

# VILLAGE VOICE



**August - September 2013**

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone*





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AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2013

### Summer At Last

Phew! It's almost too good to be true. From the cold, wet, and windy first half of the year we are now basking in glorious summer sunshine - with good news even challenging for dominance in the media, strange though it may seem.

The British Lions started the ball rolling down under, while Justin Rose to the occasion in the US Open. Then there was Wimbledon. Who will ever forget that exhausting duel in the blistering heat of the Centre Court, when Murray re-wrote the record book. Almost before we could catch our breath, the Ashes caught fire (twice!), and more records tumbled. So it was hardly a surprise when another Brit triumphed in the 100<sup>th</sup> Tour de France. How much more of this can we stand?

For so long inured to bad news, what are we to make of it all? Can the first green shoots of economic recovery survive this heat-wave of success? Or will it be ice-cream and solar panels that provide the surge we have long awaited?

With so many magnificent winners to cheer, it may perhaps seem a little odd that this year our biggest hurrah of all has been reserved for someone in only third place. But then everyone seems to be getting bronze in this wonderful summer. Let's just enjoy it while it lasts.

Front Cover : Wild flowers bloom as lawns burn

Founder Dudley Drabble

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# From your County Councillor

Since my letter in the June - July issue wherein I referred to the County Council elections in May, life has been busy, both as your County Councillor and as a District Councillor alongside my SHDC Executive role and as a Kingsbridge Town Councillor. I also represent 13 Parish Councils and 4 SHDC Wards within the Division.

I have now been selected to sit on the following DCC committees:

- 1) DCC Investments & Pensions.
- 2) Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny
- 3) Public Rights of Way
- 4) Personnel Panel
- 5) South Hams Highways & Traffic

The DCC Investments & Pensions Committee is both interesting and challenging which involves the management of over £3 Billion on behalf of 80,000 people.

The Public Rights of Way Committee is also very interesting, dealing with deviations, village greens, mapping, protection and consideration of any possible new rights of way along with maintenance of existing rights of way. Devon has 5000km of public rights of way, 560km of unsurfaced county roads and 130km of cycle routes. Rights of way in Devon cost £1.89 per person per year.

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny involves monitoring and being a critical friend to the new Clinical Commissioning Groups and Board. Issues of Dementia and the rising age of Devon's population will add further stress to DCC welfare resources.

Here are a few other points of interest:

- 1) Devon has the 11th largest population of all the counties in UK
- 2) Devon has the 4th oldest population and rising by 3% a year
- 3) Devon has the sixth lowest average salary
- 4) Unemployment in the Division is 1.4%
- 5) 40% of homes are owned outright and 30% with a mortgage in the Division.
- 6) Potholes are classified to be repaired in 48 hours when the hole is a minimum 1 foot x 1.5 inches deep.
- 7) Recycling in Devon is 54% (the same as South Hams) and Devon is the fourth best performing County Council. The public depots recycle 80%.
- 8) The road repair bill for Devon is approaching £1billion to put things right.

Many of you will be wondering when the deviation to footpath 12 will be concluded after the coastal landslip. This is taking more time than had been hoped and will not be ready for this summer. Everything is being taken forward as quickly as possible and I will continue to monitor the situation.

I conclude by saying what an honour it is to serve such a wonderful Division as Thurlestone, Salcombe and Allington. I will do all I can to serve the community to the best of my ability.

My contact details are: Cllr. Rufus Gilbert, Washbrook Farm, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1NN  
Telephone : 01548 856659  
Mobile : 07866 745290  
E-mail address : [rufus.gilbert@devon.gov.uk](mailto:rufus.gilbert@devon.gov.uk)



# Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013

*News & Views by Citizen*

## ATTENDANCE

Six Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, District Councillor, PC Steve Mullen and nine members of the public came in June and in July six Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, District Councillor, County Councillor and nine members of the public.

## OPEN FORUM

# Planning meeting. Parishioners who attended a SHDC planning meeting said that our 2010 Parish Plan was totally ignored. District Councillor Ian Bramble said the Plan needs updating to include specific rules on the maximum height and size of proposed new properties *and that the Parish Council has to be more pro-active in 'fighting our corner' on what we consider to be unacceptable planning applications.*

# Builder's cabins. A photo of the *Seabreeze* site shows two cabins, one on top of the other, compromising adjacent properties' privacy and being a great eyesore. An approach to the builder proved fruitless. These cabins could be detrimental to our Best Kept Village entry.

# Plot 13, Yarmer. Planning application withdrawn (but later re-submitted).

## PARISH HALL

Councillor Jill Munn said that options for improving the Hall heating were ongoing. Diane Martin has now taken over the Hall bookings (560070).

## HIGHWAYS

1. Pothole opposite the Old Rectory was worsening. The problem pothole in West Buckland has been repaired but the resulting debris has blocked the adjacent surface water gully.

2. Car-parking adjacent to the church is becoming a problem once more. Mike Sparrow has taken the first photograph of an illegally parked vehicle, which is sent on to the company running the 'No Parking' scheme, but these photos have to meet

exact requirements for the evidence to be accepted in a court case.

3. Yarmer Estate and All Saints Church say they will not contribute to the upkeep of the cobbled road. The Parish Council will now look at ways of limiting access to Eddystone Road in order to prevent further damage caused by large construction vehicles.

## FOOTPATHS & HERITAGE COAST

# Hope Cove Footpath is still closed and legal problems with land owners are delaying an alternative route. The problem may not be solved any time soon.

# Thurlestone Sands/South Milton Sands. The BBC programme shown on 23<sup>rd</sup> May although heavily edited put over our point of view well. South Milton have written to the Parish Council indicating their annoyance but their historical evidence has been revealed as non-existent. Councillors Tony Goddard and Nigel Hurrell, the Parish Clerk and Mrs Bronwen Zaffiro will form a sub-committee with a remit to put our concerns before a wider public. They will also respond to South Milton's letter.

## SCHOOL

Councillor Andrew Rhymes reported that SATS had been taken recently. School hot dinners are running at a financial loss. Our school remains very popular but is now full and unfortunately enquiries for 12 places have had to be turned down.

## TREES

Councillor Charles Mitchelmore said work on three trees at Aune Cross would be OK but the fourth needs felling. SHDC will no longer communicate with him other than by email. He was advised to give the Parish Clerk's email address to SHDC who will pass on communications.

## PARISH PLAN

# The Saturday shopping bus is not being well used by parishioners although holiday-

makers have sometimes used it. *Use it or lose it!*

# An 'Action Group' is meeting in July to look at amending our Plan as the National Planning Framework is still evolving and will have to take notice of our Parish Plan.

# Our Broadband project has stalled with DEFRA and we still do not know if we are in the last 10% who will not get coverage. BT refuse to tell us, despite this problem having been raised with our MP - all they will say is that fibre optic cables should be completed by December 2016. *But does this include us or not?* Ed Vaizey, the Minister for Culture, Media & Sport held a meeting with BT on 1 July so hopefully some answers regarding RCBF projects may soon be forthcoming. Thurlestone's approach for the time being will now probably become a part wireless scheme, requiring masts, which could also resolve the poor mobile phone coverage. If there is no progress on this by 30 September, mobile telephone masts will be looked at separately.

#### **PARISH CLERK'S REPORT**

# One of the West Buckland notice boards is missing a key. Councillor Peter Hurrell said he would alter the board to make it accessible by using a screwdriver and also replace the backing boards. The barn on which both boards are fixed has been sold and the new owners to be asked if they can remain.

# The damaged handrail to the raised footpath in Thurlestone is to be replaced for safety reasons. The overhanging trees also need cutting back and if the owners do not respond the Parish Council will do the work and bill them.

# The stolen 'dog poo' bin at Island View has been replaced.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

District Councillor Ian Bramble reported as follows.

1. New SHDC website makes looking at planning applications, and other things, easier to use.
2. He will support the Parish Council on specific objections to Planning applications.
3. Boundary Commission will reduce the number of Wards to 30, making the current population levels more even.

4. TAPS funding for the Coleridge bus to continue and bids from the parishes to be made.

5. Still no decision on the proposal to close some public conveniences over winter. Each one will be looked at individually and a SHDC representative will meet the Parish Council to discuss how to keep our one and only public WC open.

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Rufus Gilbert said that potholes measuring larger than 12" across x 1.5" deep will be repaired within 48 hours but only if reported on line. He has a Locality Fund available of around £1000 a month for distribution to all the parishes he represents. Regarding the double-decker builder's cabins (*see Open Forum above*) he suggests we contact the SHDC and mention the 28 Day Enforcement Rule.

#### **POLICE**

PC Steve Mullen will be retiring on the 19 June after 30 years' service - about 10 of them as our local bobby. The support from this community had been excellent and he thanked us for it. The chairman expressed our gratitude and wished him well in his retirement. The Parish Councillors were invited to his farewell party at the King's Arms on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

#### **BUSINESS BY DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

# Retirement gift for Sir Simon Day was available to view.

# The red phone box at Buckland was in need of funding for its restoration.

# Tree stumps need to be removed from the Island View play area and Rodney Stidston will be asked to do the work.

# SHDC are to be asked the cost of verge cutting and Parish Council are to see if they could do it less expensively.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2013, at 7.30pm in the Yeo Room.

***A representative of SHDC planning department will be present to answer questions - don't miss it!***

# PARISH HALL NEWS

Chairman: Neill Irwin



Our Cream Teas in the Old Rectory Gardens on 8<sup>th</sup> June proved very popular and we are very grateful to our hosts the Rigbys. The profit of over £400 was impressive and a very welcome boost to the Hall funds. The Car Boot/Table-Top Sale on 22<sup>nd</sup> June was dampened by the weather but the modest profits still make it a worthwhile event for next year.

The return of local musician Henry Tozer with Guy Hayward for a second concert programme of piano and song attracted another large audience to the Parish Hall on Saturday 13th July – and they were not disappointed. Henry opened the programme with two Vaughan Williams songs, accompanied by Alastair Durden. This was followed by the Schumann song cycle 'Dichterliebe' which proved an excellent vehicle for Guy's baritone voice to demonstrate the full range of its tonal qualities, and for Henry to catch every nuance of its varying moods in his piano accompaniment. The second half of the concert featured a number of popular modern songs, performed as either solos or duets, and concluded with a trio – Henry's brother Thomas being pressed into service to lead the final number. Ron Parkin gave an eloquent vote of thanks to end a memorable evening's entertainment.

There will be more on the annual Barbecue, Boules and Bowls on 30<sup>th</sup> July in the next issue – hope you enjoyed it.

August is a quiet month when we expect to be renovating the Hall floor but in September ... Sing along with the Promenaders at the Albert Hall, Glasgow,

Hyde Park and Belfast – and Thurlestone Parish Hall! The Last Night of the Proms has an intriguing mix of the new, the old and the uncommon. It will begin with a work by the young British composer Anna Clyne and includes a rare performance of Britten's 1967 overture for chorus and orchestra *The Building of the House*. The great Marin Alsop is the first female Last Night conductor and the evening also features the virtuoso violinist Nigel Kennedy as well as some sea-faring themes to accompany the usual (and singalongable) old favourites. Do come and join us at the Parish Hall with your own supper - Union Jacks optional. We would welcome donations towards expenses. It was a great night in 2012, so don't miss it this year on the big screen on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The Autumn Fair on 28<sup>th</sup> September should also be in your diaries with the usual crafts, quizzes and local produce all in support of the Parish Hall. The users of the Hall donate their time and talents to ensure a great range of interesting stalls and games as well as providing an opportunity to mingle, meet friends and enjoy afternoon tea. Bring along the family – and any visitors you may have that week-end. It's a lot of fun!

## AN APPEAL

We are currently putting together the programme for 2014 and would love to hear about any ideas you have for events you would like to see run next year. Please get in touch if you have any proposals or would like to make an input. As ever, it is your Parish Hall.



# Superfast Broadband – Two Steps Closer

By Michael Armitage

As the country has been basking in its uncharacteristic heat-wave, things have been quietly hotting up on the broadband front. Although nothing much might appear to have changed on the ground – this being written with the 'benefit' of 0.15Mbps download speed – in fact there have been significant developments behind the scenes in Government.

