

# VILLAGE VOICE



*"We also retreated (the 17<sup>th</sup>) to a position about 8 miles on the other side of Genappe in the direct road to Brussels. The name of the place I do not know. You will see it in the Gazette and it will be remembered by Europe as long as Europe is Europe."*

[Extract from a letter written by a 15½-year old survivor of the Battle of Waterloo to his mother the day afterwards. First printed in Village Voice in 1994 by kind permission of his great grand-daughter, formerly a Buckland resident, and now reprinted for this 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.]

## June- July 2015

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





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#### After the Battle

With anniversaries seemingly coming thick and fast (Magna Carta 1215) we are taking this opportunity to remember in particular the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815, by way of a letter written from "the front" the following day by Ensign CW Short, the great grandfather of the late Anne Jenkins of Buckland.

On that occasion the casualties were high but the outcome decisive, a similar result (though in reverse order) to our own General Election last month. Here, the casualties occurred after the outcome, with senior politicians falling on their swords all over the place, and the SNP having routed all opposition north of the border.

The enormous Lion's Mound memorial at Waterloo celebrates the Prince of Orange, William II of the Netherlands, at the site where he was shot from his horse by a musket ball, but there has remarkably been no real memorial at the battlefield to the British soldiers who gave their lives there (due apparently to Franco-Belgian sensitivities).

Now at last, 200 years on, this is about to change, with a special monument to be created and incorporated in the restoration of the Hougoumont chateau site. Whether this will further the cause of European harmony at all remains to be seen. But it will be a long overdue recognition of all those comrades of Ensign Short who did not live to write home to their mothers or families on the day after the battle.

Founder Dudley Drabble

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

Advertising Manager JOANNA ACOURT  
Ardentigh  
Court Lane  
Thurlestone  
TQ7 3ND  
01548-561215  
e-mail: jo.acourt9@hotmail.co.uk

Accounts GAVIN PRICE

Production Manager TOM TRENDER

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Front Cover: The new Waterloo Memorial

# THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO

## 18<sup>th</sup> June 1815

The British and Prussian armies had already clashed with Napoleon on the two days before the battle of Waterloo. The Prussians at Ligny on 16<sup>th</sup> June, and the British at Quatre Bras on 17<sup>th</sup> were both forced to retire after fierce fighting. Wellington drew back to the plains south of Waterloo, around the chateau and farm of Hougomont, and ordered Lt Col J MacDonnell of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Coldstream Guards to "defend the post to the last extremity". Despite being set ablaze, and subjected to continuous attacks for nearly nine hours, Hougomont held firm "defended with a calm and stubborn gallantry that alone could have enabled so small a force to resist the repeated and fierce assaults of nearly thirty thousand men".

(*Origin & Services of the Coldstream Guards, 1791-1836, Vol 2, p 218, by Col Daniel McKinnon*)

Ensign Charles W Short, aged 15½, of the seventh company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coldstream, wrote a letter to his mother the next day giving his personal account of the battle. He was the great grandfather of the late Anne Jenkins of Buckland, who kindly loaned the letter to *Village Voice* for publication in 1994, and we now reproduce it here as a fitting contribution to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of perhaps the most significant battle in European history.



Hougomont

### Letter from the Battlefield

Monday 19 June 1815

Nivelles

My dear Mother

I hope you excuse my not writing to you before but since we left England on Friday morning at 3 o'clock, I have not had the least opportunity. We received orders to march at one in the morning in consequence of Bonaparte's having crossed the frontiers and attacked the Prussians. Colonel Woodford was at a Ball with Lord Wellington at Brussels when the news came and they all set off directly for their different posts and arrived at them about the time we were ordered to start in their Ball dresses. We marched at 3 o'clock (the 16<sup>th</sup>) through Braine-le-Compte where we halted for about 4 hours and then went on towards Nivelles and were going to bivouac when we heard cannon firing on the other side of Nivelles. We then marched forward and reached the place of action at Quatre Bras at about half past 7, having marched 25 miles since 3 in the morning.

The men were very much fagged indeed. The 1st Brigade of Guards being in front went into action immediately and in a very little time lost 500 men and nearly 30 officers killed and wounded between the 2 battalions. (Promotion for Glanville at least 10 steps or perhaps 15) Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was drawn up in a road to the left of a thick wood (Bois de Bossu) to be ready to relieve the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and about half past 8 we received orders to march through the wood in line and charge the French on the other side. However, they retired beat throughout the day by the English, Brunswickers and Dutch though not half our army had arrived. The Belgians ran on the first shot. We then retired to our position and I being first for duty went on to the outlying piquet it being the first time I was on this duty and nobody to direct me. I kept a sharp look out and did the best I could by placing my sentries to give the alarm in case any attack should be made. The night, however, passed off very well though the groaning of the wounded was rather disagreeable or so for



the first time. I was very hungry the next morning having had nothing to eat since 10 o'clock the day before but a ship biscuit. I was called in about 4 o'clock. I then went to sleep and woke about quarter past 5 when I found Whitaker had sent me some bread and meat and a bottle of brandy which, I assure you, was a great comfort not being able to draw rations.

Lord Wellington, who had pulled off his Ball dress, commanded and we found it necessary to make a retrograde movement rather to the left to communicate with the Prussians who had been also attacked and beat the French back but they made an attack in the middle of the night with the whole of the cavalry and broke the Prussians who retreated in consequence. We also retreated (the 17<sup>th</sup>) to a position about 8 miles on the other side of Genappe in the direct road to Brussels. The name of the place I do not know. You will see it in the Gazette and it will be remembered by Europe as long as Europe is Europe.

We had just arrived, pitched our blankets and the men began to make themselves comfortable when cannoning was heard and the Rear Guard was engaged with the French. The Rear Guard was composed of cavalry who came up in the night. The French took up a position opposite ours. Our right rested on a wood in which Light Infantry of our Division was posted it being most likely that would be the point the French would make their attack on. Our Brigade was on the right of the first line on a hill above the wood. We were under arms the whole night expecting an attack and it rained to that degree that the field where we were was half way up our legs in mud. Nobody of course could lie down and the ague got hold of some of the men. I, with another officer, had a blanket and with a little more gin we kept up well. We had only one fire and you can conceive the state we were in.

We formed a hollow square and prepared to receive cavalry twice but found it was a false alarm both times. Soon after daylight the commissary sent up with the greatest difficulty some gin and we found an old cask full of wet rye loaves which we breakfasted upon. Everybody was in high spirits. We broke up the cask and got some dry wood and made some fine fires. Got some straw and I went to sleep for a couple of hours. About 10 we were formed finding that the French were advancing to the attack in very large columns. We opened some artillery and checked them a little by shells but soon after the Light Troops commenced the attack on the wood in which our Light Infantry were posted and the firing commenced in prime style.

Some Belgian Light Troops were in the wood and when one man was wounded at least a dozen would carry him out so that the chief of the work was left for our men. The French were too strong for us and after about a couple of hours they succeeded in driving us back to a large farm-house in the wood (Hougoumont) and the rest of our Battalion moved on to support the Light Infantry when the two rear companies were ordered to remain with the Colours. General Byng thinking that the Battalion would be too much cut to pieces as the firing was so very rapid, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Companies stopped with the Colours and two companies of each Battalion of our Division. (I believe I told you in my last of being recently appointed to the 7<sup>th</sup> Company).

We were ordered to lie down in the road, the musket shots flying over us like peas. An officer next to me was hit in the cap but not hurt as it went through and another next to him was also hit on the plate of the cap but it also went through without hurting him. Two Serjeants that lay near me were hit in the knapsacks but were not hurt besides several other shots passing as near us as possible. I never saw such luck as we had. The Brigade Major was wounded by a cannon ball which killed his horse and broke his arm and General Byng was wounded slightly while standing opposite to me about 5 paces. General Byng did not leave the field. Lord Wellington with his Ball dress was very active indeed, as well as Lord Uxbridge and the Prince of Orange, both severely wounded the former having lost his leg and the latter being hit in the body. General Cooke commanding our Division lost his arm.

The battle kept up all day in this wood where our Brigade was stationed. The farm-house was set on fire by shells, however we kept possession of it, and several wounded men were actually

remained alive. The Cavalry came about 5 o'clock and attacked the rest of the line, when the Horse Guards and the other Regiments (except a few) behaved most gallantly. The French charged our hollow square and were repulsed several times. The Imperial Guards with Napoleon at their head charged the 1<sup>st</sup> Guards and the number of killed and wounded is extraordinary. They lie as thick as possible, one on top of the other. They were repulsed in every attack and about 7 o'clock the whole French army made a general attack for their last effort and we should have had very hard work to have repulsed them when 25,000 Prussians came on and we soon drove them like chaff before the wind, 20,000 getting into the midst of them played the very devil with them and they took to flight in the greatest possible hurry.

The baggage of Bonaparte was taken by the Prussians and the last report that has been heard of the French says that they have repassed the Frontiers and gone to Charleroi hard pressed by the Prussians. The French say this battle beats Leipzig hollow in the number of killed and wounded. Our Division suffered exceedingly. We are to follow on Thursday. Today we bivouac near Nivelles. Lord Wellington has thanked our Division through General Byng and says he never saw such gallant conduct in his life. The 7<sup>th</sup> Hussars behaved very badly on Saturday. They were ordered to charge the Polish Lancers and when they got to them (the Lancers remaining steady) they turned about and away they went. The Lancers then charged them and the Horse Guards and Blues charging the Lancers overthrew them and cut them nearly all to pieces. The Horse Guards and Blues have behaved famously. Lord Uxbridge would have been taken only for our Infantry, in consequence of some of the Cavalry running away, and he rode up to the Company and said he owed his life to them and that his Cavalry had deserted him. I was on piquet that night but the French were beyond the Frontier before 12 o'clock. There never was such a glorious day. Everybody agrees.

Send me the Gazette. It will tell you more than I can. You must excuse the mistakes I have made I am in such a hurry. I will give a fuller account of some little things relative to myself, the narrow escapes we had and so on, when I have time. I had my horse killed. It was beautiful to see the engagement though horrid afterwards. The French killed a great number of our wounded soldiers. We have taken 120 pieces of cannon. The Prussians are coming up every hour and cheer us as they pass. I have a great deal more to say but have not got time as I must be back at the camp by 8 o'clock. All the baggage was sent to Antwerp in case we should have been defeated yesterday. The number of prisoners is immense. I must conclude. God grant that I may live to see you again. We have only 2 officers killed but several severely wounded. Love to all. I have heard nothing of Major Hodge.

*I remain your faithful and dutiful son,  
Charles William Short*

## Footnotes

1. The new memorial for the British soldiers who fought at Waterloo is to be part of a restoration project for the Hougoumont farm. The memorial will consist of two British soldiers from the era attempting to close the main gates, scene of a desperate hand-to-hand struggle at the height of the battle, and will feature two quotations "Next to a battle lost the greatest misery is a battle gained" (Duke of Wellington) and "Never was a place more fiercely assaulted nor better defended" (Sgt Wheeler, 51<sup>st</sup> Regt). Designed by Vivien Mallock, it stands more than six feet high in stone and bronze and is reproduced on our front cover.

2. Ensign CW Short (1799-1857) entered the Coldstream Guards on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1814 and went on to be Lt. Col and a military historian. He married Emily Barwell in 1828, and their daughter Flora Short married Henry Lionel Jenkins in 1874. They lived at Clanacombe House.



Plaque in the chapel  
at Hougoumont



# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

27 April 2015

## GUEST SPEAKER

David Cohen, a member of Salcombe Town Council for the past two years, was the guest speaker on 'Localism & Planning'. He decided to become a Councillor after he had observed how objections to planning applications appeared to be ignored by planners.

Mr Cohen would like to get parish and town councils to join him in reacting to the apparent inability of planning departments to listen to people's concerns, with the aim, by joint action, of getting an amendment to the Localism Act 2011 to absolve the planners from costs. He has spoken to, and has the support of, a number of local councils and is hoping this idea will eventually gather country-wide momentum. He urges each council to nominate two or three people to join with him to take up this challenge. *[See statement by District Councillor Judy Pearce at Parish Council meeting of 11 May].*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Andrew Rhymes reported on another busy year. The appointment of sub-committees, comprising both councillors and local residents, has taken quite a work load off his shoulders for which he is grateful. Dog poo bins, blocked drains, absence of lengths-men, footpaths, Thurlestone Sands, the phone box at Buckland, are some of the many things that have been on the agenda for action. The public conveniences in Thurlestone have been closed over winter to cut costs. The phone mast and faster broadband, despite considerable effort, have failed to materialise.

