

VILLAGE VOICE



Thurlestone War Memorial



"Lest We Forget"

October - November 2013

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone



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Lest We Forget

It is now just ten months to the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War on 4 August 1914. There will be much for us to remember, and regret; triumphs and tragedies; the extremes of human behaviour; the century-old wounds and scars - some perhaps not yet completely healed.

Our parish War Memorial bears the names of the twelve who died in WW2, as well as those who lost their lives in the Great War. And in this issue of Village Voice we include a record which former resident Neville Oswald put together twenty years ago about the men who fell during the 1939-1945 conflict.

Much less is known, or at least recorded, of the men who went to the front 100 years ago and never returned. But now we have an opportunity, as the centenary nears, to make good our promise that we shall remember them. The information exists, and the internet will enable us to trace and recover it, so that our parish history can preserve the memory of those of its young men who did not survive to enjoy the gratitude of their neighbours and a contented retirement in these lovely villages.

So let's do it, now - lest we forget.

Front Cover : The Thurlestone War Memorial

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PARISH HALL NEWS

Chairman: Neill Irwin



The **Barbecue, Bowls and Boules** on Tuesday 30th July was a great success. This year the weather was very kind with the rain clearing by the afternoon and the event realised nearly £500 for Parish Hall funds. Many thanks to everyone who came along. Thanks to Chris and Lisa on the bar; the Bowls Club and Table Tennis Section for their games, and as always Graham and Val Palmer for running the boules competition. Kit and Gillian Marshall and David and Margaret Houghton (resplendent in their Telephone Box aprons) and Joan Booth kept everyone well replenished from their very busy barbecue. They were accompanied by Derek Brown, as well as Lulu Carter from our twinned phone box in Marden.

Our **Last Night of the Proms** on Saturday 7th September was well-attended and demonstrated how the Hall sets a trend. Marin Allsop was the first female Last Night conductor at the Albert Hall after 119 years of the Proms – but she appeared at our second Prom in Thurlestone. The eccentric and brilliant Aston Villa supporter and violinist Nigel Kennedy did not disappoint with virtuoso renditions, and the charismatic mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDinato wowed the promenaders with her vibrant personality and stunning voice. The traditional audience participation was excellent, both around the country and in the Hall itself – where Union Jacks were waved vigorously and the BYO supper was enjoyed by all. It was a great way to christen the newly renovated floor!

The **Autumn Fair** takes place as 'Village Voice' goes to press so look out for an update on this annual celebration in the next issue; thanks are due to Pat Macdonald for her co-ordination of all the users of the Hall who help to put on this event.

On Saturday 23rd November the **High Society Jazz and Dance Band** will be with us again by popular request. We have timed this to be outside the immediate 'Christmas' engagement period and so we hope many of you will be able to make it. Tickets will be available from Judith Le Grice.

There are already some more dates for your diaries in 2014.

On Saturday 15th February **Tim Kliphuis** makes another welcome return accompanied by leading jazz pianist **David Newton** and **Len Skeet** on bass.

Also returning for a second concert at Thurlestone are the **Porter Family** on Saturday 29th March with their exciting mix of musical talents.

On Saturday 31st May we are going to be entertained by **Matt Harvey**, the humorous raconteur and poet from Totnes (google the name "Matt Harvey" for a preview!)

Another special booking late in the year is the **Plymouth Gilbert and Sullivan Society** who will be with us again on Saturday 27th September 2014; and for those of you already booking ahead this means that **next year's Autumn Fair** will take place on Saturday 20th September.

There are still a few slots available in the calendar so let us know what you'd like to see. The Parish Hall is adaptable and well-equipped for all kinds of live entertainment, and the committee are keen to ensure that a wide variety of tastes and interests are catered for, including participative events such as dancing. So please let us have your feedback on events that we put on, and if you have ideas or requests for something different just send them to me or any member of the committee and we will do our very best to accommodate them.

Parish Council Meetings

Meeting held 2nd September 2013

News & Views by Citizen

ATTENDANCE

The meeting had seven Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our District Councillor, Sir Simon Day, Dean Kinsella from SHDC Planning, and twenty-eight members of the public present.

OPEN FORUM

The owner of "The Downs" said an application for a very small extension had been refused by SHDC on the grounds that it would be "overdevelopment". The property is in some two acres and she could not understand the planners' decision which she considered very unfair.

The proposals to use bollards on the cobblestones to prevent large vehicles entering Eddystone Road on the Yarmer Estate could cause problems.

The selling of ice creams on Leasefoot beach by the Golf Club, was considered to be unacceptable as it takes business away from the local shop. The Parish Council should make the Golf Club aware of parishioners' concerns.

The revised planning application for 16 Meadcombe Road should go to SHDC's main planning committee, as there are still several objections relating to neighbouring properties being overlooked. The demolition of the existing garage before the planning proposal had been approved was raised, but the owner of the property said he had verbal approval to proceed.

PARISH HALL

Following a request for additional heating from the Bridge Club, Councillor Jill Munn said that four Dyson electric heaters had been ordered to supplement the warm air heating.

HIGHWAYS

Parking in Main Street is problematical in holiday time if cars are poorly parked. Extending the yellow lines will be looked at.

FOOTPATHS AND HERITAGE COAST

The footpath to Hope Cove, damaged by a land slip, still remains closed. Repairs are likely to be carried out next year.

The Thurlestone Sands v South Milton Sands saga remains deadlocked. More publicity is being sought.

SCHOOL

Councillor Andrew Rhymes said a new footpath around the playing area had been completed and the existing pond had now been filled in.

TREES

Councillor Charlie Mitchelmore reported no action so far to avoid disturbing nesting birds.

PARISH PLAN

Broadband - Chris White said that our Consultants had met with Maria Miller, the Minister in charge, who had told BT to work with Local Authorities to find a way to help rural communities develop local broadband projects.

Mobile phone - Action was now urgent to improve the service by asking Rodney Stidson to re-approach mast providers as the original plan to use a combined broadband / phone mast was unlikely to happen soon.

Parish Plan - This carries no weight in planning considerations. A Neighbourhood Plan is what is required, and the Parish Council needs to discuss this in greater detail.

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

The cannon has been renovated and repositioned, thanks to Paul Martin who only charged for materials.

The yellow lines at Parkfield need to be repainted once the new properties have been completed, and the parking of extra cars will need to be addressed. Could permits perhaps provide an answer?

The railings to replace those on the raised footpath will not match the old ones. The Parish Council agreed the new design.

A new laptop computer is needed, to be owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk was authorised to purchase one.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor Ian Bramble said the consultation about closing 17 Public toilets during the months of November, December, January and February continues. The £80,000 savings achieved are essential for SHDC to go towards the Government's overall savings imposed on Local Authorities.

The Boundary Commission survey to match the current population of each Ward has now taken place. The Thurlestone Ward, which includes Bantham, Buckland-tot-Saints, Churchstow and South Milton will be reduced, but will now include Salcombe. Consultation is still going on.

POLICE BUSINESS

The police report was e-mailed as follows. In July and August there was one common assault and criminal damage by youths on the golf course; the theft of a mobile phone from Bantham toilets; and a RIB from Bantham Quay (both in July), as well as two cases of possession of drugs at a beach party in Thurlestone.

The police are aware of livestock still straying on the roads around Whitley Cross.

Garden shed thefts are increasing, and owners are advised to keep them locked.

Jo Pengelly is replacing Steve Mullen who has retired.

DEAN KINSELLA – SHDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Points raised were:-

1. SHDC is seen to ignore local concerns.

Dean Kinsella said SHDC were trying to work together with Parish Councils, and a pre-application meeting was one way forward. Our Parish Council said they had never had such a meeting!

2. SHDC seem reluctant to go to appeal. Is

this due to the costs involved?

Dean Kinsella said costs did not affect SHDC's decision to go to appeal. Ward Councillors can ask for a full committee meeting if their Ward's objections need to be fully discussed.

3. Why not a phone call to talk about a contentious decision?

Dean Kinsella said resources prevented this but decisions on applications are put on the SHDC web site.

4. Why are some amendments to an approved application not in the Press or on the web?

Dean Kinsella said this only covered small amendments, whereas significant ones should always go back to the planners.

Dean Kinsella also said that the SHDC year land supply was not available and could cause problems should a multi-housing scheme be proposed.

BUSINESS BY DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

A framed picture of Devon County with all the various Parish locations shown was presented to Sir Simon Day in recognition of his 49 years service.

The Parish Council's raffle for the Parish Hall Autumn Fair will be organised by **Councillor Dale Came**

The signpost at Rockhill corner has been damaged and needs attention.

A meeting with the Yarmer Estate will be arranged to discuss the bollards proposed for Eddystone Road.

The Parish Council agreed to pay for the paint to refurbish the West Buckland telephone box.

The new owner of the barn at West Buckland Farm will be asked for permission to place a Parish notice board on one of the barn walls, after which the board will be renovated.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 7 October, 7.30pm in the Yeo Room.

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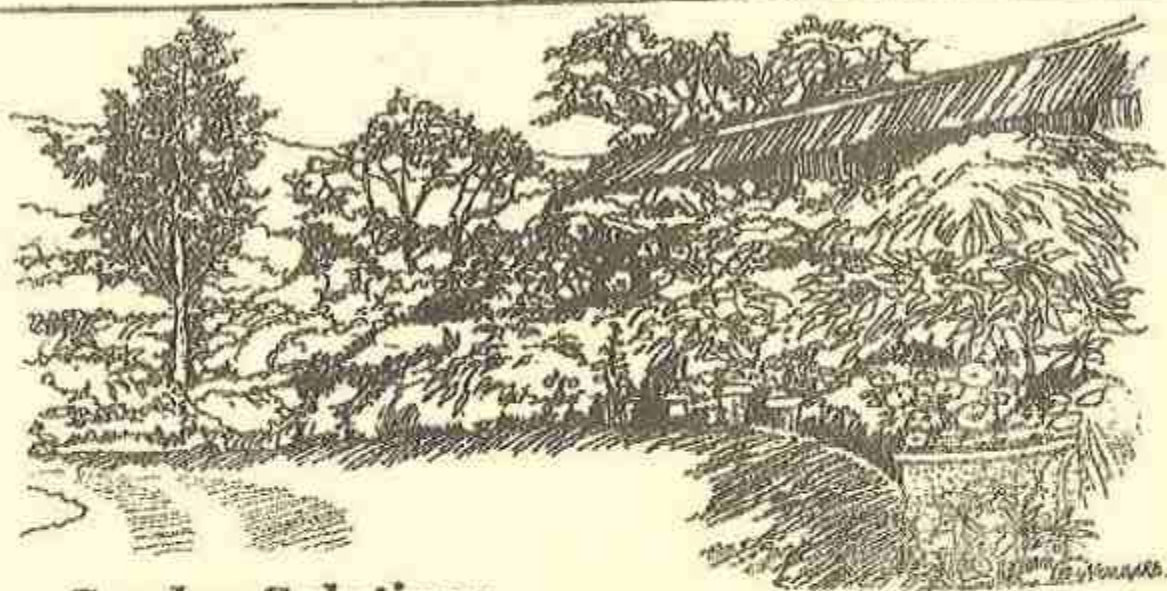
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Village News Round-Up

Dennis Luke (Wing-Commander RAF rtd)

Dennis Luke's funeral service took place at Thurlestone church on the 6th September. After a distinguished career in the RAF, Dennis came to live in South Milton with his wife Betty. Dennis was a church warden there for nine years. They then moved to Thurlestone in 1999, since when they have been loyal members of Thurlestone church. We extend to Betty and her family our sincere sympathy.

Edward G "Chalky" White 1923-2013

We have to record with sadness the death of former resident Chalky White in Budleigh Salterton on Sunday 15 September. After war service in the RAF he pursued a career in the Diplomatic Service, for which he was awarded with the OBE, until his retirement in 1979.