As a result of pressure from all quarters – including, not least, from our excellent MP Dr Sarah Wollaston – a representative of the project team was invited to meet the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Maria Miller, on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Along with representatives from five other community-backed broadband projects whose applications for grant aid under the Rural Communities Broadband Fund scheme have similarly stalled, we presented our case. Which, incidentally, is an easy one: by comparison with the status quo or with what is being promised, the South Hams Broadband project offers superior technology and services, sooner, with greater private sector investment, and better value for the public purse. In the vulgarity of the day, 'what's not to like?'

And after many months of dealing with officials who could have been models for Sir Humphrey, it was very heartening to hear at first hand the Minister's support for the individual projects, as well as for the principle of having independent, community-led endeavours such as ours co-existing alongside BT.

This point is particularly important, even more than any grant aid that might eventually be forthcoming – as the Secretary of State herself said, **"It should not be beyond the wit of man"** for Government to enable half a dozen tiny projects to exist alongside BT.

Much heartened by this meeting, we were additionally reassured by the tenor of the subsequent Public Accounts Committee meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, where the full consequences of the Government's broadband policy was exposed to parliamentary and public scrutiny.

Following the extremely critical report by the National Audit Office, PAC Chairman Margaret Hodge and fellow committee members duly challenged Government officials for designing a process that so favoured one supplier – BT.

In the process, committee members also gave effective endorsement to community projects such as ours, which promise a better return on public expenditure and greater access to broadband for all citizens. If readers have a spare hour or four, they can go to the website to see the replay of proceedings at <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Player.aspx?meetingId=13646>.

Although this public scrutinising might all be thought to be of interest only to students of Government, it does critically help to ensure that, when money is finally raised and suppliers engaged, the rules of fair competition are properly adhered to.

The second area of particular progress since the last report to the Village Voice, and away from the corridors of Whitehall, has been the joint-venture agreement signed between the project's advisers Broadway Partners and the Swedish company Via Europa.

This development is important for two reasons. First, because Via Europa has developed a technical platform that makes it much easier for service providers, large and small, to access customers of even the smallest networks. And second because the man behind the company, Jonas Birgersson, brings immense experience to the party, having been the original fibre pioneer in Sweden, and having just been awarded the licence to build the second network in Israel.

All this may well be of little or no interest to people who simply want the broadband problem to go away – the project team can certainly sympathise with this view, as none of us anticipated just how difficult it would be to fix the problem. However, with a little good fortune, some more patience and a great deal of tenacity, we should end up with a broadband service that will have been worth the struggle. Watch this space!



# Village News Round-Up

## NEW HOMES AT PARKFIELD

Parish Council chairman Andrew Rhymes advises "If anyone local wishes to rent one of these new homes, please apply on line to register your interest" to [www.devonhomechoice.com](http://www.devonhomechoice.com)

South Hams District Council has issued a very helpful leaflet about applying on line and you can also contact their Housing Advice Team on 01803 861234.

## SCHOOL SPORTS SUCCESSES

Thurlestone School is now in the top 25 primary schools nationally for tag rugby! They came fifth in the regional finals of the *Tag to Twickenham* tournament held at Taunton School on June 19<sup>th</sup> - the first four go through to the national finals played at Rugby and the overall winners go on to compete at Twickenham. They were captained by Tom Newman, supported by Freddie Ford, Freddie Stevens, Jose West, Milo Hignett, James Lidstone, Evie Booth, Ellie Couling, Olivia Churcher and Wilf McCarthy. The team are coached by Julie Holland and Spike Ford. Not only that, the school 'A' team has won the KWIK cricket competition for schools in the Kingbridge area, *for the fourth successive year*. Village Voice sends congratulations to all those concerned.

## WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Stephen and Diana Parker-Swift are once again hosting a Coffee Morning & Garden Open at Lower Kerse, Thurlestone, on Friday 27 September from 9.30am to 12.30pm. This is part of the national Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning and is in memory of the late Anne Bees. It is also an opportunity to see their lovely garden.

## SHOW CAKE

If you intend to make the chocolate and almond cake, which is the set recipe printed in the 2013 Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show schedule, please note that a printing error has omitted a vital ingredient - 100g (4ozs) dark soft brown sugar. The Show committee apologise for

this not being spotted earlier, but are grateful to an eagle-eyed cook who luckily decided to make this to donate to a good cause. The Show committee advise that all the cooks who enter the set recipe class will be contacted before the show to make sure they include the sugar!

## AUTUMN FAIR

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, from 2.30pm, the Parish Hall will be brimming with activity. This is the annual occasion when all the users of the Hall get together and hold a fund-raising event to help keep the Parish Hall running and in good order. There will be lots of interesting things to see, to do and to buy as well as an opportunity to meet your friends to socialise, have a nice cup of tea (and a scrumptious piece of cake) and enjoy a chat.

So do come along and enjoy it - and help to keep our very special, and vital, parish meeting-place going!

## HANDYMAN AVAILABLE

Alex Humphries of 7 Meadcombe Road, Thurlestone, says if you have an endless list of jobs to do but not the time (or inclination) to get them done, he would be happy to help. Alex says "I'm a young, strong lad who is happy to help with a variety of jobs, e.g. car washing, grass cutting, garden tidying, wood chopping, painting and so on. No job is too small". His charge is £6.00 an hour, and he can be contacted on 01548 562349 or mobile 07749 608233.

## MARATHON CYCLE

As mentioned in a previous issue, Jane and Mick Howey were planning to undertake the 100km 'Nightride' cycle through London on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. Sadly, Jane was unable to participate due to major emergency surgery, but with her encouragement Mick carried on and successfully completed the roughly circular course. He started at 23.40 hours from Crystal Palace, passed through Alexandra Palace, returning to the finish at Crystal Palace some nine hours later - just in time for breakfast! They would like to thank all the generous sponsors through whom

over £1200 was raised to support the charity 'Motivation'. This is enough to transform the lives of at least nine disabled people through provision of their own customised wheelchairs from the charity.

If you have missed the chance to contribute so far and would like to do so, this can be done either by contacting Jane and Mick on 01548 560600 or by visiting the fundraising website at:  
[ukvirginmoneygiving.com/mickandjane](http://ukvirginmoneygiving.com/mickandjane)

### GIBRALTAR ROCK RUN

Our local tai chi teacher and WI member Vida Alexander and web designer Ayse Rifat have been successful in their applications to take part in the Gibraltar Rock Run next year (October 2014). They are raising money for the Royal Marines Charitable Trust fund, and as next year will be the 350th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Marines, only 350 runners are being permitted to take part, representing one year for every runner. Vida and Ayse are already fundraising and would appreciate any donations to their web sites. If you go to 'just giving' and then 'sponsor friends' and either put in Vida or Ayse's name, there will be more updates and details of fund raising events. If you see them outside Morrison's why not donate your trolley pound? They will be there once a month, come rain or shine. If you see them out training on the lanes, give them a wave of encouragement.

### THE OAK & THE ASH

Two of Britain's native trees are seriously at risk from deadly diseases - the oak from *Phytophthora ramorum* and the ash from *Chalara*. The Woodland Trust is relying on people to report any signs of disease in their local trees but unfortunately, according to a survey they have conducted, a large number of us cannot identify these trees or their leaves. They have therefore created the online site [LoveitOrLoseit.org.uk](http://LoveitOrLoseit.org.uk) to help people learn, through a quiz and video, about tree identification and diseases.

A quick look around at our local hedgerows will tell you how very many contain ash (if you can identify them!). If we lost them to this dreadful disease it would be tragic.

### HELP FOR HEARTS

If you have any surplus furniture and would care to donate it to the British Heart

Foundation, the charity will pick it up from your home free. Ring 0844 334 1419 or book on line at [bhf.org.uk/collection](http://bhf.org.uk/collection). Your unwanted goods can help them raise funds for the fight against heart disease.

### BLITHE SPIRIT

Kingsbridge Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS) will be presenting "Blithe Spirit", An Improbable Farce in Three Acts, by Noel Coward, directed by Wendy Morrall, from 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Malborough Village Hall. Tickets at £9 will be available from 29<sup>th</sup> July at Kingsbridge Information Centre, or at [www.kats-kingsbridge.co.uk](http://www.kats-kingsbridge.co.uk)

### STANBOROUGH CHORUS

The Stanborough Chorus has sent an 'early bird' notice to let their supporters know that they will be holding their Festival of Vocal Music 2013 at St Edmund's, Kingsbridge from 31<sup>st</sup> October to the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. On 31<sup>st</sup> October they will feature the Military Wives Choir and the Carrivick Sisters, and on 1<sup>st</sup> November the Plymouth Gilbert & Sullivan Fellowship. Finally, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the Chorus perform Karl Jenkins **Requiem** accompanied by the Divertimento Festival Orchestra. Make a note of these items now. Full details will appear in our October issue.

### FAMILY ACTIVITY

The Devon Wildlife Trust is holding a Family Activity Day at Andrew's Wood nature reserve, Loddiswell, 11am to 3 pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August. They invite you to enjoy a wild day out amidst the woods and meadows of this beautiful corner of the South Hams. Children can enjoy a nature quiz trail, wildlife spotting competition and craft activities. Contact Jackie Gage on 01392 279244.

### KATE'S KITCHEN

After many years of providing Village Voice's tasty recipes Kate, aka Elaine Treleaven, has decided it's time to hang up her spatula. A former resident of *Burwood* in Thurlestone Elaine took on the role of chef-in-residence after she had moved to Kingsbridge, and she now lives in Stokenham. We offer her our grateful thanks for her unfailing support over the years, and best wishes for the future.

A new Kate will be stepping into the kitchen for the October issue, but we shall be maintaining her anonymity in the usual way.



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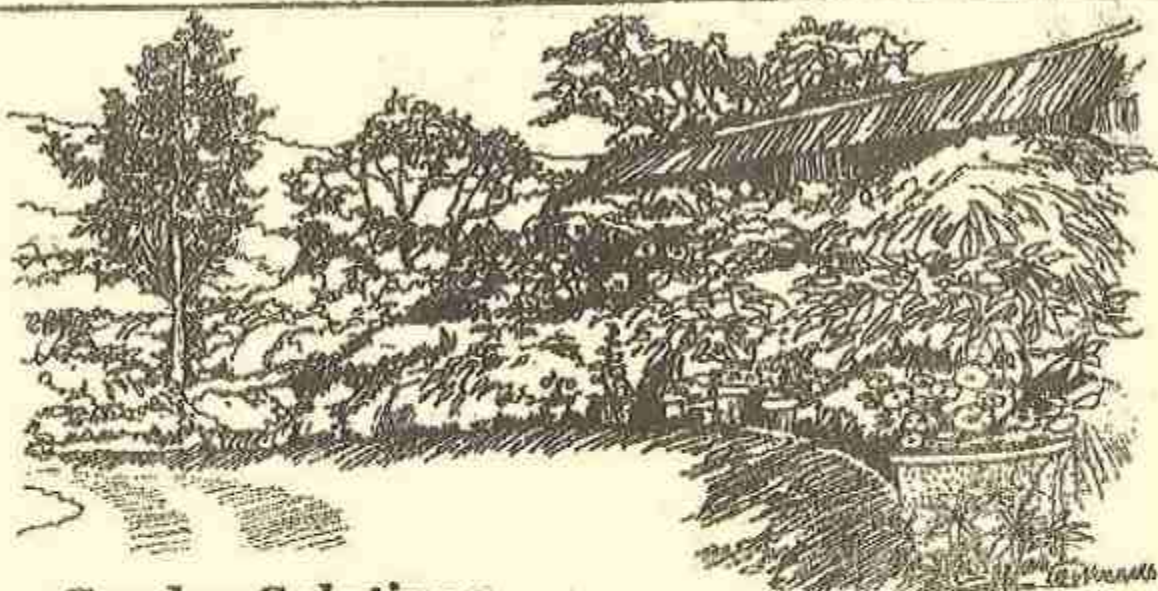
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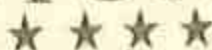
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# Our local environment – the development time bomb

On July 12 a group of residents met in the Parish Hall to discuss concerns about the long term effect on the Parish of current Planning decisions. The meeting was joined by Councillor Ian Bramble (SHDC) and Councillor Rufus Gilbert (Devon CC). Residents from Bantham, West Buckland and Thurlestone attended including members of the Parish Council. The issue discussed was:

**As older properties in the Parish are sold, the existing structures are being replaced by much larger buildings. The Planning Authorities are not responding to the numerous objections by parishioners and the Parish Council, and are approving these applications with only minor amendments.**

If the current pattern is allowed to continue the Parish will eventually become significantly less attractive as a place to live and visit. We shall see:

- A worsening of the demographic imbalance shown by the recent Parish Survey. (*Not enough young people*)
- A continuing rise in property prices preventing purchase by younger and local people (*Larger houses = higher prices*)
- More "ghost" areas of properties left unoccupied for long periods. (*Loss of community spirit*).
- Fewer homes that are suitable for permanent residents
- Accelerating despoiling of the existing open and green appearance of the Parish. (*Less attractive to visitors and locals alike*)

There was strong agreement that the community should attempt to defuse this development time bomb and influence future Planning decisions to recognise this potential detriment. It was noted that the problem is currently most acute in Thurlestone but is now beginning to affect West Buckland and Bantham.

