

VILLAGE VOICE



Kendall McDonald 1927 - 2014

April - May 2014

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone



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APRIL - MAY 2014

Kendall McDonald

Our cover picture, taken by Keith Millman in 2006 outside the Post Office, captures Kendall with the tools of his trade in hand, happily trapped into sponsoring a young lad on some charity venture.

Our parish, and this magazine, have been lucky and privileged that he made his home here in Thurlestone and contributed so much through his willing and other initiatives to the quality of life here for so many years.

He took over the editorship of the magazine from Dudley Drabble in 1987, and he and his wife Penny published it until 1995 from their home at Gladles Cottage, using wax stencils and an old Gestetner duplicating machine.

Even having relinquished the editor's role, he continued to contribute a regular feature article under the pen-name of Villager, in which he would amuse, tease, satirise, or chastise the readership with a provocative commentary on both local and national issues.

Some fifty books flowed from his prolific pen, on diving, shipwrecks, history, and the South Hams, including his best-known "Just a Cottage" about the village property which he made his home.

Our Village Voice team would like to record their appreciation and thanks to a real champion of the press. He has been a model for us all.

Front Cover : Kendall - always contributing!

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Front cover picture by Keith Millman

A LETTER FROM YOUR MP

By Dr Sarah Wollaston MP

Dear All,

It has been another busy month and I am working closely with South Hams District Council, the Environment Agency and national co-ordinators to try to secure more support and funding to repair the damage to the sea defences and shoreline at Beesands. I am delighted that Bellwin funding has been agreed by DCLG and I'm continuing to seek further support to bring in the materials that will be needed to protect the future of the community. At Hallsands and Thurlestone the situation is more difficult as the Environment Agency has decided against active intervention and new access to some properties may need to be by agreement over private land.

The extreme weather over the last months has had a huge impact on our fishing community. The dangerous conditions have made it impossible to go out to sea and many have suffered loss or damage to vital equipment. I am keen to try and secure help for those who have been hit so hard. I am pleased that the Government has announced a one-off £10 million hardship programme to assist those in the agricultural sector who have been struggling with water logged fields. However, I believe that it is crucial that fishermen are provided with similar assistance.

This is why I am trying to gather as much evidence as possible about the scale of the problem for our local industry as I want to make the case for a similar scheme for the fishing sector. If you know any local fishermen please do ask them to get in touch with my Westminster office on 020 7219 5129.

I was pleased to lead a debate in the Commons last month on the proposed changes to permitted development rights.

These proposals would allow, without planning permission, for up to three dwellings to replace or convert existing farm buildings in our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks. I do think we need to take action to address the housing shortage in South Devon, particularly on behalf of young people and families, but this is not the way to do it.

What we need in this area is houses that local people can afford to rent or buy, and I am afraid that if these proposals go ahead they will only damage further the supply of affordable housing in the area by undermining the offer of exception sites which are the best way to find affordable land.

I was encouraged by Planning Minister Nick Boles' comments at the debate that the Government is listening to the concerns of our National Parks and those who love our open spaces about these proposals and I hope they will now look at the unintended consequences on landscape, grazing and land prices and drop them.

I was saddened to hear of the death of John Carter, who will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues. He made a terrific contribution as a local councillor including his support for important groups like the Hope Cove Lifeboat.

In conclusion, I look forward to meeting you all again when I come to Thurlestone for my Open Meeting at 2.30 pm on Thursday 24th April in your Parish Hall.



A Note from your County Councillor

by Rufus Gilbert

Firstly, a big thank you to 'Village Voice' for a super 32nd year celebratory lunch. Sandy and I both enjoyed catching up again with many of you. Equally, the fish and cottage pies were delicious and I'm afraid that I ate far too much of both!

I'm now rapidly heading towards the end of my first year as your County Councillor. I have enjoyed serving you and attending the thirteen parish Councils in my division. I also very much enjoyed attending many of last years summer events.

Understandably the primary concern has been the deteriorating state of some of our roads or indeed in some cases the loss of the road to the sea in recent storms. I refer in particular to Lockslea House and the National Trust track at Thurlestone Sands. This additional work has put great strain on the highways finances. Fortunately, the government, through the Bellwin Scheme, have relaxed the criteria for Councils to be able to make a claim for additional funds. Highways have therefore been able to increase the number of maintenance crews from thirteen to thirty two in Devon.

You may be interested to know that a Band D house paying £1500.00 in Council Tax contributes £42.00 to the maintenance of category 4 to 10, DCC roads and footpaths. This being about enough to fill one pothole.

This winter and the winter of 2011/12 have done terrible damage to the roads, resulting in a Devon backlog of £750 million. If you then equate that to a total DCC spend in one year of about £1 billion, you can see we have a considerable challenge to overcome.

At the time of writing this note (March) a further delay has come about on the Hope Cove footpath slip deviation. This, I hope, will have been resolved by the time of publishing this note.

Lastly, I should like to thank the South Hams Broadband team for all the hard work they have put into working up their proposal, and attending the various presentation events alongside BT. We should also know this outcome by the time of publication.

I wish you all a wonderful spring and summer

Rufus

STOP PRESS - BROADBAND DECISION

At a meeting on Thursday 27th March, Connecting Devon and Somerset voted to proceed with the BT proposals for the provision of superfast broadband to our part of the South Hams rather than the South Hams Broadband proposals. Technically, there is no right of appeal against this decision, but South Hams Broadband will now consider the options open to them, in their quest to provide the best possible service for everyone. In the meantime the SHB project team would like to express their thanks to Thurlestone Parish Council and the residents of Thurlestone and neighbouring parishes who have given them their full support throughout the tortuous process, as well as to the consultants whose long and painstaking efforts on behalf of the parish have been quite outstanding. We must now hope that BT waste no more time before providing their fibre-to-the-cabinet solution to the area, as well as finding affordable solutions for those unable to benefit from this service.

PARISH HALL NEWS

Chairman: Neill Irwin



On 31 May a new face makes its appearance at the Hall in an event that we are co-ordinating and sharing with the Red Cross. Matt Harvey is a humorous performance poet based in Totnes who has great credentials. He is a regular on Radio 4 and was also the official poet of the Tennis Championships at Wimbledon in 2010. He has been described as a "Wondermentalist poet with fabulously understated tones" and was commissioned in 2009 to write a 40th anniversary poem for the Open University 'OU we owe you'. This is an event with a difference and we hope to see you there ready to enjoy an evening of up to date satire and great laughs.

Another event for the programme has been confirmed for 5th July when there will be a first for the Parish Hall. The Racketts is an 8-piece Rock and Roll Band playing 50s and 60s pop. The line-up features the elusive seventh Beatle, bassist Chas Newby who was paid the princely sum of £4 to play four gigs with the (then unknown) Fab Four during a break from college in 1960. Put the 2014 date in your diary now!

The new meditation workshops started on 3rd March and there has been good attendance for the new Tai Chi classes with Nola. Other groups are looking for new members particularly Bowls and Badminton so do think about taking up a new activity to support your local amenity. The Rotary quiz was well-attended and made over £800 for the polio prevention charity and some stalwart committee members provided a bar for the Neil Diamond tribute evening which added to the Hall's own coffers.

The NSPCC jumble sale takes place on 12th April. We have had the hedge trimmed and are grateful to Paul Martin for creating the new signage for events and to Malcolm Le Grice for poster design. We are thinking about visible banners to draw in passing trade especially in the summer.

Time for a review of the first event we held this year, namely the return of the Tim Kliphuis trio. This was Tim's fourth performance at our Parish Hall and the reaction of the audience showed that it was again a very successful evening, although the numbers were a little down compared with previous occasions. I would be very interested to have your views on our concert performers. Please email me at neill.irwin@btinternet.com and let me know what you think.

We hope that by the time this goes to press you will have already enjoyed the return of the Porter Family for their concert on Saturday 29 March. Thanks to everyone who joined us at the AGM. The minutes will appear shortly and we look forward to your feedback.

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Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 3 February and 3 March 2014

News & Views by Citizen

ATTENDANCE

At the February meeting seven Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our County and District Councillors and twelve members of the public were present, and in March six Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our District Councillor and eighteen members of the public attended.

OPEN FORUM

A request for a 20mph speed limit in the Parish was made as well as the repainting of the white line for the "Virtual Pavement" in Main Street.

A request was also made for a Parish Councillor to be present at a SHDC planning meeting about Plot 13 on the Yarmer Estate.

Hedge trimming on the road to Bantham / West Buckland is now urgent as the road width has been much narrowed by the overgrown hedge.

PARISH HALL

Councillor Jill Munn said that the new portable electric heaters for use by the Bridge Club were working well.

The Parish Hall accounts were in profit.

HIGHWAYS

In West Buckland the gully by "Woodlands" is still blocked, the wall on top of the bridge has yet to be repaired as well as the 4 inch drop in the tarmac by the telephone box. Devon County Councillor Rufus Gilbert will see if he can sort this out as SHDC have not taken action over the last twelve months.

FOOTPATHS AND HERITAGE COAST

The footpath to Hope Cove should be open by Easter.

SCHOOL

Councillor Andrew Rhymes Reported that replacing the play equipment is proving to be very expensive, and the school is looking at schemes to raise the money.

TREES

Councillor Charlie Mitchelmore said those damaged by the recent storms have been cleared away. The fir tree adjacent to the War Memorial is to be surveyed to see if it is in danger of falling down and an estimate for removing old tree roots from the green is needed.

PARISH PLAN

Phone Mast : Councillor Dale Came said that a public meeting regarding a mobile phone mast was necessary. Following this meeting on 27th February, where two locations were shown at the presentation, an evening meeting was now urgent so that those who work during the day could hear the proposals. No date was given at the March meeting.

Broadband : The meeting at the Hotel on 22nd January was a disappointment as Devon County Councillor John Hart had refused to allow the audience a vote to show their preference between the BT and South Hams Broadband options presented, causing great anger. However, a separate meeting between John Hart and the South Hams Broadband team had been arranged, at which the SHB plans were able to be explained to the Council in detail.

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

A letter has been sent to South Devon Rural Housing Association about the rear gardens for the new houses in Parkfield opposite the Village Inn. They have responded saying the gardens have yet to be completed, but no indication of the standards to be adopted was given.

The pavement by the War Memorial has been cleaned and the damaged direction sign at Whitely Cross has been reported.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Rufus Gilbert said that "On street parking enforcement" has been won by Devon County Council through an internal competitive tender, which SHDC

lost. The service is likely to be poorer with fewer enforcement staff covering a larger area.

SHDC have so far made savings of £130m, but need to save a further £50m. It was felt that eventually local government will have to be self-sufficient and not receive any funds from central government.

Regarding a 20mph speed limit the police consider it too difficult to enforce.

