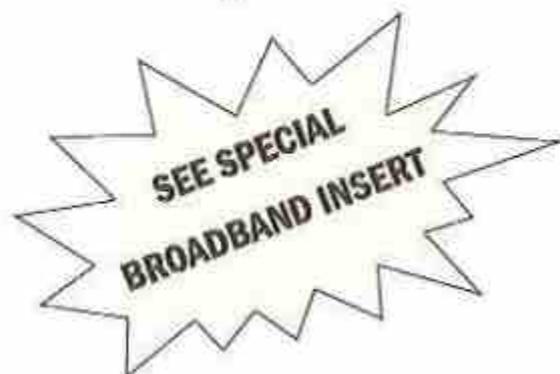


VILLAGE VOICE



December 2013 - January 2014

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





NUMBER 184
DECEMBER 2013 - JANUARY 2014

Bantham Bombshells

As the notes of the Last Post faded away around the country on Remembrance Day there were letters in the post from Evans Estates that had already dropped like bombshells among their tenants in Bantham. The entire Estate was to be sold in the spring of 2014. There was hardly time to digest this news before the sad announcement came of the death of Gillian Goddard after a long battle with cancer. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to her husband Tony and her family at this difficult time.

While everyone in the parish will hope as fervently as the tenants themselves for a happy outcome next year, we should remember with gratitude the role their landlords have long played in this parish. The vision of Commander Edward Evans, wholeheartedly continued by his descendants, has been perhaps the single most important factor in securing the natural beauty of much of the Avon estuary area from any unsympathetic and unsightly development.

They have held constant to this view for virtually the whole of the past century, and the decision to sell can only have been reached after much heart-searching. But now we must all hope that Strutt & Parker will be successful in their search for a new landlord whose vision for Bantham's future will be fully mindful of and sympathetic to its ethos.

Front Cover : Christmas Holly

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Front cover by Margaret Houghton

PARISH HALL NEWS

Chairman: Neill Irwin



The Autumn Fair took place on a very rainy Saturday 28th September but enthusiasm was not totally dampened and thanks must go to the participating groups who raised over £600 for Parish Hall funds. Special thanks are due to Pat Macdonald for her co-ordination work behind the scenes and to all who donated raffle prizes, cakes and bric a brac. In addition to the regular cake stall, books and tombola, the stallholders were treated to a beautiful cupcake each at the end and the driftwood sculptures were much admired. There should be a few special and quirky Christmas trees on view this year.

On Saturday 23rd November the High Society Jazz and Dance Band will have entertained at the Hall and we hope you have enjoyed the (pre-) Christmas offering. The Parish Hall will be rather quiet after this until the welcome return of Tim Kliphuis in February, along with piano maestro David Newton, and this time featuring a debut bass player for Thurlstone in Len Skeet. The date is currently being finalised, but may well be a Sunday concert on the 23rd. Full details will appear in the February issue of Village Voice – but make a note of the date in your diary now.

Our committee has been looking into the possibility of holding two joint events with the Red Cross and Kingsbridge in Bloom. More information about these events will be given in due course. Watch this space!

We would like to thank Paul Martin for his advice and consultation about new water-resistant advertising boards. If

anyone has any bright ideas about how our events could be more widely and effectively promoted we would be pleased to hear them. We are in the process of reactivating our presence on the website which is run by the Community Council of Devon. This will then be kept up to date and used to advertise events and boost bookings of the hall for private events.

We are also looking to encourage new members to join in our regular activity groups at the Hall, including the Bowls, Badminton, and Table Tennis sections. Although our community may be short on young members, all these groups are fine for grown-ups of every age. You will find contact details on the Directory page at the back of this issue.

Our programme for 2014 is now virtually complete, and details will be published well in advance of each event. Included are the Porter family on 29th March and the Plymouth Gilbert and Sullivan Society on 27th September. The regular events already booked in are the Car Boot Sale on 28th June, the Barbecue, Boules and Bowls on 29th July and the Autumn Fair on 20th September. In addition, we welcome the humorous poet Matt Harvey on 31st May and an exciting saxophone group led by Huw Wiggin called the Sirocco Quartet on 18th October. We are also hosting a Summer Lunch on 7th June to be organised by Joan Booth. We will publish the full programme in the next issue of Village Voice.

In the meantime, the Committee wish you all the very best for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 7th October and 4th November 2013

News & Views by Citizen

ATTENDANCE

There were five Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our County and District Councillors and five members of the public present at the October meeting.

The November meeting was bursting at the seams. Six Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, the Leader of Devon County Council, our County and District Councillors, two British Telecom representatives, a representative of DCC Economic Development Department, two representatives from South Hams Broadband, a Police representative and forty-six members of the public were present.

OPEN FORUM

Various statements were made by BT, South Hams Broadband, DCC Economic Development and others regarding provision of fibre optic cables to the Parish to achieve faster broadband.

Devon County Council Leader, **John Hart** summed up the way forward by proposing a Public Meeting as soon as possible, well advertised beforehand, where South Hams Broadband and BT's proposals can be debated. **Parishioner David Houghton** said these proposals should be presented in a written format, in advance of the Public Meeting, so that they can be understood and queries made ready for raising at the meeting.

PARISH HALL

Old Parish Council meeting minutes and other perishable memorabilia should be stored in a fire proof cabinet which could be located in the Parish Hall loft.

HIGHWAYS

The S106 part of the Town Planning Act 1990 is to be checked to see if future

planning applications can impose an additional cost to be used to repair public and private roads damaged by construction traffic.

FOOTPATHS AND HERITAGE COAST

The footpath to Hope Cove repairs can now proceed as South West Water, who had originally wanted £17,000 to reroute one of their mains, found that the pipework was not located where they had thought. The Thurlestone Sands v South Milton Sands debate will be resumed in the spring next year.

SCHOOL

Outside work has now been completed. New play equipment is being looked at.

TREES

Councillor **Charlie Mitchelmore** said that permission had been granted to trim the oaks at Aune Cross.

Various parish hedges need cutting. Letters to be written.

PARISH PLAN

Broadband: see OPEN FORUM

Mobile phone mast. A survey is to be made by a specialist company to identify where it, or they, need to be located to give better coverage to the Parish.

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Audit for last year has been completed. The raised footpath railings have been replaced. A more up to date laptop computer has been purchased for Parish business. A Budget up-date is required.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Potholes: Repairs are up to speed. Roads are in 12 categories so that those needing urgent attention can be prioritised. Problems should be e-mailed

or noted on the web site on line where progress can be tracked.

Road Works: The extensive Halwell road works will continue to Christmas.

Grass cutting: If Thurlestone were to cut its own highway grass, the parish Council would need to have the correct insurance.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Local Boundary Commission: The draft recommends that Thurlestone combines with Salcombe, and they have two Ward members. The Salcombe and Thurlestone Ward would cover the coastal area from Bantham to Salcombe including Hope Cove, Galmpton, South Milton, South Huish and Malborough etc. The current 30 Wards would then be reduced to only 20, and the 40 District Councillors would be reduced to 31.

Transformation Programme: This deals with the required additional Budget cuts of £2,700,000, and has identified the need for more reliance on computer software as well as a 24% reduction in headcount by 2018. Fewer agency planning staff will be replaced by permanent staff. The joint SHDC and West Devon sharing arrangement cannot deliver any more savings.

POLICE BUSINESS

PCSO Dave Gibson mentioned that

scam e-mails asking for bank details etc., are on the increase and should not be answered SO BEWARE.

BUSINESS BY DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Cobbled Road by the War Memorial: Chairman Councillor Andrew Rhymes said that research has shown that the Parish Council does own this stretch of road.

Bus shelter: This needs regular cleaning especially after Friday nights.

Toilet closure: SHDC will publish a list of these closures for 4 winter months in order to save £80,000 each year. The toilet near the Golf Club is 26th on the list and the one by Thurlestone Sands is 35th. Both are cleaned daily. If ours face closure we could negotiate a solution - clean every other day, or do it ourselves (we have a volunteer waiting in the wings!)

Notice Boards: The owner of the West Buckland Farm barn, which has a parish notice board attached, is seeking planning permission to redevelop the site, and so a new location for the notice board has to be found.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 2nd December 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSBRIDGE

QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday 23rd January
at 7.30 pm
Thurlestone Parish Hall

Quiz Master

Mike Jones

Tickets £8

*to include wine or beer
and light refreshments*

Andrew Girling
562219

Peter Gornall
560333

IN AID OF END POLIO NOW

A Letter From Your MP

By Dr Sarah Wollaston MP

The Hope Cove Lifeboat and the Cliff Rescue Team are immensely important to our area, which is why I was concerned to hear that the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) were continuing to press for the lifeboat and cliff rescue teams to be separately manned.

The current system of dual manning has existed without problems for many years allowing teams to gain experience in both settings and to send the right teams depending on the situation. I was therefore particularly concerned that to have forced volunteers into just one service could have left the CRT understaffed.

Having attended the blessing of our new lifeboat earlier this year I was delighted to be able to raise the issue in Parliament during the General Debate on Coastguards. Transport Minister Stephen Hammond then promised that he would look at my concerns about the need for flexibility for volunteers at the Hope Cove Life Boat and Cliff Rescue Team in order to maintain both these vital services.

At the end of last month he wrote to confirm that common sense has prevailed and that the dual manning arrangements at Hope Cove will now be allowed to continue; great news for all the courageous volunteers and of course for those for whom they put their lives on the line.

I know there was a great concern and anger following the incidents of PIB pollution earlier this year that wreaked such destruction on our marine bird-life. Meeting with the minister

and with the RSPB and Wildlife Trust we were able to make the case for the changes needed to international regulations on maritime discharges.

As a result of intensive lobbying from a number of sources, the International Maritime Organisation has finally decreed that discharging all forms of high viscosity PIB into the sea during tank cleaning operations is to be banned. It is sometimes easy to get disheartened that campaigning makes little difference, but cases like this show how important and effective it can be to keep up the pressure on such issues.

The latest figures on employment in this constituency are encouraging; every month since March the number of JSA claimants in the area has been falling (based on the figures up to September 13). Whilst this is great news it will be little comfort to those still searching for work. Job creation is the key to a thriving economy and making work pay is at the heart of the Coalition's policy. It is time to start talking more positively about our economy and continue to press for better opportunities in the future. I would very much like to hear from any businesses thinking of taking on an apprentice or wishing to share their experience of employing one already.

I am always keen to hear your views and you can e-mail me anytime at sarah.wollaston.mp@parliament.uk or write to my office at Station Road, Totnes, TQ9 5HW.

Sarah Wollaston

Superfast Broadband – In the Thick of It

This edition of the Village Voice is being distributed with a leaflet inserted in order to advertise a **public meeting** to be held on **Tuesday 10th December** at 7.30pm, in the Parish Hall, Thurlestone.

As regular readers will be aware, broadband has become something of a political hot potato – with the local project team, supported by the Secretary of State at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, Maria Miller, on one side, and Devon County Council and BT on the other.

As suggested in the press release issued after our meeting with her in July, “this was a constructive meeting between the Secretary of State, BT and the most advanced community-led rural broadband schemes. It was agreed that all parties would work together, along with local authorities, to ensure that projects applying for the Rural Community Broadband Fund could co-exist happily alongside the wider rural broadband scheme, being led by BT.”

The desire to accommodate the Thurlestone project within the wider Connecting Devon & Somerset plan resulted in an Open Forum on the topic at Thurlestone Parish Council’s meeting held on 4th November. There was a brief discussion of the relative merits of the local project team’s plans for improving the area’s broadband, and those put forward by Connecting Devon & Somerset with BT.

Although the topic was barely advertised in advance, passions were sufficiently aroused to ensure that it was genuinely ‘standing room only’ at the meeting – and even out to the carpark! Very sensibly, it was proposed that a public meeting be held at a later date, specifically to debate the issues in more detail, in comfortable and accommodating surroundings. Hence the 10th December meeting, the prime purpose of which is to allow local residents to hear both sides of the discussion – and the secondary purpose of which is to enable both Devon County Council

and BDUK to gauge the mood amongst local residents.

In the interests of efficiency and fairness, it was further decided that each side of the discussion should seek to address the same set of questions or information requests, in order to allow a genuine comparison between the two proposals. These are as follows:

1. Anticipated speeds for the entire project area, showing breakdown by sub-areas – e.g for Thurlestone – the Mead, Village Centre, Yarmer, Bantham, Buckland etc.
2. The estimated timing for the new service to be in place.
3. Will customers have to sign individual contracts? Is a minimum percentage uptake required?
4. How much will customers pay, and for what?
5. What will be the choice of service providers?
6. Who provides funding? Is it in place?
7. Who provides ongoing service in the form of repairs and upgrades? Which organisation and technicians will be in place, and where will they be based?
8. How resilient will be the proposed service, to future changes in usage patterns and technology?
9. How sustainable is the proposed service: how can we be sure you will still be around in 10 years’ time?