While living at Thurlestone he wrote a very engaging account of his wartime RAF adventures with Mosquito squadrons entitled "Nightfighter Navigator" which was published by his wife Veronica in November 1994. In the closing chapter he wrote, "I had survived weather, accidents, and the enemy for 1029 (flying) hours!" You can read this on-line, as it has its own website at www.nightfighternavigator.com

In retirement he took flying lessons, obtained a pilot's licence, and bought a Cessna 150, in which he enjoyed night flying "forty years on."

We offer our sincere condolences to his widow Veronica and family.

War Memorial

Neville Oswald's article on the previous page was written almost 20 years ago, since when many additions have been made to data banks, particularly on line, to enable family and military histories to be traced much more easily. Is there a reader out there interested in family history research who might be prepared to do some research on-line to fill in some more information about the twelve men who died in WW2?

A similar exercise might also be attempted to discover more details of the twelve men of our parish who died in WW1, and whose names appear on the village War Memorial, as shown in our front cover picture. They were Lt Gerald Clifford, Capt Wilfred B Creswick MC, Albert Dyer, William Dyer, James Elliott, Howard Ellis, Geoffrey Ilbert, Capt John Inchbald, Arthur Moore, John T Moore, George Pope, and William Wood.

We would like to hear from anyone willing to undertake some of this research, the results of which we intend to publish in subsequent editions of Village Voice for the benefit of the parish archives. Please phone or e-mail the Editor if you would like to take part in this project.

Village Inn Quiz

The new season has just started for Mike and Brenda's very popular Tuesday Quiz Nights at the Village Inn. They would welcome new teams as several of their 'regulars' have had to drop out. A number of the contestants eat the Inn's enjoyable 'Quiz Night Specials' before going in to battle, and Mike starts the proceedings by employing one of his other skills - joke telling (fortunately of short duration). You are guaranteed a lively and entertaining evening in good company. At the end of the season the profit from these evenings is donated to local charities.

Pig Racing Evening

Salcombe & Hope Cove Lifeboat Guild will be holding a Pig Racing Evening at Malborough Village Hall on Saturday 5th October. If you fancy a really good laugh with a chance to back the winning porker and enjoy supper and a welcoming drink all for £12 per ticket - this is the place to be.



Swishing Party

You are invited to a Swishing Party to be held at Malborough village hall on Saturday 12 October at 6.45pm. Limited number of tickets available - booking essential. You can find all the details you need and you can book on-line at: www.everypennyhelps123.webs.com. This

is another fund-raising event by Donna McChayne in aid of the Kommandantsdrift school in South Africa, and will provide educational equipment and schooling materials for the children.

Belarus Brunch

Chernobyl Children's Lifeline (Totnes and South Hams link) is holding another of its famous 'Breakfast Cafes' to start off its new fund-raising season which enables groups of children to be brought from Belarus and the Ukraine for respite care in a radiation-free environment.

The event will be on Sunday 13 October at Diptford village hall, 10.00am to 1.00pm for a late breakfast or an early lunch. Here there will be more to learn about the work of this charity, to buy craft items, and of course to have a slap-up meal. For more information please contact Sue Wyeth on 01548-821201 or the link website which is www.ccll.org.uk/totnes.

Christmas Is Coming

Stanborough Chorus give us early notice of 'Proclaim Christmas' their concert on Sunday 8th December at Stokenham Church, 7.30pm. They would like you to get the date in your diaries now. Ring May Crimp on 01548-842361 for more details.

Alvington Singers will be giving a concert of Christmas music at All Saints, Thurlestone, on Wednesday 11th December at 7 pm. Further information in our December issue.

Himalayan Balsam

Don't let the very dainty pink flowers on long graceful stems beguile you - this plant is a thug and once it takes hold it is like

that other problem - Japanese Knotweed. It spreads so rapidly and rampantly that all other hedgerow plants are overshadowed and squeezed out of existence. The plant was first introduced into Victorian gardens but some escaped and it is now a great problem. We have both of these villains around in the parish, so if you have either of them in a hedgerow near you - seek advice. Don't let us lose our lovely and familiar wild flowers to their incursions. More information is available at: www.nonnativespecies.org

Inhalers

If you use an inhaler (Ventolin-type) don't just bin it when it is finished. Take it back instead to the pharmacy at Norton Brook, where there is a special collecting point for empty ones.

Burma Visitors

Following a teaching assignment in Burma earlier this year, local resident Jan Meredith arranged for a number of Burmese village children to visit the UK, including Thurlestone, during the summer holiday. We hope to have a full account in our December issue.

STOP PRESS

Best Kept Village Awards

We have just been advised that although Thurlestone achieved a very good score - in the "over 90%" category - in this year's competition, we did not manage to figure in the awards. A full report of the judges' assessment will appear in our December issue. The winner was Modbury, to whom we send our congratulations. Ah well, maybe better luck next year?



THURLESTONE PHONEBOX EXCHANGE **Grand Phonebox Book Sale and Coffee morning**

On Tuesday 29 October the Thurlestone Phonebox will be holding a book sale and coffee morning from 10.30am - 12.00 noon at the Phone Box.

Over the year, the Book Exchange in the Phonebox has accumulated lots of good books (just goes to show how honest Thurlestone people and visitors are!). Some of the best of these will be offered for sale. All proceeds will go to continue the upkeep and decoration of the Phonebox.

Do join us for a jolly coffee and a stimulating browse among the books

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM 1939-1945

The names of 12 Thurlestone men who gave their lives for their country in World War Two are listed on a wooden tablet on the wall of our parish church, near the pulpit. Eleven of these names also appear on the stone memorial to World War One and World War Two situated on the village green. In the October 1996 issue of Village Voice Neville Oswald contributed the following details of the 12 men who died.

JOHN AUGER. Son of an East Allington man and Catherine, a Thurlestone girl. After his parents separated, he lived with his mother in Thurlestone, just above Church House. He joined the Devon Regiment and was killed in Italy during a beach-head landing (probably Anzio). Aged 24, he was unmarried.

CHARLES BLUNDELL. Son of a wealthy Kingsbridge brewer, he lived in the family home on Yarmer, Thurlestone. Married Joan in Thurlestone Church in 1943. He joined the RNVR, became a gunnery officer, and was killed at sea.

PETER CAMPBELL. From an old Thurlestone family. He worked for a trading company in Sumatra. When the Japanese captured Singapore he joined the local Dutch Home Guard. During the invasion of Sumatra he was killed by the Japanese.

PATRICK COBB. A very frequent holiday visitor to his relations the Matthews who lived at Seacombe on Yarmer. He joined the RNVR in 1939 and served on motor torpedo boats based at Dover. In July 1942, in charge of three mtbs he attacked a strong German force and died when his boat was sunk. His widow, Elizabeth, was living in Kent in 1996.

LAWRENCE DAVIS. Worked on a farm at Bantham at a time when several young men from an orphanage came to work in the fields. Nothing is known of his war service.

CECIL EDGCUMBE. Of Buckland. Baptised at Thurlestone church in 1904, a brother of Edgar. One of three brothers whose family lived in one of the thatched cottages beside the Sloop Inn. Engaged to Mary Snowden of West Buckland. Was already in the Royal Navy when war broke out. He was killed in the Far East when his ship, HMS Dragonfly, was blown up by enemy action.

EDGAR EDGCUMBE. Of Buckland. Baptised in 1899 at Thurlestone church, where his parents were married in 1896. He joined the regular Army before the outbreak of war. He was killed in action, leaving a widow Anne and their daughter Iris.

PERCY INGRAM. Of East Buckland. A stranger to Thurlestone, he married Doris Hannaford, a Thurlestone girl. They had a small farm in Buckland. He joined the army but was discharged on grounds of health and died soon afterwards. His widow and daughter Hazel moved to Aveton Gifford.

GEORGE LUSCOMBE. Buckland. Born at Goveton 1900. As a young man he served in the Royal Navy for 12 years, but in 1939 he joined the Army (RASC) as an ambulance driver and took part in the relief of Belsen concentration camp in Germany. He developed tuberculosis, from which he died in 1945 and is buried in Thurlestone.

JOHN MITCHELMORE. Thurlestone. Baptised at Thurlestone in 1907, where his father and mother (Sarah Jeffery a local girl) had been married in 1895. He served as a Territorial in the Devon Regiment and, whilst training in Falmouth prior to going to India, was accidentally killed by an Army lorry in February 1943, aged 36. His funeral and burial took place at Thurlestone. He left a widow, Audrey, and three children, one of whom is Charles, now a parish councillor.

HAROLD PRETTYJOHN. Clanacombe Lodge. Baptised in 1907 at Thurlestone, where his father and mother (Ethel Beer) were married in 1905. He joined the Royal Navy as a lad and travelled the world. Early in the war he was appointed Chief Stoker on HMS Glorious and was drowned when it was sunk by enemy action. Aged 33, unmarried.

MICHAEL YEO. Lived at the Old Rectory, Thurlestone. His father owned the Yeo's department store in Plymouth. He joined the RNVR in 1940 and was killed in action in the Straits of Messina, Italy, 1943.

Peter Eric Giles 1936-2013

We are sad to record the death on August 5 of a well-known West Buckland man, Peter Giles, and extend our condolences to his family and friends, particularly Nina, Nigel, Sarah, Tom, Jonathan and Julie. Peter wished that on his death he be cremated without a funeral service, flowers or fuss and that wish has been fulfilled. Sarah and the Hurrell family have written a loving tribute "A Little Piece of String" in fond memory of Peter, some of which is quoted below.

"To all of you who knew Peter you will recall that he used to say that one day he would write a book called 'A Little Piece of String'. In this he could pass on all those little tips and hints on keeping animals, in particular the fact that he always carried string in his pocket, just in case - to tie up gates, mend the fence or catch the horse with a makeshift halter of string.

To his friends and family he was always known as 'Loafer', to my brother and I he was always 'Uncle Loaf' and he was our godfather. Peter was born on the 22 May 1936 and was a true Gemini - always starting one of his "five minute jobs" that usually took him considerably longer. He grew up on his beloved Dartmoor and always spoke very fondly of his childhood. He lived near Whitchurch Down with his parents and older sister Kathleen. He often regaled us with stories of his pet fox "sleeping on the Aga" and of the stream that ran through the kitchen of their cottage. He loved the fact that they had no topped water or mains electric supply. Here he surrounded himself with a menagerie of animals.

During his childhood he learnt to play the piano and also played the organ in the local church. He loved music of many different genres and had many good friends in the musical world. He could often be heard tinkling the ivories at his house during the afternoon - after his siesta of course. When Uncle Loaf left school he became a herdsman, working on some large estates, where he loved working with the large herds until ill-health prevented him. He surrounded himself with many animals over the years - cows, pigs, goats, horses, chickens, rabbits - even retired racing greyhounds. He was the national champion breeder of Silkie chickens and was sometimes found washing and blow-drying them in the kitchen sink, much to the horror of his Mum. He also bred, and competed with, horses

very successfully, a pastime in which I was more than happy to help. Uncle Loaf was a very gentle gentleman, both caring and intelligent with whom you could hold a conversation about anything.

He did however love to play practical jokes on various friends around the village. Peter Hurrell, Rosie Eva, Carol Adams, as well as my Dad, Nigel, to name but a few, have suffered at his hands from coal in the wellies to missing wheels on the car.

Uncle Loaf was truly a man of the countryside, a disappearing breed. Everyone will miss him walking through the village to granny's offering his insightful thoughts on the world to all. Buckland will be a lot less colourful without him being around."

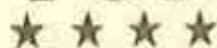
Geoff Church of Chillington also wrote a moving tribute to Peter which was published in the Gazette and we have his permission to quote parts of it here.

