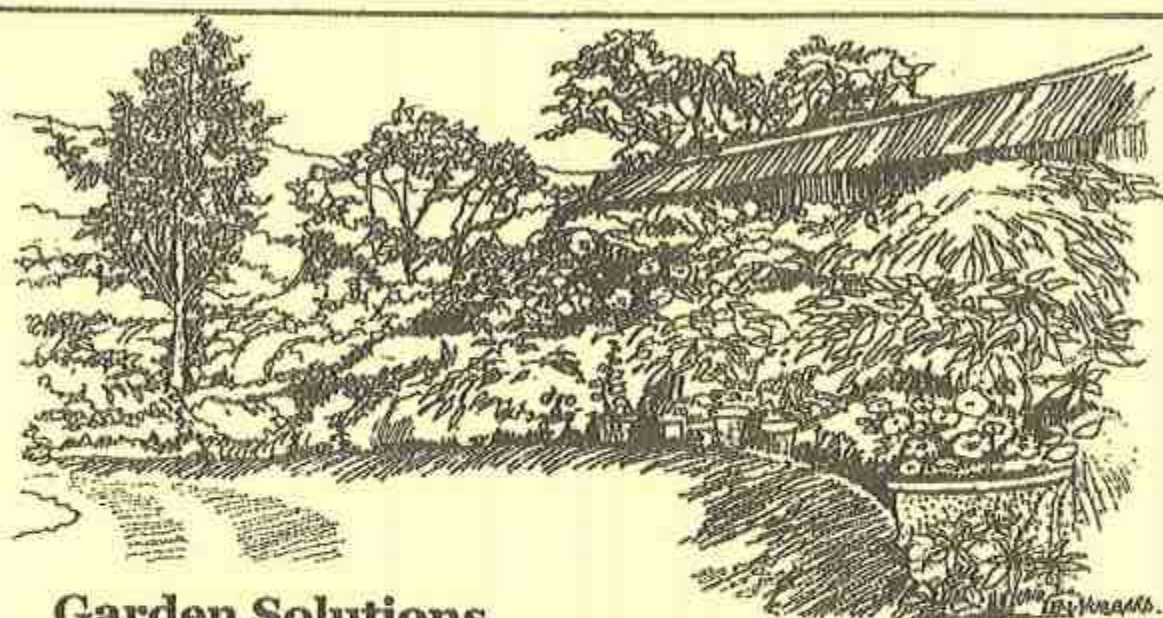
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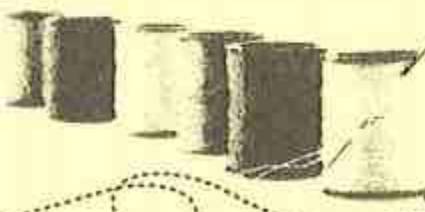
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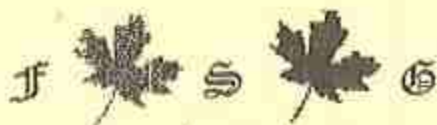
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(01548) 560967

LAY READER: Peter Gornall

From the Rectory:



As I was attempting, with limited success, to deal with the paper surrounding me in the study I came across the poem 'Advent 1955' written by John Betjeman. I hadn't seen it for a few years and on reading it once more felt that it still feels relevant to us fifty five years after it was written.

Since late September some of the shops have been enticing us to get well ahead with our Christmas preparations. Although back in the 1950's the shops were not quite so up-front, and indeed, not so full of consumer goods, there was still the same feeling that our preparations to celebrate the birth of Christ somehow were out of kilter with the event itself.

I am sure that you know the poem well but I commend it to you once again, especially the final six lines where we are reminded of God's great love for us demonstrated in the gift of his only Son - the best gift that we will ever receive.

*The Advent wind begins to stir
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir,
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,
And in between we only see
Clouds hurrying across the sky
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry
And branches bending to the gale
Against great skies all silver pale
The world seems travelling into space,
And travelling at a faster pace
Than in the leisured summer weather
When we and it sit out together,
For now we feel the world spin round
On some momentous journey bound -
Journey to what? to whom? to where?
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,
Your world is journeying to the birth
Of God made Man for us on earth.'*

*And how, in fact, do we prepare
The great day that waits us there -
For the twenty-fifth day of December,
The birth of Christ? For some it means
An interchange of hunting scenes
On coloured cards, And I remember
Last year I sent out twenty yards,
Laid end to end, of Christmas cards
To people that I scarcely know -
They'd sent a card to me, and so
I had to send one back. Oh dear!
Is this a form of Christmas cheer?
Or is it, which is less surprising,
My pride gone in for advertising?
The only cards that really count
Are that extremely small amount
From real friends who keep in touch
And are not rich but love us much
Some ways indeed are very odd
By which we hail the birth of God.*

*We raise the price of things in shops,
We give plain boxes fancy tops
And lines which traders cannot sell
Thus parcell'd go extremely well
We dole out bribes we call a present
To those to whom we must be pleasant
For business reasons. Our defence is
These bribes are charged against expenses
And bring relief in Income Tax
Enough of these unworthy cracks!
'The time draws near the birth of Christ'.
A present that cannot be priced
Given two thousand years ago
Yet if God had not given so
He still would be a distant stranger
And not the Baby in the manger.*

Phil



All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

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

Church Services

Every Sunday except Dec 26th

EVERY WED, THURS, FRI & SAT

THURSDAY DEC 2ND, JAN 6TH

DECEMBER 5TH, JANUARY 2ND

DECEMBER 12TH, JANUARY 23RD

DECEMBER 19TH

DECEMBER 22ND

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 26TH

NEW YEAR'S EVE

JANUARY 1ST

JANUARY 9TH

JANUARY 16TH

JANUARY 31ST



8.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, 5th BCP, 2nd, 4th CW)

8.30am Morning Prayer (said) (except December 25th)

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) *Fairtrade Stall*

11.10am Matins (BCP)

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

6.00pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas

11.10am Family Service followed by Holy Communion

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) (said) **NOTE TIME**

6.00pm New Year's Eve Service

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)
followed by walk to Hope Cove

11.10am *Searchlight's* Epiphany Play & Service

11.10am Family Communion (CW)

11.00am Benefice Eucharist with Renewal of Covenant
at West Alvington **NOTE TIME & VENUE**

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

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Information leaflets in church, shop & MR



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

MONS. & WEDS. 10.30am *Coffee-Time* in aid of charity **Christmas Goods on sale**

THURS (term time) **9.30am** *Under 5s* Contact: 560375/562417

FRIDAYS 12.30pm *Lunch Club* for those living alone - Book on 560090

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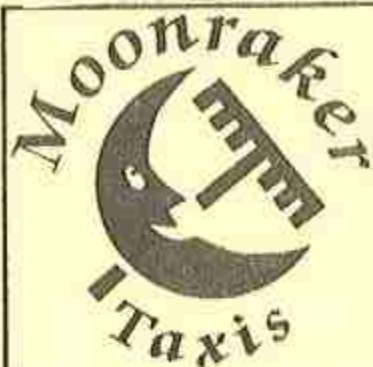
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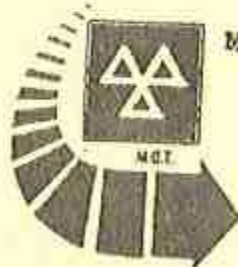
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CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTIONS FROM DEVON

In 1881 the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould, squire and rector of Lew Trenchard, recalled an earlier Christmas, published 1925 in *Further Reminiscences 1864-1894*.

"Alone, except for my little brother, in Lew House. The rats are celebrating Noel. They had a frolic last night, kept high festival, had a wild hunt. They scoured along the passages, they scampered between floor and ceiling, they danced a hornpipe in the storeroom and rollicked up and down the stairs. They kept me awake.

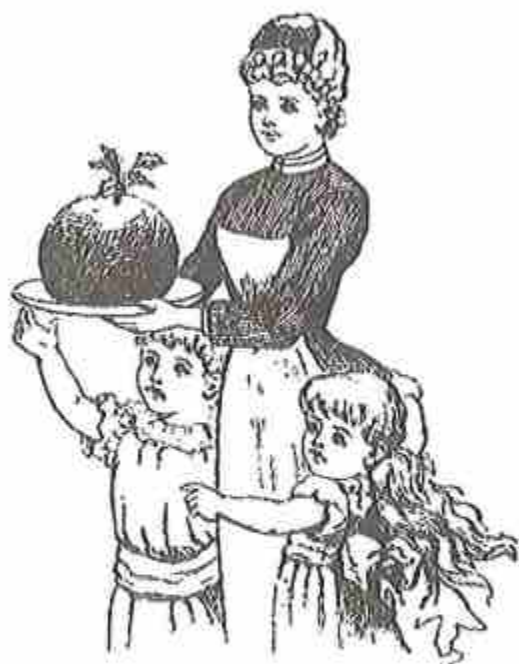
Presently I heard the distant strains of carol singers and the groaning of an accompanying bass-viol. I ascertained in the morning that the performers were the choir of the Meeting House. The church, buried in sleep, did not sing to greet the Saviour's birth. The chapel choir itinerated all night till five o'clock in the morning. They visited every house in the parish except those of the parson and the squire, for the former was too orthodox to tolerate dissenting music and the latter was absent from home. At their return they were all the worse for liquor. In church this morning there were twelve persons, of these nearly all were from the Rectory."



