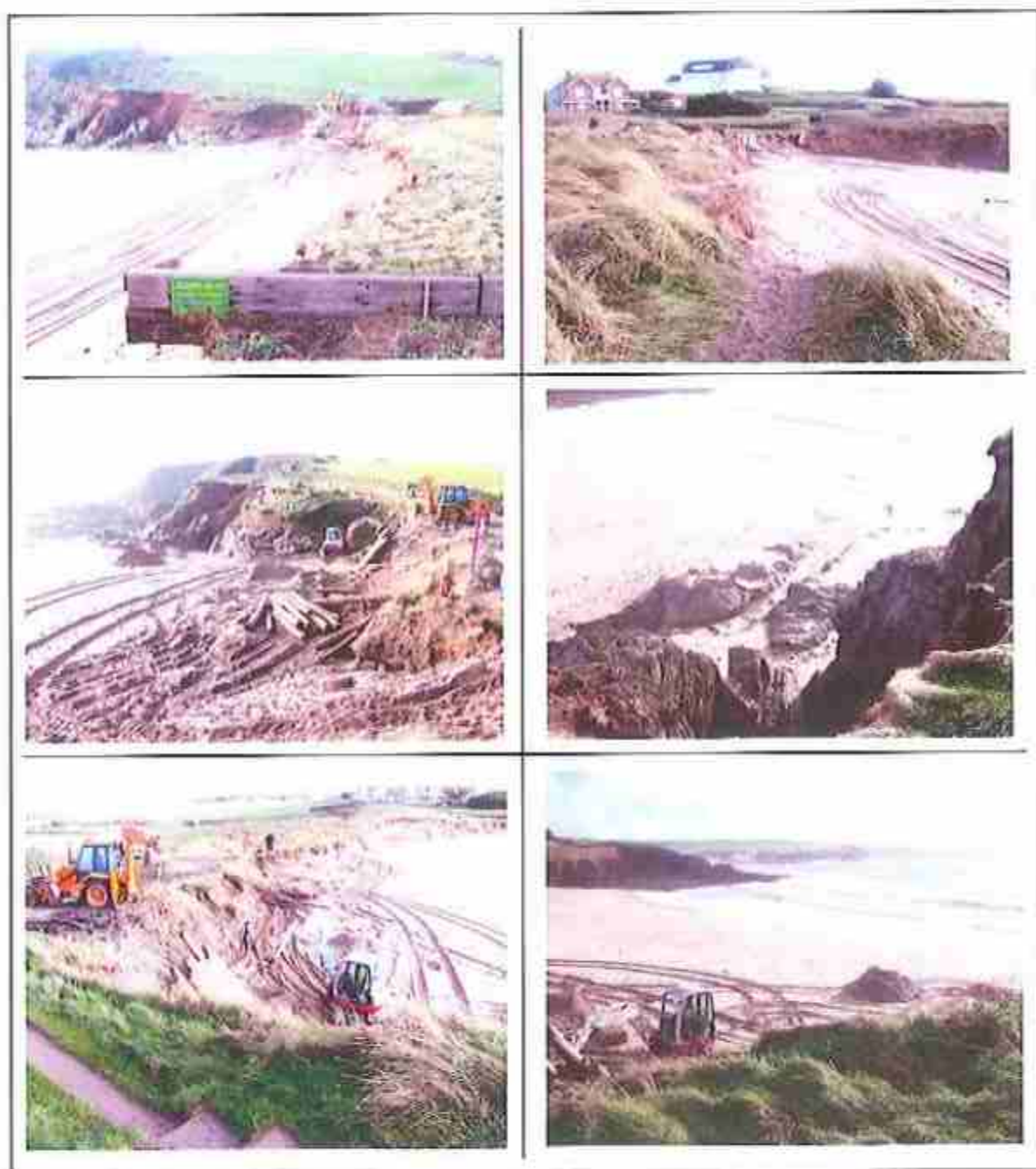


VILLAGE VOICE



February - March 2014

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone



NUMBER 185
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2014

Storm Damage

The pictures on our front cover were taken on Friday 17th January in the aftermath of the storms of the previous two weeks. A cliff fall at the north end of Leasfoot beach blocked the outlet of the stream which flows in front of the Golf Clubhouse, causing "Lake Stidston" to rise, and the Golf Club car park to flood (one startled member had to be summoned from the course to rescue and remove his car!).

As the beach and the stream are the Golf Club's responsibility, they hired Rodney Stidston to sort out the problem. His solution was to excavate a new exit for the stream on to the beach, hence the small river shown in one of the pictures. The material he removed to create the new outflow is being used to help make good some of the erosion along the bank south of the outflow.

While some sections of the South Coast Footpath round the course were re-routed by the Golf Club as a precaution, more have now been eroded, and the timber of the 2nd competition tee can now be seen jutting into mid-air. Walkers will have to take extra care along the cliff edge as further subsidence may occur at weak spots.

The Golf Club is to be congratulated for its prompt remedial action. Let us hope the weather will now relent, and that we have already had our February fill-dyke in January this year.

Front Cover : Storm damage repair at Leasfoot

Founder Dudley Drabble

Editor PATRICIA MACDONALD
25 Mead Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3PB
01548-560436
e-mail: rbnmacd@aol.com

Advertising Manager JO PARKIN
Ardentigh
Court Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3ND
01548-561215
e-mail: tsr.parkin@gmail.com

Accounts GAVIN PRICE
Production Manager TOM TRENDER

Production Team

TED ABEL
JOHN & MAUREEN BAKER
SHIRLEY BARNES
PAT CRAWFORD
MARGARET CULLUM
IAN & JANET FRASER
NORMA KENDALL
JUDITH LE GRICE
ROSEMARY MACKAY
AL PARKER
JAN TRENDER
CHRIS & LISA WHITE

Distribution Organisers

LINDA CHILCOTT
PETER HURRELL
GRAHAM & VAL PALMER

Mail Order Copies JUDITH REYNOLDS
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01548-560912

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Superfast Broadband – The Big Society in Action?

Finally, the showdown! More than a year after our original application for Government support, six months after the Secretary of State charged BT and Councils to work together to accommodate our community proposal, and after months of skirmishing – finally, a public discussion of the merits of the two competing proposals.

Having waited for this opportunity for so long, it was disappointing that this 'official' effort organised by Devon County Council failed on two crucial counts – in substance and form.

Disappointing in Substance

The home team had the honour to present its case first, and dutifully ran through its proposal for the umpteenth time. Apologies to all those in the audience who had heard it before!

BT then had the opportunity to present its case. To the disappointment of many in the audience, it made no attempt to answer the nine questions that had been posed to allow for direct comparisons, and offered little concrete information or commitments regarding its own coverage plans, projected speeds or timescales ("survey work will start by the end of 2014..."), confirming that any indications of coverage would be "subject to survey". (For goodness' sake, they own their own network, so why the need to survey it?)

Instead, BT's representative, Bill Murphy, one of the most senior people in the organisation, head of the entire Next Generation strategy, and especially shipped in for the occasion, fell back on his familiar strategy of attempting to sow fear, uncertainty and doubt (the 'FUD Factor') in the minds of the audience. Sadly, for it, BT seemed to underestimate its audience's intelligence.

Not only did this strategy somewhat backfire on an audience that does not care to be patronised, but it also fell short of the audience's expectations for both detail and fact. Mr Murphy cited two particular reasons for not choosing the 'home' team's proposal.

First, he made frequent reference to the fact that the South Yorkshire Digital Region has

recently had to write off £130m of public money as evidence of the risks of any solution other than BT's.

Behind the rhetoric, the facts are that:

1. Digital Region was a local authority-managed project – a bad move from the start.
2. It used fibre-to-the-cabinet – the same technology as BT, so that there was no real difference between the two offers.
3. As a project it ran late, so lost any potential 'first mover' advantage over BT.
4. It was more of an urban project than a rural one, so isn't even comparable with our own situation.

The uncomfortable fact (for BT) is that for every South Yorkshire disaster, there are a dozen, if not a hundred examples of successful community-originated, or community-backed fibre networks. Go to the www.ftthcouncil.eu website for a taster!

The second scare-mongering point related to the claim that 'major ISPs will not connect to anything other than a BT network'. In response we would say:

1. If BT really can speak for TalkTalk, Sky etc., its monopolistic reach extends even further than we had thought;
2. It is a well documented fact, and they have told us so directly, that major ISPs such as TalkTalk and Sky are very keen for competitors to emerge to challenge BT/Openreach;
3. Companies already exist that act as aggregators, allowing multiple ISPs to connect to multiple networks, so there is no doubt that consumers will have an abundant choice of ISPs – both national and local.

There were other areas of ambiguity, particularly in relation to coverage objectives. Altogether, BT failed to deliver any sort of knock-out punch – constrained no doubt by the technical limitations of its own penny-

pinching, incrementalist approach to network modernisation.

Disappointing in Form

For all the inadequacy of BT's presentation, perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the evening was its conclusion.

Throughout, Councillor Hart had given a masterly demonstration of even-handed, impartial chairing of the meeting, keeping both presenters to their allotted time, and allowing equal questioning of both options, in his best authoritative manner.

Concluding his own presentation Bill Murphy told the audience they had "an important choice to make". But exactly how the audience would get an opportunity to make this choice was far from clear. Perhaps a vote could be taken there and then? Just to give the Chairman a flavour of what the audience had made of the two options presented? Councillor Hart was having none of it. Perhaps sensing the overwhelming mood of the audience, his concern was for the 1,300 households in the area who had seen fit not to attend the meeting, not the 150 in the audience. He would not have a vote taken.

So poor Mr Murphy was denied the opportunity to discover what the Thurstone community thought of his company's plans. And so was Councillor Hart. But then he and his select committee will take the decision for them regardless, on "commercial" grounds (his words). And on the basis of a written report from the CD&S Broadband team that would remain 'commercially confidential'.

What then was the purpose of this meeting? A series of quarter page adverts in the local press, the hiring of a 4 star hotel conference facility in preference to the local Parish Hall (which would have cost a fraction of the price), travel expenses for a number of council officers, and all at the taxpayers' expense.

Was all this to assist the Council to reach a "commercial" decision? Councillor Hart made it abundantly clear that it was certainly **not** to allow the community any input into the decision-making process by way of a vote.

Thurstone and other South Hams residents left the meeting shaking their heads in disbelief and dismay, muttering "window-dressing",

"stitch-up", and other more robust epithets, returning home to their less than 2Mb broadband facilities for which they have been paying the same rate as city dwellers receiving 20Mb or more - and are likely to continue doing so for at least another two years.

Just what our local MP Dr Sarah Wollaston, Secretary of State Maria Miller, and BDUK (not to mention the Prime Minister) will make of this demonstration of the Big Society and the democratic consultative process in action remains to be seen. But you could let them know what **you** think of the matter.

In Conclusion

To assist the CD&S Broadband team in their report-writing, and our elected representatives in their decision-making, we reiterate, in a nutshell, the case for the 'home team' project:

1. Better, faster, cheaper; with fibre-to-the-home wherever possible
2. Better value for the public purse -- with an additional £1m+ of new money coming to this part of Devon (allowing CD&S to spend their money elsewhere in the region);
3. More legitimate -- community-backed and largely community-owned; and
4. Better for residents and for the economy.

We rest our case.

Michael Armitage

Your Chance to Vote

Despite being deprived of the opportunity to vote at Wednesday's Public Meeting you can still register your vote on the issue - by e-mail.

Simply send an e-mail to the Chairman of Devon County Council, Councillor John Hart, at john.hart@devon.gov.uk saying:

"I wish to vote for the South Hams Broadband option."

if you wish to express your support of the local community option, rather than the BT option.

Your vote may well be crucial in assisting the Council to reach the right decision.

An Update from your District Councillor

The year just ended has been characterised by, amongst other issues, the proposal for changes to Ward boundaries. These will take effect at the next District Council Elections in May 2015, at which time the number of Wards will fall from 30 to 20 and the number of District Councillors from 40 to 31. The specific proposal for Thurlestone Ward is that the parishes of, Churchstow, Woodleigh and Buckland Tout Saints will be repositioned into other Wards and Thurlestone and South Milton will join with Salcombe, Malborough, South Hulsh, and West Alvington to become Salcombe and Thurlestone Ward, served by two District Councillors. The public consultation process for this has ended and the official outcome will be published in February, with the probability that the above proposals will be confirmed.

As significant as the above changes, will be further measures to be taken to underpin the finances of SHDC between now and 2018, in the light of the savings which the government has to enact on a national basis. The objective of SHDC is to maintain 'front line' services, while keeping increases in 'Band D equivalent' council tax to below 2%pa. Although much has been achieved over the last few years through the sharing of services and management costs with West Devon Borough Council further savings in costs must be made and a review during last year showed no scope for significant additional savings from within the existing management and operational models. Accordingly, fundamental and radical changes to the way in which SHDC will provide services have been proposed and a 'Transformation Programme' to achieve these changes has been ratified by the Council. The groundwork for those changes, which include updating of computer hardware and systems and retraining of staff has started. This will be a shared initiative with West Devon Borough Council which also has ratified the decision to proceed.

