

VILLAGE VOICE



December 2016 - January 2017

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone
now archived on the Parish website at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk*



NUMBER 202
December 2016 - January 2017

THE TURN OF THE YEAR

It has been a topsy-turvy year. The centenary of the battle of the Somme served as a reminder of our struggle in Europe, that swayed backwards and forwards over a prolonged period, and cost so many lives, in defence of the sovereignty of Belgium.

Now, topsy-turvy-wise, 100 years on, we are about to engage in another prolonged struggle with Europe, to recover our own sovereignty from Brussels. The cost of this struggle, fortunately, will be measured in reputations rather than in lives, but still remains to be negotiated.

The American presidential election duly came up with another topsy-turvy result, muddying the diplomatic waters, and as we move towards the turn of the year, the very phrase poses its own question - what was the turn of the year? And who were the main contenders for the title? Answers on a postcard, please.

Locally, our own MP started the ball rolling, but then other candidates have accelerated the rate and scale of both local and national gyrations.

However, there's truth in every cliché - every cloud has its silver lining, and while there's life there's hope. In the midst of all this whirligig Ed Balls lost his seat, but has since found his feet - and become the surprise darling of the viewing public. And so for many the highlight of the turn of the year will be to see Ed waltz away with the Glitterball against all the odds.

It's certainly been a funny old year.

Front Cover: **Christmas Rose and Holly**

Founder Dudley Drabble

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

Advertising Managers ALISON & MIKE BONE
25 Mead Drive
Thurlestone
TQ7 3TA
01548-288436
e-mail: alisonjbone@gmail.com

Accounts GAVIN PRICE

Production Manager CHRIS WHITE
01548-560505

Production Team

TED ABEL
MAUREEN BAKER
SHIRLEY BARNES
ALISON & MIKE BONE
PAT CRAWFORD
ALAN & ALISON DAILY
VIVIENNE DAY
NORMA KENDALL
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Distribution Organisers

GRAHAM & VAL PALMER
CAROLINE DONALD
ANNA & DAVID MARTIN

Mail Order Copies JUDITH REYNOLDS
Pilgrim Cottage
Post Office Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3ND
01548-560912

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A Report From Your District Councillor

This is the fourth of my articles on planning applications. This time it's a little different: not so much about how to comment when an application comes in, but hopefully to help you understand the context of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the considerations that need to be taken into account.

The whole of the parish of Thurlestone is in the South Devon AONB, as is the surrounding area as far inland as Kingsbridge and all along the coast almost to Plymouth and to Brixham eastwards though, surprisingly, Burgh Island has never been included. All AONBs have statutory protection defined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). This provides the legal framework for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty in AONBs. Our local AONB Unit at South Hams District Council is paid for by DEFRA to do this. The AONB officers are not council staff.

AONBs were first established in 1949, when natural beauty was defined as the flora and fauna, the geology and the landscape features of the protected areas. Since then all this has been nuanced by test cases in law. In fact, the concept of 'natural beauty' is quite difficult to grasp, since a lot of it patently isn't 'natural', but man made, or at least the result of man's intervention. If you interpret 'natural beauty' as 'special qualities' you will be nearer a true understanding of what the AONB is all about.

The AONB Unit is responsible for drawing up a five yearly Management Plan and an annual delivery plan. The management plan is a material consideration in planning applications. Both can be found at <http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/about-the-aonb/looking-after-the-aonb/aonb-management-plan>.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives the highest level of protection to AONBs, and the footnote to paragraph 14 exempts AONB areas from the general requirement of 'sustainable development'. This in itself gives the parish a good deal of protection from unallocated development. The highest status of protection in planning policy is afforded by paragraphs 115, which gives 'great weight to conserving landscape and scenic beauty', including wildlife and cultural heritage. Paragraph 116 forbids all major development in the AONB, except in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated to be in the public interest. Any applications should include an assessment of the need for the development, the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, on the local economy, the cost and scope of developing outside the AONB or meeting the need in some other way and the extent to which any detrimental effects on the landscape and recreational opportunities could be moderated.

It is these 'requirements' which seem to be the chink in the armour which the AONB legislation otherwise provides. Economic betterment, crucially including employment opportunities, always introduces a difficult balancing act when considering commercial planning proposals such as hotels, in the AONB. Major development is not defined and is usually judged against the prevailing environment. What may not be major for a very large village might well be major for a smaller one.

There is no doubt that these 'let out clauses' tend to be used to allow development in the AONB and that the quiet creep of cumulative development is all around us. For instance, there have been some disastrous skyline developments recently. Whenever possible we elected members will seek to minimise and manage impact through conditions or call items to committee if we disagree with an officer recommendation to approve. The National Trust has recently written a paper suggesting nine tests to strengthen protection of the AONB. This can be found at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/documents/national-trust-areas-of-outstanding-natural-beauty-and-development.pdf>.

We all need to be on our guard to provide enduring protection for our AONB and our parish landscape. Please contact me any time you are worried about how to respond to the AONB implications of any planning application in the parish.

Cllr. Judy Pearce (561370)

Parish Council Meeting

Meetings held on 3 October and 7 November 2016

News & Views by Citizen

Six Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, District Councillor, a police representative and 10 members of the public were present in October, and in November seven Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, County Councillor, District Councillor and eight members of the public attended.

OPEN FORUM

- * The Parish Councillors were thanked for their generous contribution of a raffle at the Parish Hall autumn fair.
- * There had been no response from Bantham Estate following questions to Mr Johnston at the September meeting regarding traps and loss of buzzards.
- * Funding is required for updating of the CCTV installation at the Parish Hall.

HIGHWAYS

- * The illegal yellow lines painted on the road outside the Old Rectory are now covered.
- * Hedge-cutting is not done during bird nesting season unless for safety reasons and if/when necessary. The District Council will contact the owner, but if no response SHDC will do the cutting and charge the owner expensively.
- * Kerse Lane potholes are becoming very large and need repair.
- * The road sign going into Buckland, near Clanacombe, has been vandalised and DCC Highways have been asked to clean it.