Another Christmas experience is recorded by Edmond Gosse (1849-1928). His family were Plymouth Brethren and Christmas festivities were banned from their Torquay home.

"On Christmas Day of this year 1857 our villa saw a very unusual sight. My father had given strictest charge that no difference whatever was to be made in our meals on that day; the dinner was to be neither more copious than usual nor less so. He was obeyed, but the servants, secretly rebellious, made a small plum pudding for themselves.....Early in the afternoon, the maids - of whom we were now advanced to keeping two - kindly remarked that 'the poor dear child ought to have a bit anyhow', and wheedled me into the kitchen, where I ate a slice of plum pudding.

Shortly I began to feel that pain inside which in my frail state was inevitable, and my conscience smote me violently. At length I could spare my spiritual anguish no longer, and bursting into the study called out 'Oh! Papa, Papa, I have eaten of flesh offered to idols'. It took me some time, between my sobs, to explain what had happened. Then my father sternly said 'Where is the accursed thing?' I explained that as much as was left of it was still on the kitchen table. He took me by the hand, and ran with me into the midst of the startled servants, seized what remained of the pudding, and with the plate in one hand and me still tight in the other, ran till we reached the dust-heap when he flung the idolatrous confectionery on to the middle of the ashes, and then raked it deep down into the mass. The suddenness, the violence, the velocity of this extraordinary act made an impression on my memory which nothing will ever reduce..."



THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

This will be my last newsletter this year as your Captain. In January I will be handing over to John Laphorne and his Vice Captain Norman Barrett.

After what seems a very long period, my time as Captain of the Thurlestone Club is coming to an end. I shall always be very grateful to the members for their kind invitation, and for my part I have enjoyed myself immensely. The next few years are not going to be easy in golf clubs, with individuals having to curtail their expenditure as their income dictates. That said, this period will be a mere 'blip' when one comes to look back, as I have no doubt that the Club remains in good hands, with the future of tennis and golf assured for many years to come.

I have really enjoyed my time as Captain and would like to thank all members for supporting competitions and club matches. We have raised a lot of money for my chosen charity Shelter Boxes.

The Mens' Club championship combined with the Ladies' Championship was an innovation this year and proved to be a great success. The winner of the championship was David Eva, with one of our junior boys, Oliver Walsh, winning the Handicap prize.

October saw the first of the Devon PGA Winter Medals. They have 10 in all and will be visiting Thurlestone again on Thursday 4th November. The first event was played at Holsworthy in North Devon, a new venue for the Devon PGA, where Anthony Buchanan, our assistant, carded a magnificent score of 70 to take first place from Sean Mason of Exeter (71) and local Professional Dan Wood (73).

The Seniors' Derrick Yeoman trophy had some 40 entries and the final between Chairman of Greens Hugh Bodger and Phillip Pailthorpe was won by Hugh. Hugh had another win with 37 stableford points in September at the Seniors' Open.

The Canada Cup Open was won by David Eva and Alan Winrow with a Yelverton team coming second. Nick Crispin won the Members'

challenge cup beating David Eva 3 and 2 in a tight fought final. The Thurlestone Seniors' stableford competition was won by Derek Brown with a sparkling 44 points, just beating Brian Munn on countback.

The Turton-Hart trophy was won by Kevin Mingo on a very windy day. Nevertheless, forty nine competitors defied the elements to take part in this stableford event and Kevin, playing off a three handicap, scored 36 points to win the first division. Andrew Longhurst also scored a very creditable 36 points to take first place in Division two.

The October Stableford attracted 62 entries and former club secretary Dick Marston secured first place in division one with 39 points. However it was Roger Leach in division two who took the medal with 40 points.

One of the big social competitions of the year is the *Devonians* versus *Rest of the World* in a matchplay format. This year there were eleven fourball matches and the overall result was a tie, with everyone enjoying a good meal at the end of the day.

The Seniors' team managed an away win at Bighury followed by two defeats at Staddon Heights and St. Mellion, and a halved match at Teignmouth. The final two home matches resulted in a first win against Dainton Park (the wind was on our side!) followed by a half against Yelverton, this match being played on 2nd November, our latest match ever, after a postponement from September.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a good Christmas and a Happy New year and hope you will be supporting the Captain's drive-in on New Year's day.

David Wadey

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

As we draw closer to the end of the year I send my final message to you all in the Village Voice. We recently held the Presentation Evening to congratulate those winning members for the major cups throughout the year. This was held as a joint event enabling the club to join together as

one. This was a very enjoyable evening, and it was good to see the fine display of cups and glassware distributed to the winning players.

Some of the many successes of note are: **Jenny Roberts** who won the Scratch Singles Matchplay Trophy, the Ruth Marshall Trophy, Underhill Scratch Trophy and finally the Oswald Cup during the 36 Hole Club Championship. The Order of Merit prize this year went to **Heather Spencer** who fought off strong competition from **Jane Mason** and **Janet Richardson** in the last counting competition in November. The Hilary Taylor Trophy awarded to the player who cut their handicap the most during the year. Both **Beth Yeoman** and **Jane Mason** managed to reduce their handicap by 6 shots however the trophy went to **Beth Peters** whose handicap has reduced by 7 shots now taking her down to single figures (7). This will help to make our Still cup stronger in the years to come. Well done Beth for such a successful year.

It has been a great honour to be Lady Captain at such a prestigious club as Thurlestone. As Captain I believe you are only part of a team and the success of my year has only been as a result of good team work. I thank my committee for their support, all team captains together with everyone from the office, Pros shop, in house staff and greens staff. I was pleased to be able to extend my thanks to so many people during in our AGM this week, it really showed how large our ladies section is and the support we see from the many ladies who attended.

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed working with me and would ask you to extend the same help and support to **Lesley Saffin** as she moves up from Vice Captain to Captain in 2011. I am sure she will make a wonderful captain with her knowledge, and enthusiasm.

May I wish all golfers continued fun, success and friendship? Please remember if the golf is not going so well we then only have to look over the cliffs to find a reason to be thankful where we are participating in our chosen sport. Good health and happy golfing for 2011.

Sue Esplin

JUNIORS' SECTION NEWSLETTER

The competitive season for golf against other clubs is now over and this is a summary of how our juniors have done this year. **Laura Tregelles** and **Tom Leach** have both done an excellent job as Junior Captain and Vice Captain.

In the West Devon Junior League we entered a team of 15 juniors this year and had to play home and away matches against Tavistock, Staddon Heights, and Yelverton. We came third in our section so did not qualify for the Finals day but won 2 and lost 4.

We entered a team in the Basil Steer Trophy competition but unfortunately lost in the first round at Dainton against Downs Crediton. Our team in the Tamar Cup trophy won the first round against Porthpean golf club and went on to win the second round against Killiloe, but lost in the semi-final against Carlyon Bay.

For the Devon County Junior Golf Society meetings we entered 3 juniors in the Spring meeting at The Warren and **Beth Peters** won the girls' competition with 38 points and **Robert Came** was 2nd in the boys' event with 41 points. In the Autumn meeting at Tavistock we entered nine juniors and **Beth Yeoman** won the girls' handicap cup and **Jamie Johnson** won the lowest gross in the 14 and under group, taking the Innes trophy.

We entered 3 girls in the South West Girls' championship run by the EWGA at RND, and **Beth Yeoman** took second place in the under 15 group. At the Devon County Girl's championship at Churston we entered 5 of our girls. **Lottie Holland** won the under 15 cup, with **Beth Yeoman** in second place, and **Beth Peters** won the Freda Abraham cup for the lowest gross scores at The Warren and Churston.

This year the Junior Organisers and Juniors competition was held at Dartmouth golf club. Thurlestone won the competition against the six other Devon clubs taking part, with the father and son combinations of **Ted and Jeremy Taylor** and **Tom and Roger Leach**.

The last junior competition at Thurlestone was an adult and junior two ball Texas Scramble style event, the winners being father and son team **Stuart and Josh Walsh**, who were closely followed by **Laura Tregelles** and **Scott Edmonds**.

Juniors did very well in Club Championships. **Beth Peters** (8 handicap) with gross 82 and 85 came second to **Jenny Roberts**, while **Laura Tregelles** (12 handicap) was third with gross 86 and 82. **Laura** won the handicap trophy and reduced her handicap to 11. In the mens' section **Ollie Walsh** (8 handicap) won the handicap prize with rounds of gross 75 and 76 and reduced his handicap to 7. **Robert Came** (12 handicap) took second place with scores of gross 80 and 82. Other juniors that took part were **Josh Walsh** (3 handicap) and **Jamie Johnson** (8 handicap).