Work on the Parish Plan is going ahead and plans are in hand for a parish web-site. Councillor Rhymes has been a school governor for 12 years and has only recently stood down from that role. Police report a low crime rate. Planning decisions continue to be a "source of irritation". Tributes and thanks were paid to Parish Councillors, all of whom had been supportive, and particularly to the Parish Clerk, Phil Millard. Councillor Dale Came was not seeking re-election; he was warmly thanked and will be missed.

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Rufus Gilbert gave a short address, during which he expressed pleasure at the prospect of a parish web-site which "will be a great asset". Most of the outstanding, and long-awaited, work in Buckland had been completed. According to BT faster broadband is still on for autumn 2015. Economies were being made in line with lower government funding. Devon's schools were amongst the top ten in Britain despite a reduction in grants. The pot-holes situation is slowly improving.

He hoped in the next financial year to contribute to the funding for the new Parish Hall projector and the web-site. Two out of three hospitals are running a deficit which continues to rise and the NHS budget over the next 10 years will probably flat-line. Care of the elderly is one of his primary concerns and he will continue to work to the utmost of his ability on his constituents' behalf.

# Report From Your New District Councillor

The District Council elections on 8<sup>th</sup> May returned a Conservative majority. Cllr Simon Wright and I, Judy Pearce, were returned unopposed for the new Salcombe and Thurlestone Ward. Cllr John Tucker has once again been elected Leader, and Cllr Ian Bramble is chairman for the forthcoming municipal year. The two significant objectives of the new council will be to see through the T18 transformation programme and to progress the new local plan, known as 'Our Plan', to adoption as soon as possible.

I am a Thurlestone resident, and have had many years of experience in planning and housing issues. I have joined the Neighbourhood Plan group in Thurlestone, and look forward to helping it meet the parish aspirations within the framework of the District Plan. Please get in touch if you have any queries or problems where you think Simon or I can help. Our contact details are on the council website.

Planning is always a hot topic, and the common complaint is that the local planning authority (in our case South Hams District Council) didn't listen or didn't take any notice. This is quite a broad subject but, over a series of articles, I'll try to take you through how the local authority is required to consult and how you can make the most of any response you send in so that hopefully the council does 'listen'.

There are several categories of planning applications, but most fall under the heading of major or minor. There are further classifications for listed buildings and conservation areas. All these have slightly different requirements for advertising the public consultation period. Here I am only going to deal with **minor** applications which fall into a householder or 'other' classification. These are by far the most common and usually cause the most problems because the requirements for publicising them are the least stringent.

Minor applications must be shown on the council's website and either accompanied by a site notice OR a neighbour notification letter. In practice a site notice is put up; but never rely on receiving a letter. A copy of this notice will also appear on the application website, usually with a note from the officer dealing with the case as to where and when it was posted. This date is then the start of the obligatory three week consultation period, after which the facility on the website for submitting comments closes down. However, the council is obliged to consider relevant comments up to the date the application is decided or 'determined'. This can be any time after the end of the consultation period, though should be within a maximum period of eight weeks from the 'start' date for minor applications. If you are too late for the official consultation period, you can always try emailing or writing to the officer dealing with the application.

You need to define whether you support or object to the proposal, or just wish to comment. Please always copy in your parish clerk. Your remarks should only relate to 'material planning considerations'. There is some advice about what these are via the bullet point on the South Hams home page labelled 'comment on a planning application', but I will expand on these further in a later article. All comments will be only considered in the light of local and national planning policy and guidance applicable at the time.

Finally, the consultation period may start afresh if the applicant is asked to submit significantly revised plans to overcome a problem, so keep a close eye on the web page if you are interested in a particular application, as you may be able to comment again on the revised plans.

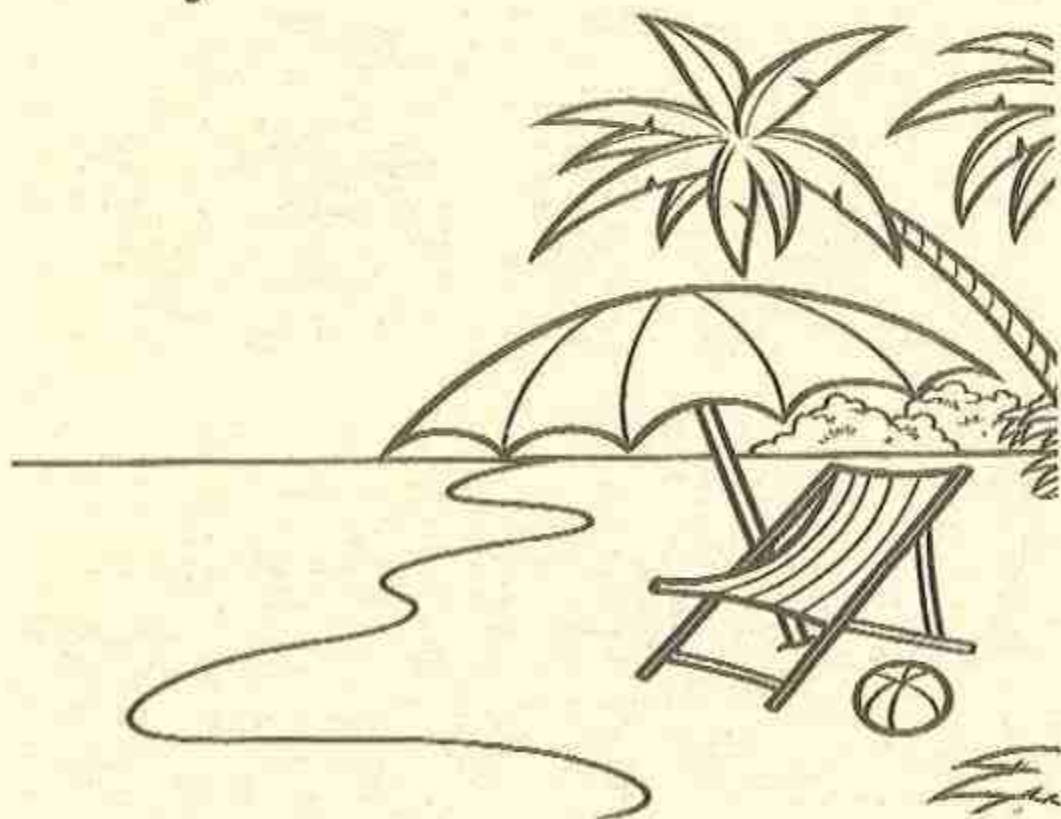
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# Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held 13 April and 11 May 2015

*News & Views by Citizen*

Five Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, District Councillor Ian Bramble, a Police representative and sixteen members of the public were present in April, and in May five Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our new District Councillor Judy Pearce, and seven members of the public attended.

## OPEN FORUM

It was incorrectly reported in Village Voice (February issue) that planning applications were not given to adjacent properties....they are!

Due to overgrown hedges, the road to Aune Cross is becoming dangerous by obscuring a bend and causing a blind spot. Visiting surfers who speed on this road are sometimes unaware of this. Parish Council are to contact Devon County Council to suggest that a strategically placed mirror might help.

## APPOINTMENTS

Appointments were made as follows:

- **Chairman** Councillor Andrew Rhymes
- **Vice-Chairman** Councillor Charles Mitchelmore
- **Parish Clerk** Philip Millard
- **Parish Hall** representative Councillor Bronwen Zaffiro
- **Tree Warden and Police Liaison** Councillor Charles Mitchelmore
- **Friends of Thurlestone Church** representative Philip Millard
- **Parish Plan** representative Councillor Kit Marshall

## PARISH HALL

Councillor Jill Munn reported that Ray

Tavender was retiring as caretaker and that Marcus Faye would be succeeding him. Paul Martin has joined the maintenance committee. A new projector has been installed.

## HIGHWAYS

Large construction vehicles continue to cause damage to roads. Devon County Council to be asked if a weight restriction could be applied. School parents parking along Sea View are causing access problems, especially for emergency vehicles. Councillor Rhymes will contact local policeman Andy Woodward to see if he can help. Drains are still blocked.

## FOOTPATHS & HERITAGE COAST

The most recent cliff fall is still being assessed. The path from Island View to the golf club is overgrown and Bantham Estate is to be contacted.

## TREES

Councillor Charles Mitchelmore said action on trees at Aune Cross and the Hotel had been approved. The crown reduction of the conifer by the War Memorial is to be done when all the quotations are in.

## PARISH PLAN

There is still no news about a mobile phone mast, or what coverage the mast at Bigbury will provide. It was suggested that the Parish Council contact our MP about a mast for Thurlestone.

## PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

A letter had come from the National Trust about the Thurlestone v South Milton Sands question, to which the Clerk has replied "We own the beach, you own the car park"!



Authority has been given to purchase a web site for the parish at an annual cost of approximately £125. Once set up, it will need volunteers to keep it regularly up-dated.

A separate hard drive for the Clerk's computer is being bought so that Parish Council data is stored separately.

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

In April, Councillor Ian Bramble said that this was his last report as, following the reduction in wards and Councillors, he will in future represent Aveton Gifford. The Chairman thanked him for his considerable work on behalf of Thurlestone parish.

Sea View Terrace empty property. Plymouth City Council are investigating (Fraud Dept)

Apparently SHDC does not have a Five Year Plan, which makes our Neighbourhood Plan more urgent.

Following the ward re-organisation, we are now Salcombe and Thurlestone with two District Councillors - Simon Wright and Judy Pearce.

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

Councillor Judy Pearce reported. The SHDC cost reduction programme was continuing. There are ongoing problems with the Planning Department where contract officers are being used as there are no assigned officers to handle applications.

*She commented on the talk given by David Cohen at our Annual Parish Meeting which gave the impression that Parish Councils were not 'listened to'. This is not the case but they do have to comply with national policy guidance.*

*Mr Cohen also stated that SHDC were reluctant to take planning applications to appeal due to costs. This is also not the*

*case as there are usually no costs other than exceptional circumstances where barristers' costs occur.*

Regarding tree matters, e-mails would get a response rather than phone calls. Councillor Simon Wright was unable to attend.

### **POLICE**

PCSO Dave Gibson said there was only one case - theft of a cement mixer from the Mead. The problem of sheep straying on to the road was being dealt with. Regarding the vicious dogs on the Mead, two have been relocated and the remaining ones not to be unattended when outside, but one dog has been seen out not on a lead.

### **CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Rhymes said our Neighbourhood Plan is ahead of that for SHDC. The request for a 20mph speed limit through Thurlestone would need a very tight case - such as when an accident has happened.

Kit Marshall was welcomed back to the Council.

Regarding the cobbled road by the church, it was understood by Peter Hurrell that Commander Evans had given the land to the Parish Council back in the 1920s. If this is so, then maintenance costs need to be discussed with Yarmer Estate, Bantham Estate and the church, who are the only users.

The plants in the Thurlestone sign at the entrance to the village need to be removed as traffic coming up the road is not easily seen, and the posts holding the name sign made longer.

The raised footpath need more frequent grass cutting.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> June, at 7.30pm in the Yeo Room.



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# PARISH HALL NEWS

Chairman: Neill Irwin



On 25<sup>th</sup> April a return visit by Tim Abel and his fiancé Emma Davies, fresh from the maiden voyage of the cruise ship *Britannia*, for a *Cabaret Night* concert with tenor Connor MacAllister, was subject to an eleventh hour crisis when Emma was found to be suffering from voice strain having been performing throughout the voyage. By great good fortune Tim was able to call on Charlotte Trepas, a rising young operatic soprano, to take her place and - with some late revisions to the programme to include a number of operatic arias - *Cabaret Night* proved a great success. The cost of this evening was significantly higher because of the professional fees, and so it was necessary to increase ticket prices to reflect this. We think it also reflected the quality of the evening.

Thanks go to Robin and Pat Macdonald for their organization and encouragement which meant that over 90 tickets were sold for this evening, and to all the audience for recognising the efforts of the Committee to run an event supporting young home-grown talent.