There are two documents that state development policy for the Parish:

**1. Local Plan K17** This was published by Devon County Council in and is due to be updated and replaced in the next year. The key passage is:

*Thurlestone lies entirely within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where the preservation and enhancement of the landscape will receive priority and development will not be permitted except where this is necessary to the economic or social well-being of the locality or will enhance its character. The village (Parish) is also closely contained on all sides by the Coastal Preservation Area. Any development proposals in the village should most carefully respect this sensitive coastal landscape.*



**2. Thurlestone Parish Plan** published in 2009. The section on development 5.1b states:

*In preserving the existing environment, development boundaries must be adhered to and no building or development should be permitted outside these boundaries. Similarly the current low density housing criteria should be preserved with a minimum of infill or encroachment of building on existing green areas and the creation of unrelieved areas of buildings.*

On reading the planning guidelines it is hard to see how there could be consistent approval of applications for larger developments. **Perhaps the answer is that each one viewed individually does not itself constitute a major breach of Plan requirements. It is the cumulative effect that will do so.**

The meeting (with the active support of the councillors) agreed that the community should take "robust" steps to raise this issue with the Planning authorities. As a first step, it was agreed that the Parish Plan should be rewritten to be more specific. The following first draft was tabled and discussed.

- A. Development/rebuilding of existing properties should:
  - 1. Not increase the footprint by more than 15% over the previous structure
  - 2. Not increase the ridge height
  - 3. Not reduce the amount of off street parking
  - 4. Not increase the number of bedrooms by more than 25%
- B. New building should only be permitted if it provides (funds for) affordable housing

It was felt that this wording should be made more precise if possible and a legal eye cast over it. In order to provide the revision with authority in the eyes of the Council the change must be shown to have been the result of wide consultation in the community. To achieve this, the group intend to distribute a survey through the next edition of Village Voice. In the meantime any suggestions and offers of help would be gladly received. Please contact Kit Marshall on 01548 560 214 or email [thurlestoneplanningsurvey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thurlestoneplanningsurvey@yahoo.co.uk)

**PS** We are not alone in our concerns. This letter appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 13 July.

**SIR** – The English countryside is precious, inspirational and irreplaceable, but it is being eroded every day as a result of poorly planned development. There is a better way, which is why we are supporting the Campaign to Protect Rural England's new charter to save our countryside.

CPRE's Charter has three demands. First and most obviously we are saying: don't sacrifice our countryside. Previously developed brownfield land should be reused to protect its beauty and to breathe new life into our towns and cities. Secondly, we want a fair say for local communities, who are increasingly unable to stop the destruction of their towns and countryside. We need a democratic planning system that gives them a much stronger say in the future of their areas. Thirdly, the country urgently needs more affordable homes for our rising population. But they must be sensitively located, with excellent environmental standards. Poorly designed developments sprawling into the countryside are no answer.

**Signed:** Clive Aslet, Natalie Bennett, Clive Betts MP (Lab), Jo Brand, Bill Bryson, Tony Burton, Caroline Cranbrook, Jonathan Dimbleby, Sir Terry Farrell, Tom Flood, Ben Goldsmith, Zac Goldsmith MP (Con), Sir Max Hastings, Nick Herbert MP (Con), Martin Horwood MP (LibDem), Tony Juniper, Satish Kumar, Richard Mabey, Lord Marlesford, Virginia McKenna, Michael Morpurgo, John Julius Norwich, Jonathan Porritt, Sir Tony Robinson, Lord Rogers, Penny Vincenzi



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# All Saints

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:** *Vacancy*  
During the vacancy please contact  
one of the Churchwardens (see overleaf)

**LAY READER:** Peter Gornall



## Peter Gornall writes:

This year's Wimbledon was only slightly affected by rain, which prompted me to recall the savage and widespread floods at the same time in 2012. Why is the weather such a British conversation stealer? It gives us such contrasts, such unpredictability; it seems playful and capricious (if you are young enough still to enjoy stamping in rain puddles) or disheartening, dangerous and challenging if your crops, your house or your livelihood are at risk.

We would all like a bit of predictability, stability and reassurance, and not just in terms of the weather. We need a sense of permanence and fixity in all this changeableness. Yet we also know it is out of the challenges, out of the uncertainties, out of being left to manage when times are hard that comes inner growth and maturity, the wisdom of experience, and for a community the sense of shared endeavour through hard times.

The local Church too, from normal human nature, would like a bit of stability but isn't getting much about now. Phil and Janet Osler have moved on. The Bishop of Exeter Michael Langrish has just retired, and the Bishop of Plymouth John Ford is moving this autumn to become Bishop of The Murray in South Australia. Interregnums all round, then, and is that such a bad thing? Well, there are bound to be some administrative bothers, but you can get those whether there are clergy in post or not. No, this is opportunity for maturing, for the sharing of endeavour.

The late and lovely Alex Sawyer was 98 when she remarked to me that she had lived through 6 or 7 interregnums and "we always came out of them stronger than we went in". Why should that be? The focus of the Church community is life beyond normal human nature, the communal life of gathering round the One who embraced the hard times so that through them He could show (and impart) life and love which is utterly resilient and trustworthy. That gathering can and does happen through all sorts of contrasts and unpredictability. Strangely and beyond all normal expectations, it is a source of strength most especially to those who realise their own limitations.

Meantime, here's hoping Devon will flourish in a sunny summer!

**Every Blessing**

*Peter*



## A 2014 Calendar

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**Now is the time to take photographs for the 2015 calendar!**

(From Thurlestone Rock to Bigbury & River Avon, Bantham & Buckland)

**Entry forms at sale points ~ Proceeds in aid of Church Funds**

**Films for All TUESDAYS (monthly) 2.30 PM CHURCH MEETING ROOM**

**OCTOBER 1ST Les Misérables**

**NOVEMBER 5TH Song for Marion**







# All Saints' Diary

**CHURCHWARDENS:** Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall (562016)  
*During the vacancy, while we have no priest in Thurlestone,  
 every endeavour will be made to maintain the usual pattern of services  
 Everyone is welcome at all services.*

**Church Services** at Thurlestone Church, unless indicated otherwise

## Sundays

<b>Every Sunday</b>	<b>8.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP: 1st & 3rd; CW: 2nd & 4th)
<b>AUG. 4TH &amp; 18TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Family Communion (CW) <i>(Fairtrade Stall Aug. 5th)</i>
<b>AUGUST 11TH, SEPTEMBER 8TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Morning Worship
<b>AUGUST 25TH, SEPTEMBER 29TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Matins (BCP)
<b>SEPTEMBER 1ST &amp; 15TH</b>	<b>11.00am</b> Parish Eucharist (CW) <i>(Fairtrade Stall Sept. 2nd)</i>
<b>SEPTEMBER 2ND</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Churchstow
<b>SEPTEMBER 15TH</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> Benefice Praise Service at South Milton
<b>SEPTEMBER 22ND</b>	<b>11.00am</b> Benefice Communion (CW) at Churchstow
<b>OCTOBER 6TH</b>	<b>11.10am</b> Harvest Thanksgiving followed by Harvest Lunch

## Weekdays

<b>THURS AUG. 1ST, SEPT. 5TH</b>	<b>10.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Būnham
<b>SUNDAY AUGUST 25TH</b>	<b>6.00pm</b> Hymns & Songs of Praise in Buckland (see below)
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> when there is a priest available	<b>10.00am</b> Holy Communion (alternating BCP & CW) Please see noticeboard or contact <a href="mailto:thurallsaints@aol.com">thurallsaints@aol.com</a> or 560090

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

~~~~~  
 Everyone is welcome to  
**Hymns & Songs of Praise**  
 by Buckland Stream  
**Sunday August 25th 6.00 p.m.** (down the hill & follow the signs)  
 Bring your own chair ~ Parking available ~ Cancelled, if wet  
 ~~~~~

Everyone would be welcome at  
**Harvest Thanksgiving**  
**SUNDAY OCTOBER 6TH**  
**11.10 A.M.**  
 followed by  
**Harvest Lunch**  
**£7.50** in the  
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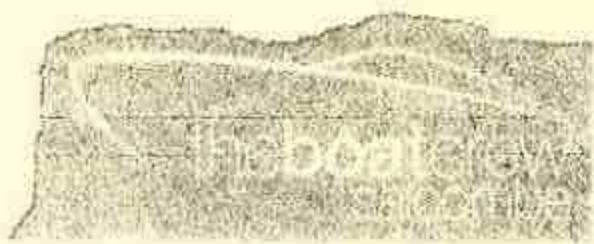
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# Thurlestone Golf Club

## CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The best time to read *Village Voice* is when it is a little chilly outside and the chores of the day are done and dusted. Not so good a time to write a piece for *Village Voice* is when the sun is beating down outside and you have a deadline to meet. But there is a "feel good" factor in the air after last weekend when Murray won Wimbledon and the Lions won the Rugby down under. Factor 15 is needed on the golf course right now and as I write this in front of the TV it is the Aussies who are fighting back in the first Test at Trent Bridge Cricket ground.

Last weekend (1<sup>st</sup> week of July) was a busy one at Thurlestone Golf Club. 142 golfers, men and women, played in the Mixed Open on Sunday. Nearly 100 men turned out to play on Saturday in the Men's Invitation a day after the Club opened its doors to its very first Community Day. All of this golf, and tennis too, in a week of glorious sunshine that did wonders for the "feel good" factor during the Thurlestone Festival Week of Golf and Tennis.

Glorious sunshine is good for sales of ice cream, sun cream and good scores on the Golf Course. It looks fantastic, with definition being provided on the fairways and visual improvements everywhere. The grass tennis courts are in play and the Golf Course has been re-measured; new tombstones show the revised yardages for ladies and men playing off the white, yellow and red tees. On the score cards soon will appear a brown course measured to give a variation in winter months from the summer yellow tees. This reflects a Course that needs to be played differently in winter months when the wind blows and the ball does not run along the fairways as it might in summer months.

In the past month we have hosted the Captains and Secretary/Managers of Devon, visitors from 8 different European Countries, 16 different counties of England and 57 different golf clubs. The collective and favourable comments about the Course

condition were like music in the ear for the greenkeepers and Course Manager **Vic Dyer**. Just how one finds time for Barber shop vocal harmonies, Morris dancing and greenkeeping is something he is often asked and at a loss to explain.

The months of July and August attract many who play at Thurlestone only periodically. Yes, the Course is busier and the grass tennis courts are all in use but we adjust the diary to accommodate the influx. Yes, the roads are busier and the coastal paths take more of a pounding and the beaches are more in use but so too are the community pubs, shops and post offices.

In last month's newsletter I wrote of "holes-in-one" as being that rarest of feats on a golf course. It has happened again, not necessarily to the youngest or strongest, best or better golfers. The better golfers among us will tell you an even rarer and more satisfying achievement is to score an eagle or an albatross. Now at this point in writing this piece I realise I have suddenly lost the reader who needs to consult Google as to what is an Eagle or Albatross in golf. While checking with Google also look up "golf clubs that can see the sea from every tee and every green". Thurlestone is the only one in Devon. Maybe!!

We have a new Executive Chef at Thurlestone Golf Club and that means coming soon are new menus. **Tom Woods** is his name and he will be adding a cook/commis chef to complement the catering team alongside the Club Steward Lisa and her team. A number of new members have joined this year, some to play only tennis, or golf and tennis as full members; some for £55 pa have joined as social members to use the bar and catering facility to eat and drink locally with friends.

Thurlestone Golf Club is changing and those of you in touch with events at the Club will understand those changes position the Club not only as a place to play, eat and drink within the Community but also as a place run like a business for leisure enjoyment by members and visitors. We are 18 months into a 5 year improvement plan for the Club and more Open Forums will provide





members with an opportunity to shape the kind of Club they want.