We now have a strong junior section with some very good low handicap players, and there has been a spate of handicap reductions this year - Beth Peters (14 to 7), Laura Tregelles (13 to 11), Lottie Holland (26 to 20), Beth Yeoman (22 to 16), Robert Came (20 to 11), Jamie Johnson (11 to 8), Oliver Walsh (11 to 7), Josh Walsh (5 to 3), Tom Leach (19 to 15), Callum Tollins (27 to 23).

Evening junior playing and coaching ran every Monday from April to October. We had about 12 - 15 juniors for each session, run by Pete Mitchell, Steve Pepperrell and Stuart Tollins. I would like to thank them for their devotion to the task of encouraging our younger juniors to take up golf and to continue improving. We are very grateful to the **Thurlestone Hotel** again this year who have sponsored our junior team, providing the team sweatshirts and shirts, and

match teas at West Devon junior league matches.

Anthony Buchanan, assistant professional, has recently been looking at our Junior Coaching and has found that there is a group of juniors that currently do not have the opportunity for coaching here at Thurlestone. They are too old for Pete Mitchell's junior lessons, currently running on a Saturday morning, but are not yet achieving the standard required to play in the club teams. His focus will be aimed at juniors from the age of 10 to 14. Now that the Monday night coaching group has finished, these juniors do not have the same opportunity to receive coaching, play and practice, so he is going to provide that opportunity. Please ring the Pro shop and ask for Anthony if you would like some information, on 560715.

Liz Line

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED FOR IMPROVED BROADBAND SPEEDS (BT Competition Closes 31st December 2010)

You may have read recently, a report in the Gazette Newspaper regarding Super Fast Broadband (SFB) and BT's *Race to Infinity*. The objective of this is to establish local demand for this service and offer an opportunity for local communities to compete for five early (2012) upgrades to their exchanges.

BT are also pledging to engage with any community where at least 75% of homes and businesses have voted for SFB upgrades.

Given the community spirit prevalent within Thurlestone, Buckland, Bantham, South Milton, Hope Cove and Malborough villages who are serviced by the Sutton Cross Exchange, this competition provides a good opportunity to demonstrate our collective needs to BT.

In short, you can strike a blow NOW for our villages to have a new fibre optic broadband service. Just go to

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MOBILE LIBRARY CHANGES

New mobile library routes and timetables will be introduced in January 2011. The new service, which includes a Saturday morning stop in Modbury and longer stops in central locations, will enable greater access to the service for families and young children as well as allowing longer time to browse for current customers. Services on offer will include new and regularly changed books for all ages, DVDs for hire, improved publicity and opportunities for other public services to share the mobile visits.

It does mean that some of the smaller stops are being amalgamated but anyone with a mobility problem has been offered the Home Library Service run from our branch libraries by the WRVS

To enable the required changes to stock and vehicles to take place, the current mobile service will cease on Friday 26th November and customers will be given new timetables

for the New Year as well as the opportunity to borrow plenty of books to last them through the Christmas period. Steve Palmer, a very good, experienced Mobile Librarian will be providing the new South Hams Mobile Library Service as I shall now be retiring.

I shall miss the job desperately, especially the wonderful customers, many of whom have become friends. I have been particularly blessed by a very competent, friendly and tolerant back-up service from Kingsbridge Library. I shall miss discussing books, but I will be keeping my hand in by helping the WRVS. I will have more time to spend with my (soon to be 4) grandchildren and my dog, Hardy, apart from my other interests.

So thanks to everyone for the last 25 years for a super job with brilliant staff and customers. God bless you all.
Gill Boyce

Mobile Library Visits to Thurlestone 2011 Wednesdays in the Parish Hall car park 15.40 to 16.40 pm

January	5	19	
February	2	16	
March	2	16	30
April	13	27	
May	11	25	
June	8	22	
July	6	20	
August	3	17	31
September	14	28	
October	12	26	
November	9	23	
December	7	21	

Why not put these dates into your 2011 Diary as your first New Year Resolution?

YOUTH IN THE PARISH

Compiled by Jemma Came

Lewis Durant and Alex Humphries earn lifeguard qualification

Alex Humphries and Lewis Durant, both Thurlestone residents, passed their lifeguarding exam enabling them to volunteer as beach lifeguards next year. Duncan Norris from West Buckland was the trainer in charge and although the expected pass rate is normally 15%, all 15 members of Alex and Lewis's class passed.

Congratulations to both of you, we hope to see you patrolling the beaches in no time.

Dominic Quinn - Dancing to Success

Dominic, 16, successfully earned himself a place in the prestigious Urdang Academy in Islington, London. Dominic has always been a feature in Kingsbridge Community College's dance and drama shows and studied at Margaret Baldwin's Theatre School and Italia Conti whilst attending Kingsbridge Community College.

He is currently studying a 3 year musical theatre course at Urdang involving the study of: musical production, jazz, technical jazz, tap, body conditioning, singing, acting, acting through song, healthy performer, ballet, voice, articulation and improvisation.

We have tracked Dominic's progress on these pages and shall continue to keep you posted in the future. Congratulations Dominic and we wish you good luck in your career..

Local entrepreneurs in Youth Markets this winter

Young local entrepreneurs Tilly Durant and Heather Chadwick will be at it again

this winter with Youth Markets being held in the Market Hall, Kingsbridge on the 20th November and 11th December from 9am until 1pm.

Many stalls will be present including Heather and Tilly's as well as a variety of cakes, cards, jewellery, vegetables and many more. Refreshments will be available.

Youth Market representatives will also be present at Thurlestone Primary School's Christmas Fair held in the Village Hall on Friday 3rd December at 2pm.

Kingsbridge Community College Gym and Dance Show

Tilly Durant, a keen gymnast, will be appearing in Kingsbridge Community College's annual Gym and Dance show on the 18th, 19th and 20th November.

The Show features numerous acts including Tilly as a member of Fusion Dance Company, and is run by a student production team, overseen by dance teacher Suzie West just in case! But all front of house issues, hair, make-up, costumes and lighting are part of the student production team's task and, from previous experience, they always seem to pull everything off with a bang! It should be a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all.

Tickets are available from Kingsbridge Community College.

Youth News

Good luck to all those taking exams just after Christmas! If you have any items for the next issue on youth activities please e-mail Jemma Came at jimjamjemma@hotmail.com



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FULL VALET	Pre wash with traffic film remover & shimmers Shine enhancing wash & wax then rinsed Traffic film remover applied to tyres & rinsed Door shuts, hinges & surrounds cleaned & conditioned Super resin polish applied then hand removed Wheel acid applied & rinsed Exterior trim dressed All litter removed Seat & carpets vacuumed Footwell mats cleaned Dashboard, centre console & vents cleaned and polished Ashtray emptied & cleaned Interior & exterior glass cleaned Interior fragrance Air freshener	from £65.00 inc. V.A.T.
INTERIOR	Seats & carpets vacuumed Footwell & boot vacuumed Glass and mirrors cleaned & polished Dashboard, centre console and vents cleaned and polished Litter removed Ashtray emptied & cleaned Seats wet cleaned or leather conditioned (optional fee for carpets) Air freshener	from £47.00 inc. V.A.T.



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School Report

By Betty Rhymes

Administration

The expression between a rock and a hard place took on real meaning to our school on Monday 8th November. It was the morning we found out that our contracted builders, Rok had gone in to administration. The depressing, grey November weather matched the mood around All Saints. Where the workmen had been busy carrying out the extension to Class 2 on the previous Friday, now sadly saw them calling to collect their tools.

Just a few weeks previously Rok had handed us the magnificent new building they had created. A feeling of space and calm greets you as you walk through the new entrance. The children of class 1 & 1a work happily in their new rooms. Mrs Pope and Mrs Jones are at hand to both visitors and the staff and children from their new office. The computer suite is nestled into the centre of the new building and up above the staff can enjoy their breaks and have meetings away from the hum drum of school activity.

It was hoped that an open day would be held in January to invite parishioners to view the new school. It is expected that the unfinished works i.e extension to class 2, car park etc will be completed but as yet it is not known when this may happen. Until such time the open day will be on hold. We hope that the "hard place" we currently find ourselves in can soon be resolved and that the excellent building and service that Rok have provided can be carried through to seeing our works completed.

On a lighter note

Super gran has been at it again! Vicky Carpenter, our renowned reception class teacher and village resident, has been pushing herself to the limit and beyond again. Last year I reported on her taking on and successfully completing a half iron man

challenge. Becoming a grandmother since then has opened up a new chapter in her life but this has not stopped this wonder woman from taking on another physical challenge.

In October she travelled to Sardinia to take part in a triathlon. First she swam 2 km in open sea water – manageable you might think. Next came the cycle, a mere 200 km through beautiful but gruelling mountains. That's 124 miles – not so manageable you might think! Vicky's hard training paid off and she completed the cycle, narrowly missing a tortoise crossing the road on the way! She then faced the final hurdle, a 20 km run – aaagh! Pure grit and determination ensured Vicky crossed the finish line some 13h 58 mins from when she started but still with an hour to spare!

We are extremely proud of you Vicky as we know your grandson, who cheered you along your way, will be when he is old enough to appreciate your achievement. Maybe you will be out running together one day?