"I first met Peter when he managed Frishy's shoe shop at the bottom of Kingsbridge Fore Street and was living in West Buckland. Following the closure of Frishy's Pete worked as a warden in the Redford Meadow sheltered accommodation until his retirement. If you had a problem Pete was a good listener and had a way of calming you down with his banter. He ran the Thurlestone Youth Club for a number of years during which time he helped quite a few youngsters out of trouble.

Pete was a good pianist and joined 'Basil Church & His Swing Band' in the early sixties. When in 1969 this broke up Pete joined my brother Tony and I in 'The Brian Roland Sound' until it folded in 1973. In 1996 I formed a dance band 'Just Four Plus One' Pete again was the pianist. He sometimes played the organ at Thurlestone parish church and at the Sloop Inn for Christmas carols. Summing Peter up, he was a true and loyal friend, slightly eccentric but his own man with a heart of gold."

The Editor's memory - Peter kept hens at West Buckland, some rescued from being in batteries. He was very upset when a fox got in one night and killed the lot, so he went off and bought a fox trap. Next day, on seeing what a beautiful young fox he had caught, he promptly opened the cage door and let it go!

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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

Ice Creams on the Beach?

In his report in the August/September Village Voice, the Captain of Thurlestone Golf Club indicated that the Club was changing, and outlined how he saw those changes positioning the Club within the community under a 5-year improvement plan - already some 18 months in progress. At a time of pressures resulting from changing membership and playing patterns, all clubs must of course establish an agreed medium and long-term way forward.

For well over 100 years the Club has indeed been a valued part of Thurlestone, alongside the church and meeting room, the hotel and inn, a well managed and fully used parish hall, and our now famous phone-box library. Notably, as a result of tireless campaigning, villagers proudly achieved the retention of a village Post Office and store.

It has therefore come as a shock, indeed sadness, to many villagers, including many of their own members, that the Club has taken to selling ice cream on the beach during these summer months. It is seriously hoped that this departure does not represent an initial stage of the proposed 5-year plan. What can be expected next?

It is hoped that the Club, being a members' club, will remain this in every sense, and not be persuaded into a culture offering facilities to the wider public on an uncontrolled basis. It must ensure that its future remains that of a club worthy of its 116 years, together with established standards, and above all retaining the respect in which it has always been held by members, villagers and visiting golfers.

Yours

A Villager

Name & Address supplied



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Superfast Broadband – Entering The End Game

By Michael Armitage

In the week that China announced its intention to spend \$327 billion on its 'Broadband China' plan, the UK government continued to struggle to allocate £0.4 million to the good citizens of Thurlestone and South Hish to improve their broadband. The difference is not a matter of money – for each project, the amount is around £200 per capita – but the relative ease with which each country's administration handles the task. When the Chinese authorities say they will invest \$327 billion in the country's broadband infrastructure, somehow one trusts them to do so. On the basis of its experience of dealing with the UK Government, your intrepid broadband team does not quite share that confidence!

We are now in a position where no less a figure than the Secretary of State, Maria Miller MP, the Cabinet Minister with responsibility for Telecoms, has had to intervene on our project's behalf to persuade Devon County to support our project.

Previous articles have described the journey that has brought us to this place, and the story does not bear repeating. But we do now seem to be at, or close to, the end game.

The ball is now in Devon County Council's court. The Secretary of State has requested that DCC begin a process to allow our project area to be formally excluded from the BT upgrade programme – a process involving Impact Assessments and Change Controls and other such bureaucratic niceties to prevent public money being spent twice in the same area.

Sadly, as we go to press, DCC shows every sign of ignoring the interests of the community that it is supposed to serve.

At stake is what we started this project for in the first place – whether we bite the bullet and allow the thoroughly superior technology of fibre-to-the-home to replace the past-its-sell-by-date copper network. The benefits are clear:

Better

FTTH networks are extremely reliable, and when we say 10Mbps or 100Mbps, that is what you get! Everyone - not just those lucky

enough to be served by a cabinet.

Faster

No more "up to" speed promises. No buffering on iPlayer. Stutter-free Skype video calls. Rapid download of films, and upload of engineering drawings.

Cheaper

My latest quarterly bill of £232.99 (£77.67 per month), for a telephone service and sub-2Mbps broadband, includes £108 of 'overage' on my call plan, and £15 of 'overage' on my data plan. Time to switch!

Sooner

Connecting Devon & Somerset's plans for upgrading the South Hams extend to 2016. Our plans extend to 2014.

Future-proofer

Fibre will last for a generation and more, with almost limitless scope to increase capacity. BT is already planning its next upgrade cycle to meet the relentless growth in data consumption.

Better value for money

While we have requested Government support for only 35% of the cost of the project, the Devon-wide plan seeks upwards of 75% support.

Extra Benefits

There are numerous additional benefits to be enjoyed from a full fibre-to-the-home approach – the stimulus to inward investment, company formation and job creation, the positive impact on house prices, the more efficient delivery of public and other services, and so on.

At stake also is what this project has exposed along the way – the extraordinary power of BT to suppress competition, and the supine inability of political, regulatory and competition authorities to prevent the incumbent recreating its de facto rural monopoly.

Wish us luck as we enter the final round. We hope that our next update article for Village Voice will be able to express more winning sentiments than whining!



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Saints*

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one of the Churchwardens (see overleaf)

LAY READER: Peter Gornall

A Reader Reflects:

Whether I'm supposed to use similar subject matter in two successive Village Voice articles I don't know, but I'm back to the interregnum again. I made little mention of Phil and Janet Osler last time; and now I reflect on what we find we're missing. Janet first: with (or rarely without) the dogs, she brought a happy face to Thurlestone village centre, and many knew her kindness. Others experienced the "sharp" side of her work, and found her gentleness at the Norton Brook Surgery. And her bell-ringing skills and enthusiasm, which Phil shared, were all too brief a blessing to the village.

Phil had business administration in his veins, and brought a thoroughly professional approach to the necessary organisation side of a rector's work. On the human side he and Janet brought much closer the congregations of the four different churches of the Benefice. The world is pretty much a village now, so knowing better our neighbouring communities is important. Phil explored different ways of looking at the great and lesser known Christian festivals; he regularly found insights into the long history of severely tested Christian witness in every part of the earth; and he encouraged others to explore the possibilities of their gifts and talents.

Business administration talent is one thing, but relating business moral standards to the daily lives and aspirations of ordinary people is one of the strengths of our new Archbishop Justin. His questioning examination of one of the leading bankers was a stark exposé of the moral flimsiness in some of those quarters. Whenever there is a story about the Archbishop, some of the press produce an old picture of him at his installation in a golden mitre and cape, with the unprinted implication that the church is a funny hat brigade with something to say but few taking notice. With Archbishop Justin they could be quite wrong.

We have no funny hats here in this parish, and no opportunity for penetrating cross questioning. Instead we rely on the fact that the church's message points to living out the Christian good news even more than saying it. In their particular ways Phil and Janet did that. Their example will live on.

Every Blessing!

Peter

We should like to invite you to our
ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING
for the lives of our departed loved ones
on Sunday October 27th at 6.00 p.m. in Thurlestone Church

A chance to remember departed loved ones & to give thanks for all they shared with us.

During the service there will be a chance to light a candle of remembrance. We shall also read aloud the names of loved ones whose families would like us to do so. If you would like a loved one remembered by name, please complete & return the slip below.

Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

I hope to be at the service on October 27th & should like the following name(s) read out
(please print):

Signed:

Please return to: Mrs Elizabeth Webb, Old Mill Cottage, West Buckland, Devon TQ7 3AG



All Saints' Diary

CHURCHWARDENS: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

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

Church Services

EVERY SUNDAY	8.00am Holy Communion (1 st & 3 rd BCP; 2 nd CW; 4 th in Oct. CW & in Nov. BCP)
EVERY WEDNESDAY	8.30am Morning Prayer (said)
1ST THURSDAY	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at White horses, Bantham
OCTOBER 6TH	11.10am Harvest Thanksgiving followed by Harvest Lunch
OCTOBER 13TH	11.10am Matins (BCP)
OCTOBER 20TH	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) 6.00pm Benefice Praise Service
OCTOBER 27TH	11.10am Bible Sunday Service 6.00pm Annual Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving (see overleaf)
NOVEMBER 3RD	11.10am Stewardship Response and All Saints' Sunday Eucharist (CW)
NOVEMBER 10TH	10.50am Remembrance Service and laying of wreaths <i>(note time)</i>
NOVEMBER 17TH	11.00am Benefice Operation Christmas Child Service <i>(note time)</i>
NOVEMBER 24TH	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

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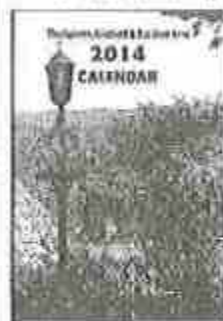


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CHURCH MEETING ROOM

OCTOBER 1ST Les Misérables

Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe,
Anne Hathaway, Eddie Redmayne

NOVEMBER 5TH Song for Marion

Vanessa Redgrave, Terence Stamp,
Gemma Arterton, Christopher Eccleston

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Refreshment Interval for tea & biscuits

Information leaflets in church, shop & MR



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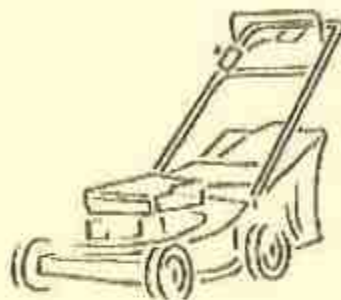
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Thurlestone Golf Club

CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The summer has been kind to us all at Thurlestone. We have had more sunny days than wet ones and more members and visitors on the tennis courts than last year. The golf club continues to receive accolades for the condition of the Golf Course, which is understandable. It is ranked 68 in England, and you can see the sea from every tee and every green. Very few clubs anywhere can offer that kind of scenery.

In August Thurlestone Golf Club hosted the 2013 Devon County Palaret Finals. This is the men's inter-club team championship of Devon. It is the first time since 1972 that the Finals have been played at Thurlestone and only the second time in the last 50 years. There is prestige attached to this hosting, an accolade for the Club and the Course. Then on 8th September the Devon County Inter-Club Foursomes were also held at Thurlestone, and we followed this up on 26th September by hosting the prestigious Devon County Ladies Match Play Finals for the Still Cup, the Sheila Creasy, and the President's Cup.

And in 2015 Thurlestone will be host to the Devon County Amateur Championships. All these are high profile events that showcase what Thurlestone Golf Club has to offer.

What does the Club have to offer? It runs along the stunning coastline of the Hope Cove to Bantham section of the South West Coastal Footpath. The Course is a mix of links-type and cliff-top terrain with the latter providing breath-taking views of the legendary Thurlestone Rock to the east and the beautiful Avon Estuary and Burgh Island to the west. From the 12th tee we can see our neighbours at Bigbury, the Eddystone lighthouse 12 miles away and the "goings-on" below on the beaches. It is not, as Mark Twain suggested, a good walk spoiled, more a good walk enjoyed. Shame you have to hit some golf balls too. And did I mention our ten grass tennis courts?

Not many know the Eddystone Lighthouse,

which sits on the treacherous Eddystone Rocks, was built on rock known as Precambrian Gneiss. And when was the Lighthouse built? In 1882, which makes it 15 years older than Thurlestone Golf Club.

The summer of competition has witnessed one terrific achievement. Jenny Roberts, a resident of Thurlestone and twice Devon County Champion, recorded a round of 67. This is a Ladies club record at Thurlestone. The men think they can beat that off the ladies tees. Well, on Captain's Day, Sunday 1st September, they had a chance to emulate Jenny. How many men do you think actually recorded a score better than Jenny's gross 67? Exactly - it puts her course record into perspective.