A Members Club within the Community means Charity Golf days are hosted at Thurlestone Golf Club. Care workers and fund raisers voluntarily give their time to raise money for good causes, to raise awareness and to improve the lives of loved ones. Some recent Charity Golf Days at Thurlestone raise money for causes we hope never to need, like the Hope Cove Lifeboat; some raise money for medical research, like the recent Children's Liver Disease Charity Day. All such events are reminders when we play golf and tennis that within our communities are those less fortunate and able who rely on others to improve their quality of life.

After reading my last newsletter a number of readers have asked after my Club Diary. Pleasingly, it has not gone missing and is right beside me as we plot our way through the Opens, Invitations and friendly inter-club matches scheduled for July and August. There is a Captain's Charity Day on September 1<sup>st</sup> and also a few surprises in store as we move into the autumn.

**Mervyn Spencer**

### LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The weather for golf has improved quite considerably in June and July and the ladies teams have been in action with some success. The Still Cup team led by Pam St Leger have won all three of their home matches but lost their three away matches against Bigbury, Royal North Devon and Tiverton. The Presidents team led by Lesley Saffin have won two and halved one and lost five matches against Downs Crediton, Teignmouth, RND and Exeter. The Sheelah Creasy team led by Wendy Laud have won one, halved one and lost five matches against Tiverton, Ilfracombe, Saunton and Stover. The League team led by Joan Booth have only played one match so far. Well done to all ladies who played in the teams, they all enjoyed their matches and made many new friends.

In May we held the Express and Echo foursomes qualifying competition. The weather was cold but dry, the winners were Wendy Laud and Lesley Saffin with 35 points

on count back from Victoria Gibbens and Janet Richardson. They will go forward to represent the club at Okehampton in September.

Also in May we had the Mixed matches between Thurlestone and Bigbury for the Buckingham Bowl. Played in memory each year of Elizabeth Buckingham who was a member of both clubs and who died of cancer in 2007 when she was lady captain of Bigbury. Ten pairs played from each club in Greensome competition and the winners were Thurlestone with 6 1/2 to 3 1/2 matches. Linda Cant and Mervyn Spencer were presented with the bowl by the Captains of Bigbury. Junior George Holland aged 12 stepped into the breach to play with Ann Best when a Thurlestone adult member was unable to play at the last minute. George has a handicap of 12 and he and Ann won their match even getting a two on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday 29th May; Ladies Club championship and medal was a 36 hole competition played on the same day. The weather held out for the ladies but a strong wind made conditions very tiring for the ten ladies that entered. The winner of the Oswald cup for best scratch score over 36 holes; Jenny Roberts, 153 gross, second place was Laura Tregelles with 162. The Winner of the Ford Salver for best handicap score over 36 holes Gill Hicks. This competition was played alongside a medal competition which was won in division one by Lindsey Fletcher with a nett 78, and division two was won by Janet Richardson with nett 77, and division three by Jane Pope also with nett 77.

Wednesday 5th June; Ladies Medal; had 41 entries on a dry but very windy day. Division 1 winner Heather Spencer had a nett 76 from Jenny Roberts (3) nett 77. Division 2 winner was Janet Richardson with nett 73, from Bernadett Law nett 74. Division 3 winner was Inger Reeve with a nett 75 from Mary Johnson nett 81.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, was a Stableford competition. Joyce Drummond (in Division one) won the Jennifer Yeo memorial rose bowl with 40 points on countback from Pattie McPhie (in Division two). Both had their handicaps cut by one shot. Division one runner up was Alison Adams with 37 points, and Jenny Roberts was 3rd with 35 points.

On my Lady Captain's Day 64 ladies took part in a shotgun start, which was played in fabulous sunshine on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

There was a full field of ladies who played a Patsome - a pairs competition format in which 6 holes are played as Foursomes, 6 holes as Greensomes, and 6 holes as a better-ball. We had an ice-cream after the 9th green and Pimms with the buffet when we came in.

The day was won by Janet Richardson and Wendy Stewart with a fantastic score of 42 points. Janet and Wendy narrowly beat Lesley Robinson and Shirley Worrall with 40 points, and Jan Brooking and Barbara Smith, who also had 40 points. A great day was had by all. The Pro challenge on the 6th to get nearest the pin than Steve White raised £83 for my charity, the Alzheimers Society. Eight ladies beat Steve and won 3 balls. Nearest the pin prize on the 6th was won by Tish Mawhood, and on the 3rd nearest the pin was won by Jenny Roberts.

Wednesday 3rd July; Medal and Betty Ord Trophy; on a lovely sunny day with slight winds we had 49 entries. Division one winner was Laura Tregelles nett 68; runner up was Heather Spencer nett 71. Division two winner was Thomasine Wood nett 70; runner up Janet Richardson nett 72. Division three winner was Bernice Sweetman nett 66; runner up Inger Reeve nett 73. Bernice Sweetman won the Betty Ord Trophy and had her handicap cut from 31 to 27.

In July we hosted the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) Charity day for young William Bates (aged 2), who is the grandson of Liz and Robbie Robinson.

The CLDF Charity had picked a beautiful sunny day to host their first ever golf day here at Thurlestone. Not only was the weather kind, but members, guests and a number of local businesses all entered into the spirit of the day and helped to raise funds in the region of £7500 for the charity!

There were 99 players and another 50 guests who came along in the evening for dinner and musical entertainments from John Sterry's Jazz Band, The Kingsman Barbershop Group, and Nick Crispin's Disco. The best team score on the day was 92 points and was won by a Bristol based team of Mike Davies, Marcus Driver and Greg Goothade. The best individual score of the day was 46 points by Mike Davies. The best Ladies score of the day was Ladies Captain, Linda Cant, with 40 points, and George Holland was pulled out of the hat by young William to win the Powakaddy electric trolley!

Paul Bates, William's father, thanked everyone involved for providing the much needed support to CLDF, who will be using the money raised for family-support, educational literature and scientific research to improve long term liver disease treatment. The club was absolutely swinging with music including the Kingsmen and a wonderful jazz band. Great to see so many people pledging their support.

In July we had our mixed Open on another hot sunny day when the winning couple were ex-Thurlestone members, Keith and Denise Crawford.

Wednesday 10th July; Ladies Four ball team Open day; we had 136 ladies participating including two groups from Dorset. Prizes were for top 8 teams, best front 9, best back 9, nearest the pin on all the par 3's, and of course the 2's. The wind played its part but the winning team came in as tall end Charlie's with 84 points and two 2's. The raffle made £221 and we have started a 'name the frog club head cover' competition which raised £14 and as no one guessed its name, this will roll over to our next open in September. A huge success, helped by the wonderful sunshine.

In July Mervyn and myself have been invited as guests at Okehampton golf club to join them in their centenary celebrations when they will be re-enacting their opening ceremony of 1913 on the 1st tee.

Saturday 20th July will have been our summer ball when the club house is sure to have been swinging the night away with music from Dave Barrow and his jazz band. Tickets went really well and it should prove a sell out. An account of that in the next Village Voice. I hope this wonderful weather continues into August, so enjoy your golf.

**Linda Cant**

## **JUNIORS SECTION NEWSLETTER**

The juniors have had mixed success in June and July, and have played a number of West Devon League matches.

In early June the Juniors played Staddon at home and lost by a narrow margin of 3 matches to 2. Winners in the singles were Rob Came (1 up), and Beth Yeoman (8 & 7).



Unfortunately George Holland lost 5 & 4 and Jamie Johnson lost 2 & 1. In the foursomes, due to exam commitments of the team, we had to play two non-CONGU juniors off 28, James Tait and Fin Wheelan, and they lost 7 & 6 but put up a good fight and gained valuable experience.

The juniors then played Wrangaton away and lost 4-1. In the singles Rob Came, Beth Yeoman, and George Holland all lost their matches. Callum Tollins won his singles match but in the foursomes Ethan Mulligan (28) and James Tait (28) lost their match.

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June the Juniors lost by 3 matches to 2 away at Yelverton in the West Devon League. Team manager Phil Holland was particularly pleased with Ethan Mulligan as he played quite a good 28 handicap player and won 6+5 with some tremendous play for one so young. George Holland also had an excellent win.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June was the Thurlestone Hotel cup which means two rounds of golf on the same day. In a brutal wind, Rob Came won with 34 points in the morning and 34 again in the afternoon, a fantastic performance. George Holland did well and was 4th with 29 points in the morning followed by 33 in the afternoon round. Tom Orr scored 17 in the morning and 29 in the afternoon. Rob also won the Membrand Trophy which is for the combined scores in the Thurlestone Hotel and Links Hotel cups, a total of four rounds of golf. *Well done Rob, George and Tom.*

The Daily Telegraph and BMW qualifying competition is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August and the top boy's and girl's scores will go forward to

the National leaderboard. The top 15 boys and 9 girls in the country will get a trip to Portugal for the final at Quinta do Lago club. In 2011 one of Thurlestone's juniors Oliver Walsh qualified for the final of the Daily Telegraph competition in Abu Dhabi, so we are hoping for another success from our juniors this year.

The junior non-CONGU match against Stover away organised by Phil Holland is planned for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August.

We have a good entry for the Adult and Juniors foursome matchplay knockout trophy. The draw has gone up and with four weeks between rounds it should finish in October ready for the Annual presentation evening on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

The junior Academy, started in 2012 with 8 members, is going from strength to strength with numbers now up to 32. Lessons are held on Saturday mornings with Pete Mitchell, our teaching professional. He has several groups and the club offers half price membership to Academy members. So far twenty three juniors have taken up this offer. Golf is a great game for youngsters - it can help with a child's coordination, maths and social skills, and is also great way to keep fit. So if you need any information please contact Pete on 01548 560715.

On Monday evenings the juniors have a club night organised by Steve Pepperrell, Stuart Tollins and Janet Richardson where they go out on the course with an adult to play competitions. Please come along.

**Liz Line**

*Stephen & Diana Parker-Swift  
invite you to come and see their lovely garden*

**GARDEN OPEN &  
COFFEE MORNING**

**Lower Kerse, Thurlestone  
Friday 27 September  
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# Letter From Provence

By Michael Dart

I am at our home here in the Vaucluse area of Provence. The cherry harvest is well under way and is one of the main crops to be grown here, the others being lavender, olives and almonds.

Sarah, my eldest daughter (and heroine), drove the dogs and myself down from her home in Oxfordshire, via Folkestone and the Channel tunnel. I really recommend the tunnel as you do not get out of your car and less than an hour later you drive out into France at Calais - no checks - straight on to the motorway south. I think the dogs were disappointed at not having to show their passports, or brand-new muzzles or yellow jackets, which we had been assured were obligatory.

Being a farmer - long since retired - I always enjoy and admire the farming in Northern France but, oh dear, what are they doing to the countryside with this huge proliferation of wind turbines? England, and Devon, beware.

We usually take two days to drive down to our village of Venasque, but Sarah got the bit between her teeth, and her foot on the accelerator, and apart from stops for petrol we were there in fifteen hours! Sarah flew home the next day from Avignon and Lisa Hine, who had helped Pru at Horswell, came over to run the house, and me, for two weeks. What an amazing stroke of luck, because Lisa had hardly arrived when I was laid very low by a severe attack of gout - and I still am. I am assured, however, that alcohol intake is not implicated. Thank the Lord!

In the first few days here the *mistral* blew, the strong wind that blows down the Rhone valley. I was very glad I had brought some warm clothes. All is well now with the temperature at 35°C today. Venasque is a small 'long village' situated on a limestone escarpment, looking over a wide valley and across to the mountains. The main mountain, which I am looking at as I write, is named Mont Ventoux, and is one of the climbs in the Tour de France, while away to my left across the garden are 'The Ramparts', which are the remains of the Roman occupation here.

The garden is just over an acre and on bed rock. To plant anything at all requires an iron crowbar. It is completely fenced to keep out the wild boar and has got a very nice swimming pool - for those that like such things (i.e. Pru). At the moment the lavender is in full bloom and covered in bees and a great number of different butterflies. Given the soil type, and the climate, there are no lawns or grass to mow but there is still birdsong and the constant chirping of cicadas.

French life is very different with the shops opening early (6am) and closing for two to two and a half hours at midday. Each village is protected by terrible traffic-calming bumps - which is fine when you are concentrating. My intention was to stay in France until the end of September and to be able to entertain family and friends - but the wretched gout means I may have to return to the UK in the short term. We shall see. Meantime, au revoir.