We look forward to these questions being addressed directly at the meeting by both camps, to allow a full and fair comparison. To whet your appetite, the enclosed leaflet addresses these and other questions in outline... but to hear the full story, from both sides, you will need to come along to Thurlestone Parish Hall on Tuesday evening, 10th December, at 7.30pm. **Do come along.**

Village News Round-Up

Dorothy Candy

As we go to press we have heard the very sad news of Dorothy Candy's death. Frail health caused Dorothy to take up residence in a Kingsbridge care home a few months ago where she died peacefully on Tuesday 12th November 2013. She came to live in Thurlestone with her late husband, Philip, when their bungalow on Meadcombe Road was built in the late 1970s. She will be much missed by so many parish residents for her liveliness, sense of fun, and great interest in all that went on around her. We extend to her son, daughter-in-law, and their family our sincere condolences.

Bill van der Welle

Just two days later came news of the death of another Thurlestone resident, Bill van der Welle of Landpath, at the age of 88, after a long illness. Bill and his wife June were former stalwarts of our Village Voice distribution team, delivering the magazine round their own patch in Thurlestone. We extend our deepest sympathy to June and her family at this sad time.

Surf Champions

The Bantham Surf Life Saving Club team of volunteer Lifeguards - Pete Lawrence, Jason Jackson, Liam Krige, Dave Pascoe, Ivan Burton, Jack Ellis, Bex Chatwin, Holly Molesworth, Andy Holland and Ella Theaker - won four British titles at the Surf Life Saving GB Inshore Rescue Boat championships recently. They had not long returned from Copenhagen where they had also won two European silver medals.

Team captain Dave Grover said *"The club has put a lot of effort into training this year, and these results showcase the calibre of the volunteer life-guards on Bantham beach"*. They are looking forward to competing in the world championships at Montpellier next year and express thanks to all those who continue to support them, especially The Sloop Inn, Wolf Rock Boat Company, TriOcean Surf, and BigBlueStuff performance consultants.

Well done all the team, and many congratulations from Village Voice!

Defibrillator Awareness

Part of the deal made when we bought the two defibrillators for Thurlestone parish a year ago was that South Western Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) would run an **annual defibrillator awareness** session which will include basic life support guidance (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation). The first session will be held at **Thurlestone Hotel** on **Thursday 5 December** at 6 pm. We do need to know numbers in advance so if you would like to attend please either email thurlestonephonebox@yahoo.co.uk or telephone Gillian Marshall on 01548 560214.

War Memorial Project

There was a good response to our appeal in October for researchers to help with this project, and a team of four is now busily engaged in searching out details of the war service and family records of those whose names appear on our War Memorial. The team comprises Elaine Grant, Mike Day, Nick Hide, and co-ordinator Robin Macdonald.

The results of the research will be included in a POTS (Parish of Thurlestone Society) Parish Archive, which already holds the Peter Hurrell collection of old parish photographs, the Millennium video, the Village Voice archives, some audio recordings, and various other items. The aim is to extend this collection and to establish a broad-scale parish archive, probably located in the Parish Hall. In the fullness of time, much of the material may be digitised and become accessible on-line. We also aim to publish elements of the research in future issues of Village Voice.

Meantime, any readers who may be able to contribute to the growing fund of knowledge about Thurlestone's wartime casualties and their families are invited to contact the team members, or phone 560436.

Salcombe Concert

It was a special treat for serious music-lovers - the 2nd Ken Reed memorial Concert presented by the Friends of Holy Trinity Church, Salcombe on Friday 18th October. Alastair Durden (piano) and John Devore

(cello) performed a concert programme of music by Brahms, Bach, Saint-Saens, and Bazelaire (together with some more popular numbers by way of an encore), to a very appreciative audience.

A first public performance together for these two accomplished musicians, which we very much hope will encourage them to consider giving further concerts in the future for the benefit of local audiences.

ACA Lunch

A last-minute reminder to ACA members that reservations have been booked at the Oyster Shack for an ACA members' lunch on Friday 6th December (12.30pm for 1.00pm, as usual). This will take advantage of the seasonal '3 courses for £14 offer'. If you have not already made your reservation, but would like to attend, have a word with Stuart Watts on 810373 in case there are still some vacancies.

Beach Clean

Why not join members of South Hams Society on Saturday 14th December for the final beach clean of 2013? We will meet in the car park at South Milton at 10 am. The café may not be open but, for those that wish, we could have a drink in the Village Inn at Thurlestone afterwards, to celebrate another year's successful beach cleaning programme! Low Water 9.37 am.

Spirit returns!

The Chadwick family, including Spirit, a beautiful Maine Coon cat, moved in August from Mead Lane to Loddiswell. The family were very upset when the cat went missing soon after arrival at their new home and searched the area for him but with no luck until early November, when he was found to have strayed as far as Kingston. This is not his only vanishing act as a couple of years ago he got into a local coal bunker but couldn't get out again and so spent the entire Christmas period trapped there until the householder returned. Spirit and his family were joyfully reunited and the wandering puss has settled back happily into sharing the family dog's basket. What a great Christmas present for the Chadwicks!

Birdwatching

Nick Townsend, the conservation officer for South Milton Ley, tells us that Devon Birdwatching & Preservation Society is keen

to encourage people to become members. Formed 85 years ago, the Society's main objective then was to save birds and their habitats from destruction. This continues today, with birds under ever-increasing modern pressures.

By joining the Society you will not only increase your knowledge of birds, you will also help to further the study of birds and their preservation. They issue a regular newsletter and, twice a year, a journal which contains much bird information as well as publishing an annual report of species within Devon. Talk to Nick about joining (01548 - 560243) and an application form may be downloaded from www.devonbirds.org

Sea Shanties

So that you can mark it up in your diary, here is a preliminary notice for a great evening in store next year! On Saturday 10th May there will be a Sea Shanty Evening performed by the Old Gaffers at the Parish Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm, in support of the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund. It will be a BYO supper & drink event and the contact is Vida Alexander on 01548-561182.

Kingsbridge Country Market

Every Wednesday morning throughout the year, in the Kingsbridge Town Hall Foyer (8am to noon), you will find lots of freshly made baked goods, eggs, vegetables, plants, flowers, preserves and craft work for sale, all locally produced. The Country Market sells wholesome additive-free goods from home kitchens and gardens at very reasonable prices and has been trading in the town since 1954 (originally the WI Market). Why not make things easier for yourself by ordering from their Christmas range? Tasters and samples are available during December.

Rapunzel

Buckfastleigh Pantomime Group is back with another seasonal musical spectacular which will be taking place at the Town Hall, Bossell Road, TQ11 0DD, on Saturday 7th, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December at 7.00 pm, with additional matinee performances on Sunday 8th, Saturday 14th, and Sunday 15th at 2.00 pm.

Tickets are £7.00 for adults and £4.00 for concessions, with a special good value family ticket. Enquiries to 07912 887474.

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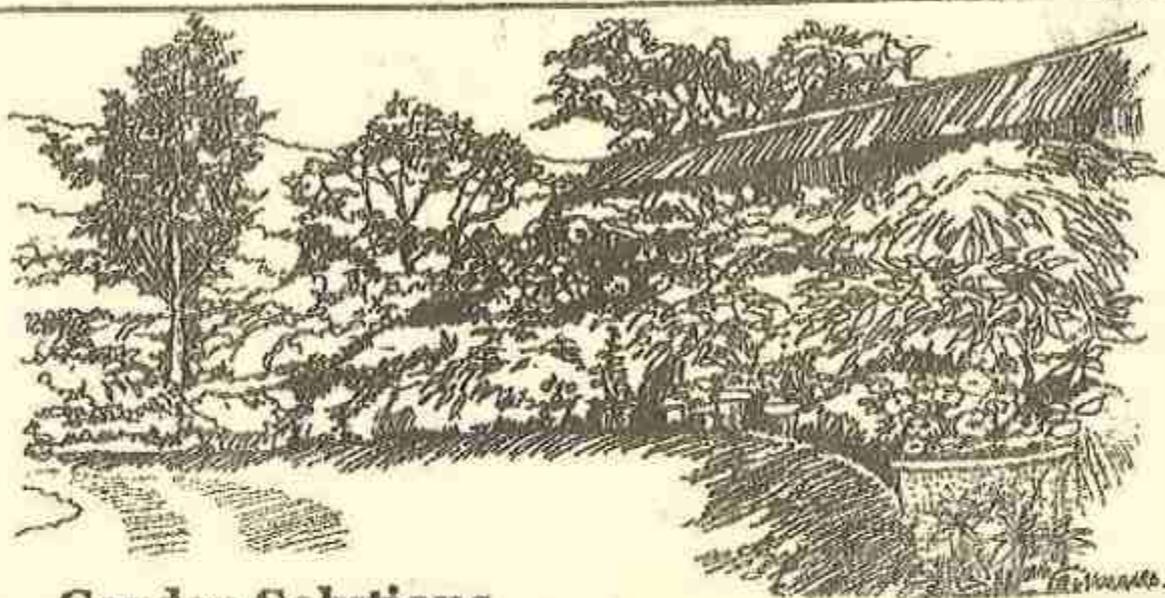
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Saints*

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During the vacancy please contact
one of the Churchwardens (see overleaf)

LAY READER: Peter Gornall

When can Christmas start?



Should it be surprising to find, on returning from August holidays, a clutch of charity Christmas catalogues among the backlog of post? When actually does Christmas start? For many in commerce, of course, Christmas is a world-wide, year-round industry. For a while the first wholesale Christmas fair at the National Exhibition Centre was in very early spring; and nowadays there are such fairs in Europe and Russia from February onwards. By the time this is in print, the retail shops will have been busy for weeks with the glitz and razzmatazz, and the many excesses of our Yuletide life style.

Is that what it's all about, then - a commercial enterprise to light up the dark of our winter? Contrast it for a moment with, say, the Philippines where a 7.2 strength earthquake in mid-October was followed in early November by super-typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest weather events ever recorded. Frighteningly, the elements wrecked food supplies, shelter and security and cost lives too. But this planet is small enough now for us all to know of such suffering even as it occurs. We might just interrupt our festivities, and spare thought and cash to save someone's life and dignity from this sort of catastrophe. Perhaps we can warily explore the notion that we are created to live on a dangerous planet; and think that our response to such events as Haiyan gives some measure of our humanity, and how close we are to reaching the level for which we were created.

The truer contrast to our easy time is Syria: warring forces with scant regard to the lives of non-combatants; deaths by gassing; millions of refugees within the country and outside it; families split up and every human right routinely ignored. And before we point fingers abroad, what about our own UK record of treatment of those seeking refuge for safety, for sanity, for their children and their futures? Have we also been thoughtless, and failed to put ourselves in the shoes of the sufferers of injustice and cruelty?

The uncomfortable lesson of Syria and all our injustices shows that by far our greatest need is to be saved from ourselves. We try once a year to celebrate the great initiative which the true history of Christmas represents: the personal intervention, in poverty, gentleness and obscurity, of the One who really can fulfil that need, because of the way He became one of us. But the need for that intervention goes on and on. So Christmas in that sense can certainly start now, and may it be a year-round enterprise too.

Happy Christmas!

Peter



Families would be particularly welcome at the
**Candlelit Christingle
and Crib Service**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH
AT 5 P.M.**

Find out the meaning of the orange, the candle, the fruits and the red ribbon and help put the figures in the crib

Collection in aid of the Church of England Children's Society

Mulled wine & mincepies will be served after the service

Everyone, especially children, would be welcome to join us
Carol Singing

AROUND BUCKLAND

**MONDAY DECEMBER 16TH
MEET 5 P.M.**

BY OLD CHAPEL

If weather is bad check with Liz Webb 560090

Reserve date:

Tuesday December 17th

in aid of Children in Distress





All Saints' Diary

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

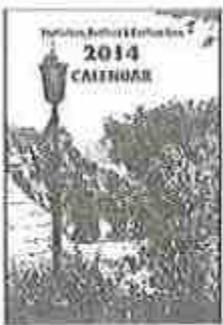
Church Services

EVERY SUNDAY	8.00am Holy Communion (alternating BCP and CW)
EVERY WEDNESDAY	8.30am Morning Prayer (said) (except Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st)
THURSDAY DEC 5TH, JAN 2ND	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham
DECEMBER 1ST	11.10am Advent Sunday Service (Fairtrade Stall) 6.00pm Benefice Advent Carol Service at South Milton
DECEMBER 8TH, 22ND, JANUARY 19TH	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)
DECEMBER 15TH	11.10am Morning Worship
THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH	5.00pm Crib and Christingle Service
SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND	6.00pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols followed by mulled wine and mincepies Collection for <i>Children in Distress</i>
CHRISTMAS EVE	11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (CW)
CHRISTMAS DAY	11.10am Family Service followed by Holy Communion
DECEMBER 29TH, JANUARY 26TH	11.10am Matins (BCP)
NEW YEAR'S EVE	6.00pm Informal New Year's Eve Service (½ hour)
JANUARY 5TH	Fairtrade Stall 11.10am Family Communion (CW) + short Epiphany Play
JANUARY 12TH at West Alvington	11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) with Renewal of Covenant



BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship
See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

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Spice Time

By Traveller

Christmas is almost upon us, and this year will be somewhat different as for once we shall be house-bound; but this can never eradicate from my memory the wonderful colours and aromas of the various spices we have seen and bought around the world. How fortunate we have been.

