

VILLAGE VOICE

August - September 2021



The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



Now that lockdown rulings have been eased, the usual sports and other activities are happening again. Our cover illustrates aspects of summer life as we know it in our villages. Many thanks go to Graham and Val Palmer for the photographs. Lots of pastimes, some which will keep us fit, are opening up again in the Parish Hall and you can read how in the school, there were learning opportunities during the last weeks of term. They seem to have had fun from their art, drama and sport.

With concerns globally on restoring nature's balance, reports from locals are showing how attention is being given to conservation. Thurlestone's Golf Club tell how species of natural plants such as scarlet pimpernel, spear thistle and field bindweed have increased since scraping off areas of grass. Mike Passman brings us details of the birds and moths sighted. In addition to what's happening in our AONB, we have news from a local farm. Staying on that theme, if you're a reader you'll find book reviews of two books based on farms.

Yes, it's a rural area, but we are up to date with our provision of defibrillators. This issue gives instructions on how and when to use those that are available for our use. With still more on the wellbeing of local people and visitors, Aune Conservation Association are promoting the distribution and use of a QR code, linked to their website, to access safety advice for wild swimmers and boat users. You'll also find information regarding surveying ahead of work which will bring Superfast Broadband to the area.

There's a lot going on and we're grateful that we can take a meander with Sue Dwyer around a garden which thrives under her knowledgeable care and attention.

This issue of Village Voice marks its forty years in existence. In the original group of villagers who posted Village Voice to locals was Val Brown whose letter, reflecting on memories from back then, can be found inside. For three years now, the magazine has been under the guidance of the present editorial team.

There are many opportunities for locals to be involved. At present, the Parish Hall wishes to be inclusive of all age groups and is looking for a representative for families to join them. Let them know if you're interested.

Thanks to you residents who share with us some of the joys experienced through life in these three villages.

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A NOTE FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



The summer season in South Devon this year brings with it the opportunity for businesses, high-streets and the tourism and hospitality sectors to rebound. All of these have suffered over the course of the pandemic. The huge rise in domestic tourism might well cause frustration on our single-track lanes, but it will help to boost the local economy, restock the coffers of local businesses and ensure that resilience is built into every aspect of our lives for the future.

The early indicators are very positive indeed. Locally, the Brixham fish market is turning over an estimated £800k per week, compared to £300-400k in previous years. Our farm shops are doing a roaring trade and our high streets are busier than ever. Nationally, both Wimbledon and the UEFA Cup Finals are estimated to have seen £3 billion spent in one day by the British public. This huge influx in spending will see our economy recover quicker than many might have expected.

All of this is welcome and over the coming weeks, I hope more will be done to allow our businesses to flourish. Ending the test-and-trace app saga would be a start. Helping to get more people back into work and off the furlough scheme would also provide the tourism and hospitality sectors with the added resources they need.

There is little doubt that South Devon will flourish over this summer. But we must also look beyond these sunny days and think about the challenges we are likely to face over the coming years. One area of grave concern is that of home-ownership and second homes. With Cornwall likely to declare a 'housing emergency', and Devon not far behind, it is high time that we discuss what can be done to help home-ownership for local residents and the necessary balance with second homes in South Devon.

At the time of writing if you search on Rightmove for properties to rent in South Hams you will be presented with 11 options. If you search AirBnB you will find 396 properties. Such an imbalance is only causing greater concern, annoyance and frustration. But what can be done?

First, we are closing the loophole to allow second homeowners to claim business rates. For too long it has been too easy for second homeowners to escape paying council tax by claiming business rates and subsequently business rates relief. Thankfully both Cllr Judy Pearce and I have worked hand-in-glove to end this treasury oversight and a change in the law is set to come into place later this year.

Second, new developments must be considered to be accompanied by a covenant. Such a mechanism could limit ownership to local residents and workers, or the amount of time they can be rented out. Such schemes have been trialled across the country for first-time buyers and with great success. Covenants have a proven track record and given they are not favoured by developers this only reinforces the point that we should consider their use!

Third, create a local property syndicate that purchases properties for local residents. In times gone by local businesses purchased properties for the use of their staff. Such an initiative could be trialled to ensure that key sector workers can live within an acceptable distance of their place of work. Salcombe might well be the first trial location. This to ensure that RNLI crew, teachers and doctors and nurses are able to live on-site rather than having to travel huge distances.

We owe a huge amount to those who choose to holiday in South Devon. Their pounds are helping our economy to recover in quick succession. For that, we should be grateful. But we must also recognise that there are societal challenges that must be addressed and failure to do so will up-end the balance and way of life that we have all come to know and love. Housing across the country is an issue, but South Devon has its own particularly unique set of circumstances and it requires an innovative and sensible response.

Anthony Mangnall, MP

NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings have been paused over the summer out of consideration for the prevailing Covid regulations and because Government legislation to allow remote meetings has not been rescinded. The next meeting will be on Monday 6th September at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

The following planning applications were considered by councillors and the full responses can be found on the South Hams District Council website:

3 Edwards Close, Thurlestone - Householder application for first floor extension to form new study/hobby room (Resubmission of 0857/20/HHO). Councillors objected to the application because they considered that although the revised extension is now subordinate to the main dwelling, it remained out of keeping with the original Development Brief and established character and pattern of development locally. They were therefore concerned about its impact on neighbouring residential amenity. *This application has since been granted planning permission.*

Upton Grange, Bantham - Householder application for side and rear extensions to existing detached dwelling. Councillors supported the application. They considered the extensions were subordinate, would have no impact on neighbouring residential amenity and the design and materials were consistent with the main dwelling. *This application has since been withdrawn.*

Land at Western Lodge, Thurlestone - (READVERTISEMENT) Installation of 12.97m high replica telegraph pole, satellite dish, cabinets and ancillary equipment within compound surrounded by 1.8m high mesh fence. Councillors remained of the view that the proposed mast situated on a skyline in the South Devon AONB, Undeveloped Coast and Heritage Coast should not be permitted.

The Thatches, Thurlestone - Replacement detached garage/store (resubmission of 2609/20/FUL). Further comments were submitted emphasising that the building is not within the residential curtilage of the main dwelling, which already has an integral garage, and is located outside the Thurlestone settlement boundary - within the AONB, Heritage Coast and Undeveloped Coast - where there is no justification for a new build garage. The application involves the demolition of a characterful thatched historic building dating from the late 20s/early 30s and is a survivor of the early days of car ownership. Councillors requested that the application is refused.

Wheatsheaf Corner, Court Park, Thurlestone - Householder application for installation of new summer house. Supported. *This application has since been granted planning permission.*

Land to rear of Cob Cottage, Thurlestone - Erection of detached dwelling and associated parking and landscaping. Councillors considered that the principle of residential development on this large rear plot was acceptable, subject to a principal residence requirement. However, they were concerned about the steep and narrow vehicular access and its constrained visibility which poses a danger and felt that in the circumstances they could not support the application unless and until a solution could be found.

Stabling Cottage Bantham - Works to trees required to allow for new soakaway for existing septic tank. Supported

The Cottage, Thurlestone - Crown height reduction to a Magnolia tree and lateral reduction on all sides by 1.5m. Supported.

Discussions with SHDC regarding the **Community-led Housing Initiative** in Bantham are ongoing and any developments will be reported on the Parish Council website, as and when appropriate.

Farming Diary

June 2021

We left May hoping for strawberries and we got them. The weather warmed up, slightly but just enough, because the strawberries ripened and started to fly out of the poly tunnels. I love delivering the strawberries to the local shops as I know that someone is going to be lucky enough to enjoy them and they smell glorious too.

Planting continued, we caught up on those early plantings that were delayed by the rain, getting us ready for the many thousands of plants that would arrive in July for the big planting marathon.

The Tenderstem that we planted in our first round was showing signs of becoming ready at the beginning of June and by the middle of the month we were preparing them for picking. Every tenderstem plant grows a large head in the middle. It looks more or less like broccoli but it is softer. These need to be removed by cutting just underneath them, so as to avoid cutting the shoots of tenderstem off. A job we call deheading.

You have to cut them at exactly the right moment, not too small and you certainly cannot allow them to go over. Then once you dehead, the fun really begins. I call tenderstem “a plant that just keeps giving” because once that middle head has gone, the shoots grow very quickly and as quick as you have gone through the field handpicking them, then more are ready to go.



It is a bittersweet job. It is satisfying moving from each plant, being able to pick 6 – 8 shoots off each one, some of them real beauties, but at the same time, you are walking up and down a whole field, having to bend down to pick each one. You gather them up in an armful, place them in the crate and then go for more. Once you have filled the number of crates you need, you carry them to either the truck or tractor and take them back to the farm. Here they will be weighed, either put into bags with four to a tray, or loose directly into a tray. Tenderstem is a wonderful veg, and with the amount of work that goes into getting it to the shop, I think it knows it.

July 2021

9th July brought with it the arrival of 200,000 plants which included a huge variety of cauliflowers, red, white and savoy cabbages, chard, green kale, and cavolo nero. These were unloaded off the lorry in their bins. Each tray from every bin is then laid out in the empty cattle sheds, in their different varieties and a map created of where each one is. Being in the shed keeps them in the shade but also has the added benefit of feeding them if the roots come out of the bottom and into some manure left there for that purpose. They are watered regularly and have a good soaking before

they are loaded into the bins ready to go on the planter. Of course, true to form, the rain also arrived, literally as the plants were being unloaded. With the downpours that happened in the following couple of days, this meant that planting couldn't start until 15th July. The soil was still a little damp but the planter was able to go and it then hardly stopped for the next 7 days. From morning until night that planter was moving through the field. Ironically, as the rain came with the plant's arrival, the heatwave came for the planting. Thankfully the planter is kitted out with a canopy for shade and as you are sitting still and handling cold wet compost as you put them into the moving cups, it was surprisingly cool for the people on the planter. The person walking behind gapping up any missed plants and uncovering any that might have been planted a bit too deep gets a little hotter so everyone rotated to give everyone a chance to be cooler. The person driving the tractor probably has the worst part of the job as they are in the cab which gets warm and they have to follow a line made by a marker on the planter. This requires a huge amount of concentration and accuracy that not everyone could do or would even attempt to do.

Whilst that part of planting hasn't changed, (well apart from the days when horses were used), the rest of it is luxury compared to how Terawhiti used to do it. In the "olden days" they grew their own modules, which were grown to a longer length than we get in the trays now. So, when they were ready to plant, you would have workers gathering these young plants up, whilst counting them in bunches of 50 or 100, depending on the size. They would then use the picking arm to get hold of a piece of string that they had attached to them, pull the string out and lay the plants down to tie them up. These would be passed to the people planting who would sit on the planter they had at that time. This didn't have the cups though, just a gap that you had to bend over and instead of the planter placing the plants into the ground, the worker had to hold the plant and lower it into the ground. They couldn't let go until the soil had come around it, so it was a slow movement followed by a swift movement to get the next plant and do the same. Considering they would be planting thousands a day, you can only imagine how their backs were by the end. Whilst this was going on you had another team preparing the plants for the following day, so they could start even earlier and therefore would be bent over for longer.

As hard work as planting is nowadays, it is bliss for those that did it the old way. In those days, you really had to, either, come from farming stock and be born wanting to farm or really love the farmer you were marrying, so it's not for the faint hearted.

Planting pushes you through all sorts of emotions as it is an intense, monotonous, day full of concentration. Which is why, after a long shift on a hot Saturday, when we had laughed, got tired, hot and a bit grumpy before perking up to get to the finish, I felt it necessary to do something a little bit different; This must surely be the best part of working on a family farm in our lovely part of the world, because despite all the hard work, afterwards the team were lucky enough to be able to go to the beach and jump in the sea fully clothed. A good laugh and a nice sunset to wind down to at the end of the day makes you forget all the harder parts and reminds you of why you work there.