FOOTPATHS & HERITAGE COAST

Access to Mallards and Little Egrets to be closed (date uncertain) for up to three days by SW Water to replace a water main at Merchants Garden but pedestrian access will be allowed.

TREES

- * Councillor Charles Mitchelmore reported that the unstable tree at Valley Side, Buckland, had been removed but the hedge is very overgrown and SHDC has been advised.
 - * He has been liaising with the owner of Sunny Bank about their problem trees and has no objection to remedial work.
- * Work has now been completed at Seadrift.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Tony Goddard said there was a full report of progress in September's Village Voice. The recent result in St Ives of restricting second homes could have an effect on Thurlestone's Plan. Two public meetings have been held to discuss content of the Draft Plan following a request for Focus Groups to have more input. The meetings covered commercial development and housing. Sue Crowther was thanked for all her work on the project and she and her team will now get on with taking the Draft Plan forward.

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

- * Phil Millard said there had been no response to letters sent to (1) Thurlestone Golf Club about their new barrier, (2) the owners of Summer Cottage about maintaining the public footpath and (3) SHDC about the hedge and the cleaning of the road sign.
- * SHDC precept payments are late for the first time in seven years.
- * Late receipt of planning applications from SHDC cause extra Parish Council meetings.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- * Rufus Gilbert said Skanska have taken over as contractors from SW Highways.
- * Interesting facts and figures about work in Devon: there are: 8000 miles of roads (one of the highest in the country), 3500 bridges, 3000 public rights of way, and 2000 retaining walls. The budget for this work is £62 million but only £46 million is available - meaning roads etc will gradually deteriorate. SHDC needs to ensure that all Section 106 monies are received.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

In October District Councillor Wright reported:

- * Fusion Lifestyle had been appointed as leisure providers. Ivybridge has a new swimming pool and substantial sums are being spent in Kingsbridge. Under-used facilities will be removed.
- * Although the budget for 2017 had been capped, Parish Councils will not be capped.
- * A review of street cleaning was expected at the end of October.
- * BT aim to remove all redundant phone boxes shortly. Our Parish Council will ask them to retain the box at the top of PO Lane due to poor mobile reception. 22 calls were made from the box over the past year.

In November District Councillor Pearce reported:

- * The Joint District Council plan had been put back and was now unlikely to be adopted until 2018.
- * The investigation into the setting up of a local authority company to take over SHDC in-house work has resulted in an expensive report which has omitted to factor in points such as VAT, taxes, pensions, etc.
- * A site meeting held at 16 Meadcombe Road to review the planning application was attended by SHDC Councillors and 4 Parish Councillors, with a number of members of the public present, and this was much appreciated by SHDC. Parish Councillor Tony Goddard and resident Roger Kendrick also attended the subsequent meeting at Follaton House.

POLICE

- * Sergeant Andy Woodward said between July and September there were seven reported crimes in our parish - two marine thefts; a parishioner had a nasty email/Facebook problem from the USA; two anti-social incidents; two parishioners lost money to scam phone calls. On the latter point Sergeant Woodward reiterated that Banks NEVER phone and ask you for details, so beware of what you disclose.
- * Inconsiderate parking outside the school was tackled by a visit to the school, who have promised to write to all parents. Parking in restricted locations will result in a ticket.

BUSINESS BY DIRECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

- * Councillor Andrew Rhymes said that crown reduction of trees on Thurlestone green will be carried out soon.
- * Planning permission for the road barrier at the Golf Club is required. The Parish Council objection relates to the visual impact on an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- * The maintenance of 'heritage assets', e.g the Pump House, Cannon, War memorial etc. will be addressed through a new sub-committee.
- * Assistance through TAP (Town & Parish) funding will be requested by the Parish Council for a new CCTV installation at the Parish Hall.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 5 December 2016, at 7.30pm in the Yeo Room.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



My Update in October reported the presentation to the Parish at a public meeting of the results of the Questionnaire circulated in June 2016 and looked forward to the two Focus Group meetings that the Steering Group decided to call in response to the comments of those attending the presentation.

Those two **Focus Group meetings** were held on the 18th October and on the 1st November in the Parish Hall.

The first meeting to be held dealt with the Local Economy and began with a presentation by Gary Luddington, the Leader of the Economy Working Group, followed by a panel Question and Answer session.

The second meeting, which dealt with Housing, was conducted by Sue Crowther who is the Leader of the Housing Working Group. She began with a presentation and afterwards took questions from the floor assisted by Judy Pearce, who is not only a member of the Steering Group but also a District Councillor and a member of the Joint Steering Group for the Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan.

Both events were lively occasions and those attending were reminded that the policy statements produced for discussion were very much initial thoughts and would be influenced not only by the comments of those attending these events but also by the future consultations that would take place.

Meanwhile the **Joint Local Plan** has been out for consultation and recently some further development sites (mainly in the Plymouth area) have been advertised for consultation.

Further and even more importantly from the point of view of the Parish, the Councils have just published the results of their consultation on the **South Hams & West Devon Village Sustainability Assessment Framework**. This consultation had identified a list of criteria for deciding which villages should be targeted for new housing and how much. The Steering Group responded to this consultation observing that since Neighbourhood Plans have to demonstrate that they are contributing to sustainable development, it should be left to them rather than have top-down housing targets imposed upon them.

Notwithstanding, an amended list of criteria has now been issued and Thurlestone has been assessed as having an initial score of 31 points, largely due to the fact that it has a shop, internet, primary school, pub and parish hall - all of which are given the highest weight. The Steering Group and Parish Council will be responding to this second consultation (due the 9th December) by questioning some of the services and facilities that have been included. The criteria can be found on the Parish Website by going to the Neighbourhood Plan drop-down menu and clicking on 'Joint Local Plan.' If you have any comments please contact us by clicking on 'Contact Us' on the same drop-down menu.