The new expensive wall at Halwell was funded from an old budget rather than road maintenance. This was reported in connection with concern expressed about our pot-holed and unrepaired roads.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor Ian Bramble said that road sweeping on the Mead by the Council should not take place as all the roads are unadopted.

The Boundary Commission have now reported, and from 2015 we will be Salcombe and Thurlestone ward with two District Councillors.

POLICE

The police were not present but advised that

by using CCTV they had caught the people responsible for thefts from boats in Bantham. Three other crimes were reported - one from a holiday home, and two oil tank thefts.

BUSINESS BY DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Andrew Rhymes said a decision on fibre optic broadband was scheduled for the end of March, but incorporating it with a mobile phone mast would be too late. The government money made available for improved mobile phone reception has to be spent by May 2015 and SHDC planning approval to enable the work to proceed has to be obtained urgently. Any delays caused by residents' prevarication would mean the company responsible for installing masts under the scheme moving on to other areas, and the government money being spent elsewhere, leaving Thurlestone mast-less.

WW1 Centenary: A preliminary meeting was held on 6 January, and a second meeting is to be held on 17 March (see News Roundup)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Thurlestone Parish Council will take place on Monday 7th April 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room.

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Village News Round-Up

Harry Huggins

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Harry Huggins on 22 February at the age of 92. Harry and his wife June came to live in Thurlestone in the 1970s, after Harry retired from his career in banking. He had lifelong passions for sailing and ornithology, tales of which were to become a feature of the regular articles which he wrote for Village Voice for more than twenty years. His anecdotal style was full of warmth and a dry humour, particularly when he wrote of his irascible father, and of the adventures (and misadventures) that befell him and June on their many bird-watching trips in the UK and overseas. His great knowledge of bird-life drew many people to him - and he was a leading local expert in this field.

He will be a great loss to the parish, and particularly to all the team at Village Voice, who extend to June deepest sympathy on the sad loss of her devoted husband through 67 years of married life together.

Bantham Friends

Residents of Bantham and surrounding area held a meeting, chaired by Nicholas Grodhunne (560692), at the Sloop Inn on Monday 10 March about the forthcoming sale of Evans Estates. It was agreed by those attending that a group should be formed, calling themselves Friends of Bantham, which would be a communication hub to share information. It would also bring together all interests such as the Surf Life Saving Club, the Sailing Club, the kite surfers, paddle-boarders and conservation groups, particularly in relation to the eventual new owners of the Estate.

NSPCC

There will be a Jumble Sale at the Parish Hall on Saturday 12 April, in support of the work of this very worthwhile charity. The local NSPCC committee would be delighted to receive any donations of good quality clean items, surplus to your requirements, which can be delivered to the Hall from 10 am to noon on the day. If you have not got any

such items, they would be very happy to receive cash donations, however small. Goods can also be collected by contacting Pat Crawford (01548-560688) or Judith Le Grice (01548-562135).

William's Big Yellow Brunch

William's Big Yellow Brunch, held on Saturday 8th March 2014 in the Church Meeting Room at Thurlestone, provided 50 generous supporters with a sumptuous English Breakfast in aid of the Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF). This small, family-centred charity provides support, medical literature and research funding to assist in the fight against childhood liver disease. As grandson to local residents, Liz & Robbie Robinson, William Thomas Bates (Aged 2), has benefited directly from CLDF's support following his diagnosis with a rare liver condition, Alagille Syndrome, at three weeks old. William's Big Yellow Brunch is proud to announce that this year raised a fantastic total of £880, which will enable CLDF to hold further family support events and publish a greater range of advice to newly diagnosed families. A big thank you from our family and CLDF therefore goes out to Joan Booth's marvellous catering team, all supporters on the day, suppliers of brunch provisions, raffle prizes and kind donations. For further information on CLDF, please visit www.childliverdisease.org or contact Liz Robinson on lizrobinson40@hotmail.com to find out more about William's story. Thank you again to everyone who has supported us. We hope see all again next year! With many thanks from Paul, Abigail & William Bates and Liz & Robbie Robinson.

Mobile Phone Mast

Poor mobile phone reception throughout the parish has long been a bone of contention. Now the issue is a matter of urgent review, and two public meetings, on 27 February and 27 March, were held in the Parish Hall, to consider proposals to go ahead with a planning application for a mast under the government's latest funding scheme for

"Not-Spot" areas. While a number of local residents expressed misgivings on health and environmental grounds, the Parish Council are likely to press ahead in the belief that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

Lest we Forget

Two meetings have also been held by a Parish committee to co-ordinate events to commemorate the Great War. The church is planning to hold a special service and vigil on Monday 4 August. Poppy seeds will be sown at several spots in the parish, and the War Memorial will be cleaned.

POTS will be putting on an exhibition in the Parish Hall over the three days of the Bank Holiday, 23-24-25 August, to include details about the WW1 casualties and their families, and photographs, icons, and memorabilia about the War and Thurlestone in 1914-18. The Devon British Legion Poppy Banner will be a particular feature of this exhibition.

A 1914-18 Quiz will be on sale at the Village Shop, and POTS will be hosting a Village Cheese & Wine Lunch on Saturday 14 June in the Parish Hall to help raise funds for the exhibition, while the Phone Box committee will hold a "Singalong" with the Razorsharp group at the Phone Box at 6pm on Saturday 23 August with hot dogs (BYO drinks). Further details will follow in due course. Meantime, any readers with photos or WW1 memorabilia they are prepared to loan or to have copied for the exhibition are invited to contact Robin Macdonald on 560436.

Wild Flower Seeds

Several readers have commented on the wild flower bed featured on our front cover in August last year, and anybody wishing to have their own wild flower corner is reminded that now is the time to be thinking of sowing the seeds. Poppies are going to prove a particular favourite this year!

Big Plant Sale

To raise funds to stage their yearly show, Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show are holding their annual Plant Sale at the Parish Hall on Saturday 17 May, and will be open for business at the Parish Hall at 10am sharp. To avoid disappointment the committee urge you to come early.

They would also like to remind readers that the annual show is in Thurlestone this year, on Saturday 2 August, and they hope to have the show schedules available at the Plant Sale. Show chairman David Coward says "We would particularly like to encourage the children of the parish to enter the show and would welcome more flower arrangers". You will see in the schedule what classes are available for these two categories, and we hope they will encourage entries overall. This is always an attractive and colourful addition to the programme of annual events in the parish.

Jewellery

Last year we had a visit from Geoff Rowlandson of 84 Brook Street, Mayfair, one of Britain's leading jewellery designers and he and some members of his staff are returning to Thurlestone Parish Hall on Tuesday 1 July, 9.30am to 6.00pm. He asks if you have thought about selling, or part-exchanging, any inherited or unwanted jewellery or having it re-designed into something you would love to wear, rather than having it hidden away and unworn. If so, he invites you to come along and meet him to discuss your ideas whilst he is here. They are also interested in buying gold, silver and coins.

Geoff has won the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths Designer of the Year Award on two occasions and the Design Council have commended his entry this year. His jewellery has recently been on display at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Gilbert & Sullivan

The Plymouth Gilbert & Sullivan Fellowship are presenting 'The Yeomen of the Guard' from 13-17 May at the Devonport Playhouse, in Fore Street, Plymouth. Performances will start each evening at 7.30pm, and there will also be a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Ring 01752-225505 for enquiries and bookings.

Danger - Thieves at Work!

There have been a number of incidents recently when central heating oil has been stolen, and holiday properties burgled. You are advised to have a check on your security systems, and to be alert for suspicious strangers to the area.



SOUTH HAMS SOCIETY

Programme for April & May 2014

On **Tuesday 8 April**, our focus is on renewable energy with a **'Walk and Talk' tour around the Sharpham Estate**. Starting at 9.30am, we will tour the Grade I listed Georgian house with its famous staircase and octagonal room, and admire the views of the landscape, believed to be designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. We will then walk across the grounds, learning how the Sharpham Trust have embraced renewable energy, from a biomass boiler for Sharpham House and the Barn retreat, to Solar Photovoltaic panels generating over half of the estate's power demand. Cost: £20 including coffee, soup, bread and Sharpham cheese lunch.

Why not also join members of the South Hams Society for their next **beach clean**, at **Soar Mill Cove**, on **Saturday 12 April**? Park in the Soar Mill Hotel car park before descending to this stunning beach at 10am. Volunteers are rewarded with a cream tea, compliments of the manager of the Soar Mill Hotel. Low tide 1103 BST. Other beach cleans are scheduled for 2014: **Yarmer** (10 May, 6 September), **Rickham Gara** (14 June, 11 October), **South Milton** (12 July, 20 December), **Soar Mill Cove** (9 August) and **West Charleton** (22 November).

On **Thursday 8 May**, enjoy **Spring Flowers and Birds at Andrews Wood with Gordon Waterhouse**. 10am 'till lunch. Meet at the Car Park and bring a picnic.

For more information about these events, contact Vivien Napper (842405) or Flo Stathers (857567) or visit the websites at < www.southhamsociety.org > or at < www.sharphamtrust.org/Heritage-Estate/Sustainability >.

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by Robert Harris

Hutchinson £18 (hardback) £6.99 (Kindle)

As the author says, "This book aims to use the techniques of a novel to tell the true story of the Dreyfus affair". It is in 1895 and in Paris Georges Picquart witnesses the sentencing of convicted spy Alfred Dreyfus to solitary confinement on Devil's Island. Picquart receives a promotion to the intelligence unit that targeted Dreyfus and soon begins to realise that all is not as it seems. The novel is narrated by Picquart and follows his long battle against corruption to prove the innocence of Dreyfus. It is a very engrossing read - and while reading it I listened to our own politicians with even more scepticism than before!

Carolyn Taylor

Burying the Bones

by Hilary Spurling

Profile Books £8.99 (Paperback)

This is a biography of Pearl Buck who was born in China, into the family of a Calvinistic Presbyterian minister before the Second World War. She lived through those days of hunger, famine, flood, war and crop failure to write a fictionalised account of life then, up until the last days of the Empress of China. The Empress was said to have been captured and brought to the Emperor's house as a slave, becoming a concubine and finally his wife and successor.

Pearl Buck's book *The Good Earth* is well worth reading again. She continued to write, was feted and wealthy, but is today chiefly remembered for her accounts of Chinese life. *Before the war she prophesied that one day China would be a force in the world again!*

Rosemary Mackay

Five Boys

by Mick Jackson

Faber & Faber £6.99 (Paperback)

This is a quirky little book. It begins when Bobby is evacuated to the South Hams during the war to live with a spinster, Miss Minter. He soon comes up against the Five Boys, so-called because they were all born within days

of each other (the reference to the Fry's chocolate bar of the time is vague). At first they bully and tease him but gradually he is admitted to their gang and for the first part of the book we follow, amongst other things, their misadventures.