We have other events catering for different musical tastes during 2015 which we are able to make more affordable. The next event was to have been a first visit from the tribute act **Cleverly Everley** on 6<sup>th</sup> June, but unfortunately they found themselves double-booked (a better offer elsewhere?) and pulled out late in the day. However, we may try to arrange another booking with them at a later date.

The **Racketts Rock 'n Roll** group will, of course, be back on 11<sup>th</sup> July courtesy of the two Pats (Clarke and Macdonald). The group enjoyed themselves here so much last year they were straining to come back so we must give them a big Parish Hall welcome - complete with blue suede shoes and John Lennon specs. And special thanks also to those hosting the group during their stay in Thurlestone.

Don't forget the **Family Fun Evening** with **BBQ** and games on 28<sup>th</sup> July. Thank you as always to the Telephone Box Committee for their involvement and ideas. We hope to try out a few more activities and attract more young holiday-makers so watch out for the posters.

The new audio-visual system is now up and running and has greatly improved the screen presentation facilities of the Hall. It was not a cheap upgrade, but it now offers better technological solutions to connect with visiting speakers' needs and (more pragmatically) it projects a much clearer picture. I was able to use it myself at the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> April which was well attended. I was pleased to be able to thank Ray Tavender on his retirement after 14 years of service as caretaker, and also Catherine Delafield who has now completed her three-year term as Secretary. On which note I will mention that, at the time of writing, we are still looking for a new Secretary. Not a lot of work involved, but beyond my one finger typing. Fortunately we already have a new caretaker, Marcus Faye who is now hard at work.

I was also able to report a £2,000 net income on the year. Our Treasurer explained that this was largely down to the electricity feed-in tariff, proving the value of investing in the solar panels. You may have already noticed that the Hall exterior has been repainted, and that additional gravel has been added to the car park area.

My thanks once again to all the Committee for their efforts throughout the past year and we look forward now to working together for the rest of 2015.

*By popular demand, a return visit to Thurlestone by*

# **The Racketts**

## **Rock-n-Roll Dance Band**

*with*

# *Chas Newby*

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# Village News Round-Up

## Dr Yvonne Bennett

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Yvonne Bennett on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015, after a short illness. Yvonne Bennett, professionally known as Dr Yvonne Pollitt, was a Family Planning physician, working in South Devon until retirement. Having been born and bred in Southend, she graduated from the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in 1964.

In 1997 Yvonne moved to West Buckland, with her second husband Bill Bennett, living at Langmans Quarry. She tragically lost Bill in a swimming accident off the beach below Thurlestone golf course in 1999. Yvonne stayed in West Buckland after Bill's death until 2012, when she moved to Kingsbridge.

Yvonne had wide and varied interests, many of which she undertook with the U3A (Classical music, French, cryptic crosswords, stretch and tone, geology and astronomy); KEDFAS; Dartington Choir; piano; volunteer gardener and guide at Overbecks, Salcombe. Yvonne was an avid traveller and trekked on six of seven continents in recent years.

Thurlestone and the south Devon coast have a special place in the heart of Yvonne's family. It was her home for many years, and also the venue for one of her three daughters' weddings, and the christenings of three of her five grandchildren. Her family and friends gathered at the Thurlestone Hotel for a morning tea to celebrate her life on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, and were able to reflect on a life well lived in a beautiful part of the South Hams.

## Marathon Effort

Dr Ian Fraser and his wife Janet of Mead Lane have recently alerted us that their younger son John completed the London Marathon in 3 hrs 50 mins, raising over £6,500 for Parkinson's UK. Their elder son Andrew has been suffering from Parkinson's disease for the last 19 years, having been only 33 when first diagnosed. However, he had a brain operation 5 years ago when

electrodes were inserted to allow deep brain stimulation – a bit like a pacemaker – and, in a heartening development in the disorder, his life has been completely transformed.

This is really good news, and highlights the motivation behind this touching human story, for a brother to undertake the London marathon in order to raise money for research into his brother's illness. Bravo, John.

## Player of the Year

Well done to Tom Newman, of Thurlestone, who recently received the Club Player award at the end of a fantastic season for the Kingsbridge RFC Under 13's side. The team were crowned as Devon Champions in April, beating local rivals Ivybridge in a nail-biting Cup Final in which the only points on the scoreboard came from a penalty kicked by Tom.

## Vicky Carpenter

As a result of winning triathlon events in the Middle East and Europe last year, primary school teacher and Thurlestone resident Vicky is to represent the UK in the ETU Triathlon European championships in Rimini, Italy. Vicky will also have a shot at qualifying for the World Championships, the first time they will be held in Europe, later this year. We send her many congratulations and the best of good wishes.

## Joanna Acourt

We are delighted to report that Joanna Acourt has joined the Village Voice team and will take over the advertising side from Jo Parkin. Many of you will know Joanna as the late Kendal McDonald's daughter. He was an ex-Fleet Street journalist whom VV was lucky enough to have as editor for eleven years. And who will ever forget his skilful and humorous *Villager* articles? So it is excellent that we now have Joanna on board.

## Jo Parkin

At the same time we must pay a huge tribute to Jo (and Ron) Parkin, who have been



responsible for recruiting and maintaining all the advertisers whose contributions enable this magazine to survive and flourish, as well as organising the arrangement and layout of all the advertisements in our pages, and also making sure that advertising monies were received. They have done this for the past twenty years, and *Village Voice* owes them an immense debt of gratitude. So, a really big thank you, Jo - and Ron.

### Horticultural Show

The Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show (note: it is not a Society!) held their annual fund-raising Plant Sale on the 9 May at the Parish Hall with lots of good quality offerings on sale. This event ensures financial stability for their annual Show, which is held at Thurlestone one year and South Milton the next. This year the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Show will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August at South Milton Village Hall.

Show schedules will soon be available in the Post Office Stores at Thurlestone, so why not put in an entry this year? There are 92 classes with everything from vegetables, cut flowers, pot plants, flower arranging, cookery, artwork, photography, and many crafts, not to mention a children's section which always delights.

This is always a colourful and enjoyable community event, and an opportunity to see outstanding exhibits, as well as to meet old friends and have a chat over a cup of tea.

The Show Secretary is Caroline Alderton (562250) who is always happy to answer your questions about the Show, and showing.

### SHS Beach Cleans

Why not join members of the South Hams Society for a beach clean? You will be made very welcome. The next one takes place at **Thurlestone Sands**, South Milton, on Saturday 13 June. Meet at the Beach Hut at 10 am. It may even be warm enough to swim after our hard work. LW 10.03 BST

The next venue will be **Soar Mill** on 4 July. Meet in the car park behind the hotel at 2 pm. It is a superb time of year to be on this dramatic beach. The beach seems to attract an unusual amount of rubbish washed in from who knows where, so well worth the effort. LW 14.31 BST.

More beach cleans are scheduled later in 2015 at Gara (1 August, 12 December), Yarmer and Leasfoot (29 August), Soar Mill (12 September), Thurlestone Sands, South Milton (10 October) and also West Charleton (14 November).

## National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for June and July 2015

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday<br/>10 June</b>  | Coach trip to Axe Vale Festival. One of the best shows in the county. Fantastic flower displays, craft and food stalls, then sit and enjoy the arena events.   |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>24 June</b> | Grand Summer Fair, Market Hall, Kingsbridge, 10am to 2pm. Our main fund-raising event of the year. Lots of stalls, cakes, books, plants and gifts. Great raffle prizes to be won and light refreshments available - bring family and friends to enjoy a fun visit. |
| <b>Thursday<br/>9 July</b>   | Coach trip to Lanhydrock (NT) and Pinsla Garden, Cardinham. Time to have coffee (included) and explore delightful Pinsla Garden. Then on to Lanhydrock, a magnificent late-Victorian country house. Refreshments available or bring a picnic.                      |
| <b>Wednesday<br/>29 July</b> | Coach trip to Honiton and Sand - an impressive Tudor stone house and family home in an idyllic setting. Conducted tour and tea included.   |

*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).*



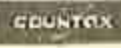
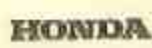
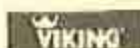
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### *Making new 'moments'*

It is fair to say that life can, at times, feel like a bit of a chore! It might be rather strange to hear a clergyperson of the Church of England say that. Surely my life should be filled with the joy and love of Jesus Christ. Well it is, but that doesn't mean that I'm immune to the same "daily grind" that others experience. So what keeps us going? In one sense, for me, it's back to the language of the joy and love of Jesus Christ. Yet these can be just words. What really keeps us going has to be more than words. It has to be something that touches us emotionally and strengthens us for life. It has to be something that gives us courage and commitment in the relationships that we form.

So, I ask again, what keeps us going? I would suggest that it's a series of "moments". Times and events in our lives when everything fits into place. Times when every aspect of our experience speaks to us of a depth of meaning. These can be overwhelming moments when our emotions may get the better of us. I think in my own life of the moment when I made my wedding vows and when Emma, my wife, made her vows. I think of the moment that my sons, Jude and Nathanael, were born or hearing that I had adopted my daughter, Jaymie. I think of the moment that I was ordained as a priest.

Yet it's not just these profound times that provide such moments. Sometimes they can happen at the most mundane of times. They can happen when a conversation takes an unexpected turn. They can happen when an event makes us see life from a different perspective.

These moments, these experiences, provide a resource that we can draw on throughout our lives. I can bring to mind these moments from my life and take strength and comfort from them. I can train myself to picture them and to relive the emotion that I experienced at that particular time.

The making of these moments, though, should never be a thing consigned to our past. The making of these moments, new moments, is the stuff of our life. It should be part of our past, our present and our future. If we believe that we have nothing left to experience, no more moments to make, then our life is diminished.

At times we can find ourselves shut off from the beauty of life. We can believe that the "daily grind" is all that there is. When that happens to you, as it happens to me, call to mind those moments from your past and let the remembrance of them spur you on to the making of new moments. Life has a funny habit of providing for us when we least expect it and in the most unusual of ways. I would call that God, but that's a whole other story!

*Daniel Hartley*

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**JUNE 17TH & JULY 15TH**

**12.15 p.m. for ½ - ¾ hour**

**Everyone Welcome ~ Stay as long as you wish**

**Donations to Thurlestone Parish Church Funds**







# All Saints' Diary

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

## Sundays

### Every Sunday

JUNE 7TH, 21ST, JULY 5TH, 19TH

JUNE 14TH, JULY 12TH

JUNE 28TH, JULY 26TH

JUNE 28TH

## Church Services

8.00am Holy Communion (said) (Alternates BCP & CW)

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Fairtrade Stall 1st Sunday)

11.10am Morning Worship

6.00pm Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh

11.10am Matins (BCP)

6.00pm Benefice Praise Service

## Weekdays

THURSDAY JUNE 4TH, JULY 2ND

EVERY WEDNESDAY

MON., WED., THURS. & FRIDAYS

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

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

8.30am Morning Prayer (said)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information



Thank you to all who contributed to this year's House-to-House collection for Christian Aid. We are extremely grateful.

As yet the total collected in the Parish is not known but it will be advertised on the Church Lych Gate Noticeboard in due course.

## Activities in the Church Meeting Room

Telephone: 561246

Contact:

EVERY FRIDAY until July 3rd

12.30 p.m. Lunch Club (pre-booking) 560090/562169



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WEDNESDAYS

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# Thurlestone Church



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**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

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## Your Website Needs You!

At the April meeting of the Parish Council we outlined our plans for the new parish website and demonstrated via the smart screen the sort of layout and features it could contain. We were given approval by the Parish Council to proceed. We have also agreed with the Parish Council that the website's URL (Uniform Resource Locator) will be, appropriately, "[www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk)" and we have now acquired that title – but don't go looking for it just yet as we're not yet visible online!

A number of people have asked that searches for "**Bantham**" and "**Buckland**" will also find the website and we will do our best to structure the site so that these villages get equal prominence with "**Thurlestone**".

In the last few weeks we have chosen the **host** for the website and the **package** that we'll use to build the **pages**. We've chosen one which we hope will make it easy for people to contribute directly to the site in the future, adding news articles and helping us in keeping it informative, up-to-date, and interesting for residents and visitors alike.