Another recent development of importance to the Parish is the outcome of the Judicial Review proceedings against Cornwall Council relating to the **St Ives Neighbourhood Plan**. The challenge brought by a local firm of architects against the second homes restriction in the St Ives Neighbourhood Plan was unsuccessful. This is a landmark ruling and means that a principal occupancy restriction is legally enforceable where such a policy would contribute to sustainable development. As such, it is an example of how a neighbourhood plan can have 'real teeth.'

Finally, the Steering Group continues to meet monthly and the Minutes of these meetings are published on the **Parish Website**. I do urge everyone in the Parish to take a look at these pages, which provide a comprehensive summary of the work that has been undertaken to date on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Tony Goddard
(Steering Group Chairman)

PARISH HALL NEWS



Chairman: Neill Irwin

What a year it has been. Brexit, followed by a new leader for the most important nation on earth! Oh, and of course there is also that chap the Americans have selected as their president. We are in for a merry dance in 2017. But why wait until 2017, why not get the dancing going right now? We have the top line jazz band, "**High Society**" performing in the Parish Hall on 3rd December. They have given us truly great entertainment in the past and a night of jazz and dancing is just what we all need to prepare ourselves for 2017. Book your tickets now.

If you have been paying attention to the Parish Hall publicity recently you will have noticed that we were looking for a new Bookings Secretary. A willing and capable volunteer has come forward and I am delighted to welcome Anne Russell to the Parish Hall team. Our special thanks go to Diane Martin who has been our Bookings Secretary for the past few years. Diane has kindly agreed to continue giving her support in organising the life of the Parish Hall.

We have spent quite significant sums of money this year making sure that the Hall is kept up to date with new equipment. This covers a wide range of things from a new super floor cleaner/polisher, to achieve the high standard of cleanliness we all expect, to improving the CCTV system in order to maintain the essential security of the Hall. The Maintenance Committee under the leadership of Chris White has overseen these improvements. They have also worked closely with the Parish and District Councils to obtain grants, where possible, to offset some of the cost of the equipment thus helping to keeping our finances in the black. Thanks go to Chris and the Maintenance Committee and to the Parish and District Councils for their ongoing support.

It is always a pleasure see the Hall being used. If you need a venue for something you would like to organise then do get in touch and we will do our best to help you. The rates for the hire of the main hall or the smaller Yeo room are deliberately kept very modest so that everyone in the parish can make use of our splendid facility.

Every year the Parish Hall committee organises a series of events for your enjoyment. For the last two years there has been a noticeable reluctance for people to come out to evening events. We have altered our programme for 2017 to recognise this trend. We will of course still have our very popular annual events but we will be introducing more afternoon and early evening events. Keep a keen eye on our publicity in Village Voice, on posters around the villages and on the website www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk. As always we are keen to hear from you about any ideas you may have on the type of event you would like to see take place in your Parish Hall.

As the preparations for Christmas get underway let me say thank you to all users of the Hall and your hardworking committee and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

[Home](#) [Events](#) [Clubs & Groups](#) [Business Directory](#) [Village Voice](#) [Gallery](#) [Contacts](#)

Have you visited the Thurlestone Parish Website?
www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk

Covering Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone the website is focussed on the community and visitors alike and there are over 150 pages for you to explore

[Out & About](#) [Facilities](#) [Parish Hall](#) [All Saint's Church](#) [Local Info](#) [Neighbourhood Plan](#) [Parish Council](#)

Village News Round-Up

Thurlestone Centurion

Village Voice sends congratulations and good wishes to Thurlestone resident Dr Eric Eadie who will be celebrating his one hundredth birthday early in January 2017.

Born and educated in Scotland, Eric found his medical studies at Edinburgh University interrupted by WW2, which he spent serving in the RAF mainly in South Africa. Post-war and post-graduation he married and settled in Oxted, Surrey, where he was a GP and hospital surgeon. Among his leisure interests he was able to obtain a pilot's licence and indulge his love of flying in the local aero club where they had a number of Tiger Moths. He was an enthusiastic model-maker, and a keen member of Tandridge golf club.

In retirement, Eric and his wife decided to move to Thurlestone in order to be near their daughter, though sadly his wife passed away just as they were ready to move in. Eric continued to play golf well into his nineties, and his intellectual interests are undimmed.

On behalf of all your friends here, we say "Many happy returns, Eric".

Légion d'Honneur Award

We also send our congratulations to another fine gentleman. 90-year old Lincoln Shaw has been awarded the Legion d'Honneur, the prestigious French decoration, in recognition of his WW2 service in the RAF. He was a rear-gunner on more than 30 missions over occupied Europe in a Lancaster bomber of 622 squadron and one of their tasks was to bomb German gun emplacements on the Normandy coast prior to the D-Day landings.

After his war service he became a successful writer and a television presenter for the BBC in the Midlands and Devon. Although Lincoln lives in Staverton, he is a long-standing member of Thurlestone Golf Club and keeps the media reliably informed about both club events and notable Thurlestone activities!

Buckland deliveries

Peter Hurrell has delivered *Village Voice* to Buckland residents for many years but has

now decided it is time for a well-earned rest. We are most grateful to Peter (and his late wife Jean), for all the deliveries made during this time - done so willingly and without fuss - and we would like to express our thanks.

Peter, many residents may recall, was the Parish Council chairman when the decision was first taken to produce a parish news-sheet and his enthusiasm for the venture was key to the eventual launch of *Village Voice*. Happily Buckland resident Caroline (Tink) Donald has kindly said she would take over Peter's role - so welcome on board Tink and many thanks!

Kerling at the Hall

A full complement of 'kerlers' turned up at the Parish Hall on 22 October to enjoy an introductory session of this "ice free" version of Scottish curling. Kindly organised by Diane and Paul Martin with Alison and Mike Bone, 30+ people played and quite a few were observers. The scene of action and the scores appeared magically on the big screen to keep everyone entertained and informed of progress, and a great evening was enjoyed. If anyone would like a further 'taster', or to have it as a Hall regular event, get in touch with Diane (560070).