We seem to lose Bobby after that and the book merges into a series of short stories about the villagers' activities during the war. There are plenty of comic moments and readers will recognise much of the wartime history of the South Hams. However, the book gets a bit darker when the war ends and fathers begin to return to the villages. A strange read - funny, nostalgic, and just a wee bit dark, but written so well I was held to the end.

Carolyn Taylor

The Cockleshell Pilgrim

by Katherine Lack

SPCK Publishing £9.99 (Paperback)

We met Dr Lack on a cruise up the Rhine last year and very much enjoyed her lectures on various aspects of European history. On our return we took the opportunity to read her book about a medieval pilgrim who in 1423 travelled from Worcester to Compostela. Her interest in the subject had been sparked off by the accidental discovery in 1986 of the remains of a man dressed as a pilgrim (complete with staff, stout pilgrim boots and a cockleshell) in Worcester Cathedral. She set out to identify, and establish as much as she could about this man.

There was evidence to suggest the man was Robert Sutton, a prosperous and influential dyer of Worcester who was probably trying to atone for some misbehaviour. Her account of his pilgrimage brings to life vividly both the period and the lands through which his journey took him. England had been at war with France for 85 years so throughout his travels the going was neither straightforward nor without danger on very poor roads across a war-torn and plague-ridden Europe. Despite the difficulties he evidently made it back safely and restored his good name, as his bones were interred in a prestigious site within the cathedral. A fascinating story.

Pat Macdonald



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LAY READER: Peter Gornall

**Commemorating World War 1
and looking forward to Easter**



I have had it on the word of a serving army chaplain. He has been in Afghanistan. He has been out on perilous sorties, has experienced dreadful danger and has seen instant gallantry. He had the privilege of recommending one quite unlikely lad for recognition of an act of heroism while snipers were active in saving colleagues from drowning in their overturned vehicle in an irrigation ditch.

This chaplain is no mean historian. His assessment is that this Afghan campaign has more in common with the First World War than with the Second. True, the numbers of forces are tiny by comparison. But some military units have suffered losses by injury and death proportionally as great as in the Great War. The horrors of the improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the perils of the ditches, the snipers and the suicide bombers are only in part balanced by the capable and fearless skills of the paramedics rescuing the maimed and dying.

We will do well to remember all this in the context of the centenary commemoration which goes on for four years more. We can debate what to do if a country becomes a haven for training aeroplane hijackers and psychologically hyping up suicide-bombing as the answer to perceived threats to Islamic peoples. We may examine the role of the military in confronting corruption, securing free speech, protecting education rights for both genders. But we know that in the end violence never ushers in real peace.

I write having just visited sun-drenched Dartington Hall where a 50-foot-tall pink magnolia of staggering beauty crowns the otherwise bare-twigged woods above the turf terraces, and fixes the gaze upward from the destruction of the February tornado. A herald of the gathering power of spring renewal and rebirth; and a parable too.

Amid and around the pain of the grieving families, the grim prospects of the survivors of the IEDs, the troubling questions as to whether the campaign and sacrifices have been "worth it", there is One Alive who has already demonstrated the power of the ultimate self-giving; and not for a moment ceasing to be involved in the daily pain and nightly tears and the harshness of decisions which have cost so much. And the realisation of Jesus's presence even in all that distress lifts the heartache and sense of loss to a different realm: "Today you will be with me in Paradise".

Cycles of endings and beginnings can look mechanical and heartless; but He would know that too, from having gone through it Himself. He knows, and imparts the knowledge, that you can't stop life, real life, starting afresh. Deeply understanding that might start real peace.

Wishing you a Happy Easter!

Peter

Everyone would be welcome you to our Holy Week & Easter Services

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13TH	10.55am Palm Sunday Procession leaves Parish Hall 11.10am Palm Sunday Family Service (see overleaf)
MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 17TH	6.00pm Benefice Eucharist (CW) at South Milton
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18TH	10.00am Family Service at South Milton 2.00pm Last Hour Devotion
EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31ST	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) with hymns 11.10am Easter Family Communion (CW) <i>Drop-in crèche for young children with an adult</i>



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

APRIL 6TH, MAY 4TH & 18TH
APRIL 6TH, MAY 4TH

APRIL 13TH - 20TH

APRIL 27TH

MAY 11TH

MAY 18TH

MAY 25TH

Weekdays

THURSDAY APRIL 3RD, MAY 1ST
EVERY WEDNESDAY

ASCENSION DAY THURS MAY 29TH

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP: April 6th, 27th, May 4th,
18th & 25th; CW: April 13th, 27th & May 11th)

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Fall Trade Stall on 1st Sunday)

Please see overleaf for Holy Week and Easter Service

11.10am Matins (BCP)

11.10am Service to Celebrate the Start of Christian Aid Week

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

6.00pm Benefice Praise Service

11.00am Benefice Rogation Service (see below)

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

8.30am Morning Prayer (said)

6.00pm Benefice Eucharist (CW) at West Alvington

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



Palm Sunday Procession

APRIL 13TH

meet THURLESTONE
PARISH HALL at 10.55 A.M. to
process down to THURLESTONE
CHURCH for a FAMILY SERVICE at
11.10 A.M.

Everyone is very welcome to join us
Bring small branches or palm leaves to wave

Everyone is welcome to the
Rogation Sunday Service

SUNDAY MAY 25TH 11.00 A.M.

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TUESDAYS

2.30 p.m.

APRIL 8TH

Philomena

Judi Dench, Steve Coogan,
Sophie Kennedy Clark

Donations to Hearing Dogs & Church funds



MAY 6TH

It's Complicated

Meryl Streep, Steve Martin,
Alec Baldwin

EVERY WEDNESDAY

EASTER MONDAY APRIL 21ST

FRIDAYS

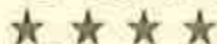
10.30am Coffee-Time in aid of monthly charity

12 noon Homemade Soup (Coffee/tea from 11.30am)

12.30pm Lunch Club - Book on 560090

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Tributes to Kendall McDonald

Kendall – My Dad. First of all, I hope that I get the spelling right and the grammar correct – in case Dad is watching!

Dad was born in Dulwich and had an older sister, Christine (who sadly can't be here as she is not well) and a younger sister, Mavis (who died about 5 years ago). He went to school at Dulwich College, which he thoroughly enjoyed, so much so that my brother, Kevin, was sent there too. He continued his connection with Dulwich College throughout his life. When he left school, he joined the Old Alleynians – the old boys of the College – where, as far as I can gather, he made quite an impression on the rugby field! Unfortunately, not for the right reasons. Apparently, he and his best friend Frank would place their pints of beer at the bottom of their opponent's goal posts as an incentive to run towards them! If they made it there, there were great celebrations ... I don't think it happened very often. Needless to say, they never made it to the first team!

Dad joined the Army, and was in the Tank Corps. War had ended before he saw active service, but not before he learnt to drive tanks, which meant that he never had to take a civilian driving test – which explains a lot!

He began a career in journalism, working first for the *Darlington Echo* as a reporter, then moved back to London to join the *Evening News*, where his father had been Sports Correspondent for many years. Dad worked on the *Evening News* until it closed and he was made redundant. He was offered a job on the editorial staff of the *Daily Mail*, but he didn't want to work on Saturdays – and by then he was ready for a quieter life in Thurlestone.

Whilst working as a journalist, he met and fell in love with a beautiful nurse, who worked at King's College Hospital. She was not easy to catch, but eventually she succumbed and Mum and Dad were married for more than 50 years. I can honestly say that I never heard them argue in all that time – either Mum was brilliant at the silent treatment or they did their arguing in skilful whispers, but Kevin and I never heard them! I do remember, however, (much, much later in life when Mum was unfortunately confined to her bed),

her saying 'Oh, shut up Kendall' at which everyone (including Dad) froze, complete silence reigned, then a fit of giggles from Mum (which she was prone to throughout her life!) and everything went back to normal!

Dad was a larger than life character – serious about his work, he didn't suffer fools gladly, was always up for an argument, and was set in his ways and ideas but with, at times, a boyish sense of humour and a twinkle in his eye. He loved red wine and cigars, smoking at times 60 slim panatellas a day until he moved to Devon. Some of Kevin and my friends got his sense of humour, others stayed away! Two of Kevin's lifelong friends got him completely – bravely giving back what they got! Dad enjoyed their company – many arguments continued long into the night – the deeper into the bottle of red, the longer the argument – and I think that Jerry is here today, which is a lovely tribute to Dad and Kevin – thank you! Even Andrew Girling here said that he often sparred with Dad – usually losing! (Sorry, Andrew!) Mum hated arguing, so if Dad could find a worthy opponent it was watch out! Wayne hadn't met Dad before he asked him if he could marry me. He was pretty nervous then. I can't imagine how scared he would have been had he known him!

Dad and I used to travel up to 'town' together for several years, getting the same train. That was an experience! It was like travelling with a naughty schoolboy! He would meet his friends on the platform at West Dulwich Station to catch the 8.20. We would all squeeze into a carriage compartment, and the fun would begin! After hauling any unfortunate schoolboy in the compartment, (who hadn't stood up for me), to a standing position, to allow me to sit down, Dad (always wearing his Henri Lloyd coat), would wait until all was quiet and then rip his Velcro pocket open, making a tearing noise. His partners-in-crime would ask each other if they had ripped their trousers. There was much laughter from the 'boys', before peace was restored and it would happen again! Luckily, I only had to put up with them to Victoria.

Dad took his work on the paper very seriously and worked his way up to the top of the

Evening News. During his years at the paper, he worked with stars from stage, screen and TV, organising and running the British Film Awards, amongst other things. Mum and Dad were always out at some function or another on Saturday evenings. They were friends with a lot of celebrities and, coming home as a teenager after a night out, it was quite common for them to be having a dinner party with several famous names around the table, something that I grew up with, but my friends were a bit awestruck at times! I found coming home to crabs and lobsters flopping all over the kitchen floor, after a successful dive, much more off putting! A bit of warning would have been good! When the paper was 'put to bed' for the last time, it was a very sad time in Dad's life but he had many friends from the Fleet Street days.

Dad's lifelong passion was diving, underwater photography and especially, wreck diving. He wrote over 30 books on the subject. In 1946 he began spearfishing in Spain, with his good friend John Messent, saving the life of (and making a lifetime friendship with) Francisco, and his family, whom we visited every summer for over 40 years. He progressed to aqualung diving shortly after this in 1947, convincing Mum that she wanted to start diving as well and they were diving buddies, forever blowing bubbles, until Mum couldn't dive anymore. Dad didn't dive much himself after that, he didn't want to without Mum.