We are getting close to defining the **structure** of the site and it will then be time to add the **content** – but this is where we need your help. In fact, without your help there will be no website! So, we would welcome contributions in any of the broad categories below:-

- **Photos** – the more the better! Photos from the 3 villages and the surrounding area, both current and from times past. Once we have the photos we will group them into themes. If you have printed photos we would be happy to scan them in for you to make digital copies. Also, please provide some supporting information so that we know where the photos were taken!
- **Clubs and Groups** – if you are the spokesperson for one of the clubs or groups in the parish here is an opportunity to publicise your activities. Write a few paragraphs about who you are, what you do and some contact details and we'll include it on the website.
- **Out and About** – can you write about your favourite local attractions? Or our wonderful beaches? Or maybe describe some of your favourite walks in the area? Any articles which would inform our readers "what to do" and "where to go" would be welcome.

When we get nearer to going **live** with the website, which will hopefully be some time in the **autumn**, we will also want to publicise any **events** which are coming up and report on the latest news in the area.

If you can help with any of the above please contact Mike Bone on 288436 or Paul Martin on 560070, or email us at [mike.bone@talk21.com](mailto:mike.bone@talk21.com) or [pinover60@gmail.com](mailto:pinover60@gmail.com) respectively.

Further updates on progress will appear in subsequent issues of Village Voice, or be advised by circular e-mail.

**Mike Bone & Paul Martin**

Lucille Tomlinson, BSc(Hons), MSCh.

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# Thurlestone Phonebox ..... Ring Ring

So Easter came and went and somehow the Easter Bunnies who came to the Phone Box managed to climb the tree to hang some rather glitzy eggs.

I received a phone call the other day from a good lady thinking of living permanently in Thurlestone in the house which her family built and have used for holidays since the 1920s. One of the questions she asked was if there was a library in Thurlestone. After my lengthy reply she will very shortly be a full time resident!



There have been excitements around the Phone Box area. The Church Tower is bedecked in a summer frock with an elegant Ascot hat and we look forward to seeing it in the autumn in pristine condition, including a re-gilded clock face, all set for more centuries of good work. Len's (third time lucky) Tree on the Green finally seems to have taken and has just undergone a hair trim. I'm sure, even if no one else is, it is enjoying the recent rains.

Princess Charlotte received full Phone Box honours although the face drawn on the blackboard was not necessarily a great likeness (perhaps fortunately). Maybe for the next royal birth we should have a ten gun salute using the cannon! It coincided with a wedding so we hope you weren't confused by the fact that wedding and birth celebrations appeared to be simultaneous, even if that is the spirit of the age!

Flags went up for VE day commemorations, although I was asked if they had been put up to celebrate another event that unfolded on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. No, definitely VE Day, the Phone Box is non-partisan.... outwardly, anyway! Any ideas welcome and also we need children's books please.

Have a fun summer, that's what it's all about.

**Kit Marshall**

PS Don't forget the Phone Box has a stand-alone amplifier available for general use.

## Buckland Phone Box

We had a very successful event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Saturday, which approximately 90 people attended, thanks to social media and leaflets through letter boxes.

During Easter week, Alex Way had produced card chicken and eggs, which local and visiting children decorated beautifully. These were displayed on the windows of the Box, and created a festive atmosphere. Carey Ryan-Carter devised a village trail for children, with chocolate prizes at the end. Nitca Milburn-Fryer made delicious cakes, and wonderful bunting, and Gillie Southcott produced umpteen cups of tea and coffee, and squash. Joely and Neve sang and played their guitars.

You can see photographs of the event by looking at the Buckland Box on Facebook, or by putting Buckland Box Facebook in to your browser. Thank you to all those who gave donations, which have gone in to our events fund.

The Box is back to its usual role of notice board, information centre, magazine exchange and village landmark, but we are planning an event in the summer holiday months, so keep an eye on our Facebook page.

**Anna Martin**



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# Eating Out Locally

*"Where can we go for a nice meal?" is a question we often hear asked. Restaurants, cafes, and inns across the South Hams have been known to vary in their appeal and quality from time to time, so it can be useful to have some up-to-date experience when faced with making a choice. To try and provide a little help to this end, Village Voice will be featuring readers' accounts of their visits to local hostelrys, and will welcome such contributions for inclusion in future issues. We continue this series with a report from John King who has been for lunch to the Sloop Inn at Bantham.*

## The Sloop Inn, Bantham

We have known The Sloop for thirteen years and seen many changes. We had visited it with grown-up children, babes in arms, toddlers and adolescents and more recently just the two of us. Changes in the Sloop have been subtle but significant over those years rendering it both comfortable and well organized whilst maintaining the atmosphere of a local village inn. Tom Gange of Thurlestone, whom many of you will remember, did much of the woodwork.

Opening times are normal with the kitchen working 12.00 to 14.00 and 18.30 to 21.00 (12.00 to 16.00 On Sundays). On weekdays they close from 15.00 to 18.00. On going in through the front door there is a bar area with stylish tables for two, four and six and a "relaxed" coffee table area at the bow window. There is an efficient wood fire in the winter. This upper level is a "no under 16 area". Further back is an extensive space for families but there is one, and potentially two steps (it is on two levels) to be negotiated with a buggy or toddlers. Entry at the far end via the small patio area has steps up! Wheel chair access is possible through the side door of the bar but the loo situation would make it a hassle.

Parking is possible in the road outside in the winter months if early, but at other times the space within the beach parking area (still labelled Evans Estates despite new ownership) may have to be used (at a price! And a 195 metre walk according to Google). The walk from Thurlestone involves very steep slopes.

The nitty-gritty as always is the food and service; we have never been disappointed in either; one greeting on Christmas Eve stands out after many years as does the childrens' fascination with a talking snowman! In fairness the service can be slow when they are busy but it's difficult to think of anywhere where that does not apply, and they remain cheerful.

There is a good selection of wines by the glass although the prices reflect the distance they have to travel and the proximity of alternative venues. There is a good selection of local beers, which seem popular with the locals. They (the locals!) do appear to fill the space between the bar and tables but a bit of gentle bargaining clears a route! Orders are taken at the bar and you have to remember your table number.

There is a printed menu and boards around with the day's extra starters (7) including two soups, and mains (5) with fish shellfish and meat dishes. We have found the tempura batter very good and the dips and sauces a little gentler than similar in London but tasty. Vegetarians will have to search the main menu. This main menu mentions some of the sourcing where a clear effort is made to "deal local". The Exe mussels have been excellent although the fish pie, which tends to be a "go to" dish, does not announce its provenance. The basket meals are the usual suspects; chicken, sausages, cod goujons and breaded plaice with chips. These are popular when the kids feel they are old enough to go and sit in the little patio area at the back, a good distance from the road (and parents).

We only lunched here. With the pewter candleholders we suspect dinner is a treat. Dinner is bookable; lunch is not - with the exception of Christmas day. On a recent visit TV screens were revealed for the Rugby internationals. They had been beautifully disguised and only came on as the match started, so full marks. It's something to think about if you are going for a late lunch on a match day.



## Summary

We can't wait to get four decent knees between us so we can enjoy our walk past the golf course and down the hill for a well earned lunch.

*Vivien Stickland now reports on another local favourite eating-out venue*

## The Oyster Shack

Located at Millburn Orchard between Aveton Gifford and St Anne's Chapel

The unique character of this seafood place invites fish lovers, like myself, back again and again. It is always a treat whether I eat inside on a chilly day or outside under cover on a warm day. The theme is nautical. Overhead netting covers the ceiling and has seagulls, glass baubles, fish and crustaceans attached to it. Other artefacts include a fisherman's coat and a coil of rope, and a wooden shelf that was once a box containing Avon oysters. There's an old scale that originally weighed mussels. Patterned oil cloths cover the tables. Their designs include gingham, a world map and shellfish with T lights all in the dominant blue, white and orange colours.

That mix of white, orange and blue is used for the decor and also for the waiters' attire. I find the waiters gracious. Their friendliness contributes to the ambience and embraces a respect for food from the sea. I read what is in the day's catch from a display board. What the fishermen brought in that day is listed there. Lobsters, crabs, jumbo prawns are itemised and numbered so that we diners can see what's available. On another board we are invited to a cookery demonstration... there will be music and community song.

A sign that stands near an aquarium reads "Home is where the anchor drops." Conversation comes easily here. We talk of many things with a feeling of good-will where we are assured of the "freshest locally sourced produce, cooked simply in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere." In this inviting environment, fine fish is beautifully presented. "If you can't get good fish where the sea runs nearby, things have come to a pretty sad state," my companion remarks. The oysters are brought from Constantine, Cornwall where they go through a purification process to produce the oysters of high quality that are served at their tables.

The Oyster Shack was originally an oyster farm. Back then the same purification process was done in rows of tanks alongside the Avon River. It really was just a shack then and picnickers would pitch deck-chairs in a peaceful river setting to buy and enjoy fresh oysters. That has changed, but what hasn't altered is the attention to atmosphere. This licensed restaurant is closed in January, but is otherwise open 7 days a week. It serves wine from a range that's carefully selected to compliment your meal. You will eat in a sheltered position outside on sunny warm days but will be indoors when it's not nice to eat out.

The fare is almost exclusively from the sea, but if you really want meat, there is something for you on the menu. Starters range from whitebait for which we paid £6.50, to one with mussels, bacon, leeks, cream & crusty bread for £8.95. Main courses are between £14 and £21.50 with vegetables on the side to add on. Desserts are upwards of £4.50. Ask about the Shack Set Lunch Menu. It offers 1 course for £10.00; 2 for £12.00 and 3 for £14.00.

The drive from Thurstlestone is 5-6 miles via the Avon Valley tidal road, but it is advisable to check on the state of the tide before setting out. Otherwise it's a longer journey via Ashford or Harraton Cross.

Find out more by making a call to 01548 810876 or view on line: [www.oystershack.co.uk](http://www.oystershack.co.uk)  
**For more local restaurants see also the directory of the South Hams Eating Out Guide 2014/15, a useful free handbook from S. Hams Newspapers.**



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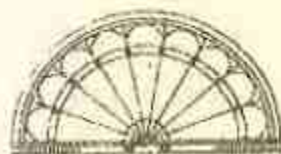


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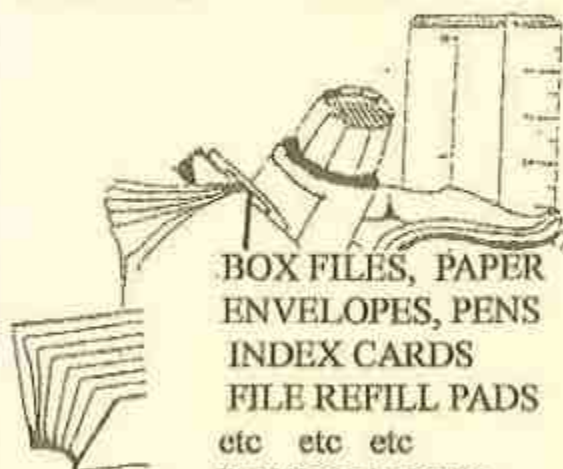
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# Thurlestone Golf Club

## CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

One of the more interesting things that happens when you become Captain is that members assume you know everything about the rules and therefore refer disputes to you. I will let you into a secret - I do not know all the rules. It is however the correct way to proceed as the Captain's Committee settles all golfing disputes after consulting the 'Rules of Golf'. It is not an original thought, but 99.9% of golfers do not understand all the rules. I suspect there are some who do not understand any of them. This is hardly surprising as the current 'Rules of Golf' runs to a pocket-bursting 208 pages. This set me thinking as to whether there is a better way and how did we get here?

Let us go back to the start. That would be the year 1744 and the City of Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Council provided a silver club to be competed for annually over the Leith Links, the winner to assume the title and duties of 'Captain of Golf', the duties to include settlement of all disputes on points of play. (You can now see why today members ask me to settle such matters.) Anyway, back to 1744 and the problem they had. The competition was rather grandly offered to 'Noblemen or Gentlemen or other Golfers, from any part of Great Britain or Ireland'.

The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers drew up a set of rules - their membership conveniently included members of the legal profession - because they hoped that the total number of entrants would be swollen by players from near and far, and confusion over playing conditions was to be avoided. Up to this point the rules varied depending on where you played. Actually on the day only 10 local players turned up (their advertising obviously was not that effective) and the winner was a surgeon named John Rattray, who also won in the second year.