Captain's Day at Thurlestone is a charity day when money is raised for good causes. It helped having a car on offer for a hole-in-one, and there were holidays and golf clubs to be won as well. Jenny saw a tee shot ricochet off another to end 6 inches from the hole; Laura Tregelles hit a tee shot that glanced sideways at the hole before trundling 6 feet past; Dave Eva wished he had eaten one more shredded wheat as his ball finished 2 feet short from winning the car. There were many "if only" and "what ifs" in the club house afterwards among the 136 competitors who played. More importantly, nearly £1000 was raised for Prostate and Breast Cancer and the Alzheimer's Society.

The Greenkeepers' Revenge sounds like a TV pilot show for Gardeners' World that will never make it on to the Beeb. In fact, it's a chance for the greenkeepers to exact retribution on golfers who do not repair their pitch marks, naughtily leave trolleys too close to the green or, worse, fail to rake a bunker after taking a snowman to get out.

(What is a snowman in golf? - answer at the end of this report).

Anyway, the greenkeepers positioned the holes in tricky positions on the hump of a ridge, adjacent to a slope or bunker and then sat back to watch the antics. They were very generous, if odd with their prizes. No prizes for finishing 2nd, 4th, 6th etc. First



won a round of golf for 4 people away from Thurlestone and 3rd prize was a bag of fertiliser. It got worse; 9th prize was to spend 2 hours in the company of the greenkeepers raking bunkers. The lucky raker has to set his alarm clock and bring a rake. Don't expect to be home before 8 am.

And there is more for the Club to celebrate. The Men's team reached the final of the Devon County Scratch Cup - the Parker Trophy, played on 15th September at Bovey Castle, and won the title by six matches to three against Fingle Glen.

(Snowman - a score of eight, so named after the resemblance to the physical structure of a snowman)

Mervyn Spencer

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The last two months have given us wonderful weather for golf and we have had many competitions. Jenny Roberts, whose magnificent gross 67 in July saw her handicap reduced from 3 to 2 followed this up in the August medal with a nett 68 (and another handicap cut). In the September medal Jenny took first place with another nett 68 and has now reduced her handicap to 1.6. Well done, Jenny.

Ladies Medal and Duchess and Junior cups were played in August on a lovely day for golf with light winds and some excellent scoring. In Division One Patsie McPhie scored a nett 63 to win the Duchess cup and reduce her handicap from 19 to 17, while the runner up was Lesley Robinson with a nett 69. In Division Two Alice Foster scored a nett 68 and reduced her handicap from 33 to 31 and won the Junior cup. Runner up was Zoe LePere with a nett 71.

The August medal had some excellent scores with Bridget Lafferty winning Division One with a nett 67. Julie Holland won Division Two with a nett 64 and Jenny Underhill won Division Three with nett 73. The same was true with the September medal with Jenny Roberts winning Division One with nett 68 from Sue Esplin nett 71. In Division Two Liz Line just beat Pam St Leger with nett 71 on countback, and in Division Three Inger Reeve took first place with nett 73.

The Betty Ord Memorial Trophy final was played between Alison Adams and Jane Mason. A really good match played in a very friendly spirit. Alison was 1 up at the turn, but then Jane played the next 4 holes in one over par gross to go 3 up. Alison fought back with a birdie at the 16th but lost to a 3 on 17th to give Jane a 2/1 victory.

Once a year tennis and golf get together at Thurlestone Golf Club in a competition called The Quaich to find the best all round pair at the two sports. The Quaich Cup was presented by Judy Beacroft who donated the trophy. An adult must play with a junior (16 years and under) and there must be at least 10 years' difference. The competition consists of a 9 hole Greensomes Stableford in the morning and round robin tennis in the afternoon.

This year 16 pairs of adult and juniors set out on a glorious sunny and still day, which produced some good scores in the golf. Following an excellent barbecue all pairs then played three sets of eight games of tennis and the scores were added together. It was very tight at the top of the leader board with two pairs finishing on 37 points, resulting in a play off. After a most exciting final, Edward and Adam Vaughan, who have supported the event for many years, took the trophy with a four games to two win over Tim Monckton and Harry Bunn.

On Wednesday 28th August we had the Ladies Invitation day. The format was American Foursomes where each partner drives off and then takes each other's ball. We had perfect conditions, with the course looking fantastic, resulting in some excellent scores. 25 teams competed and the Lady Captain produced a themed coloured prize table which looked spectacular. The winning pair were Lizzie Britton with her guest Joan Hitchens from Bigbury golf club with the runners up Barbara Smith and Ruth Bickle from Wrangaton.

The Cancer Goblets mixed competition was played in August with Alex and Sue Esplin winning with 45 points. The final of the Vets Salver was also played with Linda Cant and Jan Brooking beating Lesley Saffin and Janet Richardson on the 17th by 3/1 another very tight match played in great spirit.

The annual prize giving is on Saturday 9th November and with the swallows about to fly off for the winter I hope they don't take our lovely weather with them.

Linda Cant

JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

We have had a busy two months this summer starting with the Daily Telegraph Junior competition Nationwide which asks golf clubs to hold a qualifying competition and return the best gross score for a boy and a girl. These results go on the Daily Telegraph website and the lowest 15 boys and 9 girls go forward to a final in Portugal in September.

In the Thurlstone Daily Telegraph qualifier the overall winner with best gross score was Junior captain Rob Came (handicap 4) with a gross 76, going towards the Daily Telegraph scoreboard. The runner up was George Holland (handicap 12) with a gross 83 nett 71. Well done to both of them.

We finished third in the West Devon League and just missed out on Championship day by half a point. Our team was depleted this year and some non-CONGU juniors bravely stepped up into the team and put up excellent performances. Next year they will have achieved their CONGU handicaps and will value the experience they have gained this year. Well done all the team members. The final of the League and championship day was won by Yelverton A team.

In the Junior club evenings, in order to give our non-CONGU handicap juniors some match practice, a matchplay competition was arranged between them and Stover Juniors. Ethan Mulligan and Ben Leatham won their match, and James Tait, Josh Gilbert and Toby White also won. Overall the matches were drawn against a very powerful Stover non-CONGU team.

Some of our Juniors played for Devon in August. Beth Yeoman competed in the girls Inter-Counties week. She won two, halved one, and lost one of her matches. Devon girls beat Wiltshire and Dorset, halved with Somerset and lost to Gloucester and Cornwall.

George Holland and Tom Orr played for Devon Juniors against Cornwall at Whitsand Bay, and Tom then played for the Under 18's v the Devon Vets at Saunton - and won -

and has been selected for the next under 16 game. George played against Dorset at Honiton. George was lucky enough to win all his County U14 matches in 2013 (against Surrey, Cornwall, Dorset, and Somerset) with the team retaining the Counties Cup. George also won the West Devon Junior Academy competition and will play against Cornwall academies, and also qualifies for the Cobra / Puma final at Teignmouth which is played off scratch. Well done to the three of them.

On Saturday 31st August we held the Adult and Junior qualifier for the Devon County Graham Ruth trophy at Okehampton on Sunday 29th September. It was a perfect summer day for golf and a very strong field lined up with some very low handicap adults to play with the Juniors. The winners were Rob Came and Peter Eva with 37 points, with runners up George Fountain and Julie Holland with 36 points.

Many of our Juniors played in the Captain's day on 1st September, and Beth Yeoman won the longest and straightest drive. It was a great day, with 138 players taking part.

As a part of the Golf Club's commitment to find new players and new members, Steve White and Pete Mitchell attended the Kingsbridge Show in September. The show was an ideal place to showcase our beautiful golf course and network with the locals from Kingsbridge and the surrounding areas. The stand looked very impressive with new signage, the inflatable net and the Tri-golf equipment meant we had a good number of visitors.

With this year being a bit of a transition year, we are delighted to have so many young players being involved with the Academy and Monday club nights.

Last year Ethan Mulligan was awarded his CONGU handicap and it looks like recent cards mean Ben Woods and James Tait could well qualify for their handicaps in the next few weeks. The great work by Pete Mitchell and Steve White means these numbers will continue and improve in the coming years, benefiting the Juniors and the teams enormously.

Liz Line

National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for October and November 2013

- Thursday
24 October** Coach trip to Stourhead (NT). Stourhead House is a Palladian mansion set in a world-famous landscape with a magnificent lake as its centrepiece - now in all its autumn glory. The house contains a Regency library, Chippendale furniture, and beautiful paintings.
- Friday
8 November** Coach trip to High House (National Trust) and Lukesland Gardens. This is an opportunity to visit this much-talked-about house on the Dartington Hall estate. Lunch is available nearby in the Dartington shop area, 'Cranks', or one of the cafes, before the drive to Lukesland Gardens for our afternoon visit. 24 acres of flowering shrubs, flowers, rare trees, lakes and waterfalls will offer superb autumn colours. Refreshments available. The access to the property is narrow, so a 32-seat coach is being used.
- Tuesday
19 November** Coffee morning at the Thurlestone Hotel, 10.30am. Meet up with friends for a relaxing coffee in the attractive lounge. Spend time choosing Christmas cards as well as gifts from the Overbecks shop. Friends and non-members are very welcome. Entrance £3.00 includes coffee.

For more information about these events, or about joining the National Trust South Hams Centre (just £5 a year), please contact Midge Elliott on 01548-562017 (9am to 5pm only)

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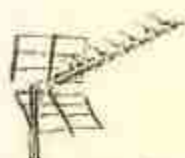
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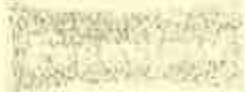
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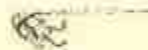
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Solutions to previous Grey Matter

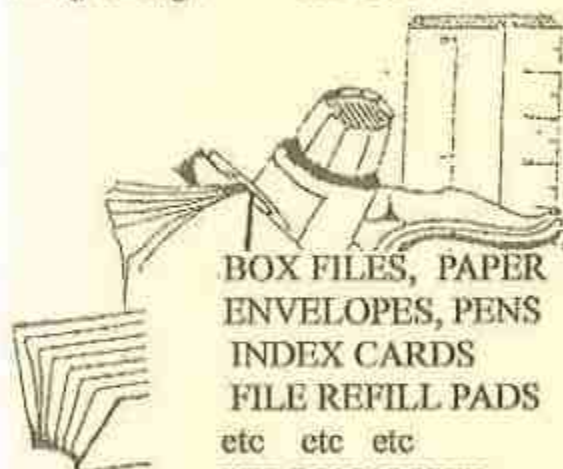
Across : 7. Freeze 8. Trotter 10. Mannered 11. Annual 12. Hatches 15. Cheese 16. Drag 17. Candy 18. Isle 20. Truths 22. Shotgun 24. Avenue 25. Catholic 27. Nodding 28. Orange
Down : 1. Preacher 2. Bean 3. Search 4. Stud 5. Monarchy 6. Breaks 9. Tendering 13. Tightened 14. Songs 17. Cosmetic 19. Landings 21. Roving 23. Option 25. Cage 26. Oval

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A PASSAGE TO KAMCHATKA

by Sue Dwyer

In 1992, as we walked part of the route de St Jacques across France, I met a fellow walker who had travelled all over the world. He loved activity holidays in cold climates, such as dog sledding in Arctic regions, and had been to Antarctica several times - rare in those days, common now. He told me that the most amazing place he had ever visited was Kamchatka. I asked where this was. He said it was a Russian peninsula attached to Siberia in the Arctic Circle and that only in 1990 had the area opened up for visitors. Even Russians were barred from visiting this remote region. I have always remembered this destination and, about 18 months ago, we saw an expedition trip called "A passage to Kamchatka" on a small boat. Declan and I promptly booked ourselves aboard.



The Kamchatka peninsula is 800 miles long and 250 miles wide at its broadest, shaped like a spear-head and extending from the Koryak Mountains of Siberia into the Bering and Okhotsk seas. Some 300 active volcanos are on the peninsula. Four were erupting during our visit. To the SW are the Kuril Islands connecting to Japan and to the East the Aleutian Islands connecting to Alaska.