In the recent excellent BBC TV series of Rick Stein's *Indian Odyssey*, I have fully understood the great man's enthusiasm for the enormous array of colourful spices he encounters daily in the local markets, as we did ourselves.

The saffron coloured turmeric, deep red powered chilli, and the brown cinnamon are just like the robes of a Tibetan monk.

Dubai has an enormous spice souk, but is not a good place to buy, it being neither fresh nor of good quality.

We visited Syria several times and explored the spice souks in Damascus and Aleppo, breathing in the mix of spice, and incense. How incredibly wicked and sad, that those beautiful and ancient places are now being bombed out of existence, and how lucky we were to have received such overwhelming hospitality from the Syrians wherever we went.

Probably, though, our first and most spicy experience was in Morocco, in Marrakesh.

The huge square of Djemmaa El Fna is where the wilderness of narrow alleyways meld into bewildering rows of small shops, selling literally everything from pointed-toe

leather slippers, to antiques, household goods, Berber jewellery, and preserved lemons, and of course the inevitable spices.

However, do not be talked into buying turmeric instead of genuine saffron. Always buy either Spanish or Iranian, which is the best. Both of these come in clear rigid plastic boxes, which must be sealed, with gold and red string. Saffron is expensive, but just a pinch added to a prawn chowder will lift it to dizzying heights.

At night, Djemmaa El Fna becomes bejewelled with dozens of cooking areas, the heady scent of the charcoal cooked lamb, mixed with spices, wafting into the night air.

The whole place becomes like something from the Arabian Nights, although it is of course North Africa. There are storytellers, snake charmers, and water carriers dressed in ancient garb, but beware.....! All of them are likely to demand money if you wish to take a photo of them.

There are stalls of bright oranges waiting to be juiced, and even there, on the ground, sits a man selling rows of plastic dentures!

However, above everything else, is the unmistakable and all-pervading aroma of spice, and as we reach the festive season, our thoughts must surely turn to plum puddings, wassail cups, and Christmas cake, all humming with spice.

So charge your glasses of mulled wine, and drink a toast to ...

... *Spice!*

This article was sent in on 27th October, just three weeks before her death, by Gillian Goddard, who had been our regular contributor under the pen-name of Traveller. Poignantly, she talks of having to be "house-bound" this Christmas, but her illness was to deny her even that constrained celebration. Gillian had been passionate about her creative writing (as she was about many things), and was an enthusiastic member of the local Writers' Circle. The theme of Spice was a well-chosen one for our Christmas issue, and is indeed a good word by which to remember her. She was certainly the Spice Girl of Bantham, right to the end. We shan't forget you, Gilly. [Ed]

Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1st January 2014. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenct@themed.co.uk

CRYPTIC CHRISTMAS

Use the cryptic clues to find the names of well-known Christmas songs/carols

1. A rather colourless festive season.....
2. Undersized beast of burden.....
3. I spotted a small flotilla.....
4. The occasion on which a large gentleman had trouble entering the premises in his rather unconventional way.....
5. It occurred one very bright, moonlit night at exactly 12am.....
6. Philanthropic Bohemian monarch.....
7. Perhaps this was Lady Godiva's nickname?.....
8. Global delight.....
9. Listen to the celestial beings from the local rag as they entertain us with their massed voices.....
10. Are they aware of the time of year?.....
11. Ringo Starr in the making?.....
12. Winner of a race between Messrs Coward and Gallagher.....
13. Fruits of the *Castanea Sativa* being barbecued.....
14. Personal yuletide desire for double central incisors.....
15. Allow frozen precipitation three times only.....
16. Glad it's not a home fixture since it's in a bovine feeding trough!.....
17. A single occasion in King D's large urban conurbation.....
18. Joseph's other half produced a bouncing baby lad.....
19. Almost a fortnight of Seasonal celebrations?.....
20. May the deity bestow an absence of fatigue to slightly inebriated male humans.....
21. During the time several hill farmers were carrying out their nocturnal duties.....
22. It's starting to strongly resemble the festive season.....
23. Hey! Approach all you believers.....
24. Round about the end of January when the weather is doing its worst?.....
25. A seasonal alternative title for the famous stony outcrop that gave Thurlestone village its name?.....

**Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
from the Grey Matter team**



Solutions to previous Grey Matter

1. One foot in the grave, 2. Close Harmony, 3. Misunderstanding, 4. Robin Hood,
5. Oliver Twist, 6. Odds and ends, 7. Middle-age spread, 8. It will be alright on the night
9. Death Valley, 10. Just in case, 11. Flat battery, 12. Start of something big

Congratulations and the bottle of wine to Marian Bushell of Church Farm, Thurlestone

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A PASSAGE TO KAMCHATKA

by Sue Dwyer (continued)

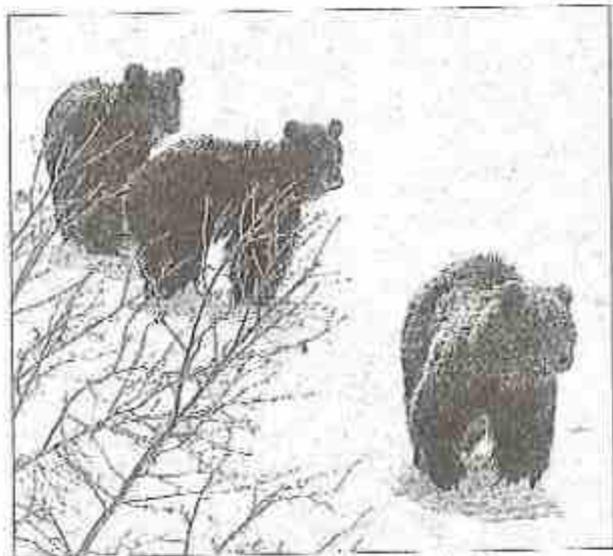
[Declan and Sue had left Japan and sailed up the remote archipelago of islands connecting Japan with Russia. They finally reached Kamchatka, a peninsula jutting south from Siberia.]

This morning we awoke to look out for the first time at the spectacular Kamchatka Peninsula. Russia's far east is vast and wild. The peninsula is 1250km long, with an area slightly larger than the British Isles, made up of hundreds of volcanic peaks, snow-capped for much of the year. However, most are active volcanoes. Even at the start of June much of the landscape was still covered by snow - and our latitude was still only the same as the English Channel. Only about 400,000 people live on the peninsula, half of them in Petropavlovsk, the capital.

The ship had arrived at remote Listvenichaya Bay. Snow covered everything as the ship manoeuvred into the fjord. Suddenly we saw bears - not just one, but as many as six in various places around the bay. They had just come out of hibernation. Spring was late, so there was not much vegetation for them to eat. After a long winter without food they had lost their fat and were hungry - and the salmon would not arrive for about a month. They come down to the shore to collect any dead fish that may wash up. There was a mother with two cubs of about a year. As the bears were so hungry this is a dangerous time for the cubs, as the larger males will kill a cub for food. The mother kept them very close to her. With the naked eye we could see the tracks across the snow. Each adult bear kept away from the others. At the same time Steller eagles could be seen near large nests as well as soaring in the sky.

We got closer by using the zodiacs - only 5 people plus a naturalist in each, so plenty of room for photography. It was too dangerous to land - ten people a year are killed by the large brown bears - but from the zodiacs we obtained amazing views. There was also a yellow/green wagtail which did not wag its tail like our wagtails. Could it be due to the cold?

That afternoon we were in zodiacs again, around the coast to Cape Kekyryl to see a colony of sea lions. The males were beginning to defend their harems; there were some very bloody males with huge cuts on their bodies from fighting each other. Some of the sea lions had numbers tattooed into their back for research purposes. Crested and horned puffins were bobbing around, as well as more Steller eagles and then a pod of orcas (killer whales) came, about 30 in all, and surrounded the zodiacs. They were with us for about an hour, circling, communicating with each other by hitting their tails in the water. You could tell this by the various responses across the bay, and Declan tried to work out what they were saying. It was an amazing experience that the naturalist with our zodiac said he had never seen before. There are two types of orca feeding behaviour; some eat seals and others fish. The general consensus of all the naturalists was that these were fish eating and they were just looking for food. They also said they had never seen so many orcas in a pod together.



Bear cubs on Kamchatka

The ship moved on to Petropavlovsk, the capital of Kamchatka, in Avacha Bay. The city was founded in 1741 by the Danish/Russian Vitus Bering, who named the settlement after his two ships, St Peter and St Paul. In the distance, about 30 miles away, are the two volcanic cones of Koryaksky and Avachinsky. Koryaksky last erupted in 2001. The town has no redeeming features; the setting is wonderful, but the housing blocks are of Stalinist architecture and now crumbling. However, a magnificent Russian Orthodox cathedral has recently been completed. The local guide described the previous week when a major 8.3 Richter earthquake occurred. She stayed in her flat as directed. Tremors occurred for 48 hours, throwing furniture around the flat. The children at school had to be evacuated from the classroom because of the tremors. Several buildings were destroyed.

Interestingly, in the main street is a small obelisk to Captain Charles Clerke. He sailed with Captain Cook on Cook's third voyage, as captain of the *Discovery*, looking for the rumoured North West passage. Following Cook's death he took command of the *Resolution* and of the expedition. Both ships had been to Kamchatka prior to the fateful visit to Hawaii. On Clerke's return to Kamchatka the news of Cook's death was transmitted to England. How different today with our instant communication! Capt Clerke died at sea soon after and was buried in Petropavlovsk in 1779. Across the bay is the main nuclear submarine base which monitors the North Pacific and protects from any American threat. No photographs!

We sailed away that evening in glorious sunshine to awake at Kamenistaya Bay, north of Petropavlovsk. This is in the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve, a world heritage site established in 1934. We landed by zodiac and walked along the black volcanic shoreline. Suddenly a spout appeared beyond the zodiac and - lo and behold - there was an enormous grey whale! The water was relatively shallow and the whale dived and surfaced about 3 minutes later. It was feeding on the bottom of the bay. We also saw more sea otters in the bay (fortunately whales don't eat sea otters!).



We sailed during lunch to the Chazma River where a scouting party went ashore to look for bears. The warm springs there enabled the immediate area to be free of snow and we saw grass for the first time. The local Russian minders gave us the all-clear. We were both in the first zodiac to enter the river and were deposited on the narrow shore line. I jumped up on to the bank, and through the steam of the adjacent hot springs saw a bear heartily eating the lush grass, clearly visible through my binoculars but only about 100 yards away. Luckily I viewed its rear. The guide summoned the zodiac to come back instantly and the other zodiacs did not land. However, once back on board we were able to move slowly

up the river observing the bear at close quarters. It knew we were there but continued to eat vast amounts of grass while we all watched. When it finally wandered off a few of us changed into our bathing suits and sat in the hot spring water, not quite as I had imagined, but enjoyable anyway. The air temperature was minus 5°C, the water about 25°C! From the brochure description I thought I would SWIM, but the water was only about 6 inches deep! When we were back on board a huge sperm whale appeared alongside the ship. We followed this whale, which has only one blow hole on the left side of its head. It fluked its tail as it dived down into the deep ocean, and we never saw the whale again.

Our next port of call was the Komandorski Islands, also known as the Bering Islands, or Commander Islands. These are treeless and sparsely populated islands at the end of the

Aleutian Chain and less than 200 miles from the USA owned Aleutian islands. On one of these then uninhabited islands Commander Vitus Bering died along with most of his crew when he was shipwrecked there in 1741. Most were suffering from severe scurvy. The few survivors built a boat from the wreckage and recovered their health by eating the abundant wildlife, plus being compelled to eat seaweed by Georg Steller, the on-board naturalist. The survivors returned to Kamchatka laden with sea otter pelts. This sparked a rush for pelts which drove the Russian expansion into Alaska.

We visited Ariy Kamen by zodiac. It's a tiny island covered in bird colonies all nesting at this time of year. There were red-legged kittiwakes as well as their black-legged relatives, Brunnicks guillemots and pelagic shags, iridescent in the sunshine. In the afternoon we visited Nikolskoe Village, the capital of the Berings, where the locals performed local songs and dances for us. The place was quite desolate. We spoke to teenagers who had plans to go to the mainland for their university education, and we felt their ideas of going to St Petersburg were unrealistic, but maybe not. The young boys enjoyed the afternoon because the zodiac drivers took them along with us to the boat and back. The local priest said the people there had little ambition, and were an outpost from the cold war. He was very pessimistic about their future.

Finally, we spent our last day on the Zhupanova River. On the way there we were treated to the most wonderful display from humpback whales. There were about 16 near the boat. They were breaching, fluking and diving, as well as slapping the water with their fins, and rolling from side to side. A little later we saw a blue whale, a Sie whale and a Fin whale. Altogether, an amazing experience which left the naturalists on board quite speechless. Later still, a Minke whale was also sighted.