Swimmarathon

The juniors have also seen success with a physical challenge. Three teams took part in the Rotary Clubs swimmarathon held at The Leisure Centre, Kingsbridge. They all put in a tremendous effort both with their swimming and with raising money for the nominated charity. One team clocked up an amazing 132 lengths in the hour allowed, beating the schools previous record by some 11 lengths – fantastic!

Front Of House

If you have been walking by the school recently you may well have taken notice of some of the children's hard work. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the children of class 1 observed the 2 minute silence to remember those soldiers that had lost their lives. This

followed with them producing some delightful work based around the poignant poem "For The Fallen" which made for an eye catching display in the entrance windows. Friday 19th November was Children in Need day. This year the children made a Pudsey Bear of coins at the front of the school which again caught the interest, and the pockets, of those passing by. This was a really fun event for the children which resulted in their efforts raising money for children that need their help.

"Tis the season to be jolly!

The preparations are underway and the children are looking forward to the fun and festivities of the forthcoming weeks. It all starts with the Christmas fair on Friday 3rd December at the Village Hall. Please see the

advert below for full details. The hall is always full of treats, crafts and Christmas cheer so please come along and kick start your festive season with a glass of mulled wine. Following this we will have the Christmas lunch when all the children, staff and governors sit and share in the delicious turkey and pudding that Mrs Willis will cook, followed by some carol singing. For any parent, the nativity is a very important part of Christmas. As yet, the details of this years story have not been revealed but it's without doubt it will bring a tear to many an eye.

So, with my thoughts on Christmas (what else will any of us be thinking of over the next few weeks!) I wish you all a Happy Yuletide. The year 2010 has been quite a year for All Saints - I wonder what 2011 will bring?

Thurlestone All Saints School
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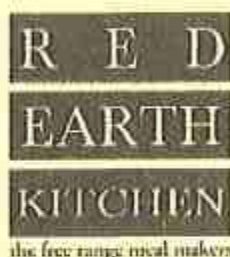
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**We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all,
from all the children, staff, parents, and friends of Thurlestone All Saints School**

All monies raised by this event will support the fund-raising activities of your local village school, for on-going activities and future plans. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you there. Any Enquiries please call Sue at 560204.



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Preparation

Gammon:

- Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C) gas 4 and bake for 15 minutes per pound (450g) wrapped in baking foil.
- Remove from oven. Discard foil, & take off the skin leaving the loose fat on the joint.
- Using a good knife make long even criss-cross scores to make a diamond pattern. In the centre of each place a clove pointing downwards.
- Coat liberally with sugar and pour the cider over the joint.
- Increase oven heat to 375°F (190°C) gas 5 and bake for 30 minutes more.

Cumberland Sauce:

This is a traditional accompaniment, needing the following, and can be made in advance:

1 orange and 1 lemon	4 level tablespoons red currant jelly
4 level tablespoons port	2 level tablespoons cornflour 2 tablespoons water

- Peel rind thinly from the orange and lemon. Cut into thin strips, cover with water and simmer for 5 minutes.
- Squeeze juice from both fruits and add to another pan along with the red currant jelly. Simmer and stir for 5 minutes then add the port.
- Blend cornflour and water to a smooth cream and stir into the red currant mixture.
- Reheat the sauce stirring until it thickens and clears.
- Drain the strips of rind and add them to the sauce.

Have a very happy Christmas and I hope this will solve some of your catering problems.

Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1st January 2011. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk

1. W A L F P
2. FH for C
3. F on the CT
4. WWY a MC
5. SC is CTT
6. WTK of OA
7. AIW for CIY
8. P in B
9. G R Y M G
10. MM
11. M and W
12. The H and the I
13. U the CP
14. C D P
15. T S C
16. S the T
17. SP in the CP
18. H T H A
19. P the CC
20. D, D,P, V, C, C,D and B



Christmas Trivia

1. The Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway notably) tend to celebrate Christmas chiefly on which date?
2. Presepe in Italy refers to what Christmas tradition?
3. Which of the Wise Men was said to have brought the gift of gold for the baby Jesus?
4. Which river did George Washington cross on Christmas night in 1776 in the American Revolutionary War?
5. How many White Christmases were there in the Twentieth Century?
6. The Christmas period of 1813-14 saw the last what in London?
7. Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean is a territory of which country?
8. In Victorian England what people were popularly called robins because of their red uniforms?
9. Which token vegetable is often included in the ingredients of a Christmas pudding?
10. What animal is Snowball in George Orwell's book Animal Farm?

Solutions to the previous quiz:

1. Seven (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, West Sussex, East Sussex & Kent) 2. Lowestoft 3. Leeds 4. Billingsgate Fish Market 5. Green Park 6. Henry IV 7. Station Road 8. Bristol 9. Oxford 10. Goldfinger 11. It's fictional - Terry Pratchett's Ankh-Morpork 12. George I, II, III, IV 13. Alan Ball (aged 21) 14. The Bishop of Durham 15. Brookside Close 16. The A30 17. Charing Cross 18. Exeter (the Speurhofstrasse, in Reutlingen, Germany is 50 cm wide) 19. London Eye 135m, Wembley Arch 133m 20. Tewkesbury

Congratulations and a bottle of wine to Joan Sparrow.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



A.J. Gibbons



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HARRY HUGGINS' BIRTHDAYS

Many years ago June used to give me Easter eggs. I forget now what most of them were. Some must still be in my tool box; one, a huge adjustable spanner, gets in the way whenever I want to find something else.

Then we took to birthday birds. Wild ones, of course. Such a bird is usually quite unexpected; it is always interesting, can be sometimes exciting, and it needs neither housing nor maintenance - all that it can do for itself; and almost certainly it flies away before you have time to get tired of it.

Nearly all of our birthday birds we have found for ourselves. The very first however were different. A twitcher friend told us about them. I am not sure the term "twitcher" was invented then. He was our doctor which he combined with being a police surgeon, bird ringing, and dashing all over the country to see rarities. These birds were Long-eared Owls in a little wood just north of Colchester. We lived in north Essex then and never dreamed that one day we would move to Devon. The small wood was beside a road. We could just stand there and enjoy the owls, which seemed quite unperturbed by their appreciative audience.

Then we celebrated June's birthday with lunch at Robert Carrier's Hintlesham Hall, somewhere near Ipswich. I don't know how long that venture lasted - maybe not very long by the way we were treated. I am quite sure it can never have made a profit: when I asked for gin and Italian the young gentleman just took the bottles and poured. I know the bill was around £25; you could put a nought on that now and then some. I paid, for the first time ever, with a credit card, from Diners Club. I think there was Barclaycard then but Access ("taking the waiting out of wanting"), Mastercard, Visa, and all the others were still in the future.

The problem with a birthday bird is that you

almost never know what you are going to get. There was a Whiskered Tern in Thurlestone in 1987. At that time the Thurlestone valley flooded only in a very wet winter. But they dammed off the stream which flows down the valley so they could rebuild the bridge by the golf club. This made a flood which was not usually there in April; June found, sitting on a tuft of grass beside the water, this Whiskered Tern. This is one of the marsh terns, a very rare vagrant to Britain. They live by dipping for insects and things in shallow, usually fresh, water. The terns we see more frequently splash down into the sea to catch little fish. This bird stayed for four days; it caused a great stir and the twitchers came from far and wide. The one that intrigued us most was a young gentleman who said that now he had seen the tern, what he *really* wanted to see was a Raven. So we steered him off to the Avon where Ravens were nesting in big trees by the tidal road. But the Whiskered Tern was my birthday present and I reckon a pretty good one.

A couple of years later June asked me what I wanted for my birthday. I said "A Ring Ouzel please". A very few pairs nest on Dartmoor. Years before, we had been taken to see them among the channels and gullies near the Warren House Inn, features which had been made I believe by the old miners streaming for tin ore when Dartmoor was an industrial area. We left the car in a parking place just north of the inn and started to walk to the Ring Ouzel place. We didn't find any. I don't know whether they had given up nesting there by then - certainly the Devon Bird Report says there is none there now.

As we walked, it started to rain. We didn't like it and Lisa, our dog, got positively distressed. No rain every got through her Sheltie fur but she didn't like it in her boot button eyes. So we gave up and instead set out for Fernworthy Reservoir, not far away. When we left the main road and set off into

the maze of little lanes which takes you to Fernworthy, we noticed on some short grass a flock of Golden Plovers. I stopped the car to try to photograph them.

June pointed out a bird with them, a bit smaller than the plovers but fatter and dumper, almost the shape of a Robin. It had over its eyes whitish stripes which met on the back of its neck, and a whitish band around its breast, otherwise it looked pale buffish. A Dotterel, a life first for us. What better present could you have!



Dotterel

In 2002 we went to Mallorca for my birthday. A very pleasant place in the spring, tough disconcerting at time because that is when the cycling clubs go. Very nice people: some were on our flight from Bristol. They had these huge canvas bags with zip fasteners round the outside - like gigantic brief-cases. Very rudely, I asked one young lady what was in hers. She said "My bicycle"! I wonder what Ryanair charges now to carry one of those?