He was British Sub Aqua Club member number 23, joining Bromley branch in 1949 and wrote articles for Diver Magazine for many years. He was made BSAC Chairman in 1974 and, shortly after, an Honorary Vice-President. He was recognised as a Wreck Expert and made several TV appearances, and wrote and presented a series about Wrecks on BBC2. He was invited into the International Diving Hall of Fame for his contribution to diving in 2004. A great honour for a select few and of which he was quietly, but rightly, proud. Thanks to Neville Oldham, a great friend of Dad's, a research library called the Kendall McDonald Research Library has been set up in his honour at the BSAC headquarters, incorporating many of his books and articles, of which I am immensely proud and I can only guess how much he would have been too. Mum and Dad were lucky enough to have dived all over the world, preferring warmer waters in later life,

swimming with dolphins, turtles, rays....and sharks! (I only found out about that last one when they returned home with a shark's tooth as a present for me!) Sitting in the boat with Kevin, following the bubbles from the aqualungs, visibility about to the end of your fingers, in wind and rain in Bognor Regis, was not the best experience of my childhood. One of the best experiences was, however, sitting on the boat in Spain, diving for fresh urchins to eat, with beer bottles cooling over the side! No wonder that Kevin spent most of his life in Spain!

When Dad was made redundant, he decided to make his dream of living in Thurlestone come true. They loved Cradles Cottage and Thurlestone and started to get involved in village life. I remember Kevin and I standing in the sitting room at Cradles Cottage by the roaring fire many years ago one Christmas, drinks in hand, making a promise to each other that we would always try to keep Cradles Cottage in the family. Later on, it was Mum and Dad's wish that I would move in there and make it my home. I am so happy that I have been able to fulfil their wish.

Village Voice was formed, and I remember vividly Mum welcoming me home with ink stained fingers and clothes, having turned the utility room into a printing press. They loved working on this, Dad contributing to articles and Mum collecting subscriptions and articles from around the village and surrounding area. When Mum was getting around on her buggy, Sam and Ross used to love going around the village, riding pillion on the buggy, handbrake turns encouraged by Ross, taking it in turns to run up the driveways delivering leaflets! Dad was very interested in the history of Thurlestone and wrote books about it and the surrounding villages, as well as numerous books about diving in Devon.

Dad was adored by Sam and Ross. Sam couldn't say Grandpa when she was a baby and one day it came out as Boopa – from that day on, the name stuck and he was Boopa to his dying day. Dad adored them too, always making sure they had everything they needed and that they pursued every opportunity open to them. He did exactly the same for Kevin and I – Dad was generous to a fault – he helped Kevin out on his wild Spanish business ventures and bought me a horse once. He would do anything for us and

was always there for us. He always tried to provide us with everything we wanted, within reason though; because he never bought me the elephant I wanted.

Dad never actually said sorry! If he was wrong, he never admitted it. It was a standing family joke, and one Christmas he almost said it and we teased him into submission, his twinkling, cheeky eyes denying all knowledge of the fact.

You could usually find Dad in his study, completely surrounded by books, papers and maps. They were piled up high all around him, but he knew exactly what and where each one was. Mum was never allowed to dust or clean in there and woe betide you if you moved anything! He always knew facts about everything, and what he didn't know he would find out for you straightaway. Even now, I have to stop myself picking up the phone to ask him about something because he always knew the answer. If you needed him, he was there and he ALWAYS made things better. He made me feel safe.

Dad loved Mum completely and utterly. They were two halves that just fitted together. Dad could not function without her and didn't do anything without her. When Kevin died, he seemed to shrink in many ways, the shock taking away some of his personality and life. When Mum became ill, he looked after her 24 hours a day, complaining sometimes, but not meaning it! He learnt how to cook and run the house and looked after her every need. When Mum needed full time care, he allowed carers into their home....but only the strong ones survived...he was quite difficult to please! When she died, nearly 3 years ago, he just simply fell apart.

I tried my very best to look after him but he succumbed to Lewy body dementia and had to be cared for at Thurlstone Court. They looked after him beautifully but I was told to prepare for his death within a month of his arrival there. Dad being Dad, stubborn to the end, died peacefully, two years later.

He is now sitting on a cloud with Mum and Kevin, drinking his favourite red wine in the sunshine, and trying to start an argument on how well I have delivered this!

I hope I have done you proud, Dad.

Joanna Acourt

I first met Kendall in 1983 over what came to be a typically enjoyable dinner at The Sloop. Two years earlier, Nikki and I, despite knowing nothing of this area, had bought a run-down holiday cottage in Hope Cove which needed lots of work. At that time Kendall had just brought out a revised edition of the book detailing his experiences of restoring 'Just-a-Cottage' and he had agreed with my brother-in-law, a journalist colleague, to introduce me to his cherished builders, Gordon Jeffery and Mike Penwill.

Two years on, Gordon and Mike had worked their magic on our cottage and we were loving our new life in the South Hams, so this meeting was to get to know Kendall in person and to say thank you. We all seemed to get on well. The wine flowed liberally, and when some time later in the evening it emerged that Kendall and I had gone to the same school, Dulwich College, it seemed only natural (to the two of us at least) to burst into a rather alcoholic chorus of the school song, to the great embarrassment of our respective wives but the understanding tolerance of landlord Neil Girling.

Within a few years Kendall had retired from Fleet Street and was living full time in Thurlstone, by which time I had a small involvement with some of the work of the new Information Centre in Kingsbridge and I had become fully embroiled in creating publicity for KADSPA (the campaign to get a swimming pool for the district) and Kendall put up with my shameless requests for his help on both of these projects - writing articles and even calling in favours from his old Fleet Street colleagues like author and South Hams devotee Leslie Thomas.

Despite that, through all this time our friendship grew even stronger and the four of us, Penny and Kendall, Nikki and I, became close friends. In his later years Kendall became almost addicted to Nikki's lemon drizzle cake and, especially after Penny's death each visit to Cradles Cottage had to be accompanied by two of them - one to be eaten straight away, the other to be put into the freezer to carry him through to our next visit. Fortunately, even after any of Penny and Kendall's most alcoholically-fuelled dinners, we never got the point of singing the school song again.

Bill Blanch

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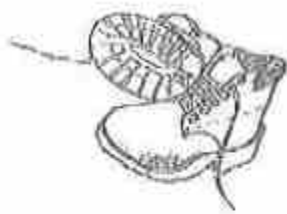
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TRAMP



1 Tuesday 21 January was a grey day with a forecast of rain. Eight walkers and a dog set off from the National Trust car park at Snapes Point. We took this circular walk in a clockwise direction. Although exposed to the wind, being high up gave the advantage of taking in the lovely estuary views down to Lincombe boat yard, up to Kingsbridge and over to West Charleton. Going through the gateway at the bottom of the field, then down on to the well-worn path running parallel to the estuary, we were now sheltered from the wind. Many yachts and power-boats were moored up on the crowded pontoon. Little activity but not exactly boating weather!

Following the path along the bottom of the fields the views broadened out to Frogmore Creek and South Pool Creek. Then, climbing up to Snapes Point, the superb panoramic view of Salcombe from Bolt Head at the mouth of the estuary, right across the town and its waterfront, along to Batson Creek and over to East Portlemouth and Mill Bay on the other side of the harbour.

We took the path back down through another gate and some steps to the wide stony track below, keeping views of Batson Creek on our left. Further on we left the circular route and continued our descent by way of the footpath to Snapes Manor and the narrow lane that leads to the pretty hamlet of Batson nestling at the head of the creek. Here there are the remains of two limekilns, one on each side of the inlet. Following the grassy verge along the other side of Batson Creek, the road took us into Salcombe where we stopped for coffee and refreshments at the Island Street Café.

As bad weather was closing in we decided not to complete the rest of the planned walk and retraced our steps back along the creek, cutting up the lane through Lower Batson to Balls Cross and Lincombe Cross. We arrived back at the Snapes Point car park having completed just four and a half miles. This turned out to be a wise decision as we managed to get back in the dry before it

turned into what became a very wet and miserable afternoon and by cutting the walk short we missed what would have been the muddiest part!

Jenny Webb

2 On a cold and cloudy morning eight hardy walkers met at Batson Creek on Wednesday 19 February and immediately encountered the long, steep slog up Batson Hill and crossed over the Kingbridge to Salcombe Road.

From there we walked over several fields down to Maryknowle and another slog up a hill to Higher Collaton. A slight detour had to be made from the original route as, on doing the recce a couple of days before, one of the tracks was found to be knee deep in mud. But the alternative route turned out to be a bonus, as we came across banks of snowdrops. On through the woods to North Sands where we witnessed the devastation to the beach road from the recent storms. Only pedestrians could cross along a narrow path.

A long and mainly level walk along the road into Salcombe where we were met by two non-walkers who joined us for lunch at The Victoria Inn. Finally, refreshed, we made our way via Island Street back to Batson Creek.

Trisha Wilson

3 There were no fewer than nineteen Tramps who assembled for this Wembury walk on Wednesday 5 March - a record turnout prompted by a sunny day after months of miserable weather. But it is heartening to see that Tramps is still going strong with several new members to the group.

We started off in a northerly direction away from the coast, through fields and mud and eventually passed the Langdon Court Hotel. Our next destination was Down Thomas where we regrouped and had a short coffee break before the descent along a rough stony track to Bovisands. Once on the coast

it was plain sailing, keeping the sea on our right with lovely views over The Sound, where some Tramps took the opportunity to do some photography.

On we tramped to Heybrook Bay where some almost succumbed to the lure of a pub but were overruled! So we carried on along the footpath past Wembury Point and The Mew Stone to the final leg to Wembury. Here we encountered more mud and the leader had been threatened with a large laundry bill from one Tramp but it was all in good fun!

The walk was just over 6 miles and to be recommended if you haven't done it before.

Trisha Wilson

4 On the sunny spring morning of 12 March thirteen Tramps arrived at Devil's Point, Plymouth, and were relieved to find spaces still available in the free car park. One of our earlier arrivals had witnessed the appearance of the Lord Mayor, plus piper, to welcome HMS 'Montrose' which was returning to port after a seven month absence on duty overseeing

the removal of chemical weapons from Syria.

We walked, or strolled, through Georgian Plymouth, observing many interesting things along the way. On reaching The Hoe we sat outside a café (in an impressive semi-circle) having coffee. Then it was slowly on again to the Barbican with its many interesting commemorative plaques including the Mayflower history. We had now covered about three miles.

We then got on to a bus at the Guildhall and were dropped off at the King William Yard, created in the time of the Sailor King. At the Bakery (the old slaughterhouse) you can collect a bowl made of bread which you then fill with your choice of soup, Thai curries, etc and sit at long tables. You pay £5 on the way out.

At the far end of the Yard there are some new steps built in memory of the late Eric Wallis, who was secretary to the South West Coast Path. This spectacular steep staircase enabled us to climb up to the path leading us back to our cars at Devil's Point.

Rosemary Mackay

National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for April and May 2014

**Wednesday
9 April**

Midi-coach trip to Montacute House (NT) and Tintinhull Garden (NT), Somerset. First, a visit to Montacute House, a magnificent Elizabethan mansion. The gardens here, and at nearby Tintinhull, should have lovely spring colour to enjoy. Refreshments available or bring a picnic.