A further development in the process of reorganisation has been the decision by SHDC Chief Executive, Richard Sheard to retire now, rather than mid-way through the pending 'Transformation Programme' with the risk of then interrupting, destabilising or delaying its progress. This is an unselfish decision and typical of Mr Sheard's professionalism and sensitivity to the interests of SHDC.

The Council has decided not to replace Mr. Sheard immediately but to continue with a joint management of the administrative and operational role, under two existing senior directors, Ms. Tracy Winsor and Mr Alan Robinson. Ms. Winsor will lead the 'Transformation Programme', having been instrumental in its development and given that it is a legal requirement for 'A Head of Paid Services' to be retained, this role will be taken by Mr. Robinson. A number of Councils in England and Wales have proceeded along similar lines and the situation will be reviewed later in 2014. In the meantime a significant saving in management costs will be achieved.

South Hams District Council believe the above measures to be necessary to fulfil its statutory obligations, to continue to provide statutory and other 'front line' services in the foreseeable future and at the same time avoid unacceptable levels of increase in future council tax.

Ian Bramble
District Councillor

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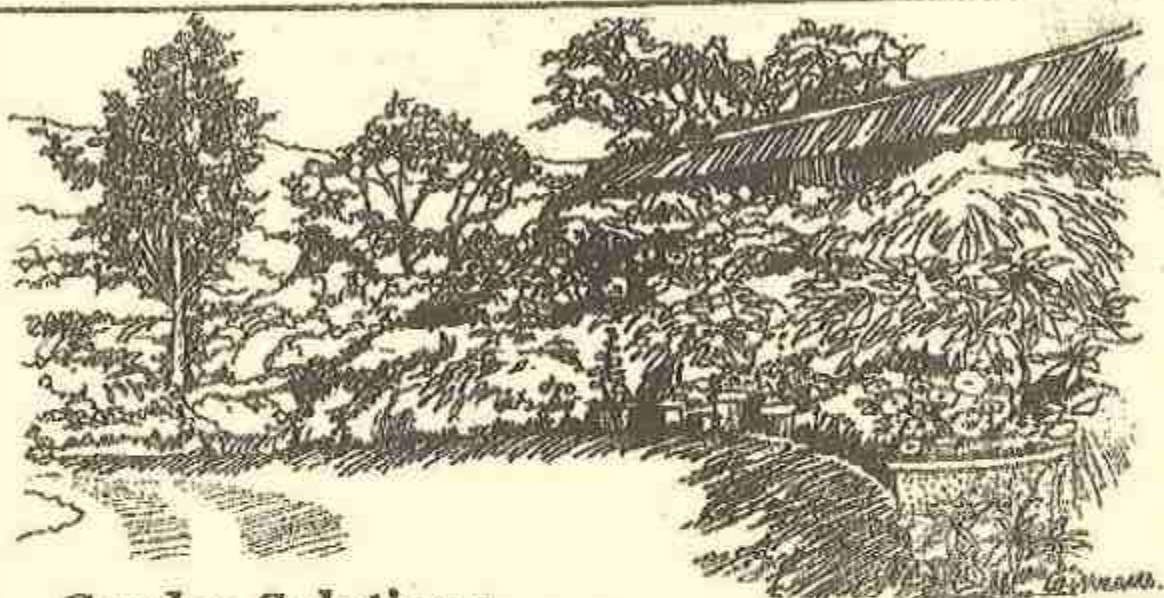
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Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 2 December and 6 January 2014

News & Views by Citizen

ATTENDANCE

In December seven Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, County Councillor, District Councillor and four members of the public were present and in January six Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, District Councillor and eleven members of the public attended.

OPEN FORUM

Planning, 16 Meadcombe Road The site visit by the SHDC was considered to be very one-sided in favour of the applicant, despite previous assurance by Dean Kinsella of the SHDC Planning Department that they would try to work with Parish Councils on such applications.

Street sweeping The street sweeping by the DCC Highways Department on the private roads of the Mead estate was queried, as some of the Council's roads had not been swept. It was pointed out that residents of the Mead also paid Council Tax, so why the query?

Wind Turbines The Parish Council is asked to oppose the Planning application for three wind turbines on Mount Folly Farm land as the location on the proposal does not show how close they would be to the coastline and overlooking Bantham.

HIGHWAYS

Parking outside the school continues to cause problems for other road users, especially refuse vehicles. Parishioners were asked to write to the school to complain. In West Buckland there is a blocked gully near Woodlands, a four inch drop in the road tarmac adjacent to the phone box, and the wall on top of the bridge still awaits repair.

FOOTPATHS & HERITAGE COAST

The paved footpath by the green and war memorial is slippery and needs cleaning. The Thurlestone Sands v South Milton Sands saga will be revisited now that the distractions of Christmas and the New Year have ceased. The golf club has relocated the coastal path damaged by cliff erosion.

SCHOOL

All the condemned play equipment has now been removed and funds are being raised for its replacement. Locking gates will be installed to the play area to give the school exclusive use between 9am and 3.30pm, after which the area will be available for public use.

PARISH PLAN

Broadband A public meeting was held on 10 December 2013, when strong support for the South Hams option was given. A further meeting is to be held on 22 January 2014, where BT will be present. They did not send a representative to the meeting on 10 December.

Mobile Phone Mast Land owned by Rodney Stidston was available for the mast. Councillor Dale Came is looking in more detail at the areas of poor reception and will report his progress later.

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

Budget The Council to discuss the coming year's budget in view of possible expenditure on the cobbled road by the church, and a contribution to the school's new play equipment.

Best Kept Village competition The Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS) will make an

application for 2014. It was noted that the two damaged Land Rovers (commented on by the BKV judge last year) have now been removed.

Public Toilets The facilities near the golf club have been ear-marked for winter closure. More discussions will take place to see if they can be kept open.

'No Parking' fines A £10 cheque has been received by the Parish Council as the result of illegal parking on the cobbled road. A further £20 is due to follow.

Memorial bench Permission has been sought from the owner of private land near the phone box, opposite Thurlestone shop, for the location of a bench by a relative of Councillor Mitchelmore.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Ian Bramble said that

(1) A section 106 agreement relating to legal contributions from the builders of new properties on the Yarmer estate towards the cobbled road repairs, is unlikely and the matter should be discussed with developers at the pre-planning stage.

(2) He will enquire if TAP funding could be used for Broadband purposes

(3) He is still looking into the matter of road sweeping on the Mead estate.

(4) SHDC are striving to make cost savings, and their Chief Executive will not be replaced.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Rufus Gilbert gave the Parish Council a map of roads in the parish showing drainage gullies. This could be made available for parishioners to consult. He also gave the Council's list of road categories which relate to the order of importance for maintenance.

He advised us to e-mail the DCC with details of the repairs needed, as well as the road category and this request could then be tracked through DCC's website.

[Post meeting note: It was reported on national television (14.1.14) that DCC, along with other SW counties, had insufficient monies in their road repair budgets, and this could mean some roads receiving no maintenance, leading to their eventual closure.]

BUSINESS BY DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

- Donation to church of £300 approved.
- Estimates for repairs to cobbled road to be sought for budget purposes.
- The Len Hubbard memorial Christmas tree had been replaced.
- WW1 Centenary: A meeting of interested parties in the parish (POTS, Parish Council, Church, etc.) and any interested parishioners will be held on 27 January at 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room to discuss ideas for marking the event. South Milton intend to add a tribute to all those who served, not only those killed, to their memorial. A POTS research group is looking into histories of those named on our war memorial, with a view to holding an exhibition in the Parish Hall over the August Holiday weekend.
- Councillor Jill Munn said that the fencing and cycle stores, part of the eco-houses opposite the Village Inn, look something of an eyesore in such a prominent village spot. The original approved plans will be examined to see what was intended in the way of shrubs/trees being planted to mask the site.

NEXT MEETING

This will be on Monday 3 February, 2014, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall Yeo Room.



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Village News Round-Up

Kendall McDonald

All the team at Village Voice were saddened to learn of the death on 12 January of Kendall McDonald, aged 86 who, together with his wife Penny, edited and published this magazine between 1987 and 1995. After relinquishing the editorial chair Kendall continued to contribute articles for Village Voice, particularly a regular commentary as Villager, in which he informed, enlightened, teased, provoked, and sometimes even outraged the parish with his special blend of wit and erudition. We hope to include a detailed tribute to him in our next issue, but meantime to offer to his daughter Joanna and her family our sincere condolences.

Sea Shanty Evening

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.

Kingsmen success

At the recent Plymouth Music Festival the Kingsmen Chorus won the Alice Platt Shield in the Barbershop competition, and their group of eight also won the Small Chorus competition. Quite a few Thurlestone gents belong to the chorus, and no doubt played a part in these successes (Phil Millard, Brian Munn, Graham Palmer, Mike Sparrow, John Stewart and Chris White). We extend our warm congratulations to all concerned.

If you think you might be interested in joining the Kingsmen, as a complete beginner or otherwise, please contact Roy Hann on 01548-856528, or go to one of their Wednesday night practice evenings at the Evangelical Church, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, 7.30pm to 10.00pm. You can also get further information from www.kingsmen.org.uk

Try Your Hand At Bowls?

Thurlestone Bowls Club is holding two afternoon 'taster' sessions of short mat bowling at Thurlestone Parish Hall, from

2.30pm to 3.30pm on Wednesday 20 and Wednesday 27 March and extend a warm invitation to anyone interested (experienced or a total beginner) to come along and meet them. If there is sufficient interest, an afternoon group may be formed in addition to the existing Thursday evening one. Please ring either Pat Crawford on 01548-560688 or Jean Yeoman on 01548-560607 to make enquiries. They would welcome hearing from you!

Neighbourhood Watch

We have been advised by a resident on Yarmer Estate that he has had 1,000 litres of oil stolen from his oil tank during a weekend recently. His oil tank is at the back of his house, in a locked up cupboard/shed. It has been reported to the police but all residents are warned to be vigilant.

Best Kept Village Award

Thurlestone will be entering this competition again in 2014, and everyone is invited to do their bit to assist the campaign to present our village at its best for the judges. To this end we will be publishing in our next issue the full, unvarnished report of the judges following their visits here in 2013. It is a very even-handed document which gives praise where it is due and which touches gently on areas where there is room for improvement. More on this next time!

Beach Cleaning

Jane and Patrick Stanley would like to express their thanks to all the hardy volunteers who helped with beach cleaning in 2013, and particularly the 15 stalwarts who came forward to help at the Leasfoot beach cleaning session after the January storms, and who collectively removed from the beach area some 31 sacks of general rubbish and refuse. No bronze age spear heads were found this time - but next time, perhaps? There is always a chance!

Village Inn Facelift

Phase one of the Village Inn refurbishment has now been completed. The remaining work will be completed early in February. A

new wood burner will be installed, and the premises will be re-decorated and have new flooring throughout. The Village Inn will be open and available during this period with the exception of 4 or 5 days from Monday 3rd February, when the new flooring and wood burner are due to be installed.

Redfern Health Centre

The Friends of the Redfern (FORC), Salcombe, held their AGM recently when Clive Parsons was re-elected as the chairman. Mrs Pat Brookes retired from the committee, having been a member since 1996, fourteen of these as chairman, and she was warmly thanked for all her hard work during this time.

A replacement sterilising machine had recently been purchased costing some £5700, thus enabling the practice doctors to increase the number of minor surgical procedures they are able to carry out. A dermatoscope has also been purchased, a specialised magnifier of skin lesions to determine whether removal is necessary. Having both these pieces of equipment on hand means fewer patients will have to travel to Derriford or Torbay.

The July 2013 annual lunch at Malborough village hall was well supported and produced a profit of £730, for which grateful thanks go to Keith Steer for organising the event. Warm thanks were expressed to all the doctors and staff at the centre, the volunteer car drivers, the committee, the donors and all the supporters of FORC.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 11 February when all patients at the Redfern are most welcome to attend. Details will be available at the practice.

Probus Club

The Club, for retired professional and businessmen, meets in the Thurstone Hotel on the second Friday of the month for lunch and to hear a speaker. December's speaker was Mike Golding who spoke about Autogyros. Mike was one of the first people in the UK to pilot one of the new range of lightweight autogyros. The talk covered everything from the theory of autogyros to writing the early pilot manuals and being one of the early pilot examiners. His talk was illustrated by models and many slides.

John Crellin, January's speaker, talked about

his 'Transatlantic Adventure'. John is an experienced sailor who once worked for The Island Cruising Club in Salcombe. His talk related his crewing a large modern yacht (with a 150ft mast) from Newport, Rhode Island, USA, to the UK via St. Johns, Newfoundland.

The trip began riding out hurricane Sandy (Nov 2012). Half way across the Atlantic they were hit by a big storm with following winds and huge seas. Several of these waves crashed over the cockpit area causing severe damage, carrying away safety equipment and navigation systems. After running repairs they hoped to dock in Salcombe but poor visibility and low tide meant that they had to carry on to Southampton. John's talk was illustrated by many slides and a 20 minute video which included shots of the hurricane and the wave damage. All of which reminded your reporter of why he prefers dry land.