They cycle round in droves, thirty or forty strong and two or sometimes three abreast. On the outside they put their shapeliest girl in her tightest Lycra. I suppose that really she just wants to ride next to her husband, boyfriend, or whatever, but it always seemed they put her there to deter motorists from passing too close, for fear of colliding with her. The peloton is very difficult to get past, especially in the mountains. Uphill, you crawl behind them for miles. But they make up for it downhill, when they pass you on both sides!

For my birthday that year I said I wanted a Black-headed Wagtail. A silly request. Collins Bird Guide illustrates ten males of Yellow Wagtails. The pattern of their heads varies according to where they come from. In Britain, they are just brown and yellow. In Europe, the gentleman's head is blue, with a white strip over his eye. In Spain

and Mallorca, his head is blue, grey on his cheeks, he has a bit of white over each eye, and a white chin - a Spanish Wagtail. The one with the black cap comes from the Balkans. I think the twitchers would like to say that each is a different species - think of all those extra ticks - but the ladies all look very much the same. So, if Black-headed Wagtail is found in eastern Europe one would be very unlikely in Mallorca.

But there are strange things to be seen and you can never

say never where birds are concerned. One November a few years before as we came back to Port de Pollensa from Alcudia, we drove round the coast road as usual. On the sea June saw two ducks. Common Scoters. If you stop in the middle car park along the line at Slapton in winter you will nearly always see on the sea a flock of fifty or so - little dark ducks. They swim very close together; when one dives they all dive and when one pops up they all pop up. The books say they breed far to the north; just a handful in Scotland, a few in Iceland, more in Norway and then in the north of Europe and Asia, right across the top of Siberia. For winter they come south, along the Atlantic coast of Europe and north Africa. A few stragglers wander into the Mediterranean.

When we got back to the Hotel Illa D'or, where we stayed, we found there Graham Hearl. I think he was a Cornish gentleman (he is dead now) who took up residence in Mallorca and led the birding revels. We met him first when attending one of his evening sessions for visiting birders at a local hotel. Thereafter we met him occasionally (often in some bird hide) and each year we sent him a list of what we had seen. He liked such lists: he could wave them at the authorities to show how many birders came to the island and why the wildlife should be looked after.

On this occasion he was taking tea with a

couple staying at the hotel. I think he took people for walks; doubtless they had to cross his palm with silver. We told him about the Scoters. He didn't actually say we were a couple of liars - he was far too courteous for that - but he said that Scoters were extremely rare around those parts and he would want a very detailed description. Which showed what he thought about our veracity. We pointed out that they seemed quite settled sitting on the sea opposite the Club Pollentia, a sort of holiday camp place, and that if he went home that way (he lived at Sa Pobla, a village a bit inland from Alcudia, in the north of the island) he would see them for himself. When we went out next morning he was on the beach gazing at them through a telescope. If Scoters, why not Black-headed Wagtail?

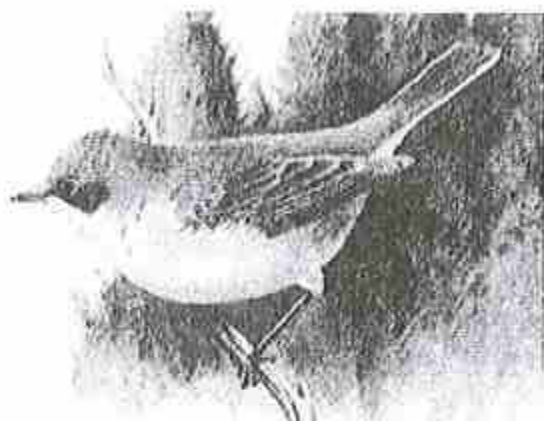
We didn't find one at the usual places where we saw wagtails. We drove along the big road through Alcudia, past the entrance to the huge Albufera nature reserve, and turned on to a track a few miles further on. By the track there is a large rectangular pool, with stone walls about five feet high. The place is called Ses Salinettes; I think that at one time they produced salt there. The pool is shallow, only a few inches deep; swimming on it was a gull, very like our familiar Black-headed Gull but more drawn out, thinner with no black head; a Slender-billed Gull, very rare in Britain, although not especially so in the Mediterranean. As a birthday present it would do nicely, thank you.

Fast forward several years with no birthday birds. To see something different really you have got to get out. The price of petrol and my legs have pretty well put a stop to that: legs which cheerfully carried me everywhere for well over eighty years say they have had enough. So most of our birding has been done out of the window - not bad, for as well as the garden we can see some of the watery Thurstone valley and a large piece of the sea. But to happen on something interesting on a birthday is asking too much. Agreed, we could see that Whiskered Tern from our windows, once we knew what it was and where it was, but they don't often come like

that. I am sure we would not see it now. Since its visit in 1987, trees and hedges have grown up so we can see far less of the valley where it flew up and down.

But for my birthday we did go out, for lunch at Stokenham, which in fact we often do, but not when the road through Chillington etc is crowded with holiday-makers. Of course we could not go to Stokenham without having a look at Slapton Ley. Nothing unusual on the Ley - Mute Swans, Tufted Ducks and herring Gulls mostly. But when we looked the other way, out to sea, our luck instantly changed. Swimming quite close in was a diver, a Great Northern Diver (a Common Loon to you if you are American). A breeding Great Northern Diver is a splendid thing - large (as big as a goose), with a black-and-white chequerboard pattern on its back and a head which looks as though it is made of velvet. This bird wasn't in breeding plumage but a fine bird none the less, and an excellent birthday present. So happily we trotted off to the Church House Inn where I ate my favourite scallops.

Going home, we stopped at Bowcombe Creek briefly. Not much there except a few Shelducks. But as we sat in the car at the



Lesser whitethroat

place where you park, opposite the viewing platform, we heard a quiet rattling song in the trees above. A Lesser Whitethroat. No, we didn't see it - but it was my *second* birthday bird of the day.

Harry Huggins



At the Bridge Table



This article considers responses to pre-emptive bids, and is based on the fact that at the table the pre-emptor's partner is in the best position to judge who can make what. Hence the basic rule, to repeat from my previous article, that the partner of the pre-emptor is in charge and in deciding whether to bid on, he will assume that your three-bid has (a) less than the strength for a one-bid (b) shows a maximum of six tricks when not vulnerable or near seven when vulnerable and (c) has no secondary major suit. Generally, *opener's hand is likely to be useless* unless played with the pre-emptor's long suit as trumps. So responder with a good hand and two small trumps or a singleton honour should be strongly inclined to accept the suit. If your partner opens 3 Hearts and you hold:

Spades A754 Hearts 42 Diamonds AQJ2 Clubs AQ6

raise to 4 Hearts, which is likely to succeed if one of the finesses works. To bid 3 No Trumps could well be disastrous with no more than one trick coming from the dummy hand. It follows that in most cases you should not be tempted to 3 No Trumps unless you can make such a bid all by yourself, eg, partner opens 3 Clubs and you hold:

Spades K102 Hearts AQ3 Diamonds AKQJ92 Clubs 7

or you have a good hand with a partial fit in opener's Club suit, e.g.

Spades KQ6 Hearts AQ5 Diamonds QJ94 Clubs K73

Because you need to reach the five level to make game in the minors it follows that nearly all raises to 3 No Trumps will arise when the pre-emptor has opened 3 Clubs or 3 Diamonds. Often, pre-emptive bids will be raised defensively (sacrificially), not expecting to make. Suppose your partner opens a non-vulnerable 3 Spades and you hold-

(1) Spades Q106 Hearts 42 Diamonds KQ752 Clubs J83
(2) Spades J943 Hearts Q8743 Diamonds KQ Clubs A7

With (1) the opposition will have at least an 8-card fit in Hearts, so you raise to 4 Spades making them make a decision at a high level. Much of the profit from pre-emptive openings comes from anticipatory moves of this kind. With (2) you expect to make 3 Spades but four must be doubtful. However, a raise to game can hardly be wrong: opponents can surely make four of a minor, perhaps five. Over a 3-bid, opponents will be partially in the dark, so do not help them by doubling prematurely. If your partner opens 3 Hearts, next hand bids 3 Spades and you have say, twelve points including KQ103 in Spades, do not double unless confident of beating any take-out. Simply pass in normal tempo and you may have the chance to double 4 Spades as fourth hand faced with an awkward bid may raise with poor trumps. Following the rule mentioned earlier, there is no need to double to warn the pre-emptor against bidding on. A player who pre-empts should rarely bid again, even when his suit has been supported.

Finally, a few words on coping with an opponent's pre-emptive bid. The whole purpose of such bids is to intimidate the opposition so you must not be afraid to enter the fray.

(a) Opponents open at the 3-level

1. Holding an opening hand and shortage in the opener's suit, Double for take-out. When responding to partner's take-out double there is no room for science so do not be afraid of bidding game on a good 9 points upwards.
2. If you have 16 points or more and a fair holding in opener's suit, cross your fingers and bid 3 No Trumps. On average partner will have around 8 points so most times things will work out well.