The die was cast however and we had a set

of rules, but they were still not in use everywhere. How many pages of the Rules were there? Just 1! I would think that the players then enjoyed the game as much as we do today with somewhat less confusion over the rules. Even a group of Edinburgh lawyers could only fill 1 page - how did we get to 208!

The process of those first rules becoming universal began ten years later when the St Andrews Club was formed. They followed the Honourable Company's lead as to a code of rules, and took as their guide much of the Edinburgh wording. The St Andrews Club eventually became 'The Royal and Ancient' and now along with the USGA is arbiter of all things in golf including of course the rules. An interesting point is that St Andrews is not the first Royal Club - I will give a golf ball to the first person who tells me which Club was, and in which year.

My task of settling disputes would be much simpler with the original rules (Mr. Rattray I am sure would have been horrified with the current complexity). In fact I would propose that we go back to the start and just have a set of rules that you can fit on one page - that is my better way! I would gladly take on the task of producing those new rules, taking my lead from those original rules but I know this is unlikely to happen. The next set of rules will probably add another twenty pages, which no one will read or attempt to understand. Still, I can dream.

Talking of dreaming, sometimes golf can be dream-like, but most of the time it tends to be rather nearer a nightmare. The life-long struggle of a golfer continues; always striving for those days when it all goes well, as in your dream. Those days are all too rare, but as a golfer you know you have to keep trying. I am sure Mr. Rattray in 1744 understood this just as much as we do today - but with considerably less stress as he had only one page of rules to worry about.

**William Hutchison**





## LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The season has certainly begun with some fantastic weather this year and we have had plenty of golf. The three Devon teams have been in action with mixed success.

The Still Cup team, captained by Heather Spencer, lost their first match away at Tiverton but won the second match at home against Bigbury by 4 matches to 3. The President's team won their first match against Bigbury by 4½ matches to 2½ but lost their second match at home against Staddon Heights. The Sheelah Creasy team have only played one match which they won away at Stover by 4 matches to 3. The friendly match against Dartmouth at home with team captain Trish Cooper was lost by 1½ to 2½. An excellent meal was enjoyed afterwards by all with the Dartmouth team praising the state of the course. In March the *Mail on Sunday* team played Teignmouth away, losing by three matches to two, so we do not progress to the next round.

The Spring Challenge matchplay was played over 14 holes and the ladies were divided into four teams named after flowers. Team Crocus won with 6½ match wins, with Primrose second with 4½ wins. The winning team ladies were presented with pots of spring flowers.

In the March Stableford we had a beautiful day. In Division One Midge Henderson (19) was just edged into 3<sup>rd</sup> place on countback by Jan Brooking (15) both with 30 points. Winning the division was Barbara Smith (17) with 34 points. In Division Two Gill Durden (21) returned 31 points in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Jill Beavis (23) in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 33 points. However winning the competition with 34 points was Jane Mahood (21). This crowned a fine week for Jane who had a Hole In One on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole in the annual Men v Women Spoons match.

The Killard Leavy qualifying competition was also played in March, and the winners were Shirley Worrall and Barbara Smith with 33 points. They will represent Thurlestone at Yelverton in September.

It was a windy day for the Ladies April Medal but at least the rain stayed away. In Division

Two, the top three all recorded net 83 and needed the computer to separate them. Gill Durden (21) was pushed into 3<sup>rd</sup> place by Jill Beavis (23) but winning the Division was Lesley Davey (21). In Division One Mary Rawsthorn shot a net 82 to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Heather Spencer (12) with net 76, but winning the competition overall was Jennifer Roberts with a fine net 75.

In March it was the final of the Granny knockout 'Just a bit of fun'. This new event played over 9 holes between January and April saw a full draw and a lot of enjoyment. The presentation was made by Janet Richardson at the Ladies Coffee morning. There were 3 'hidden prizes' chosen by the organiser: Spring flowering bulbs were presented to: Youngest Granny – Heather Spencer, With 9½ grandchildren – Trish Cooper, With 10 grandchildren – Jane Stanley. Spring flowering plants were presented to: Runner up – Anne Seymour, and the Winner – Supergran – Jane Mahood. It was a really close final with the match all square at the 8<sup>th</sup> and Jane just edging out Anne on the last 9<sup>th</sup> hole.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March the Ladies held a coffee morning and round of golf. Sixty four ladies from clubs all over Devon took part. There were stall of cakes and preserves, plants, vegetables, books, clothes and golf equipment and a raffle. The money raised went to the ladies section to support the team matches.

The ladies April Stableford was held on a fine sunny day. A light wind was blowing but conditions suited good scoring and the Ladies didn't disappoint. In Division One Victoria Gibbens was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 33 points just edged out of 2<sup>nd</sup> place on countback by Shona Wilson (13). Taking the division title was Heather Spencer (12) with a fine 40 points. In Division Two Diane Baker (33) recorded 36 points to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Nicole Crater (23) in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 41 points. However the winner once again was the ever-improving Sue Curry (29) with an excellent 42 points. Sue will be playing off 26 in future following a major 2.5 shots cut in her handicap. There were also significant handicap reductions for Heather and Nicole.

The ladies held a fun competition called the Ts and Fs in April, in teams of three, one score to count on holes that did not begin



with a T or an F, otherwise 3 scores to count. It was played in excessively windy conditions with gusts over 34 knots and so the competition was reduced to 14 holes. Trolleys were blown over and some ladies could hardly stand up but ten teams battled on. The winners were Jane Mahood, Yvonne Pike and Jane Pope with 51 points, from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lindsey Fletcher, Sally Rossiter and Jenny McKeague with 47 points.

The results of the Warren Crocus 4BBB Stableford qualifier in April was Silver division 1<sup>st</sup> Linda Cant and Heather Spencer, with 37 points on countback, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gill Hicks and Jenny Roberts with 37 points who will go through to play at Dawlish Warren on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Division two winners were Emily Clarke and Diane Baker with 37 points who will go through to play at Dawlish Warren on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September and runners up were Jane Stanley and Liz Sharman with 34 points.

In the May medal the ladies enjoyed some dry and (almost!) warm weather for this competition. In Division One Jan Brooking (15) was 3<sup>rd</sup> with a net 81. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Barbara Smith (17) with net 78 but winning the division was Jenny Roberts (2) with net 77. In Division Two 3<sup>rd</sup> place was taken by Jane Mahood (21) with net 80. In 2<sup>nd</sup> place was Hayley Pepperell (23) with net 79 but winning the competition with a fine net 76 was Sue Curry (26).

In May we held the ladies club championship over two days to try to boost the entries. This has succeeded in that this year we had twelve entries. The weather unfortunately was very bad with 50 mph winds over both days. Eight ladies battled the wind and the winner with lowest gross was Jenny Roberts (1) with 89. The best nett score was Heather Spencer (11) with nett 86. Due to gales the next day the final round will now be played on 15<sup>th</sup> July.

This weekend we had the Devon ladies championship held over three days at Bigbury golf club. We had two entries; Laura Tregelles (5) scored a gross 80 and got into the top 16 for the championship trophy and Gill Hicks (11) had a 94 and went into the Lloyd-Williams plate knockout. Unfortunately they were eliminated in the knockout stages, but we are very proud of their fine efforts.

**Kay Morley**

## JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

In the last two months we have had some wonderfully warm weather over Easter followed by some incredible windy weather in May, but the junior competitions and matches have not been cancelled.

In March we held a Junior Stableford for both Congu and non-Congu juniors. "Superb was the word of the day". The weather was spectacular as were some of the results this month. We challenged our non-Congu players willing to complete an 18 hole round, with the first nine holes to count in the non-Congu division.

Charlie Evans achieved 27 points over the first nine holes to win the non-Congu division, and with a back nine score of 20 gained a handicap reduction of 28. George Messias has also to look forward to a handicap reduction, coming second in the non-Congu division with a front nine of 26 and a great back nine score of 22. In third place was Lucas Bellamy. The Congu players completed three rounds to compete for the Liz Line Cup and the worthy winner was Finn Whelan with 43 points; his handicap was reduced to 18. George Holland was second and also won nearest the pin. Nigel Whelan sponsored the competition this month.

In April Phil Holland sponsored the junior Stableford competition. There was another splendid turnout and George Holland scored a very solid 39 to take first place in the Congu section. Finn Whelan scored 38 to take second place and also won nearest the pin. Charlie Evans gained 35 points to be placed third. In the non-Congu section the winner over the front nine holes was George Messias with 24 points. Second place with 20 points went to Oliver Griffiths who also won nearest the pin, and third place went to Alfie Messias with 18 points. Well done to all and thanks to Paula Orr and Janet Richardson for running the competition.

Nigel Whelan and Simon Orr have been busy organising the team for matches against other clubs. In the West Devon League we played Dartmouth away and lost 4 -1. Toby Woods won his match, and Toby White and Charlie Evans playing in their first match for the team took their opponents to the 14<sup>th</sup>



hole before losing. It was a great day with excellent hospitality from Dartmouth.

In our match against Yelverton at home the weather wasn't great, but we managed to win 3 - 2, with our Junior Captain Tom Orr again leading from the front winning 3 and 2 and Finn Whelan coming back from being 4 down to win 1 up on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of our points were well fought halves by Ethan Bellamy and the foursomes pairing of Charlie Evans and Ollie Griffiths, both settled on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Special congratulations go to Meg Rossouw of Yelverton Golf Club who holed in one on the 13<sup>th</sup> during her match against Toby Woods.

In the Basil Steer knockout round our match against Dainton Park at Dartmouth was lost 3 - 0. All matches were hard fought, with George Holland losing 2 & 1, Tom Orr 1 down, and Finn Whelan 5 & 3. Better luck next year.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April saw the West Devon Junior League Adult/Junior Foursomes played at Bigbury with Thurlestone Golf Club being represented by Nigel Whelan/Tom Orr (Junior Captain) and Will Baker/Finn Whelan. Both pairs played consistently and managed to finish joint third with Tavistock, with Wrangaton coming 2<sup>nd</sup> and Bigbury first. As always, the hospitality and condition of the course at Bigbury Golf Club were both exemplary and everyone enjoyed a dry but windy afternoon.

Kingsbridge Community College held their annual golf competition at Thurlestone in May with Dartmouth junior taking top position, but Thurlestone were well represented by Finn Whelan who was second and George Holland third, so well done to them both.

The Monday junior club evenings have had some bad weather but most have gone ahead with good numbers. Committee members Janet Richardson, Paula Orr, and Nigel Whelan have been running the competitions and volunteers have been taking juniors round the course.

We would welcome more volunteers to help on Mondays from 5pm to 7pm, so if you could help please contact Steve White in the pro shop or Steve Gledhill in the main office.

Finally good luck (at time of writing) to Ethan Bellamy and Finn Whelan in the

Devon Whitsun meeting at Okehampton which took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. I look forward to reporting their results in the next issue of Village voice.

**Liz Line**

## TENNIS SECTION NEWSLETTER

The tennis section continues to welcome new members to the club afternoon on Tuesdays from 2 - 4pm and on Wednesday evenings from 5 - 7pm. The Thursday coaching sessions begin on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and run for 5 weeks, from 10.00 - 11.30am followed by a welcome cup of coffee and a chat. Whilst these lessons are beneficial, and fun for existing members they would also be suitable for people hoping to return to tennis or for those who feel they lack confidence. If you are interested in joining the next set of group lessons, please sign the list outside the tennis pavilion.

Congratulations to Cathy and Anna, who were the winners of our Love All Valentine's tournament. It was great fun and the theme continued at the *bring and share* lunch afterwards with red balloons, heart shaped red napkins and even heart cup cakes! Kit's Kiss Me Quick hat - complete with red hearts - which he wore throughout the morning brought a smile to everyone's face!

The club singles and doubles matches are well underway and we are also looking forward to our Mid Summer tournament in June and our very own Wimbledon in July - followed by a delicious tea.

We hope that all the grass courts will be open very soon ready for club sessions and also for a whole range of tournaments which will be held throughout the summer, along with mini coaching sessions for children.

New members are always welcome. If you think you may like to join us then please contact the office (01548 560405) or talk to Janet Richardson at the club or contact her on 01548 856007.

The complete holiday programme for 2015 is set out on the next page of this magazine.