Call My Antiques Bluff

This fund-raising event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support came to Thurlestone in the shape of Daniel Goddard, Chris Hampton and Martin McIlroy from Bearnas, Hampton & Littlewood, fine art auctioneers from Exeter. Sixty people took part and pitted their wits against these experts - who sometimes told the truth about their antique objects and sometimes didn't! Paddy Daly and Bridget Edwards were the winners. It was an evening of good fun and raised £662 for a very good cause.

Electric Blanket Fire

Kingsbridge Fire Brigade rushed out to Thurlestone one night in mid-October to deal with a mattress which had caught fire due to a faulty electric blanket. The householder had the presence of mind to push the burning bedding out of the window, probably

saving the situation from worsening. With the weather now getting colder electric blankets will be coming out of storage - make sure yours is in good working order, and keep an eye on it when it is in use. A modern one will probably have an inbuilt system which cuts off the power if a fault occurs, but the older ones don't have this facility, so beware.

South Hams Society

This amenity society, formed over 50 years ago, is in need of new blood. Formed with the aim of stimulating interest in and to care for the beauty, history and character of the area, it works closely with the local Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, keeps an eye on all planning applications, organises talks, beach cleans and other relevant activities. The society maintains its own website at www.southhamsociety.org and this contains a lot of information about the area as well as advice on how to appeal against planning applications. Further information is also available from: viv@rathlyn.eclipse.co.uk or by phoning Viv on 01548-842405. The South Hams Society would be delighted to hear from anyone who could offer help.

Christmas Card Postings

First class posting date for your UK cards is Tuesday 20 December and for second class it is Wednesday 21 December. For overseas cards and parcels enquire at the PO as the dates range from 7 to 19 December.

Village Inn Quiz

Quiz Master Mike Jones has advised all 'quizzers' that in January, February and March 2017 the Tuesday quiz night will not be held at the Village Inn due to other events in the hotel's timetable. It will be held at an alternative venue currently under investigation.

School Xmas Fair

The annual Christmas Fair will be held at the school on Friday 2nd December from 1.30 pm. Visitors welcome.

Our Front Cover

We are extremely grateful to Margaret Houghton for providing her stunning painting of a Christmas Rose and Holly for the front cover for our Christmas issue of Village Voice.

STOP PRESS NEWS

On Saturday 18th February 2017 there will be a concert in the Parish Hall by the virtuoso pianist Jonathan Delbridge. Full details of the programme he will play will appear in the next issue of Village Voice. But put this date firmly in your diary - now.

VILLAGE VOICE

EDITOR STILL WANTED

Although we have had volunteers come forward to help with the Parish Hall committee work, no-one has yet thrown an editor's green eye-shade into the ring for this little job. Honestly, with such a great team already firmly in place to carry out the printing (on brand new equipment), collating, and distribution, a waiting list of advertisers, and a sound financial basis, the editor's role at *Village Voice* is not really such a daunting one.

This parish is full of enthusiastic and resourceful people - will one of them please give me a call?

Phone Pat Macdonald on 560436.

Christmas Chuckles

Did you know that Santa's not allowed to go down chimneys this year? It was declared unsafe by the Elf and Safety Commission.

I phoned an old school friend and asked him what he was doing for Christmas. He replied that he would be working on

"Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium and steel under a constrained environment".

I was very impressed ...

On further inquiring, I learned that he expected to be washing dishes, and pots, and pans, with hot water, under his wife's supervision.

A MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS



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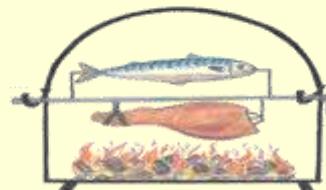


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All Saints' Diary

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

Church Services

EVERY SUNDAY 8.00am Holy Communion (alternating BCP and CW)
DEC. 4TH, 18TH; JAN. 1ST, 15TH 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (*Fairtrade Stall Dec. 4th/Jan 1st*)
DECEMBER 11TH, JANUARY 22ND 11.10am Matins
MONDAY DECEMBER 19TH 5.00pm Crib and Christingle Service
THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND 6.00pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols followed by mulled wine and mincepies
 Collection for *Children in Distress*
CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (CW)
CHRISTMAS DAY 11.10am Family Christmas Communion
JANUARY 8TH 11.10am Morning Worship
NEW YEAR'S EVE 6.00pm Informal New Year's Eve Service (½ hour)
JANUARY 29TH (Note time) 11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) with Renewal of Covenant



REGULAR WEEKDAY SERVICES

THURSDAY DEC. 1ST/JAN. 5TH 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham
MON., WED., THURS. & FRIDAYS 8.30am Morning Prayer (said) (8.15am on Mondays)
EVERY WEDNESDAY 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship
See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information



2017 Calendar
of Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham
£6.50 from local Shops,
Church & Meeting Room
in aid of Church Funds
Don't forget to get your photos ready for next year's competition!

Everyone is welcome for
Homemade Soup only £3
followed by tea/coffee & cake
FRIDAY JANUARY 20TH
12 noon - 1.00 p.m.
CHURCH MEETING ROOM
in aid of Church Funds



Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for:-

<p>Coffee-Time WEDNESDAYS 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.  Donations in aid of monthly charity</p>	<p>Films for ALL TUESDAYS 2.30 PM DECEMBER 6TH  JANUARY 3RD Florence Foster Jenkins Swallows & Amazons <i>Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant</i> <i>Kelly McDonald, Rafe Spall, Andrew Scott</i></p>
<p>Information leaflets in church, shop & MR</p>	
<p>Disabled access - Wheelchair available - Lift available for all activities, contact Liz Webb</p>	

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

*All
Saints*

RECTOR:
Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

LAY READER: Peter Gornall



**Getting in the mood
for Christmas**

What does Christmas mean for you? I suppose that there are so many answers to this question that it's hard to know where to begin. There are as many answers as there are people! Having said this I'm sure that a number of common themes would occur: family, presents, celebration, trees, carols, food, drink! During December (and November, if not even earlier) we gradually get in the mood for Christmas. Letters to Santa are written, turkeys are ordered and festivities are planned.