(b) Opponents open at the 4 or 5-level

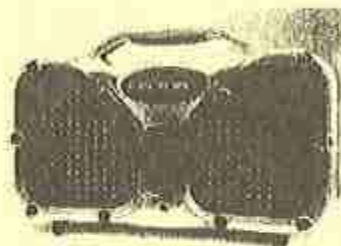
Double on all good (16+) hands to announce your strength to partner. Partner will normally opt to defend the doubled contract unless holding a long suit of his own.

Victor

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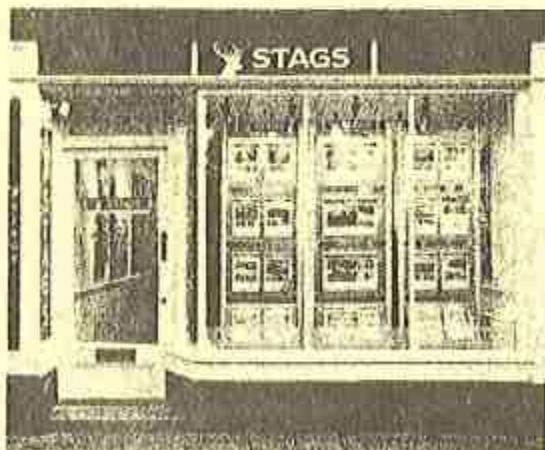
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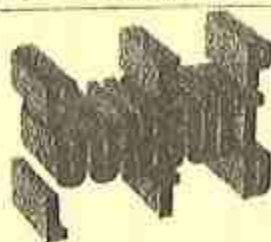
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October

Becoming a registrar of births, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths was a total change of career for **David Prowse** the guest speaker. Now working out of Follaton House, the job takes him all over the South Hams which he has found very fulfilling and satisfying. The civil weddings he conducts can range from those in exclusive and very expensive hotels to what he describes as the "Totnesian ones.....with crates of beer and sandwiches in the garden at Follaton House after the ceremony". We learnt, not surprisingly, that although burials can take place in one's garden, cremations definitely cannot! Anecdotes and reminiscences about his work were delivered in an entertaining style and much appreciated by members.

The parish hall sent a letter of thanks for the part the WI cake stall played in their autumn fair, which raised £160 towards the grand total of over £900 for the event. More people are needed for the Monday sewing group in the Yeo Room - not only sewers, knitters, embroiderers, and creative needlewomen, but also those doing the family mending would be warmly welcomed.

Carolyn Taylor told us that the county federation committee previously known as 'Home Economics' would in future be called the **Food, Crafts & Skills committee**, and what had been known as the 'South Hams Home Economics Area' would in future be labelled **DFWI South Hams**. She also reminded us of the jewellery workshop on 29th October, ceramic painting on the 17th December and digital photography with **Malcolm Norsworthy** on the 14th February 2011.

November

President **Joan Booth** had now completed three years as President and was retiring but not before she was thanked on behalf of the members by **Julie Hanham**, who said that the fun and stimulation brought to the office by Joan had been so much appreciated by members. Joan in turn thanked her committee, in particular **Judith Le Grice** and **Lisa White** (secretary and

treasurer respectively), who were also retiring, for their support.

Karen Livett read the annual report in **Judith Le Grice's** absence, which gave a run down of the years' activities and **Lisa White** presented the annual accounts which were approved by the members. **Pat Clarke** was appointed the new President to succeed **Joan**, and her committee will now comprise **Val Brown**, **Vivien Day**, **Jen Heatley**, **Pam Knight**, **Karen Livett**, **Wendy Neukirchen**, **Jan Patrick**, **Liz Robinson** and **Mary Tregelles**. It was good to see some new people coming on the committee. The retiring committee members were also thanked for what they had contributed when serving.

Pat Clarke had been the delegate at the autumn council meeting in Torquay in late October and she gave us an interesting short report on the day which had three very good speakers in the form of **Vice-Admiral Todd, RN**, who spoke of his service days, **Teresa Driscoll** the local tv presenter who is campaigning for more hospices for the South West, and **Monty Hawes** who has a current tv programme about the British Isles. He had brought his lively dog, **Rubens**, who stole the show! **Paul Drayson** also entertained at the piano, his theme being women's role in classical music.

A sufficient number of members showed interest in taking part in the inter-WI county general knowledge quiz to make it possible for us to field several teams. The preliminary round will take place in the South Hams early in the new year, more details at the January meeting.

Forward Dates

Friday 10th December, 2.30 pm at West Alvington church, Sea Coast Group annual carol service with afternoon tea to follow at the village hall there.

Thursday 16th December, 12.30 for 1.00 pm, Christmas lunch at Thurlstone Golf Club.

Thursday 13th January 2011 - at our first meeting of the New Year the speaker will be **Reg Hannaford**. His talk is entitled "A Boy's Wartime Experiences"

sudoku

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(As featured in *The Times*, Monday to Saturday)

	6				5	2		
		1			7			
			6			8	4	
3				6	9	5		
	9						3	
		8	5	4				2
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			9		7			
		6	8				1	

Easy

No. 53

3								4
	8						6	
		6	3		5	7		
	1		6		2		5	
9								7
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		9	5		4	1		
	6						2	
1								6

Easy

No. 54

			5		3			
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	5	1				2	6	
		6		2		9		
			7	3	6			
		3		9		4		
	2	9				3	1	
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Medium

No. 53

8					6	1		
3						7		
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		2		7			8	4
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			5		2			6
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		4	1					7

Medium

No. 54

SUDOKU - The Christmas four part challenge!

Just the thing for a little mental livening up in those satiated moments between the mince pies and the next visit to the cold turkey, and the chance to dream of winning one of those coveted bottles of *Chateau Sudoku* to grace your cellar. The Oct/Nov entries were all correct, save for one with an inadvertent juxtaposition of two identical digits on the same lines. Sorry! By ballot, Sue Dwyer was the lucky winner, and can look forward to *Chateau Sudoku* with the Yuletide roast this year. Congratulations, Sue. Entries for this issue's challenge (above) to 25 Mead Lane as usual, by 5th January please. Good luck!



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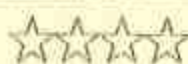
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HORSWELL DIARY

I'm hopeless at remembering dates. When we fixed a date to get married I chose the date of my sister's birthday in the hope that it would help me to remember our wedding anniversaries in the future. Alas, when our first anniversary came round my recollection of why that day was important was so muddled that I sent my sister a Happy Anniversary card instead of a Birthday card, and failed miserably to do anything at all for my husband.

This year, with a little prompting, (morning tea in bed, a romantic card and a bouquet of flowers) I did manage to remember and having put a bottle of champagne to chill in the fridge, planned on cooking a special 'dinner for two' that evening. But then the telephone rang. It was our estate agent.

"Sorry it's such short notice but Mr. and Mrs. 'A' would like to come and have a look at the house today at 3 o'clock. Will that be OK? I've already told them that it will be fine."

"Huh! Not much choice then?"

"I'm afraid not. He's a very busy man and it's the only time he can come."

"Oh well, I suppose we'd better say yes. A shame tho' 'cos today's our wedding anniversary."

"He's an excellent chap. Keen to buy. I'm sure it will be worthwhile."

Anyone who has ever sold a house will know that what follows a call like this can only be described as a whirlwind of activity. Suddenly, it's all hands to the pump, raking leaves from the lawns, unblocking the fountain, blowing leaves from the driveway, removing peacock poo from the gravel, sweeping courtyards, terraces and steps, dead-heading wintry looking shrubs and plants, vacuuming acres of carpet,

polishing everything that doesn't move, washing floors, cleaning windows, clearing clutter, lighting fires, arranging flowers, re-making beds with fresh linen, removing dead flies from the windowsills, fumigating the dogs' room, lighting candles and plumping cushions. Phew! Stopping for lunch is out of the question on the grounds of (a) time available and (b) the possibility of crumbs on the kitchen worktop.

By 3 o'clock we are so exhausted we can hardly stand. We stagger upstairs and bundle our work clothes out of sight as we change into something clean and evocative of easy living, then take up our positions ready to greet "the viewers". Sitting is not an option, on the grounds that (a) we may fall asleep and (b) we'd have to re-plump the cushions.

By 3.30 we're tired of standing and perch on the arms of the chairs. We consider the possibility of cracking open the bottle of champagne and having a snifter to keep us going, but reluctantly reject the idea on the grounds that (a) we may get caught and (b) we may look as if we're alcoholics.

By 4pm we no longer worry that we may be alcoholics. But just as we head for the fridge, the telephone rings. It's our agent again.

"I'm terribly sorry. I do hope this hasn't inconvenienced you at all, but our client has got his dates muddled and actually wants to come tomorrow, not today. Oh, and he's changed the time. He'd like to come at one o'clock."

"But it's Sunday tomorrow?"

"Yes, yes, I know. Apparently, he's terribly busy and it's the only time he can come."

"But no decent chap would want to

come at LUNCHTIME, on a SUNDAY, would they?"

"Well, apparently, yes."

