

VILLAGE VOICE

April - May 2023



Spring has Sprung!



This early spring edition of our Parish Magazine is full of news about the eagerly expected Coronation of King Charles III and the celebrations which will follow. On Saturday 6th May, the Coronation service will be live streamed in the Parish Hall, followed by a Coronation Buffet of cheese, paté and wine. On Sunday there is a special church service at All Saints at 11.10 am and the Coronation Big Lunch starting at 12 noon in a marquee in front of the Phonebox. Bring along your own picnic and enjoy the entertainment. (Check out the poster). Monday brings The 'Big Help Out' with volunteers needed at the Parish Hall and Church as well as other places I am sure.

Other good news is that our garden waste collection has restarted saving us visits to the tip. Also the 162 bus service to and from Kingsbridge has been saved, but only on weekdays I am afraid. So no Saturday evening trips on the bus to Kingsbridge and a taxi home after being wined and dined (a little inebriated).

We have two differing reports of results from the RSPB bird watch, with our Accidental Environmentalist reporting 25 Dicky birds and 4632 Pheasants! Whereas Mike Passman reports that there were 119 different species of birds recorded this year ending 11th March. Both are very interesting reads.

'Be a champion of your local community'. This is a call for more Parish Councillors, so please volunteer (details inside). Our Councillors Williams, Lewis and Ryan-Carter have written a very interesting report titled 'Pothole Peril', finding out that a pothole needs to be 4cm deep, 30cm wide with a vertical edge before it will be repaired. Get your tape measure out!

There will be more defibrillator training locally in June and July, just register an interest.

Thurlestone Parish Hall committee has new members with Malcom Breton as chairman, and Ingrid French as booking clerk. There are many events happening which should suit 'one and all'. See details of a Games night including skittles, darts and pool; a screening of a local film called 'The Land of the Five Beaches'; Family Fun Event, and my favourite a 'Eurovision Party' on 13th May with live screening of the final. Be prepared to be suitably dressed!

Finally, please complete the 'Composting' Questionnaire to help find out what is currently happening in our Parish and help increase biodiversity. Also check out Stuart Watt's article on the River Avon 'Pollution versus Biodiversity,' which includes a description of 'Kick sampling'.

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April - May 2023

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Parish website at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/village-voice**

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A letter from your MP

Anthony Mangnall



We have an image problem in Devon. While we produce some of the best quality food in the country, we lose our geographic indicator far too easily to neighbouring counties. Take Cornish clotted cream or Somerset cider, in both instances we have failed to retain our mark and identity on these globally recognised products.

For some, this may not be of concern and for others, you may think that I am just continuing the centuries-old rivalry between Devon and neighbouring counties. But it does matter as Cornish clotted cream, according to a recent survey, is outselling Devon clotted cream. Across the spectrum of South West products, we are missing the opportunity to retain our identity and our historical advantage in producing recipes and products that stretch back through the generations. This competition is of course healthy but to lose the competitive advantage of using the Devon brand name is a travesty.

It is for this reason that this month I held an event in Parliament titled "Taste of Devon". From across the county food producers, distillers and businesses linked to the sector were invited to come to Westminster to showcase their produce. They came in such high numbers that we had to turn many away. The purpose was to highlight the huge range of food and drink businesses based in Devon and to provide them with a well-known platform. Westminster lent itself well to the challenge with over 65 Members of Parliament attending the event as well as hundreds of officials, researchers and civil servants coming to see what Devon can do.

While the event was a celebration of the innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial nature of Devonians, it also served a more serious purpose to highlight the need to think more locally about our food and drink. The pandemic stretched, and in some cases broke, our supply chains, and made us all the more conscious of how and where our food and drink are produced. Those early days switched us on to the fact that we need to do more to support local producers, not because it is simply a nice thing to do but because it is a necessity. It is a necessity in ensuring food security, reducing air miles on food products and supporting our local economy.

Great organisations like South West Food Hub run by Greg Parsons and the team at Food and Drink Devon have made significant progress in helping to rectify this wrong and have ensured that Devon is rightly recognised for its world-class products and helped to instil a "think and buy local" mentality when it comes to shopping. From our meat, fish and veg we can all do better by supporting local producers.

But it is not just everyday consumers that need to think about the local aspect, it is also major organisations and publicly run institutions. Our schools, hospitals, military bases and local government offices have for too long been restricted by the procurement process from taking advantage of what is on their doorstep. Thankfully this is set to change with the Procurement Bill which is currently making its way through the House of Commons. If implemented it will create a mechanism to allow small businesses to compete with the giants, by streamlining the bidding process and giving greater weight to the value of proximity and local production.

When implemented we can go far further than Jamie Oliver in his school meals mission, we can help ensure that every school across South Devon is stocked with high-quality, locally produced seasonal food. A better diet has been shown to help learning, behaviour and, of course, long-term health. It is deeply frustrating to even have to make these arguments or introduce new laws to make it happen, but the benefits will be huge to producers, consumers and the long health of the country.

Readers of the Village Voice have long known this to be the case and have proved it in their wonderful annual lunch that I was so pleased to be able to attend. The strong local community that can be found in Thurlestone and the surrounding area should be of immense pride. It is an example for other villages to follow and it has had a huge influence on my thinking when contributing to debates and laws in Westminster. A "think local approach" really translates into "be a Thurlestone."



Bantham, Buckland & Thurlestone Parish

Join us to celebrate the King's Coronation

Saturday 6th May



**Live Streaming of
the Coronation at
Thurlestone Parish
Hall followed by
Cheese and Wine
Timings tbc**

Sunday 7th May

All Saints'

**Church Service to
Celebrate the Coronation
at 11.10am**



**See separate poster
in Village voice for
full details**

Monday 8th May



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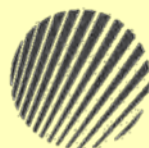
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NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The most recent Parish Council meetings are summarised below. The detailed minutes can be seen online at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk

Meeting held on Monday 16th January 2023 at Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Jill Munn (Chairman), Sue Crowther, Rosa Lewis, Adam Ryan-Carter, Gill Stone, Sian Williams and Paul Gunning

In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long, and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

Open Forum

The following concerns were raised: People staying on the old plot at the end of Eddystone Road. The need for a road sweeper in the parish to be requested from SHDC. About any cessation of the local bus service and whether a car scheme might be viable. The increased depth of the ford at West Buckland. Damage to local cars (more than £800 in one case) due to the condition of the road to Kingsbridge. Parishioners are advised to report all incidents.

Clerk's Report

Councillor training has been arranged for 23rd February and all Councillors will be provided with an overview of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Advice had been received that the footpath to Coronation Quay has closed for a period of six months in the interest of public safety. Councillors are in contact with the Public Right of Way Team and shall continue to lobby Devon County Council to ensure that this path is reopened, or an alternate path made available, at the earliest possible opportunity.

Cllr Gilbert was thanked for providing £100 from his localities allowance to enable the purchase of hedge cutting road signs for use by a local farmer.

Parish matters

The verge of the Cobble Road on the Church side, right under the ancient cross, has been taken over by weed and it was resolved to reseed it with wild flowers in the spring and a sum of £100 was approved.

An event budget of £5,000 for the May Coronation of King Charles III was agreed in principle, as was the provision of cotton sports bags as a commemorative gift for primary school aged children in the parish. Jack Rhymes has agreed to organise the Parish event.

All Parish footpaths are to be audited, with a report to be submitted mid-February.

Planning and Tree Matters

3581/22/HHO, 2 Wingfield, Thurlestone, proposed entrance porch extension, replacement garage roof & new garden studio. **Supported**

3663/22/HHO, 21 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, proposed infill extension, internal alterations & modifications to dwelling & garage, porch extension, replacement first floor balcony, installation of new roof lights, modifications to existing openings & installation of decked area. **Supported**

4421/22/TPO, T79: Grove Cottages, Ash & Alder - Fell all marked trees due to being dead and dying, G78: Alder - a group of three trees - fell all trees to minimise risk of failure, G77: Ash - Re-coppice & coppice the two trees to the east due to poor condition, T76: Alder - Re-coppice due to poor condition and CPT1: Ash, Alder, Sycamore, Elm, Hawthorn, Willow & Silver Birch - Cutback basal epicormics, vegetation & sever Ivy
Deferred for site visit

4169/22/HHO, Byeways, Thurlestone, Householder application to amend planning consent 3413/19/HHO to regularise works & revert back to existing features (Retrospective) **Object.**

4118/22/FUL, Edgecombe House, West Buckland, new dwelling & site landscaping (Re-sub 3247/22/FUL) **Object.**

4175/22/HHO, Warren House, Thurlestone, installation of 2no air source heat pumps. **Support.**

South Hams District Council Decisions:

2614/22/FUL, Summerstrand, Eddystone Rd. **Refused.**

3550/22/VAR, 1 Avonside, Bantham. **Conditional Approval.**

3918/22/TCA, Kennedy, Thurlestone, Tree works requested. 6/12. **No Objections raised.**

4075/22/HHO, 2 Valleyside, West Buckland. **Conditional Approval.**

4101/22/NMM, 5 Meadcombe, Thurlestone. **Conditional Approval.**

Meeting held on Monday 6th February 2023 at Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Jill Munn (Chairman), Paul Gunning, Adam Ryan-Carter, Gill Stone and Sian Williams.

In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Rufus Gilbert, District Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long, and 4 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Sue Crowther, Rosa Lewis

Open Forum

Local concerns were expressed that groundworks behind Bantham Estate office might be for a potential helipad. Questions were asked about the installation and sourcing of cables for superfast broadband in the parish which is a conservation area. There were also reports of issues between the parish hall committee and primary school pupils and parents concerning parental supervision and parking. Both parties are to discuss and seek a solution.

Clerk's report

Details of how parish councillor nominations can be made for the parish council election this year will be shared shortly. Defibrillator training will be available on 6th June and 12th July and it has been agreed to start a mail list of parishioners and other interested parties who would like to receive information or emergency communication from the parish council. If you would like to be added to this list please email thurlestoneparish@gmail.com. You will be able to unsubscribe from the list at any time.

Parish matters and councillors reports:

Along with many other councils, Thurlestone Parish Council has resolved to adopt the proposal to consider the environment in every action and decision.

The Coronation celebration event will take place on Sunday 7th May and further details will be issued as soon as available.

Cllr Gilbert reported that the Buckland/Bantham road will be dressed this year and that we await the full details of the extent of the works and the dates. He also reported that we are awaiting developments on lobbying of the government for 20mph speed restrictions in the parish and finally that due to prolonged cold weather sandwiched between bouts of heavy rain there are now thousands of potholes awaiting repair with more than 600 new reports being received daily.

Members of the public are requested to report all Highways issues through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective

signs/lighting and much more. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Planning and Tree Matters

4393/22/HHO, Clanacombe Lodge, West Buckland, alterations and extension **Support**

4482/22/HHO, 2 North Upton Barns, proposed outbuilding **Object**.

3013/22/FUL Aunecliff, revised plans **Object**

0219/23/COM, Old Rectory Cottages, Thurlestone, note of intent to install pole at 10.5m (9m above ground). **Object**

4421/22/TPO, T79: Grove Cottages, Ash & Alder - Fell all marked trees due to being dead and dying, G78: Alder - a group of three trees fell all trees to minimise risk of failure, G77: Ash - Re-coppice & coppice the two trees to the east due to poor condition, T76: Alder - Re-coppice due to poor condition and CPT1: Ash, Alder, Sycamore, Elm, Hawthorn, Willow & Silver Birch - Cutback basal epicormics, vegetation & sever Ivy. **Support**. A request will be made for all felled trees to be replaced.

