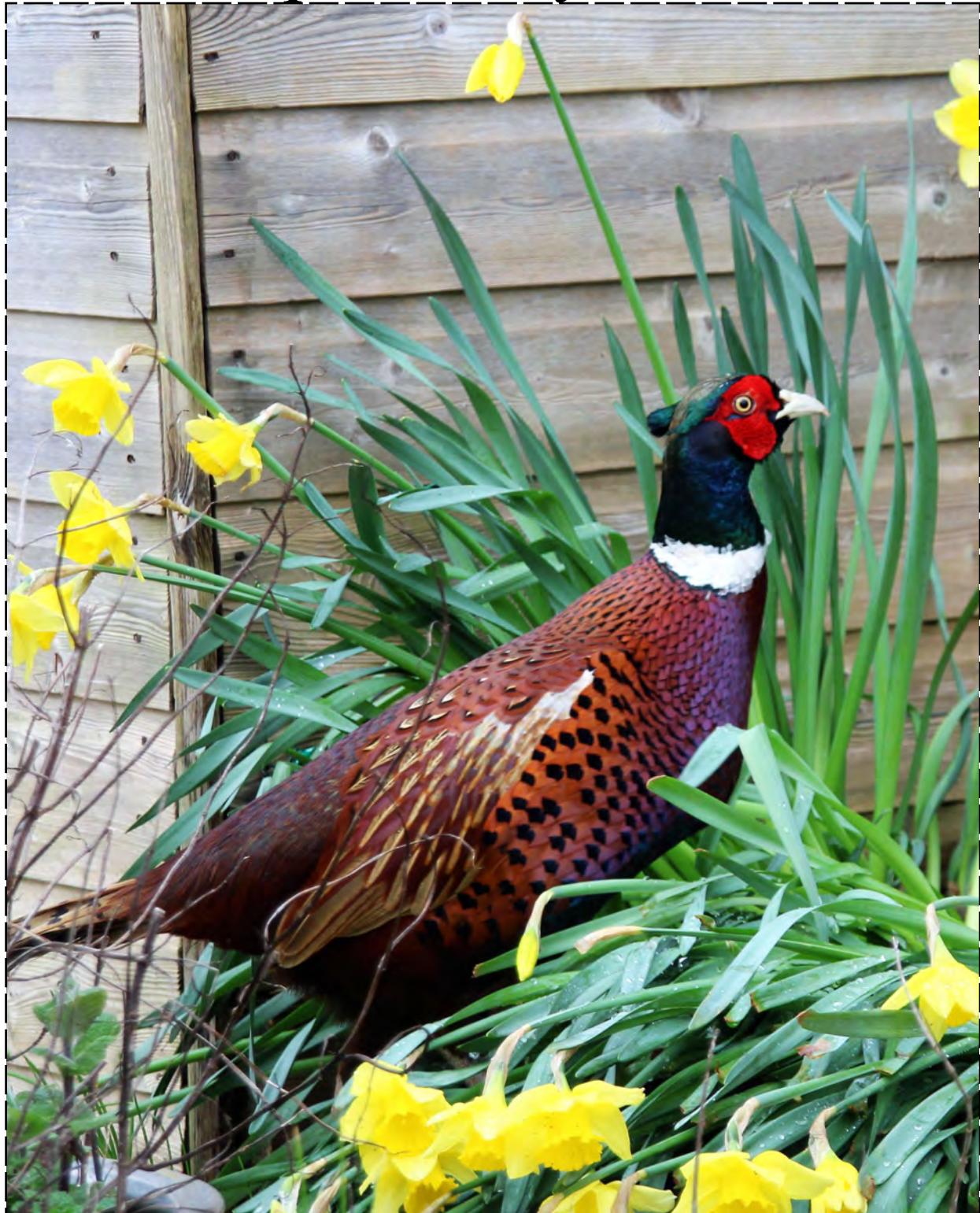


VILLAGE VOICE

April - May 2020



SOCIAL DISTANCING WORKS FOR ME!

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



In the short time since the publication of our last edition, so much has happened in our world that we can hardly keep up with the rate of change!

After a depressingly soggy and windy few months driving through water-filled potholes and mini lagoons, our thoughts were just beginning to turn to a Spring of hope-roadside banks beaming with seasonal flowers, bright young shoots on hedgerows and birdsong in gardens heralding new life.....However, our optimism was tempered somewhat by the knowledge that a new virus was starting to threaten the world and would eventually take its toll on our day-to-day lives.

In recent days the situation has worsened with increasing rapidity and will, no doubt, continue to do so. The restrictions we face are unprecedented in most of our lifetimes. As a community, we shall follow recommendations sensibly as we support each other in practical and caring ways, remembering particularly the most vulnerable amongst us. We are fortunate that, despite limitations placed upon us, we can still appreciate living in one of the most blessed locations in the world. We should be selfless in adhering to common sense and facing difficulties stoically and with good humour.

We feature a new page this time - "Waggy Tales". Rosemary Mackay was persuaded to tell us about life with Heidi her Golden Labrador. It is such a good read that we would love to make a regular feature about local residents and their canine companions. So, come on you dog owners, tell us about your delightful pets, their adventures and their quirky habits. We'd love to hear from you. In fact, whilst we are all following the advice to stay indoors, perhaps some of you will be inspired to write an article for Village Voice about what you have been doing to fill your time. If you have enjoyed the opportunity to read more than usual, write a book review. We are always looking for new material.

We the Editorial Team have attempted to keep calm and carry on in order to produce a magazine of interest to entertain and inform you during these trying days. If we have failed to keep up completely with the ever-changing situation, we apologise. Enjoy a good read!

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Front Cover

Cover photo by
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Adapted by Mike Bone

Deadline for articles for next issue - 15th May 2020

April - May 2020

38th Year of Publication

Issue No. 222

**Archived copies of Village Voice can be found on the
Parish website at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/village-voice**

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Advertising Rates for Village Voice - 12 months (six issues)

Whole Page - £85.00 Half Page - £62.50 Quarter Page - £40.00

Delivered free to all Residents on the Electoral Roll, otherwise £1.50

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

The Thurlestone Parish isolation support hotline 07955 607873

Under the umbrella of the Parish Council, the Phonebox Committee have organised a hotline to help residents who have been advised to self-isolate.

The number is **07955 607873** and will be kept live at all times by volunteers.

It will cover all the Parish – Buckland and Bantham and Thurlestone.

If you need help obtaining supplies of food etc., picking up medicines or even with mundane things like putting the bins out or arranging laundry, simply call the hotline number and we will arrange for someone local to you to make contact and provide help.

Dog Walking Services, also available.

If you are able to join the volunteer crew, please also call the number, leave details of how you might help, and we'll happily add your name to our list.

If you know of someone who is likely to be in need of help please make sure they are aware of the number.

Please note this is for community support and NOT medical matters

It is also worth mentioning that the Thurlestone PO and Stores has set up a free delivery service for the Parish, for those who can't get to the shop.

Liaison with Community Support Contacts

The following telephone numbers may be helpful to you and the Support Groups in the event of family carers becoming infected with the virus.

Care Direct	0345 155 1007
Social Services	0345 600 0388
Disability Information Service	0345 155 1005

Coronavirus Information

The Thurlestone Parish Website has information for residents regarding:

- Help which is available locally
- Shops & Businesses providing a delivery service
- Event changes and/or cancellations

We will keep this as up-to-date as we can but this will only be possible if we are provided with the information to share. So, if you have any information which you think would be useful for other residents in the area then please let us know.

You can contact us by phone or email.

Paul Martin 01548 560070 pmove60@gmail.com

Mike Bone 01548 288436 mikebone18@hotmail.com

Visit www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk for the latest information



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District Councillor Report

Just when we thought there was some stability with the adopted Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan and our own Thurlestone Parish Neighbourhood Plan, along comes another one, which we shall have to consider for any applications involving land below the mean spring tide high water line. This is the South West Inshore Marine Plan, currently out to consultation until the beginning of April this year. 'Inshore' is from the high water line to twelve nautical miles out and includes tidal estuaries and inlets. It covers the area from the Severn Estuary to the Dart and is combined with the Offshore Marine Plan, which covers the remaining seas to either the boundary of international waters with Ireland or France or the neighbouring coastal areas of Wales and the South of England. The Avon Estuary Forum was treated to a very interesting presentation of the plan by an MMO officer at their recent Spring meeting.



The Plan has been produced by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), which was set up by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The MMO has a broad remit covering fishing fleet and quota regulation, pollution emergencies, enforcing wildlife legislation and nature conservation etc. It is also responsible for any planning and licensing of marine construction, deposits and dredging which may have any environmental, economic or social consequences. These three issues may ring a bell with you as the cornerstones of sustainable planning development on land.

The aim of the Plan is to enhance and protect the marine environment and to achieve sustainable growth, whilst respecting local communities in the plan area. It sets out what activities are suitable where and the areas where activity should be avoided. Much like a land based plan, which protects heritage and wildlife assets, there are 20 protected wrecks in the South West marine area and 43 designated protected areas. There are 809km of designated heritage coast, which covers both land and the immediate coastal waters.

The Plan has a vision and three strategic objectives, which are to achieve a sustainable economy, ensure a strong, healthy and just society and to live within environmental limits. These then form the basis of a full suite of policies. Just like a land based plan, it can either be used to authorise applications, or to issue licenses to indicate compliance. Bye laws for the marine protected areas can also be made.

In May, South Hams District Council, along with the other two Joint Local Plan authorities will be adopting the national 'Coastal Concordat'. This sets out the protocol for the formal process when coastal local planning authorities (LPAs) are involved in applications, which also cover areas within the MMO's remit. Usually these are for slipways, pontoons and sea walls, but could also include discharge pipes. Anything within the MMO's orbit means they have to be consulted by the LPA. The concordat will formalise the customary process where the LPA handles the application and the MMO is consulted.

Search 'Draft South West Marine Plan' to take a closer look at the proposed Plan on the gov.uk site.

Judy Pearce



PARISH HALL NEWS

by Alison Daily
(Secretary)

My first piece of news is that Brenda Jones has given up her role as caretaker of the hall due to family commitments. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the committee and wider parish, in thanking her for all her hard work in keeping the hall in the excellent condition commented upon by so many. An interim replacement will take over from the end of the month (this may not be possible now as they are stuck in Spain) but if you or anyone you know has 10 to 25 hours a month free and would be interested in taking over this role please contact any of the committee.

Last month saw the return of the Great Thurlestone Quiz for the eradication of polio organised by the Rotary Club. This was extremely well attended and was a huge success. Our AGM meeting was held on Tuesday 10 March (not so well attended unfortunately), the minutes of which can be found on the noticeboard in the lobby of the hall or on the parish website.

The next scheduled events were to be the Family Fun evening in May and the Open Gardens in June but with the current advice on Covid-19 and the isolation of the over 70s we feel we have no choice but to cancel both events. We hope the situation will improve in a few months so the Family Fun evening can be held later in the summer.

We are always asking what events you would like to see at the hall and one suggestion was **Festive Flutes** so we are pleased to announce they will be returning on **Saturday 24th October** (all being well). Please put this date on your calendar, we will be in need of some cultural interaction by then. Musical acts are always popular but unfortunately are becoming increasingly more expensive. It would be wonderful if as many of you as possible come along and support them on the evening.

Also, on **Saturday 7th November**, Wild Artichoke have expressed an interest in returning for another pop-up evening on the same lines as last time. Look out for further details in the next edition of the magazine. As you will have time on your hands perhaps you could find some new acts we could use in the future.

Socially it will be very quiet in the Parish and maybe we should go back to talking over the garden fence or doorstep chats with passers-by. Perhaps we could have a competition for the most inventive way you manage to keep yourselves occupied. I wish you all well during this unprecedented time.

Finally, do you like the new graphic we are now using for this article? We decided as the Hall has been spruced up, this page also needed a bit of a revamp.

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NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting 3rd February 2020

OPEN FORUM It was explained that it was up to residents to speak to neighbours and highlight the policy on Dark Skies on an individual basis.

The flooding along the Bantham-West Buckland lane has been reported to the Highways Officer.

The planning application for the new Bantham Estate Office was commented upon. In particular the fact was raised that, although it claims in the application that there has been community consultation about the application, the meetings to which this refers are not open to all members of the public: those people present are not there in an official representative capacity and there are no minutes of the meetings. It was also pointed out that there are a number of empty buildings belonging to the Estate and the need for a new building was questioned, especially as it is outside the settlement boundary and in the AONB.

MATTERS ARISING At the Budget Meeting held on Tuesday 28th January the precept amount was agreed for 2020/21 at £25,151 which equates to an average Band D contribution of £33.08, an increase of £6.54. Councillor Rhymes explained that this increase was largely due to the Thurlestone public toilets which are now in the remit of the Parish Council.

HIGHER CROSS PARK, THURLESTONE Application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission. SUPPORTED.

MANDALAY, GLEBE FIELD, THURLESTONE Householder application for construction of garage. SUPPORTED.

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB Retention of 1 pay and display machine in the public beach car park. SUPPORTED.