Natasha Baldwin

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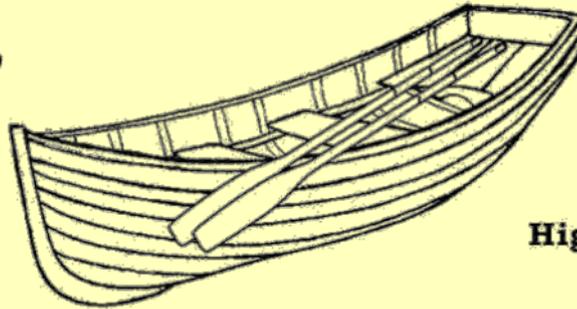
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POSTBAG



Farewell Thurlestone

We first saw Thurlestone in 1955, Derek was doing his National Service with the RAF Radar Camp at Malborough. My father drove us around the South Hams and he said it was a lovely place - we agreed. At that time, we rented Sunnybank in Galampton from Nan and Dad Daws who also lived there. We loved village life and were made very welcome. We then moved to Kent and when Derek qualified as a Civil Engineer he took a post with the water company, the office was in Kingsbridge. We came for a year but never left.

We lived in Belle Cross Road, our youngest son Martin was born in Broomborough hospital, Totnes - now long gone. The children went to school in Kingsbridge and we all had lovely, happy lives, joining many groups and societies - WI, Round Table, Ladies Circle, Salcombe Rugby, Kingsbridge Hockey Club, Dramatic Society and I ran the Lions Cubs Group for many years, camping at Goodameavy on Dartmoor and at Bearcombe Farm that Bob and Ruth Kerswell owned.

The highlight each year of Kingsbridge WI was the annual visit to Thurlestone to visit the Vicarage gardens.

We moved to Thurlestone in 1977. It was a quiet village. Four houses for sale on Yarmer Estate and plots. Not a big development yet on The Mead. There were two shops, very, very few second homes and not much traffic. John Delve and Nora kept an eye on us all. John a familiar sight in his cassock, riding his bike visiting his parishioners.

A church, a pub, hotel, school, golf club with not much traffic. Then things started to change, whist drives and scrumpy out, bridge and wine and nibbles in. New Village Hall, new Church Hall, Village Voice launched. Our home-made

entertainment of concerts and local talent shows became less but at heart we were a village, friendly farmers and Devonian locals and not yet a well-known tourist attraction. Newcomers came and kept us on our toes, but they also became part of village life, bringing and sharing their talents with us.

So now we are in a different time - computers, Zoom changing the world around us. I hope Thurlestone stays a village, no straight roads but winding lanes and high Devon hedges leading to this special place. Take care of it and yourselves and families.

Val Brown

PS How many remember the milking parlour and the cows? The post office and houses now occupy the site.

Note from Editors: Val was one of the original group that posted Village Voice to locals.

Pill Box

Probably around the late 60s, as some of us wandered around the golf course looking for golf balls, went to the beach or over to the Lea, we discovered the entrance to the pill box and used it as a den for about a couple of years I would think.

We kept it a secret for a while but then, when parents found out about it, we were warned not to use it but little changed until, I believe, the council closed up the entrance.

Our group at the time probably consisted of an Eva and a Yeoman (first names

withheld!) plus a couple of other local lads and we had a great time in the pill box and at Leasfoot.

It's a shame the weather has finally taken its toll.

Regards.
Andy Pedrick

Serendipity

My home is called 'Serendipity' which means discovering things by chance. Well, that was certainly the case when we discovered Links Cottage in Thurlestone, wanting to find a large house for family holidays.

I discovered Links purely by chance whilst browsing the internet, it was beyond our wildest dreams. We shared it with extended family for 10 years. I described it, and the surroundings, as

Enid Blyton and Agatha Christie rolled into one. Walking to get the papers before breakfast, eating meals on the terrace, walking along the cliff tops to see Bigbury Hotel glistening in the sun, we seemed to be lucky enough to pick a sunshine week - the things dreams are made of.

Sadly, age caught up, plus three members of family have since died, but for me those precious memories will live on for ever whilst my brain stays in working order.

Serendipity certainly lived up to its name, finding things by chance. I subscribe to Village Voice to keep memories alive, oh how I wish it arrived every month - I get withdrawal symptoms.

God bless Thurlestone a little piece of heaven on earth.

Myra Skinner (Credition)

THE ARTS SOCIETY KINGSBRIDGE

The Arts Society Kingsbridge is closed for July and August. We are back in September, with luck in the Methodist Church as before. *A taste of things to come.....*

September 29 th 2021 at 2.30pm	Berthe Morisot "Une Finesse Fragonardienne" Lois Oliver
October 27 th 2021 at 2.30pm	Courtly Life in Mantua "Hunchbacks, Dwarves and Giants" Dan Evans
November 24 th 2021 AGM 2.30pm	From Russia with Love "19 th Century Russian Art" Brian Healey
December 6 th 2021 Christmas lunch	Thurlestone Hotel, plus "Balls and Parties. Jubilee to Proust" Benjamin Wild
January 12 th 2022 2pm ZOOM	Guided talk – London Docklands Pepe Martinez

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HOW YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE

Defibrillators have been very much in the news lately due to the high-profile case of the Danish footballer who suffered a cardiac arrest during a match, so we thought it would be a timely reminder of where the parish ones are situated and how to use them. Many people are scared to do so in case they harm the person in some way but the machines talk you through the process and will not operate unless it is necessary.

Usually, all locations with a defibrillator are obliged to provide training courses but obviously this has not been possible. Below are instructions on how and when to use them taken from the British Heart Foundation website:

If you come across someone who is unconscious, unresponsive, not breathing or not breathing normally, they're in cardiac arrest. The most important thing is to call 999 and start CPR to keep the blood flowing to the brain and around the body. After a cardiac arrest, every minute without CPR and defibrillation reduces someone's chance of survival by 10 per cent.

If you're on your own, don't interrupt the CPR to go and get a defibrillator. If it's possible, send someone else to find one. When you call 999, the operator can tell you if there's a public access defibrillator nearby.



To use a defibrillator, follow these simple steps:

- Step 1: Turn the defibrillator on by pressing the green button and follow its instructions.
- Step 2: Peel off the sticky pads and attach them to the patient's skin, one on each side of the chest, as shown in the picture on the defibrillator.
- Step 3: Once the pads have been attached, stop CPR and don't touch the patient. The defibrillator will then analyse the patient's heart rhythm.
- Step 4: The defibrillator will assess whether a shock is needed and if so, it will tell you to press the shock button. An automatic defibrillator will shock the patient without prompt. Do not touch the patient while they are being shocked.
- Step 5: The defibrillator will tell you when the shock has been delivered and whether you need to continue CPR.
- Step 6: Continue with chest compressions and rescue breaths until the patient shows signs of life or the defibrillator tells you to stop so it can analyse the heartbeat again.

Local defibrillators are situated in the following locations:

Thurlestone Parish Hall - Thurlestone Hotel (Garage) - Golf Club (Tennis Pavilion wall) - Sloop Inn Bantham (Lobby) - Bantham Quay - Buckland Phone Box

To see a map of all the defibrillators in the South Hams area go to the website tinyurl.com/southhamsdefibs or scan the QR code.



BOOKSHELF

“English Pastoral” by James Rebanks

Having enjoyed James Rebanks’ previous book ‘A Shepherd’s Life’ (which I reviewed in these pages some time ago) I was looking forward to reading this. It doesn’t disappoint and is beautifully written but, as he says, it is the story, warts and all, of what farming was like in his childhood and what it became.

He begins with memories of his grandfather who had decided to educate him in farming ways, sensing that James was losing interest and would rather be watching TV indoors than outside getting wet or frozen. Grandfather knows every field on his farm, the type of soil on each and what could or could not be grown on them and, obviously, farms in the ‘old’ ways. Later James joins his father where they farm some 17 miles away from Grandfather’s small farm. As the years go by, filled with keeping thistles and weeds down, fighting disease, watching crows ruin a field of corn, they realise that some of the neighbouring farms have very green, healthy crops, and are widening fields, buying larger machinery etc. Father will have nothing to do with artificial fertiliser at first, distrusting it, and James, tired of forever scything down thistles which immediately grow again, buys some fertiliser and sprays the thistles. The results convert his father. We all know now the folly of DDT etc. and there is no blame attached to anyone in this book. It was good news at the time but it was also the time when supermarkets were just beginning to spring up and large companies seized the opportunity to buy up larger farms producing cheaper vegetables and meat. Public demand was for cheaper and cheaper food.

Later, James is married and living in Carlisle, still helping his father with the farm, when the devastating floods hit Cumbria. He and his father have a visit from Lucy, from a local river conservation charity. She shows them how unnatural most rivers are and what could be done about it. The becks which they had always thought were natural had

actually been straightened and dredged in the nineteenth century, whereas a healthy stream needs slow and fast bits, wide bits and narrow bits. She explains what can be done to slow the flow of water from their farm downstream. She has funds and could help pay for things if they work with her. They do.

Today James is a happy man, with birds, insects, butterflies and wild flowers returning to his farm. He still breeds his beloved sheep, uses almost no pesticides, but admits it is hard work and means earning money away from the farm when necessary. The book covers more than just how things have gone wrong, but also the community gatherings and the friendship among neighbours which he values.

“Field Work” by Bella Bathurst

Another book about farming! And very good it is too. The author decides to look at the state of farming today and this is a comprehensive survey of that, but so well written and enjoyable, and certainly not a stern report on what is wrong or right. She manages to rent a small cottage belonging to Rise Farm in Wales and from there seeks to interview all involved in farming life today. The owner of Rise Farm is an older man, farming still in the ‘older’ ways and, like James Rebanks’ grandfather, knows every stick and stone of his fields.

She is a brilliant interviewer and manages to visit a knacker’s yard, battery farms, large and small farms, young and old farmers, even an ex-civil servant from DEFRA, who reckons civil servants there rarely visit the countryside. Everyone grumbles about the bureaucracy, and seems to believe that no political party bothers about farming.

This is such an interesting book – and very ‘readable’.

Both Reviews by Carolyn Taylor

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AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Aune Conservation Association has responded to safety concerns around increased recreational use of the Avon estuary by visitors and local people during the COVID pandemic. These concerns were expressed and discussed at the last two Avon Estuary Forum online meetings. It is thought highly likely that this increased use will continue for the foreseeable future now that the natural delights of the estuary have become more widely known.

Our response has been two-fold: 1) we continue to provide our usual financial support for the Avon Patrol in order to offer on-site advice to those using the estuary 2) we have paid to transfer our website to a professional manager and have re-modelled the website to make it easier to view from a smartphone. Associated with this change, we are promoting the distribution and use of a QR code linked to our website to easily access important new safety advice for boat users, wild swimmers and boat users. We are encouraging those responsible for communications around the estuary, anybody involved in the hiring of SUPs and kayaks and local campsites to display this QR code prominently. The tips to which it leads are shown below:-



1. BIOSECURITY CODE

It is vital that highly portable wetsuits, SUPs, canoes and kayaks are checked for contaminants, cleaned and dried before they are put into the waters of the Avon - **'CHECK – CLEAN – DRY'**! Non-native species cannot survive long-term desiccation.

2. GENERAL TIPS

- The entire area below Mean High Water is owned and administered by the Duchy of Cornwall. Much of the area is licensed for various purposes to the Bantham Estate.
- Always be aware of the state of the tide. Water levels can change very quickly as the tide rises.
- Be considerate to landowners and properties that border the water. Most of the estuary runs through PRIVATE land; you could be trespassing.
- Park sensitively wherever you go: do not block roads, do not block gates to fields or access to houses. Remember, large emergency vehicles may need access.
- Do not park along the Tidal Road – vehicles are sometimes submerged!
- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home.

3. TIPS for WALKERS

Follow the Countryside Code - **Protect the natural environment**

- Do not wander over the salt marsh or samphire beds; stay on the main track.
- No commercial bait digging or commercial gathering of other flora and fauna is allowed.
- Don't light BBQs or fires.
- Keep dogs under effective control. Do not let them chase any birds.
- Dog mess – bag it AND take it away to bin it. Please do not leave bags tied to bushes.

4. TIPS for SWIMMERS

Of particular concern in our estuary is the danger posed to swimmers by recreational boat users.

- Swimmers should make themselves highly visible.
- Avoid the waterski zone which is marked by buoys.
- Wear a brightly coloured hat and tow a bright float.

BEWARE! Water skiers may operate 1.5 hours either side of high water. Swimmers should stick to the sides of the channel at all times to stay safe.