In the midst of all this busyness there is a rather central element that can easily be forgotten: the birth of Jesus Christ. On the next page you'll see details of the Christmas Services in the Parish. I'd like to warmly invite you to attend one (or more) of these services. Just coming along and singing a few carols, hearing a few stories from the Bible and taking time out from the busyness of Christmas preparations can do wonders for your Christmas mood.

The materialistic nature of our 21st Century Christmas can easily overwhelm us. Don't get me wrong - I like presents, trees, food and drink (especially drink!) as much as the next man or woman. But Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the birth of Jesus. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the carols and the stories. So come along this year and recharge those "spiritual batteries" and give your 2016 festivities a truly CHRISTmas character.

Daniel Hartley



**Families would be particularly welcome at the
Candlelit Christingle
and Crib Service**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 19TH
AT 5 P.M.**

Find out the meaning of the orange, the candle, the fruits and the red ribbon and help put the figures in the crib

Collection in aid of the Church of England Children's Society - Checkpoint

Mulled wine & mincepies will be served after the service

**Everyone, especially accompanied children, would be welcome to join
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AROUND BUCKLAND

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 20TH
MEET 5 P.M.**

VALLEYSIDE LAMP POST

We will finish at the

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for seasonal refreshments**

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National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for December 2016 and January 2017

**Friday
9 Dec**

Coach trip to Tavistock and Cotehele (NT). Late morning and lunch in Tavistock, then on to Cotehele to see the famous Christmas Garland and listen to the choir performing in the Hall of the house. The Barn Restaurant and shops will be open to welcome you.

**Thursday
19 Jan**

Postponed from last year, David Kirkpatrick returns with an amusing illustrated talk about ten year's living in Provence. 2.30pm at Thurlestone Parish Hall, £3.50 including tea. All are welcome.

**Friday
27 Jan**

Coffee Morning at Avon Mill garden centre, Loddiswell, 10.30am - noon. By popular request - meet again with friends for coffee upstairs above the café. Treats from Overbeck's sales table and the garden centre's shops. Entrance £3.50 including coffee.

For information about these events, or about joining the National Trust South Hams Centre (just £5 a year), please contact Joan Johnstone on 01548 857014 (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm).

**WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**



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Bring a Book Take a Book



Carol Evening

Monday 12 December 4.30pm
War Memorial Village Green

- ❖ With DJ Shep from BBC Radio Devon
- ❖ Carols led by Razor Sharp and Friends
- ❖ Guest appearance by Primary School Choir
- ❖ Father Christmas down the Phonebox Chimney
- ❖ Free Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Courtesy Toad Hall and The Village Inn

- please bring*
- ✓ Your own Mulled Wine Mug
 - ✓ Torch (to read the Carol Sheet)
 - ✓ Christmas Hat
 - ✓ Donation for All Saints Primary School

The Friends of Thurlestone Parish Church

Chairman's Report for the year ended 30th June 2016

The year was overshadowed by the unexpected death in March of our Honorary Treasurer, Ron Parkin. Ron had assumed the responsibilities of Treasurer of the Trust from its foundation in 1996. His commitment and diligence in this exacting role has been one of the main contributors to the success of the Charity over the years. He will be sadly missed and our condolences go to Jo and his family.

In December the major project of re-pointing the Tower was completed. The final cost was £166,000 of which the Trust gave a grant of £50,000 and Friends individually contributed £44,600 by direct donations to the Tower Appeal. The balance of £71,4000 was raised by the Parochial Church Council with a grant from their own funds of £40,000 with the rest from Charitable and individual donations. The opinion of the parish and visitors alike is that the Tower looks very fine; a job well done.

It has been necessary to restate the 2015 accounts to ensure that the personal donations to the Tower Appeal, which were received in that year but not paid out until 2016, were correctly reflected in the accounts for the two years. Amendments have been necessary to "Donations Tower Appeal" and "HSBC Bank Account". Total receipts at £11,202 were higher than normal due to higher tax rebates. Total assets at the year-end were £173,017 and were held as to £79,000 in equities and £94,000 in cash deposits.

The PCC have approached the Trust to assist with the cost of replacing the organ, which is urgently needed, at a cost of £31,000. At a recent meeting the Trustees have agreed a grant of up to £15,000 towards this and £10,000 has already been transferred to the PCC to fund the deposit and secure the price.

We are fortunate that Richard Bunn has come forward to take over the responsibilities of Treasurer of the Trust. He has been duly elected a Trustee in place of Ron Parkin. Ray Thorne has agreed to act as checker of the accounts in place of Gavin Price whom I would like to thank for his help over the years. As ever my thanks go to Gillian Marshall for her help and support as Secretary.

May I also thank all those Friends who so nobly supported the Tower Appeal and made the whole project possible.

C.W.M. Grose

Chairman of the Trustees

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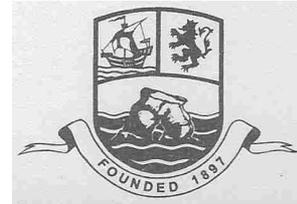
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Thurlestone Golf Club



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Happily the weather has been of a more kindly disposition of late allowing the club to function on each of its fronts, roll up days, matches and competitions besides social events.

The tennis group had a good attendance and a lively discussion at their AGM including the matter of court security in regard to whether non-paying players were participating - the matter is still under consideration. They also considered whether or not pay and play visitors should be encouraged to take up limited membership to play in competitions.

With all of their matches now completed, the seniors were recently successful in defeating Tavistock GC away, thus winning the Moor to Sea trophy, initiated last year by Tavistock GC to the overall winners of the two-legged matches between the two clubs.

This year's seniors trip to Brittany was another successful visit when over three days the visitors played three different courses with Harry Cattell proving best performer.

The seniors' Ladies Night on Friday, 11th November was always, fully subscribed and proved to be another successful event. The ladies have been busy this October with both medal and Stableford competitions where there was some excellent scoring with Judith Lungmuss achieving 47 points and a large handicap reduction, and Sue Curry 42 points.