**Linda Scott**

# THURLESTONE SUMMER TENNIS 2015

## Events and Tournaments

April onwards	Junior and senior inter-club matches Local singles and doubles tournaments
30 Mar-11 April	Easter Holiday events
In May/June	Opening of grass courts
25 – 29 May	Spring Holiday events
In June	Mid Summer Tournament
Mon 29 June	Wimbledon starts
In July	Open/Invitation Tennis Event – 'Wimblestone'
Sat 11/Sun 12 July	Wimbledon Finals
Mon 13 July	Holiday programme starts
Sat 18 July	Woodhead Mixed Doubles Cup
Tue 21 July	July and Lepere Junior Cups
Fri 24 July	Thurlestone Quaich – Golf and Tennis
Tue 4 August	Egan and Leonard Junior Cups
Tue 4 August	Annual Tennis Meeting
Sat 8 August	Bryan Brown Senior Mixed Doubles Cup
Mon 17 August	Kit Marshall Family Cup
Thurs 20 August	Richardson Cup
In August	Family Tournaments
Wed 2 Sept	End of Season Tournament and Presentation

*For further details, entry forms and sign up lists please see separate notices in the Tennis Pavilion or contact Janet Richardson Tel:01548 856007*



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# 50 Shades of Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk)

## Eurovision

*Complete the romantic tale by filling in the gaps with the names of past Eurovision Song Contest winners or the names of winning songs. The numbers in brackets indicate the number of words/letters and some poetic licence may be employed! Easy Internet research will provide you with a list of winners, then off you go....*

Amelia – plain, sensible, old fashioned Amelia could hardly believe that she had found the man of her dreams. The feeling of \_\_\_\_\_ (8) enveloped her each time she thought of Adam. Handsome, rich, clever Adam – the man she was going to marry. “\_\_\_\_\_?” (3,2) she asked herself over and over again. “What does he see in me?” They had met when Amelia had been waiting for her train at \_\_\_\_\_ (8) Station where Adam had gallantly carried her heavy bag on board. She was smitten immediately. As she gazed in to his deep brown eyes, she was sure that he must be able to hear her heart going \_\_\_\_\_ (4,4,1,4) but if he did, he showed no sign. Since that day, everything had been so wonderful. She felt as though she could \_\_\_\_\_ (3,2,3,5,2,4) and her life was complete... Well almost complete. Although Adam was kind, gentle and caring, he seemed reluctant to develop a physical side to their relationship. There were opportunities of course in those romantic, intimate moments they shared but whenever she whispered \_\_\_\_\_ (4,2,2,4,6) he would insist that they wait until after their wedding day in twelve month’s time. Inexperienced and innocent, Amelia accepted his decision but deep down felt that perhaps she was failing him in some way. “Oh well, I’ve been chaste my whole life so \_\_\_\_\_? (5,7,4) she thought. The months passed and \_\_\_\_\_! (10) the week of the wedding arrived. Amelia still had \_\_\_\_\_ (3,5,2,10) to do but her special day was in sight. A romantic supper with her darling man at their favourite restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ (8) was a perfect prelude to their big day. Afterwards he walked her home, kissed her gently and whispered “You’re \_\_\_\_\_ (2,6,3) girl – never forget that”. “I \_\_\_\_\_ (7) you” she said “and I promise to make you happy in \_\_\_\_\_ (5,3,4,1,3) Next morning, Amelia was enjoying a glass of \_\_\_\_\_ (5,4) while daydreaming about the \_\_\_\_\_ (9) wedding that lay ahead. She closed her eyes and imagined their beautiful honeymoon island where they would soon be walking hand in hand along the \_\_\_\_\_ (5,4) in the moonlight. She sighed with contentment. At the appointed time, Amelia walked down the aisle on her father’s arm and stood beside her dear, perfect Adam. \_\_\_\_\_ (3,5) of the vicar rang out clearly as the ceremony took place. \_\_\_\_\_ (9) held their breath as he asked if anyone had good reason to object to the marriage ... and the unthinkable happened. “No, no \_\_\_\_\_ (4,4,6,3,2)” resounded around the church, it was Justin, Adam’s Best Man! He could hide his feelings no longer. He took Adam in his arms and declared his love for the man he had known since their first day in school all those years ago. “Marry ME Adam” he pleaded I know you love me too. I can see it \_\_\_\_\_ (2,4,4). Adam could no longer control the feelings he had been hiding for all those years. “\_\_\_\_\_ (1, 5) marry you – it’s what I’ve always wanted.” Arm in arm they walked away to their new life. “Ah well” thought Amelia “He always treated me like a \_\_\_\_\_ (6,2,1,6). Perhaps I’ve had a lucky escape. And I must say the vicar is rather tasty....”

### Solutions to previous Grey Matter:

A large over draft; Absentee; A little on the large side; A bird in the hand is worth 2 in the bush; Anyone for tennis; Bottoms up; Tripod; Turncoat; Water under the bridge; Painless operation.

*Congratulations and the bottle of wine to Virginia Stacey-Clear*

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# TRAMP



**1** April Fool's Day and 9 hardy Trampers turned up for a 5 mile walk around the lovely village of Harberton. From the top car park we proceeded to walk through the village, passing lots of charming cottages. At the bus stop, two local friends of the leader joined us, swelling our number to 11.

We trudged up the hill, past the Triangle and crossed the river Harbourne, leaving the lane to enter a field with horses grazing. Then it was over several fields to emerge on a lane and cross Rolster Bridge. Continuing, we arrived at Key's Englebourne farm where the track goes off shapely to the left - a lovely old way that feels as if it's seen centuries of travellers. It did appear a bit muddy, so the main party opted to go the longer way via the lanes, but four of us ventured on the track and it turned out to be not too bad. At least we got to the pub first, where the others joined us for a nice lunch at the Church House Inn, Harberton.

After lunch, some of us took the opportunity to do a spot of shopping in a most appealing wayside stall set in a garden wall near the pub. Homemade marmalade, fudge, cakes and greetings cards. Very enterprising.

**Trisha Wilson**

**2** Thursday 9 April was a glorious spring day with blue skies and sunshine. Eight walkers (two were Easter visitors) and one dog set off for the moors.

Arriving at Shipley Bridge on the southern fringes of Dartmoor, we donned our walking boots and headed off along the path which follows the river up to Avon Dam. This is a beautiful section of the Avon valley with the moors rising up on either side. Rhododendron bushes have colonised parts of the valley and will look glorious come May when in full bloom. As we took in the views a lone buzzard soared high in the sky above.

After about one and a half miles the path forks. The left-hand path take the walker right up to the reservoir wall face. Our route followed the right hand fork leading up to the

east side of the dam and the moors beyond. Continuing in a northerly direction we joined up with the Abbots Way. Turning west we followed the track down hill trying not to get wet feet as we negotiated a stream via slippery stepping-stones. Climbing up on the other side, the well-worn path took us around the north side of the dam revealing lovely views of the huge reservoir below. Open moorland stretched out before us. Remains of stone circles and hut circles gave evidence of pre-historic settlements.

Walking in the footsteps of early monks, we continued along the Abbots Way enjoying the warm sunshine but taking care of our footings as some areas were wet and boggy. Watching the ground closely, however, enabled us to spot frog-spawn and tadpoles in the puddles and a grass snake sunbathing on the path.

Reaching the far western side of the dam we continued to follow the Avon upstream to Huntingdon Cross. An ancient stone carved cross marks the spot and is possibly an old burial site - maybe connected to an area a short distance away known as Huntingdon Barrow or Heap of Sinners!

At this point the path joins the Two Moors Way. Following the river around Huntingdon Warren we had fun trying to balance on grassy tussocks as we crossed more boggy terrain. Eventually we reached a lovely old granite clapper bridge - the perfect spot for our picnic lunch. Some sat on the bridge, dangling legs, others sat on the river bank. Ben the dog had a great time going in and out of the river shaking himself over everyone! An idyllic and peaceful setting with time to reflect on a by-gone age when laden pack horses crossed this bridge transporting all manner of goods across these moors.

Having finished our lunch we retraced our steps back to Shipley Bridge. A very pleasant walk of approximately 7 miles. The return journey was just as enjoyable, as the lovely views of the Dartmoor landscape take on quite a different aspect when seen from the opposite direction.

**Jenny Webb**



**3** On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April thirteen plus a dog assembled in sunshine with some cooling wind at the Kingsbridge Rugby Club car park (with kind permission).

The path took us over the hill to a steep turf slope to Bowcombe and, after the bridge, southwards to West Charleton, with fine views to West Alvington, Malborough and Salcombe. The wide fields towards the fire beacon and Frogmore Creek were newly sprouting a hopeful crop and the meadows to Frogmore itself were showing fresh green.

Welcome drinks and lunch at the Globe Inn were followed by the upward climb in the green lane north of the main road, and another steep turf descent to Bowcombe. The final lane to the Rugby Club is much more stony than green. The whole 6½ mile walk was remarkably dry for April and finished as it had started in sunshine. And there were no complaints of any steep slope.

#### **Peter and Wendy Gornall**

**4** On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, the day of our seven mile walk along the Plym trail, we awoke to rain, and began to wonder if anyone would join us; always a concern for walk leaders. We were delighted when our numbers grew to fourteen plus Ben the springer spaniel and even more so when the rain stopped.

The walk starts at Plym Bridge, follows the river until we have to make a diversion due to a permissive footpath being closed. A short walk along the road, across fields full of sheep with their lambs to our picnic area. This is a beautiful wooded spot next to the river, huge boulders with the river cascading over them.

Picnic over, we made our way back along the cycle path to see the peregrine falcons. The female was on the nest but the male nowhere to be seen. You can follow their progress by logging on to [www.plymperegrines.org.uk](http://www.plymperegrines.org.uk)

#### **Jill & Brian Munn**

**5** The invitation to a bank holiday Dartmoor walk on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May was taken up by 10, setting out under light cloud from the car park near Sharpitor on the road between Yelverton and Princetown. After half a mile we turned on to the old railway with its sinuous route towards Kings Tor. Skylarks were everywhere, the footing was good, and there were some fast bikers to leave room for.

After passing some massive quarry spoil heaps and rounding the Tor we found informal paths to informal stepping stones over the fast stream in the vale. Crowning the ridge beyond are the two amazing Merrivale stone rows, and between them a Bronze Age watercourse which long ago supplied a settlement nearer the River Walkham.

Unfortunately brisk weekend business at the Dartmoor Inn had run them out of some of the walkers' favourite menu items, but we found at least enough for survival. By the end of lunch, the clouds were noticeably heavy and after 10 minutes walking in the Walkham valley it was drizzling. Much of the descent was in the protection of mossy woods with a little early foliage, but on emerging again to the open moor it rained heavily. The higher wind speed added to the wetting, but luckily the rain moderated for the last few hundred yards to the cars.

Was it 7½ miles or was it fully 8? No matter – we had done it, and enjoyed even the feeling of defiance of the afternoon forecast, which this time was accurate.

#### **Peter and Wendy Gornall**

**6** The circular walk between Shaugh Bridge and Cadover Bridge on the River Plym is definitely one of our very favourite walks on Dartmoor, as it has just about every ingredient of a good walk – a track through beautiful woodland, lovely views over the river valley, the sight and sound of the river rushing over rocks, some moorland walking with extensive views all around, and also historical interest contained in evidence of china clay production and granite quarrying.

Ten of us set off on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May from the car park at Shaugh Bridge; firstly a steepish climb, but rewarded with splendid views across the valley of the Plym to the Dewerstone Rock, which is a favourite place for rock-climbers. We then went through a wooded area carpeted by bluebells which were, sadly, only just beginning to come out. All the time we were following an old clay pipe which used to carry china clay mixed with water from the clay pits near Cadover Bridge to a processing plant above Shaugh Bridge. The path then descended gradually to the river where we sat a while for refreshments and to drink in the surrounding beauty.

On to Cadover Bridge which is a favourite picnic spot in the summer; then, having



crossed the river, we made our way across Wigford Down – the high ground here affording really marvellous views over to the tors on the western fringe of Dartmoor and ahead of us to Plymouth Sound. We reached Dewerstone Hill which is a fairly insignificant outcrop of rock (!), whence we descended to the river. Our descent took us past granite quarries and the ruins of a winding house which housed machinery operating trucks carrying granite down the slope on a pulley system. It was interesting to be reminded of

the industrial nature of the area, and to imagine all the activity there in former times.