**Tuesday
29 April**

Midi-coach trip to Trewithen House and gardens, Cornwall. This cherished family home since 1715 opens for guided tours on selected days. The estate boasts one of the loveliest gardens in England and features a magnificent collection of camellias and magnolias. Bring a picnic. Lunch drinks available from the tea shop.

**Tuesday
13 May**

Coach trip to Sidmouth and ride on the Seaton Tramway. At Seaton we board open-top double-decker tram cars for the return trip to Colyton. Then by coach to Sidmouth for a late lunch and the afternoon. Bring appropriate clothing for the tram journey.

**Friday
23 May**

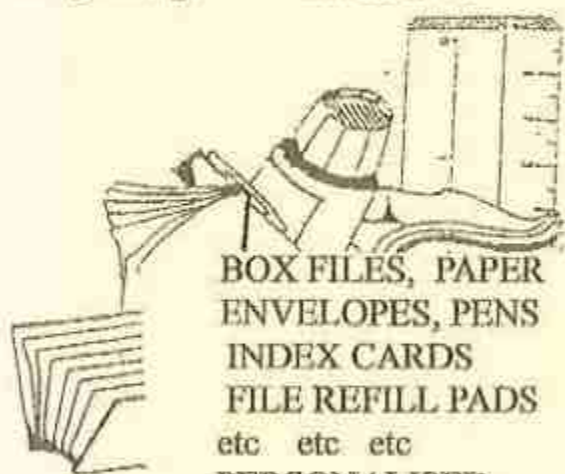
A walk from Noss Mayo. Meet at Noss Mayo car park, downhill past the church near the tennis courts (GR546476), for a four-mile circular walk towards Stoke beach. Return in time for lunch at nearby pub.

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

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Tough

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Tough

No. 94

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Tougher

No. 93

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Tougher

No. 94

Storm Damage?

February gales and rain were clearly of no help at all to some of our regular solvers, as three of them were sufficiently distracted to submit incorrect solutions. However, there were seven all-correct entries received; from Neill Irwin, Sheila Killingsworth, John King, Pauline Lonsdale, Vera Pailthorpe, Polly Petty, and Lisa White. So it was congratulations to all seven whose names went into the ballot this time, after which it was found that Lady Luck had smiled on John King, who will therefore receive the coveted bottle of Chateau Sudoku. Entries as usual to 25 Mead Lane, by 5th May 2014, but do please remember to check your entries for those inadvertent but unfortunate misprints.

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Thurlestone Golf Club



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Wouldn't it be lovely to have been able to record accounts of golf and tennis played in cold, crisp, sunny conditions with jolly 'après' winter refreshment in the clubhouse. Alas, it wasn't to be! Instead, the news since my last message reads as a rather grim saga of cancelled competitions, damage to the course, and hastily convened meetings to agree remedial action. That said, there have been occasional delightful playing days, rarely it must be said at weekends, but Spring is here - so let's be positive.

My intention therefore is not to dwell on the negative, as the BBC can be relied upon to do that. Instead, I would like to mention a few of the matches and competitions that have been played, talk a little about the arrangements while the remedial work on Leas Foot Beach is underway, and finish with a suggestion as to how you might like to remain active and hone your swing even when the course is unplayable.

Firstly, a quick resume of recent matches. On 21st February Thurlestone hosted this year's annual Devon v Cornwall Under 18's match. Unfortunately the weather was atrocious and Devon came second but for those of us who were at the club on the day it was a privilege to chat to these young players and see what the region has to offer by way of upcoming talent.

The following day the Thurlestone team of Daryl Day, Peter Eva, Kevin Mingo, Rob Came and Mark Drew took on a five-man team from Bigbury, at home, in the first round 'local derby' match of the Daily Mail Classic. This is a knockout match-play competition, starting at county level, graduating to regional, and finally being settled nationally. Sadly, we lost narrowly by 3 matches to 2, but it's probably worth mentioning that, despite Rob lowering the average age of the team by circa 10 years, Thurlestone were still giving away about fifteen years per man. Age therefore may not be everything, but when you're driving a ball into a Force 10, a little bit of youth does no harm!

On the mixed front, the Ladies vs Men's Spoon was played for on Sunday, 1st March. The men prevailed by 3½ to 1½ but it's worth highlighting that three of the matches were decided on the final hole. It all bodes well for 2015.

For those of you unaware, the tennis hard courts are currently being resurfaced. Work is almost complete and they are expected to be back in action over the next week or so. They are a wonderful asset for the club so we are delighted that this work has now been carried out and look forward to them being utilised to the full.

Readers may be curious to know what the arrangements are for the first and second holes while the repair work at Leas Foot Beach is underway. Clearly players will all have to be adaptable but in principle, unless there is work underway, the two holes can be played as normal. If work is in progress then the first can be played as a par 3 from the forward tee and the second from the forward tee on the clubhouse side of the ditch. The simplest option however in these circumstances would be to miss the first hole and start at the forward 2nd tee. Only in very exceptional circumstances will work be carried out during week-end competitions. Needless to say, walkers on the coast path should employ common sense and be aware of both golfers and the civil work that is underway.

Lincoln Shaw wrote a very nice piece in the Gazette last month about playing The Belfry in the comfort of your virtual living room. He was of course referring to the excellent facility in the pro's shop. If you haven't tried it, give it a go one stormy afternoon. For those of you who play, it will pay handsome dividends when you get back on the course for real. For those of you who don't, it will give you an excellent idea of what you've been missing!

And finally, I would like to draw readers' attention to a few upcoming golfing and social events. Coinciding with the Masters there will be a Fun Golf competition and Social Evening on 12th April. This will be followed on the 18th April by the start of the Pro's 9-hole Roll-up, and a little further off, but definitely one to prepare for, the Annual Ball on the 24th May.

For now though I look forward to some better weather in April and May and seeing as many of you as possible on the course, on the courts and, quite naturally, in the bar!

David S F Smyth

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

It has been a stormy start to my year of captaincy, but despite the extreme weather conditions the golf course has only been closed for one day and my thanks must go to Vic Dyer, our Course Manager and his hardworking staff for this. The weather certainly hasn't done anything for our golf, even if you were mad enough to want to play, so it was just as well that we had put plenty of 'fun' 11 hole competitions in the diary to start the year off!

The first ladies competition for 2014 was on Wednesday 8th January, a Fielder's Choice 11 hole competition; 39 ladies turned out on a fine day with little wind to play eleven holes and then choose their best par threes, fours and fives. The winner was Jane Mason with 16 points, on count back from Jenny McKeague. Third was Nicole Carter with 15 points, on count back from Jane Stanley. After an excellent lunch the ladies were treated to a "Rules of Golf" talk by past lady captains Pam St Leger and Linda Cant which was a good way to keep up to date with recent rule changes.

The winners of our Daily Mail Foursomes qualifier held on Saturday 11th January were Jenny Roberts and Heather Spencer and they will go on to represent the Club in the knock out competition. Their first round opponents are Dartmouth so we wish them well for this match.

On Sunday 12th January we held the final of our Ladies Winter Foursomes. The Treasurer Midge Henderson and Lady Captain Wendy Laud won against Victoria Gibbons and Lesley Robinson. This is the sixth time Wendy has won this competition in seven starts with three different partners! The first 6 holes were played in strong wind and then the four also had to contend with torrential rain. They had to abandon the celebratory glass of wine for a quick drive home and a soak in a hot tub, as all were drenched to the skin by the time they came in.

Our next outing was a Five Clubs and Putter competition on 15th January. A few brave souls beat the wind and rain and played

eleven holes. The winner was Liz Sharman with 19 points on count back from Shona Wilson, with Wendy Laud third on 18 points.

The first mixed competition of the year was held on Sunday 19th January and as trolleys were not allowed the format was changed to a 14 hole Five clubs and Putter event, won by George Fountain and Beth Yeoman with an excellent 32 points. Heather and Mervyn Spencer were runners up with 30 points and Linda and Graham Cant third with 28 points. The course was very wet, but for once we had bright sunshine and not much wind - a lovely change!

The January Stableford competition was won by Jenny Roberts with 36 points, on count back from Heather Spencer in Division One. Kay Morley won Division Two with 29 points from Diane Baker, 24 points.

Wednesday 29th January saw a Yellow Ball competition on a sunny day with no wind. However, due to heavy rain the previous day, trolleys were not allowed so the competition was reduced to 11 holes. The winning team of Lizzie Britton, Pam Ledger and Inger Reeve scored 64 points, and second with 61 points came the team of Lindsey Fletcher, Bernice Sweetman and Liz Sharman. After the competition the Lady Captain Wendy Laud made a presentation to Bernice Sweetman who had won the Betty Ord memorial trophy, Devon County medal and Hilary Taylor cup for the lady who had lowered her handicap the most in 2013. Trish Cooper was also presented with the Senior Shield for the best three Stableford scores in 2013.

Overnight Tuesday 4th February into Wednesday morning there was severe storm damage to Leas Foot Beach. Following a quorum emergency meeting of the Executive Committee and members of the Greens Committee who were available, it was decided to locate some large boulders beach side of the walkway between the 2nd tee and fairway where the sea threatened to breach the course. Remedial work has now been started to repair the second tee, also damaged in the storms.

As a result of all the severe weather the first two competitions in February had to be cancelled but we managed to play our Stableford. The competition was reduced to 17 holes because of the ongoing work on the beach defences but despite this and a chilly wind a good field of 34 ladies turned out to play. The Silver Division winner was Heather Spencer with an excellent 34 points followed by Wendy Laud with 29 points. The Bronze Division winner was Jill Beavis with 32

points, with Di Baker a close runner-up with 31 points.

The Express & Echo qualifier was held in February, with Jenny Roberts and Heather Spencer coming top with 31 points, and Jane Mason and Trish Bowman second with 28 points. Both pairs go forward to the finals day being held at Fingle Glen in September. Our second mixed greensomes also went ahead in February as planned and Philip and Wendy Laud won with a sparkling 41 points followed by Mervyn and Heather Spencer with 38 points.

Janet Richardson and Wendy Laud finally managed to play the Murray Smith knock-out final which had been postponed more than once owing to course conditions and dreadful weather. They had a chilly but sunny day, with a stiff to strong wind blowing and only one swift burst of hail to contend with. The first six holes were very competitive but then Wendy managed to pull away and eventually won on the 13th hole – a successful defence as she had also won this event in 2013!