The fun competitions included the Jackson trophy where the lady captain's team beat the secretary's team by seven and a half to three and a half matches. The Greenkeeper's revenge Bramble competition had 42 entries and the tricky pin positions set by Vic Dyer were a great challenge and enjoyed by all. The friendly match away against Torquay, was won by our ladies - four and a half to one and a half.

The last club match was an internal affair with Devon versus the Rest of the World. The match was played in the accepted tongue in cheek spirit of them against us, with a lively turn out of eleven pairs each

side. First on the tee were Keith Favis accompanied by Jack 'the beast' Wallace, for Devon, with the Rest, led by myself in partnership with Steve White. Whilst Keith, Steve & I played reasonable well it was quite clear that after a few holes the Rest were in trouble, with Jack forging birdie after birdie thus the result was that we were shaking hands rather earlier than expected with Devon recording a victory of a 5 & 3. In the end Devon retained the trophy 6½ against 4½ after a win by their last pair.

The last of the club's three social events where new members were invited to meet, play nine holes of golf and afterwards socialize was proven to be not only successful but encouraging and a means of introducing new members to one another besides officers of the club.

At one of the club's most important events, Presentation Night, there were several multi prizewinners in what was a very well attended meeting. Of those winning several cups/salvers were junior captain, George Holland his fellow junior, Sammy Ingham besides the not so junior David Eva, Chris Jones Dan Cunningham, Davis Fellowes, Peter Hartley and last, but not least, Wendy Laud.

This week we held the latest event in the PGA Alliance tour when 132 top players from throughout the region took part, including several from Thurlestone, with the kitchen busy from 7.00 am providing breakfast and other catering support for all of the contestants. Such events demonstrate the desire of many elite bodies to play at Thurlestone, a plaudit of which we should be most pleased.

With Stewart Barnes and Harry Cattell being elected club captain and vice captain and Sheila George elected Lady Captain for 2017, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing them well for their captaincies; the club will certainly be in good hands with the knowledge and general abilities they bring to these offices.

As this will be my final newsletter I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the club for their support and

good will during my captaincy. When elected I said that it was an honour to be nominated to the position at such a prestigious club and I am more than delighted to repeat that sentiment; it has indeed been an honour. Soon after election I was advised that I would be held responsible for all sorts of problems that would arise, even the weather, all of which I decided was the golf equivalent of old wives tales. Happily, it was only for the weather that I was held responsible!

My year has been made most pleasurable by the support of members and the two main committees, the professionals and the immediate past and present administrations. I would also like to acknowledge the enjoyable partnership that has developed with Yvonne, our ladies captain, and myself. It has been fun working with her. In addition I would also like to acknowledge the support provided by Anthea, my wife.

Alastair Proctor

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Thurlestone golf club held their AGM in October and made Lincoln Shaw an Honorary Life member in recognition for all his work in promoting the club in the Gazette and other newspapers over the years. A well deserved honour and an interesting week because he was also informed that he is to receive the Croix De Guerre for his efforts flying during the war. The AGM was well attended and new appointments were Peter Coates to Finance chair, Mark Drew chair of Greens, Wendy Laud voted on to the Executive committee. Stewart Barnes was elected club captain, Harry Cattell vice captain, and Sheila George lady captain for 2017.

The ladies had the most important competition of the year when the closed meeting was held in October with ten trophies to fight over. Winner of the Marshall Salver, the silver scratch prize, was Jenny Roberts (74 nett 72). The Bronze scratch prize, the Montgomery Rose Bowl, was won by Pam St Leger (92 nett 71). The Silver handicap cup winner was Julia Dorey (84 nett 67) and the Bronze handicap bowl was Kay Morley (94 nett 70). The Veterans scratch prize, the Mackenzie Rose Bowl, was won by Shona Wilson (89 nett 74). The Veterans handicap prize, the Pearl Rowland trophy, went to Liz Sharman (92 nett 74).

The Venerable Veterans scratch prize (over 70s) went to Lindsey Fletcher (89 nett 75). The Venerable Vets handicap prize was won by Sally Rossiter (97 nett 74). The Cooper putting prize went to Midge Henderson with 27 putts. There was only one two by Trish Gledhill on the 6th hole.

The ladies annual Jackson Trophy match was won by the Captain's team this year. The trophy was presented in 1978 by Doris Jackson, who was the ladies secretary at the time. It was given for match play between the Captain's team verses the Secretary and Treasurer's team. Eleven singles matches took place with some ladies playing in force 8 winds which blew trollies over. The captains team won by seven and a half matches to three and a half.

Thurlestone played their last mixed match of the season away at Stover. The result was a very friendly half, 3 matches to 3. Philip and Wendy Laud halved as did Linda and Graham Cant. Charlie and Liz Barker and Graham and Barbara Smith won. It was lovely day with no wind and good company all round.

The ladies held a medal competition in very windy conditions which reduced the entry to 26 and put the Standard scratch up to 73. In division one the winner was Paula MacLaurin (11) with nett 72, from Jenny Roberts (2) with 74, third was a new member Sally Huntley (14). In division two the winner was Sue Curry (24) with 75, from Judith Lungmuss (28) 79 on countback from Jenny McKeague (25) 79.

The friendly match away at Torquay was a four and a half to one and a half victory to Thurlestone. The weather was changeable, sunshine one minute and heavy rain the next, then a hail storm, but all enjoyed the day and made some new friends.

The ladies fun competition in October was the Bramble Greenkeeper's revenge because the course manager Vic Dwyer chose the pin positions which were very tricky. The format was in teams of three, Stableford with all scores to count but teams could choose the best drive. The winners with 125 points were Wendy Laud, Liz Line and Anne Seymour. In second place with 119 points were Lesley Davey, Gwen Hale and Diane Baker.

In October the ladies held a Stableford competition with 39 entries. There were some excellent scores so the standard scratch went to from 36 to 38 points. In division one the winner was Sue Esplin (19) with 38 points, from Liz Sharman (18) with

36 on countback. In division two the winner was Judith Lungmuss (29) with 47 and a handicap reduction to 25, from Sue Curry (24) 42 points and a reduction to 22. Judith won the Tregelles trophy given for ladies with handicaps between 28-36.