5. TIPS for SUPs, CANOES and KAYAKS

- Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.
- Check the weather forecast and tide times.
- Do not underestimate the forces of nature; know your limits. The wind and tidal flow in the estuary can be very strong. Paddle into the elements first, to make the trip home easier.
- BEWARE of dangerous currents, variations in water depth and rip tides – especially where the estuary meets the sea.
- Wear the leash or ‘kill cord’ so you don’t lose control of your craft.
- Carry a whistle or phone. If you get into difficulty, stay with your craft as it will keep you afloat and make you easier to find. If help is essential, call the Coastguard on 999.
- Watch out for swimmers; they may be very difficult to see!
- Observe the 8-knot speed limit.
- Please respect the staff operating the Avon Patrol. Follow their advice for your own safety and that of others.
- Keep well clear of all moorings.
- Alcohol and boats are a dangerous mixture!
- Nesting swans are very aggressive – beware!
- NOTE – Fishing is forbidden by law from vessels of any kind in the estuary.

Stuart Watts, ACA Chairman

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

You may remember that CDS (Connecting Devon and Somerset), with support from the Government, employed a Company called Gigaclear to install Superfast Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) Broadband to a number of “hard to reach” areas, including our Parish. In the event, Gigaclear were released from that contract, and CDS have now employed another Company called Airband to do the work instead.

Thurlestone Parish has a number of premises included within this contract that will benefit directly. Many other premises along the fibre route and within close proximity may also be able to access the network once completed.

Surveying for the section of the new network that will service our Parish is due to start imminently, and installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of Quarter 2, 2022.

CDS have chosen the properties to be included in the contract based on the Broadband speeds that are currently available to them, which has produced some strange anomalies. Essentially, most properties in Bantham and Buckland are included, but large parts of Thurlestone are not. If you wish to know whether your property is included, you should go to the Airband Coverage Checker (<https://www.airband.co.uk/coverage>), and put in your Postcode. If the search produces the result “*Our network is close to you, so we might be able to provide you with a service*”, then your property is “out of contract”.

If you consider the provision of FTTP Broadband to be important, then you should complete the online form – the more out of contract properties in an area that complete the form, the more likely it is that they will be added to the contract. It is hoped that there will be a Parish Zoom meeting with Airband in August to explain more, and answer your questions. Details will be posted on the Parish website (www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk) when the date is confirmed.

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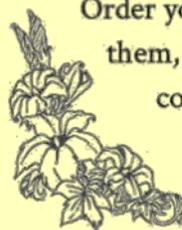
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CALOR

THURLESTONE THEN

Continuing the memoirs of Monica Coope
Chapter 9 - the final chapter

A Sunday school treat to Salcombe was I think our favourite expedition, for we got a fine tea at the hotel there, and the grown-ups enjoyed the more sophisticated pleasures of the little town. Curiously enough, the village children did not play very much on Thurlestone Sands, except to go down in winter for drift-wood, and it was unusual to see them either alone or with their parents down there during the summer months. So, paddling about and building sand castles at Salcombe was quite a change from ragging around the village, and the drive there was a treat in itself.

Mr Stidston and Mr Sherriff generally each lent a farm cart, drawn by two strapping horses, and we watched the weather with anxious eyes, for a wet day meant no treat, and we were properly keyed up. A fine morning brought two great croaking wagons to our gates, and the children had already begun to assemble in their Sunday bests, together with the teachers and some of the mothers, to help keep order and prevent minor tragedies. The floors of the wagons were strewn with fresh hay and planks laid across all the way down, with the tall hay leader at the back to keep us from falling out. Up we got, fighting for best place, and of course in front with the driver was the best of all. The tinies would be carefully packed in by teachers and mothers, last nose blowings and shrill advice as to conduct joined with the crack of the whip as at last we moved off slowly up Thurlestone Hill, with much waving and calling out as we passed by the cottage doors with the Grannies looking out and wishing they were going too. It was a long climb up, and not until we got beyond Kerse Lane could we enjoy the thrill of a smart trot through the high fragrant box but at Churchstow corner we had to slow up again for here the road was narrow and winding, and who knows but some other cart might be coming in the opposite direction. If it did, one or other would have to pull in to a clearing in the bank, specially dug for such an occasion, and wait for the other cart to come alongside and pass us. Then, began a slightly crude exchange of compliments between the two carters, our own playing up nicely to the remark "Well, Ernest, you'm a fine gurt family up there. Which of 'em be the mother?" At which the parents would shriek with laughter and the spinsters titter into their hands.

"One wife ban't enough for me," Ernest would call back, "I be one of they Mormons, out for the day", and with a crack of the whip, "Hup Diamond, Hup Blossom", off we would go again, past Whitley farm where we would pick up the children waiting for us there, and go on through the lanes, chattering and singing till at last we came to Salcombe, and the long steep hill down. Then the iron shoe would be fixed under the wheel, Ernest would hang on to Diamond's bridle, and hold Blossom back by the reins, while we gazed out at that lovely view of Bolt Head, and way over to Portlemouth.

By that time, we were all ready for our sandwich lunch and bottles of ginger pop, while Mother and Mrs Connolly, Mrs Toms, Mrs Revell and the rest of the grown-ups attended to the needs of the littlest ones, and Miss Ilbert promised us that we should walk to Bolt Head as soon as we had finished eating. This walk had been described so perfectly by Beatrice Kean Seymour in "The Last Day", and nobody who has ever visited South Devon can have failed to follow in her footsteps, but to us it was always a fresh delight to climb along that great bluff of cliff, with the tiny coves below edged with creaming water, and the gulls with their nests and their ugly brown babies, the

kittiwakes and the guillemots, the shags and snipe, making a great to do and screaming at us as they wheeled around our heads, and dived steeply down to sea level. Here below us we knew that the water was deeper than anywhere else around the coast of England, and the great ships of war and the liners came around the point so near that you could see the people on them! Sometimes when the band was playing the music would come up to you on the cliff top and you could wave frantically, hoping someone would notice you high up there above.

A rest in the stony hollow on the very tip of Bolt Head, a look to the east across to Prawle and the signal station, then West to our Bolt Tail, so different from the other side, and then Miss Ilbert would gather us all up, and count us for fun, just in case. Back again to Salcombe, slipping a bit on the slatey uneven path, and edging away fearfully when the edge seemed too near for safety, but sniffing up joyfully the scent of the salty air, the golden sea thistles, the red bell heather, and the yellow lady's bed straw. Perhaps we picked a bunch of mixed flowers, especially the lady's fingers and the purple vetch, with harebells so delicate that they faded in your hot hand before you could carry them back to Mother.

Then tea was good, tea was scrumptious. Cream and strawberry jam spread thick on tuff cakes; shop cake in golden slabs, rich in fruit and candied peel; lashings of bread and butter which disappeared like magic; sweet, hot tea with lots of sugar. Your little belly swelled and swelled, but in a good cause, oh yes.

Then began the collecting and marshalling into the wagons, with the horses rested and watered, and having enjoyed a bag of oats they were nicely corned up for the return journey. With three ringing cheers for our friendly hostess off we went again and through the gathering dusk on our homeward way, singing our little songs, arms round each other's necks, while the smaller ones drowsed off in the kind arms of their temporary mothers.

Then at last the twinkling light of Eddystone told us that Thurlestone was around the corner, and we roused ourselves, stretching and yawning, and thinking that bed is perhaps the best place after all, but not too tired to cheer again and yet again, as Father hands his charges over to those waiting for them, and our wagons with their friendly drivers creaked off into the darkness. The Sunday school treat is over.

When I was fourteen a serious financial misfortune befell us with the firm, which leased Father's London property, going bankrupt and depriving him for some years of his private income. By this time the elder members were in training, and the youngest being taught at home, while we middle ones were all away at boarding school. Father lost the power to sleep and Mother became a worried wraith, but somehow, we muddled through. Thanks to Miss Helen Ilbert, Arthur was able to stay up at Oxford and take his degree, and John was kept on at Radley. I was working for matriculation, and as soon as I had that behind me was to be sent to Leipzig Conservatoire for a musical career. Everyone in a position to do so came to the rescue, and though I had to say good-bye for ever to Leipzig, I stayed on at school and earned my way by teaching the junior school music. I had not the faintest idea how to teach, and having been obliged to give up my own lessons, and no time allotted for practice, I took every opportunity of sitting down at the piano myself and showing my willing pupils how it should be done! Having got through my exam, I left school at sixteen and spent the next year at home and taught the three youngest their lessons in the old night nursery, now their schoolroom. I must say they were very good and I tried to follow in Miss Ilbert's footsteps and make the lessons into adventurous experiences,

but I doubt if they learnt very much. In the holidays I did the cooking to help Mother who never liked it, but it was only too easy, for we were cut down to meat once a week, no fish from Grimsby, and bread and cheese and cocoa *ad nauseum*. It was a grim time for all of us, for we realized that we were down to the knuckle. John took it very hard and went to father and asked if he could leave school and go out to work as a jobbing gardener, but it did not come to that, although the offer was appreciated.

Our first big separation came soon, when Arthur passed into the Malayan Civil Service and sailed away. We did not see him again for five years. Katherine was at the Norland Institute, and Mary training as a games mistress. Hilda was at a children's hospital, and Wins was undetermined and doing odd jobs. Just as well she did, because Owen Webb came back from India and married her. "There's one jam pot fallen off the shelf" said the village, who by this time were watching our little affairs with keen attention. Not that they were many or in the least spectacular; there were very few young men around, and I don't blame them if they fought shy of the nine girls who went around in droves and always seemed happy enough in each other's company. We must have been formidable, and Mother overworked and preoccupied, was not in a position to entertain, and anyway husband hunting for her daughters never entered her head. At the time we left Thurlestone Wins was still the only married one, and the jam pots fell off the shelf very slowly indeed.

The decision to leave the old home was a hard one for Father to make. He would have liked to have laid his bones in Thurlestone, but the hard fact remained that here they were, still in low water, with the big house and enormous garden, and all their children had left home to earn their livings. Mother was like a distracted hen with no chicks, and was frankly miserable, knowing full well that they could not even afford to send us our fares to come home for our holidays. Also, the fabric of the Rectory was badly in need of substantial repair, and the roof was in a bad way, which was all Father's responsibility. He made up his mind that this was the end. He and Mother had come there solely for the sake of their children, and now they must leave for the sake of their children, and move nearer to London. I don't think we realized at first what a wrench it was going to be, for we missed our Mother and Father so much in our exile, that to have them within reach was easily the first consideration. The living of Thurlestone was accepted by a well-to-do bachelor, and the old house and garden knew us no more.

Father had done wonders, there can be no doubt about it. Besides restoring the church, he had built a new church school at the top of the village. He had rebuilt the Glebe Cottage and raised money for a Chapel of Ease at Bantham.

He had seen the parish develop from a secluded outpost into a fashionable seaside resort, and he had adapted himself to its growing needs. He and Mother had brought up their children as they had intended, content with simple pleasures that money cannot buy, and they left Thurlestone with the loving regret of everybody there.

We were the Rectory children, but they were all that stands for kindness sympathy, tolerance, and good humour.

No wonder that Mother and Father still stand for what Thurlestone was then, and still the heart of the village beats strong and true, faithful to the days gone by.

THE END

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 September 2021. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk

SOUNDS LIKE...

The answers link together to SOUND LIKE another word or phrase.
E.g. Fete / Tavern / Breathe out loudly = Fair/Inn/Huff (Fair enough)

1. Enemy / Small garden ornament
2. Dried grass / Wooded valley / Sin
3. Fail to hit / Man / Achieved
4. Lad / Ancient / Set of furniture
5. Bird seed / Hirsuite / Also / Pace
6. Sea bottom / Herb / Level of a building
7. Jousting weapon / Share out
8. Pavarotti, say / Angry
9. Everything / Not on / Objective
10. Mat / Insect with sting / Lucifer
11. The past / Semi-precious agate
12. Twofold / Warmest time of year / Seasoning
13. What time? / Skidded / Beer
14. Select / Nocturnal bird of prey / Not high
15. Arrogant / Refinement
16. Male elephant / Rip / Listening organ
17. Group of adjudicators / Poorly / Children's playground
18. Tin / Overcast / Degree of elevation
19. City on the English Dee / Sketchers
20. Sibilant snake sound / Stolen / Gambling discs

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter: 1. Harrison (William H) 2. Grant (Ulysses S) 3. Hoover (Herbert C) 4. Churchill (Winston) 5. Peel (Robert) 6. Compton (Spencer) 7. Macdonald (Ramsay) 8. Major (John) 9. Temple (Henry-John) 10. Trump (Donald) 11. Wilson (Harold) 12. Eden (Anthony) 13. Monroe (James) 14. Garfield (James A) 15. Jackson (Andrew) 16. Clinton (William J) 17. Nixon (Richard M) 18. Percival (Spencer) 19. Arthur (Chester A) 20. Robinson (Frederick John) 21. Grey (Charles) 22. Lincoln (Abraham) 23. Primrose (Archibald) 24. Madison (James) 25. Ford (Gerald R) 26. Canning (George) 27. May (Theresa) 28. Cavendish (William) 29. North (Frederick) 30. Heath (Edward)

There was only 1 all-correct answer last month. The winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Howard Dingley.