THE BANTHAM ESTATE Erection of new Estate & Harbour office; and granting of temporary 18 month consent for continued use of land for siting of portacabins and associated parking of vehicles for use as temporary estate office. SUPPORTED following a site meeting and a special PC meeting on 20th February.

THURLESTONE ESTATES LTD Proposed erection of 10 self-contained holiday lets, the re-siting of the Badminton Court and the creation of an additional restaurant and associated parking and landscaping. SUPPORTED following a site meeting and a special PC meeting on 20th February.

COMMUNITY HOUSING Councillors Crowther and Munn attended a meeting with SHDC. They informed officers that the Buckland Park Farm site had recently been withdrawn and that they are now considering the land that has been offered in Bantham opposite the shop. They are also approaching other landowners in the parish to ensure a level playing field and will be reviewing the number of eligible households.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Gilbert reported that Concessionary travel costs DCC £9.5m per year. Public transport support is £5.6m per year.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS Cllr Pearce reported that SHDC's Chief Executive is leaving soon. A new policy for planning pre-applications will soon be available on the website.

The Kingsbridge Questionnaire is live and people are encouraged to respond, which can be done online. Councillor Munn commented on the fact the high street is in difficulty and that this needs attention.

PARISH MATTERS Councillor Williams reported that the new traffic signs will be placed around key areas over the next few weeks.

Councillor Hurrell raised the issue of pellets falling into nearby gardens during shooting on the Bantham Estate. Residents were told to report this to the Police in future so that it was logged.

A letter will be sent to the Bantham Estate to raise the issue of whether there should be a system in place, as elsewhere in the South Hams, which prioritises moorings allocations on the Estuary for residents who live in the Parish full-time.

Meeting 2nd March

OPEN FORUM Councillor Gilbert was thanked for dealing so quickly with the problematic BT Openreach telegraph poles in Buckland.

Several comments were made about the Parish Council's responses to planning applications 0227/20/FUL The Bantham Estate and 1720/19/FUL Mr T Hassell - Thurlestone Estates Ltd. These included:

- that the PC responses were submitted before all the comments from members of the public were uploaded to the website and the PC was therefore asked to reconsider its decision in order to reflect those comments.
- that the role of the elected councillors is to reflect the views of the Parish and not to act as a planning authority.
- that the PC meeting on 20th February at which the applications were discussed was not advertised as it should have been and therefore the public meeting should be rescheduled and members of the public invited to attend.
- that members of the public felt that they had not had opportunity to make comments about the application and would like another meeting.
- that the decision to support the Bantham estate application was a grave error and does not reflect the NP.

The Chairman replied that he was upset that people felt like this, and he understood that people were not happy with the PC's decision. An agenda for the meeting on the 20th February had been published on the website on 12th February and on all 3 parish noticeboards on 13th February.

The Parish Clerk explained that the PC needs to consider planning applications at a Council meeting and therefore cannot always wait until all comments have been uploaded to the SHDC website.

The PC was then asked to reconsider its response in view of the strength of feeling of members of the public. In view of this, councillors convened for 5 minutes to discuss the best way to deal with the matter and ensure that people felt they were

being listened to. The decision of the Council, which was conveyed to members of the public, was that the PC was not going to retract its comments but that it would submit a supplementary comment to SHDC to draw attention to the strength of feeling amongst the local community.

During the course of the PC's discussion, it was noted that, of the 38 comments on the SHDC website objecting to the Bantham Estate application, only 8 came from within the parish.

MATTERS ARISING Councillor Marshall has written to the South West Ambulance Trust and informed them that the Thurlestone Hotel and Sloop Inn will take on the maintenance of the defibrillators in their respective premises.

Moorings. The letter to the Bantham Estate will be sent in due course.

KIFTSGATE BANTHAM application for replacement of existing garage with new outbuilding in rear garden of existing dwelling. SUPPORTED.

BROADSANDS ILBERT ROAD THURLESTONE application for demolition of existing orangery extension and replacement with ground floor extensions, internal alterations, replacement windows and external canopies. SUPPORTED.

11 EDDYSTONE ROAD THURLESTONE application for proposed alteration, refurbishment and extension including erection of a double garage, new frontage wall with solid gates and exterior cladding. OBJECTION.

4 MEAD LANE THURLESTONE application for internal and external alterations and modifications to two storey dwelling including replacement balcony and external works. SUPPORTED.

COMMUNITY LED HOUSING Councillors Crowther and Munn, with Jess Wellens of the Community Housing Group, met with Nicholas Johnston of the Bantham Estate. They impressed upon him that community housing is a parish initiative and that there would not be any market housing involved. They explained that councillors did not favour the site opposite the shop because it was too prominent and instead preferred a site behind The Sloop. Mr Johnston said that it would take some time to consider this and that he would be in touch. Councillor Munn asked him if the West Buckland site was still on the table and he said that it was not at the moment.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Gilbert reported that the Highways drainage budget has been increased substantially. DCC has 8,000 miles of roads which is higher than any other county in the UK.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS Cllr Pearce reported that SHDC has agreed its budget and the new Council tax bills will be received soon. The DCC increase on a Band D property this year will be £57 so there will be a raise.

PARISH MATTERS The Easter holidays start on 27th March so the toilets will need to be opened by that time. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting on Thursday 5th March to discuss the logistics of the opening.

For more detailed information, see the full Minutes on the Parish Website at <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/meeting-minutes-archive.html>

SCHOOL REPORT



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Another busy few months at Thurlestone All Saints' Primary to report. It was wonderful to see our children's wonderful work on display at the Primary Colours Exhibition in Kingsbridge this February along with work from other primary schools in the area. It managed to lift all our spirits during these rather gloomy winter months

The children continue to enjoy Forest School and love the new addition of 'Olive' the puppy who tags along on their sessions. Many thanks to the Parker-Swifts for their continued support.

In other news we have had two very successful fundraising events this month. An after-school film night where the children watched the 'Angry Birds Movie 2' and our Pre-loved book sale on World Book Day. All the children looked amazing on World Book Day ... it's always a joy to see how creative they can be in re-creating their favourite book characters. The funds raised will help to purchase new books for the school library and our ongoing funding for new DT equipment. Thanks to the Harbour Bookshop, we are very much looking forward to a visit from author Claire Barker in the near future and congratulations to Indigo Hesse as 'Knitbone Pepper' for winning the Harbour Bookshop Costume Competition!

We are delighted to have been awarded £4000 by the Tesco Bags of Help scheme which has enabled the EYFS team (early years foundations stage) at All Saints' Thurlestone to revitalise and reinvigorate our shared outdoor space for our gorgeous little people!

Soon to appear on the parish's roads are the children's road safety signs which they designed last year and have been made into very smart looking, large and easy to see messages reminding motorists to drive carefully and pay special attention to pedestrians on our roads. Thanks to the Parish Council and Councillor Rufus Gilbert from Devon County Council for a contribution from his locality budget and to Nick Walker Printing. I will get them up as soon as the wind dies down and it stops raining!

Upcoming events include the Easter Egg Hunt, Pig Racing at the Sloop and a School 'Bake-Off' in April

Keep well everyone and thanks for all your support.

Sian Williams

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READER: Peter Gornall



As I write this article I am conscious that the world is changing rapidly. The words I write today may, in part, be out of date by the time you read them, particularly as my words concern the spread of COVID-19.

The spread of COVID-19 presents a set of daunting challenges. Challenges to our national and local governments. Challenges to our local communities. Challenges to individuals and families. Challenges to the health care system, to shops and industry. The list is seemingly endless. Through all of this we will be asked what sort of values and actions underpin our humanity. When the question is asked, will we be ready? Will we turn inwardly and look out only for ourselves and our families or will we do what we can for our neighbours?

In the time of a crisis it is easy to lose our values and even our understanding of humanity. And yet the opposite is also true. Many times in human history we have seen that the best of our humanity comes out when we are called to account. Will we step up when the moment comes for us to support our neighbour? Of course we must take care, we must protect ourselves as best we can so that the transmission of the virus can be slowed down. But there are many ways that we can support one another without placing ourselves in undue risk. The bag of shopping left outside the front door. The telephone call. The words of reassurance.

I have been asked recently about where God is in the midst of all of this. I do not believe that God is in the origins of this. The virus simply is what it is. I believe, rather, that God is to be found in the small acts of human kindness that we can do to one another. I am not a great fan of lifting Bible quotes and foisting them on to complex situations, but today a passage of Scripture does come to mind. In the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 25, Jesus tells a story that commends small acts of kindness (giving food to the hungry, visiting the stranger or the one in prison, clothing the naked). In the doing of these acts Jesus tells us that we do them not only to one another but also to God himself "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Over the coming weeks and months we will need to look to the government and to those in authority, but we will also need to look to one another. We will need not only to wait, but also to act and find meaning and truth in the smallest of kindnesses. We will need to do the "least of these" as we show our humanity in the face of this crisis.

If you are having to self-isolate
or do not want to risk going out at this time
and need help with shopping, please contact
the Thurlestone Parish isolation support hotline
07955 607873



All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

CHANGES IN CHURCH SERVICES & ACTIVITIES DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

As the Church of England has now announced that all public worship is to be suspended, unfortunately **there will be no Sunday or midweek services at Thurlestone or Bantham or any church activities until further notice.**

The Rector, Daniel Hartley, is intending to record a service with prayers, hymns, readings and a sermon that can be accessed via the Thurlestone Parish website but it will take time to work out the technicalities of this.

If possible, the church building will remain open for private prayer.

Further restrictions may be put in place and changes to the information above may be found on the church section of www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk

Photographic Competition

for the photos for a 2021 Calendar

It is unlikely that the Photographic Competition will be able to take place this year. However we still hope to produce a 2021 calendar.

If you still wish to enter photos, entry forms available from:

Thurlestone Church, Bantham/Thurlestone Shop
or Liz Webb (560090/thurlallsaints@btinternet.com).

Entries must be received by May 1st

If there are insufficient entries, some of the photos from previous years will also be used.

A panel of judges will then choose the photos for the calendar.



Due to Coronavirus, it is very unlikely that it will be possible to have the usual house-to-house collection during **Christian Aid Week** this year.



Christian Aid will be very hard hit by this, as will other charities at this time.

If you are able to, please give online at www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week