And thus it was that we celebrated our twenty fourth wedding anniversary perched on kitchen stools, drinking champagne and eating fish and chips because (a) the kitchen was too clean to cook in and (b) we were far too grumpy to appreciate anything better.

The recent storms have carpeted the whole garden in leaves, and sadly a few broken limbs off our ancient trees. Autumn, my favourite time of year, seems to have come and gone so quickly, its flaming glory snuffed out like a damp squib, bare branches replacing the shimmering 'cloth of gold' that adorned every tree. In the orchard, apples and quince have dragged their boughs to the ground with the generosity of their bounty, and in the kitchen courtyard the blackbirds shuffle and flounce amongst the vibrant yellow leaves as they squabble over grapes hanging in dark bundles beneath the twisted vine.

As we rake beneath the tulip tree its large spatulate leaves float down on unseen currents, gliding to the floor like silent manta-rays in sunlit seas. We scoop them up into the trailer along with shoals of brown sweet-chestnut leaves. Small red Acer leaves cling to the heap, like starfish on a rock. Smoke rises from our autumn bonfire, curling through the trees to dislodge our resident buzzard and send him flapping across the lane to cleaner air.

Jack and Milly chase rabbits and squirrels for fun not sport, and Imran, our last remaining peacock, hides beneath the smoke bushes while his new tail feathers sap his energy as they grow.

Between 'viewings' I tramp the motorways to Oxford, and then on to Corby to keep an eye on my ageing

parents. My father, with his courageous war effort and his brilliant mind, now struggles to know where he is or who I am. He asks me, always, to give his love to his girls, yet fails to understand that the adult he is speaking to is the small child he is seeing in his failing mind.

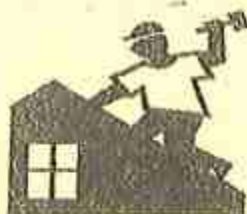
Although he is well cared for in his 'home' his life is a living hell of memories and regrets, a constantly playing loop from which his ailing body cannot escape. He asks often about my mother. His tears rack my soul, and yet while I come away burdened with his grief, I'm aware that he does not even notice my departure, his attention all too easily distracted by the offer of a beaker of tea.

My mother, although a hundred miles away and of sound mind, is mirroring his decline. She has no wish to eat or drink, and speaks readily of her demise. Although they separated when I was a child, their love for one another has somehow chained them together throughout their lives. Perhaps, if only in their thoughts, one day they can be together, and at peace.

As the year draws to a close, I'm aware of how closely our human lives emulate the changing seasons. I see how quickly the day is over, how easily the light goes out and the darkness descends. And from that I see how every minute of every day of our lives is so much more valuable than any man-made commodity. It is not simply unique. It is irreplaceable. And in every minute, every moment of time, is the potential to live well, to do good, to love one another, to touch the divine. As Marcus Aurelius, the Roman Emperor in AD 161 observed, *"Every instant of time is a pinprick of eternity. All things are petty, easily changed, vanishing away."*

With that in mind, I wish you, and all those you love, the happiest of Christmases and a bright New Year.

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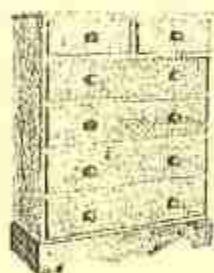
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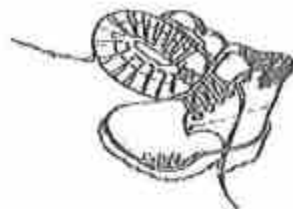
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TRAMP



1 Ten of us gathered for this five-mile moorland ramble on Tuesday, 21st September. Ugborough Beacon was chosen as it is the nearest part of Dartmoor. We set off from near Wrangaton Golf Club at a leisurely pace, noticing to our dismay that the top of Ugborough Beacon was shrouded in mist. My idea was to stop and have a drink of coffee from a flask at the summit, and enjoy the views over the South Hams. This was not to be, however, as the mist, far from lifting, seemed at times to be thickening!

Anyway we sat in the mist for a short rest after our climb of 375 feet, then set off across the open moor for Spurrell's Cross (an ancient granite Dartmoor cross), whence we picked the Two Moors' Way. This section of the Two Moors' Way follows an old tramway (sometimes known as "the Puffing Billy" tramway) so it meant some level walking. By this time, the mist had cleared away, so we enjoyed wonderful panoramic views to the west.

We then made our way back, passing a peaty pool (called 'Black Pool' on the map!), then crossing Wrangaton Golf Course, all the time keeping a wary eye on the golfers and their flying balls, and back to our cars - but not before one of our number, who used to be a member at Wrangaton Golf Club, had spotted some men he knew and engaged them briefly in conversation. The weather had got better the whole time, so we returned a happy bunch!

Alastair Durden

2 Eleven people and two dogs parked at The Globe at Frogmore on a gloriously hot day for the Tramp walk round Frogmore Creek and East Charleton. We set out - risking life and limb - walking up the main street to access the old Kingsbridge toll-pike road. We had lovely views at the top before descending downhill, across a small stream, and over a high stone stile opening out across several more fields and stiles to East Charleton.

Here we crossed over the A379 to a lane which led towards a well-known bird hide, and went through another field before making a steady uphill climb across a newly ploughed field to a beacon. This has been used over the years to celebrate several memorable events, and we speculated about what would be the next one - the 2012 Olympics perhaps? From this vantage point there were far-reaching views, with several villages within sight. We then set off down to the estuary, and most of us walked along the foreshore as it was such a beautiful day, before finally arriving back at The Globe where five of us decided to stay for lunch.

I must report that throughout the walk our leader was gripped with earphones to the progress of the Ryder Cup, relaying scores and the unfolding drama to anyone with an interest in golf - as well as the uninitiated! We set off home in time to watch the final holes and, as everyone now knows, it went down to the penultimate hole before Europe finally clinched victory.

Robin Hart

3 A matched team for a change! On October 13th, 2010, four ladies and four men accompanied by one dog (Bess) set off from The Mead for Start Point car park at 9.30 am to enjoy an apparently still, cloudy but dry morning. Our arrival on the cliff edge proved to be anything but still! A cold north east wind was blowing very briskly and extra clothes were quickly donned. We headed for Hallsands (and the lost village) on the easy downhill section. The village history had been seen on TV on the previous Sunday evening on a programme referring to lost villages around our coast.

We then made our way inland to Bickerton around a contouring track. Our arrival at the village was greeted by a farmer on a quad bike who had seen that we had not taken the official path and came to check that his gates had been secured properly.

Next we progressed up a good track which led us past the remote Higher Middlecombe Farm, home of pop star Damon Albarn of Blur (1990's). Unfortunately, we were not invited in for coffee! Lunch was taken at 12.30 pm at the Cricket pub in Beesands. For those who have not yet been there, it comes very well recommended but make sure you reserve a table. The pub was full even on a winter Wednesday.

Our return to the cars was simply along the coastal path with the uphill bit at the end, but Rosemary and Bess set a good pace for us all. Well, it can't be all downhill - despite the myth spread by most walk leaders.

Mike Stickland

4 The sun shines on the righteous! The only bright and sunny day of the week came on Wednesday, 10 November, and proved a just reward for the 10 ramblers who turned out for this 7 mile stroll. We set off from Dartington Cider Press, through the Hall grounds, along the banks of the River Dart to Staverton Bridge, and then on to the Sea Trout Inn for a convivial lunch. Suitably refreshed, we retraced our steps to the Bridge and thence into North Wood and back to the start via Old Parsonage Farm. A thoroughly enjoyable day midst a week of gales and rain.

Trisha & Roger Wilson



The Spirit of Christmas

Friday 10th December 7.30

Ivybridge Methodist Church

In aid of Dame Hannah Rogers Trust

(supported by Ivybridge Rotary Club)

Tickets £6.00 - under 16s free

A Service in Celebration of Christmas

Friday 17th December 7.30 pm

Buckfast Abbey

Retiring collection in support of the Prinrose Foundation (breast care) at Derriford Hospital

Carols For All

Friday 24th December 4.30 - 5.30 pm

St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge

No ticket required

Retiring collection in support of Derriford Children's Cancer Service

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Programme for December 2010 and January 2011

- | | |
|--|--|
| Wednesday
8th December | Exeter Cathedral Christmas Concert. Time to shop and have an early supper before the wonderful traditional concert by the immensely talented Exeter School orchestra and choirs. |
| Monday
10th January | Dartmoor - a source of many rivers. Another beautifully illustrated talk by Brian Maddock at Thurlestone Parish Hall. 2.30 pm, entrance £2.50 (pay at the door) which includes tea and biscuits. ALL WELCOME |
| Thursday
27th January | Coffee Morning at the Thurlestone Hotel. A warm welcome awaits members and friends at this lovely hotel with its spectacular view of the coast. |

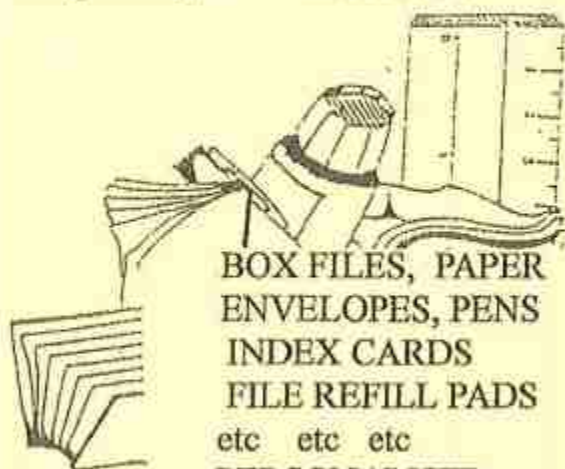
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

Winter seems to be here at last! It is now the 9th November and already there has been some frost, mists, gales, rain, even thunder and lightning last night, and some wonderful days of sunshine over the half term break. How diverse our weather patterns are and how absorbing it is to record and then look back at the situations, analyse them, and sometimes draw a conclusion. Recently a specific location on our patch witnessed or heard and then saw the effects of a mini Tornado. I didn't hear or see anything, but some folks on the Mead may have, some around Court Farm may have, Lower and Higher Kerse may have, and certainly Didwell Farm heard - and felt - the effects and saw the aftermath.