At the 14th February meeting, the speaker will be Vice Admiral Sir Johnathan Tod whose talk is entitled 'Driving an Aircraft Carrier'. On 14th March, Andrew Sparrow, the son of our Chairman Mike, will talk on 'The sourcing and selection of Wines for British Airways First Class'. There is a rumour that there may be some samples.

If any retired professional or businessmen is interested in joining the Club, or coming as a visitor, please contact **Tom Trender** on **560893**.

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PARISH HALL NEWS

Chairman: Neill Irwin



At the time of my last report, we were looking forward to welcoming the High Society Jazz Band to the Hall. A subsequent e-mail came from parishioner Gill Durden which we think sums up the event admirably:

"What a great evening we had at the Hall.....the sounds of the jazz provided by High Society are still floating through my mind as they played all our favourite tunes luring nearly everyone on to the dance floor. From *Hello Dolly* to *The Way You Look Tonight*, and Al Parker in sparkling form escorting several ladies *Walking Down the Avenue*, it was just so enjoyable. Many thanks to Lisa and Judith for once again organising a really super event. It is always such a lovely atmosphere on these evenings when we bring our own food and drink to share round the table. As usual the Hall looked fabulous with coloured lights and nicely-decorated tables. To those who didn't turn up - you missed a wonderful time".

Tim Kliphuis is returning to the village on Sunday 23rd February (note it is a Sunday, not a Saturday) this time with, to us, a new combo of Nigel Clark on guitar and Ray Percy on bass. Tim's concerts are always heavily booked, so do be sure to order your tickets soon. On Saturday 29th March, there will be the welcome return of the very talented Dartmouth-based Porter Family whose performance last year was enthusiastically received by a packed Hall. Details of these events are in the adverts elsewhere in this issue. Here is a note of the other events we hope to put on in 2014, so keep an eye open for details later on in Village Voice.

31 May	Matt Harvey, humorist and poet - Radio 4 favourite
June/July	The Racketts Rock 'n Roll Band - Popular numbers from the 50s and 60s
29 July	BBQ Boules & Bowls - with the Telephone Box Committee at the grill
August	Bantham beach event - with the Bantham Surf Life Saving & Sailing Clubs
13 Sept	Last Night of the Proms on the big screen - BYO supper and drinks
20 Sept	Autumn Fair - a joint effort by the Hall regular users
27 Sept	Gilbert & Sullivan Fellowship - The Yeomen of the Guard
18 October	Huw Wiggin - a return visit - with his Sirocco Saxophone Quartet
1 November	Jazz Group 'Spiffing Tunes' - let your hair down, and BYO supper

The Hall has not been immune to this winter's stormy weather and some lead valleys on the roof have had to be replaced, as well as three rotted fence-posts which now have new struts.

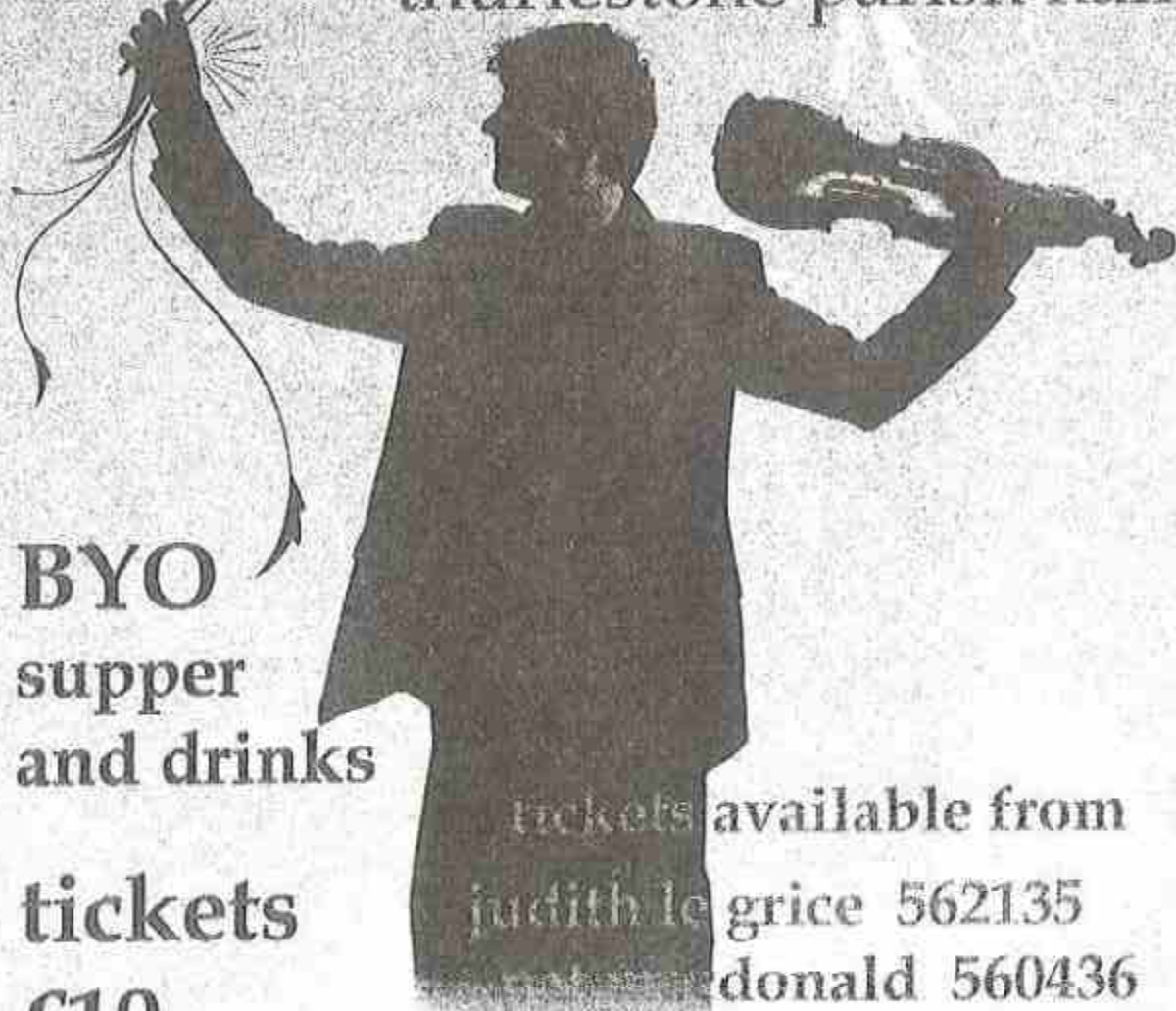
One valiant committee member has volunteered to pressure-wash the outside of the Hall in response to a Best Kept Village judge's comment, and the back hedge will also be receiving a trim and tidy. Decorating costs for the inside of the Hall have also been factored into the 2014 budget.

Our AGM will be on Tuesday 25 March at 6pm. This is the time parishioners can hear about how the Hall has fared over the past year, and what plans there are for the future. Most importantly, we want to listen to your ideas. *The Hall is a very popular venue not only for our own fund-raising events but also for other organisations' activities. It is a great social amenity and focus of activity which can only be maintained with your encouragement, so please continue to support us whenever you can, and do your best to come to the AGM.*

TIM KLIPHUIS *is back*

sunday 23rd february
7.30

thurlestone parish hall



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and drinks

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Saints*

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LAY READER: Peter Gornall

Peter Gornall Writes:



TURRIS FORTISSIMA...

We shall be hearing plenty about the Church tower. There is a separate article on the subject of weathering and what must be done to mend it.

Seen from the sea or the coast path on the way to Hope Cove, the Church tower and, across the hillside, the white mass of the Hotel more or less define the village. And there is the grey silhouette of The Downs on the hilltop and the pale complex of The Links by the beaches: the spacious Yarmer estate on one side and the Mead (small trees only) on the other. But it is the Church tower which affirms the village as such, and that it is not a holiday park or a faceless dormitory suburb.

Curiously, from within the Church the tower is the least obvious part; especially as, sadly, the bells are rarely rung. Of course, in the long Judaeo-Christian heritage, towers have not had a propitious place. Babel was not a success. And the few towers pre-existing the Israelite arrival in the Promised Land were soon demolished or torched by the invaders, a tent-dwelling people who were well accustomed to mobility and impermanence. The very early Christians had neither the time nor the resources to set about building anything; and Jerusalem, city of their most momentous story, was a lost cause as headquarters after Titus had finished with it in 70 AD.

Yet even the tent dwellers had a sense of place, of the Holy in unexpected corners. The town of Bethel ("House of God") twelve miles north of Jerusalem is the place where Jacob set up his stone pillow as a pillar to commemorate his dream of a ladder between heaven and earth. And the figurative use of such reference marks is well illustrated by the Ebenezer "Stone of Help" set up by Samuel after an Israelite victory; and the nonconformist hymn lines:

"Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I'm come"

Our beloved English churches were so much more than Sunday worship houses, more than baptism, marriage and funeral venues; they were meeting places, social and dispute resolution centres, market halls and more. And bells were needed to summon people, to relay messages about coastal defence, to add something especially English to an atmosphere of celebration.

So the tower represents a holy place and a deep and long-lasting heritage of faith in action in one place over many centuries. Some of that faith, true, may have been more "traditional" than heart-felt. But so many of the inscriptions in the graveyard witness to faith lived and worked out, and sometimes died for. Lying there in the shadow of those weathered stones, many would have agreed with the writer of Proverbs: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower" – the motto of the City of Plymouth, except that they like it in Latin.

Every Blessing!

Peter



All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

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

Church Services

Sundays

EVERY SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP: Feb/March 2nd, 16th,
March 23rd; CW: Feb/March 9th, Feb 23rd, March 30th)

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2ND & 16TH

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Fairtrade Stall Feb/March 2nd)

Also on FEBRUARY 2ND

6.00pm Benefice Evensong at West Alvington

FEBRUARY 9TH

11.10am Morning Worship

FEBRUARY 23RD, MARCH 9TH

11.10am Matins (BCP)

MARCH 16TH

6.00pm Benefice Praise Service at South Milton

MARCH 23RD

11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Churchstow

MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 30TH

11.10am Mothering Sunday Family Service with posies

Weekdays

THURSDAY FEB 6TH, MARCH 6TH

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5TH

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
6.00pm Benefice Eucharist (CW)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

8.30am Morning Prayer (said)

CW = Common Worship (modern language) BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)

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

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Films
for All
TUESDAYS
2.30 p.m.



FEBRUARY 4TH

**Hyde Park
on Hudson**

Bill Murray, Olivia
Williams, Samuel West,
Olivia Coleman

MARCH 4TH

Philomena

Judi Dench,
Steve Coogan,
Sophie Kennedy Clark

APRIL 8TH

**Sunshine
on Leith**

George MacKay, Kevin
Guthrie, Freya Mavor,
Antonia Thomas

Leaflets with information about the films available in Church, Meeting Room & Thurlestone

Donations to Church Funds ~ More information Liz Webb 560090

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THURLESTONE PARISH CHURCH TOWER APPEAL

An Appeal is being launched by the Friends of Thurstlestone Church together with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to raise funds for essential repairs to the Church Tower in order to ensure that this wonderful landmark of the village and South Hams coastline will endure for generations to come. The tower dates from the early 15th century and, as happens with buildings of this age, there is a serious problem which requires urgent attention.

In 2002, and again in 2008, the Church Architect reported that continuing severe erosion of the local soft stone and pointing, exacerbated in areas by the use of inappropriate repair materials in the last century, required re-pointing and piecing in of stone as soon as funds permit. A further recent report by the architects, indicated that the weathering is progressive and has deteriorated further and that remedial work needs to be carried out in the very near future.

The work will involve fully scaffolding the tower to enable a stonework contractor to cut out the mortar joints, remove eroded stonework, replace with new stone and re-point with lime mortar. As lime-mortar is frost sensitive while setting, this work will have to be carried out from next spring and is likely to take several months to complete. The estimated cost is £150,000.

The PCC has been building up reserves for several years and is now able to contribute £40,000 towards the cost and will be approaching grant-making bodies for additional help. However these will often only consider grants where matching funding has been raised. The Endowment raised to date by the Friends of the Church can only generate sufficient income to meet the current on-going costs of maintaining the fabric of the building. However, given the urgency of the situation, the Trustees of the Church Building Trust, the legal entity of the Friends, have agreed to release £50,000 from the Endowment Fund to expedite the work. The annual income of the Trust will thereby be reduced unless the capital is swiftly replaced.

Support of this Appeal will have a three-fold impact: it will enable the essential remedial work to be carried out; it will help us attract additional funds from grant-giving agencies and it will mean that fewer funds must be released from the Endowment allowing the Friends of the Church to continue helping to meet the on-going maintenance costs of the fabric.

We very much hope that this Appeal to preserve the Tower will be supported by all those who value the Church building not only as a place of worship but also as the architectural centre point of the village. Information on donating may be obtained from Graham Worrall (01548 562016), Martyn Grose (01548 560396), Ron Parkin (01548 561215) or Julian Tregelles (01548 560152).