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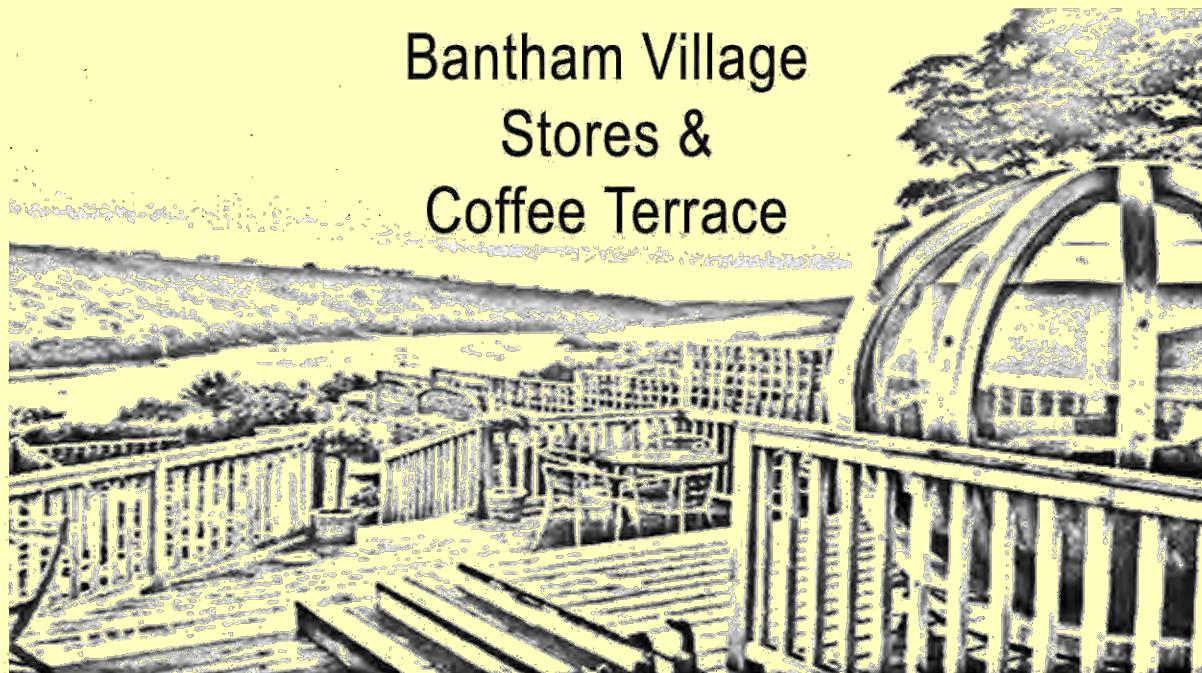
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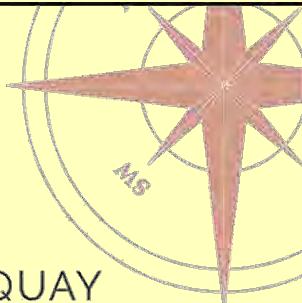
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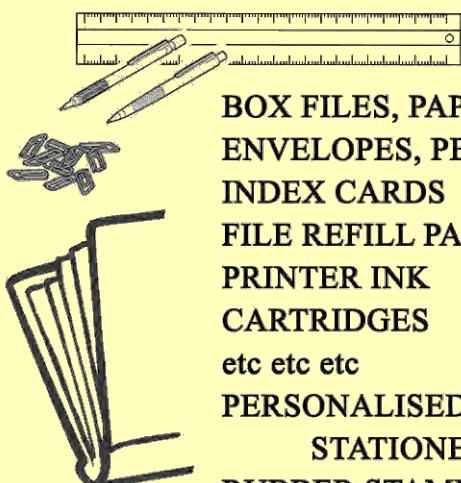
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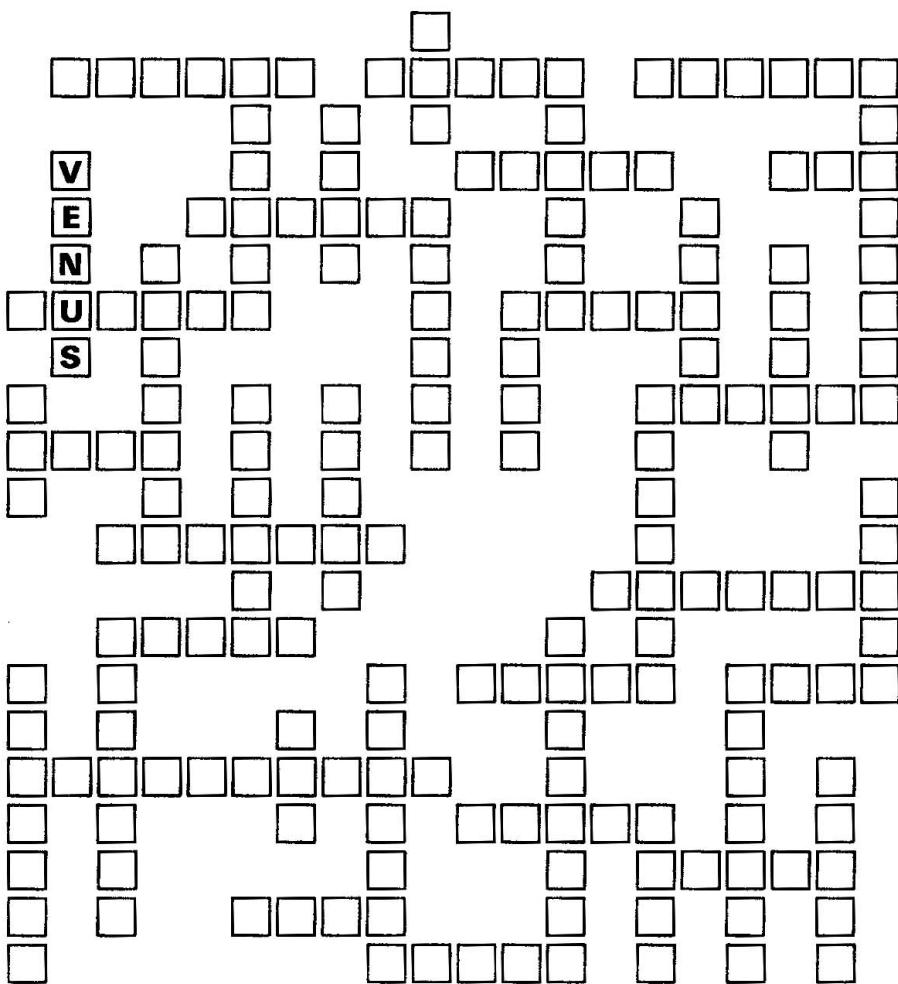
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Puzzle Page Extra

Roman Deities

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3 Letters

Dis
Ops
Pax
Sol

4 Letters

Amor
Jove
Juno
Luna
Mars
Spes

5 Letters

Ceres
Diana
Epona
Fauna
Fides
Flora
Janus
Lares
Orcus
Pluto
Salus
Terra
Venus
Vesta

6 Letters

Annona	Saturn
Aurora	Somnus
Faunus	Tellus
Lucina	Vulcan
Parcae	

7 Letters

Bacchus	Mercury
Feronia	Minerva
Fortuna	Neptune
Jupiter	Penates

8 Letters

Juventas
Silvanus

10 Letters

Proserpina

Dingbats

A



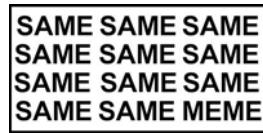
B



C



D



Answers at the bottom of the Eating Out Locally page

VILLAGE NEWS ROUND-UP

Kingsbridge Men's Breakfast

Everyone is welcome especially those of you who live in the rural communities. We meet at the Methodist Church on Fore Street Kingsbridge at 8.00 and sit down to a hearty Full English Breakfast with lively conversation and good company. At 9.00 we adjourn to listen to our speaker and our meeting usually ends by 9.45.

UNFORTUNATELY, ALL SCHEDULED MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 26TH. For information contact Martyn on - **07870-743723**

Kingsbridge Foodbank urgent request

We are experiencing a shortage of many of the basic food and drink items which we need to supply to those in need. We would appreciate receiving your donations at the Horizon Building (next door to the Cookworthy Museum on Fore Street, Kingsbridge) on Saturdays between 10-12noon. Or alternatively, please telephone **07593-881633** or email: info@kingsbridgefoodbank.org.uk to make a donation. Thank you.

No one needs to go without.

David Smeeton 1936-2020

Former Thurlestone resident David Smeeton died earlier this year in Australia. Many Village Voice readers will remember David as a man of great energy and enthusiasm who was at the forefront of the making of the parish video 'Land of the Five Beaches' which earned a Royal Television Award. He worked for more than 30 years as a BBC reporter at home and abroad and on retiring in 1994 lived in Thurlestone with his wife Diana until 2010 when they moved to Australia. Sadly, Diana died in 2014.

Monica Dickins

Monica would like to thank everyone who has given her so much support and kindness following her recent fall. She is recovering well and has moved from South Hams Hospital into Nazareth House in Plymouth.

Garden Time from Greenfly

The plant sale due to take place on Saturday 9th May has been cancelled. The 2020 Horticultural Show is scheduled to be held at Thurlestone Parish Hall on Saturday 1 August but will obviously depend on the

situation at the time. Copies of the schedule will be available later on at the PO Store. Take a look and remember it is not only to showcase garden items but other skills too, such as cooking, crafts, children's classes and flower arranging..... a good all-round village produce show.

Beach Clean

Please come along and help clean up around the Tidal Road on Sunday 26th April 2020; 1130-1230pm. Meet at Timbers car park, AG. Attendance is being left up to individuals' decision. The situation is changing on a daily basis, of course, but a dose of fresh air and modest exercise, whilst engaging in a community task at a sensible and manageable distance from others, might do better than harm at the moment. Obviously, there will be no pub gathering afterwards!

See Safety Guidelines at http://auneconservation.org.uk/?page_id=791

Contact details: Stuart Watts at sdmw2@btopenworld.com/01548 810373

Great Thurlestone Quiz

The annual quiz to raise funds towards the eradication of Polio was held at the Parish Hall in February and raised an impressive £1700 which the Bill Gates Foundation will treble. Well done to all those who organised and took part in making this event so successful.

Editor's Note

In this unprecedented time the Village Voice team endeavoured to bring you your copy of the magazine as usual. Steps were taken to ensure the safety of both the team and yourselves. Each edition has its challenges but this has surpassed all others that it has been named the Hokey Cokey issue. Articles have been in, out and truly shaken about. As for the next copy our intention is to bring you a magazine in some form or other. Our very best wishes are sent to all our readers.

Thurlestone Phonebox

Another casualty of the virus. All books have been removed and the phonebox closed for the foreseeable future. Normal service will hopefully be resumed when practicable.

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WAGGY TALES

Heidi burst into my life as a fallen female at 3 years of age as she had presented her breeder with an undesirable set of puppies, thus finding herself surplus to requirements. The breeder only wanted a happy home for her. He contacted me and since then she has given me equal amounts of joy and exasperation!

Her greatest asset is her unquestioning love. Her greatest sin is always looking for food and she soon found a good source in the hotel staff kitchens, the staff house or the pub. For a Labrador, she has absolutely no hunting instincts and a good fat pheasant could easily stroll past her while in the overgrown grass she finds and eats a stale banana skin.



HEIDI THE LABRADOR

She has had many exploits and I was often called out late into the night to collect her from hotel reception where she was always guaranteed a treat. Once I had a call at 3am from a strange number and the only word I could make out was "Heidi". One of the foreign staff at the hotel had taken her in and a comfortable night was spent with him.

Heidi is friendly with everyone and ignores most dogs but has her own choice of favourite ones.

Now about 9 years old, she does not have as many scrounging expeditions or perhaps we are all getting wiser!

The introduction and intrusion of a kitten, Archie, into the household was exciting for the kitten but Heidi just ignored him when she found out his secret weapon: claws.

One of Heidi's more memorable days was getting lost on a Tramp walk near Dartmoor.

After walking for an hour, assuming she was at the front with the other dogs on the trek as she usually was, the walkers discovered that she was nowhere to be seen. After a fruitless search for over an hour, they gave up and headed for home dreading facing her loving owner for whom Heidi was her pride and joy.

Missing dog alerts were posted on all available media and finally, in exasperation, a posting was made on Facebook's Missing Pets page. Within 20 minutes of placing the post, a call came through saying that Heidi had been found alive and well but a good few miles from where she had last been seen. Finally reunited later that evening, she greeted us with her usual frantic tail wagging and hungry look.

It turned out that at the start of the walk Heidi had elected to go off in the opposite direction with 2 joggers from the nearby Army base. The joggers, tiring of Heidi's attentions, asked a bystander to take care of her as they were on a training exercise. Fortunately the bystander was an addicted Facebook user and she reunited us with a simple phone call.

ROSEMARY MACKAY

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

We enjoyed reading about Heidi's exploits and hope our readers do too. If you are one of the many local dog owners out there, we would love to hear about your favourite canine's background, quirky habits or adventures. It would be great to make WAGGY TALES a regular feature in Village Voice.

BOOKSHELF

'A Long Night in Paris' by Don Alfon

This is a cracking espionage story, written by a former intelligence officer of the secretive arm of the Israeli Defence Forces. All the action takes place within 24 hours. A plane from Tel Aviv lands at Charles de Gaulle airport. On that plane is a young, gregarious software engineer, travelling with his colleagues. He is also a great flirt and once off the plane he is attracted to a tall blonde woman and walks away with her. He is never seen leaving the airport. He is never seen again. Enter a very disgruntled French policeman, Jules Leger, called in to investigate because the airport's Chief of Police is on holiday.

However, on that same flight was Col. Zeev Abadi, looking forward to assuming his new role as head of Israeli intelligence, and of course he joins in the investigation. Meanwhile back in Israel the beautiful, intelligent Lt. Oriana Talmar is in charge until Abadi arrives and is attending a high level meeting of the great and the good. (Because she is junior rank, she is patronised and does a marvellous put-down of one arrogant official).

Abadi quickly realises that the software engineer was not the intended target and seeks Oriana's help in finding the real target. At the same time a group of rather disorganised Chinese assassins are roaming around Paris also looking for the intended victim.

In between the to-ing and fro-ing between Abadi and Oriana, there are chapters from the intended victim, the arguing among Israeli top intelligence officers, Jules Leger getting more and more disgruntled having to deal with so many departments, all told with a wry sense of humour.

Given in the back of the book are the various ranks of the Israeli Defence officers which I found I had to keep checking to find who was who, but I thoroughly enjoyed the whole investigation.

Carolyn Taylor

'Atonement' by Ian McEwan

Why can I not be impressed by this book? Beautifully written but tedious and I was soon heartily sick of the chief character Briony. Glad to see the last of her.

Rosemary Mackay

'The Seven Sisters' by Rachel Riley

This is the first in a series of books based on the Seven Sisters of Pleiades. Maia D'Apliese and five sisters gather at their childhood home, a castle on the shores of Lake Geneva after the death of their adoptive Father Pa Salt. He has already been buried at sea but he left each sister a clue, together with a set of co-ordinates as to their true heritage. Maia's takes her to Paris and Rio during the Belle Epoque era and the building of Christ the Redeemer. If you want something easy to read while you are confined this series of books (6 in total at the moment) will take you to all parts of the globe and is pure escapism. The stories are woven around some real people and events which makes you want to find out even more.