South Hams District Council planning

4047/22/HHO, Marshalls, Thurlestone. **Conditional Approval**.

3581/22/HHO, 2 Wingfield, Thurlestone. **Conditional Approval**.

Meeting held on Monday 6th March at Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Jill Munn (Chairman), Sue Crowther, Rosa Lewis, Adam Ryan-Carter, Sian Williams

In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long, and County Cllr Rufus Gilbert and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs Paul Gunning and Gill Stone

Open Forum

A query was raised regarding the procedures of the Parish Council. These are nationally approved. Thurlestone Parish Council will be looking to hold open surgeries soon where anyone with an interest in the Parish can come and share their views. The format of the monthly meetings will not change.

It was noted that the Bantham Swoosh dates clash with Bantham Sailing Club's gala weekend. Concerns were raised about road management, which has been reviewed, and whether Bantham Estate personnel should be on hand. A further meeting with the management team is to be held.

Clerk's Report

Nomination papers for the local elections will be sent to the Parish Clerk and instructions about how to nominate a candidate are in the detailed minutes of this council meeting. Police are warning people to be on their guard after an elderly couple from Gloucester lost more than £20,000 to fraudsters this week. The couple were called by the scammers, who claimed they were police officers from the Met investigating a criminal transaction. Officers believe that other people in the county could now be targeted and are reminding family and friends to keep an eye on elderly and vulnerable loved ones.

Parish matters and councillor reports

A Coronation planning update was given that the marquee, a children's entertainer, live music, PA system and road traffic management have been booked and finances remain within budget.

Cllr Rufus Gilbert reported that the Thurlestone Bus Service has been saved during weekdays although it is understood the weekend service will be stopped.

Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long reported there are discounts & premiums available in respect of business rates for selected hospitality businesses. This is available for one year only, full details are available on the South Hams District Council website.

South Hams District Council have now officially adopted the Armed Forces covenant. The Budget for 2023/24 was endorsed at Council on 16 Feb, this included all the town and parish precepts.

Precepting Authority	Band D 2023/24	£ Increase	% Increase
South Hams District Council	£185.42	£5.00	2.77%
Devon County Council & Adult Social Care	£1,419.21	£46.62	4.99%
	£214.92	£31.05	
Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner	£261.56	£15.00	6.08%
Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue	£96.79	£5.00	5.45%
Average Parishes/Towns	£83.29	£3.22	4.02%
TOTAL:	£2,261.19	£105.89	4.91%

South Hams District Council has allocated an extra £50k of discretionary discounts to help struggling residents. Grants are likely to be small, please direct anyone experiencing financial difficulties to the Council website.

Cllr Long and Cllr Julian Brazil's proposal that public conveniences should no longer be charged for across the South Hams has been approved by the Executive.

Details of street sweeping will be available shortly and new refuse routes and waste bins are being reviewed.

The garden waste collection scheme commenced here on 15th March. Those taking part in the scheme have been provided with the relevant stickers and if you do not want to retain your brown bins you can log onto SHDC site and request their removal.

Cllr Ryan-Carter updated on the creation of the wildflower area outside the church. It will take approximately three years to be established. Also, that a compost survey has been created to gauge demand for community composting.

Planning and Tree Matters

0322/23/HHO, 31 Court Park, Thurlestone, proposed extensions and general refurbishment **Support - with conditions regarding glass and landscaping.**

4405/22/HHO, 24 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, alterations & modifications including external access steps, extension to first floor terrace, new glass balustrade & privacy screen, installation of photovoltaic solar panels & air source heat pump **Support - with concerns regarding the wood burning stove.**

0412/23/HHO, 21 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, proposed infill extension, internal alterations & modifications to dwelling & garage, porch extension, replacement first floor balcony, modifications to existing openings & installation of decked area **Support.**

0365/23/NMM, Bolt View Glebe Field, Thurlestone, Minor amendment to planning consent 0921/21/VAR to extend garage by 1m & install solar PV panels on roof. **Objection.**

b) South Hams District Council Decisions

1017/22/HHO, 24 Court Park, Thurlestone, Devon TQ7 3LX, **Planning Inspectorate Appeal Decision: Dismissed.**

3954/22/FUL, Cowrie House, Ilbert Road. **Conditional Approval.**

4169/22/HHO, Byeways, Thurlestone. **Conditional Approval.**

4175/22/HHO, Warren House, Thurlestone. **Conditional Approval.**

4421/22/TPO, T79: Grove Cottages, Ash & Alder. **Tree Works Allowed.**



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Parish Hall News

by
Alison Daily



There is so much to tell you this time. Firstly I have the exciting news to report that we have welcomed (after a long wait) our new Chair, Malcolm Breton, who has agreed to take on the role.

Here are a few brief words from him, the complete version can be found on the Thurlestone Parish Hall Facebook page.

"I am looking forward to my new role as Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee and to working with the very well-established team who have been doing a brilliant job over recent years. It is a fantastic resource for the Parish and I hope to help to promote it's use for a wider range of activities and events".

That's not all, I am also pleased to inform you we have appointed Ingrid French to take over the role of Booking Clerk from Diane Martin. Ingrid is taking to her new role with gusto and we hope she will be kept busy with all the activities going on in the hall. The Committee welcomes them both and looks forward to working alongside both of them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Diane for all her hard work over the last 10 years in bringing a variety of groups and classes to the hall and handling all other bookings, I'm happy to say Diane will remain on the Committee.

In our quest to make the hall more welcoming, the replacement benches which I mentioned last time are now in situ, but you should also notice two new planters either side of the memorial bench, these have been planted up to produce all year-round interest and colour. Our thanks go to our resident horticulturist Sue Dwyer who was ably assisted by Anna Stern and Caro Mellor, also Dave Gibby who helped put them in position and fill them with compost. We are excited to see how they grow over the year and hope you will be too.

Activities at the hall are gathering pace. On 31st March we'll have held what we hope will be a regular Games Night, where traditional games such as skittles, darts, pool and dominoes, to name a few, can be played whilst enjoying a drink, alongside possibly some musical entertainment.

On April 22nd the award-winning POTS film 'The Land of the Five Beaches' will be shown, which is a history of the Parish that was so good it won a Royal Television Society award. POTS used the talents of David Smeeton, a resident of Thurlestone at the time who'd retired from the BBC after a 30-year career. It also contains clips from another TV film called "Village People" filmed in the 1950s – 1960s just before the Parish was about to change dramatically with extensive new development. For those of us who have moved to the parish since we'll be able to see how much it has changed.

The month of May brings the Coronation (which many will witness for the first time) of King Charles III on the 6th. We shall be live streaming the ceremony and processions during the morning, which will be free to watch. Afterwards, if you wish to stay on, a Coronation Buffet of cheese, paté and wine will be available. All are welcome, dig out your patriotic attire and come along and join us.

On Monday 8th May following the coronation, is the Big Help Out, a day dedicated to good causes in the community, we are looking for volunteers to come along to help tidy up the outside area of the hall such as weeding and raking the gravel. If you would like to help, please come along about 2pm when you will be given your duties.

Finally, on Tuesday 30th May is our annual Family Fun Event, which is great for all generations and gives the whole family the opportunity to participate in various

activities during the evening such as kurling, golf, table tennis and many more. We are pleased to announce that the wonderful Aune Valley on the Road trailer will provide the food this year. Hopefully there will be something for everyone and we very much look forward to welcoming you all again.

As you can see there is much going on and is just the beginning of what we hope will be a more diverse and successful future.

Below is a round up of our regular classes:

Weekly Groups at the Parish Hall (April / May 2023)

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Contact for Price and Availability</u>
Monday	10:30 – 12:30	Stitch & Bitch	Sally – 01548 561356
	14:15 – 15:15	Yoga-Wise Warrior's	Diane – 01548 560070
	17:00 – 18:00	Yoga-Fitness	Saffron - 07840 788511
Tuesday	09:00 – 10:00	Yoga	Suzi – 07557 334802
	14:00 – 15:00	Power Hour	Sarah – 07879 627939
	<i>Sept-March</i> 11:00 – 13:00	Art Class	Suzi – 07557 334802
Wednesday	09:30 – 10:30	Pilates	Marianne – 01548 531413
	14:00 – 15:15	Line Dancing	Sharron – 07818 410017
	18:15 – 22:00	Bridge	Sue – 01548 550348
Thursday	09:15 – 10:15	Yoga	Lisa – 01548 560505
	13:30 – 15:30	French Lessons	Sarah – 07879 627939
	18:00 – 19:00	Boot Camp	Angela – 07749 493931
	19:30 – 21:00	Table Tennis	Suzi – 07557 334802
Friday	16:00 – 17:00	Badminton	Paul – 07866 802800
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READER: Peter Gornall



EASTERTIDE AND THE CORONATION

On the surface at Paschontide the Church may appear to go into introspective mode, Christians examining themselves in the light of the suffering, torture and death of Jesus. After the anniversary of the war in Ukraine, it can be said and shown how much more happens in terms of bringing to the foot of the Cross the dreadful lies gripping several entire nations, the murderous forces released, the economic disaster for poor people and many other consequences. These thoughts and calculations are not abandoned there while we retreat into limp helplessness. Rather, we look forward to Easter and the power of Jesus's resurrection both to arm the challenge against evil and to engine the support and rehabilitation of those most dreadfully suffering the repercussions.

Imagine what leap of faith and drive of energy will be required to help the people of Russia come to terms with the terrible suppression of truth which has overwhelmed almost all honest opposition to the violence. Unity of purpose has much to offer in underpinning such faith. The energy has to come from reliance on power above and beyond ourselves.

We can gather that kind of strength at one particular point in the coming Coronation Service, and reflecting how appropriately it will be held in the season of Easter. Of course there will be the razzmatazz and thrill of the actual crowning, the shouts of "Vivat Rex" and the donning of coronets by royalty and peers. Before that, in the most private and holy part of the ceremony, the Archbishop will anoint King Charles' head, breast and hands: an act in which all can gather together with our new King in the solidarity and sanctity of truth in thinking, of deep care for the disadvantaged and of boldness of action. Surely this is a moment to turn to God in fervent prayer that Jesus's reign will be seen and felt in the temporal reign of our monarch; and by practical endeavour will be felt widely within and beyond this small earthly kingdom. This is a good time for that unity of purpose and for strengthening ourselves in the power of Easter.

Every Blessing and Happy Easter!