On Presentation Night a packed clubhouse resounded to cheers and light hearted banter as the silverware and crystal glass mementos were distributed. Following the presentation 40 members and guests enjoyed another of Tom and Brent's wonderful evening menus. For the ladies, most of the trophies were given out at the ladies AGM in November but those collecting them on this night were Janet Richardson (Royal Marine Cup), Wendy Laud (Murray Smith Challenge Cup and Veterans Salver), Victoria Gibbens (Stableford Winners Trophy), Judith Lungmuss (Tregelles Trophy), Yvonne Pike (Desmond Vase) and in the mixed competition David and Yvonne Pike (John Batchelor Trophy).

Competitions are winding down now before some fun events in December and this will be my last newsletter for the Village voice. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as captain and would like to thank my committee and the main office for all the help they have given me over the year. I wish Sheila George and her committee good luck for 2017.

Yvonne Pike

JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

After a great season the Thurlestone junior team won a place in the Henry Truscott Cup, organised by Devon County Golf at Tavistock. This was a final between the best four junior teams in Devon. The Thurlestone team that consisted of George Holland, Finn Whelan, Charlie Evans, Sammy Ingham, Ben Woods and Noah Mulligan fought hard, but unfortunately came up short to a really strong Tiverton team. Whilst disappointed, the team reflected on what was an incredible season, winning the West Devon Junior League and playing in four finals.

The junior team reached the final of the Tamar cup against Staddon Heights. They played at Elfordleigh in difficult weather conditions. The format was four ball match play and junior captain George Holland (5) and Charlie Evans (17) went out first but

lost 5/4. Then came George Messias (9) and Finn Whelan (13) who managed to take the Staddon pair to the 17th hole but lost 2/1. The final pair was Ethan Bellamy (12) and Sammy Ingham (17) who also lost on the 17th by 3/1. Congratulations to the team for fighting hard and better luck next year.

The Strashleigh cup was held in October at Bigbury and four Thurlestone juniors played with Junior organiser Nigel Whelan. This is an annual event when seven clubs in west Devon compete against each other in a stableford competition consisting of four juniors (three scores to count) and the junior organiser. Nigel played alongside George Holland, George Messias, Finn Whelan and Charlie Evans. The winners were Boringdon with runners up Dartmouth. Compliments were paid to Bigbury and confirmation was received that the cup will be played at Tavistock next year.

The juniors had a Stableford competition in October and the computer could not separate the top two so there were joint winners Lucas Bellamy (23) and Alfie Messias (21) both with 38 points. In third place was Ethan Bellamy (12) also with 38.

Congratulations to Steve Pike and George Messias who won the Adult and Junior Foursomes knockout cup by beating Matt Messias and Alfie Messias by 2 and 1. Also congratulations to George Holland who beat Ben Woods 3/2 in the final of the Singles junior knockout to win the Geoff Mills cup. All cups were presented on the juniors presentation evening on 12th November.

Before that we had the club presentation evening on Saturday 29th October when all the adult cups were on show. Some of the juniors managed to get their hands on a few. The evening started at 6.00 pm with the presentation of all the silverware won over the year by junior Sammy Ingham, who won the Graham Cup, The White Trophy and the Sir Harold Parkinson Cup. George Holland won the Thurlestone Hotel Cup.

The juniors continue to score well in the men's competitions. In the men's four ball better ball the winners were the Messias brothers George and Alfie with a tremendous score of 47 points. The men's October Stableford provided a win in division one for George Holland with 38 from Finn Whelan with 37. In Division two eight year old Noah Mulligan was runner up with 37 and Alfie Messias followed with 35.

Liz Line

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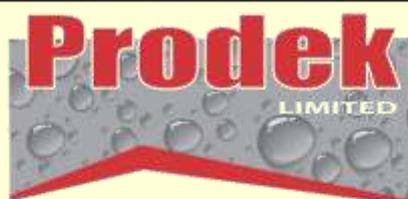
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Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1st January 2017. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

2016 –EVENTS TO REMEMBER

Here are some of the more important and memorable events from the year that has just flown by. Can you identify them even though the vowels have cunningly been omitted.....

1. JAN St-rt -f L--p Y—r
2. JAN R-f- -l B-n-t-z s-ck-d by R—l M-dr-d
3. JAN D- -ths -f T-rry W-g-n, -l-n R-ckm-n & D-v-d B-w- -
4. JAN F-lm pr-m- -r -f “St-r W-rs: Th- F-rc- -w-k-ns
5. FEB P-p- Fr-nc-s v-s-ts M-x-c-
6. FEB Br-t –w-rds –t -2 –r-- L-nd-n
7. FEB St-rt -f Ch-n-s- Y- -r -f th- M-nk-y
8. MAR B-r-k –b-m- v-s-ts C-b-
9. MAR Br-ss-ls T-rr-r –tt-cks
10. APR W-st –nd—s w-n W-rld T 20
11. APR D-nny W-ll-tt w-ns 80th M-st-rs G-lf T—rn-m-nt
12. APR 400th -nn-v-rs-ry -f d- -th -f Sh-k-sp- -r- & C-rv-nt-s
13. MAY 69th C-nn-s F-lm F-st-v-l L- -c-st-r C-ty F- -tb-ll Cl-b w-n Pr-m- -d L- -g--
14. MAY Sw- -d-n h-sts Th- - -r-v-s- -n S-ng C-nt-st
15. JUN MP J- C-x sh-t –n W-st Y-rksh-r-
16. JUN Br-x-t R-f-r-nd-m –n Gr—t Br-t- -n
17. JUN T-m P- -k- r-t-rns fr-m sp-c-
18. JUN Qu—n's --th B-rthd-y
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20. JUL 103rd T- -r d- Fr-nc- w-n by Chr-s Fr- -me
21. AUG W-rm-st m-nth -n r-c-rd
22. AUG Th-rl-st-n- -nd S- -th M-lt-n H-rt-c-lt-r-l Sh-w
23. AUG R- - d- J-n- -r- S-mm-r -lymp-cs
24. AUG C-nn-s b-ns th- b-rk-n-
25. SEP Str-ctly C-m- D-nc-ng r-t-rns t- t-l-v-s- -n
26. SEP M-ry B-rry qu-ts B-k- -ff
27. OCT 100 y- - rs s-nc- S-lc-mb- L-f-b- -t D-s-st-r
28. OCT H-rr-c-n- M-rt-n h-ts H- -t-
29. OCT B-b Dyl-n -w-rd-d th- N-b-l Pr-z- f-r L-t-r-t-r-
30. NOV -n-t-d St-t-s Pr-s-d-nt- -l el-ct- -n

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Unfortunately there were no winners for the last Grey Matter

BOOKSHELF

The Hundred-year-old man who climbed out of the window and disappeared.