Alison Daily



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THURLESTONE THEN

Continuing the memoirs of Monica Coope
Chapter 5

In the twenty-five years we lived at Thurlestone we had four different gardeners and the first comes first with me and always will. Roger Jackman, the dearest friend a child could have, so patient with our rampaging around and so tender and understanding when we were in disgrace elsewhere. A fall and a cut knee would take you to "Jackun" for comfort and he was always ready with a bruised dock leaf to rub over limbs stinging and smarting from nettles. Jackun had his own ideas about conduct and a reproof from him "Now then, none of that there. You behave witty or else I'll send you indoors, so I will", would always have the desired effect. Jackun was an old-fashioned gardener and did not by any means approve of any innovation Father might be minded upon, such as sowing in trenches to avoid having to water over-much, and once he was moved to address Father, so great was his opposition to an order given. "Coming along and interfering in my garden", was how he put it, and Father's laughter was not understood or appreciated. He thought a lot of us, "My children to Rectory" and his bon mot, often repeated down the years, was "When you've seen one, you've seen the lot". He worked hard for us, too hard in fact, and the time came when his heart became affected, due, Father regretfully believed, to the effort of pumping the water from the well to the house. He had to leave us and take life easy at his home in West Buckland, but as we went down to school there every day we used to gallop along to the cottage and call out "Is Jackun there?" many days of the week. He had such nice blue eyes and really fine features and when one day we were sent to the cottage during break to see Jackun, we knew it was to say goodbye to him as he lay there in his great bed in the white-washed room, with Dorothy his daughter fanning him as he struggled for the breath that was failing. We were not frightened or even over-awed, but kissed him with the love that his love had engendered in us, and tiptoed away.

One of the nicest gravestones in Thurlestone churchyard is that of Roger Jackman's, in stone with a pattern of fruit and flowers carved around it and the words "Well done thou good and faithful servant". Father designed it and had it specially made and on the grave was our own cross, which we children filled with flowers every week until we went away from Thurlestone.

Our next gardener was so good looking that he set the heart of our nurse a-fluttering and we were greatly impressed when we were on holiday at Yealmpton in summer and Frank arrived on his bicycle all the way from Thurlestone to see our pretty Lilian. It cannot be more than twenty-five miles, but hard going in Devon, and as it was our first glimpse of true love in blossom, we did not allow them one moment alone together but hung around with popping eyes to see what next. However, courting in those days was a very respectable affair and started with yarding, which simply meant that you either walked or sat, three feet apart. Arming came next, and that meant business, because you armed in public and everyone could believe the evidence of their eyes. What followed was not always in the book of rules, and then it was that the bride wore blue, and the church bells were silent! But Frank and Lilian did not make that mistake, and the bride wore white.

William Edgecombe came after Frank and he was much more severe with us. He was Jackman's son-in-law and aided and abetted Father in spoiling Belle, searching her for evidence of hard driving when we brought her back, and reporting us if she were lathered or slightly foamed at the mouth even on a grilling day. He used to polish her with his own red

handkerchief and, when we exclaimed would say, "What's good enough for me is good enough for her," and then wipe her nose to add weight to his pronouncement. When the war came and he joined up, Jack Ellis came to us, and after that we never wanted anyone else. Another of Jackun's sons-in-laws, he was very much like him in many ways, with the same kind blue eyes, and the same tolerant love of the Rectory children. Ellis, besides being our gardener, was sexton and organ-blower too and, as he swayed out into the aisle of the Lady Chapel on the downward push, we used to try and catch his eye and make him grin, but not he, he was much too aware of the solemnity of the occasion and of his vital part in "playing the organ". He suffered with his feet, as the saying is, and one day when Clare was in the cottage having a "tell" with his "MisEllus he came home from work in our garden and sank down in the settle while he removed his boots. "Do my veet, smell, Miss Clare?" he enquired anxiously and Clare tried to cover up the awkward moment and chattered on quietly. Again he asked "Do my veet smell?" Miss Clare" and again Clare chattered on. Yet again he asked, and at last MisEllus, exasperated at his interruptions, exclaimed "Of course they smell Jack; do be quiet".

Dear MisEllus was a rare gossip and had a shrewd point of view. She was as kind to her neighbours as she was down upon them if they erred in her sight and she brought her children up with a rod of iron. Our own conduct up and down the village was of course a source of comment and we were pretty careful not to offend, for if we did we would have to run the gauntlet of Mrs. Pound at the top, then Mrs.Toms, then Garah Masters, followed by Mrs.Rose Revell and finally MisEllus. At some time or another we had come under their special wing and that constituted, in their sight and in ours, the right to scold, correct and criticise our goings out and our comings in.

When Thurlestone was "discovered", and we had to share our small heaven with the "beastly visitors", Father found a new source of income. He reckoned that, by letting the Rectory for six weeks or so in the summer, he could pay the boarding school fees of one child. It meant leaving the peaches behind for our tenants but we soon forgot that in the new joys of Dartmoor or the village life of Yealmpton and Brixton, near Plymouth. One year we took a school in the High Street at Totnes, and entered into the thrill of what we regarded as town life. We flattened our little noses day after day against the exciting shop windows and longed to be rich and acquire the lovely jewels and toys and books. Tucker's Toffee was made at Totnes and old Mr.Tucker was alive then and always welcomed us for a look around. Yes, in his day anyway, we saw with our eyes the butter and the honey and the fresh cream being mixed and cooked with the sweet yellow sugar and then, when the mixture cooled, we went into the packing rooms and watched the sweets being wrapped in paper ready for the waiting tins. A tin each would be waiting for us but on one occasion John was sole participant, and hid his tin out of sight. He was a bit too attractive at that time with fine bright colouring, round cheeks and mischievous eyes of deep hazel that missed nothing. In his white drill sailor suit and wide brimmed hat proclaiming H.M.S.Victory, he attracted far too much attention, and lapped it up like a cat does cream. One evening Father found a small crowd gathered outside the school and, joining it to see what was happening, he saw John, then aged four, posturing in his blue and white striped pyjamas in the first-floor drawing room window, waving and bowing from his fat waist, royalty personified.

But John had hidden his toffees and was not sharing them out, as he ought to. Every day after dinner his small figure would disappear upstairs and he would return, sucking contentedly. Sometimes Girlie partook of his invitation and one day, when they both set forth to have a toffee, Father sleuthed them.

He came back soon, flung himself into a chair and, face in hands, laughed himself to a standstill. His search had led him to a lumber-room in the attics and, peeping through a crack in the door, had seen John offering Girlie the opened tin and pressing her to take two. Then having helped himself, he very carefully replaced the tin and closed down the lid of the Bedroom Commode. "Take two, Girlie" is an expression that will still send us into gales of mirth.

Although we enjoyed our holidays away, especially the ones at Totnes, when Father used to take us out in rowing boats and steamer trips to Dartmouth for a treat, the day when the brake arrived to drive us back to Thurlestone was really the best day of all. We would pack tightly into the carriage, taking it in turns to sit by the driver, and off we would go, proud of our two horses and the fine black equipage with scarlet wheels. We bowled along through the narrow lanes, the banks heavy with blackberries and honeysuckle, and sooner or later would overtake Father with Belle and the pony trap laden with our bits and pieces. It was a great thing to have our own means of getting about while we were away and hardly a day passed without a picnic at Berry Pomeroy or Dartington or somewhere beautiful within reach of Belle's legs. Her Mother, our darling old Dora, had been sold in her old age, solely for the purpose of teaching a rich little girl her first riding lessons, but she did not live long after she left us and we would shake our heads sorrowfully, believing she felt the parting as much as we did.

Schoolboy Arthur went off one fine morning to Totnes Fair and came back in a hurry with a very red face, going straight to Father with some tidings which we were not allowed to hear; but the fair was put out of bounds for us and we were agog to know what it was all about. For years and years I tried to find out and my curiosity got even sharper until, at last, Arthur thought I was old enough to be told that he had found some horrible monstrosities in cages and he had been sickened to his very soul.

There lived a lady at Totnes, right at the top of the High Street and then further up still, who played the piano very beautifully and was a friend of Mother's. We used to love to hear her play and, when she came to an old favourite, Chopin's Deux Minutes, we would time her most carefully but she usually ended on the dot. How good everyone was to us visiting children, with tea parties and games and picnics. I suppose we were an attractive little lot in our way and we were too unsophisticated not to enjoy everything to the full. Also, being a large family, if one or the other started to show off or be bossy or slightly offensive, the rest would be down on you like a ton of bricks and Coventry would be your lot if you resented it.

Sometimes we went to South Brent, to a house that was too small for us but we got over that by taking our own mattresses and drawing lots for the joy of sleeping on the floor. We were within easy reach of Dartmoor here and our favourite spot was Shipley Bridge which we could get to with the pony cart and tie Belle up in the linhay built there for the wild ponies in bad weather. Although Belle had never been a wild pony, she had inherited the tendency to bite and kick as well as the strong legs and tough constitution. We used to paddle in the moorland stream, pick the bell heather and play hide and seek among the granite boulders. Then, when it was time to start for the drive back to Brent, Belle would be led out and harnessed, after a drink in the stream, and off we would trot. One day Belle was fed up waiting and, as soon as we were all in the trap and Hilda flicked the whip, she tried her Old Thurlestone trick of backing at the run and over the bank we went into the river. It was running low then and the sturdy little trap did not turn over, but we had a narrow squeak and Belle, feeling better for it, went like a lamb all the rest of the way.

Mullion Cove Hotel Review

By Anna Martin

I was lucky enough to win first prize in the Church Fete draw, which was a weekend for two at either the Thurlestone Hotel or its sister hotel, the Mullion Cove Hotel. This prize was generously donated by the Grose family, and, as we live in West Buckland, we naturally chose Mullion Cove.

The 3 star hotel is set high up on the cliffs, and we arrived on January 10th, just after the post Christmas closure, when the weather was very blustery. The entrance is welcoming, and has the feel of a country house hotel, and the charming receptionist took us up to our lovely, warm room, which overlooked the sea. We had a selection of teas and coffee in our room, plus delicious home-made biscuits, which were quickly eaten. The walk down to the cove is easy, but returning to the hotel requires more effort! The hotel has some self-catering apartments near the hotel, and some down in the harbour, which look very attractive. We enjoyed watching the waves lashing against the sea wall.



All the meals that we had in the hotel were excellent, and, at breakfast, we were able to enjoy the view of the sea from our dining table.

The hotel opened a luxurious spa last summer, where there is an outdoor heated swimming pool, an indoor hydrotherapy infinity pool, an outdoor hot tub, a steam room, sauna, therapy rooms and gym. These facilities were much appreciated after a day's walking to and from Kynance Cove.

The decor throughout is very attractive, and all the staff that we met were both efficient and friendly. Dogs are welcome, and they and their owners even have their own lounge.

The area is ruggedly beautiful and interesting, with Kynance Cove, the Lizard and the Helford river nearby.

We will definitely be going to the Mullion Cove Hotel again.

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A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING!



I was brought up (some might say dragged up!) in two towns a few miles east of Manchester. In 1952, when I was around 5 or 6 years old, my dad took me to Maine Road to watch his beloved Manchester City playing Arsenal. I sat on a step in the aisle between two rows of seats full of excitement and awe, though slightly unnerved by the deafening roar and the clattering of football rattles. From that day I too have been an avid City supporter, following them (in those early years) through thin and thin. During the '50s and early '60s City were often playing in the Second Division in front of crowds less than 15,000. I travelled to many grounds as far away as Leyton Orient and Carlisle to cheer on my team. In 1966 I went off to College for 3 years and saw them less frequently. Annoyingly, this was the time when they managed to achieve some level of success with great players such as Colin Bell, Mike Summerbee and Francis Lee.

Having moved to the South Hams in 1971, I continued to support from afar and even managed an occasional opportunity to watch them live, both at Maine Road and later at the Etihad Stadium. In all those 68 years I was never fortunate enough to see a Manchester derby (United v. City) as tickets were like gold dust.

Imagine my delight when I recently received a text message from a family member with connections to Premier League football, who told me he could get tickets for me and my better half to go to the upcoming Manchester derby match. Unfortunately, the game was to be played at Old Trafford and moreover, the seats would be amongst the massed ranks of Reds supporters! However, we never look a gift horse in the mouth and couldn't possibly pass up this opportunity.

It's never a good idea to reveal one's true colours in a situation such as this. Thus, we travelled to the ground wearing accessories consisting of red bobble hat, red scarf and red gloves (much against the grain) while rehearsing low-key reactions to any potential City attacks and inevitable goals! As it happened, we didn't need these newly acquired skills as the Blues failed to ignite and the home team took their chances to score two goals which we cheered excessively in order not to stand out in the crowd. The atmosphere was incredible as deafening partisan support resounded throughout the game, drowning out the ever-more downhearted strains of "Blue Moon" emanating from the few thousand City supporters opposite.

Post-match, we trundled back by double-decker to the City centre. To cheer us up we decided to call into one of the many local hosteries for a cheeky one for the road. Guess what? The pub we chose filled up quickly with joyous, buoyant United supporters celebrating in a raucous fashion-the perfect ending!

Of course, when we arrived back at my sister's house where we were staying for the weekend, I stripped off my outer garments to reveal my sky-blue City supporter's polo shirt-it saved me from complete shame!

Graham Palmer

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 2020. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

To celebrate the end of Lent, can you find the food items hidden in these cryptic clues?.