**Everyone is welcome to join us on
SUNDAY MAY 7TH 11.10am
A Service to Celebrate
the Coronation of King Charles III**



**MONDAY MAY 8TH 10am – Noon
Could you spare a little time to help
Spring Clean the Church?**

More information nearer the time from thurlallsaints@btinternet.com, posters or www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church.html





All Saints' Diary

Churchwarden: Liz Webb 560090, Mike Hodges 561124

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

Sunday Services

MAY 7 (BCP) APRIL 16, MAY 21 (CW)	8.00am Holy Communion (said) (Note change)
APRIL 2, 16, MAY 21	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)
EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) 11.10am Easter Family Communion
APRIL 23, MAY 28	11.10am Morning Worship
APRIL 30	11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Churchstow
MAY 7	11.10am Coronation Celebration Service
MAY 14	11.30am Rogation Service at S Milton (see posters)

Weekday Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 6	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham 6.30pm Benefice Eucharist at South Milton
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7	1.30pm Benefice Good Friday Service
ASCENSION DAY THURS MAY 18	11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Thurlestone
THURSDAY MAY 4 OR 11	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham
EVERY WEDNESDAY	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)



YouTube

Sunday Services led by the Revd. Daniel Hartley

www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html

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

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WEDNESDAYS
10.30 - 11.30am



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Please use **CHURCH CAR PARK** when attending the Church or Meeting Room



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See also www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church.html

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Soaring costs are affecting people here and around the world.

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See: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

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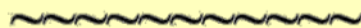
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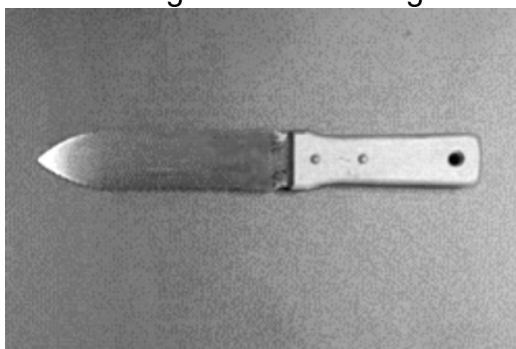
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OUR GARDEN

March 2023

This is the first week of March and winter has returned with a vengeance with lovely sunny weather but an extremely cold wind making gardening outside unpleasant. Tall daffodils are being battered rather than just swaying in the breeze, and the lovely display of snowdrops at the bottom of the garden is prematurely being brought to an end. The vigorous Alstroemeria now 30 cms tall are showing signs of wind burn as the lovely green leaves are turning brown. These are due to be cut down and divided so this matters little. Over the last few years I have removed most tall daffodils and replaced them with short varieties, these seem to withstand the wind much better. However, I have kept St Patrick's Day which is always in flower on the 17th March; this is about 30 cms tall and has a dark yellow rim to the lemon yellow flower trumpet. I suppose this is for sentimental reasons of my husband's Irish ancestry.

A couple of weeks ago I received a belated Xmas present from my sister. I opened the package to find a Hori Hori and she was surprised I knew what this was. I will explain about this tool as you may not have heard of it. My gardener Jeff arrived with one about a year ago and said it was the new 'must have' tool for gardeners. He showed me what I thought was (and is) a dagger, a wooden handled, long steel pointed blade with serrated edges. I thought this to be a very dangerous tool and could be used to stab someone if acquired by the wrong person. He told me it was used for weeding, planting bulbs, removing runners of couch grass and dividing clumps of plants. Mine has inch and centimetre markings on the blade to show depth. A Hori Hori is a Japanese trowel, described as an all-round weeder, bulb planter supreme and general subterranean rummager. Hori Hori in Japanese means "dig dig". The blade is made of carbon steel which runs into the handle, so it is strong and tough. The tool is stored in a leather sheath and certainly not to be taken in any airport hand luggage. I tried it out in the garden and certainly it was very good for removing weeds, much better than the two pronged weeder. Much more of the offending root is removed and if the soil is not compacted often the whole root is removed. I have planted some green snowdrops and knew exactly how deep they were planted, and was able to remove a few long runners of couch grass that had appeared in the borders.



In the main border, the first clump of perennials to flower in mid-February were Pulmonaria, a large mass of small pink and blue flowers hitting the eye as I walked down the garden.

Pulmonarias are part of the Boraginaceae family containing borage and forget-me-nots. They all have hairy leaves, and there are about 2,000 species of trees, shrubs and herbs in this group. They are commonly known as Lungworts, named after the mottled leaves of some species which were thought to resemble a diseased lung (pulmonary). Lungworts were traditionally used to treat lung infections, to little affect. The leaves are usually green with white/silvery spots with some having silver leaves with an edge of green. These spots are air pockets masking the appearance of chlorophyll in the leaves, creating the foliar patterns that we enjoy as gardeners. The logical conclusion is that cultivars with more silver in the leaves should be able to tolerate more heat and possibly sun. These days they're grown for their shade tolerance, attractive leaves (despite resembling diseased lungs) and bee-friendly flowers. I found out in a recent article about bees from the RHS that lungworts are

particularly associated with the hairy-footed flower bee, *Anthophora Plumipes*. I keep looking with interest to see this bee and have seen several large bumble bees collecting nectar in the last few days. *Pulmonaria* are low-growing, spring-flowering herbaceous plants that thrive in shade and provide excellent ground cover to prevent weeds, although my first clump to flower is in an exposed place. There are many species of *Pulmonaria* with eight known to be cultivated. *Pulmonaria officinalis*, *P. angustifolia* and *P. saccharata* are a few, as well as many hybrids featuring different flower colours – typically blue, pink, or white – and different leaf patterning.

Most of the *Pulmonarias* I have, I have had for years, in fact the first was given to me by a patient and I have been retired 27 years. These days I take much more care about names of plants and I have a white one named *Pulmonaria Sissinghurst* after the famous Kent garden, the buds are pink and the flowers open as white, ideal for a dark corner in a flower bed as the flowers really stand out. Most *Pulmonaria* flowers open pink and as they age turn blue. After spring flowering it is best to cut the plant back and then the leaves will grow into a tidy mound which down here will keep the leaves all winter and continue acting as ground cover all year.

Other good ground cover plant is the perennial geranium; some lose their leaves in winter and are just emerging into view. There are many varieties and colours and they love being in full sun. The low growing ones are best for ground cover. One I especially like is *G. Elke*, this is related to *G. Sanguineum* also known as Bloody Cranesbill. *G. Elke* has pinky lilac flowers with a white rim growing to about 20cms in height and spread. I also have a white variety *G. Sanguineum Alba* which is more vigorous than *Elke*. The taller varieties ramble through other plants, and I have *G. Patricia* with magenta flowers and covers any bare soil, Blue varieties are *G. Johnson's Blue*, *G. Rozanne* which is sterile so flowers all summer, and *G. Rosemoor* has lovely veined deep blue/purple flowers.

Last year I purchased four types of *Epimediums* as ground cover for the woodland area at the bottom of the garden. I was very impressed with the *Epimediums* which I saw visiting Wildside last August. If you do not know this garden it is well worth a visit and you can combine the visit with the Garden House at Buckland Monachorum near Yelverton. Wildside opens about 4 days a fortnight so check online before you go. Keith Wiley who created this garden starting in 2004 was the head gardener at the Garden House. He is always very happy to answer questions. I told him I had just bought some *Epimediums* and he said he would be surprised if they would grow here in Thurlestone. I think he was correct as the plants have lost all their leaves, I have read flower spikes should be shooting now but there is nothing. I remember the words again of Beth Chatto, "right plant right place". I have not given up hope but I think these words will prove to be correct.

However, more of a success story, I bought three *Omphalodes Cappadocica* "Cherry Ingram" and these have thrived flowering all last spring and summer and now forming nice clumps of ground cover with the lovely bright blue flowers just emerging.

Coming back from my dog walk this morning I observed the foxtail lily I bought last year was just emerging as a 10 cms diameter green hump from the soil. I am so excited as the last time I grew these years ago they lasted one season. I bought this variety *Eremurus Robustus* and wrote about how well it flowered in the first season, in a previous article, and how I hoped it would establish itself in the back of the border. So I think my wish has come true. I cannot remember the soil being so dry at this time of year. Camellias look parched with their leaves slightly curled. *Thalictrums* are shooting new leaves but they are not growing, just remain looking stunted. So hopefully we will have rain later this week as the garden is in desperate need of water.

I am spending most of my time potting up plants, which have been produced by dividing up perennials, a task which should be done every 4/5 years. By doing this the central part of the plant which is tired can be discarded. The outer rim is divided again and parts put back. However inevitably pieces get left, and rather than discard

these I pot them up to go on, so I have a constant supply of plants to give to plant stalls during the year. One plant that requires this done yearly is the original Alstroemerias I bought in 1996. These clumps need halving in size every year therefore if anyone wants any, please come and see me and I will give you a clump as I am overrun with them.

Walking around this week, the things of note are that the later Camellias are in flower; some still to start; Hellebores are in full flower as are Pulmonarias; Hyacinths and of note the pale blue Irises are so early this year. I always associate these with Easter. Peonies are all appearing plus roses are shooting new growth with the first Alliums already having their flower buds about to break open. So it is good to look forward to the spring. This is uplifting and shows life goes on after a few sad months of losing several good friends and acquaintances from the village this winter.

On a brighter note, my husband has a tip for those who eat oranges, and own an Aga and a wood/coal fire = Leave orange peels in the low oven for 24 hours and they make amazing fire lighters. Clever man!

Sue Dwyer



ARTS SOCIETY KINGSBRIDGE forthcoming meetings 2023

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“Pensioners’ Ping Pong”

Pat MacDonald’s generous donation to Thurlestone’s Table Tennis Club ensures Robin Macdonald’s legacy continues to thrive.

Back when the rebuilt Parish Hall opened in 2005, a lot of new sports equipment was purchased at the same time to be used by the local community. Some of this equipment languished there for several years unused. The late Robin Macdonald spied the table tennis table and was motivated to start up a table tennis group for fun and exercise.

As most of our residents were then in their latter years, he thought a good and humorous name would be "Pensioners Ping Pong". Robin coerced five "mature" players initially in those early days, which led to a further "second hand" table being obtained.

Robin sadly passed away in 2018, but the club’s membership has since flourished, including younger players. Therefore the group’s name has evolved to be a little more inclusive.

The “Thurlestone Table Tennis Club” continues and is now run by Paul Ferguson.

That old second-hand table is now very tired. Our current members thought it was time to replace it with a new good quality one to match the existing table, paying out of its own funds if possible. Pat Macdonald, Robin’s wife, heard of our need and generously offered to buy a new table in memory of her husband Robin. The club gratefully accepted, and in commemoration of Robin we have had a plaque engraved, which is attached to the lovely new table which now resides in the Parish Hall.

Many heartfelt and grateful thanks go to Pat for her generous gift, and this means Robin’s name lives on with the enjoyment of table tennis for our community into the future.



In Memory of
ROBIN MACDONALD
who founded the
Thurlestone Parish Table Tennis Club
and
PAT MACDONALD
for her generous donation
of this table to continue the enjoyment
of the game for the community.

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From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

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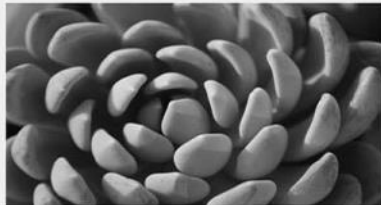
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Aune Conservation Association

Devon Avon Pollution versus Biodiversity

These days we hear and read a lot about biodiversity, usually in the context of the impact of climate change or invasive species.

However, the influence of humans on biodiversity extends beyond climate to the effects of many of our other activities. As far as the

Devon Avon or Aune is concerned, we are fortunate amongst the rivers and estuaries of the South Hams, in that there are few commercial operations affecting water quality and biodiversity directly - apart from the disposal of sewage into the water via Combined Sewage Overflows (CSOs), which is the discharge of surface water and sewage together after heavy rainfall.