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10,000 NEW CHURCHES!!!



The Church of England has, over the years, come up with numerous strategies to encourage Church growth and reverse the trend of declining Church attendance. In certain (very limited) situations these have borne fruit. But in general they have failed to halt the decline. This hasn't stopped the Church of England ploughing forwards, constantly seeking the one initiative that will work. Recently in the press you may have seen the latest suggestion and innovation. The creation of 10,000 new, predominantly lay-led churches by 2030. These new churches will allegedly succeed where others have failed because they will be small and light, responsive to needs. The new initiative contains the following revelatory snippet:

"Lay-led churches release the church from key limiting factors. When you don't need a building and a stipend and long, costly college-based training for every leader of the church ... then we can release new people to lead and new churches to form. It also releases the discipleship of people. In church planting, there are no passengers."

In this Brave New World there is no need for beautiful and hallowed church buildings. There is no need for professionally trained clergy to work alongside the bereaved, the vulnerable and the broken. It has been my privilege to undertake such work for the past twenty two years. I can tell you that, on many occasions, I have had to draw upon the entirety of my "costly college-based training" in order to contextualise the message of Jesus Christ into the lives of my parishioners.

The Church of England is in decline not because of our worship, or because of our buildings, or because we teach x or don't teach y. We're in decline because of profound social and cultural changes that have occurred in Western European societies in the post-War period. For people of my generation and younger, belonging to a Church (or even setting foot in a Church) is a minority interest. No amount of Church planting is going to reverse this.

Of course we could ask "what's the harm in trying?" One last hurrah before the apocalypse! Well I'm afraid that there is harm in trying. The Church of England is in danger of becoming so obsessed about its future that it neglects its present. It's becoming in danger of acting as if it were a supermarket chain with a 10 year strategy, rather than a gathering of people seeking hope, support, nurture and encouragement.

The business of the Church is the here-and-now. The business of the Church is to be alongside people in joy and sadness. The business of the Church is to worship in a way that welcomes disciples, but also "passengers" (see the above quote). Whether we live or die is not in our hands, it is in God's hands. But being obsessed about the future is a sure-fire way to negate our experience of the present. I'm pretty certain that Jesus had something to say about this when he talked about the lilies of the field (Matthew 6. 28).

So, just in case you haven't got the gist of what I'm saying, here it is. Our beautiful Church building, lived in by our marvellously flawed collection of disciples and passengers, will carry on for as long as we can. We'll encourage people to join with us and we'll keep half an eye out for the future. But that leaves one and a half eyes, two ears and a warm heart firmly rooted in the present!

Daniel Hartley



All Saints' Diary

CHURCHWARDENS: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall (562016)

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Church Services at Thurlestone Church,

Now that restrictions have been lifted, we are able to start to return to some form of normality which includes no longer having to book a place and the return of congregational singing. However, we are asking people to follow this advice:

1. We continue to advise people that face coverings should be worn in Church. This is particularly important with the return of singing;
2. Social distancing is no longer required, but we encourage the full use of the Church space. Please sit in a place where the service booklet has been put out;
3. Hand sanitisers will continue to be used and provided;
4. At Holy Communion:
 - a. Before receiving communion, we encourage hand sanitising. There will be sanitiser provided on the choir stalls;
 - b. We will continue to use intinction (wafer with wine on it);
 - c. People will come up individually to receive the wafer without kneeling and then return to their places through the Lady Chapel.

Sundays

Every Sunday from September **8.00am** Holy Communion (BCP: 1st, 3rd, 5th; CW: 2nd, 4th)
AUG. 1, 15, 29, SEPT. (5?), 19 **11.10am** Parish Eucharist (CW)
AUGUST 8, 22, SEPT. 12, 26 **11.10am** Morning Worship
SEPTEMBER 5? **11.00am** Benefice Sea Sunday Service (to be confirmed)
OCTOBER 6 **11.10am** Harvest Thanksgiving

Weekdays

EVERY WEDNESDAY from September **10.00am** Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

Variations & more information on Church Notice Boards & www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services

In September we are hoping to restart

Coffee-Time

CHURCH MEETING ROOM WEDNESDAYS

10.30 a.m. - 12 noon

Donations in aid of Monthly Charity

For more details nearer the time please see the church noticeboard or <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-events-diary.html>



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Our Garden in July

by Sue Dwyer

At the beginning of July the garden is between time zones. The spring perennial flowers such as delphiniums, perennial geraniums and lupins are dying off and many need cutting to the ground to produce a second flush of flowers. The dahlias are just coming out with their magnificent very varied flower heads and foliage colour along with late summer flowers, hollyhocks, romneya and salvias. Some flowers such as the repeat flowering roses flower for months if regularly dead headed as, incidentally, do many other flowering plants. The alstroemerias are mostly in full flower. In a few weeks the flowers die but if the stems are pulled up they then produce another display in about a month and continue flowering until the first frosts. Do not cut the stem as they are invasive. By pulling the stems they are less so. Sedums give great autumn colour but do have a tendency to flop over and look messy. Last year I gave them a late chelsea chop, cutting off the top 1/3 of the plant stems in late June. They flower in late August and this produces clumps which stood upright in lovely domes until cut back for winter. I have repeated this again this year.

I am troubled by three diseases in the garden, agapanthus gall affects the flower heads on the plant without damaging the plant itself. There is no cure, but any bloom affected should be cut to the base of the stem and disposed of and not composted. Likewise the fuchsia hedge has fuchsia gall but this seems less than recent years. The grape vine in the greenhouse has developed powdery mildew, I have never had this in the greenhouse before and just wonder whether this has occurred because I put some tomato plants in large pots in this greenhouse as the other was full. Yesterday I cut off all the grapes and cut back the leaves so there is more air circulation. This weekend's job is to sweep the floors and surfaces thoroughly and then to wash down everything in the greenhouse and hope the mildew will not reappear

Over the last few years I have tried to obtain more unusual plants and will now describe a few. When we arrived in 1982 my husband planted a conifer at the bottom left by the wall adjacent to the golf course. Over the years this grew to about 3 metres but below this on the left every year a pale pink lily type flower would emerge in August and produce fragrant blooms until the end of Sept. As the conifer got larger this pink flower became obscured from view. A flower bed dug out in front of the conifer and filled with hybrid T roses meant the lily became very insignificant. Every year when I cut everything down for winter I looked at the stems rising from the earth and wondered whether to remove the plant, deciding it is not doing any harm so leave well alone. The conifer was permanently burnt on its west side by the SW gales and about 5 years ago we decided to have this removed. This allowed more light to this strange multi-headed insignificant plant but lo and behold this ugly duckling has turned into magnificence, towering over the roses in front, about 1.5 metres high, with large fleshy leaves producing multiple heads of pink fragrant flowers reaching 2 metres in height. Jeff, my gardener, who removed the conifer when he started here 5 years ago informed me this was a *Crinum*, a South African hybrid of the *Amaryllis* family. I have learnt about the plant, it is a bulb, very hardy to -10C, the multi-headed trumpets do not all open at the same time within each group so this lengthens the flowering time. I am so thrilled with the plant that has developed that I have bought some more, this time a white variety planted in May and hopefully these will flower this year. About 3 years ago I visited my niece. Outside her conservatory door in August was a white *Crinum*, she was impressed I knew what the plant was. She had acquired it when a friend had said "go to my garden and remove anything you would like, I am moving". What a gift!!

Recently I bought a *Gillinea trifoliata*, a shrub that is quite tender and requires sheltered conditions. The plant has been covered with star like white flowers and hopefully this will survive and reach 1 metre in height. In autumn the leaves turn orangy/red and unique seed heads persist into the winter.

Another plant I acquired from my sister was a thalictrum. She could not remember its name but she had a large number in a flower bed so dug up a few plants for me to bring home. From the leaf I thought this was a tall aquilegia and placed three clumps in the back of the herbaceous border. I love the delicate foliage plus the powder puffs, very like lilac flowers, that came out in May/June. Pat Macdonald was passing one day and I invited her to come and look at the garden. As we walked around I showed her my tall aquilegia and she told me this was a thalictrum!! So I looked this species up and now have 9 different thalictrums, some small, about 18 inches high and others 9 feet tall. Some flower in May/June and others July/Aug. They all have lovely foliage. Some have very dark stems, in fact one is called "Black Stockings". Besides the powder puff flowers others have delicate small petals with colourful stamens. All disappear in winter below ground, truly herbaceous, but re-appear in the spring. They sway in the wind and you can see plants behind them, a feature I love in borders.

Sweet peas are in abundance, I grow these up 8ft or 10ft canes which are tied in groups of 6/8 at the top with a cable tie to form a wigwam and then put soft garden string in a continuous fashion from the bottom to the top around the structure. It can make you feel dizzy doing this! When the sweet peas are about 12 inches tall tie them to the string or cane and repeat the process every 8 inches until they reach the top. Today someone asked me why my sweet peas had long stems? I pointed out that by cutting off all the "twiddly bits" they use to cling with and tying them instead the stems on mine are always at least 15 inches long or longer for weeks, until almost at the end of flowering.

Looking around the garden today I have brightly coloured mesembryanthemums I grew from seed in very vibrant colours. I did this to counteract the dismal daily news of Coronavirus. Perennial geraniums in all sorts of colours, single and double flowered are in the borders. Most of the single flowered ones need cutting to the ground to then flower again. I have a couple that flower all summer and I learnt from Great British Gardens on TV last week that the blue Geranium "Roxanne", which I have, is sterile and so flowers all summer and a pink "Mavis Simpson" does likewise as do the doubled flowered ones. So if I buy any more, I will ensure they are a sterile type.

In my small Prairie bed I have three sunflowers given to me by Charles Michelmore a few months ago. One is now over ten feet tall, towering above me. I call this the sunflower on Steroids. I think it must be competing in height and speed with the echiums I have elsewhere. After many years I have grown the annual lavatera from seed, well worth doing as they are shrubby plants about 3 ft tall with typical white or pink mallow type flowers and need no staking. Visiting Hill House Nursery a couple of weeks ago I found a perennial cleome, rather than the usual annual, a great favourite of mine which I grow each year from saved seed. I am waiting to see if this species is truly perennial, time will tell. The Thalictrum Elin is waving in the breeze in the bottom right corner about 8ft high. In the main border romneya or tree poppy has the lovely fried egg like flowers in abundance, and many of the salvias are now flowering. Again this species comes in many heights and flower colour. The bees have been loving vipers bugloss, related to echiums, another bee favourite in the border, as well as several varieties of agastache. I am growing far more bee friendly plants now and the garden hums most days. Choosing simple flowering plants rather than the complex double variety helps insects extract the pollen.



Sue next to her 'sunflower on steroids'

I am awaiting the lilies to flower. Most have naturalised in the borders but I have also bought several new Asiatic lilies which I hope will do the same, although for their first year most are in pots. I have a new ginger lily and a red banana plant so am excited to see how these will develop.

Over the last few months everything has been naturally well watered, the wind has been relatively kind and the garden has flourished.



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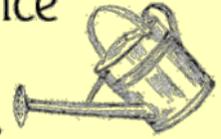
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With the easing of restrictions, we will be able to resume proper monthly WI Meetings in September and we would very much welcome new members. If you are interested in trying us out, please come along to one of our meetings. They are held in the Parish Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm for a 2.30pm start. Our programme is detailed below and if you would like any further information please call Sally Martin on 561356 or Lisa White on 560505.