1. Milk dessert, faced by clowns (7,3)
2. Cheese made backwards (4)
3. Ferry Port spirit? (5,4)
4. A mere dessert (6)
5. I'll eat my hat! (It's not true) (4,3)
6. If you like Spanish snacks, try mixed pasta (5)
7. This German dish sounds bitter (10)
8. Cockney eyes (5,4)
9. Toastie for Frenchman after tasteless sounding footwear (6,8)
10. Astronomer's dish in Mousehole? (8,3)
11. Rice dish for father, Miss Fitzgerald? (6)
12. 19-19-19, statistically speaking (5,3)
13. Rice came blended, cold and sweet (3,5)
14. Red vegetables perhaps (7,5)
15. Bilbo requests strange seafood soup (7,6)
16. Sun (7,3)
17. Chinese dog takes me in (4,4)
18. In Space, nobody can hear... (4,5)
19. Don't undercook dessert in Derbyshire (8,4)
20. Non-porous chef in scrambled Gallic dish (6,5,4)
21. This agent guards your flock, we hear (9,3)
22. Dancer gets dessert (7)
23. Do this fool's berries give you bumps? (5)
24. And you stars worked for a traditional meal (6,5)
25. Mexican food? Stick it in a donkey! (7)
26. Drunk fish? (7,7)
27. Whisky. Bordello Noel makes soup (6,5)
28. Dog Rose (11)
29. Spooner's green nightmare goes into pesto (4,4)
30. War comedy follows fireworks (7,3,4)

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter: 1. Eruption of Icelandic volcano 2. Great British Bake-off on TV for first time 3. Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton 4. Osama Bin Laden is killed 5. Olympic Games held in London 6. Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee 7. Andy Murray wins Wimbledon 8. Birth of Prince George 9. Margaret Thatcher dies 10. Death of Sir Richard Attenborough aged 90 11. Nicola Sturgeon elected leader of Scottish National Party 12. Conservative party wins United Kingdom General Election 13. Great Britain wins Davis Cup for the first time since 1936 14. European Union Referendum held in United Kingdom 15. Leonardo di Caprio wins first Oscar 16. Death of David Bowie 17. Donald Trump becomes President of the USA 18. Her Majesty the Queen celebrates her ninetieth birthday 19. Bombing in Manchester Arena at Ariane Grande Concert 20. Wedding of Prince Harry and Megan Markle 21. Sergei Skripal and his daughter poisoned by Novichok in Salisbury 22. Beast from the East hits Great Britain 23. British Prime Minister Theresa May announces her resignation 24. Duchess of Sussex gives birth to a son (Archie) 25. England wins Cricket World Cup for first time.

There were 2 correct entries last month. First from the hat to win the coveted bottle of wine is Emma Hartley. Commiserations to David and Kathryn Hockley



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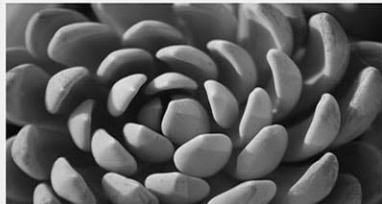
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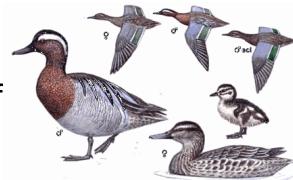
SPRING MIGRANTS

After the wettest February and probably one of the highest count of days with gale force winds, March arrived, which traditionally is the month when bird watchers throughout Devon will be trying to find the first arrivals of at least 8 species which have spent most of their winter in Africa - although in recent years as temperatures in Southern Europe have increased, Swallow and House Martin now overwinter in Southern Spain.

Species which are most likely to be found in March are: -

SAND MARTIN- Very often the earliest of the migrants traditionally around the 15th/16th March, although in 2019 the first arrivals were on 1st March. Most likely to be found over the Marshes searching for food.

GARGANEY - A small duck - smaller than a MALLARD the male has a distinctive white eye stripe. In 2018 first arrivals were on 4th March. South Huish Marsh is the best location - very often birds arrive during the morning spending the rest of the day resting and feeding before moving north to their breeding grounds. Spends the winter in the lakes of Central Africa.



On 1st April 2005 a flock of 65 flew into the Bay which at that time was the largest flock found in the UK.

SWALLOW - Traditionally thought of as heralding the arrival of summer. Most years the first sightings will occur between 13th and 16th March.

HOUSE MARTIN - Usually arrives a few days later than SWALLOWS - distinctive white rump will identify it whilst swooping for food over South Huish Marsh.

WHEATEAR - First arrivals from Africa between 10th - 16th March can be found around the coast path and often first thing in the morning running across the greens at the Golf Club.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER - A small Wader again winters in Africa, first arrivals will be found at South Huish Marsh from the 20th March.



SANDWICH TERN - Likely to be found feeding in the Bay on small Sand Eels diving from a height of up to 12 feet. Change in climate temperatures now find them over wintering in parts of Brittany although our first arrivals will have migrated from Southern Spain.

WILLOW WARBLER - Can be found around the water treatment works at South Milton Ley from the 25th March. Much brighter yellow breast distinguishes it from the over wintering CHIFFCHAFFS at this site.

If you want to keep track of this year's arrivals details will be posted on thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk website.

On 16th February at South Huish Marsh a RINGED PLOVER was present for just that day, displaying white rings on its right leg and a combination of red and navy rings on its left leg. Within just over 24 hours I received confirmation that it had been ringed at a breeding site in the WADDEN SEA, GERMANY on 1st June 2019 and last seen there on 9th July 2019. It spent from November to the end of January at PORTHLOO, ST. MARYS, ISLES OF SCILLY before a brief visit to the Marsh.

With the next issue of the Voice being distributed early April can you listen for the plaintive call of a CUCKOO. Any time after the 12th April used to be the time, however only once in the last 4 years - 19th April 2016 - heard early morning in West Buckland Valley. If you do hear one please let me know - 01548 560076 or mikepassman@modbury.me.uk.

Thurlestone Golf Club

After nearly 18 months the Club has finally obtained planning permission for a pay and display machine for its public car park. The Club would like to thank Thurlestone and South Milton Parish Councils for their support to our application.



We are conscious that some members of the local community may feel that they have an inherent right to park on the Golf Club's land for free but sadly this is not the case. However, we have been mindful of local residents when setting the times of charge and the rates of charge. The following are some of the things you should be aware of when using the car park: -

- Car Park Charges will start from Friday 1st May 2020
- Bona fide visitors to the Club do not need to pay – but must enter their car registration number in the clubhouse
- You have 10 minutes grace before you need to pay
- Charges commence from 9.00 am
- Short Term Stay is £1.20 (up to 1 hour)
- Up to 3 hours is £3.00
- Over 3 hours is £5.00
- Please pay the correct charge for your stay.
- Overnight parking is not allowed
- Those residents with certified disabled badges can use the disabled bays in front of the Clubhouse

If you are a regular user of our car park it may be more cost effective to consider becoming a Social Member of the Club. The charge for Social Membership is £76.00 per annum, this will afford you free parking all year round. As well as free parking Social Membership will entitle you to the use of the Clubhouse including 10% off all drinks purchased and 15% off all food purchases – an absolute bargain! If you would like an application form please contact, or pop into, the office.

We have received many positive comments with regard to the new Chestnut Paling Fencing running along the top of the Leasfoot Beach Dunes and the new entrance with a non-slip boardwalk. This has been installed by the Club and there is still much more we would like to do. Although this work primarily benefits the Golf Club, we are confident that it also benefits the wider community. Hopefully, with increased parking revenue, we can look forward to considering other projects which are mutually beneficial to local residents, visitors and to the Golf Club.

If you have any questions about the car park that you would like clarified please don't hesitate to call the office on 01548 560405 ext 2.

Finally, as I look out of our office window and see the grass bank adorned with the unique yellow of defiant daffodils, I am confident that spring is just around the corner and we can look forward to the clocks going forward and the nights drawing out.

P.S. Due to recent directives regarding Covid-19 and social distancing the Club hope to be operating a “take away” food service during normal working hours, which we hope will assist residents at this difficult time.

If you would like to find out more details please contact the office on 01548 560405.

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Snippets from the Past

The Poor Of The Parish

By Michael Stephens

In the last issue I wrote about the Church House in Thurlestone, and how the poor were treated and looked after in general up to the early nineteenth century. I continue with

PART 3 : THE UNION HOUSE

In 1834 a monumental change occurred which affected the nation's poor, following a huge increase in the number of people relying on the parish for relief. This was due to a number of factors, going back to the enclosures of the late 1700s whereby many country people lost their rights to graze animals on common land. Then came the wars with France which went on until 1816 ; so much food was diverted to the army and navy that there was hunger, and 'bread riots'. Things got worse still after this extended period of hostilities. As the army and navy down-sized, men were discharged in large numbers with no prospect of future employment, and very little relief available, even for those injured in the service of their country. 1816 was also a year of extreme deprivation caused by the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia, which had the effect of blocking out the sun and causing crop failure and food shortages and on a huge scale, worldwide. Famine conditions prevailed in parts of the British Isles; there was simply no harvest that year – 'it was known as the year without a summer'. So the new post-war era got off to a very bad start.

During the next couple of decades, the population grew, mechanisation increasingly replaced farm labourers and the government failed to address these problems, leading to so many being 'on the parish' that drastic action was taken. Huge centralised workhouses were built which catered for numerous surrounding parishes grouped into 'unions'. We are now in the realms of Charles Dickens and 'Oliver Twist'. No more 'outdoor' relief provided by the parish, and no more village Poor House administered by those who at least knew who the inmates were. These were abolished by law, despite some resistance by some parishes who tried to administer a parallel system. These new centralised workhouses were pretty massive institutions in the cities, and even Kingsbridge and Totnes were on a pretty big scale – near enough the biggest buildings in those towns at the time.

The dismal new establishments were designed to be a last resort for paupers unfortunate enough to have to seek refuge. Most of the population worked on the land and could be said to be 'poor' – especially by our own standards – but they could survive on the breadline as long as there was regular employment. Paupers were those who were totally unable to sustain themselves or their families. The blame was laid at their own door however, as they were deemed to be intemperate, wasteful, and not willing to look for (non-existent) work. The feeling was amongst many - and was eagerly fostered by the authorities - that being poor was the fault of the individual and that relief, paid for by the Poor Rate, was to be the workhouse or nothing. In case any of the rate-paying population had any sympathy or compassion, examples were cited in order to convince anyone so disposed, that paupers only had themselves to blame and that a deterrent was required rather than a solution to their distress.

There was no compulsion about entering the workhouse – just the last resort of desperation ; after all, it was illegal to lie down and die in a ditch. Men nearly always

had families to think of, so if they had absolutely nothing to feed their children with, there was but one choice.

On entering 'The House', people were immediately institutionalised. A compulsory bath, with scant privacy. Inmates had to wear an undignified uniform, often ill-fitting, and personal belongings were locked away until they left the house. Men were housed apart from women, and children separately again (apart from babes in arms). Diet was designed to be less appealing than that of the poorest labourer – and that was saying something, hence the gruel which we associate with these places – just a watery oatmeal porridge. There was often an allowance of meat a couple of times a week, very sparse and of the cheapest 'scrag-end' kind, maybe with a potato and an onion. There are two books at the end of the article which I can recommend if anyone is brave enough (and you do need to be) to read further about conditions etc .

A Master & Matron were charged with looking after males and females respectively. They were seldom local and would have no connection to the inmates. Some were of a kind disposition, most were sticklers for the rules and regulations, of which there were a great many. Inspections were made from time to time, by members of a Board Of Guardians who were accountable to the ratepayers, and saw to it that the inmates were (or appeared to be) healthy and clean. The character of the individual staff, the Master & Matron and the local Guardians were of course arbitrary, ranging from relatively caring to downright cruel.

Work varied from place-to-place but able-bodied men would spend all day breaking stones for road-mending, with an allotted amount per person, and women often had to pick oakum, old tar-covered bits of rope which they had to unravel for hours on end (it was re-used for caulking wooden sailing ships). Women did all of the domestic duties, mainly washing the clothes and bedding.

The classes of people who paid the Poor Rate had been convinced from the start that the poor only had themselves to blame and that the dreariness of the workhouses would be a deterrent, reduce the number of claimants, and result in a reduction of the Poor Rate. Many would have been unaware of the reality of conditions inside.

These institutions were not prisons – anyone was free to leave, but the 'catch 22' was that you were not allowed to beg or wander or to seek assistance elsewhere, so many found it hard to get back to any kind of normal living. Initially the poor who were out of work were incarcerated alongside the 'lunatics' the very elderly, wandering 'vagabonds' and the disabled, in the first few decades at least, with just a little laxity towards those who were very old or sick. Medically, there might be one female 'nurse' for the whole place and a local doctor could be called in if need be. One suspects that the relief of an individual's symptoms came second to the prevention of epidemics which might spread beyond the workhouse gates. Inmates themselves assisted tending the sick and might even get an extra allowance of tea or a bit of cheese ; women with experience of midwifery were in high demand.

Later in the century conditions began to change. This followed public outcry at several widely-reported scandals, such as at Andover (Hants) in 1870 where inmates were given the arduous task of crushing old bones – but were found to be so hungry that they gnawed the decaying bones to extract the marrow. That was an exceptional case but such reports gradually change attitudes.

The Victorian era increasingly brought prosperity and employment, even though labour was cheap, so able-bodied inmates decreased dramatically. The final decades of the nineteenth century saw various specialised institutions being built, better to

deal with the different aspects of want and need ; asylums for those with mental health issues, infirmaries for the sick, often on entirely different sites from the main workhouse. Children were increasingly sent to orphanages, or to 'baby farms' which were ill-regulated and often run by single women or widows in their own homes, who were paid so much per child per week through the Poor Law to feed the infants in their care, but who didn't always see to it that the food reached the mouths of their charges.