The river was gorgeous, calm with small icebergs coming down from the melting ice upstream. The weather was warm. I managed to take my anorak off whilst slowly cruising up-river looking at the birds on the shore, plus seals and sea lions in the water. Every zodiac cruise was accompanied by a "treat" - a spare zodiac would come and visit us with a hot drink plus a cookie. Never the same combination, hot coffee, herb teas, even Baileys! However, this day we were served ICE CREAM, a real treat, and the only day it was possible to enjoy this in the open as the temperature was spring-like.

Overnight we returned to Petropavlovsk for the long flight to Moscow. Something which surprised me was that dogs were allowed in economy class with their owners. The dogs were cocker spaniel size, and were on their owner's laps for take-off and then zipped into a flexible dog cage put by the owners' feet. I did wonder what would happen if they had a call of nature, as the flight was 10 hours. Several were not happy during the ascent and were whimpering. However, once at altitude they went to sleep and I heard nothing from them until we landed at Moscow.

I was fast in Moscow in 1971, so saw a vast difference in the place. However, after a night's sleep and a trip around the Kremlin I could not wait to get home. This had been a truly tremendous trip which came up to all my hopes and expectations, and during which we saw 160 species of birds, as well as bears at close quarters, and countless orcas, whales, dolphins, sea otters, seals and sea lions. Wow!

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

On the morning of Sunday 3 November two large sacks of assorted household refuse were dumped in Church Farm, behind the Post Office. I am certain that whoever did this was not a resident or guest in any of the Church Farm properties; one of which I have owned for 14 years.

I sorted the rubbish (somebody had to) and clues to the identity of the dumper(s) and his /her party were provided by envelopes addressed to Ris, Clarissa, Aunty Sally and Jen. The sacks also contained some gift wrapping paper, a champagne bottle, and disposable nappies.

I cannot believe that wherever they were staying did not have adequate recycling provision, so I can only assume that they could not be bothered or thought it beneath them to comply with the local practices.

Should any reader of Village Voice have any idea who these people are I would obviously like to know; but if handing over this information is deemed disloyal, then perhaps these people could be informed that such antisocial behaviour is not appreciated in Thurlestone or, I daresay, anywhere else they might stay.

**Householder
Church Farm
Name and address supplied**

Dear Editor

I wondered whether I could add to your post bag debate on the golf club ice cream saga! My wife and I had the pleasure of sitting on Leasfoot beach (the golf club beach as we have always known it) during the summer holidays when we saw 2 smartly presented and polite teenagers coming around with a large cool-box offering ice creams. They proceeded to do brisk business and satisfied a big demand on that particular hot day.

As a 'grockle' (but a regular grockle!) I read the article in Village Voice September issue expressing horror that Thurlestone golf club had seen fit to sell ice creams on the beach - "whatever next" the writer wrote! That set me thinking of some good services that they could offer those sitting on the beach. How about a delicious BBQ every day from 12-2 pm, a mobile cart that some golf courses have that offer refreshments (could have a hooter to attract beachgoers on each of Thurlestone's beaches), or even perhaps a masseur to offer on-beach massages to weary swimmers!

Good for Thurlestone golf club for being entrepreneurial, and good for the teenagers for helping and filling a need - the country needs more like them!

**Andy Mackay
Great Glen, Leicester**

*A very
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to all our readers
from the team at
Village Voice*



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BOOKSHELF

As Green As Grass

by Emma Smith

(Bloomsbury £16.99 Hardback)

Emma Smith wrote the lovely book 'Great Western Beach' about her childhood in Newquay and in this new book she writes of her life after Newquay. Her father is moved to a job in Plymouth and the family move to Crapstone on the edge of Dartmoor. He was always a difficult man and when he suffers a major breakdown, leaving the family home, her mother has to cope alone.

When war is declared Emma decides to go to work on the canals, crewing the barges transporting vital cargo. *[She has written about this in a separate book, Maidens Voyage, also a good read].* She complains that, when she comes home on leave, no-one is interested in canals and barges, all they want to hear is what they think to be the more exciting news from her friends and relatives in uniform. After the war she joins a documentary film company and goes to India. Determined to become a novelist, she then goes to Paris where she spends every available minute writing.

This is only a brief outline of her life but, as in her previous books, it is an evocative memoir, beautifully written.

Carolyn Taylor

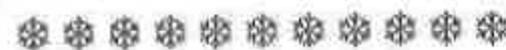
The Levelling Sea

by Philip Marsden

(Harper Press £9.99)

Philip Marsden is a highly skilled travel writer and novelist and this is his captivating story of Falmouth from its earliest days as little more than a lime kiln through to its development as a busy and thriving harbour. His love of Cornwall, passion for sailing and knowledge of marine matters come through vibrantly as he relates stories of Elizabethan sea-dogs, privateers and pirates, smugglers, Restoration speculators, dashing naval officers and the power of the sea, all of which have helped to shape our nation. I loved reading this book!

Pat Macdonald



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October

Nick Townsend, our speaker this month, is the Conservation Officer for South Milton Ley, and one of a small group of dedicated bird-watchers who patrol the bay off Thurlestone, South Milton and South Huish. Owned by the Devon Birdwatching & Preservation Society, the Ley has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). He told us of all the work that had gone into the formation of this site and its maintenance, and the valuable part that it plays in our knowledge and continuing study of bird life. Astonishingly, on average, some 200 species of birds are seen each year in the roughly two square miles of the adjacent marshes.

Two letters of thanks had been received - from Monica Dickins for her birthday presentation, and from the Parish Hall for the £135 our cake stall had raised at their autumn fair.

The members who had visited Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Museum reported on their enjoyable day out.

Although it was very nice to welcome three new members, sadly three existing members will be leaving the area and good wishes were sent to Joyce Thompson, Linda Cheek, and Nancy Day in their pastures new.

November

Buying local, in season, produce and perhaps spending 10% less at supermarkets, is both environmentally friendly and good for the local economy. This was the message from Linda Burgess of the Red Earth Kitchen as she demonstrated how to make Christmas canapes. The results of her skilful and tasty work were eagerly enjoyed at the conclusion of her demonstration.

Another three visitors were welcomed - Vivienne Jones, Alison Bone and Linda Parr. A short silence was observed as we remembered Dorothy Candy, who had recently died. A long-time member, former president, and treasurer, her sense of fun

and liveliness will be very much missed.

A report on the autumn council meeting in Plymouth was given by delegate Sally Martin.

Jan Patrick gave a brief report on the course 'Meals in Minutes' she and Judith Reynolds had recently attended at Denman College on our two bursaries. Jean Jones attended at the same time and learned the basics of playing the ukelele.

The area Christmas coffee morning at Blackawton (10 am to noon) promised to be a good event on Friday 22 November with seasonal demonstrations and plenty of goodies to buy.

Future Events

Thursday 5 December: A refresher course on the use of Thurlestone's defibrillator will be held at Thurlestone Hotel and members were encouraged to attend.

Friday 6 December: This is the date for our Christmas carol service at South Milton.

Friday 13 December: Our Christmas lunch will be held at Thurlestone Golf Club.

Thursday 9 January: For our first meeting in the New Year the speaker will be Judge William Taylor on 'Villains I have known?' The programme of monthly speakers for the whole of 2014 has now been finalised.

Thursday 13 February: Our speaker will be Wendy Farren of Quay Physio to talk about "Women's Health & Well-being".

Wednesday 4 June 2015: The national centenary of the WI at the Albert Hall will be available via the internet. It was agreed we should show it on the big screen at the Parish Hall. To mark the centenary a wall hanging will be produced by Devon County, and volunteer embroiderers are needed.

New Members

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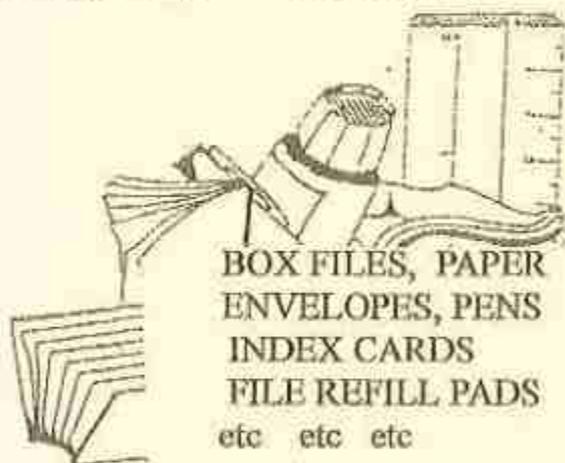
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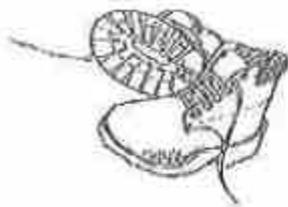


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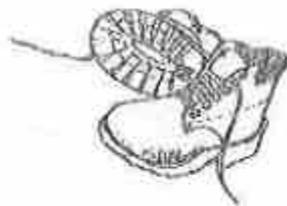
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TRAMP



1 Thank goodness that I moved the walk from Thursday (3rd) to Friday 4th October, as the 2nd of rain on Thursday would have washed us all away! The morning was warm, still, and at times sunny – how fickle is our Devon weather. Eleven trampers and one dog set off at 9.50 am from the public car park at Aveton Gifford. As the tide was low, we went anti-clockwise around the 'circular' walk.

We went along the river to the west of the village, past the public tennis court (which few were aware of) and out of the village towards the church. A left turn onto a 'public right of way' took us along a picturesque valley in the direction of Modbury. We were then joined by a large herd of South Devon bullocks that were quite noisy about our interruption of their peace! A bridle path took us down hill to a stream crossing with water levels slightly above the stepping stones thanks to yesterday's storms – all safely crossed! A farm track and a lane took us to the crossing of the A379 to go into Ashford hamlet.

West and south west along pretty country lanes, and too many hills for one nameless member of the party, took us to the head of the path leading down the valley to the River Avon. The sun was out and the views are really good at the brow of the hills. We then descended down the valley to the Avon and the 'flood road' which led us back to the car park for 12 noon. The tide was out and Ben had great fun in the river chasing the ducks but leaving the swans well alone!

I just hope that Jenny has managed to remove all the noxious mud by the time I write this note. Map of the walk available on request from 01548 560763.

Mike Stickland

2 We were nine Tramp enthusiasts for this new walk on Wednesday 9th October. It is about 40 miles to Babbacombe, which may be a long way for a shortish walk. Kents Cavern at the

end was the magnet. The coast path from Anstey's Cove towards Hope's Nose is wooded and delightful, and the visibility on this lightly clouded day was stunning. The Jurassic coast was easily seen, and bird-spotting binoculars confirmed we were also seeing Portland Bill (about 50 miles away) and – was it Purbeck or the Isle of Wight beyond?

The next stretch took us along parts of Torbay where "affluent" is something of an understatement. There were sailors making good headway on scarcely ruffled water and birds of prey in the air over the view of Thatcher Rock (no, not named after anyone recent). And so down to Meadfoot, a walk across meadows and up through woods to Kents Cavern. We had a leisurely hour for a cafe lunch before the guided tour.

Kents Cavern is unique in Britain in yielding stone tool evidence of local human habitation from *Homo erectus* tools of more than 350,000 years ago through all the Old Stone Age up to modern mankind 10,000 years ago. The oldest human bone is part of a *Homo sapiens* woman's upper jaw 35,000 years old. Some animals like cave bears and hyaenas actually used the cave for hibernation or as a family den; others, like mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, deer and horse had their bones dragged in by the hyaenas. From 5000 years ago the cave was first used for human burials; in the Bronze Age for tool-making; and in the Iron Age for shelter, or perhaps workshop or store. All this is in addition to the geological and water activity which made the caves in the first place and is still making wonders in there now.

Peter and Wendy Gornall

3 This is the fourth time I have led the Tramp walk along the coastal path from Dartmouth to Strete and it is one I always look forward to. As for the weather, it was the best yet for this 15th October walk – lots of sunshine, and a calm sea to behold. As for the sea

views, they were many and varied. As for the terrain, it too was very varied, from the walk through the town of Dartmouth and Bayard's Cove (an early Tudor artillery fort) to a densely wooded section once we had passed Dartmouth Castle, across open farmland on the cliff top, through the village of Stoke Fleming and past Blackpool Sands. It was not a 'leisurely walk' as it involved quite a lot of climbing, particularly towards the end where the path crosses and re-crosses the main road then goes down and up a steep-sided valley. The alternative to this, however, would be to walk along the main road, so the bit of steep climbing was taken in our stride! Incidentally, until a few years ago, the off-road section between Blackpool Sands and Strete did not exist, so coastal path walkers were obliged either to walk along the main road or take detours along lanes away from the coast. Anyway, the ten of us who came all thoroughly enjoyed this walk, and also enjoyed a welcome break for lunch at the Green Dragon pub in Stoke Fleming.