- SEPTEMBER 9th** **Joan Booth will demonstrate English Paper Piecing Patchwork followed by a hands-on session**
Joan has a wealth of knowledge and skills to share.
Please book your place so that we have enough materials for everyone who wants to have a go. If you do not want to take part in the hands-on session please do stay and chat.
- OCTOBER 14th** **Marilyn Bishop - Music Hall with some audience participation**
Marilyn's meetings have always been popular, well researched and very interesting.
- NOVEMBER 11th** **Alice Foster - A Christmas Floral demonstration**
Alice was a WI Floristry Demonstrator and her demonstration for entries to the Horticultural Show was well received.
- DECEMBER 10th** **Christmas Lunch to be held at the Golf Club (Please note that this is a FRIDAY)**
- JANUARY 13th** **Alice Henderson - An Antarctic Adventure**
Seemed an appropriate subject for the time of year!
- FEBRUARY 10th** **Anita Nowinska - Blooming Inspiration - anything is possible in later years.**
Anita paints flowers but she started late in life and believes anyone can do it, so be prepared to be inspired.
- MARCH 10th** **Ali Soper - Mosaics**
A demonstration followed by a hands-on session making your own mosaic tile.
This has been recommended by another WI who thoroughly enjoyed themselves.
Please book your place so that we have enough materials for everyone. If you do not want to take part in the hands-on session please do stay and chat.

We recently said goodbye to one of our long-standing members, Val Brown, who, with her husband, has moved to live near her daughter. Val first joined the WI in 1954 at Hope Cove before moving to Kingsbridge WI and then 48 years ago, she joined Thurlestone and West Buckland WI. She loved everything that the WI had to offer from the Drama Group, Singing Group, Sewing Group, Committees, attending National Annual Meetings – never a dull moment. Val, we loved having you as a member. You were an inspiration to us all, and we wish you and Derek all the very best in your new life.

Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st September 2021. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

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

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

CODEWORD

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

Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

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

Sudoku - Beginner

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

Sudoku - Hard

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

There were 5 correct entries last month. First out of the hat to win the coveted bottle of wine is Dave Gibby. Commiserations to Neill Irwin, Pauline Lonsdale, Vera Pailthorpe and Lindy Price.



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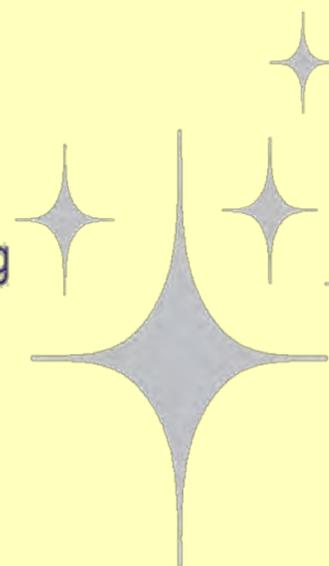
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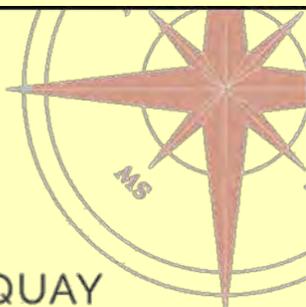
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ZAN ADVENTURES by Martin Beck

Sailing around the French Polynesian islands in 2020 with COVID constraints Part 3 - Conclusion

We felt it wise to plan for July, August and as much of September as possible to enjoy the Society islands west of Tahiti. We left Farkarava via the south pass, actually motoring in darkness for a short time to get to Tetamanu for sunrise and catch the slackest water, which we did. We made a pitstop in Tahiti and then Moorea, before sailing to Huahine.

Huahine is an absolute gem. Fabulous surrounding reef, spectacular vegetation and cruising heaven (especially with no charter boats to crowd us). The town of Fare was friendly and welcoming as we picked up provisions from the large supermarket. We then moved to the small area called Avea. These islands are atoll like where the reef surrounds you, but with the most spectacular lush and green hills on the inside.

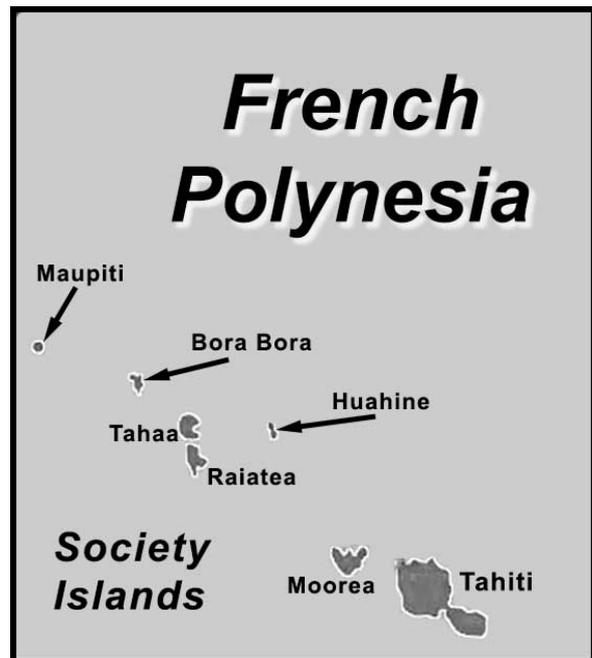
We hired electric bicycles and explored the whole island from here. There were places ashore to eat and meet the now growing number of friends who we had met at the Airport Anchorage in lock down. It was lovely to be socialising in almost normal circumstances. We were into a wonderful daily routine of swimming, snorkelling, walking and exploring before socialising with new friends.

We moved the short distance west to Tahaa. Our first stop was at a tiny small private Motu which has a superb restaurant with half a dozen rooms called 'La Pirogue'. This was an idyllic place to wine, dine and hang out...honeymoon paradise...and the only other guests were local residents who had sailed there for a weekend break.

My plan, was to head as quickly as possible to Maupiti, where we wanted to snorkel with the Manta Ray so we were going to return to Tahaa and Raiatea later. We headed to Bora Bora first to wait for the right height of swell, less than 2 metres and the right wind direction and strength to enter the pass that is known to be very tricky to enter. We arrived through the pass safely on 23rd July which is quite a sight, narrow and very intimidating, but very beautiful once the heart rate drops.

The reward is a wonderful small lush island rising up within its halo of reefs. We were able to anchor comfortably tucking in behind the shelter of Motu Pitiahe just off the shelf. The following days were filled with the experience of waiting for the Manta Rays to appear by the cleaning station, a large coral formation, circular and about 2/3 meters across, that was close to one of the channel markers to which we tied the dinghy, and then snorkelling, often in the water for an hour or so. These creatures are inspiring, majestic and intuitive. They came as a group, often seven or eight, but there was one who came alone who had caught some fishing line around itself. I had the most extraordinary experience as I floated above him and held my arm and hands outstretched and open, and very gently felt and thought a deep peace, it felt like it responded and slowly together, we edged towards much shallower water, it was as if it knew I could help. I shouted out to some friends to get something that could cut away the line. We successfully managed to remove about five metres of plastic fishing line but the last attempt must have pulled uncomfortably and it swam off, we didn't see it again before we had to leave. There is a life energy that crosses between evolutionary boundaries I feel.

We returned to Bora Bora which we felt was the one island that had truly sold its soul to the international hotel operator. It seemed that all the other Islands had tended landscape and gardens and a local population who truly cared for their environment, with Bora Bora being



the exception. Speaking with a local teacher we met, he commented that 'working in a hotel is easier and many have grown lazy, so working the land and sea is no longer needed'. For all that, the anchorage in the south east corner delivers the blues of the Pacific that fill you with happiness and joy. We swam with a 'fever' of Eagle Rays, drifted with the dinghy over the coral and soaked up the sunshine, with the famous back drop of Otemanu, another day in paradise.

From Bora Bora it is a short, in our case motor sail up wind back to Tahaa. We anchored in the fabulous sheltered bay off the village of Tapu'Amu, and once again hired electric bicycles to explore. Cheryl decided the passion fruit rum made by the small distillery in the bay was decidedly delicious and we stocked up. We waited for the winds to drop so we could anchor by the Coral Gardens which we visited as often as we could, enjoying the shallow drift and simply couldn't get enough of watching the 'clown' fish in their Anemone.



Tahaa is within the same reef system as Raiatea and we had plenty of time to explore this wonderful island too. We enjoyed the extraordinary Marae Taotapuatea, which formed the centre of the Polynesian civilisation. Our favourite anchorage was in a small pool tucked in behind the motu at Nao Nao, by the pass in the south and where we enjoyed snorkelling on a par with the Tuomotus. This can barely hold two yachts and we were in a swimming pool barely 2 meters deep surrounded by brilliantly alive coral and an abundance of marine life. Yet again feeling so fortunate to be in this cruising ground with barely a soul.

We ended up spending a good length of time here and waiting with one objective left on the bucket list, a return to Moorea to swim with the hump backs that were now arriving from the Antarctic to give birth in the shelter of these islands.

We returned to Moorea on the 23rd August, after a gentle overnight sail we anchored in Oponohu Bay for a few days to hike the hills behind while we sat out a good blow before returning to our favourite pool which we had to ourselves and from where the Whale guide was happy to collect us.

We went three times, the first trip was not successful and conditions were a little rough and windy, but twice we were rewarded with the experience of stepping off the small motor boat with about 6 to 8 others, swimming about 100 yards to where the guide had seen the hump back surface and then wait looking down into the deep blue, waiting. After some twenty minutes I made out the outline of the whale below us, gently relaxing, slowly she rose, calmly and quietly and I am sure completely aware of us on the surface. She was about 30 yards away as she broke the surface, took a breath and then as serenely as she had risen, she disappeared below, but her outline remained visible, and we waited, maybe 15 minutes ...she rose once more almost the same distance away, another breath and down she went. I felt totally pathetic as a human animal, we inhabit planet ocean, not planet earth. These creatures and all the amazing life within our oceans would thrive and be so much better off without us.

It was time to go home and hopefully be a better Homo but not quite as Sapiens as we believe.

It was an interesting case to study and realise who our real friends are, those that genuinely felt happy for us, enjoyed hearing what we were up to and sharing the experience from far away. It is also easy to understand the feelings of jealousy that we know some feel. We are totally and utterly privileged to have been able to have the means and time to have enjoyed this year to such a degree.

A lifetime dream and some 12,000 cruising miles after we began was now over, our Covid year to remember will be different to so many, and for that we give thanks every day.



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Parish Hall News

by Alison Daily (Secretary)



Can you solve a mystery?

I am starting with a puzzle; a committee member found a black box outside the entrance doors which they were unable to open so placed it inside the porch. Once opened it was found to contain a rather impressive model of a Jaguar car and on further investigation it was discovered to have been left outside by a gentleman who took it out of his car boot and placed it by the doors. There wasn't a note or any clue as to who and why it was left. Can any of you throw any light on this matter to help solve the mystery?

Pat Macdonald

It has already been mentioned that our most valued and longest serving member Pat Macdonald retired from the committee earlier in the year. Due to restrictions, we hadn't until now been able to honour and thank her for her services to the hall. So, on a somewhat disappointingly overcast and showery afternoon we congregated in Sue and Declan Dwyer's magnificent garden for a little tea party. A couple of showers briefly interrupted the garden tour but didn't dampen the enjoyment of all those attending as we were able to shelter under parasols loaned for the occasion. It was a joy to see Pat and present her with a garden voucher, chocolates and freshly picked sweet peas from the garden. An abundance of cakes and scones was served with copious amounts of tea.



Pat and Robin moved to Thurlestone in 1978 and Pat became secretary of the hall almost straight away and as someone commented "has always been there". She became the main fundraiser for the hall and was instrumental in finding many of the performers who visited over the years as well as arranging many Cheese and Wines and other such events. She didn't confine her talents to the hall but was editor of this magazine for 23 years, as well as serving on other committees such as the Horticultural Society, POTS and the WI where she achieved the accolade of the Chairman's Rose Bowl from the Devon Federation last year. Pat said she 'thoroughly enjoyed her years on the committee so it was no effort for her to give the job time and commitment as it has paid her back one hundred-fold'.