The summer here is short, from June to September, despite being at the same latitude as the UK. The reason for this is cold arctic winds from the Siberian anti-cyclone plus the Oya-Shio cold sea current. The sea of Okhotsk freezes each winter. We visited in June and there was snow everywhere, and still sea ice at every destination. The entire northern hemisphere has had a late spring this year. The peninsula is only accessible by air or sea. There is only a rudimentary road system around the capital to the two other towns 50 miles away. Petropavlovsk, the capital, holds a large

nuclear submarine base so was a militarily sensitive area. The town was surrounded by snow-covered volcanoes and is situated at the head of a fjord. The whole area including the Kuril and Aleutian Islands are part of "the Ring of Fire" around the Pacific Ocean, where earthquakes are frequent. During our trip there were two, one at 8.4 on the Richter scale in the Sea of Okhotsk, but as we were at sea this did not affect us. However, it shook the buildings on the land and there was a tsunami warning.

To start our journey we flew to Tokyo where we spent a night and next day. After visiting the Meiji Shintu Shrine and then the Buddhist Asa Kusa Shrine we boarded the bullet train. These run frequently, your ticket tells you precisely where to stand on the platform and you have two minutes to enter and sit down (no standing) before the train leaves and you tuck in to your sushi. In a couple of hours we were in Niigata, passing many mountains and paddy fields at 150mph. Here we boarded our ship along with eighty others to join the expedition crew of eight led by former Kingsbridge Community College student Tim Soper, son of Tony.

Tim (you can browse his website) is an impressive young man who lives in Slapton and works year-round as an expedition leader, diver, boatman and guide. He has migrated with the seasons between the Polar Regions and Tropics but much of his time over the last 15 years has been spent in the Antarctic. He discovered a previously unknown Emperor penguin rookery on the east side of Antarctica. The seven other naturalists and boatmen came from all over the world. Each was a specialist in a slightly different area - birds, flora, animals, geology, marine life, etc., - and several had written books and taught on their subjects.

The ship was the 4,200 ton recently refurbished *Caledonian Sky* with about 80 passengers and a similar number of Filipino crew with European officers. The cabins were luxurious and spacious and the food varied and good. Once we left Japan the routine was to try to rise early and observe the marine life from the decks. After breakfast on a typical day we used to board one of the ten zodiac dinghies and either observe the latest uninhabited island from the sea, or more usually land on it. After lunch more of the same, and in the evening we all gathered in the main lounge for a debrief on the day's activities and a talk about the next day's programme. Life on board was never boring and there was little time to do other than take part in the organised programme. We saw no other tourists and the expedition and ship's crew had not been to the area before, which made each island landing an adventure.



MS Caledonian Sky

On the first evening we left port bound for Aomori on the northern end of Honshu. We were woken at 7 am to be told of a school of white-sided dolphins around the ship. They kept up with us for about an hour swimming at 12 knots. The ship was welcomed by the town dignitaries as we were the first ship to come into the new dock and tourist boats are rare. Overnight, we sailed to Hakodate where we visited Onuma Park to walk in an area of lakes



Short-tailed albatross

and islands dominated by Mt Komagatake, a dormant volcano. The next night we sailed towards Rishiri Island. There was great excitement at 7 am as a short-tailed albatross was sighted, and it obligingly settled on the water beside the ship. This is the largest bird in the northern hemisphere, with a wing-span of more than seven feet. There are only 2000 left in the world. The twitchers were ecstatic and even the non-twitchers among us were beginning to get into bird watching.

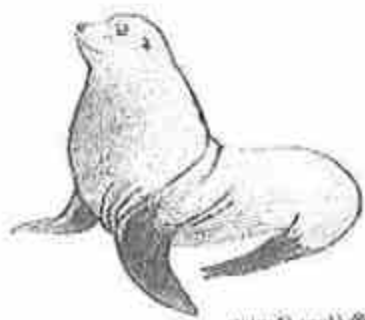
Rishiri Island appeared through the mist mid-morning, and we went ashore. There were flocks of red phalaropes darting about in the water before they travelled further north to breed. A Siberian red throat serenaded us, and there were also a few seals and mandarin ducks. Whilst at sea there were many crested and rhinoceros auklets, fulmars, and guillemots to be seen. Rishiri Island is really a large volcano; there are about 6000 human residents who earn their living from fishing and collecting kelp to process for culinary use. At the age of eleven each child has to climb the volcano, 1721 metres high, and also walk around the island - a distance of 60 km.

Next day we landed at Sakhalin for Russian Immigration which took several hours. This island has been owned by both Japan and Russia. The 1905 Russo-Japanese war resulted

in Japan occupying the bottom half of Sakhalin Island, and they transported many Koreans there. Since 1945 Sakhalin has been Russian along with the Kuril Islands. After the ship was cleared by customs and immigration we disembarked, to be greeted with a shot of vodka and encouraged to dip a small piece of bread into salt and eat this as a welcome. We were taken to the town about 45 minutes away for a visit in several ancient bone-shaking buses. There were no smiles or eye contact from the locals. This was like going back in time to the Soviet era. The local population had been Ainu people but the Russians forbade them from identifying themselves because the Japanese claimed all regions inhabited by Ainu in the past and present as part of Japan. During Soviet times people with Ainu surnames were sent to gulags and labour camps. Many changed their names to Slavic ones. The Soviet authorities removed this ethnic group from the list of nationalities which could be mentioned on a passport. Hence children born after 1945 were unable to identify themselves as Ainu. After 1945 most Ainu were deported by the Russians to Japan.

After visiting two churches we were taken to an amusement park which looked as though it had been built in the 1950's, very dilapidated. Here we had our picnic lunch before returning to the ship. Two Russian "minders" were now with us to monitor our landings. This was quite important really as these islands were uninhabited and the minders did know something of the geology and topography of the islands which we were to visit.

Now the exciting part of the holiday commenced - Kamchatka plus the Kuril Islands - where we would use the zodiacs. Our first landing was on Tyuleniy, an island off Sakhalin in the sea of Okhotsk, a desolate place with an old fish-processing plant, now in ruins and inhabited by many fur seals and Steller sea lions. The bulls were massive and their barking drowned out the noise of the thousands of nesting sea birds - guillemots, fulmars, kittiwakes and auklets - and we saw our first sea eagles soaring above. There was much sea ice around and the shore was of black volcanic sand.



Steller sea lion

Next day, approaching the Chirpoy islands, we passed snow-covered volcanoes on the Kuril Islands. The ship entered the sunken caldera which measured 8-9 kms in width on Chirpoy and at this moment a pod of orcas came to surround the ship. The islands are separated by the Shou Strait. Chirpoy, the northernmost, comprises three overlapping stratovolcanoes. Brat Chirpoy to the south had an area of 16 sq km with a volcanic peak of 749m, and all volcanoes spewed ash at times. The last big eruption was in 1982. On Brat Chirpoy the numbers of birds blackened the wonderfully blue sky when we approached. There were many fulmars and kittiwakes in the air, about to nest, with guillemots flying down to the water to join crested auklets, plus some pigeon guillemots - black, but with bright red feet.



Sea otters hold hands while sleeping so they don't drift away from each other

To our joy, in the kelp we had our first sighting of sea otters, lying belly up, eating oysters by smashing open the shells with a stone kept in a pouch under their arms. They were not disturbed by the zodiacs, and we just looked on in wonder. There was a smell of sulphur, and bubbles could be seen coming up through the water from below, while the rocks showed heavy deposits of copper. There were some tufted puffins flying around and landing on the cliffs.

Next day was foggy with a strong wind, always a problem in the Kuril Islands. We were due to visit Yankicha Island, a dramatic sunken caldera which the small ship could sail into via

a narrow entrance, and the rim of the volcano was almost complete. The plan was to drop anchor and those fit enough could climb to the rim and stand where the photograph of the island featured in the brochure had been taken. Due to the fog we were unable to see the volcano let alone land on the island.

Matua Island was the next stop but unfortunately despite the fog lifting the wind made it impossible to drop anchor as there was no sheltered bay. So on to Shiashekotan Island where the boat dropped anchor in mid-afternoon and we all went ashore by zodiac. The fitter ones among us climbed a sheer cliff to a grassy path, which led to a less steep area of the volcano where there were still snowy patches. Here there were dwarf pines plus a low growing rhododendron still in bud. There were some remnants of Russian and Japanese dugouts from previous times visible on the island. Descending the cliff was more hair-raising than ascending. I kept my eyes straight ahead, certainly not looking down to the rocky beach.

Next day we awoke to Atlasova Island, the highest and the most northern of the Kuril Island volcanoes. We landed on black sand and the party divided into four grades of walks, dependent on length. This was a WET day, very bleak with a strong wind. Until the 70s this was a women's gulag,

housing 12,000 women dissenters and criminals in primitive huts. Only the guards were male. Certainly no one could have escaped. There were the remains of wooden accommodation huts plus a canning factory where the woman worked. There was fresh water in the form of pools on the island, making it inhabitable. The pools now had a variety of ducks living on them, nine varieties in all. The sea freezes around these islands for a couple of months a year. It must have been a really dismal place on which to be living.

In the afternoon we anchored off Shumshu, the last of the Kuril Islands we visited. This was larger than the others and we walked after landing on the beach by zodiac. After the Germans surrendered in 1945, Russia declared war on Japan, and the only land battle occurred on Shumshu. 4,000 Japanese and 2,000 Russians were killed in this battle. Some of the debris of war remains. Here we were able to see tank enforcements, hides where machine guns were stationed, etc. The Russian minders told us the Japanese had created a mass of underground connections on the islands which had never been mapped. But the natural world survives - we saw a skylark's nest (with 6 eggs) and a red fox whilst walking.

As we were returning to the boat by zodiac many sea otters appeared in the kelp beds off shore. The males watched us anchoring to the kelp. Some of the females had babies on their tummies. No animal was scared - they just continued feeding whilst we watched quietly. These animals were almost extinct 50 years ago but there seems to be a healthy population now.

In the evening we discussed the Atlasova volcano and the fact that the dark gritty rock we landed on and were walking over was younger than any of us. We talked about the poor forgotten women who worked here until they died. The naturalists talked about the sea otters, and an Italian, Piero, told us about the odd history of the British occupation and annexing of Urup in the southern Kurils. We retired to bed very tired, but very happy.

[The concluding part of Sue & Declan's account of their *Passage to Kamchatka* will be published in the December/January issue of *Village Voice*. Ed.]



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THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The perennial exhibitors did well at the Show on 3rd August, held in South Milton village hall, with chairman David Coward winning 12 classes and 2 cups, Tony Church winning 16 classes and 4 cups, included amongst which was the cup for the Thurlestone resident with most points in the show, and Derek Brown winning 8 classes and two cups!

Cup Winners

Ben Horn Cup	Onions and Shallots	David Coward
Yeo Cup	Best Vegetable	David Coward
Fruit & Veg (Open) Cup	Winner veg section	Tony Church
Cut Flowers & Pot Plants Cup	Winner of flowers section	Tony Church
Marshall Cup	Rose bloom	Derek Brown
Wray Cup	Overall Roses class	Tony Church
President's Tankard	Fuchsia	Derek Brown
Garden Shop Cup	Flower arrangements	Diana Parker-Swift
Under 5s Cup	Best exhibit classes 53/54	Henry Durrant
Under 7s Cup	Best exhibit classes 55/56	Isla Jarvis
Derrick Yeoman Cup	Best exhibit classes 57/58/59	Abi Jarvis
Oswald Junior Cup	Winner overall classes 57/58/59	Abi Jarvis
White Cup	Best exhibit classes 60/61/62	Poppy Livey
Oswald Senior Cup	Winner overall classes 60/61/62	Poppy Livey
Doris Tyler Trophy	Set recipe	Ann Collyer
Doris Jackson Trophy	Sewing	Shirley Barnes
Handicrafts Cup	Overall handicrafts winner	M Page/E Gilkes
Millman Cup	Photography	Joan Sparrow
South Milton Residents Cup	Highest points	A Collyer/T Gilkes
Thurlestone Residents Cup	Highest points	Tony Church
Novices Veg Cup	Highest points section A	B Newman
Lyn Gunning Cup	Cookery	J Gillan/ T Fountain
Domestic Section Cup	Overall winner section D	Ann Collyer

Certificates of Merit were presented to Tony Church, Eve Gilkes, Margaret Houghton, Abi Jarvis, Pat Macdonald, Diane Martin, Daphne Osmond, and Joan Sparrow.