The Workhouse proper, by the end of the century, really only catered for the elderly and infirm with no other means of support. The 'casual wards' in these establishments catered separately for the vagrants who would spend a night here and there before moving on. For their (very basic) food and board, they had to perform certain tasks for a specified number of hours the next morning before they were allowed to leave.

In the dying days of the workhouse, rules and regulations were much more relaxed. The elderly were the only long-term inmates and were, for example, permitted to share a bed with their spouse and have extra allowances of tea. Feared though the Workhouse still was, there was more freedom to come and go, visit friends outside and also 'treats' once or twice a year often provided by local philanthropists. Asylums existed for those with mental conditions and the lame and blind were often catered for in charitable institutions which provided a communal home and vocational work.

By the 1900s workhouse infirmaries were clean and well-run and were the best option for the bulk of the population who could not afford private treatment. Many became cottage hospitals, or 'Public Assistance Institutions' (homes for the elderly) when workhouses, as such, were abolished in 1929. Many older people, however, would not have made the distinction and still resisted 'entering the house' – the stigma still having resonance. Ultimately, many such places were absorbed into the National Health Service.

Old workhouse buildings still exist in many places. The old Hampstead Workhouse in North London is, ironically (as elsewhere) converted into luxury flats. The one at Tavistock (also residential) can be seen if you drive out of the town under the old viaduct, you'll soon see it on the right - unmistakably a workhouse building. Closer to home, the Kingsbridge workhouse, though partially destroyed by fire in the 1950s, may still be seen if you turn left past the supermarket beginning with 'M'. A few yards up the hill, opposite the car showroom & garages, is a red-brick building housing industrial units. That was the workhouse. Prior to the fire it had been known as 'Homelands' - one of the Public Assistance Institutions. Before today's road was built, past the supermarkets and on past Norton Brook, the way into the town from the workhouse was (from the turning by the car showroom) down Lower Union Road, to the bottom end of town ; the 'Union' part of the road's name referring to the Union Workhouse - in case you ever wondered.

Where else can you see a bit of Kingsbridge Union Workhouse? Well you can see the lantern and bracket which surmounted the grim entrance gates a bit closer to home. It is now fixed over the gate into South Milton churchyard. My thanks to Graham Collyer, historian & journalist of 'Kingsbridge Gazette' fame, for the following information : "The lantern over the South Milton church gate was given by Stanley Smerdon in April 1965. He was the boss of Oke Bros. garage in Bridge Street who had also taken over the old workhouse as their agricultural machinery base".



For those interested in social history I can recommend :

Fowler, S. : *Workhouse* (2007) ; London, The National Archives

Higginbotham, P. : *The Workhouse Encyclopedia* (2012) ; Stroud, The History Press

A REPORT FROM THE AVON ESTUARY FORUM

The Avon Estuary Forum (AEF) is a biannual meeting of all those agencies and individuals with a relevant interest although discussions often include upstream matters that might affect the estuary. The Forum is usually held in Thurlestone Parish Hall and anybody is welcome to attend. If you'd like to be added to the mailing lists for alerts, please contact nigel.mortimer@southdevonaonb.org.uk.



Aune Conservation Association

The meeting on 3rd March was my second as Chairman and I have decided to provide occasional reports to the local parish magazines to widen the information base beyond the distribution of the formal notes that are provided prior to our next meeting (on 13th October in this case).

Ryan Hooper (Estate Manager & Bantham Harbourmaster) announced that the Bantham Estate would continue the operation of the Avon Patrol in 2020, financed as previously by South Hams DC and the Bantham Estate, with voluntary contributions from the Aune Conservation Association (ACA), the Avon Valley Ski Club (AVSC) and the Duchy of Cornwall. Last summer, the revamped patrol made a valuable contribution to the safety and security of many estuary users.

There was further discussion, without resolution, about possible improvements to the Bantham/Bigbury ferry operation and how these might tie in with changes to the England Coast Path proposals from Natural England, to the advantage of walkers and regional tourism. Funding is one unsettled issue.

Public participation in several consultations was invited. The first involves the South Devon Catchment Partnership and 'Challenges and Choices' (see - <http://south-devon.org/challenges-and-choices/>). That consultation explains why water is such a vital resource, describes the challenges that threaten the water environment, explores how we can work together to manage our waters, looks at who should pay for the actions needed and, importantly, invites input on all these issues. In that context, there was considerable discussion about river water quality and how standards can be maintained in the face of severe Environment Agency staff cuts. The second consultation, open until 6th April, (see - <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/mmo/draft-south-west-inshore-and-offshore-marine-plans/>) is about marine planning in the SW, including the Avon Estuary (now designated as a Marine Conservation Zone). We also heard about proposed new 'bag limits' that might be imposed by the Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA) on the hand collection of foreshore species such as bait worms, scallops, cockles, mussels and limpets but the deadline for that consultation has now passed!



As a direct outcome of the meeting, I have contacted Devon & Severn IFCA about local reports of diseased crabs and lobsters by AVSC members. It seems likely, from a brief Internet search and the description provided at our meeting, that these crustaceans might be the victims of 'black spot' disease - a bacterial infection (see picture obtained from the internet). Have any other 'potters' seen evidence of this disease locally? Please let us know.

The Outdoor Swimming Association has told me that there will be a new event this year - the Bantham 'Boomerang' on Friday 3rd July, whereby swimmers will enter the water at Bantham beach at around 1630 and swim upstream with the tide. All swimmers will turn with the tide at 18.00 (wherever they may be!) and return to Bantham - the last swimmers are expected to be out of the water by 20.00. The Bantham 'Swoosh' will take place on Saturday 4th July, with swimmers entering the water at Aveton Gifford from 06.00 and exiting at Bantham by 09.15. Please beware of swimmers and let's hope nobody will get a dose of 'black spot'!

Stuart Watts: email - sdmw2@btopenworld.com

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February and March Reports

We had a very interesting talk by Liz Hext who has joined the local history group in U3A and done a lot of research into Work Houses, especially Kingsbridge , when she discovered she had a family connection.

We were shown some fascinating slides of wonderful old photos starting with the famous cartoon of Oliver Twist asking for more Gruel, Liz said that that really was a true picture of the time, Charles Dickens did a lot to publicise the situation in his books.

In 1601 the Poor Law Act was the first step towards some care for the poor, but the Work houses were set up as a deterrent with the inmates having to do a lot of work, the men were separated from the women, boys from girls and babies were in nurseries where their mothers were allowed to see them for an hour a week.

In 1834 there was a Poor Law Amendment Act to improve conditions and a Poor Law Union was formed. When admitted men and women were given a bath, haircut, a medical and a uniform.

The porter had an important position admitting people for which he was paid £18 a year. Liz emphasised that many of the workhouses were caring and there was quite good food, the men were the gardeners and grew the vegetables. The Kingsbridge workhouse is still standing in Higher Union Road, the big clock has no face on the side facing the workhouse.

Next month, Meg de Blank will be discussing Queen Elizabeth's Jewels.

The March WI meeting was held as usual in the Thurlestone Parish Hall on March 12th. Our treasurer Lisa White opened the meeting and Meg de Blank was introduced. Meg has had a lifelong interest in all things Royal and gave a very interesting and informative talk on Queen Elizabeth's Jewels. Her talk followed the history of the Queen's personal jewel collection essentially dating back to Queen Victoria with some references going right back to the Black Prince and Queen Elizabeth 1st. The large red stone in the Queen's coronation crown (the Imperial State Crown which is kept in the Tower of London) was worn in battle by many of our royal princes and kings and although it looks like a large ruby it is actually a spinel but there is now a small ruby set in the top of the gemstone. Meg described how Queen Victoria built up a large personal collection of jewels, which have been added to over the years. The small crown that we are all familiar with, worn in her later years was specially commissioned, as it was lighter to wear. Despite this it has 1,700 diamonds in its body. We also learned the difference between a crown and a tiara, a crown is a complete circle, has arches and is normally only worn by the monarch, while a tiara is an incomplete circle and often worn by brides and on formal occasions.

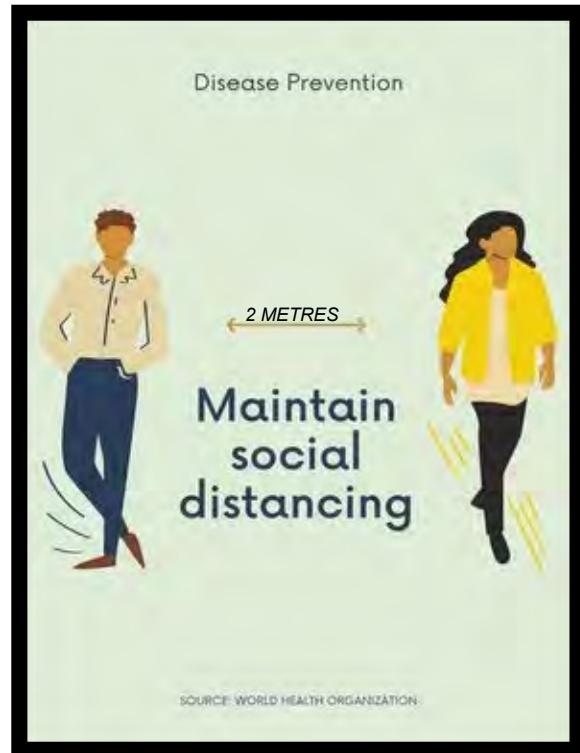
The Queen has an impressive number of tiaras. The Duchess Vladimir Tiara is reputed to be the Queen's favourite. This tiara is very impressive, originally worn by Queen Mary. It can be worn just as a diamond tiara or alternatively decorated by either detachable emeralds or pearls.

We also heard the story of how the Cullinan diamond was found by Frank Wells in 1905 in South Africa, the diamond (which took 2 years to cut) was 3,102 carats and the largest of the diamonds cut from the original is known as the Great Star of Africa (540 carats) and rests in the Queen's sceptre but as it is detachable can also be worn

as a pendant. Queen Mary used to enjoy wearing this diamond, and she was so fond of wearing jewellery that she had to have the bodices of her dresses reinforced to accommodate the weight of her jewellery.

Following this very interesting talk the meeting business was conducted.

Please note that due to the COVID-9 Virus all meetings and the Devon Federation WI events will be postponed until further notice.



Ode to Covid-19

In the style of Gilbert & Sullivan

I am the very model of effective social distancing!
I listen to the experts on the topic of resistance-ing;
I know that brunch and yoga class aren't nearly as imperative
As doing what I can to change the nation's viral narrative.

I'm very well acquainted, too, with living solitarily
And confident that everyone can do it temporarily:
Go take a walk, or ride a bike, or dig into an unread book
Avoid the bars and restaurants and carry out, or learn to cook.

There's lots of stuff to watch online while keeping safe from sinus ills
(In this case, it's far better to enjoy your Netflix MINUS chills)!
Adopt a pet, compose a ballad, write some earnest doggerel,
And help support our leaders while they're sorting out the mess.

Pandemics are alarming, but they are not insurmountable
If everybody pitches in to hold ourselves accountable.
In short, please do your part to practice prudent co-existence-ing,
And be the very model of effective social distancing!

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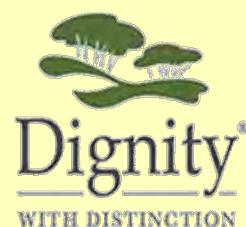
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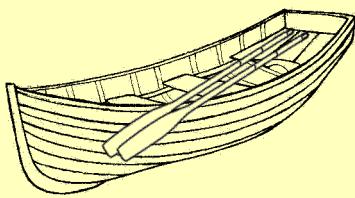
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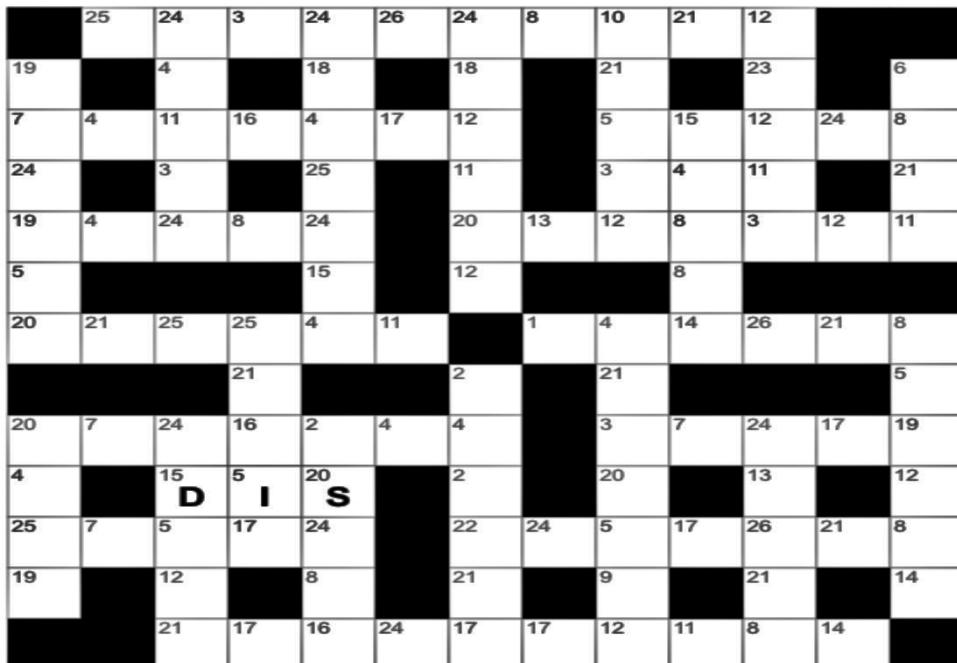
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Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st May 2020. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk



1	2	3	4	5	I	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	D	16	17	18	19	20	S	21	22	23	24	25	26

Sudoku - Hard

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		3	1			6							
	9		4	6	8		1						
						5		4					
			6			1							
5	2			1		9	6						
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		8	9			3							
		7											

Sudoku - Hard

			8		1								
			6		1								3
			5									9	
	3	7			1							8	
4						2						9	
2	8			9			3						
2											6		
		4			7							1	
		6			5								

There were 2 correct entries last month. First out of the hat to win the coveted bottle of wine is Pauline Lonsdale. Commiserations to Dave Gibby.