The problem here is that the practice of allowing sewage overflows into our river has been going on, relatively unchallenged, for centuries and it is therefore difficult to assess its topical impact on biodiversity – what unpolluted baseline should be used for comparison? What would our river look like without these CSO releases; what biodiversity targets should be the goal? What biological standards should SWW be made to uphold as part of their current consultation on management of their water resources? Comparison with other rivers is difficult because conditions vary between rivers, and even on different stretches of the same river. The upper reaches of the Avon, running off acidic moorland, are quite different from lower stretches where water and sediment run-off from agricultural land is important. As elsewhere, historical records of fish catches in the river show that there has been a dramatic decline in the number of salmon, in particular, in our river. Recent anecdotal accounts from the Avon Fishing Association (AFA) supports that position, but there are many well documented influences on these fish numbers beyond what happens in the river itself. What about other species of animals and plants? Comprehensive species records are few and far between but to assess how biodiversity might be changing requires thorough, quantitative baseline studies.

Fortunately, there is a tried and tested method of assessing river water quality involving an examination of the bottom-dwelling macro-invertebrate population. These invertebrates - of which there are about 4000 species are widespread in freshwater, they do not move far, they are very responsive to changes in water quality and the habitat's physical characteristics, and their variety differs from site to site and river to river. Very importantly, their occurrence is predictable according to the extent of organic pollution and it may be monitored easily by kick-sampling. This is a useful method for collecting these invertebrates from shallow waters and is one of the key techniques used in monitoring distribution. Kick-sampling involves agitating the stones or sediment of a river or stream by foot and catching the sample in a sturdy hand net that is held downstream. Stones and logs can also be washed off carefully into the net and samples are usually taken both from faster flowing and still areas of the river. The sample is rinsed out of the net into a tray full of water for sorting and identification. However, kick-sampling is primarily a qualitative technique to look at species diversity or presence/absence, but quantitative measures can be imposed to limit the sampling area and sampling time in order to compare different sampling sites. The most sensitive invertebrates are insects like stonefly and mayfly larvae, which feature at the top of a gradually declining sensitivity scale, down through species such as the freshwater shrimp and louse-like organisms, to true fly larvae and more pollution-tolerant species such as mud-dwelling worms.

Against this background, last year the Aune Conservation Association (ACA) was very pleased to receive a request for modest financial support for a so-called 'BioBlitz', from a group in Loddiswell wishing to hold a special event to assess species variation in that part of the Avon Valley, including the river. Fiona Van Es (pictured kick-sampling),



ably assisted by Nigel Mortimer and others, identified a wide variety of plant and animal species in their survey. In the river they found mayfly and stonefly nymphs, caddis fly larvae and freshwater shrimps, suggesting that the water quality around the sampling site was not badly polluted at the time of sampling.

The Loddiswell and AFA findings, suggesting that specific parts of the main river may be quite healthy, need to be reconciled with the surprisingly extensive Combined Storm Overflow (CSO) discharges into the river from South Brent to Aveton Gifford; in 2021 there were 282 overflows, totalling 1708 hours (see table) and there is no reason to suspect that these releases were atypical of what goes on all the time, including the decades gone by! The discharges were most prolonged from the South Brent Water Treatment Works, but were also high from the Moorleigh (Torr Brook) Sewage Treatment Works. More frequent kick-sampling closer to discharge points and at times of high and low river flow rates would be of interest.

I am hoping that somebody from SWW will come along to the 23rd March AEF to explain how the new 'Water Fit' policy in their Water Resources Management Plan will find expression on the Avon. That policy promises to:

- nurture healthy rivers and seas
- reduce their impact on rivers by one third by 2025
- target zero harm by 2030
- reduce spills from storm overflows to an average of 20 per year by 2025
- target zero serious pollutions by 2025
- continue a year-on-year reduction in all pollutions.

How will the policy outcomes and effects upon biodiversity be assessed? Maybe SWW would be willing to fund more extensive, quantitative kick-sampling in the river, including at sites closer to CSO releases?

Watch this space!

Stuart Watts, Chairman ACA

Thurlestone Phonebox

There is definitely a touch of Spring in the air !

We hope you have enjoyed the decorations in the Phone Box throughout the winter months. Our decorations for Valentine's Day were really enhanced by Caro's beautiful heart shaped wreath and flowers. I am so lucky to have so many talented and willing people on the Phone Box Committee, it certainly makes my job a bit easier. Paul is currently constructing a new flagpole to replace the old one which sadly was vandalised. We hope to have our flags flying again by Easter!

We have been busy organising decorations for the Coronation in May. We are hoping the children from All Saints Primary will be involved and would really like the local community to contribute as well if possible. As we did with the Platinum Jubilee we'd like to create a lovely flower display around the Phone Box. We had some beautiful pots donated last year, so if you would like to donate a red, white and blue flower arrangement in a pot for the Coronation celebrations, we would be very grateful. We are planning to decorate the Phone Box on 28th April so pots can be left by the phone box around this time and collected shortly after 6th May, whenever suits you.

We now have a good selection of children's books, many thanks to all those who have donated.

We are hoping to encourage a new generation of readers!

Mary Horne



Photographs by Matt Bright

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With the school year now past it's half way mark, and spring in full swing, All Saints is a hive of activities and learning. There's much to look forward to, especially with Easter just around the corner.

We have a new and exciting football league here at the school! All through the spring and summer terms, our teams will be battling it out. Made up of mixed age groups across the school, those involved are playing with great enthusiasm for the honour of lifting the coveted All Saints' Premier League Cup, and the winners will be crowned at the end of the year.

As always, we are keen to support fundraising for national appeals, and in March the children choreographed a special weekly 'Wake Up, Shake Up' singing and movement session to get our circulation flowing. Children and parents alike took part, red noses and all! Their donations will go towards easing poverty across the UK and the world.

The Friends Of Thurlestone School parents group are holding their annual Easter Egg hunt, much loved by the children, with chocolate eggs donated from the funds raised throughout the year by our parents. We are also delighted to be attending our Easter service at the church just before we break up for the holidays.

The children's author P.G. Bell was warmly welcomed and inspired our budding authors with his encouragement, and special book signing. We will be holding another author visit for the younger children in April.

Talking of the younger ones, our nursery is off to the theatre in Plymouth at the end of term, to watch the timeless classic story of The Tiger Who Came To Tea.

Our older children are also off to Plymouth, to reinforce their learning with a visit to the Islamic Centre. In April we are lucky to be welcoming the RNLI to show us some of their equipment, and talk to the children about the important job they do around our coastline.

With the Coronation Celebration for King Charles on the horizon, there will be cream teas aplenty, with the children and parents getting involved in baking and contributing the necessary supplies to get the party underway!

Some of you may have seen the children on their way to and from Forest or Beach School each week. These outdoor sessions teach the children so much about the seasons and our natural world, and give them time to explore and create in some of our wonderful countryside and coast.

We have recently changed our forest school site, but I would like to say, on behalf of the whole school, a huge thank you to the Parker-Swifts who have been hosting our forest sessions until now. All the children absolutely loved exploring your woodland, so a huge thank you for the access you have kindly given them over the years.

Finally, one of our green-fingered parents has started up a Gardening Club! Using the small and overgrown garden in the playing field, an army of keen growers has been transforming it into a wonderful new vegetable patch and flower garden. This has proved to be very popular, so if any of you more experienced gardeners in the village find yourselves with too many seedlings (as can happen!) or seeds, compost or pots over the coming months, we would be very happy to give them a home. Donations are hugely appreciated and can be left in the box provided in the school entrance hall.

Emma Richards

Good News – Rough Times for Pollinators!

Update on the biodiversity project at Thurlestone Golf Course

by local Ecologist, Fiona van Es



'Rough times for pollinators' may sound like terrible news, however, for bees, hoverflies and other pollinating insects of the South Devon coastline, there are good times coming, particularly within Thurlestone Golf Club's grassland 'roughs'.

After preliminary plant surveys in three trial areas on the far side of the course, followed by seed bed monitoring of cleared patches, an informed decision was taken to introduce native wildflower seed suitable for the exposed location of the cliffs. So, on a perfect, still and sunny morning last October, I gathered buckets, rake, string and seeds, and met up with John Mahood, current Men's Captain, keen naturalist and on this occasion, buggy driver and invaluable 'wingman', watching out for rogue golf balls.

Over the next few hours, we raked soil, sub-divided plots and hand-broadcast seed (mixed with sand to make it easier to judge coverage). Then came the fun bit: bedding seed into the loose soil by driving backwards and forwards over the plot! By the time I finished the final one, John had left for another commitment and the sky was beginning to tinge red. After bedding in the last of the scattered seed, I had to navigate my way back to the car park and clubhouse without crossing any of the pristine greens with the buggy. If you were one of the people who helped direct me that evening, thank you!

In May, John and I returned to check which plants had come up so far and I was pleased to see some encouraging early signs. All three plots were flushed with fresh green stems of Crested Dog's Tail, a delicate meadow grass which grows in tufts rather than dense mats, creating an open, sheltered environment where slower-germinating wildflower seeds can establish. Already, rosettes of Ox-eye Daisy were evident and vibrant blue spikes of Viper's Bugloss flowered in the most seaward of the plots. One of the mixes included arable species, resulting in flamboyant displays of Poppies, Cornflowers and Corn Marigolds. Alas, these opportunistic species are only good for a year or two of colour whilst soil remains exposed.

This autumn, we revisited to see how the sites had fared after the rigours of an exceptionally hot, dry summer. Green shoots of several new species from the sown mixes were evident and rosettes of the early germinating species had spread, ready to flower next summer. Strangely, almost no Yellow Rattle was found; an attractive semi-parasitic wildflower, known as the 'Meadow Maker' as it takes nutrients from around the roots of nearby grasses. This helps create gaps in the grassland canopy, allowing other wildflowers to thrive with increased light and reduced competition. Fresh rattle seed was added into raked-off patches so hopefully this will come through and work its magic next season.

It is an exciting time for our local coastal grasslands with the launch of South Devon AONB's Life on the Edge project. This multi-partner, Heritage Lottery funded project, is aimed at protecting and raising awareness about some of our most threatened pollinator species with events and activities planned over the next few years. Thurlestone Golf Club has already made a fantastic start in increasing essential nectar hubs for pollinators and will be engaging with the Life on the Edge Project to share experience and benefit from the expertise they offer. Next summer, the trial plots in the roughs should be a picture of yellow and white as Kidney Vetch and Ox-eye Daisy open their petals, advertising the sweet treats within to pollinators of the coastal cliffs.



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TRIED AND TASTED

Gluten and Dairy Free Cookies

Prep 15 mins, Cook 15 mins

Ingredients:

100g caster sugar

100g light brown sugar

120g dairy free butter or Hard block of Stork, melted

1 large egg

1/2 tsp vanilla extract

300g gluten free plain flour

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda

Optional - 160g chocolate chips (I use Bournville buttons smashed up) or sultanas



Mix together the light brown sugar, caster sugar and the melted butter until it all comes together and is fully combined. Add your egg and vanilla extract to the bowl mixing until combined. In a separate bowl, add your gluten free flour, bicarbonate of soda, salt and briefly mix. Add your flour mix to your original bowl and mix till combined. Add the chocolate chips or Sultanas and give them a good mix in so they are dispersed evenly. Cover your bowl and chill in the fridge for about 45 minutes. Heat your oven to 170C and cover a couple of baking trays with non-stick baking paper. Remove your cookie dough from the fridge and roll your dough into balls (about the size of a golf ball) and place them on your trays. The cookies will spread a little so leave some gaps between them. Place into the preheated oven for 15 minutes (they should have flattened out to look more like cookies and be a lovely golden colour). Remove from the oven and leave to cool on the baking tray before moving them.