# sudoku

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

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

Tough

No. 85

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

Tough

No. 86

		2			8			
	9		6				3	
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	1				6		9	
			7			5		

Tougher

No. 85

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

Tougher

No. 86

## Leading Ladies

Despite another spirited challenge from the gentlemen it was the ladies who took the honours in our June/July contest. All-correct solutions were received from Mesdames Dwyer, Grant, Killingsworth, Leare, Lonsdale, McLay, and Proops, while Messrs Chitnis, Delafield, Irwin, and Petty scored for the gentlemen. Another ballot for the bottle was required, and out of the hat again came a former winner, **Shella Killingsworth**, who will receive the treasured vintage from the Sudoku cellars. However, congratulations go to all these members of the Thurstone First XI. Where are the Aussies now? Entries for this month's "Ashes" challenge to 25 Mead Lane, by 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013.



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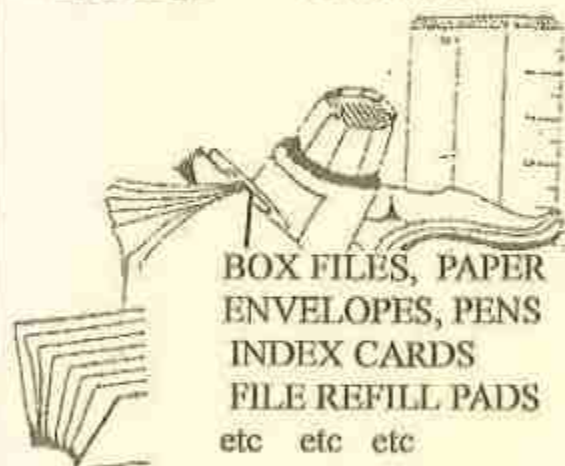
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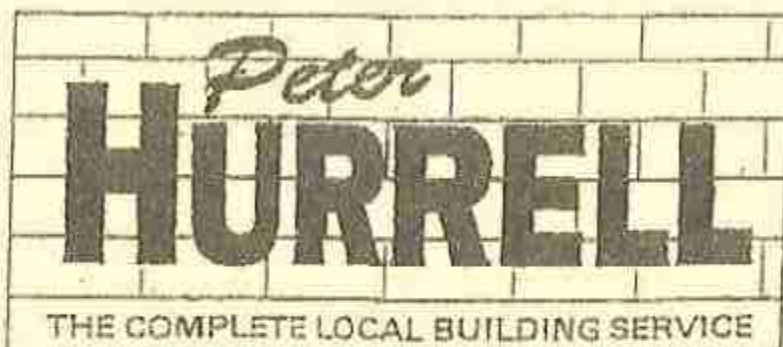
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**Friday  
23 August**

*A walk from Little Dartmouth car park (GR 874492).* A four-mile coastal walk to Dartmouth Castle, returning in time for a pub lunch.

**Tuesday  
10 September**

*Coach Trip to Widecombe Fair.* One of the most famous country fairs and a showcase for all that is wonderful about Dartmoor. There is so much to see and plenty of places to sit to enjoy the many traditional events.

**Wednesday  
25 September**

*Coach trip to Plymouth Barbican and Historic Harbour Cruise.* First to the Barbican with time for a stroll and lunch before a one-hour cruise, passing historic sites, naval ships and stunning views across Plymouth Sound.

For more information about these events,  
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# Pennies from Heaven

by Traveller

Much has changed in Thurstlestone Parish from the days just after the second world war - the long hot summers at Bantham, (were they *really* as hot as we remember?) when a barefoot child would run freely over springy turf, or lie amongst wild flowers gazing up at a deep blue sky, listening to the glorious song of larks as they hovered high above. Where are those birds now, and the spring call of the cuckoo?

One of my earliest memories of a Bantham summer was scrambling up the tallest sand dune to solicit chocolate from the American soldiers who were on look-out from a bunker dug into the sand and marram grass. Sweets of any kind were severely rationed so this was a wonderful treat.

There was a self-elected air raid warden, an officious little man, who would prowel outside our cottage at night, trying to see if there was the slightest chink of light showing which, if we had offended, would have boosted his already over-inflated ego. My father, who was vigilant with blackout, was so incensed by this nightly intrusion that he eventually let the docile dogs out of their kennel and, although they would probably have licked the wretch to death, they scared him enough to leave us in peace. Every village has its own 'MI5,' and this puffed up little man eventually had a small victory, in reporting a couple of villagers whose lights were showing.

At the end of the war, a bomb was jettisoned in the Salmon Pool, causing a small amount of damage to properties nearby, but luckily no one was hurt. One day, a ship was wrecked and a cargo of Sunlight soap washed up on the beach. As that was rationed the whole village turned out with baskets to smuggle it home. It smelt dreadful, but our mothers were delighted to have it.

From Easter onwards, Bantham was a Paradise for children. Most of us owned small wooden boats, and learned to row, sail, and canoe at a young age, for there were no outboard engines in those days. Parents would send us off in the morning with a bottle of orange squash, and a package of sandwiches wrapped in grease-proof paper, and we were free for the rest of the day, providing we more or less told

them where we would be. Our 'doorstep' sandwiches were usually filled with Marmite and lettuce, or Sandwich Spread, which looked like sick, but tasted delicious. Occasionally, Shiphams' Shrimp Paste made a welcome change. Fruit was impossible to obtain, so parents relied on home grown produce to supplement the diet.

Stiddicombe wood was a joy. We would row up-stream to count the herons nesting in the trees, and shout into the wood to compete for who had the loudest echo back. Playing Indians, and carving totem poles for our territories in the sandhills, was another pastime. Prawning was also popular, as armed with nets we would clamber round to Cowrie Beach and scrape under the weed in the rock pools, usually with success. Sometimes we would make a driftwood fire, and cook the spoils in an old saucepan.

When we were a little older, a real prank was to row out to the island on the ebb, picnic in the Smugglers Cave, then row back on the flood, stopping at Sedgewell Sands to visit the Tom Crocker Inn, where there were a couple of fruit machines in the adjacent arcade. Having taken a few old-fashioned penny pieces, we soon learned how to Karate chop one into the slot, whereupon a whole stream of pennies would cascade down. This went very well until it was noticed how our pocket money had mysteriously grown, and (after confession) henceforth any expedition to the island was banned unless accompanied by a grown-up, and our pocket money was withdrawn. I now realise how dangerous it was to have made that long trip on our own, but we were fearless country-bred children, and had every confidence on land, or at sea.

Of course, from time to time it rained, and it was grab a bucket, and rush to whichever leak had sprung through the thatch, then curl up with a book until the weather improved, or don heavy oilskins, and go for a soggy walk.

Do I look back through rose tinted specs? There *were* some difficulties and post-war deprivations, but how privileged, and uncomplicated our childhoods were, far removed from this materialistic and electronic age. So if the specs *are* a little tinted, does it really matter?

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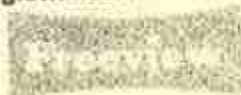
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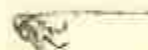
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# Kate's Kitchen



## TIAN (serves 2/3)

Here is one for the vegetarians. It gets its name from the shallow Provencal earthenware cooking dish in which food of this kind is generally prepared, but you can use any kind of shallow oven-proof gratin dish. Judging by the Horticultural Show, a lot of parish residents grow their own courgettes, and very often seem to have a glut, so here is a slightly different recipe for using them up!

### Ingredients

- 1 large onion, peeled and chopped
- 3 tablespoons of olive oil
- 3 cloves of garlic, peeled and slivered
- 1lb (450g) courgettes, trimmed and grated
- 3/4lb (350g) spinach
- 2oz (50g) cooked rice
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 3oz (75g) grated hard cheese
- 2oz (50g) fresh breadcrumbs (wholemeal or granary)
- Salt and pepper

### Method

- Pre-heat the oven to 180°C (350°F, gas mark 4).
- Put the courgettes in a sieve, salt them lightly and leave them to drain. Remove hard stalks from spinach, wash well and cook in plenty of salted boiling water until it wilts then refresh it in cold water. Squeeze out the water with your hands then chop the spinach finely. Or you can use thawed frozen spinach.
- Saute the chopped onion in the oil and when it starts to brown add the garlic and stir well.
- Wring out the courgettes in a clean tea towel then add to the onion mixture and cook for a few minutes. Add spinach and cook for a further few minutes, then add rice, stir well and use plenty of seasoning.
- Tip all the contents of the saute pan into a bowl and mix in the beaten eggs.
- Oil a shallow gratin dish, spread the mixture into this, then cover with the grated cheese and breadcrumbs and bake for 35 minutes.

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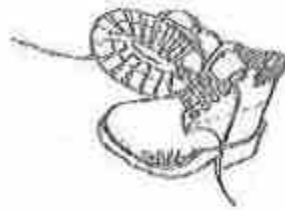
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# TRAMP



**1** Unsettled weather was forecast for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, the day of the mix n' match bus-ride and walk outing from Thurlestone to Kingsbridge, Salcombe, Malborough and back to Thurlestone. However, our Trampers are renowned for being well-prepared for all eventualities so we were undaunted as we ventured forth.

The seven of us who opted to take the morning bus from the village post office swelled the ranks of the regular passengers somewhat and brought a quizzical (but not displeased) look to the face of the Tally Ho driver of the day. Arriving at our destination we were joined by three Trampers who, for various reasons, had elected to drive into Kingsbridge. We began our trek by slogging up the hill beyond Tacket Wood and headed along the road which was the original highway to Salcombe in centuries past.

Glimpses of the estuary from various viewpoints along the route kept the feel-good factor high. Soon we reached the peaceful surrounds of Collapit Creek which we all felt deserved a pause in order to fully appreciate its loveliness. From there, several rises and falls of terrain later, we descended towards the wide expanses of Blanksmill Creek which seemed the ideal spot for a short refreshment break.

Another climb then followed so everyone appreciated a welcome downhill section to Lower Batson and its beautiful creek. An easy stroll along the mercifully flat pathway into Salcombe town followed and thoughts of lunch were beginning to encourage us along our way. The majority was enticed into the Victoria Inn where the menu seemed to offer something for everyone - and indeed it did. One member, however, could not be lured from her decision to enjoy a packed lunch *al fresco* at Whitestrand where there were plenty of people-watching opportunities.

Too soon, it was time for the happy and well-fed band of wanderers to make their way to the bus stop in order to begin their various journeys home. Six of us alighted at Malborough and proceeded to walk back

along the lanes to Thurlestone Sands. The remainder continued by bus to Kingsbridge in order to rejoin their cars. Despite the forecast, we managed to stay dry throughout the adventure - a just reward we all felt!

There are many more bus/walk possibilities to be explored. Let us hope that the bus pass era continues for some time to come...

## Graham and Val Palmer

**2** On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June sixteen walkers and one well behaved dog assembled at the National Trust car park at East Soar for our walk on Bolt Head. It was a beautiful summer day, albeit with a cool breeze blowing. After crossing two fields we entered Torr Woods to be greeted by a wonderful display of deep blue, pink and white as far as the eye could see - bluebells, pink purple and wild garlic. After admiring a spectacular vista of Salcombe Harbour, we started our descent through the woods to South Sands and onwards up to Overbecks and enjoyed a well-earned break in the National Trust coffee shop. Thankfully, Overbecks was completely sheltered from the breeze, the sun was out, and we were able to have our coffee outside.

We had a very pleasant break and then climbed up to Bolt Head, again admiring the wonderful views of the harbour and across to Prawle Point, before turning inland towards Soar Farm. Here we stopped a while to look around the very nice catering facility now open to the public. It was a lovely morning walk of four miles, (only one long hill, from South Sands up to Overbecks), not to be missed, and preferably taken in May to catch the Spring flowers.

## Jill Munn

**3** On Wednesday 12 June, four intrepid Trampers and a dog set off from Modbury Recreational Ground to do a figure of 8 walk around Modbury - about 7 miles in all.

The weather wasn't looking good, but what is a bit of rain? And it may clear up!



We walked along lanes in a northerly direction to Mary Cross and then headed over fields to Shilston Barton - the listed farmhouse which has gone through a rejuvenation over many years and is now home to the Devon Rural Archive. We paused to admire the estate and then carried on down the stony footpath where we met the tenant farmer. He told us that after 47 years he had been asked to vacate the farm at the end of September and to date had nowhere to go. We felt very sad as we said goodbye to him but by now the rain was getting quite heavy.