Robert and Karen Luscombe of Didwell Farm gave me this account of their experiences of the night of 29th October (by the way, they live in a caravan whilst renovating their farmhouse at Didwell). At about 2.30am they were woken up by heavy rain beating down on the roof of the van. It eased off a bit, and then they heard a loud noise as if an aeroplane was coming in to land. It got louder and louder and then the caravan lurched on to its side but fortunately righted itself as the noise receded. All this in a few seconds!

Robert got up to look out, and with the aid of a torch scanned the area outside where his young son Thomas's wendy house was sited. It had disappeared over the roof of Robert's truck and had been smashed to pieces 20yds down the track. In my mind it closely resembles the early part of the Film "The Wizard of Oz" where Dorothy's house goes spinning into space, with the farm track at Didwell being the yellow brick road. (I've got a strange mind, before you say it!) One tree was blown down but the twister missed a bonfire by a few feet and left the pile of debris undisturbed. Rodney Stidston reported that bins and other containers had been blown around his yard, he thought that there had been intruders looking around. It had apparently, so a friend of Karen's said, been forecast by an amateur forecaster on the internet. I wonder who he was and perhaps he should be contacted by the Met Office to become an advisor!

Weather can cause chaos or calm and everything in between. Today 15th November has been calm, sunny and gorgeous, but by Wednesday the

whole place will be shattered by yet another depression with high winds and rain.

"Chaos" This word is quite emotive in almost any context. In the weather or meteorology it has certain associated theories that are quite fascinating, even if they are not conclusive or even correct. What is in weather forecasting? I looked it up in one of my books, entitled *How Weather works - Understanding the Elements* by René Chaboud. He gives an interesting account of Edward N. Lorenz' theory. It is a bit technical for me - here are bits of it.

"The Flap of a Butterfly's Wings". It was long taken for granted that if meteorologists started with only slightly inaccurate data, their forecasts would prove only slightly inaccurate. But this 'axiomatic truth' came under fire. In 1963 Edward N. Lorenz, an American theoretical meteorologist at MIT, showed that the dynamics of the atmosphere are in fact heavily dependent on initial conditions and, therefore, that they vary widely depending on the most minor differences in the weather. He noticed that when he entered a set of starting numbers to six and then to only three decimal places, his computer predicted markedly divergent weather patterns, not at all virtual duplication. In other words, even a tiny atmospheric event could cascade through the system and have drastic consequences.

To paraphrase the thought-provoking title of Lorenz' now-famous paper, a butterfly flapping its wings in the Amazonian rain forest could conceivably set off a storm somewhere else in the world a few months later. Lorenz' ground-breaking research in what came to be known as **chaos theory**, or the *Butterfly Effect*, led many meteorologists to conclude that no matter what method they used, detailed day-by-day forecasts beyond two weeks would be impossible; not because of the complexity of the system, but because of its very structure. The inherent unpredictability of weather threw up what many mathematicians, physicists and meteorologists felt might be an insurmountable obstacle. After all, even a more straightforward deterministic model requires both expertise in the laws of the atmosphere and detailed, accurate knowledge of conditions at the start of the given forecast period. Have you got that?

We have of course moved on since then but are we any more accurate in our forecasts, even with the help of super-computers? Perhaps the short term ones are, but not long term predictions. These are still in their infancy and subject to great derision when they are found to be well short of the mark. BBQ summers and bitter winters are just two examples. In these cases, he who dared did not win. Today I do think that the predictions of weather systems are becoming more accurate, though it may be that the timing and actual path of the conditions are not so accurate. Could they ever be, do you think?

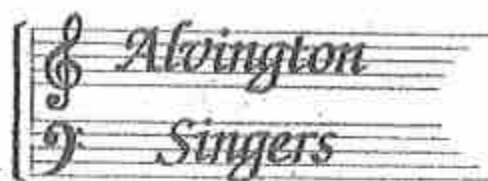
In the last 48 hrs when the system has passed by, and a NW air stream prevails, the showers have been seen to blot out the Plymouth area, and whiz up the Channel on the horizon and miss us completely. This is par for the course for this part of the South Hams. We do occasionally get 'hammered' by a unique type of weather (e.g., the hail storm in 1978). We were blasted by huge hail stones along a path from the Golf Course through South Milton, Kingsbridge, and on to Slapton, while areas to the north and south escaped completely. This was a disaster for the

market gardeners of South Milton and Slapton as their glass houses were pulverised. Mr Richard Yeabsley in South Milton lost an entire crop of indoor, ready-to-cut lettuce, and had to remove the top layer of soil to landfill as it was full of glass shards. It took several years to regain the fine tilth that he had worked hard over the years to develop and retain each year.

Well, what do you think? Should we believe the weather-men or watch the sunspots or hang out the sea-weed, or even observe the behaviour of the little people who appear and disappear in and out of little doors on our mantle-shelf weather houses? The Met men are getting better but life is difficult for them. I wonder how the snows on Haldon Hill will work out this year? Check that you've got your blanket, snow shovel, and welly-boots in the car when travelling this winter, and even a choc bar or two - just in case!

On that cheerful and optimistic note (you know how I enjoy a good fall of snow), enjoy your Village Voice and have a happy and safe Christmas.

Jan Turner



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3 rd	TRAMPS Christmas Walk & Lunch, (see Village Shop)
3 rd	School Christmas Fair, Parish Hall, 2.00 - 5.30 pm
4 th	Stanborough Chorus, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
6 th	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
8 th	Alvington Singers, Dodbrooke Church, 7.30 pm
10 th	WI Christmas Carol Service, W.Alvington church, 2.30 pm
15 th	Alvington Singers, Holy Trinity Church, Salcombe, 7.30 pm
16 th	WI Christmas Lunch, Golf Club, 12.30 - 1.00 pm
17 th	Stanborough Chorus, Buckfast Abbey, 7.30 pm
20 th	Carols at Buckland 5.00pm - Christmas Tree lighting 6.30pm
24 th	Christmas Draw, Village Shop, 11.00 am
24 th	Stanborough Chorus, St Edmunds, 4.30 - 5.30 pm
31 st	New Year's Eve Party, Parish Hall, 9.00 pm

January	
Monday	3 rd Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wednesday	5 th Mobile Library, Parish Hall, 3.40 - 4.40 pm
Monday	10 th National Trust Talk - Dartmoor Rivers, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
Thursday	13 th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (A Boy's Wartime Experiences)
Wednesday	19 th Mobile Library, Parish Hall, 3.40 - 4.40 pm
Thursday	27 th National Trust Coffee Morning, Thurlstone Hotel.

February	
Wednesday	2 nd
Monday	7 th
Thursday	10 th
Saturday	26 th

Mobile Library, Parish Hall, 3.40 - 4.40 pm
Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
WL, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
Mezaika, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm (see advert)

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The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was founded on behalf of Thurlesstone 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 Ian Fraser

In Bantham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (FEB-MAR) ISSUE = 5th JAN 2011

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

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf

Chairman	Andrew Roberts	560564
Vice - Chairman	Kir Marshall	560214
Parish Clerk	Philip Millard	561131
Diocese Councillor	Shonagh Raulin	561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 - 691112
Members	Dale Caine	562089
	David Elgar	562287
	Peter Hurst	560496
	Charles Macdonald	560602
	Geoffrey Siddons	560695
	Coates Macdonald	560602

Tree Warden

Chris White	560505
Judith Le Grice	562135
	560300

PARISH HALL

Chairman	Chris White	560505
Bookings	Judith Le Grice	562135
Pay-phone in foyer		560300

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

Chairman	Chris White	560505
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PRESTON CHARGE

Rev Philip Osier	560967
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Office	561246
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Graham Wormald (562016)	La Webb (560090)
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FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

Contact	Kir Marshall	560214
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ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headmaster	Philip Macdonald	560484
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AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Chairman	Simon Wynn	810375
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BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

Contact	Marilyn Cairns	560593
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BOWLS CLUB

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Contact	Vida Alexander	561182
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