Sunday 2nd March was the Men v Ladies Spoon competition and 10 brave pairs went out in strong winds and some rain to play for the Spoon, but due to weather conditions it was reduced to 11 holes. The men have won this event 18 times (the ladies 8 times) and today also went their way. However, 4 matches out of 5 went to the 18th, but the overall result was 3½ to 1½. The only win for the ladies was Janet Richardson and Heather Spencer against Mark Chapman and Jeremy Tucker. Wendy Laud and Barbara Smith managed a half against Steve Pepperrell and Alec Esplin. Ann Best and Gill Durden lost on the 18th hole to Mervyn Spencer and Norman Barrett. Margaret Tucker and Jane Smyth lost on the 18th to Phillip Laud and Alistair Durden. Dave Smyth and Graham Smith won 4/3 against Hayley Pepperrell and Sue Esplin.

Now that February and March are over we can all hopefully look forward to some balmy Spring days. The next couple of months are busy ones with the start of some of our Friendly and County Matches. Our Open Days have already attracted a lot of entries as has our Coffee Morning. This is being held on Monday 7th April and is open to visitors. For the bargain price of £13.00 ladies can play 18 holes, have a coffee and buy some of our wares. We look forward to welcoming old friends and making new ones!

Wendy Laud

JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

January and February have been very wet and windy but one junior competition went ahead. Luckily it was sunny and the juniors returned some good scores. In January it was a Stableford competition, won by Ethan Mulligan (30 points) from Ben Woods (29 points) and Finn Whelan (22 points). The February Stableford was cancelled due to gale force winds.

The "Thurlestone Junior Academy" run by Pete Mitchell, Jack Wallace, and Steve White is going strong with fifty-six members. Many have now become junior members as well. The focus has been to get the juniors playing the course, using the skills that they have been learning since the Academy started in November 2012. We also have eleven CONGU handicap juniors now having lessons with the Academy.

We will be starting the junior club nights on Monday 29th March from 4pm to 6pm. This year assistant professional Jack Wallace will be in charge, helped by the junior committee and adult volunteers. We are looking for members to help any Monday from 4 – 6pm to take a small group of non-CONGU juniors out on the course for six holes. Please contact Steve Gledhill or Sarah George in the main office if you would like to help. The CONGU handicap juniors will be organised into match play groups by the Junior Captain Jamie Johnson and junior organisers Phil Holland and Janet Richardson.

The club has entered the West Devon Junior League again this year. Last year we were runners-up to Wrangaton in our group. This year we have to play home and away matches against Tavistock, Wrangaton and Yelverton golf clubs and I would like to wish the team good luck for the season. We have also entered the Tamar Cup knockout where we play clubs in Cornwall. Our first round match is against Whitsand Bay juniors at Lanhydrock golf club in Cornwall. The other knockout competition is the Devon County Junior Golf Basil Steer competition, where we have to play against Tavistock at Staddon Heights golf club in the first round.

Pete Mitchell, PGA professional, will visit local primary schools to give FREE taster sessions to the pupils this Spring. If you would like any information about the Academy or golf lessons then please ring Pete, Jack or Steve on 01548 560715.

Liz Line

Grey Matter

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

1960's Hits Quiz

Read the lyrics from well-known pop hits from the 60s then try valiantly to remember the songs they came from and the performers who made them famous! The first (and most difficult!) has been done for you...

1. "I'd give you everything and more. And that's for sure" Yardbirds-For Your Love (Y)
2. "Treat me nice treat me good treat me like you know you should"
3. "When I'm driving in my car and the man comes on the radio"
4. "I thought love was only true in fairy tales, Meant for someone else but not for me"
5. "At the end of the storm there's a golden sky and the sweet silver song of the lark"
6. "But when I see you out and about it's such a crime"
7. "Ah honey honey. You are my candy girl and you've got me wanting you"
8. "I don't believe you, you're not the truth. No-one could look as good as you"
9. "My mother was a tailor, she sewed my new blue jeans"
10. "They robbed a store and high-tailed it outa that town. Got clean away in a stolen car"
11. "I gave a letter to the postman. He put it in his sack. Bright and early next morning, he brought my letter back"
12. "Woopah oh yeah yeah, Said goodbye to loneliness. Woopah oh yeah yeah"
13. "You make my heart sing. You make everything GROOVY"
14. "We skipped the light fandango. Turned cartwheels 'cross the floor"
15. "For I don't love you any more. To waste our lives would be a sin"
16. "When I want you in my arms. When I want you and all your charms"
17. "How could she tell? He deceived her so well. Pity she'll be the last one to know"

NOW TAKE ALL THE FIRST LETTERS FROM THE PERFORMERS' NAMES (IGNORING DEFINITE ARTICLES) AND REARRANGE THOSE 17 LETTERS INTO THE NAME OF SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU THINK! THE ENTRY WITH THE MOST CORRECT ANSWERS WILL WIN SO DON'T WORRY IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER THEM ALL!

Solutions to previous Grey Matter:

Ann, Anne, Anne, DI, Dinah, Diana, Diane, Edna, Enid, Eric, Hanna, Ian, Jane, Jenny, Judy, Lena, Maud, Mary, Mia, Nancy
Riddles: 1. A man with a wooden leg, 2. The day before it was all covered (47th day), 3. Marge lets Norah see Sharon's telegram (palindrome of question), 4. Nine, 5. In those days they couldn't have known when Christ would be born, so there couldn't be coins with that inscription, 6. I am too late because I used up the 2 minutes on the first mile, 7. There are only four errors in the sentence, but the fifth error is that the sentence itself is incorrect, so there are five errors in the sentence. However, if there are five errors in the sentence, then the fifth error is now eliminated, making the statement false again. Thus the statement is a paradox, which is neither true nor false, 8. No cat has two tails. One cat has one tail more than no cats. That's why a cat has three tails, 9. Queue => Q, 10. I would rather have half a cheese sandwich - because, nothing is better than eternal life of peace and happiness, but half a cheese sandwich is better than nothing!

Congratulations and the bottle of wine to Mike Stickland of Thurlestone



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February

We were pleased to learn we had two new members, Alison Bone and Vivien Jones. Fourteen members braved the bad weather on 12 February and enjoyed a tasty fish lunch at the Bigbury Oyster Shack. The next lunch outing will be to the Treby Arms at Sparkwell to sample the cooking of their chef who was tv's Master Chef of 2012. In prospect was the DFWI county quiz first round, to be held at Morleigh, and our team of four was wished well.

Wendy Farren, from Quay Physio, was our guest speaker for February. Qualifying as a physiotherapist in 1985, she now specialises in bowel and bladder incontinence problems in both adults and children. It was a little surprising to find that many young adults, such as athletes and ballet dancers, as well as more mature people, can have problems in this area. As little as three to six months can see health improvements following pelvic muscle exercises, which she took us through in some detail. We learned a lot about the anatomy of the pelvic 'basin' en route and she passed on good tips on how to avoid problems.

March

The speaker in March was Stuart Dowle, who told us about the Quicke family's specialist cheese-making farm at Newton St Cyres, run today by Mary Quicke. The family have owned the land for over 400 years and today have a herd of 500 which has been carefully bred to meet the farm's exacting requirements.

Stuart came from Dorset around 35 years ago to look after their sheep, but when it was decided they would concentrate on making artisan cheeses and dispose of the sheep, he took a job on the cheese-making side of their enterprise rather than move on as a shepherd. Eventually his natural talents must have been recognised as he took over the sales countrywide and he regaled us, very entertainingly, with reminiscences of his business life.

He has met many of the rich and famous in the course of his work but a visit by Prince Charles to his stall at one of the big agricultural shows, and having his hand shaken by HRH, ranks as one of his life's highlights. As he very touchingly put it "There was I, a humble shepherd in origin, being greeted by one of the highest in the land....". At the end there were very tasty cheeses to sample and buy.

June Huggins 90th birthday was celebrated with 'bubbly' and a large card was signed by all present. She was also presented with a very attractive green and cream hellebore plant for her beloved garden and she thanked all the members who had driven her to Derriford when her late husband, Harry, was a patient there.

Two visitors were welcomed, Margot Slinger and Rosemary Bower. It was good to know that Tricia Millman is now back home and much better, but Joyce Heath is now in the Kingsbridge Hospital. Commiserations were extended to Carolyn Taylor who had unfortunately broken her wrist. President Lisa White urged us to let the committee know if any member needed physical help or support of any kind.

The quiz team, comprising Joan Booth, Judith Le Grice, Pat Macdonald and Lisa White, came second (missing first by one point) in the county quiz which had 17 teams entered, and are now required to perform again at Cyst St Mary on the 22 March.

Future Events

- # The pub lunch is at the Treby Arms on Tuesday 18 March.
- # The group meeting at Thurlestone on Thursday 3 April has speaker Nigel Ash on "Confessions of a Fleet Street reptile".
- # The South Hams Area annual meeting is at Charleton on Thursday 20 March, at 2.30pm.
- # In April our speaker will be John Allen, who will be asking us "Where have all the Sparrows gone?"



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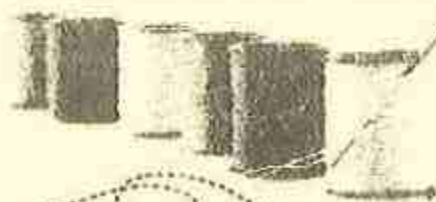
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BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2014



The Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS) has again entered Thurlestone in the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Best Kept Village Competition. Below is the report by CPRE's judges following their inspections last year.

Thurlestone 2013

"The village is an interesting combination of very old thatched cottages, more contemporary buildings and properties hidden by high walls and hedges. The feeling is of a village that is 'naturalistic' rather than manicured....allowing the wild flowers and hedging to provide the backdrop, although some pleasing planting in gardens and hedges provide a degree of variety.

The hedges and verges are verdant but it would not take too much more growth for them to intrude upon the passage of pedestrians stepping aside to allow cars to pass at narrow points in the road or entering the public toilets. In some paved areas the weeds at the roadside seemed a little out of place as did an area where weed-killer had been used but the dead plants had not been cleared away.

The area around the War Memorial is nicely presented with grass well mown and seats backing on to the churchyard - although we were surprised to notice an old cigarette packet and a discarded pair of socks under one of the benches. Whilst the village is generally tidy there was some litter on verges and particularly in the bus stop opposite the shop where there was a discarded pop bottle, bits of paper/wrappers and a pile of cigarette ends on the floor. Litter was found here on another occasion. We were also surprised that we couldn't find a litter or dog waste bin in the village despite the briefing notes suggesting the latter's existence. Either we were being really unobservant or they were well hidden (which seems to defeat the object somewhat). The children's play area was rather neglected and uninviting with only a goal frame (fallen over) to play with. We got a little lost looking for it as the map was not quite accurate. We tried to follow the footpaths around the village and it was made difficult because none of them were signposted. We did spot bird boxes and bee hives on our way round, and saw lots of walkers enjoying the well-signposted coastal footpath.