This recipe also works using normal flour and/or butter if you don't need to be Gluten and/or Dairy Free.

Mediterranean Traybake

The nicest thing about traybakes is that they are both versatile and they require minimum effort.

Serves 4 Prep 5 mins, Cook 35 mins

2 red peppers cut into chunks

4 cloves garlic

Salt and freshly ground pepper

40g bulgur wheat

100g feta cheese

300g cherry tomatoes whole

2 tablespoons olive oil

40g pine nuts

400ml vegetable stock

Flat leaf- parsley, basil or other soft herbs

Preheat the oven to 180c fan / 200c / gas 6.

Place red peppers, cherry tomatoes, and garlic cloves in a large deep roasting tin, drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place in a preheated oven and roast for 15 mins. Scatter over the pine nuts and return to the oven for a further 5 mins.

Tip the bulgur wheat into the roasting tin and gently stir it through the peppers and tomatoes. Add the stock and mix well so the bulgur wheat is submerged. Cover tightly with foil and return to the oven for a further 15 mins.

Remove the foil and scatter the feta cheese and herbs over the salad. Taste, and season as needed, serve hot.

BOOKSHELF

SISTERS OF VELLANGOOSE By Elaine Singer

Elaine Singer was born in Cornwall and has lived and worked there all her life. She is now retired and lives near Falmouth with her husband and their two Labrador dogs. She took up creative writing after retiring and has now penned her first novel, *Sisters of Vellangoose*. Her love of Cornwall comes through clearly in her storytelling.

This is a very well written book, and I found it hard to put down as the story unfolds. It is set in Cornwall in the modern day and the descriptions of the countryside and characters make you feel as though you are really there and a part of it all.

Submissive housewife Becky, a very keen cook, and Abi, a feisty single parent of three, are unaware of each other's existence until their biological father Henry Williams dies. He leaves them Vellangoose, a dilapidated smallholding in Cornwall. When both women find themselves homeless, living together at Vellangoose seems like their only option, but there is a lot of work to do to make it habitable. There are financial conditions attached to their father's Trust, so they are forced to use their bartering skills to survive. This they are determined to do, much to the annoyance of Henry's wealthy widow Veronica Williams. Veronica wants Vellangoose for herself and is willing to do whatever is necessary to get it. But why is she so desperate to gain ownership of Vellangoose? Will Becky and Abi be able to overcome their many differences to find out what her real motives are and retain their inheritance? No secret can stay hidden forever...

This first novel Elaine has written has a great plot with a surprising twist.... a real page turner that will keep you enthralled until the end. I'm looking forward to reading her second novel when it's published.

Viv Gibby



Postbag



Dear Editors,

You may perhaps know already that the Rotary Quiz night resulted in the excellent total of £1620 for "End Polio Now". We are so grateful to all who supported us and it is noteworthy that Bill Gates will double that sum.

The other thing is that on the night, the hall did have a lot of quizzers who were not from Thurlestone (Rotarians from two clubs, U3A and others), and I got the clear message that they felt that Thurlestone was a very welcoming place.

Thanks very much for all your previous help getting the quiz publicised.

Best wishes

Peter Gornall

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Pothole Peril

It's no surprise that some of the parish's roads have suffered a battering over the winter resulting in the large numbers of potholes and defects appearing, as well as the perennial problem of flooding in the usual areas. Parish councillors recently met with our Devon County member Rufus Gilbert, and our Highway Locality Officer for this area, Adam, to talk over some of the problems. Whilst there are no quick fixes, the meeting was a positive one and our concerns were taken seriously. That said, Devon County is facing budget pressures along with all public sector services and needs to be prudent with its spending. The resurfacing of the main road through Thurlestone last year was welcomed, but if you are a West Buckland resident, you will know the state of the road particularly between the Chapel and Bantham village is particularly terrible. There have been some temporary repairs as well as some patching work recently, but a re-surface is scheduled for some time in 2024 all things being well.

Rufus re-iterated the importance of residents being the eyes and ears of the road network, and to report any problems to the council on line. This is something many of us do regularly with varying degrees of success, but a top tip is even if a pothole has already been reported online (and you can usually see this on the interactive map), you can add your name which seems to bump it up the list. To be considered for repair, a pothole has to be at least 4cm deep, 30cm wide and have a vertical edge. A photo helps if you can manage it and a precise location. You can also report other things like flooding, blocked drains, debris and broken signs. Here is the website address, www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem. If you don't have access to the internet, you could ask a friend, neighbour or your local councillor.

“Whilst there are no quick fixes, the meeting was a positive one and our concerns were taken seriously”

“Devon County is facing budget pressures and needs to be prudent with its spending”

The flooding at the bottom of the hill between Thurlestone and West Buckland is an on-going problem, and again is scheduled in the 'works calendar' to clear the culverts and hopefully bring a longer term solution. We also brought to their attention the smaller but often occurring pool of water around the corner on the lower lane towards Grove Cottages. Rufus and Adam pointed out that landowners also have a responsibility to make sure that any debris or mud on their land which is blocking a watercourse naturally draining, should be cleared by the landowner. Councillor Gilbert is also very aware of the continual flooding at the top of the Thurlestone Road on the way out to the A379. Again, we heard re-assuring messages from our county officials about this and we will continue to lobby for a longer term solution.

Finally, we spoke about the serious issue of speeding vehicles through our three villages. We made a bid last year to have a 20mph speed limit introduced but were unsuccessful, likely due to the sheer volume of bids received. We also asked about a VAS (vehicle activated speed) sign like the ones you have probably seen in Churchstow and Malborough. This is a possibility but hard evidence is needed to show there is a speeding issue. To this end, Adam has given us an assurance to carry out assessments in all 3 villages to determine whether or not we would be eligible. We will continue to work with highways to determine times and locations for these to take place.

Councillors Williams, Lewis and Ryan-Carter

Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct - if you don't have all the answers, send in your entry anyway - you never know!) drawn on 1st May 2023. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@thamead.co.uk

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The answers to all these clues are types of food or drink

Eg Ear injury while playing rugby (C).....Cauliflower

1. Piano fixer (T)
2. A drink that believes in miracles (HC)
3. A bar of soap (P).....
4. Used when weight-lifting (M).....
5. Too young for guiding (B).....
6. The earl makes picnics (S).....
7. Casino snack (C)
8. Bap that stays neutral (SR).....
9. Ghostly remains after the fire (G).....
10. Teddy bear's innards (S).....
11. Leaves used to cover embarrassment (F).....
12. Sub-zero between O and Q (FP).....
13. Popeye's other half (OO).....
14. Could be a dog or a roll (S).....
15. Cowardly about being made king (CC).....
16. Doing time (P).....
17. Roman Emperor's greens (CS).....
18. Just out of the kiln (HP).....
19. Said to make you smile (C).....
20. Not an important matter (T).....
21. Latin dance (S).....
22. Effect of drug withdrawal (CT).....
23. Made muddled (E).....
24. Spying mallard (PD).....
25. Cool talker (S).....
26. Perfect French (P).....
27. Talk aimlessly (W).....

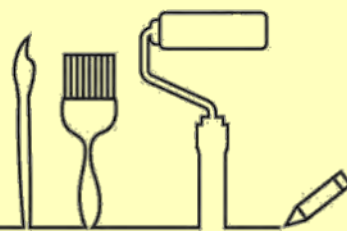
Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Gladiators 2. Bonanza 3. Treasure Hunt 4. Blue Peter 5. Pointless 6. Countdown 7. Porridge
8. Mastermind 9. Wagon Train 10. Cracker 11. Playschool 12. Masterchef 13. Crossroads
14. Dinnerladies 15. Panorama 16. Grandstand 17. Top Gear 18. Dynasty 19. Benidorm 20. Moonlighting
21. Fleabag 22. Big Brother 23. Horizon 24. Cheers 25. Bread.

There were 10 all correct entries last month. First out of the hat, and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Lucy Gunning. Commiserations to Brian Barker, Mary Barons, Graham Clack, Howard Dingley, Viv Gibby, Dave Hayward, David and Mary Horne, Lesley Kalisher and Susan Penwell.

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Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone Sustainability Group

The newly formed Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone Sustainability group has been meeting since September and hopes to help make our Parish a more sustainable place to live and work. We welcome new members, so please do come along to our monthly meeting if you can. Contact Mike at mike2.hodges@btinternet.com for more details.

You will have seen we have made a start at introducing some wildflowers near to the church in order to help increase the biodiversity in the area and we are hoping that lots of small steps like this will make a big difference to our villages.

One area where we can all contribute is in composting our green waste. To help us better understand what's currently happening in the Parish we would be really grateful if you would fill out the sustainability and composting questionnaire. You can return the paper copy inserted into this magazine to the collection box in Thurlestone Post Office.

Alternatively, please use the QR code to enter your answers directly from your phone or device.



We are really interested in your answers and want to gauge interest in a series of talks or workshops on sustainable topics. So please do let us know your thoughts and we'll share the results in the next Village Voice.

Best wishes

Anna Stern



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The Accidental Environmentalist

Saving the planet one blue tit at a time

By Adam Ryan-Carter (Environmental Parish Councillor)



On Sunday 29th January, me and the wife stood in our kitchen, binoculars poised ready to take part in the 'Big bird watch', the RSPB's annual survey to try and gauge how British garden birds are faring. The problem is that I'm no expert and as their DNA is programmed to avoid being predated, they are quick little blighters, and no sooner had I focused my binoculars than they were off again. My wife claims to have seen gold crest, wrens, blue tits, robins, great tits, blackbirds, chaffinches, a grey wagtail and even a kestrel, whereas my survey results looked something like this; **25 dicky birds and 4632 pheasants**. Now there's a bird I can recognise. Ok I might be slightly exaggerating but it definitely feels like it when they are roosting in the trees and making a cacophony of sound in the Buckland valley. When your neighbour's vegetable plot has been ravaged yet again, and there is pheasant poo all over your washing, it seems that the number of these birds is unnaturally high in our Parish, and being larger they will win over our native species in the competition for food there by skewing the natural ecology. Due to a variety of factors, we have lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the past 50 years, therefore it is more important than ever to help our smaller native garden feathered friends along and increase their chances of survival.

My wife had an ingenuous idea to help the birds line their nests and keep their chicks warm, by making our dog Muppy's hair available to them (post hair cut) in a home-made fluff dispenser. (Our dog has a quality fleece and is often mistaken for a sheep by border collies on the beach who attempt to round him up.) Before we moved here permanently and when our children were much younger, we enjoyed holidaying at 'High Corner' cottage. My daughter Joely was very proud of showing off her long-awaited new puppy with his soft blonde curls. However, when an elderly well-to-do lady approached her in the village and announced, "Your dog's fur would make a very fine hat!" she was convinced Cruella Deville was alive and well and holidaying in Thurlestone. So now let's hope it will make a 'very fine' bird's nest instead.