Sadly there were fewer exhibits this year. It is easy to blame the weather, which has been difficult, but please make a special effort next year, when the Show will be held in Thurlestone Parish Hall on Saturday 2nd August 2014.

September

There was a good turn-out in September, after the August break, and a new member, one re-joining member, and two visitors were made welcome. It was also a very important birthday milestone this month for Monica Dickins, so it was bubbly all round, plus a be-candled cake and a basket of flowers for the birthday girl, (but all a little in advance of her actual birthday date)!

In July there was a successful visit to the RHS gardens at Rosemoor in North Devon, on a very fine day, despite the coach driver losing his bearings slightly en route.

Val Brown gave an entertaining account of the visit she, Wendy Neukirchen and Pat Clarke, made to the London palaces outing organised by the county federation. As more county members than the tour could accommodate applied for tickets, the county proposed repeating the visit later. Val gave us three pieces of advice from their visit for future applicants - wear comfy shoes, loose clothing, and brush up on your history beforehand.

Three members were about to set off for Denman College the day after our meeting, namely Jan Patrick and Judith Reynolds, who would be using our two bursaries to take a course on Meals in a Minute. Jean Jones would also be travelling with them to learn how to play the ukulele.

Dartmoor Rescue, which is part of England & Wales Mountain Rescue, is divided into four geographic areas within Devon, namely Okehampton, Tavistock, Plymouth and Ashburton, which is the one to which our speaker, Nigel Ash, belongs. He gave a very lively and entertaining account of their work and training.

He first joined 14 years ago and became one of the diverse people - different ages, occupations and backgrounds - who voluntarily make up the 180-200 strong county teams. Training is relentless and takes place every Wednesday evening,

throughout the year and regardless of weather conditions. They train particularly in first aid, search techniques, radio use and navigation. Good bonding of the members is essential as they undertake searches for missing persons, at the behest of the police, e.g. children, dementia sufferers, and potential suicide victims.

Forthcoming Events

The visit to Tate St Ives would be on 26 September with four of our members going.

We would be running a baked goods stall at the Parish Hall Autumn Fair which was coming up on Saturday 28 September, and members were asked for a plentiful supply of goodies.

The DFWI autumn council meeting would be held at Plymouth on the 17 October.

Members were encouraged to go to Blackawton village hall on the 22 November where the Area was holding its Christmas coffee morning.

Friday 13 December would be the date of our annual Christmas luncheon party at Thurlestone Golf Club and there will be full details at the October meeting.

Judith Le Grice was organising singers to take part in the county's Christmas carol service at Exeter Cathedral in December.

The NFWI 100th anniversary celebrations would take place in 2015 at the Albert Hall on the occasion of the national AGM. The proceedings of the meeting would, for the first time, be available live on the internet. It is hoped that we can screen it at the Parish Hall for all our Thurlestone members to enjoy.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th October, when the speaker will be Nick Townsend, Conservation Officer for South Milton Ley and a keen birdwatcher. Visitors are always welcome to come and hear any of our speakers.

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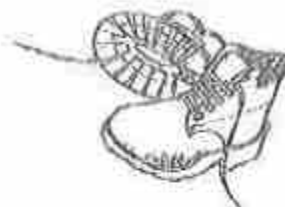
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1 A phone call on the eve of the walk informed me that my fellow leader was not able to take part because of a faulty knee. This was not the best of news, but Maureen is not easily put off walking with Tramps.

We set off on Wednesday 26 June to take the ferry at Dittisham on what promised to be a pleasant warm day. We were slowed down a little when we were informed that there were too many of us to go across the Dart as one group; but this was probably a good thing as we had to walk along the foreshore shortly after a particularly high tide. Once off the foreshore we made our way to Galmpton Creek where for centuries boats have been built. Formerly these were for the Brixham fishing fleet, but also included building patrol vessels for the Royal Navy during the second world war. Today one side of the creek is derelict whilst the other is still very active in marine related activities.

Going up and then down through fields we made our way to Galmpton Village and on to Galmpton Warborough Common, soon coming to the very busy A3022 Brixham Road. Having successfully negotiated this we walked down to, and under, Brunel's magnificent viaduct. We made our way to Breadsands where we had our picnic lunch. Whilst there we were treated to the 'toot toots' of no fewer than three steam trains on the Paignton to Kingswear line. It may have been a place where the drivers had to signal their approach, but we chose to believe they were greeting us!

Replete we joined the coastpath enjoying the views as we made our way to Elberry Cove. Here the Georgian Bathhouse was being repaired. Does anyone know of another Georgian bathhouse sited on the edge of the sea?

The delights of Churston Golf Course followed after a short walk through the woods. Here we made a short diversion to look at Churston Court and St Mary the Virgin Church. Sadly the church, which had

been the private chapel of the Manor House but was given to the parish in 1492, was locked. This was a pity, because by all accounts it is blessed with some very fine medieval stained glass. All we could do was look at it from outside - not very satisfactory.

Some fortunate Trampers had previously stayed at Churston Manor, now an Hotel/Restaurant/Pub and on their advice we popped in to see the wonderful wooden panelled walls. Oh, and the Menu!

Heading for Churston Station we were able to cross the Brixham Road by means of an underpass - much less dangerous. We went back down to Galmpton. On the way we noticed a plaque on a house recording the fact that the novelist and poet Robert Graves lived there for a few years. None of us could immediately call to mind any of his work, but knew that he was buried in Deia, Majorca! Eventually it dawned on some of us that he had penned 'I, Claudius'!

Finally back across fields and through green lanes we made our way, via Greenway, to the ferry enjoying superb views of the Dart and Dartmouth. Again we had a problem with the ferry; although it could take forty passengers it is alleged that the good folk of Dittisham will permit only twelve people to land at one time on their side of the river.

Rachel Wayth

2 We had originally scheduled this walk for Tuesday 2nd July, but on the day the weather looked threatening and we sensibly decided to postpone.

It would not have been pleasant in the rain and we would have missed all the lovely views that this walk affords.

We reassembled on a beautiful summer's Evening at the bottom of Court Park on Tuesday 23rd July when 19 walkers and 2 dogs set off from Thurlestone over the fields to Whitlocksworthy, past the sewage works and on to Horswell Cottages, and en route we picked up another 3 walkers.

We continued over the fields to South Huish

where Peter and Liz Coates most generously refreshed us with Pimms in their lovely garden.

Onwards to Galmpton, then up on to the Ridgeway Path between Marlborough and Hope Cove. We did have 2 dissenters who left us even before we reached Galmpton. They couldn't wait to get to Hope Cove for a pint of beer, although one of them did have the excuse of a bad back!

The views over towards Plymouth and beyond were stunning as we progressed along the path to Hope Cove and much needed food at the Hope and Anchor where we were joined by other Friends of Tramp including Rosemary Mackay, who has led this walk with me for a number of years. The fish and chips were absolutely delicious – to be recommended.

We returned to Thurstlestone via the Coast Path as the sun went down. However, because of the cliff fall earlier in the year, before we reached Thurstlestone Sands, we had to make a detour inland, almost to South Huish, before joining the road down towards Thurstlestone Sands.

We must have covered over 7 miles on this walk and I must give a very special thanks to Peter and Liz Coates for their hospitality. The Pimms definitely kept us going!

Lisa White

3 A new Tramp walk, high summer on Friday 26 July, brilliant and breezy weather, but it was also the Village Voice collation day. Still, eight of us - plus gentle

Tarka - set off from the railway viaduct in north Ivybridge through the wonderful Erme woods, and past the remnants of the bathing pool constructed by American soldiers. Beyond the stile marking the end of the civilised path it was tricky going for a bit, and Wendy gave us a demonstration of the art of slithering painlessly into riverside mud in a crevice between rocks.

Open meadows brought us to shady lanes near Hall Farm, onward to Hall Cross and then south to the wide space of Hanger Down. In the middle is Hanger Down Clump, an old circular enclosure now filled with tall trees. For some of us the remains of a wall in shade made the ideal picnic spot; others

found sunshine out of the breeze. We all had a view of a very large and mature manure heap, and beyond to the clay workings, Cornwood, and heat-hazy miles into Cornwall.

On our way again we passed a large herd of horses, about 80 including foals. These were not Dartmoor ponies, and reminded some of us of gypsy caravan horses. A dog-walker, only the second person we met on the whole walk, couldn't enlighten us on how so many were together here, except that the Down is common land. The few cattle and sheep kept their distance from the horses. We walked by a turf-covered reservoir to reach Henlake Down and the path which returned us to the Erme valley and the cars. We finished a very good walk of just under 6 miles; of varied scenery and nowhere very steep; of woodland shade in the sheltered valley, and in enough cooling wind on the open moor.

Peter and Wendy Gornall

4

It was yet another beautiful day for our walk from Ashprington to Totnes and back on Tuesday 13th August when eleven adults and two dogs assembled at the bottom of Court Park.

Normally for this walk we start and finish at the Durrant Arms in Ashprington. However, when I checked that our booking for lunch was OK, I was told that they weren't doing lunch that day because the Chef had had an accident and it was the Second Chef's day off – quite amazing for the middle of the holiday season. I told them that the Watermans Arms at Bow Bridge would be getting our business, and they were more than delighted to accept our booking and allow us to park our cars in their car park for the walk.

We set off in 4 cars and parked at the Watermans Arms. Because of the change of lunch venue, the walk was increased by approximately 1 mile. For the first part, we set off up the hill into Ashprington and then took the Totnes Road out off Ashprington, turning right at Ashprington Cross to follow the road up to Higher Bowden where we turned on to Totnes Down Hill and followed the road into Totnes.

At Sharpham Drive on the lower end of Moat Hill we followed the cycle track towards Sharpham. We had some lovely views over

the River Dart, when we stopped for a rest, before setting off up through the woodland emerging on to the driveway to Sharpham House. The road then took us back into Ashprington and down the hill for a well earned lunch at the Waterman's Arms at Bow Bridge. The position of the Watermans Arms is delightful and we sat out on the terrace overlooking a pretty stream for an excellent lunch which was served very promptly.

We had covered approximately 6.5 miles.

Lisa White

5 What a fantastic day we had for my walk round Bantham. I drew back the curtains and saw sun! As I had swapped with someone and was taking a different walk I wondered how many would turn up. I was delighted that five other ladies came, and an extra dog.

We parked in the car park at Bantham and started our walk along the side of the Avon towards Aveton Gifford. The views were fantastic. We walked through Stiddcombe Woods, downhill to Stiddcombe Creek, then uphill to Stadbury Farm. We then went along a quiet lane before turning right and then right again, over fields to Osborne Newton Farm.

Then the fun started! We had to cross fields but could see the gate we needed to exit by was blocked by a herd of cows with calves! Fortunately we had Hilary Herring with us who had herded many cows when she was married to a farmer. Tarka and Milly, the two Labradors who were with us, were much more interesting to the cows. Between Hil's calmness and the dogs distracting the cows, we were able to get round them and through the gate, much to the relief of all!