Alastair Durden

4 On 24 October it was another damp morning and ten walkers and a dog set out up the hill from the tennis court car park in Noss Mayo and along Revelstoke Drive. A year ago we were joined on this same walk by Rosemary Mackay's dog Bess who enjoyed the walk complete with its adventurous diversion along the lower route and lunch in the Ship Inn. This year we remembered Bess as a friendly and loyal companion; and Tarka, another black Labrador was able to take her place on this 4½ mile easy but interesting tramp. Once again it was a bit drizzly until the familiar view of Noss Mayo greeted us in good time for a quiet lunch at the Ship Inn.

George and Catherine Delafield

5 Maybe it is time to stop watching the weather forecast on the TV or searching for the most accurate website!

When I set up this walk (on behalf of the Swans) for Friday 1st November, I suspected that it would be 'rained off' by the forecasted storms. Reluctantly, I reconnoitered the walk on Thursday when I found that I might get

home before the storms arrived. Friday's national forecast was no better, and I did not therefore really expect anyone to turn out to get the expected soaking.

In the event there were five of us, and we set out for the National Trust car park at East Soar. The weather was overcast, but no sign of rain although there was plenty of wind! We walked past Middle Soar with its smart new solar panels and thence out to the coast path. Here we really picked up the south west winds as we turned eastward towards Bolt Head. As we proceeded, the visibility improved and the sun was seen to be shining out to sea. Twenty minutes later, the sun joined us as we went around Bolt Head.

The views from this bit of the coast are superlative and we enjoyed them all the way passed Sharp Tor rocks. As we moved round towards Salcombe the views changed completely and the wind disappeared in the lee of the rocks. The walk along the estuary is best at this time of year as there is no foliage to block any of the super estuary views. We climbed the steep road up to Overbecks (National Trust house) where we stopped for a welcome coffee (an unnamed walker succumbed to sweet treats!). We were even able to sit in the garden in the sun for this break.

Then onwards and upwards to the effective plateau of the old airfield. This return leg of the tramp was relatively easy and we returned to the car after 5.5 miles of satisfying walking without a drop of rain in sight. The message to all those who did not come is clear. "Get out and enjoy the walking, whatever the consequences".

Mike Stickland

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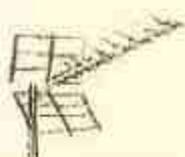
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Tough

No. 89

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Tough

No. 90

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Tougher

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Tougher

No. 90

Guys Boycott Gunpowder Plot

Our "gunpowder plot" proved as dismal a failure as its predecessor, in so far as attracting more "guys" was concerned. Only one (our regular) guy, George Delafield, took up the challenge, and along with Sue Dwyer, Sheila Killingsworth, Pat Leare, Pauline Lonsdale, Polly Petty, and Lisa White submitted four correct solutions. Out came the trusty ballot box to determine a winner, and it was **Polly Petty** who emerged triumphant and the recipient of a Christmas bottle of our finest. However, congratulations go to all our magnificent seven. Entries this time to 25 Mead Lane, by 5th January 2014, please.



Thurlestone Post Office & Stores



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Over the festive period, the Shop and Post Office will change its usual times of operation. The times listed below are a "minimum" guide for the Shop, and may be extended to meet demand. The Post Office will keep its opening hours strictly in accordance with the times listed below.

DATE	SHOP	POST OFFICE
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Wednesday 25 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED
Thursday 26 Dec	09.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Friday 27 Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Saturday 28 Dec	08.00 - 16.00	09.00 - 13.00
Sunday 29 Dec	08.00 - 13.00	CLOSED
Monday 30 Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Tuesday 31 Dec	08.00 - 16.30	09.00 - 16.00
2014		
Wednesday 1 Jan	09.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Thursday 2 Jan	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30

Normal opening hours resume on Thursday 2nd January



Just a reminder that the last UK posting dates for Christmas are Wednesday 18th December (2nd class), and Friday 20th December (1st class). Overseas airmail last posting dates vary, starting 4th December.

Our **Christmas Draw** will take place on Monday 24th December at 11.00 am, with drinks and nibbles for everyone. Tickets are available in the shop. All proceeds will be put towards the prizes.

Orders for vegetables, bread, mince pies etc, should be placed well in advance, to ensure availability for collection during Christmas week.

Make someone a millionaire! Don't forget to buy your loved ones a Scratch Card or Lottery Ticket as a stocking-filler this year.

From us all at Thurlestone Post Office and Stores,
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Sarah and Staff



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Thurlestone Golf Club



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Golf can be a solitary sport. It is played with sticks called clubs in all weathers and some historians say it traces its origin to the 15th century when shepherds passed the time by hitting rocks with their crooks into rabbit holes in the Scottish highlands. By the 16th century it was a banned sport. True!

Golf is an acronym for *Gentlemen only, Ladies forbidden*. Not true! According to the historians it is a word derived from the Dutch word "kolf" or "kolve" that meant club. By the time golf was banned in 16th century Scotland the term "golf club" had been adopted to define a group of people who gathered to pursue a common sporting interest. Not so solitary after all then!

There is a veneer of believability about any golfing story. If Scottish archers neglected their practice because of a love of golf then that was not good for the defence of the kingdom. If the social roles, responsibilities and dress codes in the 18th century inhibited ladies from playing golf then golf is a man's game. To this day there are still some men only golf clubs and ladies only golf clubs. The forefathers of Thurlestone Golf Club did not see it that way.

By the end of its first year in 1897, the Club had 48 members of whom 13 were ladies. However, the social conventions of the day dictated none were artisans or "working class". What was planned but never came to fruition was an ambitious proposal to build a hotel on what is now the 3rd green, a cricket pitch on what is now the 1st fairway and an extension to the course on land that forms part of the Mead estate.

The current custodians of Thurlestone Golf Club have no such lofty ambitions. The Course is what it is, but it will need attention, the Club House is what it is, but it will need attention, and so will the courts. The Club is forward looking, planning beyond next year or the year after; it is a legacy, a community asset, and one to be preserved for successor generations. More

on this in 2014 so let us go back to the present.

Presentation Night is a chance to celebrate success. Friends, family and members gathered in the Club House in November to applaud as the trophy winners received their awards. This year there were an additional 3 Awards for Outstanding Achievement.

One went to *The Greenkeepers* who received accolades left right and centre across Devon for the quality of the Course - prepared for no less than 7 County Finals, 2 charity days and 4 Opens. The Club was honoured to host so many prestigious events within a single calendar year.

Another award for Outstanding Achievement went to Jennifer Roberts, a two time Devon County Champion. She has won the Club Championship 11 times, and this year her handicap has fallen from 3 to 1. Her Award was in recognition of her Ladies Course Record score of 67 which included a stunning 7 birdies on the score card.

The 3rd Award for Outstanding Achievement went to the Men's Parker Trophy team that won the Devon County Scratch Knockout Championship for the first time in the history of the Club.

Local residents Dave Eva, Steve Pike, Rob Came and Jennifer Roberts were the stand out winners of multiple trophies.

The Club Members' Drinks Evening is on December 14th from 6-8pm and on the same evening, commencing at 9pm, the Club will have live music provided by THE PENGUINS.

The Club Christmas Lunch is on December 15th with Members and guests having exclusive use of The Dining Room. Also planned for that day is the Cross Country Texas Scramble. If you think there is only one way to play Thurlestone think again. Members will play 18 holes backwards so let us hope for a calm day without rain or a south-westerly chill in the air.

With no New Year's Eve Party at Thurlestone Golf Club this year the Club Drinks Evening and Christmas Lunch are the last social events in the 2013 Club calendar.

Captaincy at Thurlestone is an opportunity to promote enthusiasm for the playing side of golf and tennis, the social side of club membership, and involvement when eligible in the club's matches and social functions. Captaincy is a transient position that lasts for one calendar year and hence this is the last time that I shall write this report as Club Captain for Village Voice. It is a contribution I have enjoyed writing, and I thank you for reading it.

At the October AGM of Thurlestone Golf Club David Smyth was elected as 2014 Club Captain and Bill Hutchison as Men's Vice Captain. Both will perform their 2014 roles with distinction.

A Club Captain needs good fortune during his or her year and I have been the beneficiary of much good fortune. I thank the Lady Captain, Linda Cant, the General Manager, Steve Gledhill, Golf and Tennis Professionals Steve White and Janet Richardson, Vic Dyer the Course Manager, and all the staff at Thurlestone Golf Club for their support, guidance and good humour during this year of Captaincy.

Mervyn Spencer

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Where has the year gone, already we are in to the last quarter of my year. Fortunately September proved to be another good month weather wise which was great for the last Open of the year when we were lucky to have 75 ladies from all over Devon enjoy a great day of golf.

For the first competition in September, a Stableford, the day was cold, but with very little wind the scores were good with a field of 47 ladies. Jenny Roberts won division one with 37 points, from Jane Mason with 35 points. In division two the winner was Trish Cooper with 39 points on countback from Hayley Pepperrell. In division three the winner was Jane Pope with 38 points from Trish Gledhill with 34 points.

Also in September fourteen past Lady Captains (ranging from 1970 to 2013) gathered for the annual lunch and Hills Trophy competition for Lady Captains. Only eight were able to compete in the Stableford competition for the Hills Trophy which was

won by Lindsey Fletcher (captain 2008) with 35 points on countback from Pam St Leger (captain 2012). The present Lady Captain Linda Cant had 39 points but was unable to win the trophy due to a ruling that only past captains can win. The runner up Pam St Leger won the Mackenzie coaster. The ladies enjoyed an excellent lunch provided by golf club chef Tom Woods. One of the ladies enjoying lunch was Monica Dickins who was due to celebrate her 90th birthday the following Saturday.

Thursday 26th September was an important date for the Ladies when we were host for the County Finals. The Club and course did us proud and the weather, although very windy, stayed dry. We had 6 Devon Clubs together with their supporters descend on Thurlestone for the finals of the Still Cup, Presidents and Sheelah Creasy teams. The Devon Captain also presented county badges to two Thurlestone players, Laura Tregelles and Beth Yeoman, for playing in the Devon ladies team. The final results were: Sheelah Creasy: East Devon beat Okehampton, Presidents: Fingle Glen beat Holsworthy, and Still Cup: Exeter beat Tavistock.

In the second September Stableford competition the Division 1 winner was Jenny Roberts with 39 points from Lesley Robinson with 36 points. In Division 2 the winner was Barbara Smith with 40 points from Linda Cant with 38. In Division 3 the winner was Trish Gledhill with 45 points from Mary Johnson with 32.

On October 16 we had our Closed Meeting which is a big day for the ladies as there are 7 trophies to play for. The competition was slightly delayed due to the weather but this soon picked up and 35 ladies went out to play. The winners were: Silver handicap cup Lady Captain Linda Cant with a nett 75, Silver scratch Marshall Salver was won by Wendy Laud with a gross 86, Vets scratch Mackenzie Rose bowl Sarah Harkness with a gross 97, Vets handicap Pearl Rowland trophy Shona Wilson with a nett 83, Bronze scratch trophy Kay Morley with 104, Bronze handicap trophy Nicole Carter with a nett 81, and Lesley Saffin won the Cooper Putter with a round with 30 putts.

The Foundation Trophy was held in October and commemorates the first 100 years of Thurlestone Golf Club and with the base of the Trophy holding memorabilia ready for the next 100 years, it is due to be opened in 2097. The format is a 3-ball mixed team

Stableford and is drawn at random with the best 2 scores on each hole to count. The weather wasn't very kind so a decision was taken to turn the normal 18 hole competition into a 11 hole competition with 14 teams playing. The blustery conditions, however, didn't put off the winning team of Phil Holland, Gill Hicks and Brian Munn who returned an outstanding score of 48 points with Sue Esplin, Derek Harwood and Ian Jones coming second with 46 points.

Linda Cant

JUNIORS SECTION NEWSLETTER

There have been some important competitions for the Juniors in September and October and although the weather has not been very kind, the Juniors just battle on in bad weather.

On the 29th September the Semi-Final Tamar Cup match was held at Torquay between Thurlestone and Exeter. The first pair out; Jamie Johnson (3 handicap) and George Holland (12) lost 1 down; then Junior captain Rob Came (4) and George Fountain (23) won 5/4. However the third team of Beth Yeoman (8) and Callum Tollins (19) lost 5/4. So it was Exeter through to the Final of the Tamar Cup.

This was the last competitive match for Captain Rob Came, Beth Yeoman and George Fountain before they leave the Thurlestone Junior ranks next year. The Thurlestone team acquitted themselves with great team spirit and sportsmanship, with George Fountain their standout performer on the day, and wished Exeter well in the final against Cornish opposition.

In October the Strashleigh Cup competition was held at Dartmouth golf club. This was organised by the West Devon Junior League. They had seven clubs entered; Dartmouth, Thurlestone, Yelverton, Wrangaton, Bigbury, Tavistock, and Staddon. The winners were Dartmouth with 171 points, and Thurlestone came third with 151 points. Each team had four Juniors and one Junior Organiser, all scores to count for the total. Phil Holland the Junior Organiser scored 27 points. Rob Came, Junior captain, scored 27 points, Beth Yeoman 29, George Fountain 34, and vice captain Jamie Johnson also scored 34 points.