After about a mile on a minor lane, we turned off and crossed three fields, the latter being the site of the Civil War Battle of 1643. We descended into Modbury via Galpin Street and the heavens really opened! That was when we took the vote to abandon the afternoon leg of the walk. We had thought a nice hot drink in Modbury would fix things - but we were all too wet and soggy to contemplate entering a cafe, so headed up Brownston Street and back to our cars.

#### Trisha Wilson

**4** A fine dry day at last, so on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 15 trampers and 3 dogs set off from Ringmore, walking through the village and then out to the coast at Toby's Point and heading along the cliffs to Ayrmer Cove. We crossed the wooden footbridge at the back of the beach to stone steps that begin the stiff climb over the hill to Westcombe Beach, where at the top we were treated to a view of Burgh Island and Bigbury Bay in one direction and to Westcombe Beach down below us. It is a steep grassy slope down to the beach with steps on the more difficult bits and we were quite glad that we weren't following the cliffs up the even steeper hill the other side to Hoist Point but turning inland on the footpath to Kingston.

We followed this footpath up the valley alongside the stream and then up through the woods on the bridleway. We passed the series of man-made ponds and mill and cottages of Oakenbury Manor - apparently mentioned in the Domesday Book - and on reaching Kingston we turned right to take the path back to Ringmore.

The walk along the fields of the Oakenbury Estate and then down through the trees to

the pine trees of the Oakenbury Plantation was a big contrast to the coastal paths earlier on. After crossing the stream we had been following over a stone bridge by the ruins of Nodden Mill we took a deep breath for the climb back up to Ringmore. The last climb up a steep grassy slope left most of us feeling that we had had some good exercise and were ready for our tasty lunch at the Journey's End.

#### Peter and Liz Coates

**5** Twelve walkers (and no dogs) undertook this walk on a hot and clear 10<sup>th</sup> July, travelling in four cars to the old quarry car-park at Two Bridges across the spine-road of south Dartmoor from Ashburton. As this was a Wednesday, we were aware that the military firing range at Merrivale, which borders the north and west of this route, would be "live" all day, and so anyone getting lost was advised to head east. (In practice, the Army nowadays uses blank ammunition for its Dartmoor exercises, but twelve walkers in brightly coloured summer clothing would no doubt have been unwelcome had they strayed into the range).

We set off at about 10.50 am and headed north along the clear path beside the West Dart river as far as Wistman's Wood - generally thought to be a centuries-old rare patch of remnant oak woodland. The sun was hot but there was a cooling NW-ly breeze throughout the walk. After a pause at Wistman's Wood to admire the characterful stunted oaks, we walked further north across indistinct paths to cross the river at the sluice which marks the start of the Devonport Leat.

From there we climbed steeply up on to Beardown Tor, and ate a picnic lunch to the sound of the vigorously flapping red warning flag, though we were safely several hundred yards outside the marker-posts for the range, assuming that any military personnel could navigate at least as well as we had. The route back followed the ridge of Beardown Hill, with long-range views in all directions, following a compass bearing of due south. After crossing a coniferous wood plantation, we descended to the Cowsic River Valley, 00 and followed this river for the short distance back to Two Bridges, where we duly arrived on schedule at 2.00 pm.

#### David Radford



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## Aune Conservation Association



### An introduction to the South Hams Rivers Improvement Project (SHRIMP)

This is a report on SHRIMP, its origins, organisation and progress, to date, from the personal viewpoint of one member of the project advisory panel. None of the work would have been possible without the collaboration of numerous interest groups and, especially, without the knowledge, experience and professionalism of the Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) whose project SHRIMP remains.

The rivers of the South Hams include the Avon (known locally as the Aune), Erme and Yealm, all of which have their source on Dartmoor and drain into the channel off the south west corner of Devon. Between them, they contain some of the finest nature conservation sites in the South West and host a diverse array of wildlife. From source to sea, these rivers flow through numerous protected landscapes including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, County Wildlife Sites and the Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Salcombe and the Kingsbridge estuaries and Dartmoor National Park are Special Areas of Conservation, with the rivers of Dartmoor being renowned for their populations of Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout.

However, problems were identified with all these rivers by the Environment Agency (EA) when they started to implement the EU's Water Framework Directive and published their so-called Waterbody Information Packs for all UK rivers in 2011. These problems were likely to result in our rivers falling short of the required EU standard for Good Ecological Status by 2015 for various reasons; some relatively easy to fix, others more intractable. At the same time as publishing their assessment of the current situation, the EA called for the participation and involvement of other parties to help put things right. In response, the Aune Conservation Association (ACA) contacted a

variety of expert organisations including the Avon Fishing Association, South Devon AONB, South West Rivers Association, South West Water, WRT and Wild Trout Trust to form a task group which would collaborate with the EA in helping to understand and manage the Devon Avon's water quality and ecological well being, and to coordinate and drive forward a programme of water improvement projects. This cooperative interaction, currently under the chairmanship of the ACA, remains the model for the other South Hams rivers and is underpinned by formal Terms of Reference and objectives.

Of fundamental importance is the involvement of the WRT which successfully applied for government funds and provided the resources to make things happen and to produce the results which are outlined here. The WRT christened their project for the Avon and the other South Hams rivers 'SHRIMP'. The original Devon Avon task group remains in an advisory capacity to SHRIMP and meets with the EA several times each year.

The original problems identified on the Avon mostly involve the higher reaches where the water is highly acidic (possibly due to an historic 'acid rain' effect, to the naturally acidic geology, or to both) and fish species such as the Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) and Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) - expected in a pristine, natural river - are either missing or are not abundant. The influence of the Avon dam on the natural flows of water (needed for normal fish migration) and gravel (needed for fish spawning) is very important and is being addressed but other obstacles to fish migration have been identified as likely contributors to the failure to meet EU standards. In particular, there is limited access to spawning habitat for migratory salmonids within the upper section of the Avon.



The task group agreed that a comprehensive new assessment of potential obstructions to salmonid and eel migration would be required, as a first step, to supplement the EA's information pack which outlined 13 obstructions to migration, including artificial weir structures and natural falls. This new survey was carried out by the WRT between December 2012 and February 2013 to provide greater certainty in determining the extent to which obstructions may be contributing to fish failures and in targeting funds available to improve fish passage and easements where appropriate. 'Walkover' surveys were carried out to identify each potential obstruction to fish passage on the River Avon, the Bala brook and the Glazebrook. Man-made structures and natural features that were highlighted during the fisheries walkover surveys were revisited and more detailed assessments of 'passability' by fish were conducted with respect to the different swimming and leaping abilities of each species, according to standard procedures.

The assessment identified in-stream structures including weirs (in varying states of repair), large woody debris, and natural waterfall and chute features. Of these, a total of 10 (8 man-made structures and two natural falls - Lydia Falls and Shipley Falls - were assessed in more detail due to their potential to present obstacles to fish migration. Brown Trout was the only species recorded upstream of Shipley Falls. (Trout are also found above the dam but the relationship of this stock to the population below the dam remains something of a mystery and an auxiliary study of trout population genetics has been proposed but not yet funded).

The steep, high gradient nature of the river upstream of South Brent presents a number of natural features that are greater obstacles to fish migration than the artificial barriers assessed within the current investigation. Despite Lydia Falls incorporating two vertical features with an estimated hydraulic head of greater than 1.4m, juvenile migratory salmonids have been recorded upstream of this structure. Therefore, salmonid progeny within the Upper Avon may have become locally adapted to negotiating such features.

The survey results confirm a number of artificial obstacles on the Avon that present

a partial or complete barrier to fish species migrations. Artificial barriers contribute cumulative effects upon salmonid progress upstream which may include additional delay to migration and potential disorientation due to sudden changes in flow and velocity. The results suggest that upstream movement of juvenile salmon is likely to be highly restricted by obstacles. Venn Weir, Loddiswell Boulder Weir and Brent Island Weir were assessed as complete barriers to this life stage.

Suitable conditions for elver (i.e. climbing substrate) were recorded at obstacles with the exception of two upstream weirs. This is supported by the fisheries data which confirms the presence of eel at all sites below Shipley Falls. However, eel numbers were lower than expected at the majority of sites. Therefore, despite the potential for elver passage at the majority of sites, it is considered that improvement to elver passage would be beneficial at Brent Island Weir and Crackhill Weir. Shipley Falls is likely to present a complete barrier to elver. The results suggest that most obstacles present no barrier to downstream eel migration although Crackhill Weir and the Old Avon Intake Weir may present partial barriers under some low flow conditions. Overall, impact of obstacles upon adult eel migration was considered negligible.

Future work will involve more detailed study of barriers to fish migration, prior to their repair or removal, in the following priority order:- Venn Weir, Loddiswell Boulder Weir, Curtisknowle Weir, Brent Island Weir and Crackhill Weir. Importantly, the work to improve fish stocks is not being carried out in isolation. Other aspects of WRT's SHRIMP include the provision of farm plans and advice, habitat management, river flow investigations, and educational work.

Separately, efforts continue to limit the extent of the regular illegal netting of salmonid fish around the Avon and other South Hams estuaries because these activities obviously deplete the numbers of fish swimming upriver to spawn and maintain the populations. These other topics will be covered in future reports.

**Stuart Watts,  
ACA Chairman – June 2013**





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# Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@thcmead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@thcmead.co.uk)

## Missing Links

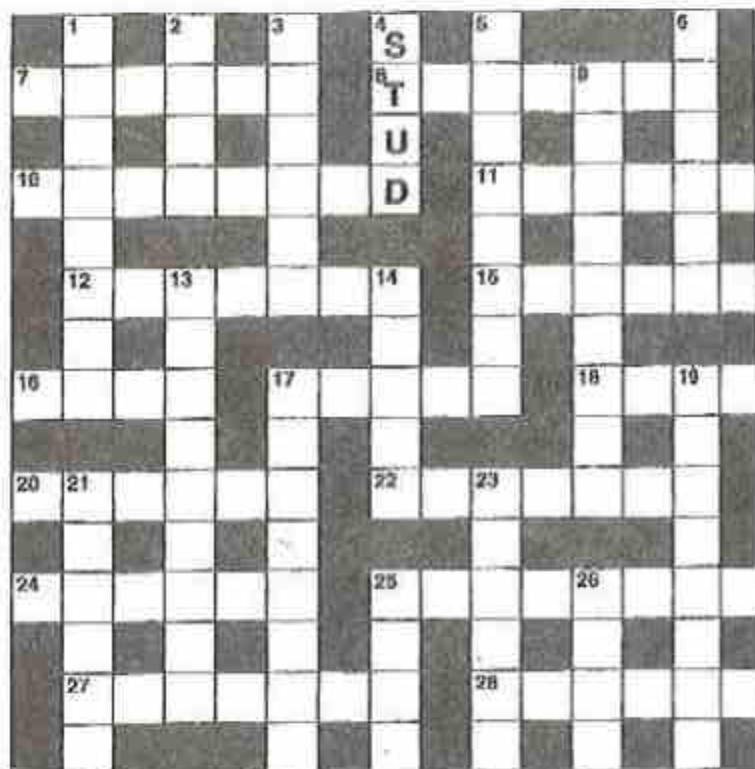
The three words in each clue have a fourth word in common. That is your answer. For example, the words Collar, Farm and Poker lead to the answer **STUD** (collar stud, stud farm, stud poker).

### ACROSS

- 7 Deep • Dried • Frame (6)
- 8 Del • Pig's • Rodney (7)
- 10 Bad • Ill • Well (8)
- 11 Hardy • Occurrence • Report (6)
- 12 Eggs • Plots • Serving (7)
- 15 Cake • Cloth • Cottage (6)
- 16 Lift • Net • Queen (4)
- 17 Eye • Floss • Striped (5)
- 18 Emerald • Fair • Sceptred (4)
- 20 Eternal • Home • Noble (6)
- 22 Cartridge • Ride • Wedding (7)
- 24 Electric • Fifth • Park (6)
- 25 Church • Priest • Roman (6)
- 27 Donkey • Off • Terms (7)
- 28 Blood • Blossom • Peel (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Lay • Man • Street (8)
- 2 Bag • Baked • French (4)
- 3 Fee • Party • Word (6)
- ~~4 Collar • Farm • Poker (4)~~
- 5 Absolute • Constitutional • Elective (8)
- 6 City • Comfort • Out (6)
- 9 Competitive • For • Resignations (9)
- 13 Rules • Security • Up (9)
- 14 Drinking • Folk • Love (5)



- 17 Bag • Mirror • Surgery (8)
- 19 Happy • Moon • Normandy (8)
- 21 Commission • Eye • Reporter (6)
- 23 Easy • Share • Soft (6)
- 25 Bird • Gilded • Rib (4)
- 26 Office • Shaped • Test (4)

### Solutions to the previous Grey Matter Quiz:

Nestle, Michelin, Walt Disney, Nike, Android, Walls, Honda, Apple, Blackberry, DreamWorks, Twitter, Rightmove, Mazda, Wikipedia, Motorola, Kappa, National Trust, Pringles, Wella, World Wildlife Fund.