Our 5 and a bit mile excursion ended by crossing the river once again back to the car park. We then stopped en route to home at the Cornwood Inn for a welcome drink and snack, and were able to sit outside basking in the lovely sunshine. A good end to a splendid excursion!

**Alastair and Gill Durden**

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## POSTBAG

**Dear Editor**

### Music in Thurlestone

Alastair Durden's series of monthly organ recitals in Thurlestone Church seem to me to be an under-appreciated village asset. Although they appear on the Church Calendar page, most of your readers may not be aware of their existence.

Having "discovered" them, Marian and I were captivated by an entirely delightful one on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. On a beautiful cloudless lunchtime with the sun streaming through the stained glass, Alastair Durden regaled us with pieces ranging from Haydn to Percy Whitlock, and not forgetting Bach of course.

The purpose in writing is to emphasise the very high quality of performance available and to suggest that these performances could bring joy to many more people than were there on that occasion and raise much needed money for the church.

**Bryan Rigby**  
The Old Rectory

**Dear Editor**

I am not sure you will remember us but we owned *Thatchways* for a few years before finally selling it in 2002. Since then we have subscribed to the Village Voice to keep up with the goings on in the parish and surrounding villages. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading each issue, even passing them along to friends.

However, we have finally decided to discontinue our subscription and wish to have you pass along to everyone what a wonderful publication you have and what a pleasure it has been to receive it all these years.

We were so happy to be able to have another visit to the area last September (we have been there a few times since selling the house), staying at Hope Barton Barns, and the beauty of the area continues to enchant us. You all are indeed so fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

Thank you again for giving us so much enjoyment over the years.

Warm regards,  
**Cheryl and Paul White**

**Dear Editor**

I had just said goodbye to visitors who had been staying with me and I sat down to watch the Westminster Abbey VE Day thanksgiving service.

My mind turned back to 70 years ago and I thought how different things were then - no washing machine to launder the sheets, no electric iron, no dish-washer, no fridge and only a cool pantry in which to store the precious rations.

In some ways we are lucky today - but do we appreciate it all?

**Rosemary Mackay**  
Glen Lyon

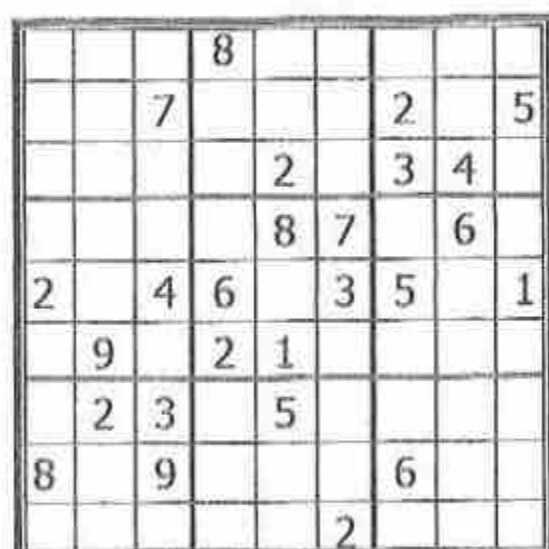


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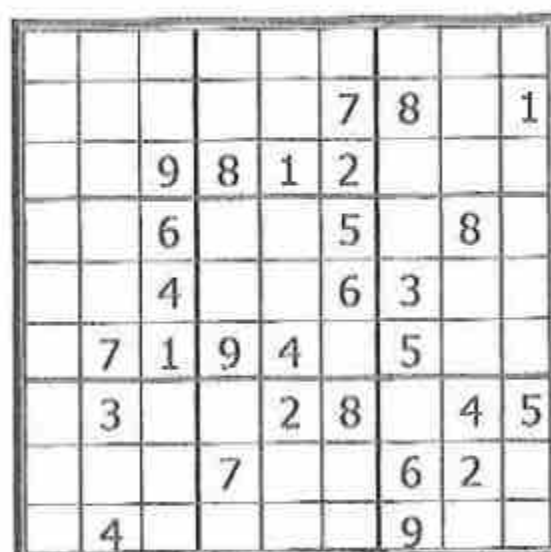
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(As featured in *The Times*, Monday to Saturday)



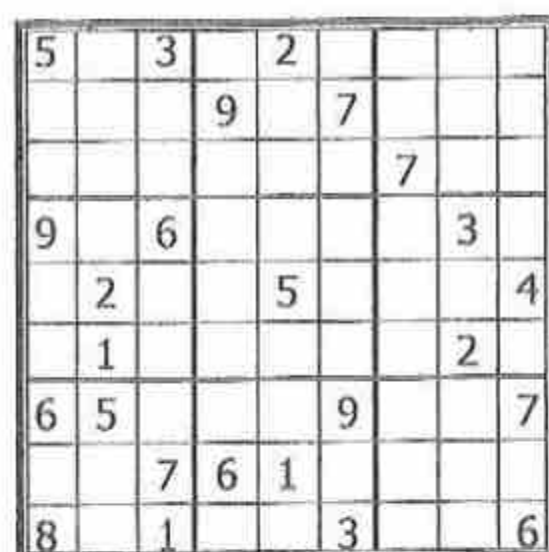
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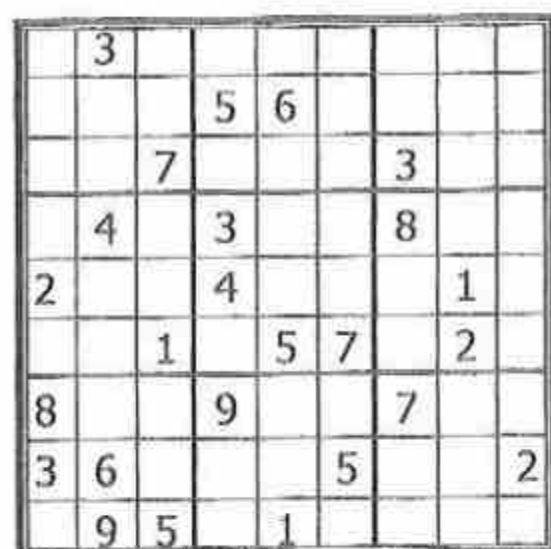
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Tougher

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Tougher

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## The Election Result

The puzzling booths were kept quite busy in the Sudoku constituency during the run-up to Resolution Day and twelve ballot entries were received by the Chateau Counting House. Ten of the ballot entries were impeccably presented by Mesdames Chitnis, Dwyer, Killingsworth, Lonsdale, Meldrum, Pailthorpe, Pain, Price, Ware, and Neill Irwin, but there were two spoiled ballot papers. After several recounts, **Elizabeth Meldrum** was declared the winner by the chateau hash-tag elimination system, and duly elected to receive the traditional bottle from the chateau cellars, chosen with discrimination on the grounds of both colour and age. Entries for this month's challenge to 25 Mead Lane as usual by 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015, please.



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## April

The parish hall was filled with laughter as Marilyn Bishop's illustrated talk on the life and work of the late Beryl Cook unfolded. Each of the artist's paintings, most of which had been completed during her long residence in Plymouth, conveyed humour in an inimitable style much inspired by the local characters she had met in pubs and popular haunts around the city. Her work is also very much a humorous reflection on the fashions of the era in which they were painted.

It was good to see June Huggins in our midst once more after her stay in hospital. Several members put their names into the hat to draw for one to go to the June Buckingham Palace garden party, and Pat Clarke was the lucky winner. A report was given on the very enjoyable beetle drive the previous month, that Pat had compered so ably, and as a result £161 was raised towards our Denman bursaries. We currently have 54 members and it has been decided to e-mail them each month to update and remind them about forthcoming events to save time at the monthly meetings. A coin collection had raised £32 for the Associated Countrywomen of the World in March and would be extended into this month.

## May

Paul Mann, a member of *Devon Freewheelers* came to tell us about this charity. We fully expected him to come roaring up to the parish hall on a Harley-Davidson but he came more sedately in a small van. There are around 70 volunteers in this unique organisation who ride their motorcycles from their base, on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to wherever they are needed to transport for the NHS such things as medicines, blood, breast milk, human tissue and other vital medical requirements. Some use their own machines and some are provided by the charity thanks to kind sponsors. The Devon service began in 2009 although, nationally, similar schemes have operated since 1969. The service saves the NHS a considerable

amount of money in the course of a year but, as Paul touchingly puts it, "We do it to save lives".

May is also the time of the annual meeting and election of a new committee. As Lisa was away the chair was taken by Pat Clarke. The treasurer reported a healthy financial state, the secretary went through events of the past year, and Pat read Lisa's written report in which she thanked most warmly her committee, particularly those retiring, and the membership for their encouraging support during the past year.

Lisa was re-elected for a further year as President. The new committee also comprises Margaret Catlin, Vivienne Day, Diane Martin, Sally Martin (treasurer), Karen Livett, Jo Odams (secretary), and Carolyn Taylor. More members willing to stand for committee were required. Joan Booth, Julie Hanham and Lisa White would attend the WI centenary AGM at the Albert Hall in June. The event will be shown on the Internet for the first time and the public can view it at the Flavel in Dartmouth. The one resolution concerns care of the elderly.

Eight members had a great day out at the county's spring council meeting at Torquay and enjoyed the excellent speaker on embryology. A good contingent from Thurlestone attended the group meeting at the end of April, where they were well looked after by their host, Salcombe WI, and enjoyed the guest speaker Sarah Chesters of RHS Rosemoor. The group competition required 9 members to produce 9 different craft samples, mounted as a panel and the members who had supplied them were thanked. Our panel was later put on display at the May meeting for everyone to enjoy and marvel at members' skills, despite which South Milton were first with West Alvington second.

## Future Events

- 2 June - Royal Garden Party
- 4 June - Centenary AGM, Albert Hall
- 15 June - FC&S 'Learn to Crochet', Parish Hall

NB Christmas lunch date is 11<sup>th</sup> December.





## *Smoked Fish Chowder* (Cullen Skink)

With 50 new Scottish Members of Parliament it is more than likely that all the Westminster *cordon bleu* establishments (aye, and mebbe a few greasy spoons, too!) will soon be reflecting in their menus a range of offerings to tickle the Caledonian palates, or to make them feel more at home in the great metropolis. One such item is sure to be the traditional Scottish fish chowder which rejoices in the name of Cullen Skink, and which has been featured in many recipe books and chefs' columns. My own preferred recipe for this dish uses smoked fish, and makes a really tasting and satisfying single course meal.

### **Ingredients** (to serve 4 people)

450g undyed smoked haddock  
50g butter  
2 medium onions skinned and chopped  
225g potatoes, peeled and cut into 1cm cubes  
1 large carrot, peeled and coarsely grated  
1.1 litres water  
150ml milk or single cream  
30ml plain flour  
plenty of pepper  
chopped parsley to garnish

### **Method**

- Simmer the fish in the 1.1 litres water for about 10 minutes. Strain, reserving the liquid, and flake the fish discarding skin and bones.
- Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat, then fry the onions gently until soft.
- Stir in the flour and cook for 1 minute, stirring all the time.
- Gradually add the fish stock and bring to the boil, stirring until thickened
- Add potatoes and carrot and simmer until the vegetables are tender
- Stir in the milk or cream, and the fish.
- Season well with pepper and heat without boiling
- Sprinkle with chopped parsley
- Serve with crusty bread

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# BOOKSHELF

## Curtain Call

by Anthony Quinn

(Jonathan Cape £12.99 hardback)

This author has won awards for his previous novels, and in this one, set in 1936, he delves into crime. Stephen Wyley, an artist, checks into the Imperial Hotel for an afternoon with his girlfriend, rising West End star, Nina Land. When leaving the room they hear screams from the next room. Nina intervenes, saving the girl, while Stephen tries to look away. Quite by accident they have stumbled on "The tie-pin killer".

From then on we are introduced to a marvellous selection of characters, among whom are Erskine, who is an egotistical theatre critic and gay (which was of course illegal at the time), and his secretary, Tom, who is tired of propping up Erskine and wants to leave but is somehow emotionally tied to him. In the background is the menace of the Blackshirts and the threat of war. The tension mounts throughout the book. It is wittily, beautifully written, and I enjoyed every word.

Carolyn Taylor

## The Weather Experiment

by Peter Moore

(Chatto & Windus £6.99 Kindle download)

Peter Moore is a writer, freelance journalist and lecturer. He teaches creative non-fiction at City University and lives in London. His first book, *Damn His Blood*, an acclaimed history of a rural murder in 1806, was published in 2012.