The 12th October saw the Club v Juniors

match at Thurlestone. The day started with a terrific downpour which was endured for four holes and then it cleared so some excellent golf was played. For the first time since Vera Nicholson gave the trophy in memory of her husband Nick who died of cancer in 2009, the trophy was won by the club by four matches to one. Julie Holland and Nigel Whelan for the club led the way with a 3/1 win over Tom Orr and Oliver Griffiths for the Juniors. Then Wendy Laud and Derek Harwood won 3/1 against Ethan Mulligan and Edward Griffiths. The club captain Mervyn Spencer and Philip Laud lost 2 down against Juniors Fin Whelan and Laurence Partridge. The club pro Steve White and Liz Line won 3/1 against George Holland and Ben Woods. Finally Kevin Mingo and Laura Tregelles won 7/5 against Junior captain Rob Came and Beth Yeoman. The trophy was presented to Mervyn by junior organiser Phil Holland.

The Juniors supported the Foundation Trophy in October, and George Holland finished in fourth place with Dave Smyth and Paula MacLarin.

On the county scene, George Holland and Tom Orr had midweek half term county coaching at Exeter and then had to return on Friday to have a 2 hour indoor gym session taken by the England Elite Team Golf physiotherapist who works with Paul Casey and Tommy Fleetwood. Needless to say they are a little more flexible than when they went, but now have a set of exercises to perform for golf. Both are confirmed in their respective squads for 2014.

Beth Yeoman has established herself in the women's county second team before officially joining the women's ranks in 2014, which is a wonderful achievement, and it is testament to her junior county performances that the county girls' team manager Anne Norman attended the Thurlestone junior presentation in November in order to thank Beth for all her efforts for Devon County Girls over the last five years. Jamie Johnson, the 2014 new Thurlestone Junior Captain, will also be playing in the 2014 Under-18 county squad. Unfortunately we will be losing Rob Came from the Junior ranks in 2014. Rob has been a great Junior Captain for the last two years, always ready to play in matches and organising the CONGU players on Monday club nights. George Fountain and Beth Yeoman will also be moving up to the adult section and we are sad to lose them from the Junior teams.

After six years of organizing Monday Junior club nights, Steve Pepperrell and Stuart Tollins are stepping down. We are very grateful to the time and effort they have put in for the juniors, and for their help in taking the team to matches. We are pleased that Steve will continue as junior handicap organiser.

Steve said that it has been a pleasure to see the Club Nights improve year by year. This

season has been by far the most successful. He has seen all the youngsters grow in both their confidence and playing ability. Their enthusiasm has been great, and especially with the encouragement of a "Mars Bar Challenge". Next year Junior club nights will start in April and be supported by Jack Wallace from the Professional team who was himself a Junior here five years ago.

Liz Line

Dog Fouling - General Advice

Dog Fouling is one of the top anti-social problems nationwide. Dog mess is unsightly, unpleasant, and can spread disease, or in extreme cases, cause blindness. If you do not ensure your dog mess is picked up and properly disposed of a **Penalty Fine may be payable of £80 - £1000.**

Here are some tips on how to avoid a fine and how not to annoy other amenity users:

- 1) Never let your dog walk too far from you as this makes it difficult to see where they foul.
- 2) Dogs will usually foul soon after being let off the lead or out of the car/at the start of a walk - so be ready.
- 3) Pay attention at all times to what your dog is doing, and do not allow yourself to be distracted by a mobile phone or anything else.
- 4) ALWAYS carry 'poo' bags.
- 5) ALWAYS carry a torch for dark evenings.
- 6) Dispose of bags in a dog bin or litter bin, or take it home to dispose of in your household waste.
- 7) Keep the dog to the boundaries of sports pitches if possible, as even after picking up, residual deposits can be left. Many complaints concerning dog mess on sports pitches are received from the players themselves.
- 8) ALWAYS pick up from maintained grass areas.

Under the **District of South Hams Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2013** the person in charge of a dog, whether they are the owner or not, must clean up after the dog has fouled in any area to which the Act, as adopted, applies.

It is an offence not to clean up, where the Act applies, punishable by a maximum fine of £1000, or a fixed penalty of £80.

I trust you will find the above guidelines a useful reminder, and wish to thank you in advance for your kind co-operation in this matter. It will help to keep our communities safe and pleasant places that everyone can enjoy.

Tracey Weaver
SHDC Dog Warden

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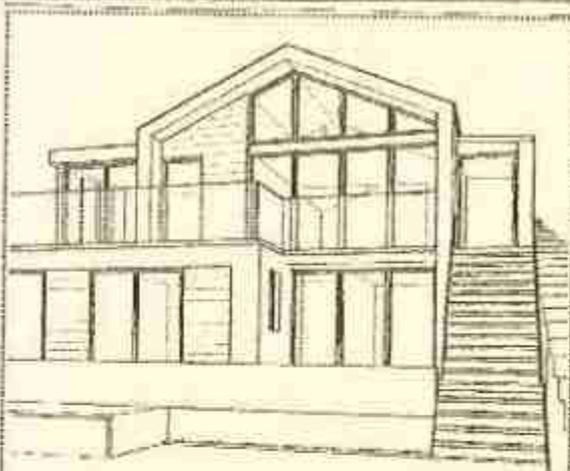
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YOUNG VISITORS FROM BURMA

by Jan Meredith

In March this year, when I was in Burma as a volunteer teacher, I became involved in a wonderful scheme inspired by Aung San Suu Kyi to sponsor four fantastic children from the orphanage/charity school in the little fishing village of Lintha on the Bay of Bengal to come to England for the chance of a lifetime experience - to attend a three-week language school.

This beautiful but very impoverished fishing village benefits hugely from the presence of an English couple, Sahin and Sue Ozturk, who settled there twelve years ago after seeing the desperate need of the people for education and medical aid, both of which are well beyond the means of most inhabitants. They set up the Andrew Clark Trust, a registered charity, and built a school compound which includes a boarding house/orphanage, several classrooms, a playground, and provides free English and computer tuition to all-comers as well as meeting medical expenses where needed.

Whilst I was there, Aung San Suu Kyi offered, via her old college of St Hugh's at Oxford, scholarship places for four students to attend a three-week summer language school in September. As there were eight suitable candidates, Sue asked me to help select four. This was an impossible task as all were equally fantastic kids, so deserving and academically suitable - they also help lots with the younger children. They were so excited at the prospect of this trip that selection was impossible, so I threw my hat into the ring and suggested that four go to Oxford whilst I would raise funds for the other four to have a similar trip with me in London and Devon.

They were invited to attend Kingsbridge College for a week, where they were made very welcome and absolutely loved the experience and made many friends. They were also very kindly entertained in Thurlestone, and even swam in the sea - somewhat colder than the sea at their fishing village on the beautiful Ngpall Beach. Before returning to Burma they spent a week in London where they visited the Houses of Parliament, the Natural History and the Science Museums, the Household Cavalry Barracks, saw 'The Lion King', went on the London Eye and also took a Duck Tour on the Thames. When asked what was the best bit of the visit, they unanimously agreed "Kingsbridge College".

Behind the idea of this visit is the hope that students would be inspired by the outside world and its systems, and take back their experiences to Myanmar, which would enrich their lives and those of their fellow-students in the future of this fledgling democracy - which may even be, with luck, under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi!

May I say a big 'thank you' to everyone who sponsored and entertained the kids.

For more information visit www.myanmar-aid.org and the Andrew Clark Trust.

National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for December 2013 and January 2014

- Tuesday
10 December** Coach Trip to Exeter Cathedral. Time for shopping and an early supper before the excellent traditional concert by Exeter School orchestra and choirs performing in Exeter Cathedral.
- Monday
13 January** "Norway - A Coastal Voyage to Arctic Waters". Another wonderful illustrated presentation by John Risdon, one of our most regular and popular speakers. At Thurlestone Parish Hall, 2.30pm. Entrance £3.00 including tea and biscuits. Non-members are very welcome.
- Wednesday
29 January** Coffee Morning at the Thurlestone Hotel, 10.30am. Come with your friends to this warmly inviting hotel for a leisurely chat and a cup of coffee, Entrance £3.00 includes coffee. Non-members welcome.

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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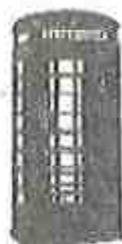
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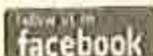
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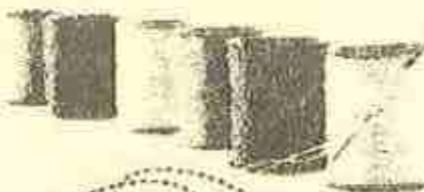
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"Knees Bend, Arms Stretch, Rah! Rah! Rah!"

Remembering Peter Giles by Carey Ryan-Carter

The morning after my family's late arrival at our cottage, I was awoken by rustling and activity coming from below my bedroom window. I remembered I was no longer in Manchester so doubted it was an intruder, I wondered whether it might have been an animal of some kind, maybe a fox or more likely a cat. Wearily I dragged myself from my bed and popped my head out of the window to investigate.

The perpetrator was as indeed wise and worldly as a fox, and as small and as loveable as a cat, but this creature was much rarer than both and had inhabited West Buckland for approximately 50 years. It was clutching a watering can and was giving my fig tree a much needed drink. Locals may have also witnessed a display of its similarly altruistic behaviours in the strimming of the lanes and the pruning back of hedges in its own territory and beyond.

"Morning Peter," I called through the window.

"I didn't realise you were back," he replied. "I've been watering the fig because of the hot weather. They like the heat but need plenty to drink when they're in pots."

I hadn't asked him to do it, but Peter Giles didn't have to be asked to do anything that kept the village tidy; he just saw what needed doing and did it - silently and without fuss, payment or praise.

Peter passed my cottage six times a day. When we first moved in, it puzzled me as to where he went to, as he lived at the other end of the village and the shops and the beach (that I was to later learn he hated) were in the opposite direction. When I one day inquired as to where it was he went, he replied, "Just off to Granny's."

For a moment I just accepted this explanation. It didn't take long to do the maths and realise that a man getting on for eighty was very unlikely to have a Grandmother who was still alive. On further probing, I learnt that 'Granny' was a nickname for the OTHER Peter's aunty (my lovely neighbour Peter Hurrell, also

infamous in these parts). When Granny's husband was very ill Peter Giles had kept him entertained by playing cribbage, and in return his meals had been provided for him. Then later, when her husband had died, Granny had insisted that Peter still came on a daily basis.

"I can't complain, I'm very well fed by Granny. No one can beat one of Granny's roasts. There are never less than five vegetables, you know."

If ever there was an advocate for the Department of Health's "5 a day" campaign Peter Giles was it. He had boundless energy and enthusiasm for life and if he wasn't circumnavigating the 3 miles to Granny's each day, he was in his garden mowing his long rolling lawn or tending to his vegetables. I recently watched on unobserved for a moment as he instructed Duncan, his tenant and friend, in the weeding of his vegetable patch. It would be too predictable to describe this pairing as like Father or son, or indeed Grandfather and Grandson, as their age difference might have suggested. They were simply best friends who shared an interest in jazz music, made each other laugh and helped each other out. Duncan managed to persuade Peter to record a voice over for a jingle on his local radio show "All that Jazz," and managed to capture Peter's essence in one small soundbite. Tune in and hear it for yourself if you don't believe me.

Despite his age Peter was open to new ideas and still strove to learn new skills. He tried hopelessly to teach himself how to read the sheet music for the 'Moonlight Sonata' despite having played the piano proficiently by ear for many years. I delighted in his story about how as a child he had saved the day at his local church when the organist was indisposed; running down the aisle to volunteer his services and proudly playing that week's hymns. His face lit up as he relived the excitement of the moment, as it always did whenever you mentioned the jazz dance band he played in during his youth.

"It didn't matter where we played, they always asked for the same song...Do you know what that was?...the 'Hokey Kokey'."

The Hokey Kokey seems symbolic of times gone by when life was simpler and pleasures were more innocent. No one understood this better than Peter, who had grown up on Dartmoor with no running water, electricity or gas. His life was hard but never dull.

"You hear kids today complaining they're bored, but I was never bored for a moment out on the moor."

Those of you who are familiar with the children's novel, 'The Secret Garden' and remember the character called 'Dickon' who roamed around the moors talking to the animals and whose knowledge and love of nature nursed the secret garden back to health, may feel they know the 10 year old Peter Giles very well. The dialect may have been different but the character could easily have been based on him.

When he was fourteen the family moved to Tavistock and, although reluctant at first, his mother finally agreed to have electric lights installed. Peter used to beg to be the one to get up and switch on the lights as the evening drew in,

"I still got a thrill out of flicking the light switch on, even when I was sixteen."

Despite leaving the moor and managing "Frisby's" shoe shop in Kingsbridge for many years, Peter Giles always remained a man of the country at heart. He cleared the extensive area of land beyond his garden and up the hill towards Thurlestone in order to breed horses,

"I kept a paddock close to the house for the mares and their foals. I loved to watch them together from my window."