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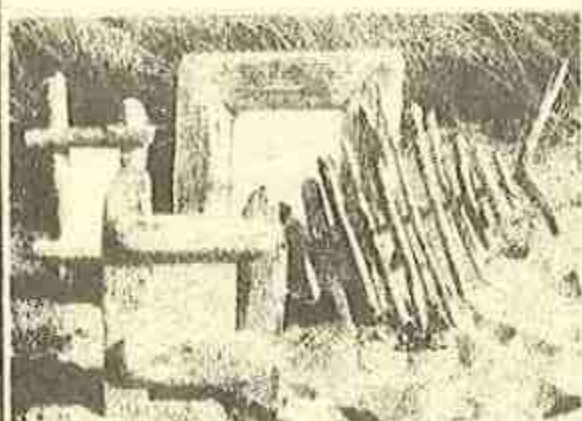
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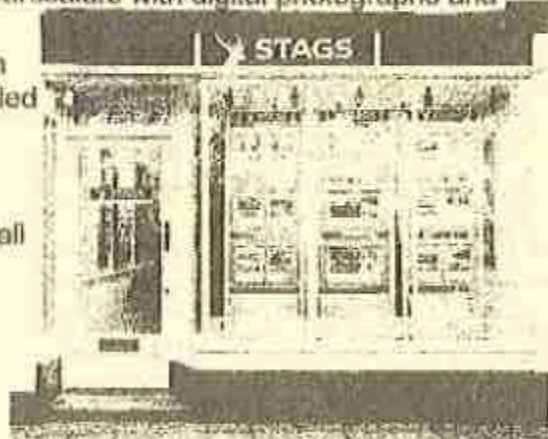
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# SCHOOL REPORT

By Bett Rhymes

Each year, during the summer term, the eldest children of All Saints are traditionally taken on a 'residential'. From their early years at school the children look forward to the time when they can pack their bags and go on "holiday" with their friends for the week.

This year the school shopped locally and enlisted the services of a fantastic company, Way Ahead - a training and consultancy company who specialise in outdoor activities. Run by Phil Way and Donna Timmis from Buckland, Way Ahead provided a fantastic week of challenges and entertainment for the 10 & 11 year olds. During the week all 36 children (and 3 keen, willing, but not quite so able staff) were asked to try a variety of activities, some really pushing them to their limits - squeezing through a 50 centimetre hole in a dark cave and abseiling down a 30 metre sheer quarry face!

For those of you fortunate to have experienced a school 'residential' I am sure it features high in your school day memories. My time at Dartmoor as an 11 year old girl from Stokenham primary school holds a very clear picture in my memory of having a great time exploring the moors, chatting with my friends until what seemed like the early hours of the morning but was probably no later than 10pm, and getting my first taste of what has become a lifelong passion - eggy bread!

I thought it would be interesting to find out what will form the memories for the children who took part in Dartmoor 2013. What was exciting? What was scary? What was their funniest moment? What will be their lasting memory of their primary school residential?

I asked the children who live in our parish to think about these questions and put their thoughts on paper for Village Voice. I was asking them to do this in their own time so wondered what response I would get? I'm not sure whether it was the appeal of having their work published or that I had promised them some sweets but they all completed their task! For whatever reason, they chose to do it. I am very grateful to them as I'm sure you will be as you read what will become their special memories of their school holiday.

"The funniest thing I remember from my residential to Brimpts Farm was when the peacock that landed at Brimpts during our week kept walking around making a horrible noise! My scariest moment was when I was abseiling because I am terrified of heights. I felt so pleased with myself and relieved when I did it though. The most exciting part for me was when we went kayaking because I love the water and because it was fun trying to climb over the gates and try not to fall in! My lasting memory will be the journey to Dartmoor on the bus when me and my friend Natalie were taking photos of ourselves pulling funny faces - we had a real giggle!"

**Gemma Norris**, age 11 from Bantam

"We had a really fun week at Brimpts Farm. I enjoyed the abseiling the most because it was exciting and scary at the same time. I was nervous leaning backwards at the top of the 85 foot quarry, only being held on by a few ropes but as soon as I got the courage to start letting myself down the

quarry face the feeling was fantastic and it was over too soon. My lasting memory of Brimpts Farm was on the last morning when we played a version of the TV show, The Cube. We played lots of the mini games they play on the show and it was fun to see what challenges we could manage."

**Tom Newman**, age 11 from Thurlstone

"I found the caving was my most exciting activity. Although I was nervous it was fun crawling through small gaps. It was creepy and exciting at the same time. The smallest hole we had to squeeze through was called the cheese grater. It was only 30 centimetres high and 50 centimetres wide. Luckily I didn't get grated! It was very funny to see my friend Fred zoom right through it. It does have its advantages being small!"

On the Wednesday I, and the rest of the school rugby team travelled from Dartmoor to Taunton to compete in the regional tag rugby competition. It was really hard leaving the centre for the day and switching our focus to playing rugby. We



faced a team that had beaten us in the Devon finals. I really wanted to beat them this time. I felt really nervous but we beat them 7-6, result! I was disappointed that we didn't qualify to go to the National round but soon forgot that when we got back to camp and rejoined the fun.

My funniest moment, and what will probably be my lasting memory was when Bett cycled down a muddy path, she put her foot down to stop and fell off the other side and landed on her bum. She laughed, so we all laughed back."

**Will McCarthy, age 10 from Bantham**

(Thanks for sharing that story, Will!)

*"I loved all the activities that Phil and Donna sorted for us but my favourite was the kayaking. I really enjoyed playing the games, trying to avoid falling in the water but of course I ended up getting wet! My worst memory is also my most exciting memory. I started off thinking the abseiling was really freaky, especially when the fog came in, but once I had done it I realised I had really enjoyed it. It was a great week, the best week at school ever!"*

**Rosie Lawrence, age 11 from Bantham**

"The best part of the residential for me was when we went to the quarry. I was in paradise being able to abseil and rock climb all in one afternoon. I even said I would like to live in the quarry so I could abseil, climb and ride my bike there every day. The worst bit for me was going to bed.

I couldn't sleep in the dormitories because it was so hot. I was really looking forward to the night when I was going to camp out because it would be cooler but instead our tent was under attack from midges and mosquitoes – aaagh!"

**Harry Durant, age 10 from Thurstlestone**

"Brimpts Farm was a great experience. I've got so many different memories of the residential, some funny parts and some difficult challenges that I faced. My best and funniest activity was kayaking. One of the games was to pair up with someone and make a chariot. My friend Viola had to stand astride two kayaks whilst I sat at the back and paddled. Unfortunately for Viola her legs started to slip apart. We started screaming and shrieking and then both fell in! Splash, our chariot had sunk!

We went to an old quarry to do some abseiling but it was only when we got there we found out how high it was – 30 metres!

I had to push myself to do this challenge because I'm not the biggest fan of heights. I was the fourth person to go and I was really scared but Aran, the instructor said not to worry and you'll be done before you know it. The worst bit was when I had to lean back over the edge and saw how far down it was to the bottom. I was terrified but somehow I persuaded myself to do it. When I got going I really enjoyed it and was so pleased with myself, especially when my feet touched the ground.

It was a week of fun and fear for me but I would do it all again if I could."

**Kate Rhymes, age 10 from Thurstlestone**

"I knew I would be in for a lot of fun on our residential because my Mum was running it! It was a bit strange for both of us with Mum being my teacher and me being one of her 35 pupils for the week but we both managed our roles very well!

The caving was the most exciting activity for me because I enjoyed getting wet and muddy – a 10 year old boys dream! My scariest moment had nothing to do with any of the challenges I faced, it was when my friend Dan jumped on my bed in the middle of the night and made me fall off! My funniest moment was when Harry and I climbed up either side of an old telegraph pole and when we got to the top we had to both try and stand on the top. The pole felt very wobbly and Harry nearly fell off – lucky he was in a harness. I had a great time at Brimpts Farm with all my friends (and my Mum!)"

**Finan Timmis, age 10 from Buckland**

"I found the kayaking exciting. It was really fun because we kept falling out of them and the water was freezing. The scariest part for me was when I was down in the cave. My helmet got stuck in the hole called the cheese grater and I didn't think I was ever going to get out. It will be the mountain biking that will make me smile when I remember my residential week. I lost control of my bike on a slippery path and fell off after skidding what seemed like a long way. Following my dramatic tumble the instructor said any similar incidents would be called an "Elliott". I will always think of this when I ride my bike now."

**Elliott Quinn, age 11 from Thurstlestone**

"My favourite activities were the abseiling and climbing ropes because they were scary and challenging but also a lot of fun. The big abseil that we did at the quarry was terrifying. I will

always remember being at the top waiting to abseil to the bottom and saying to the instructor, "I feel sick!" He was really patient and encouraged me to slowly make my way down the quarry face. I felt so pleased to reach the safety of the ground and pleased with myself for doing it. I laughed, screamed and almost cried at the top of the telegraph pole. My friend and I managed the climb to the top and somehow both managed to pull ourselves on to the tyre on the top of the pole. We clung to each other and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Thank you Phil & Donna – you organised an amazing week of fun activities that will become a big part of my memories of Thurlestone Primary School."

**Nancy McIntosh**, age 11 from Buckland

"The Monday I left Thurlestone School I felt upset and lonely as we drove away. It was going to be a challenge for me to be away from home for the week. There were lots of fun activities to do during the day. I really enjoyed the caving and the egg roll from the top of the Torr and I laughed when my friend Jude got stuck in a bog. I missed my Mum at night but I read her letter to me which made me feel better. By the last night I was really enjoying myself and decided to give the talent show a go. I stood in front of everyone and performed "Price-Tag" by Jessie J. I wasn't sure

how good I would be but everyone cheered and asked me to do it again. I had a great week with my friends and had a happy week but I was really pleased to be back with my family."

**Oakley Callard**, age 11 from Thurlestone

*"Caving - dark, confined, wet and smelly. I faced all my fears in one day. We climbed in to the cave and faced two openings - one big, one small. To my horror we were going through the small one appropriately named the maggot hole. We turned all our torches off so we were in complete darkness. It was very frightening and spooky. With torches back on we started our slow, tiring ascent until we reached the cheese grater. It was so small that I actually felt like I was being grated as I squeezed myself through. After what seemed like a never ending maze of tight cracks and narrow spaces we could see streams of light which meant we were heading for safety. I was scared but I enjoyed the caving experience but football, tennis and golf will remain my priority!"*

**James Knight**, age 10 from Thurlestone

Clearly these children had a wonderful experience during their time at Brimpts Farm and will carry the memories with them for many years to come. Eggy bread takes me back to Dartmoor every time – these children will now have their own trigger to take them back to their school holiday adventure.

## THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS



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Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
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## JUNE

Our new President, Lisa White, chaired her first meeting since being elected and said how honoured she was to accept the office. As a result of moving the date of the annual meeting from November to May, there were now some changes to committee roles. Pat Clarke is the new Vice-President, Sally Martin assistant treasurer, Margaret Caitlin would look after the bloom of the month competition, Judith Le Grice and Margaret Illingworth would organise the information table, and Vivienne Day run the raffle.

Nine members had made the journey to Cardiff to take part in the NFWI annual general meeting and enjoyed sightseeing and shopping prior to the Saturday meeting. They heard distinguished speakers including William Shawcross, head of the Charities Commission, Griff Rhys Jones speaking on behalf of the Conservation Trust, and John Humphrys of BBC fame, and had a very enjoyable few days off.