TRIED AND TASTED

Quick and Easy Pea and Spinach Soup

Serves 2

200g frozen peas

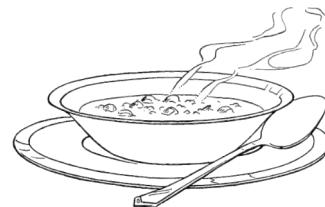
100g frozen spinach

1 garlic clove chopped

½ vegetable stock cube

Handful of chopped fresh mint leaves (optional)

2 tablespoons full fat Greek yoghurt



1) Place all the ingredients, apart from the yoghurt, in a medium sized saucepan over a medium heat. Add 500ml water and bring to the boil.

2) Season the soup with freshly ground black pepper and allow it to simmer for about 5 minutes. Then remove it from the heat and blitz it with a hand-held blender or in a food processor.

3) Add the Greek yoghurt, mix well, then divide between 2 bowls.

Roasted Vegetable Pasta

Serves 2

2 yellow or red peppers, cut into 2cm chunks

1 medium courgette, quartered lengthways and cut into 2cm chunks

1 large red onion, peeled and cut into 12 wedges

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

12 cherry tomatoes, halved

½ tsp dried chilli flakes (optional)

100g dried whole wheat or fusilli pasta

50g young spinach leaves

1) Preheat oven to 200c/180c fan/gas 6. Put peppers, courgettes and onion into a large baking tray. Drizzle with the oil, season and toss together. Roast for 20 minutes.

2) Take the tray out the oven and turn the vegetables. Add the tomatoes and sprinkle with the chilli flakes if using. Cook for 10 minutes or until the vegetables are browned.

3) While vegetables are roasting, fill a saucepan with water and bring to the boil. Add pasta, simmer and cook as directed on the packet.

4) Drain the pasta in a colander and return to the pan. Add the spinach (which will wilt down) together with the roasted veg. Mix together and season to your taste.

5) Sprinkle with freshly grated parmesan and serve with a leafy salad.

Recipes taken from the Fast 800 by Dr Michael Mosley and Dr Clare Bailey

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TRAMP WALKS

FEBRUARY - MARCH

Well, what an awful start to our 2020 walking treats. With storms Ciara and Dennis sweeping through the south-west with no respite, we have been left with both very wet bodies and very soggy ground.

However, it takes more than this to prevent our intrepid Tramp members from taking their group exercise!! Only one walk has been cancelled.

Visitors are welcome to join us on our walks and the weekly details are posted in the Post Office window a few days in advance. New members are very welcome---just contact Mike Stickland on stix@talktalk.net for more information.

Thurlestone Circuit. February 3rd. Mike Stickland.

Mike took on this walk as the Scotts were unable to lead. The weather was again threatening all sorts of "nasties" but 12 of us decided to risk the storms which were forecast to arrive at 12 noon.

Thurlestone Parish only has 8 miles of "Public Rights of Way" as the coastal path is not included in the Devon PROW. Mike challenged the Tramps to count all the PROW signs that we passed during the walk with a pint as the prize! You would not believe how difficult it is to spot the signs when you are busy talking and walking!!

We set off from Court Park and walked up Post Office Lane and down the steep hill to West Buckland. From the old Telephone Box, we climbed up the steep path behind to probably the highest point in the Parish. Three tall stiles challenged both the dogs and the small Tramps but all was well eventually

A number of the group had never been to this part of the Parish before and were very surprised to find a whole field set aside for the commercial production of turf! We turned towards Bantham and

then went down the small lane to Lower Aunemouth Farm. Again, a number had never visited this corner of the Parish before. We dropped down to the estuary path and along it for a very welcome hot beverage in the Bantham café.

Within 10 yards of leaving the cafe, the heavens opened – the forecast was wrong by 1hour!

This caused the group to split up – some to take the fastest route to their home – whilst Mike led us to Bantham beach and then up the coast path to the corner of the golf course. We turned left across the course and on exit, briefly stopped to discuss the site of the ancient "barrow" (which is hardly noticeable!) before retuning across the downs to Post Office Lane and home.

Number of PROW signs = only 7. Sheila is still waiting for her pint!

Monday 10th February 2020, Frogmore Creek & views of Kingsbridge Estuary, Mike & Sian Hodges

With Storm Ciara heading off into Europe, winds dropping from 60 to 40mph, and a Met Office forecast for bright sunny intervals with the odd heavy showers, ten well equipped Trampers and 3 dogs set off from the Springfield Farm Shop Café near Frogmore. Well I say set off. There was a brief pause under the café veranda to allow one of those showers to pass!

Crossing a couple of fields, and the busy A379 at the edge of East Charleton we headed up hill onto the old county roads between Kingsbridge, the Charletons and Frogmore. On joining the Kingsbridge Frogmore section, we had fine views out across the Kingsbridge Estuary to the South. Primroses coloured the banks of the now abandoned county road to Duncombe Cross, and the "Totnes man" was visible to the North. These roads were the main route into the Charletons and Frogmore prior to the opening of New Bridge across Bowcombe creek, and the Turnpike in 1831.

After sheltering from another shower, we left the county road and headed down the valley to West Charleton, man handling the dogs over a number of stone stiles,

passing abandoned watercress ponds, and Charleton Rectory (once described as the best parsonage in the county), now privately owned and renamed The Grange.

Crossing the A379 in bright sunshine we headed uphill to the Beacon (last lit in 2012, Queens Jubilee), and on to the Geese Quarries (which supplied slate to Windsor Castle) near Wareham Point. On joining Frogmore creek, some walked the shoreline, and others the fields, all entertained by the water birds, including the distinctive sound of the curlew.

After a rather tricky fording of a swollen brook near Cleave House, and battling the last squall, it was uphill to a very welcome coffee and cake in the Springfield café.

February 21st. Revelstoke Drive to Noss Mayo. Jill Miller

As the posters say - Everyone Welcome!! Regulars =12 Dogs =1

Visitors = 2 less welcome Visitors = descendants of Ciara and Dennis!!

We set off from Warren Point carpark with a spring in our step as it was, at last, not raining... Hooray!!

However, there was still a strong wind which gave us a bit of a tailwind and the flat walk along the carriageway path was at a fairly brisk pace. Once we rounded the headland into the Yealm Estuary it became slightly more sheltered.

We opted for the safer roadside walk through Ferry Wood where we saw some fallen trees and a beautiful pink camellia shining through the trees that had survived the storms.

A familiar and easy walk that allowed for the usual camaraderie, exercise, fresh air and appreciation of the scenery and surroundings. I had the South Devon AONB walks audio clips to listen to but the sound of the wind would have made this too difficult to listen to comfortably.

Having completed the distance in record time (much like the BA transatlantic flight of the previous week that had broken speed records) we were a tad early for our lunch at The Ship. We spent time peeping over a wall admiring a newly completed garden with raised beds and

posh sheds and discussing our plans for our various afternoon activities.

The table had been reserved in The Glass House, a relatively new room on the quayside, which had been prepared for us and we had to ourselves. The relaxing surroundings and group table allowed for conversations around electric bikes, local restaurants, Kingsbridge Cinema and films, local builders and holidays etc.

The group split up after the super "Ship" food to return up the hill to the car park passing a lovely display of daffodils and snowdrops on the way.

A bright sight after the gloomy days, or even weeks, that had preceded this walk.

25th February - surprise trip to the Avon Valley. Sheila Fairley

Well, that was a surprise! Ten of us turned up at Court Park, ready to walk the Puffing Billy line from Bittaford up to Ugborough Beacon. Rolf, who was to lead the walk, was most unsure whether we should attempt the walk, because according to his weather research we would be facing into 50 mph gusts and sleety squalls ... if not snow.... up on the Moor. Wisely he made the decision to abandon it. 'What now?' we all asked.

I suggested swapping walks: we were due to lead a figure of 8 walk from Loddiswell Station towards the end of April. Dartmoor would surely be less a feat of endurance and more an enjoyable experience by then.

So, keeping the railway theme intact, 9 of us set off along the old railway until the first bridge, where we left the track and meandered along the riverside path, past the three beech trees, which had upended right across the river causing considerable subsidence to the bank, until we reached the second bridge. We carried on past the peacock cottage, across Topsham bridge, up the road past the Narnia lamp and into Avon Woods. We came down once again by the second bridge and thence back to the cars and a welcome break at Avon Mill Café. We didn't quite complete the walk we would have done in April: we avoided going up into Woodleigh and Titcombe Woods, be-

cause the descent is very 'skiddy' at the moment.

Verdict: it was the right decision despite being very muddy; we were pretty much sheltered from the worst of the gusts and we didn't get wet! Signs of spring were evident - primroses, tête à têtes, catkins, wild garlic sprouting.

.... And we still have Rolf's walk to look forward to. Couldn't be better.

Tuesday, March 3rd. Blackpool Sands & interior. Alastair & Gill Durden.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, Spring was definitely in the air! Seven of us accompanied by two dogs set out from Blackpool Sands car park elated by the sunshine and gentle breeze. We were immediately faced with evidence of the recent gale force winds, however; a tree had fallen near the entrance to Blackpool Sands, taking with it some of the footpath. This meant the footpath had had to be diverted for a short distance. We crossed the main road and headed into Stoke Fleming, passing the church and pub and a duck pond, continuing along the road northwards towards Venn. This road took us past a farm with the lovely and appropriate name of Pleasant Valley Farm, downhill to cross a stream at Venn, then up the other side of the valley. At the top of the incline we found a bridleway which took us past Worden House and along the side of another beautiful valley, with the sound of a gurgling stream below us making its way to the sea. We then picked up a road which follows the stream, passing houses which would have been water-mills in days gone by, before returning to the car park in time for a coffee and lunch-time snack at the Venus Café. This four-mile walk (which was originally planned to be our Christmas walk) was new to everyone who joined us, and was given a five-star rating by them for its interest and scenic beauty. Definitely one to be repeated!

Monday 9th March. Stover Park Heritage Trail. Peter & Wendy Gornall

A walk in Devon with no gradients! Rain was threatened before 1.00 pm, but gathering in the Stover car park were 17

people and 2 dogs. Under light cloud we set off along the north side of the duck-loud lake. We passed by the pillar with Ted Hughes' poem "The Otter", but paused later for "The swallow of summer, she toils all the summer, A blue-dark knot of glittering voltage..." The Heritage Trail signs led into conifer woodland south-eastwards to cross a minor road. A little south of Ventiford Cottages, near the under-used railway and remnants of Stover canal, we entered meadows and soon the banks of the majestically swollen Teign. It had undercut the turf which was hanging in curtains. Runs of sticks and vegetation on the meadow grass showed where the river had previously overflowed.

Further on the flat meadow became marshy (someone proposed a fine housing development opportunity!). To get to the gate out of the meadow meant negotiating a veritable pond. One solution was a piece of fallen fencing which made a cross between bridge and raft. Others crept round through low bushes over logs and barbed wire lurking in mud. Some hairy moments but no casualties!

The walk back took us past the Canadian memorial to the "Sawdust Fusiliers" who had done so much logging for the First World War effort. It began to drizzle at 1 o'clock as we reached the cars.

Twelve hungry people had a satisfying lunch in Bovey Tracey Craft Centre.



FOOTNOTE

For those of you who have been wondering what TRAMP is all about, the TRAMP group in Thurlestone was formed over 40 years ago by a group of people who enjoyed walking. It is an informal group who do a variety of short walks and longer walks throughout the year, sometimes with a pub stop, sometimes with a picnic stop, occasionally with neither. TRAMP stands for Thurlestone Rambling Party

Eating Out Locally

With recommendations for us to stay at home, let's take a new look at Eating Out Locally. Whatever our situation – while avoiding contact with others by staying close to home, the enjoyment of ready-cooked meals, either collected or delivered to our homes, may become the new 'Eating Out Locally'.