We will all miss her sense of fun and guidance but she thoroughly deserves a rest and to take things easy from now on.

After a bit of breathing space during August when the hall is relatively quiet, everything springs back into life during September when classes and clubs restart.

This year will be different as some classes are not returning and others will take their place. So, if you feel like a change then have a look at what is available on the Clubs & Groups page on the website: www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk.

As things stand at present we have decided not to put on any events for the remainder of the year while we gauge the feelings of the parish as to whether they are confident enough to attend larger events.

We are also looking for a representative for families to join the committee as we are aware of the need to be inclusive of all age groups, please let us know if you would be interested.

TRIED AND TASTED

Boursin Chicken

This is one of those invaluable uncomplicated recipes that can be assembled in a very short time and is really flavoursome!

Ingredients (Serves 2)

- 2 chicken breasts
- 2 rashers lean bacon (smoked is good)
- Light garlic and herb Boursin
- Olive oil
- Salt & pepper



Method

1. Bat out the chicken breasts and spread half of each, with Boursin.
2. Fold over to make a parcel then wrap a bacon rasher around each breast.
3. Place them in a baking dish, sprinkle with oil.
4. Cover dish with foil and cook at 180° for 35 minutes (a little longer if you are doing several).

Serve with new potatoes, salad or vegetables.

Creamy Lemon Flan

Ingredients (Serves 6-8)

- 75g Butter
- 150g Digestive biscuits (about 10 biscuits)
- 397g can sweet condensed milk
- Grated zest of 3 unwaxed lemons
- 150ml double cream
- 100ml freshly squeezed lemon juice



Method

1. Grease a 20cm sandwich tin with butter and line with baking paper. Melt the butter in a pan, and then remove from heat.
2. Put the biscuits in a freezer bag, and crush with a rolling pin until you get fine crumbs. Mix into the melted butter.
3. Press the mixture into the tin to make an even crust. Chill for 30 mins.
4. Put the condensed milk and cream into a bowl, and whisk until just combined, then slowly drizzle in the lemon juice, whisking all the time until the mixture thickens. Stir in 2/3rds lemon zest.
5. Pour mixture into flan case. Sprinkle the rest of the zest on top.
6. Serve chilled and enjoy!

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VILLAGE NEWS ROUND-UP

Banish Balls

Graham Gilbert and Neil Girling would like to say a big Thank You to all parishioners who supported the students at KCC by buying their Banish Balls after the last edition of Village Voice. Their 6 students: *Morgan, Ellie, Zoe, Hollie, Milly and Angus* reached the UK National Finals of the Young Enterprise Programme and won many awards for innovation along the way. They also had a successful 6 months selling some 280 BBs making a net profit of £850.

The students are so enthusiastic about their business they have asked Neil and Graham to mentor them for the next year. So, as the YE Programme finishes shortly, a new company called Banish Balls Ltd has been "born" and they will recommence trading when they return to school in September - *Dragon's Den look out!*

They would like to thank you again for your support and, if there are any of you out there who missed out last time, they still have a dozen or so sets of Banish Balls to sell at £7.99 each - please call Graham on 560181 or email him at grahamgilbert@hotmail.com and he'll deliver them to you.

u3a

Lindsey Fletcher informs us that Kingsbridge Estuary u3a will be holding their annual Open Day on Friday 1st October 2021 at Malborough Village Hall from 10.30 - 12.00.

People are invited to come along to find out how to make the most of their lives once no longer in full time employment by exploring new ideas, developing new skills and interests. u3a members are learning, laughing and living. It's local, social, friendly and low-cost. Further details are on the Kingsbridge Estuary u3a website.

New Classes

We have two new fitness classes coming to the parish hall, Freestyle Yoga and Full Body HITT! These will be run by Suzi Griffiths, who has recently moved to Thurlestone. For full details, visit the Clubs & Groups page on the parish website - www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk.

Thurlestone Phonebox.....Ring Ring



Well, despite our best flags, bunting and wishes, we failed to provide enough energy to take the Three Lions to the victory we all longed for. We hope our support for Team GB at the Olympics will have been more successful. Now to sort out our support material for the World Cup next year! We have continued to mark the social calendar with cheerful displays to raise smiles from passers-by. If any Village Voice readers would care to suggest celebratory events, the committee would be delighted for any inspiration.

Now the weather is (at last) warming up, we see more people using the library and as the 'irreversible' lifting of restrictions took hold, we have been able to relax (responsibly of course) some of the quarantining mechanisms.

We've noticed that the books that are exchanged are newer and more diverse than pre-pandemic - an additional treat for our summer visitors. The committee intends to mount a (totally unscientific) survey of the books that are exchanged as a measure of Thurlestone's literary taste.

We'd like to remind everyone that the Phonebox motto is "Bring a book, Take a book" and not "Dump all your old books on us". In recent weeks a number of bags of (mainly old and tattered) books have been left at the Phonebox. We are not short of stock (far from it) and we do not want to be a substitute for visits to the Charity shops or Torr Quarry. That having been said, we do wish to top up our stock of Children's books for the summer.

Alan Taylor Bigg

Thurlestone Bay Birds

May and June 2021

One of the coldest, wettest and windiest May for many years still managed to produce a bonanza of birds with a record total for that month of 127 species.

Birds offshore produced the most spectacular reports of POMARINE SKUA - recorded on 3 days with a maximum of 4 on 3rd.

ARCTIC SKUA - a total of 24 recorded on 11 days with 5 flying south-east on 17th.

GREAT SKUA - only recorded on 2 days - 3 on 10th were the best.

LONG TAILED SKUA - it is many years since an adult has been seen in Spring, this sighting was more remarkable as the SKUA flew into the Bay then over my head at a height of only 30 feet then continuing up the South Huish Valley. After 65 years of birdwatching this was the first adult LONG TAILED SKUA in breeding plumage I have seen.



Long Tailed Skua

Other interesting sea watch sightings were a SOOTY SHEARWATER on 21st and a STORM PETREL on 3rd.

Amongst the Duck recordings were a pair of TUFTED DUCK flying south-east on 16th - although a common species on Slapton Ley they are scarce visitors here. A male GARGANEY on the Marsh on 29th was a late Spring record.

Plenty of GANNETS were seen during the month with a maximum of 250 on 10th - to watch a flock of sometimes more than 10 adults flying in line as they cope with strong winds and waves is a delight.

Most of the wader passage is over by the end of April. However, there was a flock of 100 WHIMBREL on 3rd May and a good record for WOOD SANDPIPER on South Huish Marsh on 13th and 14th.

The second ICELAND GULL of the year, this time an adult, was a late passage migrant on 26th which was later found on the Avon Estuary.

Plenty of SWIFTS this year, both passage birds and local residents with over 40 at South Huish Marsh on 17th.

Only CUCKOO of the Spring was one calling near Aveton Gifford on 22nd.

If May was an outstanding month, June was definitely a disappointment with only 87 species recorded - probably more due to the large number of visitors and the increase in my time spent recording moths. SHELDUCK, MALLARD and MUTE SWAN have all bred on South Huish Marsh along with both COOT and MOORHEN.

At South Milton Ley the breeding numbers of REED and SEDGE WARBLERS continue to remain comparable with previous years, both CHIFFCHAFF and BLACKCAP have been very successful breeders - 20 juvenile CHIFFY were ringed on 23rd.

Numbers of SPOTTED FLYCATCHER on breeding sites have totally crashed in the last 5 years from over 60 to just 5 this year. Whilst HOUSE MARTIN are still breeding around the houses and flats around South Huish Marsh there are very few pairs elsewhere in the local villages.

Finally a very rare record - a first for the local patch seen near Hope on 15th May - a red billed CHOUGH - the nearest breeding pairs are in Southern Cornwall - they do breed around the coastline of Brittany in France.

The first warmer days of Summer are due from 14th July. Birds will be starting to fly south from their breeding sites to Winter in Africa - already the SWIFTS are congregating - a flock of over 140 passing over Thurlestone fields on 9th July is the first evidence.

Mike Passman

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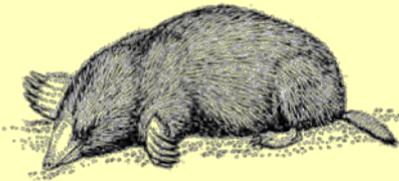
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Thurlestone Golf Club



Two new recycling containers have been sited on the South Devon coast for use by the public thanks to the combined efforts of Thurlestone Golf Club, the Kingsbridge based Community Interest Company, Till the Coast is Clear and The Devon Environment Foundation. The new containers complement the existing general waste bins that the golf club already provides in an effort to divert recyclable plastic marine pollution from landfill or incineration. Till the Coast is Clear's founder Gary Jolliffe said 'cross contamination of otherwise recyclable materials is the biggest challenge the industry faces, especially when there is dog and food waste involved, which immediately condemns the entire load to a hole in the ground or an incinerator! The containers are made of recycled fishing trawl nets and other recycled post consumer plastic and prove that there is life in these materials, if they can be recovered efficiently'. The recycling containers are positioned at the popular beaches of Leasfoot and Yarmer, there is also a 2-minute beach clean station at Leasfoot with litter pickers and bags provided, so that anyone can do a 2-minute beach clean and contribute to keeping our shores free of plastic pollution.

Since scraping off areas of grass other species of plants have increased, this can be largely put down to opportunistic species which are quick to colonise disturbed ground, such as scarlet pimpernel, spear thistle and field bindweed. In all cases, species have benefited from the increased light and reduced competition. There is no sign of a seedbed of gorse and only a couple of 'desirable' species have emerged, including greater knapweed and red campion. In total we started with 23 species and this has been increased to 31. Yellow Thistle is a hemiparasitic on grass, yellow rattle is a very useful ecological management tool for reducing the vigour of competitive grass species and increasing the success of wildflower establishment. Its addition could be considered for the annual species of seed mix. It is currently being trialled for use at St Andrew's as part of their biodiversity project.

It is sad to reflect on the passing of Julian Tregelles – our thoughts and prayers are lovingly sent to Mary, Julian's two sons, David and James and their family and friends. Julian's association with the Club started back in the early sixties. His involvement and stature within the Club grew to such an extent that he was chosen to fulfil the role as Club Captain as the millennium turned from the 20th to the 21st century. Some 10 years later Julian was asked and accepted the role as Club President, an honour bestowed on very few since the Club's inception in the late 1890's. Julian held this influential role making sure the Club reflected his own strong moral compass during that time. His ability to make someone feel special was a rare quality and although in later years visits to the Club office dwindled, they were always most welcome – he will be sadly missed.

Simon Bawden

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Thurlestone Village Moths

May and June 2021

Weather plays a prominent part in the number of moths in flight - calm, mild and overcast are the best - and this year it took almost to the end of May to find a period of suitable conditions.

The number of moths trapped increased from 11 on 27th May to 51 on 29th and 30th. June was very good with record numbers rising from 77 on 10th to 106 on 14th to a new record of 172 on 21st.

July continued the excellent catches with a total of 741 of 97 species by the 9th. The largest and those that are very colourful are *HAWK MOTHS* - there are 14 different species of which only 10 are seen each year in Devon, probably only 6 in our coastal area of Thurlestone.

This year my records confirm a significant increase on last year. Up to 13th July totals were:

<i>ELEPHANT HAWK</i> -	88 with record counts of 11 on 28th June and 1st July
<i>SMALL ELEPHANT HAWK</i> -	4
<i>PRIVET HAWK (shown right)</i> -	18 with a max of 3 on 9th July
<i>POPLAR HAWK</i> -	16
<i>EYED HAWK</i> -	7
<i>LIME HAWK</i> -	2



All the other members of this group are immigrants from Europe not usually recorded until the Autumn months. One to look out for during the day is *HUMMING BIRD HAWK* which as its name implies can be seen feeding on flowering plants (particularly *RED VALERIAN*) acting in the manner of a *HUMMING BIRD*.

This time of the year finds new groups of moths which although quite small are very attractive - *BURNISHED BRASS* (has large Brassy blotches on fore wings), *SILVERY* - an immigrant from Europe with a distinct white Y mask, *PLAIN GOLDEN Y* and *BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN Y*, *GOLD SPOT* (has 2 gold blotches and silvery white wing blotches) and *SPECTACLE* - aptly named as tufts on its thorax resemble a pair of spectacles from the front.