Sub-titled *The Pioneers who Sought to See the Future* his second book tracks the progress through the nineteenth century of the development of the emerging science of meteorology, and our understanding of all the elements of the weather. Moore is particularly interested in the individual lives of these pioneers, and introduces us to all the key figures involved, including Samuel Morse, John Constable, James Espy, and Francis Beaufort.

Leading them all is Robert Fitzroy, the youngest Admiral of the Royal Navy, captain of the Beagle, Governor of New Zealand,

founder of the Met Office and the inventor of weather forecasts. While Fitzroy's life ended tragically by his own hand, with his work seemingly discredited, his place in this pantheon is irrefutable.

Writing in *The Times*, reviewer Richard Morrison describes the book as "embracing swashbuckling sea captains and fastidious bureaucrats, penny-pinching politicians and mad inventors, with as sharp an eye for eccentricity, absurdity, and tragedy as for genius. The result is a panorama of the entire Victorian era."

Jan Turner, our weatherwag contributor, who is sadly *hors de combat* with a broken wrist at the moment, will undoubtedly find much in this book to inspire her future articles for Village Voice.

Robin Macdonald

## Recipe Book

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the new Parish Hall, the hall committee propose to publish a Recipe Book composed from recipes sent in by parish members.

To this end everyone is invited to send in to Mike Stickland, who is co-ordinating this project, any of their recipes for starters, main courses, or desserts which they would like to see included.

**Come on, cooks! Pull your fingers out,** as well as your favourite recipes, and let's get this ball rolling. Although the deadline is not until October, there's no time like the present.

You can send them by post to 2 Meadfoot, Thurlstone TQ7 3TD, or by e-mail to [stix@talktalk.net](mailto:stix@talktalk.net) and any words by way of introduction or elaboration would be a nice addition.

The aim is to have the book ready for early December and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



# Kumlien's Gull in the Thurlestone Bay Area

**G**ulls – you either admire them or loathe them, but they have a character all of their own. As a general rule, small gulls take 2 years to mature, medium sized gulls three years, and finally the largest gulls 4 years. As they grow older their plumages change so that, for instance, the largest gulls have nine different plumages which can cause identification problems, even for experienced ornithologists. There are currently 24 full species on the British List, i.e. gulls that have been recorded in the British Isles and authenticated, with new species being found occasionally. Sub-species are not included in this total, but possibly these may be promoted to full species status in the future.

In the winter, keen birdwatchers, both inland and on the coasts, look for 'white winged gulls', so called due to their white primary feathers. The vast majority of gulls have dark primary feathers. Both Glaucous and Iceland gulls (both 'white winged gulls') breed in the north (for instance in Greenland), but venture south to Europe and the British Isles in winter. Iceland Gull is smaller than our local Herring Gull and is extremely scarce, but has been recorded in Thurlestone Bay several times over the years, most recently in January 2014. These are normally in their dowdy first winter plumage.

However, in March 2015 an adult Iceland Gull was found, but subsequently identified as a Kumlien's Gull due to the excellent photographs taken by two different local birders. This is a very rare vagrant with only one to three records per annum in Britain. This visitor proved to be elusive as it covered a wide area, whilst feeding with other gulls. I saw this Gull myself on 7th April 2015, near South Huish Marsh, and most local birdwatchers eventually saw this interesting Gull.

Basically, it looked similar to an adult Herring Gull, which breed locally – much to the annoyance of householders in the area! It is smaller, longer winged, smaller bill, a round head and pink, shortish legs. It had white primary feathers and diagnostic marks on the wing, i.e. small grey marks on the wing tips. The Kumlien's Gull had a distinctly different character from the other gulls, being less aggressive and with subtle differences in body shape and plumage.

This record now becomes more complicated and confusing. Kumlien's Gull breeds on Baffin Island off Canada and is regarded by some authorities as a race of Iceland Gull. Others state Kumlien's Gull is a hybrid between Iceland and Thayer's Gull – a north American species. Still others regard Kumlien's Gull as a full species. Taxonomy is constantly under review by national authorities using either Phylogenetic Species Concept or Biological Species Concept, or both! No doubt the scientists will eventually decide what the situation is with Kumlien's Gull. It was the most interesting bird I saw this winter.

**Arthur J Livett**

## References

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Lars Svensson                               | Collins Bird Guide (2nd edition).                                   |
| 2. Stanley Cramp Chief Editor et al            | Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. |
| 3. Klaus Malling Olsen & Hans Larsson          | Gulls of Europe, Asia, and North America.                           |
| 4. Ian Lewington, Per Alstrom, & Peter Colston | Field Guide to Rare Birds of Britain and Europe.                    |

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# pearson pre-school

Thurlestone School, Thurlestone, Devon TQ7 3NB Telephone - 01548 560816

**T**his is the beginning of the summer term and for many children at Pearson, it will be their last as they move up to the primary school. It will be a busy time getting all the four year olds ready for reception!

The last trip to Forest & Beach in Beesands was such a hit with the children that we've organised a second visit for mid May. This is a parent and child activity morning where they will be taught all things 'outdoorsy'. We hope to make this a regular trip as the educational benefits are enormous. Later in the term the children will enjoy a ferry trip to Fisherman's Cove in Salcombe. Lastly, Pearson's Sports Day is scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July which is always an exciting day for the children and a lovely occasion for the parents (while enjoying a freshly baked cake and cup of tea!).

By the time you read this article, Pearson Preschool will have held their AGM for 2015 and will hopefully have a few new faces on the committee. We wish them every success in steering this pre-school forward over the coming years.

A very important scheme we participate in is a Partnership Foundation Stage Unit which is run between the school and pre-school. This means that both sets of children share educational activities and opportunities each week together at the same time providing our youngest children with regular opportunities to experience being in school with their older friends and meeting their future teachers. The main benefit can be seen when the pre-school children move up into primary school, with their transition into primary school being quite seamless.

We regularly run a Tea Shop in the playground every Friday afternoon from 3.30 pm to 4.00 pm. The parents kindly bake the cakes to raise funds for snacks and vital resources for the pre-school. Anyone from Thurlestone or any of the surrounding areas is welcome to bake for us or to purchase cakes in the playground - you are all most welcome!

We have a large cohort of children leaving pre-school in September. If you know of anyone who is looking for child-care provision please pass on our details. We take children from the age of two and currently still have some spaces available from September.

**Linda Quinn (Manager)**  
01548 560816



# School Report

## *News and activities at All Saints Primary School*

### **GLINT OF GOLD**

Year 6 children are very near the end of their SATs and they have approached them with the admirable attitude we have come to expect. As a reward for their hard work and all of their efforts during their time at school, we are going to be putting on a summer production called 'Glint of Gold' - a musical production set around the discovery of the tomb of King Tutankhamen by Howard Carter.

There are several songs, opportunities for solo singing and musical performances and plenty of prop design and staging for the children to create. The children are all very excited and keen to learn their lines and the songs. I am very much looking forward to helping produce an end-of-year show to remember. There will be two performances at the end of term. This will become a regular event for the end of the year, when we have a little more time to put into rehearsals. For Christmas, we will be continuing with the carol services as the last ones were fantastic. Only 208 days to go now! (From 1<sup>st</sup> June)

### **HELP FOR NEPAL**

The devastating earthquake in Nepal has left survivors with problems of dwindling water, power and food supplies, insufficient shelter and blankets. All Saints parent Bev Holmes runs the UK registered charity named *Chora Chori*, a small volunteer organisation helping children and families in Nepal and, now, helping those affected by the earthquake.

The charity's local director in Nepal, whom Bev knows personally, and has worked with for 8 years out there, is working flat out as you read this, supporting and restoring village communities south-east of Khatmandu where she lives.

Please help if you can via <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/Nepal>. 100% of the donations go to Nepal. Many thanks!

### **COMIC RELIEF 2015**

It seems a long time ago now, but I want everyone to know that the school managed a staggering total of £1153.58 raised by the 'Onesie-Funsie-Runsi'. This is one of the largest amounts that the children have raised - ever - for any charity. The reason is quite simple - the idea was engaging, funny, and accessible for all the children. Another big "Well done" to Rosie Timmis for the idea.

### **HELEN LEATHER**

Very sadly we have to announce that Mrs Leather is leaving our staff. The Friends of Thurlestone School are having a whip around to buy her a gift from everyone. Helen has worked very hard in the sometimes manic environment of the school office. She always remains calm, friendly and approachable. She will be missed by children, parents and staff alike and we wish her well in her new position. Mrs Katie Messlas has been 'shadowing' Helen for the past fortnight and will be working in the office from next week. I am sure everyone will do their best to make her feel welcome and we are very pleased to have her as part of our staff.

**Mr J. Bosence**

**Deputy Head of School**



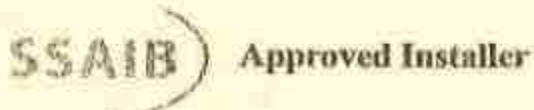
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<b>June</b>		
Monday	1	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday	3	TRAMP, around Brixton, lunch at Foxhounds (short)
Tuesday	9	TRAMP, Greenways & Dart Valley (long)
Thursday	11	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Faberger & the Russian Royals)
Thursday	18	TRAMP, Prawle Point, Elencor Cove, E Prawle (short)
Tuesday	23	TRAMP, S Hush, Gaimpton, Hope, evening (long)
Wednesday	24	KEDFAS, K'bridge Methodist Church, 7.30pm (Turner)
Thursday	25	KEDFAS, K'bridge Methodist Church, 10.30am (Turner)
<b>July</b>		
Thursday	2	TRAMP, around Scobbscombe with farm lunch (short)
Monday	6	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday	9	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Life as a Dorset shepherd)
Thursday	9	TRAMP, Salcombe to Thurlestone via coastal path (long)
Saturday	11	The Racketts Rock 'n Roll evening, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday	14	TRAMP, Dartmouth Jubilee Path walk (short)
Saturday	18	Church Fete, Toyes Orchard, 2pm
Tuesday	21	TRAMP, Kingswear to Coletton Fishacre and back (long)
Tuesday	28	Family Fun Evening, Parish Hall, 6.00 - 8.30pm
Thursday	30	TRAMP, Wrangaton & Ugborough Beacon (short)
<b>August</b>		
Saturday	1	Horticultural Show, S Milton, 2.30pm
Tuesday	4	TRAMP, Dartmoor, Holne, Hexworthy etc (long)
Thursday	13	TRAMP, Moss Mayo & Revelstoke Drive (short)
Monday	17	TRAMP, Dartmoor, Lustleigh Cleave (long)
Monday	24	TRAMP, Burrator, Royal Oak, Meavy (short)
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	BBQ on the Green from 6pm

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The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council

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

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

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

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Aug-Sept) ISSUE = 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

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



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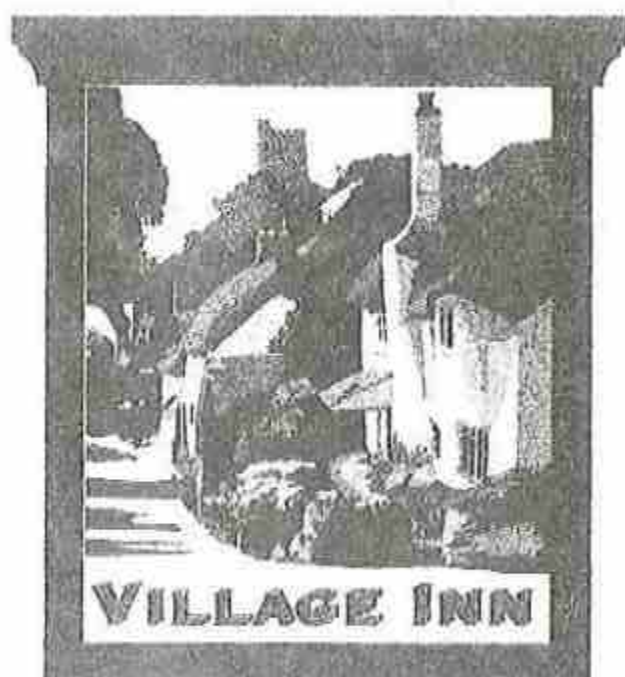
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