Kirsty Peake, an animal behaviourist, was the guest speaker. She and her husband spend six months each year monitoring the wolf packs that were reintroduced into the Yellowstone National Park in the USA in 1995/6 under the protection of the Endangered Species Act. Her talk focussed on an alpha female and pack leader called 06, to whom she became particularly attached, having followed her from birth to her very sad death at the age of six in December last year from the gun of a hunter. The heart-breaking howling of her pack, mourning the absence of their leader, went on for some time. Kirsty gave us a fascinating insight into the lives of these remarkable animals which, although very dog-like in appearance, are vastly different from our domestic pets.

## JULY

Four visitors - Val Burkett, Lyn Ashworth, Diane Martin and, from Austria, Anne-Marie - were given a warm welcome. The garden

lunch was another successful event. Pat Clarke was thanked for kindly letting us use her home for the venue as was the committee for providing all the delicious food. The profit will go to charity.

Members and friends who have signed up for the visit to RHS Rosemoor on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> July were asked to be on the coach ready for departure from the Parish Hall at 8.30am. The county visit to Tate St Ives will now be on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Jean Jones, Jan Patrick and Judith Reynolds will soon be off on their bursaries to courses at Denman College, and we look forward to hearing of their 'Denman experiences' on their return. News that a new NHS vaccine for prevention of shingles would shortly be available for those in their seventies and over was reported.

A beautiful collection of old samplers was brought to the July meeting by Christopher Stephens. The early 1800s saw this form of embroidery become a very popular pastime for young girls. Done first in the home, then later at school, it usually involved working the alphabet and numbers as proof of their ability as needlewomen. Printed pattern books eventually became available for decorative inspiration and there was often a biblical quotation or 'improving text' incorporated. Here is one of the latter from Chris's collection, worked by a young girl: *'How pleasant to live with persons who are kind and cheerful and willing to oblige and never take or keep what does not belong to them, and who always speak the truth'.*

## FUTURE EVENTS

# Our speaker on 12 September will be Nigel Ash of the Dartmoor Rescue Service.

# The Area is holding a morning workshop on Rag Rugging at Charleton on 8 October and there are a few spare places - ring Carolyn Taylor on 01548-562033 to book. Deborah Hastings, a Denman tutor, runs the course and it is hoped to make a small bag.



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# Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

Today is the most lovely of Sundays, when so many people do not have to go to work, and hence a goodly number have ended up on the beach at the bottom the garden. Thurlestone Sands looks at its very best, lots of folks relaxing in the sun and the sea. For the first time that I can recall, I stood on the cliff edge by the turning circle and felt a waft of coolish air at my back and almost an assault of hot air from the beach. Certainly these last few days have been the hottest for several years, and no wind to speak of.

Tomorrow is St Swithun's Day, but no chance of rain in this area. Ideally it would be good if there was a gentle shower at night, but we can't expect miracles can we. Just think of what the west country was enduring last year at this time. Perhaps this is a miracle after all! The legend that is St Swithun's has some bearing on the truth or likelihood of it being a fact rather than pure fiction. When a summer weather pattern is established by mid-July, it often persists for several weeks, we shall see.

**The Wrong Kind of Snow** has an interesting section for today, 14<sup>th</sup> July. In 1955, with average minimum of 12°C and max of 20.5°C across the country after a week of stifling heat the mercury reaches 30°C today - a high for the year. Then the skies explode across Southern England. At Royal Ascot (moved from its traditional June date due to a railway strike), a bolt of lightning hits the metal railing around the enclosure on the heath in the centre of the course, fizzing along it 'throwing out blue sparks'. The force of the strike mows down over a hundred spectators. Many are lifted off their feet and knocked unconscious; forty-nine are injured. ***'It was like being stabbed in the stomach'*** one man says. Two, including a pregnant woman, are killed.

Other events at Ascot related to extreme weather conditions are also listed. In 1930 a thunderstorm floods the racecourse and a bookmaker sheltering under an umbrella is struck and killed. The meeting is abandoned for the first time in two hundred years. In 1974 terrible weather strikes again. The procession to open the new Royal Enclosure

has to be cancelled. Two days of racing are lost. It's the worst wash out in Royal Ascot's history and leads to a huge programme of drainage works. In 2000, the rain returns. Every umbrella has been sold by mid-morning but the course drains beautifully. And then there was last year, no comment!

This spell of hot, settled weather usually happens between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July and TWK of S has several entries for 19<sup>th</sup> July. In 2006 it is the hottest day of the hottest month of the hottest year on record. Most parts of Britain are hotter than Casablanca and Rio. It's hotter than the hottest day of the summer of '76 (by 0.6°C). Although not as hot as the UK's highest-ever recorded temperature, at 36.5°C this is the hottest July day ever recorded (I wonder if this will be broken during this spell?) at Wisley, Surrey. Tonight it is 30°C at Bournemouth - still some way to go yet.

As a result of these 2006 temperatures, both the hard and the natural environment suffers, for example:- Gritters are out spreading crushed rock on to roads in the West Midlands to stop the tarmac melting. Metal swing bridges jam in the heat, and have to be hosed by fireman to make them open and close. Railway lines buckle, requiring speed restrictions to be imposed on trains. In the Times on Sat 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013, Paul Simon has written an almost identical comment about the current heat-wave in Britain. This time it is Edinburgh where train times have been disrupted by buckling rails. He also goes on to mention the tarmac melting and the use of crushed rock.

Back to TWK of S: in London, where temperatures reach 33.2°C, judges and barristers remove their wigs at the Old Bailey, breaking the dress code of three centuries. Thirty-nine guests at a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace faint and temperatures in buses exceed 50°C, far above the legal limit for transporting 'cattle'. High Street sales wilt, except for water butts (up 150%), watering cans (up 15%) and fans (Comet sells 1 every 2 seconds), air conditioning units (1 every 30 seconds) and BBQ's which reach a summer



record. Basking sharks appear off the coast and giant sunfish are officially recorded for the first time. We know now that basking sharks and sunfish are quite frequently seen in the waters around our west coast. Is the sea getting warmer? Quote, *"Intensely hot day – left off waistcoat"* (Samuel Taylor Coleridge 19<sup>th</sup> July 1803).

Paul also mentions some of the animals that can suffer in the extreme heat. Cows produce less milk and chickens are particularly sensitive to heat. Egg production can fall and some poultry will die from heat exhaustion. Pigs need a wallow to coat themselves in mud to prevent their skin from being burnt; newly shorn sheep, strangely, can suffer more stress than those with full fleeces still on their backs. The full fleeces act as insulation against the heat, whereas the skin of the shorn sheep is more exposed and vulnerable to being sun-burnt. Crops, we know, can suffer. Strawberries ripen too quickly, peas become too tough and potatoes can be of a poor quality. For us, air conditioning can help in the short term in houses not designed to deal with very high temperatures, but they are generally inefficient, expensive to run,

and use huge amount of energy. In places like California, where demand is high in very hot weather, it can get so great that in the past it has led to power blackouts. We will probably not get to that – just open the windows and doors and shade the south facing apertures where possible.

The Jet Stream is at last behaving in a normal manner and flowing to the north of Scotland, allowing this Azores high to become well established. This means that the air-stream in the south of the country is easterly and originates in the eastern part of Europe where the continental climate produces the high temperatures. These are being delivered to us along the southern edge of the HP system.

*I have included in the weather stats for June last year's figures. I think that July will also make interesting reading as contrasting situations.* Lovely weather now, and heat-wave warnings! The sea is like a millpond and looks like glass, while boats look as if they are floating in mid-air. Long may it last for those who need the sun.

**But watch out for sunburn - don't forget your barrier cream.**

#### Weather synopsis for Beach Cottage, South Milton, Kingsbridge TQ7 3JR

##### JUNE 2012

**WIND** General Direction = 18 days: Westerlies  
12 days: Easterlies  
Speed = Top gust = 53mph on 8<sup>th</sup>  
Lowest daily mean = 3mph on 27<sup>th</sup>

**RAINFALL** Number of wet days = 18  
Highest daily amount = 17.5mm on 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Monthly Total = 112.6mm  
Monthly Average = 51.57mm over 15 years

**TEMPERATURE** Highest daily = 23°C on 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Lowest daily = 9.0°C on 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>  
Highest Daily Mean = 18.1°C on 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Lowest Daily Mean = 13.1°C on 11<sup>th</sup>  
Monthly mean = 15.4°C

**BAROMETER** Highest = 1027mb on 1<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Lowest = 1005mb on 7<sup>th</sup>

**SUNSHINE** Sunniest day = 15.6hrs on 19<sup>th</sup>  
Total for the month = 108.1hrs.  
No sun on 8 days

##### JUNE 2013

17 days: Westerlies  
13 days: Easterlies  
38mph on 23<sup>rd</sup>  
5mph on 1<sup>st</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

6 days  
5.2mm on 21<sup>st</sup>  
33.5mm  
53.95mm

23.5°C on 20<sup>th</sup>  
5.5°C on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
17.4°C on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
12.4°C on 17<sup>th</sup>  
14.5°C

1036mb on 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1018mb on 15<sup>th</sup>

16.3hrs on 4<sup>th</sup>  
208.9hrs  
4 days



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## DIARY DATES

<b>August</b>		
Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Horticultural Show, South Milton Village Hall, 2.30 pm
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Merrivale (long)
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Ashington (short)
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Family Activity Day, Andrew's Wood, 11am to 3pm
Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Dartmoor round Poundsgate (long)
Wednesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	BBQ on the Green, from 6pm
<b>September</b>		
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	TRAMP, Bantham (short)
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Last Night of the Proms, Parish Hall
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Hallsands & East Prawle (long)
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Dartmoor Rescue)
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Mothecombe / Holbeton (short)
Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	KEDFAS, Kings Arms, 7.30pm (Madrid)
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup>	KEDFAS, Kings Arms, 10.30am (Madrid)
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Lustleigh Cleave (long)
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Fair, Parish Hall, 2.30pm
<b>October</b>		
Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	TRAMP, Whiddon Scrubs/Asburton (short)
Monday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	WI Workshop, Rag Rugging, Charleton, 10am - 1pm
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Kents Cavern & Torbay (long)
Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup>	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (South Milton Ley)
Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Noss Mayo/Coast Path (short)
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Dartmouth & Strete (long)
Wednesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	KEDFAS, Kings Arms, 7.30pm (Jewish East End)
Thursday	31 <sup>st</sup>	KEDFAS, Kings Arms, 10.30am (Jewish East End)

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Your Cut Out and Keep

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and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship.

This does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in these pages are the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council, and they should only be ascribed to the authors concerned.

In Thurlestone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers organised by Graham & Val Palmer. In Bantham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Oct-Nov) ISSUE = 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

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



# PARISH

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 Parish Clerk Philip Millard  
 District Councillor Ian Bannister  
 County Councillor Rufus Gilbert  
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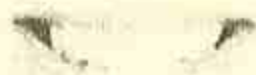
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## How Do You Choose A Home Improvement Company?

*The observations of Robin Doyle, managing director of local Bespoke Cabinetmakers and Fitted Kitchen specialists, Treyone.*

I've had reason recently to look for a company to supply and install a new central heating boiler for my home. The process of finding a firm vividly highlighted to me how difficult it is to select a company or individual to undertake the work. The thoughts that went through my mind were quite wide-ranging, some emotional, some factual:

- Can I be confident their recommendations will work?
- Can I trust their fitters in my home or will they be unpleasant, messy and cause damage?
- Will they turn up on the day specified and take the project through to a conclusion?
- They want a deposit, but is the company secure? Can I trust them with the money?
- Am I getting a good price? I'm happy to pay for a good job, but not over the odds.
- Have other people used them? Can I talk to old customers?
- What guarantee will they give?
- What's the organisation like to deal with? Are they professional, responsive, well organised?
- Do they care about my job?
- How experienced are they? How good is their product knowledge?
- Are they local? I have a distrust of large national companies.
- Can I see the product in operation?
- Are they set up for good after-sales service?

I don't know if I'm unusual, but I suspect these thoughts go through most peoples' minds when trawling through the minefield of all the offerings for any particular product or service. In the end I arrived at a decision after some internet research, meeting the various suppliers, receiving quotes, asking friends and acquaintances and then adding some gut feeling. The whole process was extremely helpful for me, not only getting a decent boiler, but also helping me to evaluate how Treyone works and what impression our potential customers get. I'm very pleased to say we tick all the right boxes, but I would say that I strongly urge our customers to ask these questions. I know they'll be very happy with the answers.

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