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

I felt I must write to say how much I appreciated your charming footnote to Traveller's last article. It was, as you point out, written very shortly before her death when it was not easy for her to concentrate or type. Gill loved writing for Village Voice. Sadly she died before being able to see her final article in print. She would have been so pleased with the nice things that you said about her.

Equally she and, I am sure, her fellow Directors of Evans Estates (to whom I will make sure to send a copy of your editorial) will very much appreciate the handsome things you were kind enough to write about the Estate. Although I was only remotely involved in the decision to sell I can assure you it was only made after very considerable deliberation and that the Directors are determined, so far as it is within their power, to sell to a purchaser who will have a similar vision for Bantham as their own.

May I also be allowed to use the Voice to thank all those in the parish who have sent me cards and letters saying nice things about Gill and commiserating with me at her loss? I do indeed miss her terribly but these letters and cards have been a great comfort.

Tony Goddard
The Dog Watches, Bantham

Dear Editor

Evans Estates (1956) Ltd

I read the editorial in the Village Voice edition Number 184 headed Bantham Bombshells with interest. Like you and no doubt many others living in the locality I too have admired the vision of Commander Edward Evans and his family in the way in which they have managed the Bantham Estate over so many years in a manner which has conserved the natural beauty of the Avon Estuary as you describe.

As you can imagine the decision to sell the Bantham Estate has been a very difficult one for the Directors. If I may be permitted, I would like to take you up on one point in your editorial. The Directors have appointed my firm together with Strutt & Parker to handle the sale of the Estate jointly and therefore Michelmores Hughes will be intimately involved with the outcomes. I know that my colleagues would openly endorse this fact.

I just wanted to put the record straight.

Yours sincerely

J S Aylett
Michelmores Hughes, Totnes

[We have written to apologise to Mr Aylett and to acknowledge this unfortunate omission in our previous issue. Ed.]

Sea Shanty Evening

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GILLIAN GODDARD 1941-2013

Tributes by Andrew Turnbull and Rev Trevor Smith

"Gilly" Goddard was born in Hertford on 28 March 1941 but conceived, she claims, in Bantham! She was the daughter of Bryan Limbrey Toll and his wife, Primrose (nee Evans). She was sister to Michael Toll and aunt to his two sons, Bryan and Peter, the wife of Tony Goddard, step-mother to Glyn and his wife, Eleanor, and step-grandmother to their children Oliver and Harriet.

Bryan Toll, an only child, inherited his estate in Strete, Devon, when still a minor, from his widowed mother, and presumably he met Primrose, one of the three daughters of Commander Charles Edward Evans, while on holiday in Bantham. Charles Evans, a wealthy entrepreneur with interests in coal and shipping based in Cardiff, had built up the Bantham estate in the 1920s.

Although Bryan and Primrose moved to Hertford, which was convenient for Bryan's work, the family holiday home continued to be at Ham Cottage in Bantham, and it was while at Bantham that Gill learned her skill at handling boats and the art of sea-fishing, an ability and interest that she kept all her life. It was while staying at Ham Cottage as a child, she told me, that she first observed my brother and I trying to sail an out of control pram dinghy, in a strong wind, from Cockleridge Point to Bantham Quay using a sail that father had borrowed from his time in Air Sea Rescue!

Bryan Toll retired when Gill was still very young and moved to Staverton, where he established a market garden business. Gill went to Mrs Butler's School and then (extremely reluctantly) to boarding schools from both of which she admits should would have been expelled except that the schools needed her fees. She left school with 'O' Levels in Art, English and Cooking and, with Distinctions in dancing and elocution, went briefly to art school in Newton Abbot until she was old enough to go to London to study at the Webber Douglas School of Singing and Dramatic Art. Unhappily a damaged foot put paid to her intended career as a dancer, but over the next twelve years she went on to pursue what can best be described as a varied theatrical career.

This involved being an extra in several films,

one a Bond film; and frequent appearances on TV including as a nurse in that 'battle of the bedpans', *Emergency Ward 10*. She was a field mouse in *Toad of Toad Hall* and part of the aerial ballet in the pantomime *Babes in the Wood*. With her singing voice, she was for a period understudy to Cilla Black. She was also part of a singing duo, called Gill and Alex, with a Cambridge intellectual which sang around the tables in West End restaurants. She was a guinea pig with Bruce Forsyth in the *Generation Game* and, in between times, walked dogs for a fee, sold Carmen rollers, and was a Golden Dip Stick Girl, checking Total garage forecourts!

Of course she continued to spend as much time as possible in Bantham. I can still remember her attempts to bring Bantham into the limelight by establishing a raft race from Aveton Gifford to Bantham. This was not a total success as the participants seemed to lack the engineering skills to build a raft that was capable of going the distance and most came home in the rescue boats.

Eventually, in the early 1970s she sold the house she had bought in London and returned to the South Hams where she renovated, and then lived in Ham Cottage, which her mother, now a widow, had given her. She continued to do work as an extra for films and tv productions which were being shot in the South Hams. Some people may remember her swan song as a magistrate in one of the *West Country Tales*.

In 1981 she married Tony, even though this meant going back to riding and hunting - which she hoped she had left behind as a child. With typical determination, and despite a series of unsuitable ponies and several nasty falls, she persisted in trying to overcome the fear of horses she had developed as a child but eventually she retired to 'carry the pasties', as she called it.

We moved back to Devon in 1983 and, although hunting with a different, moorland, pack we soon rekindled our childhood friendship, and enjoyed many social occasions with Tony and Gill. Although my work subsequently took us away from Devon, being a friend of Gill's meant that

you just picked up where you left off, despite the time interval.

She bought two race horses and had wins with them at both Exeter and Stratford. Gill enjoyed the grand occasions of having her horse paraded in the Paddock before a race, and watching from the Owners & Trainers stand, but she also had a great love for, and attachment to, the horses she owned. She would often join me at Newton Abbot when I was on duty and come down to the Head-On box, watching the racing on the stewards' monitor because of the close contact it gave to the horses on the course and our efforts to provide the horses with high welfare standards.

Of greater interest to her many friends was that she discovered her talent as a cook and hostess, in which she excelled, and was equally at home at impromptu get-togethers or elaborate dinner parties - always ably assisted by Tony.

At Tony's suggestion she sold her apartment in Spain and thereafter took to travelling the world with him, developing her interest in wild life and photography and, above all, in snorkelling. While I was working in Dubai, we were delighted that Tony and Gill came twice to visit us. It was like a breath of fresh air breezing in. We were able to show them the deserts and mountains of the Emirate as well as visiting the Indian Ocean. This gave her ample opportunity to observe and photograph the desert wild life. She also enjoyed the camel and horse-racing scene.

But our abiding memories of one of her visits was in the corridor of the Royal Mirage Hotel, when she was about to leave. She was so thrilled with her purchases and wanted to show them to us, so she turned out her suitcase, undies and all, much to the amusement of other guests. Perhaps it was her actress training coming out - she was quite uninhibited.

She was not a strong swimmer, and indeed had a dread of putting her face under water - which was not helpful when it came to snorkelling - but again with a determination not to be defeated, Gill eventually rose to this challenge as well and was never happier than when, with her underwater camera at the ready, she was stalking unsuspecting fish and turtles in the Maldives or the Red

Sea. She also developed a passion for tigers on her many trips to India and loved to show off her wonderful photos of them.

After a slow start, Gill also became quite interested in computers and was soon e-mailing the many friends she accumulated across the world on her travels, and sharing their jokes. Even more importantly, her expertise on the keyboard re-awakened her childhood interest in creative writing which, after Bantham, became the great interest of her later years. Her final days were considerably lightened thanks to the good offices of Michael Elsmere of 'Left Bank', the Kingsbridge creative writing group, and Jan Clarke who arranged to publish for her a book of what they correctly called the "whimsical" poems she had written and which had been beautifully illustrated by David Hassall. She was thrilled to be presented with the final version of her book "By Dint of Nature" on the Thursday before going into her final coma the next day.

Above all, however, Gill's abiding passion was Bantham, which was constantly in her thoughts. She was totally committed to the policy of the Board of Evans Estates to encourage young residents to come to live in houses on the estate so as to turn Bantham from being a holiday village - in which the lights are turned off from October to June - into the vibrant working community it is today and which can be seen as her life's achievement.

Andrew Turnbull

Tony has very kindly allowed me to read the many letters and cards he has received. What is remarkable about them is both the diversity of the comments and the diversity of the people who have taken the time to write, to remember, and to offer condolences.

Gilly has touched hearts and lives wherever she has been, in whatever role she was living out at the time, and she always touched people uniquely. Whether enjoying the bright lights of the city or the quiet life of the country, whether with friends or fellow travellers, colleagues or comrades, she holds special memories for each one of us individually. She was both a lady who enjoyed leisure and a woman who worked hard. Once she got the bit between her

teeth there was no deflecting her. She gave pleasure and fun equal weight in a busy life, not just for her own sake but in order that those with whom she shared life could share in pleasure too. She had never been a conformist but she valued tradition, and especially valued community - perhaps because of the number of moves in early life but also because she realised the importance of a solid foundation in facilitating enjoyment in life. Her pleasure was not rooted in transient things but in solid, grounded, principles and communities. She graced the camera for the sake of other people's fictions but she also graced many lives in reality.

So it has been an idyllic life - full of travel and people and places from Mauritius to Syria, from the Caribbean to Dubai, from Thailand to Turkey - but always a life grounded in the needs of community, most especially, of course, in Bantham. She was a star, not because of her stage career but also because of the direction she gave to other lives. She didn't crave attention but rather gave attention to others.

And what attention! Industrious, intelligent, determined, unbending - and yet also sensitive, thoughtful, trusting. She had a wicked sense of humour and refused to suffer fools gladly but she was also a principled lady, and honest. She had a mind for the detail of life, but an open face to the wide open vistas too.

She maintained a sensitivity even in her last few days, worried about others, shedding a few tears for herself and for you, glad of the chance for prayer for peace. Still learning, still with her eyes wide open, even as she approached death, with a few wistful glances over her shoulder certainly, but with her face to new horizons, another journey, a new destination.

She will have words with the Almighty about the decor of heaven, I'm sure, but if in our Father's house there are many rooms she has lots of work to be getting on with while she waits for us, in order to entertain us royally once again.

Rev Trevor Smith

In Aid of the Children's Liver Disease Foundation

William's Big Yellow Brunch **Saturday 8th March**

in the Church Meeting Room - 10am to 1pm

A mouth-watering selection of cooked breakfast items to raise money for the UK's only child-focused liver disease charity. As a sufferer of liver disease, William Thomas Bates, now aged two and a half, was diagnosed with a rare liver condition at three weeks old. His liver condition, Alagille Syndrome, impacts on his immune system, liver function and heart operation. William's early medical progress has been very encouraging but his long term prognosis is still un-determined.

Throughout this journey, William's family have been supported by the Children's Liver Disease Foundation in their provision of emotional support and medical literature as well as providing access to other liver disease-affected families. Fundraising for CLDF allows other families to also benefit from this excellent support. Based in South Milton, William's grandparents, Robbie & Liz Robinson look forward to welcoming you to this sumptuous feast in aid of this good cause.

Tickets are priced at £6.50 per person. Please contact Liz Robinson on 01548 561125 or at lizrobinson40@hotmail.com or Joan Booth (01548 561370) for tickets or information.

THURLESTONE TELEPHONE BOX

A CHRISTMAS TALE



After last year Father Christmas was worried that his super-charged Phone Box Sleigh was too heavy to be pulled by only one Reindeer to carry all the toys needed for the many well behaved children in Thurlestone. He had a conference with his elves who then beavered away and in time for this Christmas had made ready a clone Reindeer who was duly harnessed up to the Phone Box alongside his sibling.



Rudolph in Pieces

But there were wicked witches who wanted all the presents for themselves.

They decided to stop Father Christmas from making his deliveries and late one Saturday night wove their wicked way to the Phone Box, where they smashed up one of the reindeers and pulled the antlers off the other one.

Poor Father Christmas, he was terribly upset at the thought of the Thurlestone children not having their Christmas stockings filled. But the Elves said "Papa Noel" (that's what they call him),

"don't fret. We'll get hold of Reindeer Accident and Emergency and have the Reindeer patched up in no time".....and like all good A & E that's what quickly happened. The bandaged Reindeer were back on the job, and looking (almost) as good as new again.

Father Christmas was so delighted that he threw a party for the Village who came in their hundreds (well a few tens) together with BBC Devon's Shepp and Govier to sing Carols led by the Razor Sharp Ensemble and to eat Mince Pies and drink Mulled Wine which came all the way from Toad Hall Cottages. Father Christmas, wearing a brand new suit and a very long white beard, gave away lots of yummy chocolates.



Bandaged Reindeer at the Phone Box

The rain stopped, the stars came out, and the story had a happy ending with Father Christmas flying off merrily singing his latest hit-song "Oh what fun it is to ride on a duck-taped reindeer sleigh". Reindeer A & E waved him on his way with a smile, in the knowledge of a job well done... And the wicked witches? Well, on reflection they were probably sorry for what they had done - at least we hope so.