The churchyard is well presented although maybe a few more areas or patches of longer grass might attract more wild flowers and butterflies. There was an exhibition of the photos that had been used to produce the village calendar in the Meeting Room which we thought was an excellent initiative. The school is a pleasant building and the area around it tidy. Using the Pump House as a seating area complete with informative notice boards is a good use for an old

building. Similarly the library is an excellent use of the phone box. It seemed well stocked and the addition of a set of tide tables a clever idea and the planting and pots very attractive. The defibrillator was well-publicised around the village. Hopefully it will never be needed but is a very useful piece of equipment to have. There is a clothes-recycling bin at the Parish Hall. The beach area was clean.

The Parish Hall is a good example of the community spirit that exists here. It is the heart of the village with so many activities taking place. It is also very well equipped and the roof has a fine array of photo-voltaic cells which must contribute to the upkeep. The car park is a good size and well-maintained. The exterior is beginning to suffer from the salt air and probably needs a repaint.

The well-stocked and attractive shop, pub and hotel, each play their part in the life of the village with events advertised and a valuable service offered. The hotel gardens are immaculate, although the overflow car park banks and verges might benefit from a little tidy up, and some rubbish was found in the overspill car park. A garage is never going to be the most attractive of buildings. Thurlestone's doesn't intrude too much, although the two gently decomposing Land Rovers may not be the most appealing introduction to the village.

Past success in the *Best Kept Village* competition is well-publicised but we didn't see a notice about this year's competition. Notices about other events were very evident and current in various locations. The *Village Voice* is a really substantial publication covering events, parish news and much more. Someone must be working very hard to achieve the level of advertising in the magazine ...congratulations! It is also evident that there is a lot of other effort put into fund-raising and to the social events which seem extensive for so small a population. The website for the village is rather generic.

Overall, a very pleasant village to visit. The people with whom we spoke were friendly and talkative. The village has a nice feel to it and is largely unspoilt by too much human intervention trying to create a 'chocolate box' image where a natural look is far more appealing. Thurlestone maintained a good standard of care for the village in this year's competition."

With this report the judges gave us a score of 91 marks out of a possible 100 in 2013 and it is easy to see where we fell short and lost marks. We now have a fairly brief "window of opportunity" in which to address the issues which lost us points last year, and hopefully to achieve a better score this year. The judges visit ALL villages in May, and then two-thirds are visited again in June and July, with final judging of the leading villages taking place in August. As these judges will soon be with us, unannounced, it is time for us all to become as observant as possible of our village presentation, and to ensure we remove if we can any litter, mouldering socks, or other detritus left lying around which might deprive us of points!



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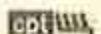
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SCHOOL REPORT

By Bett Rhymes

Topic work forms the basis of much of the class work at All Saints School. The core subjects are based around the chosen topic wherever possible. The topic choices vary in order to stimulate the children's learning. Previous subjects have included World War 2, India, The Olympics and even theme parks.

At the start of a new term each class looks forward to finding out what their topic work will be. Mrs Linn, teacher of class 1a, decided after Christmas that our class would learn the history of smuggling in our local area. It's strange how things turn out sometimes, and none more so than when we learnt of the sad death of our parish historian, Mr Kendall McDonald. The children were using his book, *The Story of Thurlestone, Bantham and West Buckland*, to research the stories of smuggling in our parish. It seems a fitting tribute to this great character that our children are enjoying learning from his book.

Having spent considerable time in the class learning the stories, geography and history of the smuggling era, Mrs Linn and I arranged for the class to go on a smugglers walk around the village to allow the children to get a real feel of what went on, back some two hundred years ago. Many of you probably know some of the stories, but I'm sure many of you know very little of what went on in our parish many years ago, so I thought you might like to join us on our learning walk. Are you ready.....?

We set off on a chilly March morning, the twenty eight children all very excited to be taking their lesson outside for the day. The first place of interest that we stopped to look at was Cradles Cottage, situated at the top of the village. This was the home of Mr McDonald, which remains in his family, with his daughter Jo and her husband now making it their home.

We walked a little further, down past the old cottages, to our next point of interest, Bay Tree Cottage. This property was formerly called The Nook. Its small porch houses a little window to its side which was used as a smugglers peephole. A candle in the window signalled the all-clear to bring the brandy casks down from the church porch roof where they would have been hidden. Such a signal would have been seen clearly by a lookout in the church tower.

Next we headed for Yarmer Beach, or Yarmouth as it would have been known back in the smuggler days. It was here that the illegal cargo would have been brought in by boat. One particular run made for an amusing story. A young naval officer was tasked with intercepting a cargo of spirits which were expected to land near Thurlestone. He carefully picked fellow midshipmen from Plymouth to help him by posting them under the cliffs of Yarmouth. Upon hearing the oars of a boat lapping the water he took hold of his whistle to summon his men. Before it reached his mouth it was snatched from his hand and a gag stuffed in his mouth. With his arms and legs tightly bound he found himself standing like a helpless idiot whilst half a dozen "strapping" girls danced around him. This clever distraction allowed for the

kegs to be offloaded from the boat and carried inland. Years later the retired Admiral recognised an elderly lady from a cottage in the village as one of his attackers and although somewhat embarrassed, invited her to take a walk at the Rectory Gardens to share their story. The children really enjoyed re-enacting this story on the beach as part of some drama work, although I have to say the girls were not convinced about being strapping lasses!

Having left the beach we walked back across the footpath towards the church, re-treading the footsteps that the smugglers would have walked carrying their ill-gotten gains. When they arrived at the church the smugglers would hide the barrels on the top of the roof of the church porch. They would then lock the tower door to prevent anyone from being able to see the goods as the tower would have been the only place the barrels were visible from. Vicars were kept on side by being gifted brandy – some accepted and turned a blind eye to its origin whilst others indignantly refused to take any part in the project.

The children enjoyed looking around the church, spotting things of interest to their study – the tower, the porch roof, the graves of those that might have been smugglers and the door to the tower that locked away the smugglers secret.

Once refuelled by having lunch in the comfort and warmth of the church meeting room (big thanks to Liz and Christine – the church angels, for arranging this) the young adventurers set off on the final part of the class expedition. We walked across the fields behind the church. Once at the top we were able to view down over Buckland, Bantham and across to Burgh Island. Each of these places took their part in smuggling. Mrs Linn explained their history to the children. The Prince of smugglers, Tom Crocker, worked out of Bantham but was based at Burgh Island, said to be in a cave near The Pilchard Inn. Although there is no evidence, it is said that a ghost of Crocker appears on August 14th at the Inn, allegedly being the anniversary of the shooting of the infamous smuggler by the Revenue men.

The old forge in Bantham provided one of the best hiding places for smuggled goods in the whole area. A trap door gave access to the loft above. The daily work in the forge provided a fresh layer of grime which cleverly disguised where dozens of kegs had been passed up the night before. Buckland Farm, West Buckland was the home of Richard Sheriff who was thought to be the "Mr Big" of the smuggling trade. He was thought to be the money behind the smuggling and may have funded many a run.

Mrs Linn had now finished her lesson from the field, but before setting off on the last leg across the fields back to school she allowed the children time to view the villages surrounding the Aune estuary, which they then saw in a very different light, imagining the activities that went on many years ago.

I hope you enjoyed your local history lesson with class 1a. Now back in school, the children are continuing to enjoy their learning of this interesting topic with the help of Mr McDonald's book. There could be no better tribute to him than these young children being energised in their learning, inspired by this wonderful educational resource, written by a wonder of a man.

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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

I really thought that I would be writing this with the wind, rain and sand battering at the windows! Instead today and yesterday 8th and 9th March have been the most idyllic days imaginable. The sea is calm with a slight swell to make it interesting, the sand is clean and fresh and people with their families and dogs were sitting around as if it was high summer. The temperature in my front porch topped 22C, the hottest yet this year, outside it was less at 13.2 C, but just a lovely 'spring' day. I guess many of you have been out in your gardens, tidying up, mowing the lawn or sowing a few early crops. The weather is key to all these activities and we have had a very interesting few months to look back on.

Much has been written about it, many photos have been taken and videos recorded. Families, Parish Councillors, County Councillors, Environmental Officers, and Government have all had their say about the results of this weather. We are but ants compared with the power of the elements such as those we have witnessed before and after Christmas. However, there are some interesting figures showing comparisons over the winter months and of course the figures for Jan and Feb 2014. Here are some rainfall figures for the months of November to January:-

2012 – 2013	2013--2014
Nov 2012 - Jan 2013 = 533.1mm (21.3ins)	Nov 2013 - Jan 2014 = 429.5mm (17.2ins)
Nov 2012 - Feb 2013 = 571.1mm (22.8ins)	Nov 2013 - Feb 2014 = 552.3mm (22.1ins)

Last winter here was actually wetter than this winter according to my records. Last winter the rain came in shorter but much heavier bursts (thunderly showers, which lead to flash flooding in our area). By contrast, this winter has seen more prolonged and persistent rain but not the very heavy down-pours of last year. The rainfall to the east of the region (ie Somerset) has been much worse and of course the winds have been stronger for longer this year. This is why the coast has suffered so severely, the series of depressions (areas of low pressure) has not helped, so our dunes and some roads have been severed. Top wind speed was 70mph (Valentine's gale) not so bad as when the 1990 Burns Night gale topped 90mph here. A long sequence of gales from the South West raised huge and vicious sea conditions, which for us has been the worst consequence of the weather pattern this winter.

So much has been written, screened, experienced and marvelled at, that I feel almost unable to enhance the information assembled. It is no consolation to anyone affected by the floods and coastal devastation to know that it has all happened before in just the same areas as this year. Paul Simon writes about a flood in 1809, January of that year started with very cold and snowy weather but by 25th the thaw had begun when huge amounts of rain fell. Jane Austen noted in a letter from her home in Southampton: "We have now nothing but ceaseless snow or rain and insufferable dirt to complain of." With melting snow and rain the floods began. The swollen Thames swept away several bridges, including the Eton Bridge at Windsor. "The whole country round is in the most distressing state; it is covered with water from Chertsey to Maidenhead. In general the water runs in torrents as high the parlour windows," The Times reported. Parts of London were flooded and streets were turned into rivers where boats were used to ferry people around. Around Lewisham and Deptford two people were carried away and drowned. The area around Kennington and Vauxhall was severely affected with the torrent carrying away furniture, trees and cattle. This all seems vaguely familiar in the 21st century.

In the West Country, Exeter was flooded with "Waters so great in the streets that the shops were shut and the inhabitants were obliged to betake themselves to their upper rooms" said one report. Bristol suffered collapsed houses and "Bath (the city) and its vicinity has within these few days been visited by a sudden and calamitous inundation which has deprived several people of their lives and many others of their homes and property to an immense amount". NOTE : It took many more incidents in the 1800s before Parliament looked at ways of preventing flooding. I'm tempted to say nothing really changes over the years, does it? Or am I being too unkind?