A particularly large yellow moth present in the last week is a *SWALLOW-TAILED MOTH* - its hind wing has a substantial tail with 2 brown spots at the base.

One particular family of moths that have been regularly caught is the *PUSS, KITTENS* and *PROMINENTS*. The largest of these is the *PUSS* Moth (29mm - 36mm) - white and grey with prominent tufts. Both *ALDER* and *SALLOW KITTEN* plus four different Prominent species have been recorded.

An unusual name for a larger moth is *DRINKER* - early July saw the first of these this year, very fast low fliers, I still don't know how it got its name!

Two very small moths are interesting - *CHINESE CHARACTER* - when resting on a wall camouflages itself by looking like a bird dropping, *CREAM BORDERED GREEN PEA* is scarce in Devon - so far two have been caught due to the wetland habitat just outside my garden.

Over the next few weeks more of the moths which inhabit the marshland will start emerging - *WAINSCOTS* and *FOOTMEN* in particular - these will add more variety to the 229 species recorded so far this year.

Trying to describe moths without photos is difficult. I try to put as many interesting photos as possible on my website - thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk - look for the headings 'Latest Moths Trapped' and '2021 Photos Moths' - this will provide you with an insight of what happens in your garden overnight.

Mike Passman

Tramp Reports for May and June 2021

The Down Thomas Circular. 6 miles. May 19th 2021. Sue Dwyer.

On the 19th May 10 walkers met at Court Park and we met another 8 at the Village Hall car park at Down Thomas, so 18 set off plus 3 dogs. The weather was wonderfully sunny with a westerly breeze and as we walked along a footpath, some in shorts and sandals, there were wonderful views of Plymouth Sound, Cornwall, the Breakwater and Fort Bovisand.

After a short walk on the road, we went down a slightly muddy path to join the Coastal Footpath and continued for about 3 miles to Wembury Beach having a coffee break en-route overlooking the Mewstone in Wembury Bay. Then we turned inland to join a bridle path taking us to Ford Hill and thence across fields around the back of Langdon Court to Down Thomas.

The total walk was 6 miles and about as flat as you could expect to get locally. About half the party went to the Mussel Inn to meet Christine and John Wilson for a late lunch.

East Soar Circular Walk via Overbecks. 5 miles. May 26, 2021. Neil Mackay

It was a clear and mild day when 14 walkers and 2 dogs met up at East Soar car park to admire the spectacular views of the South Devon coast with beaches, craggy rocks and estuaries as well as sweeping farmland.

We started off towards Middle Soar in search of the one of the few remaining Watch Towers built originally in 1794 to warn of French warships approaching. A board nearby explains the purpose and method of communication of the Watch Tower etc.

After this we located the Southwest Coastal Path and headed along level terrain towards Bolt Head. One cliff-top descent and ascent around Bolt Head challenged the more senior amongst us. When we reassembled further on at Starehole Cove, Richard Swan expanded on the story of the grain carrying Clipper ship running aground in Starehole Cove in 1936 on its way to Salcombe.

From here we encountered another steep rise on the cliffs around Sharpitor Point and a gentle descent to the foot of the road leading past Overbecks. We had a few sneak peeks into the lovely gardens of Overbecks from the pathway glimpsing magnolias and rhododendron bushes amongst other shrubbery. We ascended on the way to the summit looking out over the Salcombe estuary and Starehole Cove where we had a picnic lunch. A new Gastrobus is now gracing the outside of Overbecks as the restaurant in Overbecks was still closed.

The lookout at the top of the climb gave great views of Salcombe and East Portlemouth as well as the continuing coast line on the way to Dartmouth. Here we found the Lifeboat Memorial dedicated to the men who died in 1916 in a storm. A little bit further on was the distance plinth to various destinations with yet more views.

It was then an easy walk to East Soar Farm with their Grab and Go (although their popular Walkers Hut remained closed) and another short walk back to the car park.

Dittisham to Old Mill Creek Circular, Thursday 10th June. Peter and Wendy Gornall.

"Fortune favours the brave" they say, and brave was Tramp this day. At 9.30 damp mist lay over Thurlestone and visibility was little over a tennis court length. By 10.15 at Dittisham the cloud was high and the footing dry. 15 human walkers and 2 dogs set out up a drover's lane and quiet road to Bozomzeal. The history stretches back to pre-conquest times; it has been so carefully restored and the gardens are a wonder. Over the fields near Hole we descended with springs flowing all over the path to Hole Copse. After coffee break at the entrance to the Raleigh Estate, we walked along Old Mill Creek side. Miraculously at 11.45 the clouds thinned enough for a naked-eye glimpse of the eclipse of the sun – barely a 10% bite out of the 11 o'clock part of the face.

The homeward path begins with a very steep turf ascent. The clear air gave great views of works at Noss Quay on the Dart. From Fire Beacon Hill, Torbay with its anchored cruise liners glittered in the sun and grey summits showed below the Dartmoor cloud blanket.

The lunch hour outside the Ferry Boat Inn was bright enough but by 2.45 as we drove home, Dartmoor and Torbay had vanished and the clouds were down to hedge level again. Brave to have left and fortunate to have walked under bright skies.

South Brent circular. Tuesday 15 June. 6.5 miles. Vanessa Barton.

5 Trampers and 2 dogs set off from South Brent for a 6½ mile circular. The weather looked promising and possibly too hot but in fact a few shady lanes and regular stops to 'enjoy the view' meant we all kept our cool and the dogs enjoyed the several streams we crossed.

The route took us along the River Avon to Lydia Bridge and it's always lovely to watch the water cascading down the granite rocks there and onwards to the pretty hamlet of Aish and gradually up onto the moor. We passed through Corringdon Ball Gate which has a very imposing pair of gateposts leading out onto the open moor and we had our first refreshment stop just beyond the Barrow as the cows had taken up residence there!

We then handrailed the wall to a downward path onto the road at Zeals and onto Shipley Bridge car park where happily the coffee/cake bus was open - we sat by the river enjoying a coffee/early lunch until the insects started to bite. The path then goes through some beautiful woods to Didworthy and Lutton where a very non dog friendly stile meant we had to retrace our steps a little to avoid too much lifting of reluctant pooches.

We walked back to Lydia Bridge and along the path discussing the merits or otherwise of cold-water swimming; having seen several in the deep water pool just by the bridge!

Dartington Estate walk. June 22nd. 4.5 miles. Alastair Durden.

The walk was round the Dartington Estate and took us alongside the River Dart for about two miles and through some lovely woodland. We - thirteen of us in total - started and finished at the Green Table Café, which is near the entrance to Dartington Hall and serves lovely vegetarian food. We proceeded down the driveway to where it meets the river, turning to follow the river upstream and enjoying the peace and

tranquillity which was only broken by the whistle of the steam train as it passed on the opposite bank on its way to Buckfastleigh. A nice coffee stop was enjoyed by the river.

Not long after this, we entered the woodland of North Wood, the path taking us past a deer drinking-well by the river where deer from the Deer Park would have come down to drink in former times. In the wood, we managed to take a wrong turning, making a 4½ mile walk more like 5¼ miles! Anyway, we regained the right path which took us past the Glade, where open-air events take place, and Schumacher College, then up the main drive back to the Green Table, where we enjoyed a light meal before returning to our cars.

Tuckenhay circular walk on June 28th. 5 miles. John & Priscille Braithwaite

This was a circular walk full of variety, centred around Tuckenhay and it contains lovely views of a tributary of the river Dart as well as scenes of Dartmoor and our lovely countryside. As it turned out we were lucky with the weather as well.

Thirteen of us parked at the The Maltsters Arms and then walked along Bow Creek to the meadow by Effords Close copse. We were slightly concerned about walking the creek at high tide because the path can be submerged in places. Unlike our experience on the recce walk, this time we didn't meet the herd of cows on the narrow riverside path!

We then walked up the gentle incline to Cornworthy Church where we had a coffee stop and took time out to visit the church.

We then dropped down through the village, passed some very quaint old cottages and then took the steep lanes up to Furze Cross where we were met with magnificent views of Dartmoor; not a town or village in sight. Turning right off the lane, we proceeded down through the meadows to Coomery. At Edcombe Barn we took the foliage covered, green lane back to Tuckenhay via the Old Paper Mill, which used to make bank note paper.

It turned out that on the day of our walk the pub was closed for repairs so we had a very enjoyable lunch at the Sportsman's Arms instead.

TRAMP Plymouth Walk on 5th July 2021. 4 miles. Gareth and Linda Scott.

The forecast all week had been for rain so our fingers were crossed on Monday 5th and luckily it didn't rain until we had got back into our cars heading for home. Eleven Trampers and Heidi mustered at the Mount Batten ferry for a Plymouth waterfront walk. We caught the water taxi over to the Barbican and looked back at the former sea plane base. In WW1 it was used by the RNAS before two RAF flying boat squadrons arrived in 1928. The last flying boat took off from Mountbatten in 1952.

After looking at the Mayflower steps, from where the Pilgrim Fathers are said to have set sail for America, we set off towards the Hoe. As we walked along, we saw the Stella Maris on the wall opposite, the Royal Citadel up on the hill and Smeaton's tower on the Hoe. We then stopped to admire the print of the painting showing numerous small boats laden with beautifully dressed ladies being rowed out into the Sound to try to catch a glimpse of Napoleon. He was briefly held a prisoner on a warship there, having been defeated at the Battle of Waterloo. Apparently, thousands of sightseers flocked to Plymouth from as far afield as London for this tourist attraction. All along this section of the Hoe are markers displaying the names of people associated with Plymouth including Robert Lenkiewicz, Joshua Reynolds, Cookworthy, Shackleton and even a female pirate!

We stopped and looked over at Tinside Lido, an original 1930's outdoor lido swimming pool, which looked inviting even on an overcast day. There were lots of paddle boarders and sea swimmers out in the Sound as well as all sizes of craft so there was lots to see. Carrying on down to the West Hoe we passed the site of Plymouth's bullring - where bull baiting once took place, and where the pier, which was destroyed in March 1941, once stood.

Our next stop was West Hoe Harbour where Sir Francis Chichester landed in 1967 as the first and fastest person to sail single-handed around the world by the clipper route in Gipsy Moth. Also permanently installed here, to commemorate Mayflower 400 and the opening of The Box, is Antony Gormley's LOOK II, a figure made from 22 blocks in one cast iron form. Gormley's aim was to evoke the yearning to travel across the sea.

Walking on round the Rusty Anchor (the grand terrace built for senior naval officers in

the 1850s) we had a sad reminder of how small the Royal Navy has become; there are a number of model ships and submarines on display on this Royal Navy Millennium Wall and all but one of the real vessels they represent have been sold or scrapped.

At the corner of Millbay Park we stopped to admire the Eddystone Lighthouse pavement which shows how John Smeaton designed the interlocking stonework that enabled the tower to withstand wind and wave for 123 years before being replaced only because the rock on which it was stood was wearing away. We also read the grizzly tale told on the lead nugget, about the fate of one of the lighthouse keepers of the previous lighthouse. We also saw the lookout turret on the top of the Duke of Cornwall hotel where Boer War spies were captured during the early years of the 20th century. All along the route, embedded in the pavement, were telegraphic code words which had been invented by Captain Bernard and listed in his Nautical Telegraph Code Book, to reduce the costs of sending a telegram. One word represented a whole sentence.

Walking on round Millbay we positioned ourselves so that we could read the famous order, written by John Hawkins in 1564 and reproduced on the railings: "Serve God daily, love one another, preserve your victuals, beware of fire and keep good company". We then walked along Durnford Street where we read quotations from the Sherlock Holmes books which were on the walls and in the pavement. "I never make exceptions. An exception disproves the rule." Sir Arthur Conan Doyle came to 1 Durnford street, a medical practice, as a young doctor in 1882.

Having stopped to look at the Artillery Tower and take in the views from Devil's Point we descended the RWY steps into the Royal William Yard where we had our picnic lunch. Some Trampers had to get back to Thurlestone for 3:20 and had already planned to catch the 1:30 ferry. Looking at the clouds and consulting the forecast, we all decided to join them rather than extending the walk around Devonport. What a good move that was as we had an interesting and dry boat trip back to the Barbican - during which we realised just how far we had walked. The Royal Navy put on a sail-by for us with a couple of P2000 patrol boats heading into the Naval base. We were safely in our cars when down came the rain! Thank you to everyone who joined us on the walk and for all your interest and enthusiasm.