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Thurlestone Golf Club

CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

I would first and foremost like to wish all readers of the Village Voice, both TGC members and those who scratch their heads in puzzlement at what possesses otherwise sane and grounded people to chase white and yellow balls around the countryside and manicured lawns, a Happy New Year. Although it has started on a blustery note I have every confidence that the weather gods are simply front loading the rain to the beginning of the year in advance of a barbeque spring, summer and autumn! We can but muse.

Inclement conditions however were no impediment to 65 hardy souls who braved the elements on New Year's morning to witness the traditional Captain's Drive-in. Sadly, conditions did not permit the customary 11-hole competition to proceed, but that was no deterrent to those intent on shaking off the effects of the night before in the 19th hole. The Drive-In did however go ahead as normal and, for the record, Messrs Tony Gledhill and Tom Orr will be parking in the Captains' parking spaces for the month of January having accurately (and charitably) predicted the resting places of the two drives. Also for the record they were neither on the beach nor in the car park! The charities chosen by Lady Captain Wendy Laud and I for the forthcoming year are the Chemotherapy Outreach Project and St Lukes Hospice.

Most readers will be very familiar with the Thurlestone Golf Club, but for those of you who are not it is a quite unique facility. A splendid golf course perched on a cliff top, overlooking spectacular coastal, estuarine and rural vistas is something in itself. To have this combined with ten grass and two all weather tennis courts, a first class Pro's Shop, a comfortable clubhouse and all managed and maintained by motivated and hardworking staff, makes TGC the envy of golfers and tennis players throughout the country. Therefore while I'm sure all of us who have been elected office bearers for the

forthcoming year feel honoured and privileged, the roles come with the considerable responsibility of ensuring that the club remains vibrant and healthy for many years to come.

In that regard 2013 was one that saw significant success both on and off the course. Despite comparatively straitened times and an aging membership, club numbers remained buoyant and we welcomed a total of 110 new members to our fold. The Junior Academy proved particularly successful as not only did it attract youngsters who could well be the Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose of the future, it also engaged with many parents who, not too late in life, realised what they had been missing. There was also considerable success on the golf course, much of which was detailed in the last edition of the Village Voice. Worthy of repetition however and just as an indicator of how high the bar has been set, was the winning by the Senior Men's Team of the Parker Trophy which, for the uninitiated, is the trophy awarded to the winners of the South Devon Scratch Competition, which is the format of golf played without the luxury of a handicap, so serious stuff! This is the first time that Thurlestone has won this competition but, as defending champions, expectations will be high this year.

I therefore have much to thank my predecessor Mervyn Spencer for but he has left me with a hard act to follow. Club Captain is however just one role amongst many and while Mervyn and Linda Cant comprised a very strong team as Men's and Ladies Captains last year I am very fortunate to be accompanied by Wendy Laud as Lady Captain and Bill Hutchison as Men's Vice Captain. Together with the two Steve's, Gledhill and White (General Manager and Professional respectively), the Chair and Professional of the Tennis Section, Jane Smyth and Janet Richardson, and representing the Juniors, Phil Holland and Liz Line, I believe we have a very strong Captain's Committee and have great hopes for the coming year.

The Seniors Section continued to flourish



during 2013, so acknowledging a job excellently carried out, and consistent with 'if it ain't broke don't fix it', Andrew Longhurst was voted back as Seniors Captain for 2014. He will undoubtedly continue to perform his duties with distinction. Captaining the Juniors Section this year, and promising to contribute significantly to the Club's on course performance (and hopefully mine) is 2 handicapper Jamie Johnson. Jamie takes over from Rob Came who has now joined the ranks of the employed and voting public so we wish them both every success.

While already referred to above, retiring Lady Captain Linda Cant and Captain Mervyn Spencer deserve further mention for the time and energy they have devoted to the club during 2013. However while Linda may be content to take things a little easier the same cannot be said of Mervyn who was elected to the Executive Committee to continue, amongst other things, driving the Club's Five Year Plan. I have little doubt therefore that he will remain a very visible presence in the Club.

Catching up on a little news from the course, despite fairly atrocious conditions, the November medal went ahead and worthy of particular note is Division One being won by junior George Holland with a net 70, one better than scratch golfer Kevin Mingo who shot an even par with 71. Amongst the lesser mortals in Division Two, conditions seemed to suit the author who sneaked in with a net 73, two ahead of Ben Woods on 75. The November Stableford competition also went ahead on a rare dry day and was won by Vice Captain elect, Bill Hutchinson with 36 points from Bill Campbell with 34 points. Also in November the club held various activities to raise money for Children In Need. Particularly novel was the mixed Night golf competition won by Kevin Mingo, Beth Yeoman, Mike Yeoman and Laura Tregelles. All up the club raised £118 and our thanks to Steve White and Lisa Rouse for their hard work.

The men's December Division One Medal honours went to Darrell Day with an excellent net 68, while Jim Mitchell cleaned up Division Two with a superb net 65. Division One of the December Stableford was won by Chris Johnson with 39 points while junior Ethan Mulligan matched that excellent score to win Division Two.

Looking forward, we have the nine hole Pro Roll Up starting in April where every Friday for six months the Pro will be hosting a

social 9 hole competition with a view to bringing family and friends together both on the course and in the clubhouse afterwards.

The Dartmoor League starts in April. This is a Men's league catering for 6-18 handicap players wanting to play competitive golf.

There is a Rotary Charity Day in May and the Four Ball Better ball Open on 31st May. The annual Men versus Ladies Competition is scheduled for 2nd March while the Annual Ball takes place on 24th May and the Club Summer Party on Friday 1st August.

The tennis section has a full programme of events starting in April with the junior and senior inter club matches and the local singles and double tournaments. May will see the opening of the grass courts and in June we are holding the usual Mid Summer tournament. Again we are grateful to Janet Richardson and my wife Jane for a full summer programme of tennis.

The Golf Academy is up and running and currently has forty-four juniors, many of whom have joined the Club. Another two Saturday morning classes have been added to meet demand in the Community for Junior golf. Jack Wallace our Assistant professional will be joining Pete Mitchell in teaching on Saturday mornings and helping to run junior club night on Monday evenings starting in April. The Club will provide structured tuition as part of the junior teaching programme required by Golf England.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful, active and productive 2014 and I look forward to updating you with Club News and Team successes as the year progresses.

David S F Smyth

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

This is my first report as Lady Captain and I would firstly like to say that it is a real privilege to be Thurlestone's Lady Captain for 2014 and I look forward to the year with pleasure. I have tried to provide a good mix of both serious golf and fun golf in the diary and hope that perhaps at least one of our teams will manage to get to Finals Day. We have entered all the Devon Ladies team events, the Still Cup, captained by Heather Spencer, the President's Trophy captained

by Lesley Robinson and the Sheelah Creasy Bowl captained by Anne Seymour. Our Devon League team is to be led by Liz Sharman and Trish Cooper is organising the friendly matches. Together with our mixed matches it promises to be a busy season!

There is a new look to the Ladies Committee this year. Gill Hicks is taking over as Honorary Secretary and Di Bird and Lizzie Britton are jointly taking over as Competition Secretaries. Midge Henderson continues as Treasurer and Kay Morley as Handicap Secretary. Together with our other three members, Lesley Robinson, Yvonne Pike and Liz Line they complete a committee who I know will give me strong support during my year of captaincy. I would like, on behalf of all our ladies, to thank those retiring from the committee Linda Cant, Lesley Saffin, Janet Richardson and Liz Coates for their hard work over past years for the ladies section.

Now a little about myself! Golf has played a large part in my life and indeed next year I will be celebrating not only my 60th birthday but also 50 years of playing golf. I started my golf at Royal Mid Surrey and during my youth represented England at junior level and also played for both the Surrey junior and senior teams. Through the years I have been lucky to be a member of some prestigious golf clubs; Royal Mid Surrey, Sunningdale and Royal St Davids, and I've always enjoyed the comradeship on the course and in the clubhouse and even met my husband, Philip, at the 19th Hole. Golf has given me so much that I feel strongly that I should give something back, which is why I agreed to be this year's Lady Captain.

These last two months have not been as busy as the summer months as wet weather caused the cancellation of both the Medal and Stableford competitions in November. We did manage to play our Fielder's Choice competition where the ladies played 18 holes but only counted the best three par 3s, four par 5s and five par 4s. This was won by Jan Brooking, with Paula Orr and Lesley Robinson in second and third place respectively. We also played a Texas Scramble during November and the winners were Laura Tregelles, Trish Gledhill and Paula Orr. The team of Victoria Gibbens, Janice Croke & Nicole Carter were second.

In December it was the turn of gale force winds which resulted in the cancellation of the Yellow ball competition, however, the weather was perfect for our monthly

Stableford on 11th December with no wind and even some sunshine! A large field of forty one ladies produced some good scores with Lesley Robinson winning Division One with an excellent score of 41 points which earned her a handicap reduction of one shot. In second place was Heather Spencer with 34 points. In Division Two the winner was Hayley Pepperrell with 37 points on countback from Janice Croke and Division Three was won by Inger Reeve with Maureen Groves runner up.

We were also lucky with the weather for December's Turkey Trot and forty four ladies competed in a greensome Stableford over 14 holes. This was won by Jane Mason and Liz Sharman with 30 points – they also recorded the only two of the day. Jan Brooking and Lesley Saffin came second with 28 points.

Socially there has been a lot going on over the last two months. The Club's annual presentation evening took place in November with some 100 members attending. The most successful lady of 2013 was Jenny Roberts who won the Club Championship, Scratch Knockout, Ruth Marshall and Underhill Scratch trophies. Jenny also won the ladies Order of Merit and received a special award for breaking the ladies course record earlier in the year. Bernice Sweetman won the Hilary Taylor trophy for the most improved golfer of the year, she reduced her handicap by a staggering seven shots!

Thurlestone's first Christmas Bazaar was held at the end of November and was enjoyed by many members, with fifteen stalls set out in the golf club lounge, selling paintings, jewellery, needlework, woodwork, scarves, cup cakes, kitted clothing, glass ornaments and vases, and Charity Christmas cards. In excess of £150 was raised for the Alzheimer's Society. The final ladies social events of the year were the Christmas lunch and Christmas dinner which were both well attended. Christmas dinner was followed by a talk from Julie Turner, a former store detective, providing an amusing end to a great evening!

The highlight of January is always the Captain's drive-in on New Year's Day. This year the weather was dreadful, heavy rain and a gale blowing, so we had to cancel the fun competition that had been planned. However the drive in took place and I have to report that David Smyth, our new Club Captain, hit an excellent drive, whilst mine showed that there was plenty of room for

improvement during the year. Another lesson beckons! Many members braved the elements to wish us both well for the year and mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed by all.

Finally I would like to thank Linda Cant and her committee again for the hard work they have put in over the last year. I am sure I will enjoy my year and I hope that the ladies will support not only the competitions and the teams but, my chosen charity, which is the Outreach Chemotherapy Project. We have a very busy year to look forward and I wish all Thurlestone's ladies a successful and happy 2014.

Wendy Laud

JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

November and December are best remembered for the number of competition days lost to bad weather, but our juniors did manage to play an adult and junior Stableford over 18 holes on the Annual Junior Prizegiving day in November. The winning junior was George Fountain. The 9 hole Non-CONGU competition was a Texas Scramble, won by Zara Taffs, Oscar Pringle, and Edward Griffiths. The 6 holes Texas scramble went to Ishbel Curtis, Joshua Gilbert, and Toby White.

The Junior prize giving was combined this year with the Junior Academy and 80 juniors and parents attended. The winners were:

Junior Girl's Cup for the most competitions won in 2013; Beth Yeoman, who played in junior and ladies competitions, and reduced her handicap from 9 to 8 during the year.

Junior Boy's Cup for the junior most consistent in league match play; Ethan Mulligan, who won 5 and lost 1.

President's Cup for the most improved junior was Laurence Partridge who reduced his handicap and was a keen supporter and played in most of the junior competitions.

Keith Favis Cup for the best results in Basil Steer, Tamar cup and the league match play was Beth Yeoman who won 5 and lost 4.

Emery Cup for the best scratch player in junior competitions was Jamie Johnson who plays off a 2 handicap but shot a gross 71 in

one of the men's competitions.

Eric Wilson Cup for the girl who has lowered her handicap the most was Beth Yeoman, whose handicap came down from 9 to 8.

Jades Components Cup for the boy who has reduced his handicap the most was George Fountain, who came down from 28 to 25.

Non-CONGU handicap cup; for the junior who reduced his non-congu handicap the most was Ethan Mulligan, down from 54 to 33.

Junior Personality Shield for the person who has helped the junior section over the year was won by Rob Came, who supported all the junior matches and encouraged the younger juniors.

Adult and Junior Foursomes Trophy was won by Laura Tregelles and Beth Yeoman with Fin and Nigel Whelan as the runners up.

The Eric Yarrow Putting Trophy played for in August was won by George Holland.

We had a large number of juniors from the Thurlestone Academy run by Steve White, Pete Mitchell and Jack Wallace. Jack explained that in 2014 he would be helping to organise the junior club evenings which will be held Monday evenings. Academy members will still have lessons on Saturday mornings but will get practice on the course on Monday club nights. The new passport system will be used in which juniors have to achieve certain goals such as putting, chipping, sand bunker play, etc.