The rest of the walk was uneventful going past Cianacombe, through East Buckland and back to Bantham. As we had no men with us we didn't go to *The Sloop* but went to Barbara's for a drink and marvelled over the views from the terrace!

Annie Kendrick

6 Monday 2 September proved to be a glorious day for a walk on the fringes of Dartmoor. The sun shone all day and there was hardly a cloud in the sky. Three ladies, three gents and two dogs set off for

the eastern fringes of Dartmoor adjacent to the River Dart.

The initial descent to the Dart was quite steep but nobody complained that we would have to climb up again later!! We strolled along the road by the river admiring the gurgling waters and the superb autumn colour all around us. The dogs went for a swim in the river to cool off a bit and have a drink! For the next 90 minutes we climbed steadily uphill but on such gentle slopes that no one complained or commented. We walked through amazing woods, and through strangely named hamlets, enjoyed the best views of the season, admired the idyllic thatched houses snuggling in their surroundings, drooled over the local manor house once owned by Dr Blackall (Sheriff of the City of Exeter – see link below), and walked through green pastures and up ancient lanes to our "summit" for the day.

And yes, it was downhill all the way from there! We crossed a bit of rough moor and then accessed Dr Blackall's Drive which meanders along the side of the Dart valley high above the river and the thick woodland. This made for a really easy and gentle descent and all the while we were enjoying both the sunshine and the incredible views.

We lunched in Poundsgate at the Tavistock Inn. This old pub dates back to about 1413 and is one of the oldest pubs in England. The walk was just under 3 hours duration and 5.5 miles in length. The repeat of last year's walk came as a result of a request from last year's group. We certainly enjoyed all that is on offer in this beautiful corner of Devon.

Mike Stickland

Link to website information:
www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk

7 As I write this with the rain pouring down on the 15th September our summer walk to Dartmoor on the 6th August seems along while ago. Ten walkers started from Merrivale, half way between Princetown and Tavistock after an hour and quarter's drive from Thurlestone. On to the moor towards Vixon Tor, sadly now closed off to the public. Coffee stop on Pew Tor with excellent views in all directions. Next point of interest the tiny hamlet of Samford Spiney. We stopped

and looked into the lovely old grade I listed church there, with its history going back to 1250, before continuing through the lanes and finally stopping for lunch at Davytown. Another couple of miles then took us back to the cars. A delightful six and a half mile walk which I think was enjoyed by all.

David Chubb



On 9th September 6 walkers and 2 dogs set out from the Port Light car park on Bolberry Down, heading inland down the road to Bolberry.

There we took the little lane up the hill on the other side of the valley, admiring the pretty cottages and gardens we passed. Turning off left up Sweethearts Lane (no sweethearts in evidence) we carried on up to Higher Barton and on through the fields, heading off along the ridge towards Hope Cove. The sun was out giving us wonderfully clear views over Galampton, Thurlestone and beyond.

Dropping down into Hope Cove a few of us stopped off to look inside St Clements, the beautifully kept 16th Century fisherman's Chapel, looking very welcoming with its white painted interior and fresh flowers. Certainly worth a visit for anyone who hasn't been there. We then turned left into Inner Hope and started up the coastal path towards Bolt Tail. When we had climbed about 200 yards we found the newly positioned bench in memory of Christine Hammer, a longtime member of the Tramp group who sadly died suddenly last year. We all had a rest on it, remembering Christine, and looking at the view she so enjoyed over the coast to Thurlestone. A passing walker kindly took a photo of the group on the bench.

After heading on up the coastal path we stopped again on reaching Bolt Tail to marvel at the views over the glorious countryside that we are lucky enough to live in. It was one of those days when the air was crystal clear, with the sun out and a few clouds scudding along, so we could see out to Cornwall and the Eddystone Lighthouse. We then carried on along the cliffs back to the Port Light to enjoy a little light refreshment to finish up the walk.

Liz Coates



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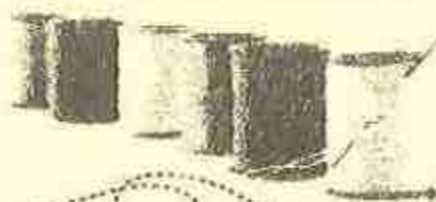
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Devonian One-Liners

Remembered by Traveller

Some of us 'old uns' often reminisce about the delightful one-liners, for which Devonians are so famous. Although some of them might have sounded short to the point of rudeness, they were mostly spoken in a jocular fashion - unless provoked.

One Sunday, a local farmer was sitting in the Sloop snug, having enjoyed several pints of beer over a few hours. Someone said "Shouldn't you be goin' ome boy, you're dinner'al be spoiled, your musses'al put it in the bin." To which the farmer replied, "Don't make no difference, I put a clean liner in there this mornin!"

A local, when asked why chestnut paling was erected around the sand dunes at Bantham, said, "Well, zur, it acts as a detergent!"

Many years ago a visitor arrived in Bantham and Ned Yeoman, who was on duty that day at the gate leading to the car park, asked him for two shillings and sixpence, which was then the parking charge. The man became huffy and said, "I say, my man, what do you get in here for two and six?" Ned pushed back his cap, scratched his head with one hand, took his pipe out of his mouth with the other, paused, and blinking through his thick glasses replied, "A lot of fresh air!"

Herbie Moore, a dear diminutive man, told me that when he delivered coal from Jack Broad's farm in Thurlestone, as a small child I would run down the Jacob's ladder to the cottage, crying "Mummy, Mummy, Mummy, here comes the little man with the coal!" Then, with a big twinkle in his eye, he would say, referring to my vertically challenged stature, "An' you've aven't done so well, neither!"

Jim Elliott, a Bantham boatman, was sitting on the wall of the Quay one day with his elderly father George, and Bryan Toll - all three puffing on their pipes and putting the world to rights. An Indian, complete with turban, and carrying a battered brown suitcase, came down the path, 'under cliff,' opened it up, and spread out the contents on the slipway by the boat shed; boot polish, dusters, brushes, and the like. It was the early fifties, and after the war, these items were still luxury goods. After a while, realising that he would not have much joy from the men sitting there, he slowly packed up, and went back up the path. Silence, then someone said "Ere, where's 'e gone to then?" To which, after a long pause, George replied, "Gone to fetch ees camel."

Another day in Bantham, a rather strident and obnoxious woman from Bigbury arrived on the Quay. The usual three men were sitting on the wall, contemplating the river, and discussing fishing. They totally ignored the woman, who bellowed, "Who is the head man around here?" After a while, Jim Elliot piped up, "Madam, we are all 'eds of our various departments, which one do you require?" Shortly afterwards she left rather flustered, never to return.

And finally one which I think has to be my very special favourite. One day, a visitor looking for the well-known pub in East Prawle asked One of the local he came across, "How far is the Pig's Nose?" to which came the reply, "Three feet from 'is arse!"

BOOKSHELF

High Rising

by Angela Thirkell

(Virago Modern Classic £8.99)

I remember my mother enjoying Angela Thirkell's books, so when I saw that Virago had reissued this one I thought I would see what I made of it all these years later. This publication comes with a foreword from Alexander McCall Smith no less.

Laura Morland, a successful writer of what she calls 'good bad books', returns to her country home in the village of High Rising for Christmas, and immediately we are plunged into the village group. She learns for a start that her neighbour, of whom she is very fond, has a new rather scheming secretary with designs on him, and we meet the other village ladies determined to keep him out of her clutches. This is a very entertaining and witty novel - typists with long memories will relish the chapter on changing a typewriter ribbon - and bearing in mind as I read that society has changed somewhat since the book was written, I quite understood why my mother so enjoyed escaping for a while into the book's pages.

Carolyn Taylor

Red Joan

by Jenny Rooney

(Chatto & Windus £12.99 hardback)

Joan is a widow, a grandmother, in her eighties, living in Sidcup, Kent. One morning in January 2005 members of the security services knock on her door. We learn about Joan's life up until then through flashbacks - her happy home life, and her and her father's pride when she gains a place at Cambridge. However, she is captivated by a charismatic character called Sonya. Sonya introduces her to her cousin, Leo. Both the cousins are Communists. After Cambridge, Joan gets a job as 'Personal Assistant to the Director of the Metals Research Facility' in Cambridge - in reality the research is into developing the atom bomb and she signs the Official Secrets Act. Leo asks her to spy and she refuses. But when the bomb is finally dropped causing massive destruction, she feels that she has

somehow contributed to this, and decides the information must be shared and so begins stealing the department's work for Leo, and for Russia. In 2005 her son Nick demands to be present at all the interviews and cannot believe his mother's story.

These are the bare bones of the novel (there's a love story in there, too) and when you have shared Joan's life, two questions arise. Would you, could you, betray your country? And is it ever possible for someone in the present to fully understand what it was like all those years ago? A very good read!

Carolyn Taylor

1. Dissolution 2. Dark Fire 3. Sovereign 4. Revelation 5. Heartstone

By C J Sansom

(Pan paperbacks £7.99 each)

These five superb novels form the Shardlake Series, and are Tudor whodunits set in the reign of Henry VIII. The hero is a hunchback lawyer, Matthew Shardlake, of Lincoln's Inn. The series begins in 1537, at the time of the **Dissolution** of the monasteries, with Master Shardlake on a delicate and complex mission in Kent for Thomas Cromwell. In **Dark Fire** (1540) he is again required to take on a dangerous mission for Cromwell, facing a seemingly impossible deadline. **Sovereign** (1541) sees him in York, this time on behalf of Archbishop Cranmer, during the king's Northern Progress. With **Revelation** (1543) he is on the trail of a serial killer in London. **Heartstone** (1545) finds him just outside Portsmouth, unravelling two baffling legal mysteries, while the French and Spanish fleets threaten an imminent invasion.

These intriguing novels immerse you in Tudor England, and leave few stones unturned. Many of the political, court, and religious leaders of the day are featured in the stories, cast as enemies or admirers of our hero. In **Dark Fire**, Sansom introduces a side-kick for him, young Jack Barak, and develops their relationship through the series. Pacy, gripping, brilliantly written - impossible to put down!

Robin Macdonald

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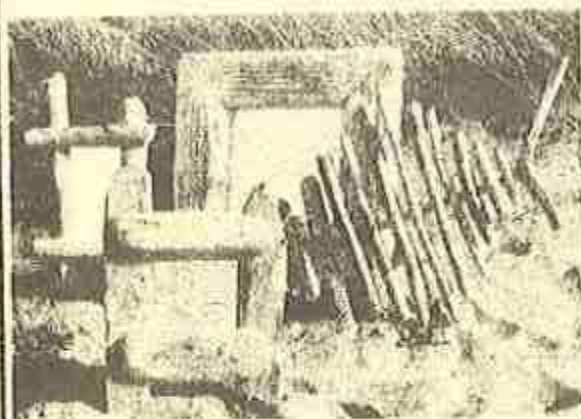
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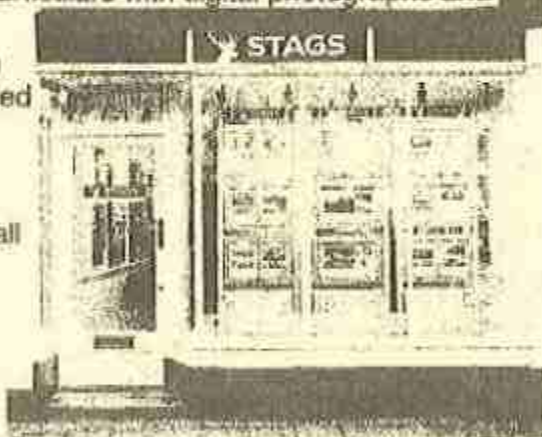


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SCHOOL REPORT

By Bett Rhymes

This is always a difficult report for me to write as we have only just returned to school after the lovely, long, hot summer holidays (it's been quite some time since we've been able to say that!). Other than to report that the children have all returned feeling refreshed and ready to start a new school year, and that the teachers are by now just about getting their new pupils names sorted, there isn't too much news for me to share with you. So, having spent a short while contemplating informing the "Ed" that I had nothing to report for this edition (only joking!), I decided this was a good opportunity for Village Voice readers to redeem themselves!