Peter also unwittingly became the owner and breeder of various dogs, including racing greyhounds, though he claimed he never went out and bought one,

"I came home one day to find a dog tied to the front gate of my house with a note saying, 'I know you'll look after me.'"

And of course he did.

He was however less keen to look after the pests of the animal kingdom. The city dweller in me was horrified to learn about his gruesome ways of disposing of the likes of magpies, crows and squirrels. I had never

heard the verb to 'flittle' before (excuse me if this is spelt incorrectly) and I expect I may never hear it again. But out on the moor there would have been no breakfast if the rats had eaten the eggs, so I understand these skills were essential to survival, and that there was no room for sentimentality when you needed to eat.

But let it be known that Peter Giles had a fun and mischievous side to his personality and anyone who ever heard him giggle would at once recognise this. Peter's house is located on one of the trickiest and steepest bends in the county. I myself burnt out a clutch in this exact spot some years ago. One day he laughed with glee as he showed me all the broken glass and remnants of tail lights that had accumulated in his drive over time.

"Oh, I have a laugh watching them on this hill," he giggled to me.

Peter had been a keen driver and loved his cars. He told me proudly that he had owned 50 in his lifetime. He once listed his favourites but I'm afraid being a female their makes and models have escaped me. He founded Bantham motor racing club, or so I was told. I believe the members had use of a muddy course on the land behind the church in Thurlestone and that they were free to career around it, in the days before health and safety guidance and public liability insurance. Seems unimaginable today. Just days before he died he admitted to my husband that he thought it was time to give up his car. Maybe he knew then that his days of fun were numbered.

On Monday 5th August 2013, Peter gave me a wave at lunchtime on his way to Granny's. Little was I to know it would be my last. He died as he lived his life, after lunch at Granny's, and without any fuss.

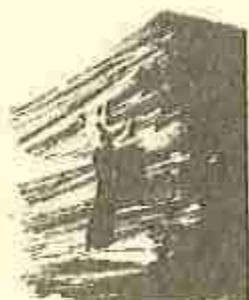
Peter Giles was my friend and a little piece of sunshine in my day. Life in West Buckland will never quite be the same again. I know the lanes won't be as tidy without him and I fear for the health of my fig tree. So I urge all of you who knew him and loved him to take to the dance floor one day soon and remember Peter as you sing at the top of your lungs,

"Knees bend, arms stretch, Rah Rah Rah!"

Carey Ryan-Carter

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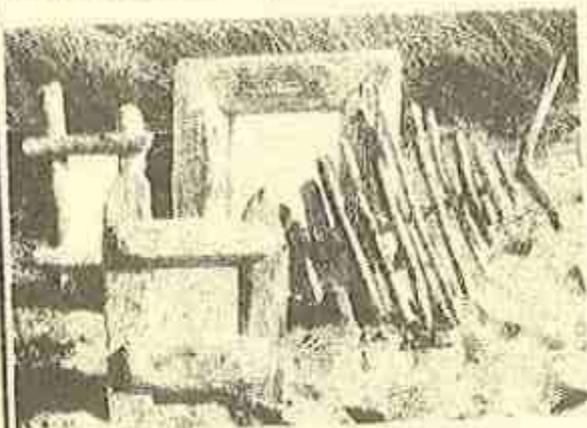
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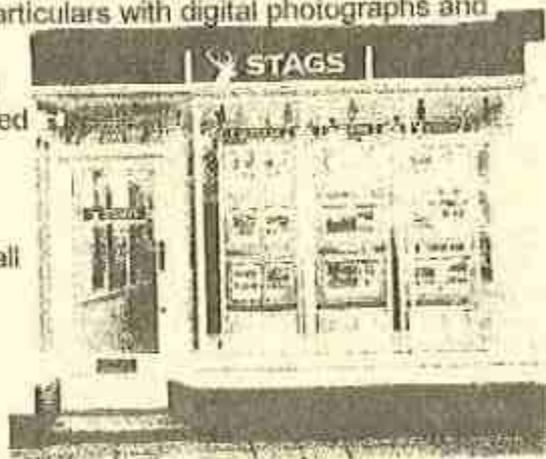


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ALL SAINTS ADVERTISER

Editor: Betty Rhymes
"Read all about it....."

Thurlestone's Children Walk Out Of Classrooms

At some point this term all of the children at All Saints have walked out of their classrooms. Thankfully this isn't the pupils staging any sort of protest but more about them taking their learning outside of the classroom. Each of the five classes have been out and about broadening their education. Read on to find out what they have been up to.....

Mrs Linn was the first to take her class on an educational adventure. As part of their study of the Victorians she arranged for her year 4 & 5 children to get a real feel of what Victorian life might have been like by taking a trip to Morwellham Village.

Morwellham provides a true "step back in time" feel with the children being able to take a journey down into the mine, become pupils at the Victorian school and explore the Victorian cottages, as well as working at the pit mouth breaking rocks in search for copper. "My class of 8 & 9 year olds thoroughly enjoyed the lesson from the strict Victorian teacher and although they laughed at the caning and the wearing of the dunce's hat for the inevitable cheeky few, they got an understanding of how different education was some 100 years ago" reported Mrs Linn. "They also found the outside "privy" fascinating! Funny that when asked, no child needed the use of it!" History brought to life; a wonderful way to learn.

As part of their Autumn work Mrs Ramsden took her new reception children on a Welly Walk. "Mr & Mrs Cook of The Downs, Thurlestone, very kindly allowed us to explore their beautiful long, tree lined driveway" explained Mrs Ramsden. "The children were very excited in trying to find autumn treasures as they walked. As we reached the top of the garden we looked out to see Burgh Island on one side and Thurlestone Rock on the other. We all felt very lucky. It was so windy we all turned into aeroplanes and flew across the garden! Once back to class the children used their treasures to create an Autumnal Journey Circle. We owe a big thank you to Mr and Mrs Cook for allowing us to use their amazing grounds as our classroom for the morning. It was a magical lesson."

Not to be outdone, Classes 2 & 3 walked out big time! They crossed the bridge to "the other side" by taking a trip to the Eden Project which tied in with the studies of both classes - class 2 studying

rainforests and class 3 studying journeys. Mrs Holland's pupils learnt about the biodiversity of life within the rainforest by close study of life in the rainforest biome. She relates "The children learnt about the requirements of the climate and how to survive in the rainforest by choosing one plant and examining its properties and learning about how it could help them survive if they lived there."

Mr Bosence very carefully selected what journey his class would study. "It was given careful consideration, but there was only ever one contender - it had to be the food of gods, chocolate! We learnt about where chocolate originated from, how it is made, how it came to Africa and the importance of fair-trade. Of course, it was only fair that we sampled some!" Both activities were excellently targeted at the children's age and attainment levels. Mrs Holland and Mr Bosence commented "The journey to our off-site class was a long one but the day was great fun and a fantastic experience for these young children."

Finally, Class 1, the eldest children, took to the road. "We're off to the theatre, darling!" called Mrs Laurence-King. The poet, Kit Wright, was heading The Childrens Book Show at the Theatre Royal and having studied some of his poems Mrs L.K took her pupils along to hear him read from his book, *The Magic Box*. "It was truly inspiring for these youngsters to hear the poems read by this great poet. As part of their homework the children had prepared questions to ask Mr Wright about his poetry and he allowed time to answer some of those put to him. Having a local Theatre is a real asset especially when it provides such events as this, which enabled the eldest children of our school to learn in a grown up environment -- encore!"

Without doubt, they all had first class lessons out of school but now its back to reality - times tables, spellings, hand writing practice, but thankfully no cane..... and indoor toilets!

Homework Results

In my last report I set some anagrams for you to solve. Well done to those that completed your homework and handed it in on time. The gold star award (in the form of a bottle of pink vino) went to Mrs Stephanie Adams of Thurlestone. Not only did she get them all correct but had delivered her effort before I had even received my copy of Village Voice. Clearly her Herbaceous border was neglected that day! For those of you still pondering over the puzzles the answers are below:

1. Philip Medway
2. Governors
3. Dixie Beneficent
4. Learn To do Well
5. National Curriculum
6. School Dinner
7. Bust Of Queen Victoria
8. Morning Prayers During Assembly
9. Pearson Preschool
10. Infants and Juniors
11. Headmaster
12. Physical Education
13. Sports Day Races
14. Art Exhibition At The Book Exchange
15. Sleepless Nights On Residential
16. Christmas Nativity
17. Sat Outside Heads Office
18. First Day At School Nerves
19. Information Communications Technology
20. New School Website (Take A Look!)

WANTED please

If any of you are lucky enough for Santa to bring you a new edition Kindle and have a previous edition looking for a new home the school would be very grateful. They are a very useful tool for encouraging our not so keen readers. Thank you.

**Come and join the festive fun
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Corney Christmas Corner!

- What is an Ig?
An Eskimo house without a loo!
- Why does Santa have three gardens?
So he can Hoe Hoe Hoe!
- What do you call a reindeer with no
Eyes?
No eye deer!
- Why does Santa always go down the
Chimney?
Because it soots him!

**Thurlestone Kids Raising Money
For Good Causes**

The children have been busy raising money for three very worthwhile causes. For the privilege of wearing an item of red clothing on Remembrance Day. They donated money to the Poppy Appeal which amounted to nearly £90.

The following week saw the school over run with children wearing pyjamas and onesies in support of Children in Need. This is always such a fitting charity for children to support. Our youngsters raised £125 to help those that might not be as fortunate.

Finally, Harry Durant of Thurlestone and a friend took it upon themselves to raise some money to put towards new play equipment. They organised a half marathon around the school field. Teams of 5 took turns to run 120 laps. Sponsor money is still to be collected but when in will make a worthwhile contribution towards the new apparatus the playground is in need of. The school are very grateful for the effort of these two boys and to all those that took part in this physical challenge.



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and A Happy New
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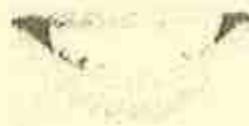
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

October is generally a wild month and this year we have had some quite wild days, but not too bad as compared with some years.

Like the Great Storm of 1987, the St. Jude's Storm virtually missed us as compared with areas further to the east. However I have been looking at the record for windy days in October here at Beach Cottage. From October 20th there was a decided trend of windy days, mostly from the west, (south and north), the seas were rough and the Ley began to fill from the sea. The top speed here was a "mere 62mph", on 28th Oct. but further inland it was worse with some trees down and some casualties. As in '87 the storm seemed to gain in impetus as it travelled along an eastern path, this time inland, but the coastline seemed to catch it further to the east than us.

Historically there have been some notable storms which have, as a legacy, produced systems that we use today or have been the basis for a system to be pursued. In 1859 on October 25th a storm occurred off Scotland. This one became known as the Royal Charters Storm. The "large" steam-driven ship *Royal Charters*, a Victorian masterpiece of 2719 tons was unceremoniously tossed on to rocks off Anglesey leading to the deaths of 450 by drowning. Another 200 ships were lost in areas around the British Isles. The future of ocean-going ships was dealt a mighty blow and the Victorian engineers were dismayed. The WKOS says: "However a certain gentleman, Rear Admiral Robert Fitzroy, who at the time was a statist at the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade, examined the course of the storm from carefully compiled observations: it develops in the Azores, then moves to Brittany before advancing up the Irish Sea and across Scotland. This convinces him that the route of the storm could have been predicted in

enough time to save ships and lives. He visualizes, for the first time, the idea of foretelling weather by means of a synoptic chart. More significantly, the inquiry into the *Royal Charter* storm recommends that Fitzroy establish a network of forty British ports issued with barometers that will report daily weather observations via the new telegraph. Thus 'storm warnings' can be issued, using a code of 'cautionary signals involving drums, cones and, at night, lights suspended at ports'. (The orange 'storm cone' seen at airports and other places where it matters reflects this system today.) It was the birth of weather forecasting.

Other famous gales in October - on 23rd October 1091 a tornado (the earliest recorded in Britain) rips up central London killing two, destroying six hundred houses and damaging several churches. At St Mary le Bow, 26ft roof timbers from a church are driven into the ground so deep that only 4 feet remain visible. On October 24th 1588 the weather saves Elizabethan England from a third Spanish attempt at invasion of our shores. The fleet of more than 60 fighting ships were lying-to, bow to wind, as little as thirty miles off the Lizard when a roaring north-easterly and violent gale strikes up and rages relentlessly for three days. One by one of the Spanish galleons surrender to the storm until the fleet is completely broken up. Finally the Commander puts his flagship before the wind and runs for home.