The Junior team were also runners up in the B section of the West Devon League, narrowly beaten by Wrangaton junior team. The team reached the Semi-final of the Tamar cup against Exeter.

We have been really lucky with the weather so far with our Junior Academy sessions on Saturdays. No more so than one day in December was lost, which allowed Pete Mitchell and Laura Tregelles to take our Level one juniors out on to the course, many of them for the first time!

The last junior competition of the year, held on Saturday 7th December, was won by Ben Woods with 37 points from George Holland with 35, and third Ethan Mulligan with 34 points. The winner of the NON-CONGU section was Toby Woods with 43 points.

Beth Yeoman, George Fountain and Rob Came now move up to the adult section but we hope they will still be involved in helping

with junior playing and coaching sessions. I would like to thank Steve White our professional for all his support this year. A big vote of thanks to Phil Holland our junior organiser for all the time he puts in taking the team to matches and helping on Monday nights. Stuart Tollins and Steve Pepperell will be standing down from organising Monday club nights next year, they have been our organisers for many years and have done an excellent job. Janet Richardson has also done such a good job organising the junior competitions and helping on Mondays. Thanks go to Pete Mitchell and Jack Wallace our junior coaches for organising the junior coaching throughout the year. Thanks also to our assistant manager Sarah George who has supported the junior section, and our Manager Steve Gledhill who has also been a valuable support to the junior section.

The Thurstlestone Hotel has been a loyal supporter of the juniors and will continue with their sponsorship of the juniors in 2014. We are very grateful for their help.

Rob Came and Jamie Johnson junior Captain and vice captain for 2013 have done a terrific job this year, leading the team and helping on Monday evenings. Jamie will become the 2014 junior captain with Tom Orr as his vice captain. I wish the juniors all the best with their golfing for 2014; and to any other young persons who may be reading this come and join us please, we will be starting Monday junior club evenings in April.

A Happy New Year to all and good golfing for 2014.

Liz Line

Kate's Kitchen



Chicken Parcels

Ingredients

1 boneless chicken breast per person
1 rasher lean back bacon per person
1 sprig tarragon per person
light boursin cheese
olive oil

Method

Butter out each chicken breast, using a rolling pin, and spread the underside with boursin. Fold the two sides over to make a parcel and wrap a bacon rasher round, crossing the ends over on top. Lay the tarragon top. Place in oven-proof dish with a little olive oil poured over and bake, covered in foil, in a pre-heated oven (180°C) for about ½ hour (or longer if lots of portions)

This is one of the easiest and tastiest dishes to prepare. Just pop it in the oven, wait for it to cook, then serve with your choice of seasonal vegetables. I find that smoked bacon adds an additional touch of character to this chicken dish, and my personal preference is for the garlic and herb variety of boursin. You may also find that a glass (or two) of any crisp, white wine will add to the enjoyment!



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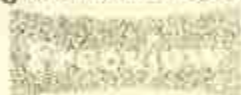
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Programme for February and March 2014

- Monday
10 February** **Caring for Antiques** - Thurlestone Parish Hall, 2.30pm. Entrance £3.00 including tea & biscuits. An opportunity to learn the secrets from Christina Le Fley, a conservation expert from NT Killerton. Non-members welcome.
- Tuesday
25 February** **Winter Lunch at The Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove** - An annual favourite at this comfortable hotel with stunning views.
- Friday
7 March** **A Walk from Dittisham** - Meet at the car park by the river (GR8665511) for a four-mile walk along quiet roads and footpaths towards Cornworthy. Returning by lunchtime.
- Wednesday
19 March** **Coach trip to Port Elliot, Cornwall** - We will stop for lunch at Kernow Mill before going on to Port Elliot. An ancient hidden gem, this is a Grade I listed house and gardens, with an eclectic mix of art and treasures.
- Monday
24 March** **Annual General Meeting**, Thurlestone Parish Hall, 2.00pm followed by a talk 'Wreck and Rescue on the South Hams Coast'. Non-members are very welcome to the talk at 2.30pm. This is another fascinating talk of local interest by Roger Barrett, South Devon historian and author. Entrance to talk £3.00, including tea & biscuits.

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).

OVERBECKS OPEN DAY Thursday 6th February, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

You are invited to come and visit your local National Trust property. You will have an opportunity to see behind the scenes. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to show you how we work and you will be able to explore our exhibits and learn about their history. An expert will accompany you around the gardens and tell you about the many exotic species that are grown here. Entry free; light refreshments provided. Our team will be available to discuss volunteering opportunities at Overbecks.

The Mousehole Cat.

One Sunday afternoon in November in the Parish Hall, a crowd of little children (and their parents) sat eagerly awaiting the puppet show, "The Mousehole Cat". The story unfolded, with the help of the narrator who also played the flute, piano accordion and bodrum, and encouraged audience participation. It centred on Mousehole which was portrayed by a model of the town encircled by the harbour wall. The worst winter storm left the town cats (and their owners) with no fish to eat. There was no "starry-gazy-ple" for them! So the cat persuaded her owner reluctantly to go out in his boat to catch food for them all. The Storm Cat nearly drowned them in the wild seas, but the little cat had an idea. She ... (I won't give the story away!) ... but the Storm Cat subsided and they were able to make their way safely back with their catch. The people who lived in Mousehole had lit all their lights and their boats in the harbour to guide the fisherman home, which tradition is continued to this day. To finish, some of the children were given paper lanterns to parade with, and others danced in celebration. This charming performance was presented by PuppetCraft from Dartington and organised by Pearsons pre-School.

Judith Le Grice

December

Four members joined a county choir to add their voices at the carol service held annually by the county federation at Exeter Cathedral, feeling that the journeying and rehearsals had in the end proved to be very worthwhile. South Milton WI hosted the annual group carol service, well attended by Thurlestone members, following which a lovely afternoon tea was provided at the village hall there.

One week later we enjoyed our annual Christmas lunch at the golf club and afterwards members were entertained with a short comic sketch, written by Judith Le Grice, called "Angels". Garbed in various white nightgowns and assorted wings, Joan Booth, Val Brown, Pat Clarke, Judith Le Grice, Karen Livett, Pat Macdonald and Wendy Neukirchen played the angels with Shirley Barnes having a walk-on part as the artist Rubens.

January

The new year got off to an entertaining start as retired Judge William Taylor recounted anecdotes, some serious, some a bit naughty but very humorous, from his long legal career. As a barrister and senior circuit judge his work involved getting to know the criminal fraternity, some of whom he liked and some he very much disliked but, as he explained, "My job was to represent them, whether I liked them or not". He is also the patron of a Devonport-based charity named "Twelve's Company" which is aimed at counselling to improve the lives of the people of that town, particularly those suffering abuse and violence. This charity would welcome gifts of toiletries of any kind as very often victims seeking help arrived without any possessions. A special bag will be put out at meetings for contributions.

Members sent good wishes to Joyce Heath, at present in hospital, and to Tricia Millman who is convalescing with her daughter at Crowborough. The Monday morning sewing group has started again in the Yeo Room and welcomes 'needlewomen' of all kinds to

escape the domestic scene for a morning to do their own thing in a peaceful and congenial atmosphere!

The NFWI resolutions were discussed briefly and voted upon, with the results being sent to DFWI.

Future Events

On 12 February there will be a lunch outing to the Oyster Shack at Bigbury - let Pat Clarke know if you would like to go.

Carolyn Taylor reminded us of the events being put on by the Area:

1. The Area annual meeting - 20 March, at 2.30 pm at Charleton, which she particularly urged us to attend. Further enquiries can be made to Carolyn on 562033.
2. Zumba Gold - 8 April (less hectic!)
3. 'All you need to know about Fish' - 3 June.

Looking ahead, here are the speakers at our monthly meetings in 2014:

- # February 13 - Wendy Farren of Quay Physio on Women's health & wellbeing
- # March 13 - Stuart Dowle of Quicks Cheeses on the history of cheese-making
- # April 10 - John Allen on 'Where have all the sparrows gone?'
- # May 8 - annual meeting, details later
- # June 12 - Christopher Stephens on Staffordshire pottery flat-back figures
- # July 10 - Marilyn Bishop on International Art Theft

August there is no meeting

- # September 11 - Margaret Sherlock on the joys of writing, diaries to novels
- # October 9 - Alec Whish on the Follaton House arboretum
- # November 13 - Adrienne Hesketh performing her own Devon piano music

If you are not a member but would fancy hearing any of these speakers, you are very welcome to come along as a guest.

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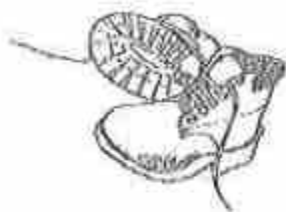
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TRAMP



1 Tuesday 12 November proved to be a lovely bright autumn day as thirteen walkers and Ben the dog set off from Bolberry Down. We followed the coast path eastwards, with cliffs on one side and a sheep-grazed valley on the other. Stopping for a while to overlook Soar Mill Cove, one of the group gave an interesting account of when the *Herzogin Cecilia*, a magnificent four-masted steel ship ran aground on the Ham Stone here during a storm in 1937. She was eventually re-floated and towed to Starehole Bay where her remains now lie, partially buried in the sands. Divers often explore the wreck.

We continued further along the path, dropping down to Soar Mill Cove, and resisted the temptation to explore the attractive, sandy, unspoilt beach. Climbing out of the valley and after a steep ascent we came up to the Warren and continued eastward along the top of the cliffs, admiring the lovely open views to the sea and rocky outcrops such as the Goat.

Standing on a field, just off the coastal path, we came across a Napoleonic admiralty signal tower (built in the early 1800s). During recent excavation work, two rockets had been found embedded in the walls of the tower. An article in the *Kingsbridge Gazette* at the time reported that a bomb disposal expert had to be called to remove them and take them back to Devonport Dockyard where a controlled explosion was carried out. The tower is said to be important historically as it is believed to be the only one of its kind surviving.

Continuing along the open cliff tops, cows and ponies grazed freely, all adding to the beauty of the picturesque landscape. Reaching Bolt Head we looked across to the spiky crags of Sharp Tor, the opening of Salcombe estuary, and the stretches of coastline from East Portlemouth to Prawle Point.

A route was then taken back across fields to

Middle Soar and along the lane to Rew Cross. We then left the lane up a set of wooden steps up the bank and over a stile, then diagonally across the fields to Southdown Farm. The farm, owned by the National Trust, specialises in the growing and marketing of high-quality seeds for garden birds. In the summer months these fields are full of sunflowers, millet, canary grass, linseed, rapeseed and wheat. The area becomes a haven for wild birds.

Passing the cottages and tastefully converted barns of the farm, we followed the wide grass farm track leading us down the valley and back out to open land of bracken and gorse and grazing sheep. This eventually led us back to the coast path, Bolberry Down and the car park. It had been a delightful walk of approximately six miles. The Port Light Hotel at Bolberry was unfortunately closed, but several of the group made their way to Hope Cove for a pleasant lunch at the Hope & Anchor.

Jenny Webb

2 Wednesday 27th November was the date for our Dartmouth Jubilee walk. As the name indicates this walk was created in 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

On a cloudy but windless day a reasonably large group of twelve walkers, and a dog, gathered at the National Trust car park at Little Dartmouth to start the confusingly named Waymarked Circular walk which is in the shape of a diamond.

A short stroll towards Little Dartmouth brought us to the "official" start of the walk. Heading in a NW direction we made for Swannaton via Higher Weeke. Here we had to negotiate the A379 for a short but busy section. Turning to the NE we walked down the interestingly named Jawbones Hill. Upon reaching the Water Tower we made a slight detour to take in the views from the so-called Beacons Park. From here we had a really wonderful view of Britannia Royal Naval

College and parts of Dartmouth. At the bottom of Jawbones Hill we followed a permissive path to Dyers Wood (NT), where again we had wonderful views of the Dart across to Kingswear before arriving at Above Town road and from there to Warfleet Road.

The bridge at the start of Castle Road is a good place to stand and contemplate the historic past of Warfleet, once a busy trading quay and home to a Ropewalk, a paper mill and lime kilns. Until relatively recently (1997) this was the home of the Dartmouth Pottery, now alas converted into flats.

We continued upwards until we arrived at Dartmouth Castle. It is thought that the gun tower, added to the castle by the Townsfolk in the late 15th century is perhaps the first fortification in Britain to have installed large cannon, capable of sinking ships. Actually, of far more immediate interest, especially for the ladies, was the luxury of rather more recently installed "public facilities".

All that then remained was the completion of the diamond by making the long walk back to the car park.

Maureen Baker & Rachel Wayth

3 On a dull damp December day (13th) 26 Tramps arrived at Noss Mayo car park. Unfortunately, the leader was unable to take the walk so Trisha Wilson very kindly took on the task. Having got slightly lost along the way, a very wet group were revived by mince pies and mulled wine generously supplied by Liz & Peter Coates.

Boosted by these refreshments, the group then took the Coast Path as far as Warren Car Park before making their way back down to the Ship Inn, where a few more non-walkers joined them for a very welcome and warming Christmas lunch. We were all seated in the Library which made for a good Christmas get-together.