So, I managed to get our Christmas birdboxes up and we have one located under the shelter of the eaves of our thatched roof, which we can spy without detection through the Velux windows whilst we eat our breakfast. There was a genuine flurry of excitement from both of us when my wife first spotted the cheeky face of a blue tit in its entrance; our first potential tenant. However, the following day there seemed to be a great tit having a viewing, and then several days later a sparrow! Who will win the battle of the birdbox? Tune into the next issue of the Village Voice to find out.

We have seen a large increase in the number of birds visiting our garden this year and I am convinced this is because we have planted 14 large trees over the past 2 years. The birds now have perches from which to survey the garden and can hop from tree to tree to keep on the move but stay within the boundary, also a food source of berries and sites for roosting. We don't put out commercial bird food, as we have a thatch cottage and there is one species of nature I am not desperately keen to invite into my garden, in case they move into the loft again. Instead, my wife has picked species of plants which produce seed heads, (don't ask me what they're called) and we leave them intact over winter, we also left piles of leaves in corners for insects to thrive in. We have a very welcome goldcrest that methodically picks the aphids and spiders from the trellis outside our kitchen every morning. I'm thinking of inviting him in to tackle the spider's webs in the house but I reckon Harry our enormous resident spider, who dwells in our oak frame, would take him on in a fight.

Providing food for all levels of the food chain is key to increasing the biodiversity in our Parish. I think most people are well aware by now of the need to grow flowers and plants that attract pollinators, and I know if I am going to persuade my fellow parishioners to join me in trying to make a difference I have to lead by example. Well, when I say 'lead' I mean simply turn up when Mike Hodge's 'Sustainability group' asks for volunteers. So, one very chilly morning a few weeks ago a small but industrious band of helpers, donned their hi-vis jackets and gardening gloves, and armed with wheelbarrows and spades, cleared the large

area of turf, weeds and stones from in front of the church opposite the village green. We began to prepare the soil to lay Thurlestone's first community miniature flower meadow, hopefully beginning a craze which will spread throughout the Parish. The soil must be left for several weeks, and then weeds hoed out before the seeds are scattered around in May. However, the laying of a flower meadow is not for the impatient, as it takes at least 2 years to become established. Until then it may look a little scruffy, so please be mindful of this when you walk past. Many of you may much prefer a neat and tidy row of begonias but unfortunately bedding plants like busy lizzies, petunias, geraniums and begonias provide little or no nourishment for bees. Despite the cold I thoroughly enjoyed the physical exercise of digging and the less physical exercise of chatting. My wife and I made some new friends that day and quite often that is what volunteering is all about. The good thing about wildflowers is they thrive in poor soil so you could scatter some seed in areas where other plants might struggle. My wife and I have plans to make the top terrace of our garden into a flower meadow, but just need to persuade Mike and team to help again in exchange for a cuppa and a slice of cake!



Mike Hodges has also been busy designing a survey about compost which you will hopefully find tucked into your magazine. Please do read and return it so he can gauge local opinion for a potential 'community composting scheme.'

On a final note, I'd like to thank Linda for phoning me to point out that our 'glow worm' population had been overlooked in the 'gardening for wildlife booklet' distributed in the last issue. Be reassured Linda we will be featuring these phosphorescent beetles and other nocturnally active wildlife found in the Parish next time.

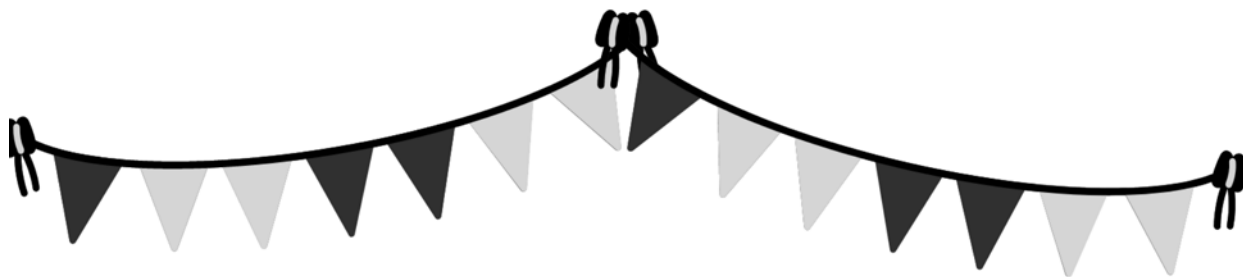
CAST YOUR MINDS BACK

In our last edition we featured a photograph of a Thurlestone School class from 1950/51 which had been sent to us from Canada by David Humphrey an ex-resident of our village. It must have sparked a few memories amongst our more mature locals!

Amazingly, we have since been contacted by another ex-Thurlestonian who is now resident in Vancouver. Jo Pleshakov (nee Turner) came to Thurlestone in 1951 along with her parents Donald and Nancy and sister Tessa. Jo was 10 years old at the time. Her father built two houses opposite Cutaway and updated the thatched cottage/barn, now known as Query, into which the family moved in 1956. During the 1960s Donald was responsible for the building of several houses in Eddystone Road one of which, "Pillars", was where he lived with his wife until their deaths in 1976.

Jo herself emigrated to Canada in 1964. She has recently unearthed some old photo's of the casts of Gilbert and Sullivan(?) productions put on by the village in the late 1950s/early 1960s. We only have room for one picture in this magazine but it will, hopefully, stir a few memories. Let us know if it does. In our June/July edition we shall try to feature two more photographs for your perusal and attempt to provide extra detail. Watch this space.....





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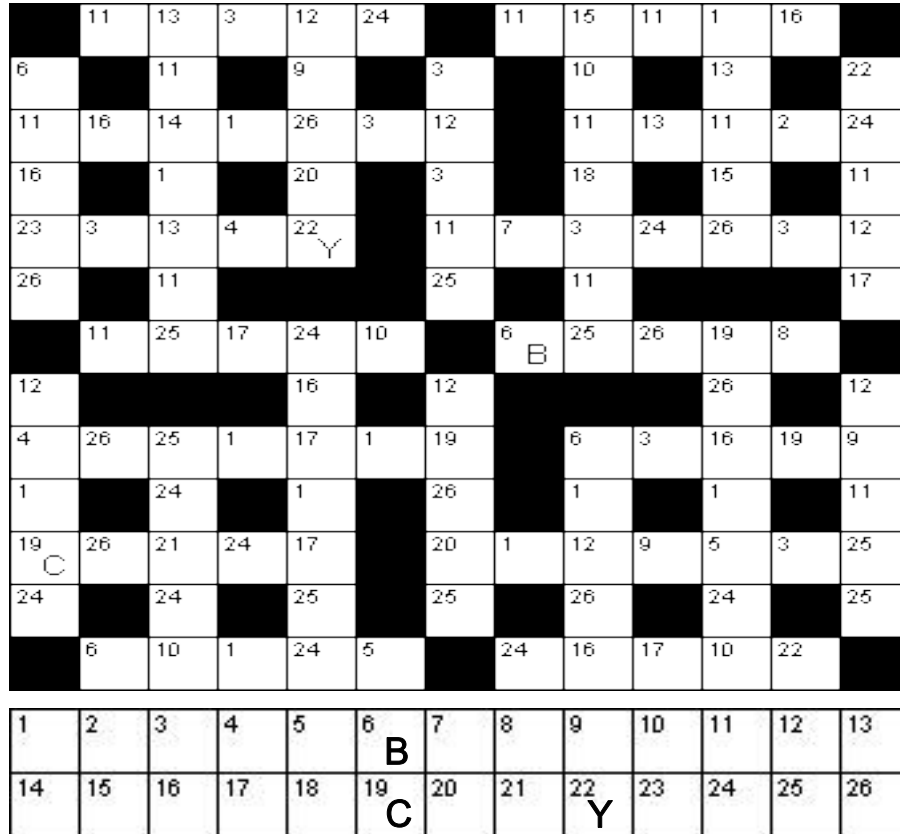
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Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st May 2023.

Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email:

cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk



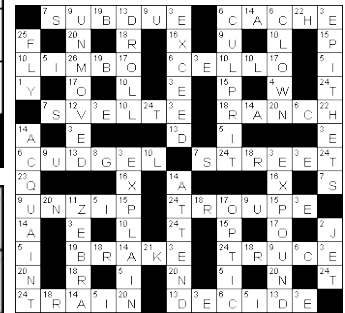
CODEWORD

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26.

Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.

Answer to last puzzle.



Sudoku - hard

		8						2
9				2		6	7	4
		2		7			1	
.		3			6		2	8
	9						6	
			2	4		3		
		9		1	7			6
8	6							1
						9	3	

Sudoku - medium

2	4			7				
		7				9	3	2
	1	8				7		
1								6
6		3		2		1	9	4
	8					3		
	3	4			8		2	
	2		6					
9			7					

There were 6 all correct entries last month. First out of the hat and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Vera Pailthorpe. Commiserations to Dave Gibby, Dave Hayward, David and Mary Horne, Pauline Lonsdale, and Neill Irwin.

Village News Round-Up

Sue Westendorp

Sue sadly passed away recently after a long illness and our condolences go to her husband Frank and son Mark. Sue played a big part in our community as was evidenced in the turnout for her funeral on 3rd March. She was instrumental in helping to organise the Church Fete for many years and was a seller extraordinaire of raffle tickets. You would see her walking around the parish with Frank often with a dog in tow whether it was their own or another they were looking after for someone else. Sue's health declined over the last few years but she remained her optimistic and smiling self until the end. Her last achievement was to get a book published 'Rainbow's End' the proceeds of which raised money for SWASAG and Mesothelioma UK. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Maureen Baker

We were saddened to hear that Maureen Baker had recently passed away. Maureen had lived in Thurlestone for over 25 years, initially with her husband John who died in 2015. She was a stalwart supporter of Village Voice and worked for many years as a collator and deliverer of our magazine. Maureen was often to be seen out and about, walking the lanes and footpaths around the village. She always carried a small cache of doggy-treats so that the canine friends she met along the way would be kept happily occupied while she passed the time of day with their owners. Maureen will be sadly missed by her many friends and neighbours in Thurlestone but will be remembered for her stoic determination to get on with life in the face of a debilitating illness and emotional set-backs.

Bantham Footpath Closure

Just a reminder that the footpath by the car park entrance down to the old boathouse is temporarily closed until 12 July 2023, this is due to public safety concerns. There is no alternative route.

Medical Appointment Transport

There are often times when parishioners are unable to drive themselves to and from hospital appointments. Did you know there are local volunteer services that can help?

For local medical appointments:

Volunteer Driver to Salcombe Surgery - Mrs Sue Dobson - 842784

Volunteer Driver to Norton Brook - 855128 (call mornings only)

For hospital appointments:

Derriford - Transport Access People (TAP) - Volunteer Car Service - 01872 223388

Torbay - 01803 656777

Litter

Concern has been raised over the amount of litter and dog poo found after the February half term, now the Easter holidays are upon us the issue may arise again. The Great British Spring Clean is taking place until 2 April, so you still have time to pick up a bag of litter. If you do come across dog fouling this can be reported to South Hams District Council at swdevon.gov.uk/w/webpage/report-it

The Big Help Out

As part of the planned celebrations to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty the King, members of the public will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out on Monday 8th May. It's to encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas and bring communities together to create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation weekend, in tribute to His Majesty the King's public service. Look out for opportunities in our local area.