It would seem, from my research this time, that the theme is wind. Sadly this is very much the case across the Philippine Islands where Typhoon Haiyan has had a devastating effect on large areas of land affecting vast numbers of the population. In today's *Times*, Paul Simons writes about the first European to record the facts about a typhoon. He

was a pirate, a British buccaneer, William Dampier, and he wrote about what he had witnessed in June 1687 while sailing in the South China Sea. He noted (I like this expression very much, and have heard it used by some of the older Devonshire folks of my youth!) that the wind "had been whiffing about from one part of the compass to another", a clear warning of an approaching tempest. Sure enough, writes William, a typhoon arrived two days later. He describes in vivid language how the winds blew and the seas pounded his ship, threatening to sink the vessel. They ran before the wind and then quite suddenly there was calm, no wind "a strange flat calm" which lasted for 2 hours, after which the storm blew up again, this time with the winds blowing from the opposite direction. Dampier had described a revolving storm with a calm eye at its centre.

After many of his voyages around the globe he realised that Atlantic hurricanes were similar to typhoons in Asian seas. His observations helped to produce the first chart of the world's winds including monsoons and trade winds, discovered that winds drove ocean currents and surveyed large sections of the Australian coast 80 years before Captain Cook.

Charles Darwin called Dampier's books "a mine of information" and Admiral Nelson urged all his officers to study his work. Dampier's piracy darkened his name, though, and his studies are not widely appreciated.

Changing tack completely for a moment, I was reading an article about how a historical record of trees hanging on to their leaves well into the Autumn months could be an indicator of changes (climate changes!) It referred to scenes at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. The London plane trees have proved to be a fine indicator of changing times. From photos and film archives, ecologist Tim Sparks has discovered evidence that, since 1919 (the first "Armistice Day") the amount of leaf

cover on the trees has altered. In the early days the trees, which are the same ones as today, were bare of leaves. Now, in the past 20 years, the change has been dramatic, and in recent years no Remembrance Days have shown a background of leafless skeleton trees. AND it is not just the trees that showed signs of colder autumns in earlier decades. There are wonderful pictures of Queen Mary, wife of George V, on a balcony in Whitehall huddled up in a fur coat. It was really cold then.

Yet another fact has been recorded - decades ago (when I was a little girl!) Bonfire Night was a time for heaping up fallen leaves for burning on bonfires, with the trees bare and few leaves left to fall. This year many trees on Bonfire night were in full leaf after a very mild October, the 6th warmest day across Central England in archives dating back to 1659. Remember the 1987 storm? So many trees were brought down mainly because they were still in full leaf.

It is usual for the first frost to occur around 5th November. I certainly remember seeing my breath in the air while watching the bonfire - either in the quarry at Shute Farm with many of the village children gathered around, or much later at Trendwell with the youth club, huddled against the wall of the ruined barn complex with Ivy Yeabsley, the leader, to enjoy the fireworks. Not so in recent years, it is only in the last week or so that I have donned a warm jacket to walk Kerra on the beach or around the lanes.

With flurries of snow forecast for next week (17th November) we'll see if winter is beginning to show its face.

Must get the chimney swept and stack some wood into the rear porch ready for a roaring fire to welcome the darkest days of winter, now only 5 weeks to the shortest day!

Take care, and enjoy the crisp days of winter, when and if they come.

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December		
Monday	2 nd	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, 7.30pm
Thursday	5 th	Defibrillator Awareness session, Thurlestone Hotel, 5pm
Friday	6 th	ACA luncheon, Oyster Shack, 12.30 for 1pm
Friday	6 th	School Christmas Fair, Parish Hall, 3.00pm
Sunday	8 th	Stanboro' Chorus Xmas Concert, Stokenham, 7.30pm
Wednesday	11 th	Alvington Singers, Thurlestone Church, 7pm
Friday	13 th	TRAMP, Braxton/Nealington (Christmas) (short)
Friday	13 th	WI Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1.00pm, TGC
Friday	13 th	Stanboro' Chorus, Buckfast Abbey, 7.30pm
Saturday	14 th	South Hams Society Beach Clean, South Milton, 10 am
Thursday	19 th	Carol Evening, Village Green, from 5.00pm
Tuesday	24 th	Stanboro' Chorus, St Edmunds, Carols for All, 4.30pm
January		
Monday	2 nd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday	5 th	WI Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Judge William Taylor)
Monday	13 th	NT talk, (Norway/Arctic Waters) Parish Hall, 2.30pm
Thursday	23 rd	Rotary Quiz Night, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday	29 th	KEDFAS, King's Arms, 10.30am (British Portraiture)
Wednesday	29 th	NT Coffee Morning, Thurlestone Hotel, 10.30am
Thursday	30 th	KEDFAS, King's Arms, 7.30pm (British Portraiture)
February		
Monday	6 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday	13 th	WI Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Women's Health & Wellbeing)
Sunday	23 rd	Tim Kiphaus Concert, Parish Hall, 7.30pm

Advertising Rates for Village Voice - 12 months (six issues)
 Whole Page - £75.00 Half Page - £55.00 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.

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

It was founded on behalf of 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 Barham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Calkcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Feb-Mar) ISSUE = 5th January 2014

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

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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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Est. 1896

Situated in the heart of the Thurlestone Community, this 16th Century traditional pub has been in the Grose family for over 115 years.

George and the team always offer you a warm welcome, and we pride ourselves on using the very best of local produce to create a superb selection of freshly prepared meals daily.

Bar Open Daily

Monday - Thursday

11.30am - 3.00pm

6.00pm - 11.00pm

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

11.30am - 11.00pm

(12.00pm - 10.30pm on Sunday)

Food Served Daily

Monday - Thursday

12.00pm - 2.00pm

6.00pm - 9.00pm

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

12.00pm - 9.00pm

- Quiz Night Special Tuesday ~ £8 Meal and Drink
- Friday Night Special ~ Fish and Chips
- Traditional Sunday Lunch
- Soup 'n' Sandwich ~ £7.95 (available Monday - Saturday Lunchtime only)
- Tea & Coffee
- Take Away Meals Available
- West Country Real Ales
- Regular Entertainment
- Children Welcome
- Dogs Welcome
- Free Wi-Fi
- Ample Parking
- Minutes from the South West Coastal Path
- Open All Day During School Holidays
- Special Events Catered For

Please contact George Holdsworth and the team for reservations and further information.

The Village Inn, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, South Devon, TQ7 3NN

Telephone: 01548 563525

Email: thevillageinn@thurlestone.co.uk Website: www.thurlestone.co.uk

The Pluses and Minuses

Why do we need ultrafast broadband?

1. Let's start with decent broadband, rather than the slow and unreliable kind.
2. It will enable streaming video, allowing us to Skype our families, watch iPlayer and watch films on demand - and lots more.
3. All new TVs, laptops, iPads etc. are now intrinsically designed for good broadband.
4. Future support from medical advisory services and many other everyday needs of rural communities.
5. For local businesses, hotels and schools, good broadband is not a luxury but a necessity.
6. Good broadband is an integral part of your property - and adds value to it.
7. As internet speeds just keep on getting faster - catering for the majority of people who live in cities - if we do nothing, we will simply be left further and further behind.

How does BT fit into this?

We have good relations with BT, but the fact is that a) they are very busy with other and bigger fish to fry. And b) they've made a technology choice that looks to squeeze as much life as it can out of the old copper network. We think that it is time to bite the bullet and go to the next generation - which means fibre, end-to-end. But when it comes to the procurement phase, BT will be invited to tender alongside everybody else.

What happens if it all goes wrong?

First, it won't - The Government has carried out extensive due diligence on our proposal. But if it does...

- a) before we've built anything, then Broadband Delivery UK has promised to meet the cost of re-inserting the area into the County Plan;
- b) after we've built the network... then the fibre network is sold to another company, and service continues.

Why can't we just wait for BT to deliver its Superfast service?

You can but, in our view, it's a dangerous strategy. **First**, their roll-out plans are hedged with caveats - see the www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/final-coverage-map/ website.

Second, in the CD&S plan for this area it looks like it will be the end of 2015 before the network is upgraded. **Third**, even by BT's own admission, something like 35% of the Thurlestone community may not receive the full benefits of superfast broadband. And **fourth**, we represent much better value for the public purse, requiring only around a one-third subsidy, compared to the two-thirds subsidy contained within CD&S' plan.

How can we be sure South Hams

Broadband will be around in 10 years' time?

As stated, SHB's job is to stimulate demand, raise the necessary finance, and organise the appropriate contractors to do the actual network design, construction and operation. These will operate on a concession basis, and we will only appoint well established and reputable companies to do this work.

And in conclusion, why is the local project preferable?

In brief...

1. Faster (no more 'up to')
2. Better
3. Cheaper
4. Sooner
5. More inclusive
6. More legitimate
7. Better value for tax-payers' money
8. More future-proof
9. Greater benefit to house values
10. Greater stimulus to the economy

The Best Broadband in Britain



Brought to you by The Home Team



SUPERFAST BROADBAND IS COMING...

Find out more and have your say on the plans at the Community Meeting with BT, Connecting Devon & Somerset, and South Hams Broadband.

Tuesday 10th December
7.30pm, Thurlestone Parish Hall

Where did this all spring from?

Initial interest in improving broadband in the community was identified in the Thurlestone Parish Plan, drawn up in 2010, and a group was formed to tackle this issue. Some funding was then secured to carry out an initial investigation of the existing infrastructure and to gauge the community's interest in better broadband. Broadway Partners helped develop the project to the point where it could legitimately apply for grant funding under the Rural Community Broadband Fund - where the project has been stalled since December 2012.

Who is behind South Hams Broadband?

The team has grown from the initial group of local volunteers who came together to take forward the relevant actions in Thurlestone's Parish Plan. Thurlestone Parish Council, South Hams District Council, Devon County Council, the Thurlestone Hotel, South Devon Coastal Local Action Group and the Lottery have all provided grants through the Parish of Thurlestone Society to help develop the proposal. The project team is led by Chris White, Paul Martin and Michael Armitage - full details at www.southhamsbroadband.co.uk

Why not a not-for-profit?

Two reasons. First, the Community Interest Company (CIC) structure requires something called an 'asset lock' - OK for a village shop or pub, but which makes it very difficult to raise the necessary capital. And second, the issue of sustainability: if we are to let an outside company run the network, it really has to be a commercial proposition, not a cooperative-type structure.

Do we have to invest to get services?

Absolutely not - but we think it is a good idea to let local people have a stake in the business if they want to - and it should certainly yield a better return than any bank deposit account!

Is funding in place?

As soon as the RCBF award is made, we will raise the necessary funds from investors.



What is South Hams Broadband?

SHB has been set up in order to translate the general ambition for better broadband into a reality. As such, it has two key roles:

- raising private capital to add to grant funding to finance the initial infrastructure investment;
 - overseeing the design, construction and operation of a viable broadband infrastructure (the technical requirements of this will be carried out by specialist organisations).
- SHB and its Directors will be ultimately responsible for protecting the interests of customers and the community.

How is the community represented?

SHB came about to meet the needs of the local community, and it will always be answerable to that community. More formally, all three directors are local residents and home-owners, and we will soon be appointing a Chairman who will also be local. The company's Articles of Association provide specifically for another locally-nominated director to be appointed, and also require the company to be "guided by the promotion of the welfare of the community".

Who will provide the service?

South Hams Broadband will own the network, but the actual running of the network, and any maintenance and repair work will be carried out by an appointed contractor, via a local representative.

What service and where?

Our plan is to provide ultrafast broadband to every home in the villages of Thurlestone, Buckland and Banham, and Hope Cove, Galmpton and South Hams. We also expect to provide service to South Milton. And that means speeds of up to 1Gbps for those connected directly to fibre, and 30Mbps for the more remote properties. With fibre-to-the-home, we will be delivering a totally future-proof solution, able to adapt to whatever new services and applications are developed.



Minimum percentage take-up?

We fully expect the new offering to be attractive and popular, and will be offering discounts to those who sign up early.

Will you be digging up the road?

Not if we can help it, as it's probably the most expensive way to build a network. But we may be sicing the road instead - something called microtrenching - which lets you cut a groove, lay the fibre, and fill in again, all in one motion. We might - stress, might - use BT's overhead pole system - although we would all like to get rid of these eyesores rather than add to them!

Why not wireless?

We expect to use a mix of technologies - fibre-to-the-home where it makes sense in the more densely populated villages, and wireless for the far-flung homes that are just too far distant to connect by fibre - although we will always try to come to an arrangement for those people that really want the permanent solution of fibre.

And which service providers?

You should be able to have most of the current well-known service providers - TalkTalk, Sky, AOL, as well as a host of interesting more local or specialised providers. Of course we hope that BT will also be offering its service - but that will be up to them.

When?

Assuming that the project is authorised now, we would expect to be able to appoint contractors in the Spring and to begin construction during the summer, with the first phase completing by the end of the 2014.

What will service cost? Data caps?

Contract terms?

Strictly speaking, that will be up to the Service Providers to decide. But we can be pretty certain major service providers will want to keep their life as simple as possible, and their T&Cs for fibre service will likely be very similar to their 'old' copper service - even though the new service will be altogether faster, better and more reliable.

At the same time we will be encouraging innovative new service providers to come on board, and these will be offering a range of different options - including higher speed options such as 100Mbps symmetric, or even 1Gbps, including service without any data caps, for which you will pay more, as you would expect.