Christine Wilson

4 The weather leading up to our first walk of 2014 had been atrocious with lots of wind and rain. However, on Tuesday 7th January, the rain stopped, although the wind was still strong.

At 8.30am, I received an unusual phone call from two of our walkers who had a dilemma. They had rescued a guillemot from Leasfoot Beach the day before and it needed food. Not being an expert on guillemots, I suggested that they contact Selworthy Vets in Kingsbridge for their advice. The guillemot was duly delivered to Selworthy Vets on the way to our meeting place in Frogmore and I trust that it is doing well.

12 of us set off from Court Park and drove to the Globe Inn at Frogmore, where we parked in the top car park by kind permission of the Landlady. We were met there by three other walkers including our bird rescuers. The wind was strong as we set off along the busy A379 Kingsbridge – Torcross Road. However, we soon turned into a muddy lane signposted Sherford where the Devon Banks kept us well protected from the wind.

There was a gradual uphill slope along the lane towards Sherford passing Keynedon Barton and Keynedon Mill. Beyond Keynedon, the lane climbed to a gateway view of a coombe (a valley enclosed on all but one side), a linhay (a farm building with an open front), a stream, meadows, and a copse. Eventually, we reached Sherford, a pretty village with old cottages aligning the way and St Martin's Church. We walked through the village and then turned left onto the Charleton trail passing Sherford Down Farm before turning left to Furze Cross.

The walk up to this point had been on country lanes but now we moved on to a really muddy lane which in parts was awash with water, but eventually we had a hilltop view over Frogmore. It was clear how much we had been protected from the wind at this stage. We then came down a backway into Frogmore. We had an excellent lunch at the Globe Inn where we were joined by three further Trampers who had been unable to do the walk that day.

My walk guide suggested that we had covered 5 miles. However, many of us were sceptical about this, suggesting 4 miles at the most. Whatever, the distance, the walk provided an excellent start to our 2014 Tramp year.

Lisa White

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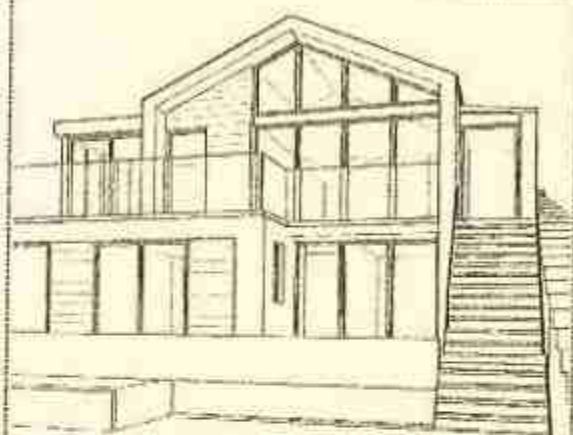
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TRAMP 2014 WALK SCHEDULE

Walk	Length	Exact Date	Approximate route / location	Leaders
1	short	Mon 7 Jan	Moreleigh, Topsham Bridge	Roger & Annie Kendrick
2	long	Tues 21 Jan	Batson, Salcombe	Jenny Webb
3	short	Wed 5 Feb	Kingston, Ringmore	Peter & Wendy Gornall
4	long	Wed 19 Feb	Batson Green, North Sands	Trisha Wilson
5	short	Wed 5 Mar	Wembury	Trisha Wilson
6	short	Wed 12 Mar	Plymouth, SW Coast Path	R Mackay & T Wilson
7	long	Fri 21 Mar	Buckland, Avon Trail	Graham & Val Palmer
8	short	Mon 7 Apr	Bigbury, Avon Estuary	Linda Scott
9	short	Tues 15 Apr	Prawle, Elender Cove	D & M Radford
		18-21 April	Easter	
10	long	Tues 29 Apr	Plym Valley (with birds)	Brian & Jill Munn
11	long	Tues 6 May	Noss Mayo, Revelstoke Drive	C & G Delafield
12	short	Fri 16 May	Cadover Bridge, Shaugh Prior	A & G Durden
13	short	Thur 22 May	Brixton	M Baker & R Wayth
		Mon 26 May	Late May Bank Holiday	
14	long	Wed 4 June	Greenway, Dart Valley	M Baker & R Wayth
15	short	Mon 9 June	Bolt Tail, Hope Cove	Peter & Liz Coates
16	long	Fri 20 June	Slapton	Graham & Val Palmer
17	short	Tues 24 June	S Milton, Hope Cove	Lisa White
18	long	Wed 2 July	Mothecombe, Westwards	Mike Stickland
19	short	Tues 8 July	TBA	Lisa White
20	long	Fri 18 July	Avon Valley, Moreleigh	D & M Radford
21	short	Wed 23 July	Dartmoor, source of Erme	Mike Stickland
22	long	Mon 28 July	Hallsands, East Prawle	Peter & Liz Coates
23	short	Fri 8 Aug	Dartmoor, West Dart Valley	D & M Radford
24	long	Tues 12 Aug	Dartmoor, Merrivale	David Chubb
25	short	Thur 21 Aug	Westcombe	J & P Braithwaite
		Mon 25 Aug	Late Summer Bank Holiday	
26	long	Mon 1 Sept	Dartmoor, Haytor, Hound Tor	Richard & Heather Swan
27	short	Tues 9 Sept	E. Portlemouth, Gara Rock	Jenny Webb
28	long	Thur 18 Sept	Sheepstor	Alastair & Gill Durden
29	short	Mon 22 Sept	Aveton Gifford, Loddiswell	Linda Scott
30	long	Wed 1 Oct	TBA	Stickland & Braithwaite
31	short	Thur 9 Oct	Noss Mayo, Revelstoke	C & G Delafield
32	long	Wed 15 Oct	Cornworthy, Tuckenhay	Peter & Wendy Gornall
33	short	Fri 24 Oct	Ermington	Christine Wilson
34	short	Mon 10 Nov	Burrator, Royal Oak, Meavy	Peter & Liz Coates
35	long	Wed 26 Nov	Strete, Dartmouth (coast path)	Alastair & Gill Durden
36	short	Wed 10 Dec	Dartington (Christmas lunch)	Trisha Wilson

Grey Matter

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

Winter, time to get under the duvet.....

Can you find all the names of all the girls who worked on this patch quilt?



Rainy-Day Riddles

1. This creature, part man and part tree, hates the termite as much as the flea. His tracks do not match, and his limbs detach, but he's not a strange creature to see.
2. A man plants a quick-growing lily in a pond with an area of 2049 m². Every day the area covered by the lilies doubles. After 48 days the entire water surface is covered. On which day was the pond half covered?
3. What is the name of the person who let Norah see Sharon's telegram?
4. A shepherd had 18 sheep. He kept 1/3 on the right side of the field and the rest on the left side. All but nine sheep were killed by an epidemic. How many sheep did the shepherd have left?
5. An archeologist proudly told that he had found four silver coins which, according to the inscription "649 B.C.", should now be 2720 years old. The press considered him a fraud and a dreamer. Why?
6. I have got two minutes to catch the train and I am 2 miles from the station. If I travel the first mile at an average speed of 30 miles an hour, how high must my average speed be for the second mile if I am still to catch the train?
7. This sentence has five faults. Is this statement right or wrong?
8. I like biology; I can prove that every cat has three tails. Can you?
9. What five letter word has the same pronunciation when you remove four of its letters?
10. Why would you rather have half a cheese sandwich than eternal life of peace and happiness?

Solutions to previous Grey Matter:

1. White Christmas, 2. Little Donkey, 3. I saw three ships, 4. When Santa got stuck in the chimney, 5. It came upon the midnight clear, 6. Good King Wenceslas, 7. Coventry Carol, 8. Joy to the world, 9. Hark the herald angels sing, 10. Do they know it's Christmas? 11. Little drummer boy, 12. The first Noel, 13. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, 14. All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth, 15. Let it snow let it snow let it snow, 16. Away in a manger, 17. Once in Royal David's city, 18. Mary's boy child (or The Virgin Mary had a baby boy), 19. The 12 days of Christmas, 20. God rest ye merry gentlemen, 21. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, 22. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, 23. Oh come all ye faithful, 24. In the bleak mid winter, 25. Jingle bell rock.

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SCHOOL REPORT

By Bett Rhymes

If I were to ask any of you how you would describe life in December in a word I have no doubt that the words hectic, pressured, stressful and exhausting would feature. Life for everyone is always busy in the lead up to Christmas. Primary school is no different. The hysteria starts from the opening of the first window of the advent calendar and continues until we all stumble out of the door on the last day of term. However, the first week of December 2013 was like no other. It all began one Monday morning.....

Monday 2nd December 2013

Today was curtains up on the school play, Strictly Panto Not. The production involved the whole school with the eldest children taking the roles of characters from the popular pantomimes. Their parts led the classes in song and dance for the Strictly Not judging panel.

Grandparents and Pearsons Preschool were the audience for the dress rehearsal. The children put in a great effort but it was clear there was still work to be done. Lines really did need to be learnt and the logistics of getting some thirty 4 & 5 year olds dressed as sweets on to the stage in double quick time needed some re-thinking. Afternoon plans were abandoned, another rehearsal was required. Would it be all right on the night?

Tuesday 3rd December 2013

A relatively calm day today. Maths, spellings, phonics, scraped knees, Christmas cards flying around, nervous energy in abundance in anticipation of the first full performance after lunch. The hall was packed with the first group of parents and the children pulled a performance out of the bag. Momentum was growing amongst the children, and the final curtain was in sight for the teachers.

Wednesday 4th December 2013

Teachers arrived in the morning prepared for a long day with two performances to oversee. Little did they know then how late they would be. With yesterdays show being so well received the children were very relaxed as they took to the stage during the afternoon. Cinderella looked suitably fed up scrubbing the floor, Drizzella & Anastasia weren't fooling anyone with their beauty, Jack's beans were growing even bigger than Dave Coward's and Hansel & Gretel danced rather than jostled with the cute, cardboard sweets. Judge Bruno Tagliatelle was throwing his arms around in exaggerated excitement over the infant sugary sweet dance routine when suddenly, *whoosh bang.....* was it the Fairy Godmother about to make Cinderella's dream come true? Oh no, it wasn't. It was Mrs Pope, the school administrator, looking flustered.

"The Inspector is on his way" she cried. "The Ofsted Inspector?" asked Mr Medway, nervously. "Yes," trembled Mrs Pope. A loud gasp swept through the cast. "Boo, Hiss!" shouted the audience, "Lock him up and throw away the key!" The cast froze in horror and Drizzella & Anastasia touched up their lippy ready to pucker up to Mr Ofsted whilst Mr Medway pondered what to do. *Whoosh, bang* the genie rose from Aladdin's lamp. "Fear not All Saints, the inspector will be arriving tomorrow morning, the show must go on."

The story carried on to its natural fairy tale ending at the matinee performance. The audience for the evening were treated to a very lively and energetic show as by now, the children had really grown in confidence. Cinderella married her Prince Charming, Jack got his golden eggs and Sleeping Beauty finally woke up - a traditional happy ending. By 8pm the school was empty, all bar Mr Medway and the teachers who heavy heartedly

removed themselves from the world of fairy tales back to the reality of working late into the night preparing for their own performance to be judged. It was way past the hour when Cinderella turns to a pumpkin before their heads hit their pillows.

Thursday 5th December

Mr Ofsted arrived at the doors at 8am. He had his work cut out. During the course of the day he carried out lesson observations, held meetings with governors, staff and groups of pupils, and studied the online parent questionnaires and pupils progress records. He worked very discreetly but inevitably the whole school were feeling the pressure of operating under the watchful eye of big brother. Mr Ofsted retired in the early evening to write his day's findings in the comfort of his hotel whilst the staff dined on more work.

Friday 6th December

Having enjoyed his full English, Mr Ofsted met with the teachers before the start of school to debrief them on their lesson observation. Having finished his inspection with a learning walk through the school, he retired to the staff room to summarise his findings. Mr Ofsted called a meeting after lunch with Mr Medway and the governors to pass his verdict.

He summed up the overall effectiveness of our school as "good", which when translated by the Oxford English Dictionary means having the right qualities; of a high standard. His job done, Mr Ofsted was politely escorted off the premises as he bade goodbye to All Saints. Unfortunately the same couldn't be said for those left behind. It was straight to the parish hall for the school Christmas fair which the wonderful ladies of the FTS had been quietly organising all week amongst the chaos at school. Having shared a glass of well deserved mulled wine and enjoyed watching the children take part in the events and games the fair offered it was finally time for the staff to go home and put their feet up and not even think about what might happen next week!

The following week the school received the full Ofsted report which is available to read on the school website.

Mr Medway comments:

"Under the September 2013 guidelines our school has been classed as a "good" school. The report reads well and identifies many of the strengths of the school. It states that our pupils are "highly courteous and respectful", and that they are "confident" in their learning. "Pupils of all ages are keen readers." The report states that "the quality of teaching is consistently good" with teaching of reading "a real strength." The inspector also noted that our school "provides outstanding pastoral care" and that "pupils spiritual and social development is outstanding." The report states that the school has already identified what needs to be done to move to outstanding and that we have a well-focussed plan to take the school to the next level. The inspector concludes that "the school is responding well to working as part of a Federation and shows good capacity to carry on improving."