Pickleball

Pickleball is a fun sport combining elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Played both indoors or out on a badminton-sized court with a slightly modified tennis net. Two or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, over a net. If you would be interested in taking up this new sport, please email Anna Martin on annacmartin@gmail.com.



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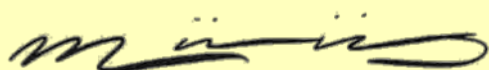
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THURLESTONE BAY BIRDS

As of 11th March the number of different species recorded was 119, this compares with 123 at the same date last year.

Some of the more interesting days of observation have been :-

JANUARY - 11 LAPWING on the Marsh together with 2 BRENT GOOSE which stayed until the 11th.

On 3rd 3 RED THROATED DIVER and 1 GREAT NORTHERN DIVER flew across the Bay.

The first ringing session at South Milton Ley resulted in 42 new birds with 13 CHIFFCHAFF, 4 FIRECREST, 7 GOLDCREST and 2 REDWING.

An interesting morning on 8th with an adult ICELAND GULL in the Bay. On Yarmer Beach, 4 RINGED PLOVER and at South Milton Ley, 60+ REDWING, 2 MISTLE THRUSH and 25 CHIFFCHAFF.

The first JACK SNIFE were found on the Marsh on 15th and 17th when the total number of SNIFE was 55.

On 20th January at least 750+ AUKS flew SE across the Bay in 30 minutes - largest flocks were 100+, at the same time 3 male EIDER and 1 female were on the sea off Hope Cove before continuing their passage. On the same date a female MERLIN was sat on a post near the Marsh. Largest flock of WIGEON-140 of the Winter were on the sea with 2 male SHOVELER.

A new addition to the duck species for the Marsh this year were a pair of GADWALL on 24th.

On the 24th Alan Pomroy ringing at South Milton Ley caught 87 CHAFFCHAFF, 2 SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF, 9 FIRECREST, 6 GOLDCREST - amongst birds that had been ringed elsewhere were 2 from Kenfig Nature Reserve in Bridgend and 1 from Jersey.

On 27th both BARN OWL and a female MARSH HARRIER were seen over the fields at South Milton Ley.

Finally on the 29th January the rarest bird for a few years seen amongst a small flock of BLACK HEADED GULLS was a LAUGHING GULL - this is a vagrant from North America one had been on the beach at Slapton since 4th January - a first record for the Marsh.

FEBRUARY - is always one of the quietest months of the year unless some very cold weather takes over.

A maximum of 6 WATER PIPIT were recorded on the 7th - South Huish Marsh is one of the few sites in Devon where the species is recorded.

On 15th the first of the summer visitors was recorded - a SANDWICH TERN, normally these would not be expected until late March - due to global warming there are birds wintering off the Solent and in Brittany.

21st produced 3 interesting sightings - first was a pod of 8 DOLPHIN - able to pick them up due to a flock of over 230 HERRING GULL feeding around them. A GREAT CRESTED GREBE was feeding in Bay and a pair of TUFTED DUCK also sat on the sea - both these birds are only recorded here whilst migrating to their breeding areas.

The month finished off with a female RED BREASTED MERGANSER flying SE across the Bay and a female MARSH HARRIER over the Marsh.

A GREENSHANK along tidal road at Aveton Gifford was fitted with colour coded Darvic rings - details were forwarded to people who gather sightings of these birds - this one had been ringed in Norway on 22nd September 2022. Must be enjoying the surroundings as it was still there at the beginning of March.

MARCH - On 2nd whilst walking around Aveton Gifford there was a sudden commotion amongst the nesting ROOKS/CROWS this is usually an indication there is a large Raptor in the area - they don't make any commotion for BUZZARD, or SPARROWHAWK - in the sky flying up the valley towards Hatch Bridge was an OSPREY. These usually winter off the western coasts of Gambia. A very rare Spring record, normally we only see them on their Autumn passage.

At South Milton Ley on 2nd Alan ringed another 44 CHIFFCHAFF, 2 FIRECREST and 10 GOLDCREST, whilst in nearby fields there was still a wintering flock of over 31 FIELDFARE.

A surprise on the 8th were 2 AVOCET on South Huish Marsh these are the first Marsh records for 3 years. Normally these are one day birds which have made a brief stop to replenish their food requirements - one of them is now the longest staying AVOCET we have had - it was still present on Tuesday 14 March

By the time you are reading the Village Voice, Spring should be well established with the summers visitors already on their breeding sites and the fantastic Spring passage of Ducks, Waders, Skuas well under way.

Late news - first SAND MARTIN over the marsh on 14th March, same day as the first HOUSE MARTIN was at Aveton Gifford - spring is slowly arriving!

What a fantastic time to look forward to.

Mike Passman

thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk

THURLESTONE MOTHS REVIEW OF 2022 PART 2

Moths do not like cold wet and windy weather therefore there are very few sightings before the end of March, this year is continuing that trend, the trap has been lit up only 5 occasions, all in February with the results being a total of 9 moths of just 3 species - 2 SILVERY (an immigrant) a WINTER MOTH and 6 micro moths.

From early July the nightly totals increase significantly as do the different species. Catches in excess of 200 moths started on 12th July with the years record on 17th July of 280 moths of 86 species.

SWALLOWTAIL is as it's name implies a large moth yellow in colour - this year it first appeared on 7th July a total of 67 recorded by 31st July with a day record of 21 on 18th July.

The number of immigrant moths increases during July, August and September with warmer nights and southerly breezes bringing some unusual species to our Thurlestone Garden :-

BORDERED STRAW - recorded on 4 occasions between 17th June and 20th October.

SPLENDID BROCADE - on 20th July.

SLENDER BRINDLE - on 29th July.

DELICATE - 14 records between 17th August and 20th September.

SMALL MOTTLED WILLOW - 3 records in August.

JERSEY MOCHA - 1 on 11th August.

BLAIRS MOCHA - 1 on 15th August.

VESTAL - 3 on 9th September and 1 on 16th.

WHITE SPECK - 1 on 6th October and 1 on 24th October.

WHITE POINT - 1 on 6th October.

A rare moth for Devon is BRINDLED OCHRE this Autumn records on 26th and 28th October - only 1 other record in Devon this year.

Throughout the Summer one of the "family" of moths which Thurlestone has regularly are the WAINSCOTS, some of them are common, others quite scarce. All of these prefer marsh like habitat so my garden adjacent to Thurlestone Marsh is ideal.

COMMON WAINSCOT - from May until October - very common

L.ALBUM WAINSCOT - an immigrant moth from May until October around 15 individuals last year.

SHORE WAINSCOT - classified as scarce - I recorded 5 last year between the end of May and 5th October.

OBSCURE WAINSCOT - a moth that likes reed-beds, only 1 record last year on 10th June.

SOUTHERN WAINSCOT - recorded in June, July and August in excess of 20 recorded last year - has a distinctive pattern on the forehead.

SMOKY WAINSCOT - common, I recorded a night maximum of 11 on 17th July.

STRIPED WAINSCOT - several recorded in July and August.

SMALL RUFUS - several in July and August.

SHOULDER STRIPED WAINSCOT - common from May to September.

DEVONSHIRE WAINSCOT - scarce in late July and August - likes rocky cliffs - just 2 recorded last year.

BROWN-VEINED WAINSCOT - scarce, recorded singles on 22th and 31st July.

SMALL WAINSCOT - common between end of July and early October.

TWIN SPOTTED WAINSCOT - scarce in Devon - 2 August records.

LARGE WAINSCOT - very common from middle of August through to November. Can get up to 30 a night!

WHITE POINT - immigrant, usually 1 or 2 in October.

WHITE SPECK - another immigrant - singles recorded in August and October.

BULLRUSH WAINSCOT - this fairly large member of the family was not recorded this year - my guess is due to a large part of the reed-beds being cut back in 2021. Indicates how important it is to try and maintain habitats.

I hope my review of the second part of 2022 has given some indication of how many different types of moths do visit our gardens - mostly when we are tucked up and asleep.

Whilst it sometimes can take me hours of processing, photographing and then identifying them they do provide a very enjoyable experience. Looking forward to the Summer months of 2023.

Mike Passman

Thurlestone Moths

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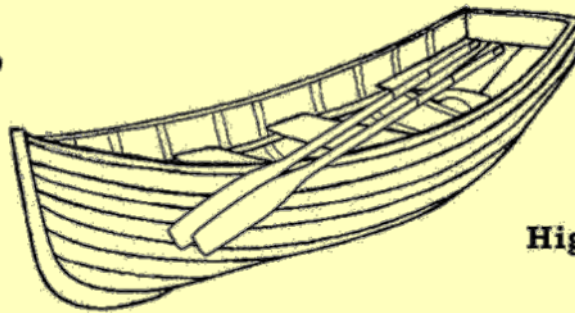
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CALOR

Tramp Reports

January to March

16th January. Circular Bolberry Down, Soar Mill, South Down

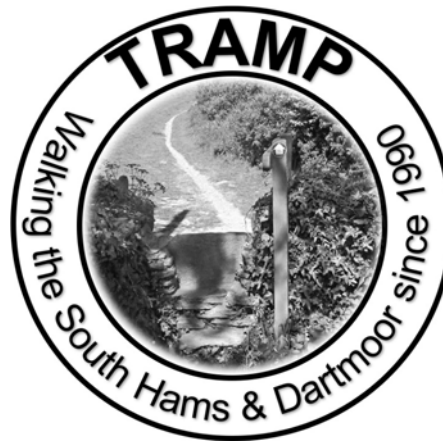
Although cool it turned out to be a lovely Sunny Morning. Nine members of TRAMP set off from Bolberry Down National Trust car park for a circular walk taking in Soar Mill Cove Beach, Higher Soar, Southdown Farm, and back onto Bolberry Down via Jacobs Lane. The route enables both a longer and shorter walk by following different routes from Soar Mill Cove to Higher Soar.

We all set off from the car park in bright blue sky towards Soar Mill Cove along the cliff path with excellent views west down the coast towards Plymouth and into Cornwall, and East towards the Ham Stone off Soar Mill Cove. The highland cattle had been doing an excellent job of keeping the undergrowth down on the land side of the cliff path. The tide was mostly out at Soar Mill Cove enabling everyone to get down on the beach and watch rollers squeezing between the central rocks and the cliffs. At this point the group divided with those desiring a shorter walk following the direct route up the valley past the Soar Mill Hotel to Higher Soar. Those looking for a longer walk carried on round the cliff path and up to the rocks above steeple cove. Stopping by the rocky outcrop on the cliff top plateau for hot drinks and snack afforded an excellent view down the coast, over the Ham Stone, and East towards Bolt Head. We then headed in land past the old signalling tower (one of a chain along the Devon coast), and along footpaths to Higher Soar.

From Higher Soar both groups continued along the road to Rew Cross before heading across the fields to South Down Farm, where the National Trust have their area operations centre. From there we continued west with great views inland to Malborough, Totnes Cross, and Dartmoor, to join up with the green road called Jacobs Lane, which runs from Horsey Pool on the Bolberry/Malborough road to the top of Bolberry down. All too quickly we were back at the NT car Park, as the weather was turning cloudy, we had had the best of the day.