When all the repercussions of these last two or three months of adverse weather have been aired, it will be interesting to see what the outcome will be for the areas most severely affected. We will all remember the winter of 2013/14 and the effects on us as a community and on the wider areas of the South West. One thing is certain in my book, the weather will probably always win, as will the sea when provoked, and we will always struggle to try and achieve a compromise on both fronts.

Finally, here are my figures for January and February. Remember that figures from observers further inland and at higher altitudes will almost always be in excess of mine. Even in the village of South Milton, rainfall is almost always more, but the wind speeds can be more here than inland. So it's swings and roundabouts really, but so interesting to the fanatics!

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

January 2014

WIND:- General Direction = 26 days Westerlies
5 days Easterlies
0 day North

Speed Top gust = 67mph on 4th
Lowest daily mean = 4mph on 20th

RAINFALL Number of wet days = 24
Highest daily amount = 120.1mm on 26th
Monthly Total = 188 mm
Monthly Average = 89.5mm over 16 years

TEMPERATURE Highest daily = 12.4°C on 10th
Lowest daily = -1.3°C on 14th
Highest Daily Mean = 10.6°C on 6th
Lowest Daily Mean = 3.1°C on 31st
Monthly mean = 7.1°C
Monthly average = 7°C over 16 years

BAROMETER Highest = 1012mb on 11th and 26th
Lowest = 998mb on 9th, 28th and 31st

SUNSHINE Sunniest day = 9.2hrs on 19th
Total for the month = 59.8hrs
No sun on 9 days
Below 4hrs on 12 days

February 2014

23 days Westerlies
4 days Easterlies
1 day Southerly

70mph on 15th
13mph on 16th & 28th

21 days
12mm on 4th
132mm
66.4mm over 16 years

12.8°C on 20th
0.0°C on 1st, 6th, & 18th
10.4°C on 24th
5.1°C on 1st
7.7°C
7.7°C over 16 years

1009mb on 23rd
991mb on 5th

9hrs on 16th
103hrs
5 days
13 days

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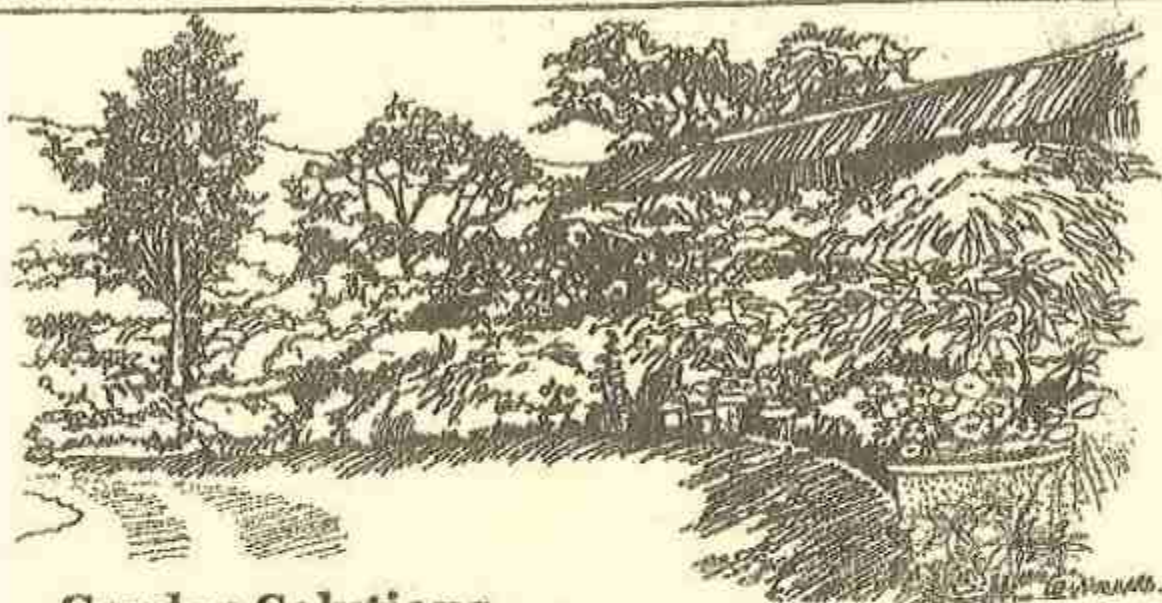
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- Divorce, relationship breakdown and children
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DIARY DATES

April		
Monday	7 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Monday	7 th	TRAMP, Bigbury and Avon estuary (short)
Thursday	10 th	WT, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Where have the sparrows gone?)
Saturday	12 th	NSPCC Jumble Sale, Parish Hall, 2 pm
Saturday	12 th	Stanborough Chorus, Stokenham (see advert)
Tuesday	15 th	TRAMP, Prawle Point - Elender Cove (short)
Wednesday	23 rd	KEDFAS, Methodist Hall, K's (Oxford Architecture), 7.30pm
Thursday	24 th	KEDFAS, Methodist Hall, K's (Oxford Architecture), 10.30am
Thursday	24 th	Sarah Wollaston MP, Open Meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30pm
Monday	28 th	Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday	29 th	TRAMP, Pym Valley Trail with birds (long)
May		
Tuesday	6 th	TRAMP, Noss Mayo/Revelstoke (long)
Thursday	8 th	WT Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (annual meeting, elections etc)
Saturday	10 th	Old Garfers, Parish Hall, 7pm (see advert)
Monday	12 th	Annual Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Friday	16 th	TRAMP, Cadover Bridge/Shalgh Prior (short)
Thursday	22 nd	TRAMP, Brixton (short)
Wednesday	28 th	KEDFAS, Methodist Hall, K's (Tyntesfield), 7.30pm
Thursday	29 th	KEDFAS, Methodist Hall, K's (Tyntesfield) 10.30am
Saturday	31 st	Matt Harvey Evening, Parish Hall, 7.30pm (see advert)
June		
Monday	2 nd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Saturday	14 th	Cheese & Wine Lunch, Parish Hall, 12.30 pm

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

VILLAGE VOICE

Your Cut Out and Keep

PARISH DIRECTORY and DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

It was founded on behalf of Thurstone 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 Thurstone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers organised by Graham & Val Palmer. In Bantham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Jun-July) ISSUE = 5th May 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)

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL (Meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf)
 Chairman: Andrew Rymmer
 Vice-Chairman: Charles McNeelmonte
 Parish Clerk: Philip Millard
 District Councillor: Julie Gilford
 County Councillor: Debbie Carre
 Members: Tony Goddard, Nigel Hummel, Peter Hummel, Jill Hunt, Charles McNeelmonte

THE WEDSON

PARISH HALL
 Chairman: Neil Irwin
 Blockings: Marie Martin
 Pay phone in foyer

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

ALL SAINTS CHURCH PRIEST IN CHARGE
 CHURCHWARDENS

CHURCH MEETING ROOM ACTIVITIES
 COFFEE TIME (Every Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30 am)
 FILMS FOR ALL (1st Tuesday, Monthly 2.30 pm)
 LUNCH CLUB (Fridays 12.15 pm)
 SOUP & A ROLL (3rd Monday 12 noon - 1.00 pm)
 UNDER 3s (Tuesdays 9.00 - 11.00 am term-time)

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALINE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

BOWLS CLUB

BRIDGE CLUBS 5.30 pm Wednesdays and Fridays

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

TENNIS SECTION

KEEP FIT

TAG CHI

HORTICULTURAL SHOW (Annual)

PROBLES

DIRECTORY

TRAMP (Thurstone Ramblers)

W.I. 2.30 pm Parish Hall
 Second Thursday monthly (except August)

TEAMMAKERS (Computer Help) Yes Room, Wednesdays 2 - 3 pm (by phone appointment only)
 Details: Michael Barnes 582112 Robin Macdonald 580436 Chris White 580505

TABLE TENNIS

Wednesday 4.30 to 6.00 pm Parish Hall Robin Macdonald 580436

BAOWINGTON

Monday 7.30 to 9.00 pm Parish Hall (Book provided) Heather 580592 or Paul 580070

HEALTH CENTRES

Kingsthorpe 853352 Salcombe 842284

WALK DELIVERY

St. Bruckner & Son 01803 - 832801

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

Dave & Sandra Edwards 01548 - 853132

VILLAGE SHOP

Thurstone Village Shop
 Opening Hours: Sarah Tyers
 M, T, Th, F, 8.00 am - 5.30 pm
 Wednesday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm
 Saturday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm
 Sunday, 8.30 am - 1.00 pm

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE

Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30 pm Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm
 Parcel collections: 4.00pm Monday - Friday Noon on Saturday No collection on Sunday

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Co-ordinator: Charles McNeelmonte 580602

POLICE

Dave Gibson (Community Support Officer) 06455 - 588837
 Emergency 999 Non-emergency calls 01392 - 452935 Considered information 0800-555-111

RECYCLING CENTRE

Monday (due Tuesday in Bank Holiday Monday weeks) Grey/Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 7th April
 White & Blue Stock collections (recyclables) and Brown Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 14th April

RECYCLING CENTRE (Trot Quarry Site, Totes Road - Telephone 521629)

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Saturday & Sunday 10.00 am - 4.30 pm

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE
 For all bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetables information call TRAVELINE
 Open Every day (except Christmas Day) 7.00 am to 9.00 pm
 Devonbus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 392600 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk

DAWAGE (Bugs Engineering)

Melrose Street / North Pole 582220

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY

(Possible Library from 14.45 - 15.30 pm Thurstone Parish Hall Car Park) 15.40 - 15.45 pm

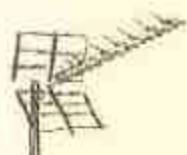
South Milton (Saturday Close) 14.45 - 15.30 pm Thurstone Parish Hall Car Park 15.40 - 15.45 pm

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ELECSA

How Do You Choose A Home Improvement Company?

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

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

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

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

If you'd like to find out more about Treyone call in to our showroom in Kingsbridge or visit our workshop near Liskeard in Cornwall (about an hour's drive). Wherever you go you'll receive a very warm welcome in a relaxed atmosphere and we'll be at your disposal for as much unbiased advice and help as you want.

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6.00pm - 11.00pm

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

11.30am - 11.00pm

(12.00pm - 10.30pm on Sunday)

Food Served Daily

Monday - Thursday

12.00pm - 2.00pm

6.00pm - 9.00pm

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

12.00pm - 9.00pm

- Quiz Night Special Tuesday ~ £8 Meal and Drink
- Friday Night Special ~ Fish and Chips
- Traditional Sunday Lunch
- Soup 'n' Sandwich ~ £7.95
(available Monday - Saturday Lunchtime only)
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- Take Away Meals Available
- West Country Real Ales
- Regular Entertainment
- Children Welcome
- Dogs Welcome
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- Open All Day During School Holidays
- Special Events Catered For

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

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