There is always work to be done to improve and we will take on board the inspectors comments on the few areas that could move us to achieve an outstanding award. Meanwhile, I know that we are a great school and that we deliver an outstanding level of educational provision.

I am extremely proud of All Saints and wish to thank all staff, parents and children not only for their support during the inspection but also for their continued hard work and dedication to the future success of our school."

I know I'm not alone in thinking that time speeds by faster than I can keep up. We're already nearly through the first month of 2014. Before you know it we will be facing Christmas again but if Santa can grant one wish then it will be not to have a repeat week of last year - phew!

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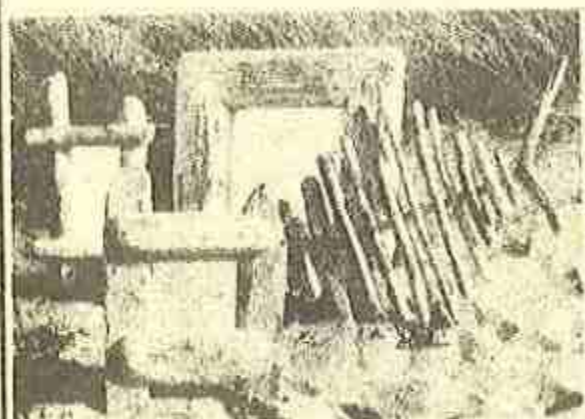
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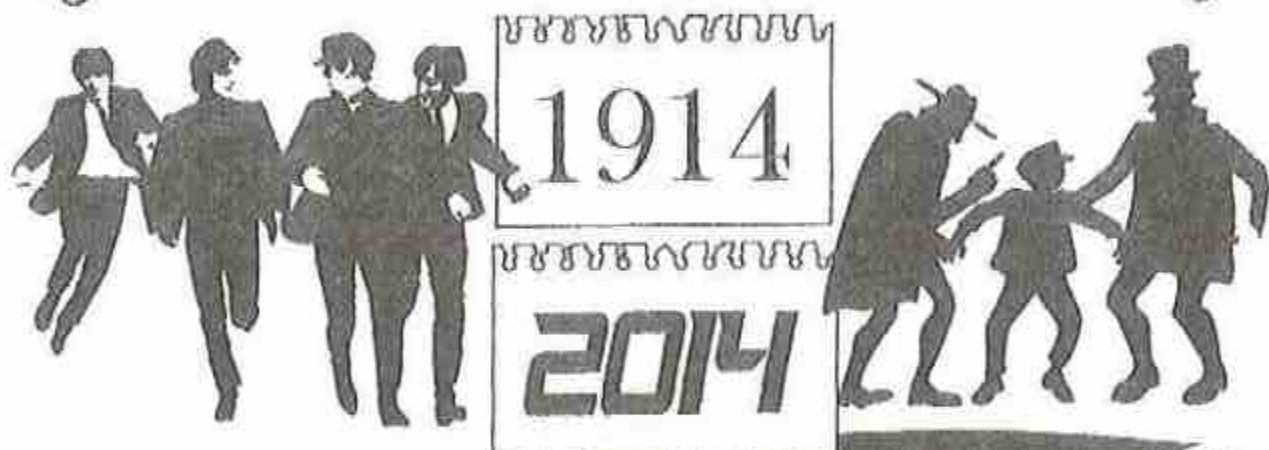
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(As featured in *The Times*, Monday to Saturday)

8					3		6	7
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Tough

No. 91

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Tough

No. 92

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Tougher

No. 91

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Tougher

No. 92

Christmas Celebrations?

The counter-attractions of Christmas evidently proved too strong for all but seven of our regular contestants, and even one of those succumbed to fair-copying fatigue! As a result, there were only six names - George Delafield, Neill Irwin, Shella Killingsworth, Pat Leare, Pauline Lonsdale, and Polly Petty - to go into the ballot bonnet. The first winner of 2014 proved to be Pauline Lonsdale, for whom a bottle of our finest has been extracted from the Chateau Sudoku cellars. Congratulations to Pauline; commiserations to the less fortunate five. Never mind, here are four more teasers to tickle the grey matter. Entries as usual to 25 Mead Lane, by 5th March 2014, please.



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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

I'm not sure that I would have suspected a repeat (almost) of January 1990 this winter. But that is what has happened. Last year it was cold, icy and windy to boot and floods, but not the sustained winds from the west as this year and 1990.

You will remember my mentioning the fact that the windows in our house and those in Mr and Mrs Conington's house were badly damaged by a ferocious wind storm on 25th January, now referred to as the "Burns Night Storm". 2014 has been very similar but not so ferocious; wind speeds in 1990 were in excess of 80mph, this year a mere 66mph. The difference has been that this year has seen sustained winds over a much longer period of time which resulted in the build up of huge seas for much longer. I have just gone to my diary for that day in 1990, in which I had written:

"Walked our dog Andy towards the beach, unable to stand very well and the sand hit my face like needles. No rain that day, so the sand was very mobile. Watched the roof of the school canteen take off as I arrived in the car-park, lots of slates blowing off slate hung façade on the main hall, window smashed in in the Sixth Form centre. All pupils were kept inside the building during the morning. John's lovely garden room disappeared, most of it torn to shreds and blown up the valley. The front lawn was at least 1 inch deep in sand, it looked like a sand dune.

95mph wind recorded at Mt Batten, 110mph at Land's End, 107mph on Dartmoor. 70 trees down at Saltram Park, 33 people died, many more injured. Gordon Kay severely injured as a piece of wood pierced the windscreen of his car and entered the front of his head. The barometer reading was 954 at the centre of the storm. At one point the whole of Cornwall was without power."

Golfers will remember both the first fairway and green being totally covered with a considerable depth of sand, resulting in their being out of action for the best part of a year. It peaked at about mid-day, the winds were fierce and I didn't have a weather station at that time. (It's always the way!)

Our recent weather pattern had its origins

in the jet stream, which has also given the USA its extreme weather. The weather experienced by our country and the USA has been put down to the path of the jet stream. Until now I had not fully appreciated the effect this phenomenon has on our weather patterns in this part of the Northern Hemisphere. We have all heard about these winds and the fact that they influence our weather, but how were they discovered, by whom, and when did it happen?

This all started in the 19th century when meteorologists were tracking the movement of cirrus clouds from the ground. They realized that the air-flow at high altitudes is very rapid. I quote from "Eye Witness Companions", WEATHER.

"Between 1923 and 1925, Japanese scientist Wasaburo Oishi recorded unusually strong high-level winds around Mt. Fuji, tracking balloons as they moved rapidly away once they reached the upper levels of the Troposphere. Oishi had discovered a jet stream, but the news did not reach the wider world because, unusually he published his findings in the Esperanto language.

The jet stream was rediscovered during WW2 when US B29 bombers on a raid over Tokyo found their planes' aiming sights were unable to lock on to their targets. They were flying at a speed of about 480 knots rather than their operational speed of 370 knots. A powerful tailwind - the high speed core of a jet stream - had caught them."

These jet streams are produced when warm air meets and flows over much colder air in certain areas of the world. The greater the temperature difference, the faster the jet stream moves. This is why our jet stream, the polar jet stream, is so powerful. Those found in the subtropical areas are less powerful; as you can imagine, the temperature difference is less. The US bombers in WW2 encountered the polar-front jet stream, which today is avoided by passenger aircraft when flying east-west across the North Atlantic but used by them on their eastbound journey.

By now you will realise that there are other jet streams across the world, in fact two in each hemisphere - a polar one and a sub-

tropical one. They all meander in wave-like paths around the world and are constantly changing shape. As we now know from our recent weather patterns, the jet stream creates high and low pressure systems which they then pull along with them. The larger the wave the more extreme the weather conditions. This year we have seen extreme cold in the USA, and floods with high winds, heavy seas and relatively mild temperatures in the southern UK.

Enter another Scientist, Carl Gustaf Rossby (1898-1957), a Swedish scientist who taught Meteorology at the University of Chicago. In 1939 he identified the giant meanders in the jet streams, now known as Rossby waves. He subsequently developed a series of mathematical models to describe their motion. Our modern-day Met men working on these models have now used their super-computer to extend the scope of this research and consequent forecasting ability.

In our case, generally speaking, the weather type **north** of a southern loop will be a depression (circular weather system air moving in an anti-clockwise direction), and on the **south** side of a northern loop (anti-cyclone, weather system air moving in a clockwise direction.) We cannot often see the jet stream, but occasionally it can be seen as a thin ribbon of cloud above the high cirrus cloud. Keep a look out on a fine clear day with these cirrus clouds just visible at great height. Sometimes there is a photo in the press taken from the space station or a weather satellite which shows the ribbon of cloud more clearly from above.

So the National Trust restored sand-dune system at the Southern end of Thurstlestone Sands (South Milton Sands NT) has taken a severe hit, with about two thirds of the new dunes removed, and at the concrete slipway (southern end) all of the new dune has gone and the new coastal edge is about 1 metre from the road surface. A way down to the beach is now a steep one opposite the toilets and the other down the concrete slipway. The two board-walks have been destroyed and washed away.

The South Milton web site (south-milton.org) has a series of pictures showing the damage and some of the efforts at a clear-up in the mouth of the Ley around the vicinity of the bridge. On the plus side, the huge gap at the bottom of the steps at my end of the beach

has now had its sand reinstated up to the level of the bottom step, and to remind us of the power of the sea, a wooden pile some 15 feet long has been dumped like a match stick half way across the bottom step.

2014 has begun with a swipe at man's attempt to keep back the sea both on our doorstep (mine anyway!) and at many other places around our coast. The elements are proving to be winning at the moment. Even a mini tornado in Kingsbridge!

Weather Statistics for Beach Cottage December 2013

WIND

25 days Westerlies
5 days Easterlies
1 day Northerly
0 days Southerly
Speed; Top gust = 65 mph on 24th
Lowest daily mean = 2mph on 3rd

RAINFALL

Number of wet days = 20
Highest daily amount = 27mm on 23rd
Monthly Total = 156mm
Monthly Average = 106.8mm (16 years)
Total for year = 896.2mm

TEMPERATURE

Highest daily = 13°C on 13th/14th/17th
Lowest daily = -1.3°C on 5th
Highest Daily Mean = 12.2°C on 16th
Lowest Daily Mean = 3.9°C on 1st
Monthly mean = 8.1°C
Monthly Average (16 years) = 11.01°C
Year average over 16 yrs = 12.2°C

BAROMETER

Highest = 1035mb on 3rd
Lowest = 991mb on 24th

SUNSHINE

Sunniest day = 5.7 hrs on 29th
Total for the month = 40.6 hrs.
No sun on 15 days

PS. Several blocks of congealed Palm Oil have been washed up at our end of the beach. We have removed them, but watch out for them, they are dangerous for dogs to ingest. Plastic bags are stored inside my garden gate in a dustbin. Please help yourselves to them and pick up this stuff you may find, put it back in the garden, and I will see that it is safely disposed.

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February		
Monday	3 rd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wednesday	5 th	TRAMP, Kingston/Ringmore (short)
Monday	10 th	Nat Trust talk, Caring for Antiques, Parish Hall, 2.30pm
Thursday	13 th	WI Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Women's Health & Wellbeing)
Wednesday	19 th	TRAMP, Batson Green - North Sands (long)
Sunday	23 rd	Tim Kilphuis Concert, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday	26 th	KEDFAS, Methodist Hall, K'bridge 7.30pm Bayeux Tapestry
Thursday	27 th	KEDFAS, Methodist Hall, K'bridge 10.30am Bayeux Tapestry
March		
Monday	3 rd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wednesday	5 th	TRAMP, Wembury circular (short)
Saturday	8 th	Big Yellow Brunch, Church Meeting Room, 10 am - 1 pm
Wednesday	12 th	TRAMP, Plymouth coastal path (short)
Thursday	13 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Quickies Cheeses)
Thursday	20 th	Bowls 'taster session', Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
Friday	21 st	TRAMP, Buckland, Worthy, Avon Trail (long)
Monday	24 th	S Hams NT, AGM, 2.00pm & talk (2.30pm), Parish Hall
Tuesday	25 th	Parish Hall AGM, 6.00 pm
Wednesday	26 th	KEDFAS, Methodist Hall, K'bridge, 7.30pm Japanese Prints
Thursday	27 th	KEDFAS, Methodist Hall, K'bridge, 10.30am Japanese Prints
Thursday	27 th	Bowls 'taster session', Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
Saturday	29 th	Porter Family Cowcart, Parish Hall, 7.30pm (see advert)
April		
Monday	7 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Monday	7 th	TRAMP, Bigbury and Avon estuary
Thursday	10 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Where have the sparrows gone?)

Advertising Rates for Village Voice - 12 months (six issues)
 Whole Page - £75.00 Half Page - £55.00 Quarter Page - £35.00

VILLAGE VOICE

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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 Bentham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Apr-May) ISSUE = 5th March 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.

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- 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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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