You may recall that, earlier this year, I set you a Year 6 test which I'm told required digging far too deep into the old grey matter. Regrettably this meant no one handed in their homework. Not one to be beaten, I have gone for a second attempt. Hopefully this test will prove more puzzle-solving than brain-strain!

All of the anagrams below are related to school, some directly to All Saints. A bottle of robust red is on offer to the winner. Please return your answers to me either at school or to 4 Island View, Thurlestone by Friday 1st November. And better luck this time!

Homework Anagrams

1. hippil daymew
2. nogsrevor
3. tedsici fabneerece
4. ranel ot od ellw
5. lionnata crumulicur
6. lochso nerdsin
7. stub fo enque raviotictic
8. ginnorm pearsey dugnir blessmay
9. rapnose rephocslo
10. tansnif dan sonjuir
11. reshmadeat
12. laychips dateunioc
13. strops ady sacre
14. rat inotexbihi ta het okob gancheex
15. neepssels stingh no tendrelisia
16. smashtric yanvitit
17. ats destiou deash ifefoc
18. strif ady ta hocslo venser
19. natmorifoni scanumtomnicio goolynetch
20. wen cloosh stewbite (kate a kool!)

Name: Phone:

SOUTH HAMS SOCIETY



BEACH CLEANS

Why not join members of South Hams Society on **Saturday 19 October** on **Gara Beach**? Meet at noon at the Lookout Café before descending to this stunning beach where the coastline offers a wealth of interesting rock formations. **Richard Newman** has offered to share his knowledge of geology and geography after the beach clean and **Mick Loates** will be there to spot the birds for us. Lunch at the café for those that wish. LW 12.55 BST.

Then on **Saturday 16 November** we will be meeting at the Thurlestone Golf Course car park at 10 am for a beach clean of **Yarmer Beach**. Coffee or something warmer in the club house afterwards. LW 10.50 am.

The final beach clean for 2103 will be at South Milton on 14 December. Further details will appear in the next issue of Village Voice.

BIRDWATCHING

For birdwatchers, the **Island Cruising Club** have organised a **bird watching trip on Monday 14 October** in the Salcombe Estuary with **Gordon Waterhouse**. The launch will depart from Whitestrand at 10 am and return at 12.45 pm. The cost is £15 plus £5 for soup and a roll on the *Egremont*. To book, call Lizzie James on 01548 844300 with your credit card to hand.

For information about other forthcoming events, visit the South Hams Society website at

<http://www.southhamssociety.org>

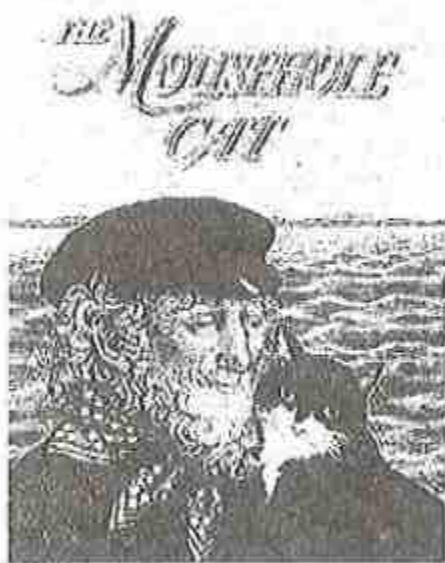
pearson pre-school

Come and support your local pre-school by attending the *must see* Puppet show of "The Mousehole Cat", performed by PuppetCraft of Totnes. The show is based on the award winning book by Antonia Barber and is suitable for any age from 4 to very grown up!

**Sunday 10th November
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

In the last issue of Village Voice I started the first paragraph with "Today is the most lovely of Sundays". Well, today is a very beautiful Tuesday (10th September), the sea is the deepest blue, calm and clear, the horizon is wide and clear as far as Dodman Point, Eddystone clearly visible, and Bolt Tail looks rather like a Mediterranean headland. No wonder this is an area of outstanding natural beauty.

This is all possible because of the weather situation that exists at the moment. A soft north-westerly air-stream bringing the crisp clear atmosphere and, just this once, no frantic winds. Pressure is reasonably high so quiet conditions prevail. The stars have been brilliant these last two nights, and last night the Milky Way was exceptionally clearly defined.

At last the Jet Stream has behaved itself this year and pushed north for our summer months, and encouraged the good old Azores High to push north with it and give us some settled fine weather. I hope it stays there for a few more weeks to give us a lovely Autumn with good colours on the trees and time for hibernating animals to gather their store of food and find a cosy place to rest for the winter months.

Amazingly, there was a small scale repeat of the 'Ottery Incident' last week Friday 6th September. Falmouth received a 4 inch covering of hail in a freak storm, drains were blocked and small scale flooding occurred. Not as huge an amount as Ottery but, nevertheless, a frightening experience for everyone. Warm air mixing with cooler air over the inland higher ground of Mid Cornwall, fast uprising air in high cumulus cloud, and hail is the usual result. And yes, sometimes with such ferocity and large size hailstones as last week.

In *The Wrong Kind of Snow* there is a report of the Horsham Hailstone. "During

a hailstorm at Horsham, Sussex, on 5th September 1958 a violent storm took place. One of the hailstones weighed in at 6.5oz (190grammes) (which is as far as I know) the heaviest ever recorded in Britain, heavier even than a cricket ball! Orchards are destroyed and lawns pitted all along the south coast by the same storm." The passage goes on to give a far better explanation than I can give, "Giant hailstones begin as snow or ice crystals in thunderclouds, and increase in size rapidly by colliding in violent air currents with super cooled water droplets. Cut open, a large hailstone resembles an onion. Eventually they become too heavy for the air currents to keep them airborne, and they fall from the cloud to the ground."

Looking back over my records for July and August this year, I thought you might be interested (or not!) in the sequence of dry and wet days over the two months. Remember that in 2012 July 6th was the day of the huge rainfall event over the southern edge of Dartmoor and the South Devon area. The river Avon flooded the Avon Mill Garden Centre to a depth of 4feet in the middle of the day, almost before it rained in the area. The run-off from the Moor was exceptional and the Avon couldn't take it plus the debris it carried. So now we can really appreciate the fine days of 2013. In July 2013 only 3mm rain fell between 1st and 24th, this constituted an official drought, but not severe enough to cause hose-pipe bans or stand pipes (thanks to earlier heavy rainfall and full reservoirs).

Then 5mm fell, followed by the highest amount for the month - 12mm. August proceeded as only August can, a few days dry, a shower or two, another few days dry and so on throughout the month. However, amounts were small and the sun shone every day except one. Both months saw winds not too strong or blow for too long so as to disrupt the

weather pattern altogether. Perhaps the pattern of wet and windy summers has been broken for a while? I sincerely hope so. A certain gentleman of timber renown told me last week, "There's going to be a hard winter - that's certain, as we've had so much fine, dry and warm weather this summer. We will suffer for it!". I hope he is wrong, but my woodshed is full, enough said.

Thankfully, this year there have been few wild fires across the region, indeed the country. The vegetation has been very dry but we, unlike the west of the USA, don't get the vicious thunder storms where bolts of lightning often start a fire which then spreads with wind assistance. Also, perhaps people are beginning to take notice of their actions in relation to accidental starting of fires in vulnerable areas. Portable BBQs can be lethal if not extinguished completely before disposal, as this area has experienced recently.

If anyone reading this article has any information or experiences that they

would like to relate in connection with the weather, do get in touch and let me know the details. It is surprising what can emerge when one delves into the experiences of other people weather-wise. By the way, did you see the superb sunset a couple of weekends ago? Quite unusual to have such a display: the right cloud formation, the right atmosphere, the right time of the day, and it was observable right across the South of England. My family in Andover, Hampshire, were stunned by it.

Therefore, keep watching for unusual happenings and report them to your diary/log/journal. It will make interesting reading in years to come. That is the way all these weather stats come about.

My figures for the month of August, together with the comparison with last year, are set out below.

Keep watching, keep safe, and keep up the Autumn gardening. Next year's Horticultural Show is only 10 months off!

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

AUGUST 2013

WIND General Direction = 21 days: Westerlies
10 days: Easterlies
Speed = Top gust = 32mph on 4th
Lowest daily mean = 2mph on 27th & 29th

RAINFALL Number of wet days = 9
Highest daily amount = 5.5mm on 16th
Monthly Total = 21.7mm
Monthly Average = 75.74mm over 16 years

TEMPERATURE Highest daily = 25.3°C on 3rd
Lowest daily = 8.6°C on 25th
Highest Daily Mean = 22°C on 2nd
Lowest Daily Mean = 14.4°C on 25th
Monthly mean = 17.9°C

BAROMETER Highest = 1031mb on 21st
Lowest = 1019mb on 2nd

SUNSHINE Sunniest day = 14.4hrs on 3rd & 20th
Total for the month = 206.1hrs.
No sun on 1 day

AUGUST 2012

25 days: Westerlies
4 days: Easterlies
56mph on 16th
5mph on 18th

19 days
13.5mm on 24th
112.9mm
70.98mm

25.3°C on 14th
8.0°C on 31st
20°C on 14th
13.9°C on 31st
17.8°C

1035mb on 31st
1010mb on 15th & 25th

15hrs on 10th
147.3hrs
14 days

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DIARY DATES

October		
Thursday	3 rd	TRAMP, Whiddon Scrubs/Ashburton (short)
Monday	7 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday	8 th	WT Workshop, Rag Rugging, Charleton, 10am-1pm
Wednesday	9 th	TRAMP, Kents Cavern & Torbay (long)
Thursday	10 th	WT, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Birds of South Milton Ley)
Tuesday	15 th	TRAMP, Moss Mayo/Coast Path (short)
Thursday	24 th	TRAMP, Dartmouth & Scate (long)
Wednesday	30 th	KEDFAS, Kings Arms, 7.30pm (Jewish East End)
Thursday	31 st	KEDFAS, Kings Arms, 10.30am (Jewish East End)
Thursday	31 st	Military Wives Choir, St Edmunds, Kingsbridge (see advert)
November		
Friday	1 st	TRAMP, Overbecks (short)
Monday	4 th	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, 7.30pm
Sunday	10 th	Puppet Show, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (see advert)
Tuesday	12 th	TRAMP, Bolberry/Soar Mill/Bolt Head (long)
Thursday	14 th	WT, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Cookery demo - seasonal food)
Saturday	16 th	ACA Beach Clean at Yarnier, 10 am
Tuesday	19 th	NT SH Centre, coffee morning, Thurlestone Hotel, 10.30am
Saturday	23 rd	High Society Jazz & Dance Evening, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday	27 th	TRAMP, Dartmouth Jubilee walk (long)
Wednesday	27 th	KEDFAS, Kings Arms, 7.30pm (British War Artists)
Thursday	28 th	KEDFAS, Kings Arms, 10.30am (British War Artists)
December		
Monday	2 nd	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, 7.30pm
Sunday	8 th	Stanborough Chorus, Stanborough Church, 7.30pm
Wednesday	11 th	Alvington Singers, Thurlestone Church, 7pm

Advertising Rates for Village Voice - 12 months (six issues)
 Whole Page - £70.00 Half Page - £50.00 Quarter Page - £35.00

VILLAGE VOICE

Your Cut Out and Keep

PARISH DIRECTORY and DIARY DATES

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

There is also a subscription service, which mails copies to readers at an annual cost of £12.00 for six issues. Please apply to:

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

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate.

It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship.

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Dec-Jan) ISSUE = 5th November 2013

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

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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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