23rd January. Wembury. Alan Rustad

Only five of us and two dogs took part on what was the perfect January morning



imaginable – bright sun, blue sky and a bracing temperature. Some just don't know what they missed! This walk is a great combination of coast and country. Setting off

from the National Trust car park at Wembury beach we went along the coast path towards the River Yealm with the Mew Stone never far away. Craggy Island had in 1744 become a prison for a man who had been sent there rather than being transported with his family to Australia. He was released after seven years, but his daughter stayed, made it her home and raised a family. Don't try to visit it, it is now a sea bird sanctuary and visitors are not permitted.

The further you go more of the River Yealm comes into view, all the way down to the river's edge and the ferry crossing – nice place for a break. Newton Ferrers looks so close it feels like you could almost reach out and touch it and Noss Mayo is just out of sight around the corner.

The steepest climb, up some steps, takes you back above sea level and into the start of the cross country section. We followed the path back to Wembury, passing Wembury House and then through some well-tended allotments – a chance to discuss all matters horticultural with one gentleman. The brussels sprouts and cabbages looked in fine fettle. From there a short stroll along the main road until forking right at the Odd Wheel – closed sadly – and over various fields and down a bridleway to get back to the coast. Fortunately this part, which had been pretty wet underfoot a fortnight previously was now pretty firm. It was just a short stroll to the beach where our four legged friends could get a wash and brush up before the journey home. Sadly the National Trust café there is not open until April and as refreshing as a coffee and sandwich would have been, it did seem a little too long to wait!

2nd February. Malborough. Claudette Uff

The magnificent seven set off from Malborough village hall, with four new people, against blustery wind, but soon lost

this with cutting through to Luscombe. We travelled along lovely dry lanes, eventually coming to the woods of Overbecks, followed by a brief stop at the Winking Prawn for refreshments.

Next onto Shindle Mill, taking the small lane up to the main Salcombe road. Travelling through a couple of fields onto paths leading eventually back to Malborough, 5 miles in total, good fun and company.

14th February. Valentine Snowdrop Walk from Staverton. Peter & Wendy Gornall

The snowdrops on this walk run into myriads; they peep down from miraculous heights in the tops of Devon banks; they tumble along the lower slopes by the roots of hedgerow trees; they carpet paddocks and churchyard. However, the route in the past has been remarkable also for the huge puddles and cloying mud in the third quarter of the distance. So after the scout walk, the two of us crossed fingers (and toes too) that the puddle-free bridleway and dry hill drove road would hold for the walk six days later on St Valentine's. And so it was!

Brilliant sunshine greeted the gathering of 13 plus two dogs in the Sea Trout Inn car park. Apart from snowdrops and newly open crocuses the 1000 year old split-trunk yew makes the churchyard venerable. The dog-walkers on the Dart-side path and some railway men were our only company all the way except for one cheerful gentleman and his two dogs near Sparkwell.

After Staverton Station the route wanders away from the Dart into gentle hills. Mist veiled the usual views of Dartmoor. The one kissing gate especially reserved for the day was traversed hurriedly by many and by the last two lingeringly!

The day remained brilliant for all 4 miles. The last snowdrops were in a garden 30 yards from the Sea Trout, where we were welcomed and nourished for the sunny homeward journey. The 2023 snowdrop walk was easily the most boot-friendly. With only half a dozen flicks of an old knife all the mud was gone from soles and treads. We were blessed indeed.

6th March. East Prawle.

The forecast was looking good and 10 walkers arrived at East Prawle.

We headed off from the green down the road towards the NT car park, and off on to the track towards Gammon Head. The weather had been dry and so the path was easy underfoot rather than the normal mud and puddles. We had a short break near Gammon Head to enjoy the view over

towards Bolt Head, and then headed along the track, negotiating the rocky sections along the way to the NCI coast watch visitor centre, where we stopped for a coffee break. We then continued on to Horseley Cove via Langerstone Point, and then made our way up the hill back to East Prawle.

The walk was just over 4.5 miles long. We had been planning to have lunch at the Pigs Nose, but due to staffing problems they are closed on Mondays until Easter. But never mind everyone enjoyed the walk, particularly since the weather was kind to us.

13th March. Dartington Estate. Alastair & Gill Durden

A very blustery March day with a forecast of rain during the morning did not put off nine folk and one dog from meeting at Dartington Hall for a 4.5 mile walk around Dartington Estate. As it happens, the rain came to nothing, so the only thing to contend with was some rather muddy paths - owing to the rain over the weekend. So having parked at Dartington Hall, we walked down the Upper Drive stopping at LandWorks, an award-winning charity which was set up ten years ago to provide a supported route back into employment and the community for people in prison or at risk of going to prison. Here, we were interested in their shop which sells wooden products and pottery made by the people they support, as well as fresh vegetables. We continued past Schumacher College which runs courses in ecological studies, and on into North Wood. The path through the trees led eventually to the River Dart, where we stopped to enjoy a cup of coffee. Continuing close to the river, we had to negotiate a rather muddy path through more trees, but this eventually opened up to a wide and flat grassy area with the Deer Park on our right and a large herd of deer! Here, there were loads of daffodils and still a few clumps of snowdrops to enjoy. After a little while, we left the river on a track veering off to the right, which took us through a couple of fields up to the Lower Drive and the car park. Safely back, we enjoyed a nice meal at the Green Table Café before setting off for home.



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Weather Wag



After a VERY DRY February, March is gradually making up for the lack of rainfall with no great storms or torrential rain for any length of time. It is better for us humans to have little and often so that the ground has a chance to absorb the life-giving liquid. It also means the early seeds are not washed out of the ground. This year it has been quite cold for a while which has delayed early sowing of beans, peas etc.

It has also encouraged us to feed the birds more liberally as their normal fodder is slow to appear. We are never satisfied are we?

February was an unusually dry month with winds from the east dominating. Despite this the month was quite mild with no minimum temperature below 0C. The temperature was always in the low teens except for one or two days.

The rainfall so far this month is 52mm, a bit more towards normal, with winds moving around to the west for most of the time. Let's hope it stays there for a while so that the earth has time to warm up a bit. In Ralph Whitlock's book, March Winds and April

“As regards the sowing of seed in general, this should be done while the moon is waxing, except for beans, which are sown during a waning moon”

Showers, he writes 'As regards the sowing of seed in general, this should be done while the moon is waxing, except for beans, which are sown during a waning moon, but why the different treatment I have never been able to ascertain.' For this day in my book the WK of Snow, Woodward and Penn tell the story of Lady Chatterley's Lover who D.H. Lawrence describes so beautifully as she ventures through the woods towards the pool where she intends to swim. You know the rest. However the plot would have been different had the

weather not been so wet, and the ground so soft as to prevent her from taking her wheel chair bound husband to the woods for a walk.

Back to the weather dictated activities in the garden; there are three Saints' days during March, St. David's on March 1st, St. Chad's on March 2nd and St. Winwaloe's on March 3rd. There are a couple of exhortations relating to plants, 'David and Chad, sow peas, good or bad'. The other 'Before St. Chad every goose lays, both good and bad'. In ancient times it was also 'Ploughing time'. Most farmers would plough and till the land ready for planting by this time. Any that hadn't managed it may be helped by other villagers so that they would be ready.

Lady Day on March 25th would also be an important day for country folks. The rent would be due, summer birds begin to arrive, flowers like primroses bloom, and the countryman who finds his boot can cover nine daisies at once argues that spring has arrived. I must try out the latter and see if my welly boot can do this (I have got quite big feet!).

Keep watching the weather, the sunsets have been amazing this year as have the rainbows (I saw one with two reflections a while ago).

Take care and keep watching the sunsets for a Green Flash.

Jan Turner

DIARY DATES

April

Saturday	1	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Monday	3 - 14	Devon Schools Easter Holiday
	3	TRAMP - TBA - Vanessa Barton
	3	Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Friday	7	Good Friday
Sunday	9	Easter Sunday
Thursday	13	TRAMP - West Alvington 3.75 miles - Harry Forrester
Saturday	15	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Monday	17	Devon Schools Start
Friday	21	TRAMP - Stokenham/Beesands Circular 4+miles - Liz and Peter Coates
Sunday	23	St Georges Day
Wednesday	26	Kingsbridge Arts Society, Methodist Hall, Kingsbridge 2pm for 2.30pm (and on Zoom. Call 01548 532850 for a link) - "From Desk Top to Bureau: Writing Furniture from the 16 th to 18 th centuries"
Thursday	27	TRAMP - Malborough - Hope Cove 4 miles - Jill Miller
Friday	28	Kingsbridge Estuary U3A - Monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am to 12noon - "Emancipation in Devon in 1834" with Dr Todd Gray MBE
Saturday	29	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Sunday	30	Salcombe Crabfest

May

Monday	1	May Day
Tuesday	2	TRAMP - Shaugh Bridge - Cadover Bridge 5.25 miles - Alastair and Gill Durden
Thursday	4	South Hams District Council Elections
Saturday	6	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm Coronation of King Charles III shown on the big screen in Thurlestone Parish Hall followed by Cheese and Wine Lunch
Sunday	7	The King's Coronation Big Street Party from Midday - Thurlestone Village centre
	7	Coronation Concert from Windsor Castle - mid evening
Monday	8	Bank Holiday - Parish of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone celebrates "The Big Help out"
Wednesday	10	TRAMP - Ringmore/Kingston 5 miles - Linda Chilcott
Monday	15	TRAMP - Avon Estuary with Ferry 6.5 miles - Neil Mackay and Jenny Webb
	15	Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Friday	19 - 21	Dart Music Festival
		TRAMP - Avon river bed walk 5.5 miles - Mike and Sian Hodges
Saturday	20	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Wednesday	24	Kingsbridge Arts Society, Methodist Hall, Kingsbridge 2pm for 2.30pm (and on Zoom. Call 01548 532850 for a link) - "Pots and Frocks: The World of Grayson Perry from Essex Punk Rocker to Superstar National Treasure
Thursday	25	TRAMP - Stover Park Circular 5 miles - Peter and Wendy Gornall
Friday	26	Kingsbridge Estuary U3A - Monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am to 12noon - "The History of Glass from 3000BC to today" with Dr Francis Burroughs BEM
Sat	27 - 29	Malborough Village Scarecrow Trail 2023
Monday	29	Spring Bank Holiday
	29	TRAMP - Ivybridge/Erme Valley 7.5 miles - Gareth and Linda Scott
	29 - 2	Devon Schools Half Term

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BRIDGE CLUB (Wednesday 6.15pm)	Lisa White	560505
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FITNESS YOGA WITH SUZI (Monday 5pm - 6pm)	Suzi Griffiths	07557334802
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PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCIL Meetings take place on 1st Monday of every month except August

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Vice-chairman	Vacant	
Parish Clerk	Kathy Harrod	thurlestoneparish@gmail.com
Members	Sue Crowther	560098
	Paul Gunning	07971 378121
	Rosa Lewis	07463 856156
	Adam Ryan-Carter	562708 (Tree Warden)
	Gillian Stone	07967 666719
	Sian Williams	560339
District Councillors	Mark Long	843828
	Judy Pearce	561370
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659

PARISH HALL (see Thurlestone Parish Website for more details)
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Chairman: Malcolm Breton

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PARISH WEBSITE (www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk) Mike Bone 288436 Paul Martin 560070

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH See All Saints' Diary pages earlier in magazine
Church Meeting Room Telephone 561246

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