We're familiar with pizzas, Chinese fare and Indian meals having well established takeaway services. New suppliers could become available, but until more local restauranteurs offer takeaways and home deliveries, these are suggested sources:



Cafe Asia Chinese, Mill Street	01548 857888
Kings Kebab House, Mill Street	01548 853552
Deli Spice Indian, Fore Street	01548 854444
Yummy House Chinese takeaway, Fore Street	01548 852151
Munchybox Cafe Ltd., The Anchor Centre, Bridge Street	01548 852341
Pizza Planet, Mill Street	01548 856655
Maha-Bharat Indian Restaurant, Mill Street	01548 857072
The Village Inn, Thurlestone	01548 563525
The Sloop Inn, Bantham	01548 560489
The Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove	01548 561555

How extraordinary that a minute organism has affected the world in such a huge way.

Vivien Stickland

This is subject to change.

Local Businesses who are providing Deliveries



Thurlestone Village Post Office & Store

01548 561917

Banham Village Stores

01548 560645

Alan's Apple, Kingsbridge

01548 852308

Aune Valley Meat Company

01548 550413

R Bruckner & Son (Milk & so much more (see website))

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Dingbat Answers

A. in the long run - B. Face up to it - C. just between the two of us - D. It's all the same to me



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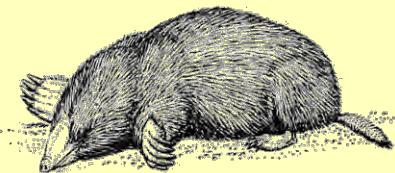
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Weather Wag

by Jan Turner

I suppose the most notable fact about the 2020 weather features is the amount of rainfall recorded so far this year. January was 67mm (about average) but February was 154mm. This is more than twice the normal amount recorded at Beach Cottage. The general opinion held by weather watchers and the Met Office is that last year was the warmest and wettest since records began 150yrs ago. This year seems to be following that same pattern. As of today –Sunday 15th March, a spell of drier weather is due next week!! Let's hope the Met Office is correct. We are desperately in need of some sunshine and calmer days.

On looking at the Ref. book The W K of S, today marks the occasion of a storm off Newcastle in 1789 which resulted in the sinking of a sailing ship -

The Adventure. Hundreds of people watched helplessly from the cliffs at South Shields as everyone aboard the ship drowned. The local community was so appalled by their inability to help, that the members of a local social club institute organised a competition to design a purpose- built rescue vessel. A prize of two guineas was offered. Willie Wouldhave, the parish clerk, came up with a suitable design, which was constructed by a local boat-builder Henry Greathead. The 30-foot –long (10 metres) boat, with 12 oars and a curved keel, carries 784lb (356kg) of cork for buoyancy. It was called the 'Original', as it's the first lifeboat built for the job, rather than a conversion, and was launched ten months later – the most important ever development in the history of sea rescue.

This was, I suppose along with the story of Grace Darling the origin of the RNLI as we know it today. How we value the presence of a lifeboat moored up and ready to go at a moment's notice to attend a life-threatening situation at sea, or to rescue someone from cliffs or beaches who may be cut off by the tide. We now have smaller editions based on a RIB which can get into shallow water to effect rescues of all sorts. I have watched the TV programme about our lifeboats and their various call outs, and remain in awe of the dedication and bravery of the crews. The whole service exists on Public donations and we need to look after them.

On the same date 15th March, a second item relates the occasion of the First Football Cup Final played at Wembley. This was in 1969, Arsenal lose 3-1 to Third Division Swindon Town in the League Cup Final. The days preceding it had been very wet and the pitch was described as being like a 'cabbage patch'. Mud, it says, like laughter is a great leveller: there is plenty of both as Arsenal, fielding household names like Frank McLintock and George Graham, lose their way in the mire. In extra time, 23yr old Don Rogers flicks the ball round Bob Wilson to seal the Gunner's fate. The image of the Arsenal goalkeeper, left flailing in the mud, says it all. There have been a few matches like that this season, although I tend towards the Rugby which have also seen a few mud bath type games.

There are also quotes from two famous people both commenting on the warm and favourable, if unseasonal weather. John Wesley held a service in an orchard in 1779 saying that there were far more people there than could have been accommodated in a chapel. Beatrix Potter declared that it was so hot and sunny that she went outside to continue writing and drawing for one of her books. Even though there was snow on the hills she felt almost too hot.

Let's hope that there will be true and lasting spring type weather in the days to come to help us come through the C19 situation.

Good weather watching, for some of us over 70yr olds, it may be the only thing that we will be able to do!!



DIARY DATES

April

Wednesday	1	TRAMP Holne Woods to Sharrah Pool 6 miles - Jenny Webb
Monday	6	TRAMP Wembury Warren Circular 9 miles - Declan and Sue Dwyer
Monday	6	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	9	WI Thurlestone Parish Hall 2.30pm Richard Morris discusses "Fire Safety in the Home"
Friday	10	Good Friday Bank Holiday
Monday	13	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
Tuesday	14	South Hams NT - Trip to Duchy of Cornwall Nursery and Bodmin and Wenford Railway
Friday	17	TRAMP Bolberry and Hope Cove Peter and Liz Coates
Saturday	18	South Hams Society - Bird watching at South Milton Ley with Nick Townsend. Numbers are limited. Contact Penny Fenton on 561539 if you wish to come.
Wednesday	22	TRAMP East Soar, Bolt Head and Sharpitor - Neil Mackay
Friday	24	South Hams NT - 4 mile walk from Harberton
Saturday	25	Mens Breakfast Club Kingsbridge Methodist Hall 8am - speaker is our MP Anthony Mangnall
Sunday	26	Big Spring Beach Clean at Aveton Gifford. Meet at Timbers car park - 11.30am to 12.30pm
Monday	27	TRAMP Lustleigh Cleave 8 miles - Richard and Heather Swan
Wednesday	29	Arts Soc, K'Bridge Methodist Hall 7.30pm. Brian Slater discusses "Architecture + Photography = Art"
Thursday	30	Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 10.30am. Lecture as Wednesday
Thursday	30	South Hams Society - Annual General Meeting at Kingsbridge Community College 7pm.

May

Sunday	3	Salcombe Crabfest from 10am
Monday	4	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	5	South Hams NT - Coach trip to Tamar View Nurseries and Mount Edgcumbe
Wednesday	6	TRAMP Avon Estuary 8 miles - David and Anna Martin
Friday	8	Early May Bank Holiday (on Friday due to VE Celebrations)
Saturday	9	Thurlestone and South Milton Horticultural Show - Annual Plant Sale - Thurlestone Parish Hall 10am to Noon
Saturday	9	Alvington Singers in concert at Church of Saint Mary, Totnes 7.30pm to 9pm
Tuesday	12	TRAMP Dartington Estate Circular Walk - Alastair and Gill Durden
Thursday	14	WI Thurlestone Parish Hall 2.30pm Anita Nowinska "A Blooming Inspiration- anything is possible in later years!" followed by the Annual Meeting
Friday	15 - 17	Dartmouth Music Festival
Saturday	16	Alvington Singers in concert at Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh 7.30pm to 9pm
Tuesday	19	TRAMP Avon Valley and Loddiswell - John and Priscille Braithwaite
Thursday	21 - 23	Devon County Show at Westpoint Exeter
Saturday	23	South Hams Society - Beach Clean at Thurlestone Sands 11am
Sunday	24	Prawle Fair from 2pm
Monday	25	Spring May Bank Holiday
Monday	25	TRAMP Sharpitor to Merrivale 7 miles - Peter and Wendy Gornall
Monday	25	Classic Car Rally in the town square Kingsbridge
Tuesday	26	FAMILY FUN EVENING at Thurlestone Parish Hall from 6pm
Wednesday	27	Arts Soc, K'Bridge Methodist Hall 7.30pm. Andrew Prince discusses changes in fashion from "Downton Abbey to Gatsby"
Thursday	28	Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 10.30am. Lecture as Wednesday
Thursday	28	South Hams NT - Coach trip to Dartmouth and Coleton Fishacre
Friday	29 - 31	Kingsbridge Food and Music Festival
Saturday	30	Mens Breakfast Club Kingsbridge Methodist Hall 8am - Christian Hall from Holy Trinity Church, Salcombe discussing Prayer

June

Wednesday	3	TRAMP Wistman's Wood and Longaford Tor 5 miles - Neil Mackay
Thursday	4	South Hams NT - Cream tea cruise on the River Exe and visit to A la Ronde

Kingsbridge Farmers Market 1st and 3rd Saturdays in Month 9am - 1pm

TRAMP Walks - Check the walk notice in the Thurlestone shop window.

CONNECT CABS

TAXI PRICE OFFERS

Thurlestone <==> Totnes Station

Meter price typically £40 - My set price from £35

Thurlestone <==> Exeter Airport

Meter price typically £110 - My set price from £90

Thurlestone <==> Bristol Airport

Meter price typically £255 - My set price from £160

Thurlestone <==> Southampton Docks

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Kingsbridge library is on the third Tuesday each month
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Dartmouth library is on the first Friday each month

Salcombe library is on the second Friday each month
~~Suspended until further notice please look
for updates on social media~~

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CONTACT INFORMATION

CLUBS & GROUPS

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	Chairman	Stuart Watts	810373
BADMINTON CLUB	Contact	Sian Hodges	07784893405
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary	Nikki Smith	560275
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wed & Fri 6.30pm)	Contact	Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX	Contact	Anna Martin	560796
CIRCUIT TRAINING	Contact	Sue Richards	07810751083
FRENCH CONVERSATION (Thurs 2pm - 4pm)	Contact	Angela Luckhurst	521595
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Phil Millard	560843
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact	Tom Gilkes	560973
LINE DANCING (Wed 2pm)	Contact	Sue Bain	07989817898
NIA WITH NOLA FITNESS (Mon 10.15am)	Contact	Nola Baylis	842877
PILATES (Mon 2.15pm Wed 9am)	Contact	Franny Morris	07590506027
PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOC (POTS)	Chairman	Chris White	560505
TABLE TENNIS(Thurs 7.30pm)	Contact	Paul Ferguson	07866802800
TAI CHI/CHUAN(Wed 10.30am)	Contact	Vida Hodder	561182
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Office & General Enquiries		560405
TENNIS SECTION (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop		560715
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX	Contact	Kit Marshall	560214
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Mike Stickland	560763
WI (2nd Thurs in month 2.30pm not Aug or Dec)	Contact	Sally Martin	561356
YOGA (Tues 9am)	Contact	Sarah Scott	07879627939

HEALTH CENTRES

Norton Brook Medical Centre, Cookworthy Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1AE	853551
Redfern Health Centre, Shadycombe Road, Salcombe TQ8 8DJ	842284
Minor Injuries Unit (NOT 24 Hrs) ,South Hams Hospital, Kingsbridge TQ7 1XT	852349
Non-emergency NHS Direct	111

POLICE

Emergency 999 Non-emergency 101

RUBBISH COLLECTION - Mondays except

Weeks commencing 13th April - collections 2 days late, 20th April, 11th May and 25th May - collections 1 day late
 Brown Bin (garden & food waste) alternate Mondays from 6th April
 Blue & Clear sacks (recyclables) with the Brown Bin collection
 Black/Grey Bin (non-recyclable landfill) alternate Mondays from 13th April

RECYCLING CENTRE - Torr Quarry Site, Totnes Road, Kingsbridge TQ9 7QQ

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 Mon - Fri 9.00am to 4.30pm, Sat - Sun 10.00am to 4.30pm (1st Oct - 31st March)

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Kingsbridge T: 853195, Salcombe T: 843927, Totnes T: 01803-411183, Dartmouth T: 01803-834224

LIBRARIES

Kingsbridge - Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1EB T: 852315 (closed all day Thur, Sun and Sat pm)
 Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall car park Wednesdays Apr 22th & May 20th 3.10pm - 4.10pm

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Local Bus Service - Tally Ho! Service No. 162 - Destinations from Thurlestone (Bus stop by Church) are:- Kingsbridge, South Milton, Malborough, Galmpton and Hope Cove.

For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable
 For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233 (7.00am - 10.00pm)

Taxi Companies - Taxi-Mike (0771 4512516), Connect Cabs (07443 518087) - see adverts in this magazine

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCIL

	Meetings take place on 1st Monday of every month except August	
Chairman	Andrew Rhymes	560564
Vice-chairman	Jill Munn	560732
Parish Clerk	Helen Nathanson	07813 689717
Members	Sue Crowther	560098
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Charlie Mitchelmore	560602 (and Tree Warden)
	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)

Telephone (Payphone in foyer) 562189

Chairman: Vacant

Bookings: Diane Martin email: via Parish Website or directly on tphbookings@gmail.com
or telephone 560070 Mon to Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm

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

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL Executive Head Miss Lesa Garside 560494

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES Contact Sarah Tyers 561917

Shop Opening Hours	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	8.00am - 5.30pm
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	Sat	8.00am - 1.00pm
	Sun	8.30am - 1.00pm

Hours extended to 2pm on Wed & 4pm on Sat in summer, and to 4pm on Sun in school summer hols

Post Office Hours	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.00am - 5.30pm
	Wed, Sat	9.00am - 1.00pm
	Sun	Closed

Last postal collection: 4.00pm Monday to Friday; Noon on Saturday; NO collection on Sunday.

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