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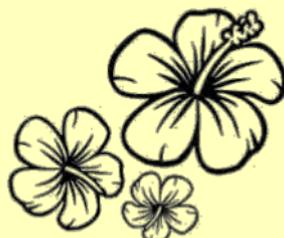
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SCHOOL REPORT

A fond farewell to Year 6



So another academic year concluded and what a year it's been. It's amazing we all got through it and all our families stayed sane (although some would argue with me on that point) and a testament to the teaching and school staff who have been absolute rocks throughout this period. Despite the restrictions still in place, there were lots of fantastic activities and learning opportunities going on at the school during the last few weeks of the summer term. Activities Week, Arts Week, Sports Day and a Year 6 drama performance all added to some much needed fun for the youngsters as the term drew to a close.

Arts Week produced some very impressive works using pebbles, sea glass and shells from the beach. The school was lucky to welcome local artist Jacqui from Brixham who specialises in 'pebble art' and helped the children create sea creatures using these simple materials. Each creature represents a family group and they are now displayed in the entrance hall for everyone to see. They have also been busy producing some anti-litter signs on footprint shaped pieces of wood to encourage visitors to the parish to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.

Key Stage 2 children enjoyed a fabulous sports day in beautiful weather completing a circuit of activities as well as traditional races. Congratulations to the Blue family who were announced as the winners of Sports Day 2021!

The year 6's have enjoyed a marathon of activities during the last few weeks to officially mark the end of their Thurlestone All Saints' journey before going onto secondary education. Beach days, Forest School, a trip to Woodlands, a trip to 'Battlefield' near Newton Abbot, Footgolf, a canoeing trip with 'Singing Paddles' and a Friday night camp-out complete with hog roast and bbq late into the night. We're not sure who was more tired, the children or the grown-ups! We wish them all the very best as they move onto their secondary schools, they've been a terrific bunch. Special mention to Imogen Nute who organised a beach clean of Bantham a few weeks ago in conjunction with Surfers Against Sewage. She sorted out all the materials needed, bags, gloves etc and a huge gang of children duly turned up on the day and combed the shoreline for plastic and other nasties. Many thanks to the Nute family and everyone who joined in.

Have a wonderful summer to all and see you all back in September.

Sian Williams

Some end of term jokes...

Q: What happened to the plant in maths class? A: It grew square roots.

Q: How did the geography student drown? A: His grades were below C-level

Q: Why is 6 afraid of 7? A: Because 7 8 9

Q: Why did the giraffe get bad grades? A: He had his head in the clouds.

Q: Name a bus you can never enter? A: A syllabus

Eating Out Locally

Daytime Cafés in Kingsbridge



Coasters

When you step into Coasters for a daytime break in town, you step into modern relaxed décor. It is fresh and practical - a place to meet friends or sit while you wait for the next bus! Coasters is at the hub of the town, across from the bus station and next to Boots. It's friendly, with sofas in conversational corners and, stand-alone tables for two or one. Cheerful staff serve your choice of good coffee, tea or other beverages which you may drink in, or take away and, you won't be disturbed if you take your laptop before ten, or after twelve. There's a range of teas to suit your taste and with it, cakes, flapjack, sandwiches toasted, tea cakes and more. Coasters has an essentially good conversational mood for get-togethers with friends and family.

Mangetout

At the top end of Fore street, you enter Mangetout's delicatessen and go through to reach the café area which extends out to the garden. It's a covered area that's been enlarged and improved for distancing. It is light and bright with plenty of seating - if a long walk for the waiters and waitresses!

The décor inside is simple and pictures on the walls have a French theme. You may purchase homemade preserves as well as various teas like breakfast rooibos, earl grey, wild rhubarb, iced latte, coffee, Luscombe fruit juices, and more. The breakfast menu is very good and it changes to lunch at 11.30. Breakfast is breakfast and so everything you have on your plate you may have had before but, here, it has the Mange Tout touch. Don't miss their field breakfast if you're vegetarian. With their own home baked beans, it's differently delicious.

Duke Street Coffee House established 2020

Lower down Fore Street, take a turn into Duke Street where a delicatessen, once called The Pantry, now operates as Duke Street Coffee House. Tables for couples, bigger ones for families and high chairs for little children, set a scene that makes for a quietly cosy and refreshing break from shopping, or for getting together with friends.

Lined up on the deli shelves, are wonderful jars of products not usually found in superstores. As well as herbs, spices, preserves, beverages and home-crafted toiletries, there are original small gifts for adults and children. Some are local crafts and arts in organic materials and there are greetings cards, which have a few words to make you smile. There's plenty to browse while they make your ham and cheese toasted croissant or, in our case, a full English breakfast. The breakfast menu includes wonderfully smashed avocado with bacon, salmon, tomatoes... and there are American style pancakes with yogurt and banana, or bacon and maple syrup. Coffee and tea are very good, but shakes and smoothies are available too.

Bumbles

Bumbles is a happy place for mothers of small children to meet and chat with friends while they play. This kiddies' café is at the top of Fore Street – a kid's soft play cafe for 0–7-year-olds which has free WiFi. Tea and coffee with good cakes can be enjoyed while your small children play in a well-equipped, indoor area.

At present, they are running at reduced capacity. You may just drop by, or book a session. For more information, call Bumbles at 01548 854010

Vivien Stickland

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Weather Wag

As most of the GCSE's and A Levels are over and students wait for their results, I thought I would turn my attention to comparing the data for this time of the year. I consult various reference books and some of my own data, collected over time, and then form some conclusions (often wrong!).

I then put them together in an article for you to read, or ignore, according to your interests. Like the students, I have to wait for the figures in order to sum up and make my conclusions into answers to the questions that I have posed inside my head.

Did you know?

You can see the current weather conditions, as well as historical data, on the Thurlestone Parish website at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/thurlestones-weather- - -live

The month of June is always difficult because there is so much 'weather' to choose from. However, it is how the weather has worked out according to the data I have collected and that I have researched. Rainfall in June = 40mm all falling over just 6 days. Most recorded was 12mm on Tuesday 22nd June. This coincided with the summer Solstice, and was a very wet day, the following days were fine and sunny. The next recordable rainfall was on July 3rd. Since then, there has been 63mm, very typical of July. I felt however that St. Swithin's day on 15th July would be fine this year which augers well for the following 40 days! And it was a most glorious day!

Winds have been generally kind, just one or two days of gales but nothing to really write home about! I did close the shutters once in late May much to everyone's surprise.

Generally, the summer months have not been really summery as we have known them to be. This last word leads me to mention 'Bees', honey bees, solitary bees, masonry bees and all sorts of pollen gathering insects. It has been quite cold and wetter than it should have been. Bees as a whole detest wet weather and remain snug in the hive/hole in the ground or in a masonry wall. They will begin to forage when temperatures lift above 16C, in some cases they will fly at 12-14C and anything below 10C sees them firmly at home. As a result of this year's weather the new buds on many shrubs and trees were frosted and died, this of course was very bad news for any foraging insect. Added to that, the flowers need temperatures between 18 and 22C to prompt them to release the pollen ready for these insects to gather a store in their nests/hives etc.



Swarming was also delayed by the cold wet weather, so when eventually the sun shone every insect that swarmed did so. There is an old folklore saying – 'A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay. A swarm in June, a silver spoon, but a swarm in July is not worth a fly'.

Warm times in early June helped, then there was a wet spell, and in late June the weather was wonderful and the bees were all busy, busy, making up for lost time. My 12ft tall Echiums were crowded with bees of all sorts, long may it last.

Jan Turner

DIARY DATES

August

- Tuesday 3 TRAMP - Meet at Chillington Village Hall at 10.30am 6/7 miles - Claudette Uff
- Saturday 7 Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
- Wednesday 11 TRAMP - Mountbatten Circular - Christine Wilson
- Sunday 15 Celebrate Start Bay from 11am at FSC Slapton Ley Field Centre
- Monday 16 TRAMP - from Cross Furzes and past Avon Reservoir - Alastair and Gill Durden
- Wednesday 18 The British Fireworks Championship in Plymouth - fireworks at approximately 9.30pm
- Thursday 19 The British Fireworks Championship in Plymouth - fireworks at approximately 9.30pm
- Saturday 21 Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
- Sunday 22 Kingsbridge Age Concern Summer Garden Party at Quay Bandstand and Quay House lawns 2pm.
- Wed 25 - 28 Dartmouth Royal Regatta.
- Monday 30 August Bank Holiday
- Monday 30 TRAMP - Lustleigh Cleave 6 miles - Richard Swan

September

- Saturday 4 Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
- Monday 6 The Tour of Britain Cycling Race passes through Kingsbridge around midday
- Wednesday 8 TRAMP - Wembury to the Warren 6 miles - Declan Dwyer
- Monday 13 TRAMP - Noss Mayo and 9 mile drive clockwise 4.5 miles - Eric and Liz Candy
- Saturday 18 Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
- Monday 20 TRAMP - Hope Cove and South Milton Ley 7 miles - Linda Scott
- Wednesday 29 Kingsbridge Arts Society Methodist Hall 2.30pm. The French painter Berthe Morisot "Une Finesse Fragonardienne" with Lois Oliver

Car Boot Sales every Sunday from 27 June to 12 September, Kingsbridge Quay Car Park 9am - 12noon - in aid of various local charities

All events are subject to change due to the Coronavirus

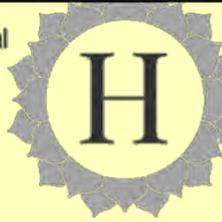
The Thurlestone Parish Lockdown Support Hotline

The Support Hotline is still running and we would encourage anyone who needs help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog-walking or whatever not to hesitate in calling. The Helpline will be answered by Milla who will do her best to give you a helping hand, put you in touch with one of our fantastic volunteers or just have a friendly chat over the phone. We are looking for volunteers to help with some of the requests so if you are willing to help occasionally, please contact the Helpline number and give your details to Milla.

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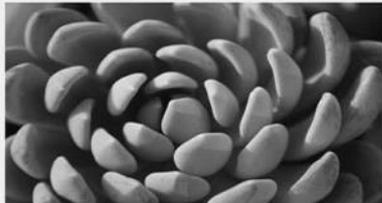
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BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wed & Fri 6.30pm)	Contact	Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX	Contact	Anna Martin	560796
CIRCUIT TRAINING	Contact	Sue Richards	07810751083
FITNESS YOGA WITH SUZI (Mon 6pm - 7pm)	Contact	Suzi Griffiths	07557334802
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
PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOC (POTS)	Chairman	Chris White	560505
TABLE TENNIS (Thurs 7.30pm)	Contact	Paul Ferguson	07866802800
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
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Kingsbridge T: 853195, Salcombe T: 843927, Totnes T: 01803-411183, Dartmouth T: 01803-834224

LIBRARIES

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Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall Car Park Wednesdays 25th August and 22nd September 3.10pm to 4.00pm

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PARISH INFORMATION

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

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Vice-chairman	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

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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

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	Saturday	8.00am - 4.00pm
	Sunday and Bank Holidays	8.30am - 2.00pm

Post Office Hours Subject to change	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.00am - 4.00pm
	Wed	9.00am - 1.00pm
	Sat	9.30am - 12.30pm
	Sun	Closed

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

BANTHAM VILLAGE STORES & COFFEE SHOP Contact Kelly Seymour 560645

Opening Hours Subject to change	August open every day	9.00am - 2.30pm
		5.00pm - 7.00pm
	September open every day	9.00am - 2.30pm

PUBS The Village Inn (Thurlestone) - 563525 The Sloop Inn (Bantham) - 560489

MILK DELIVERY Dartmouth Dairy (R Bruckner & Son) 01803-832801

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

- Thurlestone Parish Hall
 - Thurlestone Hotel (Garage)
 - Golf Club (Tennis Pav Wall)
 - Sloop Inn Bantham (Lobby)
 - Bantham Quay
 - Buckland Phone Box
- Scan the QR Code to see these locations on a map