By Jonas Jonasson
(Abacus £8.99 or Kindle £5.99)

Zany, left field, off piste; without referring to a Thesaurus these are the words that come to my mind to describe this unusual book. A slight suspension of dis-belief helps!

It is what it says on the tin. Allan Karlsson escapes from his residential home to avoid the sterile salutations of being one hundred. Wearing his 'pee slippers' a consequence of age, he walks off through the flower bed.

This spell-binding story basically splits into the future and the past. It is difficult to decide for whom the language format is directed; there is simplicity and repetition but it is very effective and not demeaning to the more mature. The Scandinavian author has to some extent continued the tradition of a Norse Saga with the evocation of long separated events. There is dream-like linkage of European and world-wide events in the past side of the book, alongside a surreal but ultimately believable sequence of current events.

Do not read this in a public place if you are embarrassed by laughing out loud; you will simply not get through the book without this happening more than once.

John King

The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare

Churchill's Mavericks: Plotting Hitler's defeat
by Giles Milton
(John Murray £20 hardback)

This book is based on hitherto undiscovered archival material. In early 1939 a top secret organisation was formed in London to plot daring acts of sabotage against Adolf Hitler's war machine. Six men were selected by Winston Churchill for their 'thinking outside the box' - they were creative and not averse occasionally to being a bit ungentlemanly in their spectacular and dramatic actions to hamper Hitler's plans in Europe.

Cecil Clarke, an engineer, who had been designing futuristic caravans, invented the dirty bomb that killed Nazi Reinhard Heydrich. William Fairbairn's forte was as the world's leading expert in silent killing, and he trained guerrillas for work behind enemy lines. These

two, plus Scot Colin Gubbins who led them, were joined by three others, making a team of six.

They planned, trained the people on the ground, and pulled off the most audacious attacks of sabotage which made a huge contribution to the war effort. Their inventive skills led to the destruction of the Norsk Hydro (the heavy water plant in Norway), which deprived Hitler of an atomic bomb; they crippled the huge Peugeot motor factory; rail destruction prevented the crack Panzer Divisions from reaching Normandy in time for the D-Day landings; the destruction of a Greek viaduct used to transport weapons to Rommel's North African forces; and the raid that wiped out the St Nazaire dock, were just a few of the many outstanding contributions by these very unconventional and brave men.

At the end of hostilities the King, General Eisenhower, Lord Mountbatten, and politicians, amongst many, acknowledged the supreme part this little body had played in the Allies' victory. They worked and dared with amazing secrecy and few at home had any idea of their existence or achievements. This book is a real 'eye-opener'!

Pat Macdonald

Slow Horses and Dead Lions

by Mick Herron
(John Murray £7.99)

I'm rather an addict of crime novels - but they have to be well-written, with good dialogue and, preferably, a good dose of humour. The 'psychological' ones I regard as a bit of a cheat! However, these books by Mick Herron have it all, with a fair amount of cynicism thrown in.

The 'slow horses' are all former intelligence officers who have failed in some spectacular way in the past and are relegated to Slough House, where they wade through CCTV footage or paperwork all day. They all long to be back with MI5 and hope to make some stupendous breakthrough some day. Most of the characters have some un-endearing trait and the chap in charge, one Jackson Lamb, is quite awful. But the dialogue is terrific, the pace fast, corruption is dealt with and all is (mainly) well in the end. Smashing!

Carolyn Taylor

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Eating Out Locally

Continuing our readers' accounts of their visits to local restaurants, here is John King's account of a somewhat more distant hostelry

The Driftwood Hotel, Rosevine, Portscatho, Cornwall. Tel: 01872-580644.

Yes, I do know that it is not local, and indeed it is not just a restaurant, but it is getting near the festive season; may I suggest that you leave our august publication lying nonchalantly open at this page with the following sentence highlighted.

Dinner, bed and breakfast would be a welcome present.

Senior or junior relatives might take the hint! (Or of course you might just take the spouse).

The Driftwood Hotel is one of very few Michelin starred (1 star) in Cornwall situated on the Rosevine Peninsula facing east across Gerrans Bay. There are extensive, well kept but steepish gardens, and steps to the beach. They were too much for me but we sat on one of the hidden seats with a wonderful view. We could have sat in the actual balcony but would have had to resist refreshments. They do not advertise lunches but we noted that they did serve sandwiches.

Pre-dinner starts in the lounge, which is crammed but in a tasteful mixture of old and new. As we were staying we started a bottle of wine; as if by magic the waiter would appear from elsewhere with the bottle in his hand as our glasses emptied!

We could look at the menu while sitting there and enjoy the beautiful warm canapés. So as not to rush the kitchen they offer a selection of times to eat and acknowledge that even then courses may come slowly when they are full (they were full but we noticed no delays). Maybe the extraordinarily good amuse bouche helped.

1. Grilled Red Mullet, Braised Fennel, Saffron Kohlrabi, Samphire, Sea Purslane & Bottarga
2. Glazed Pork Cheek, Clotted Cream Boudin Blanc, Puffed Crackling, Rhubarb & Cider
3. Red Legged Partridge, Pearl Barley, Roast Parsnip, Mead, Blackberry & Jus Gras

were just three of the six starters and all sound stuffy but they are not. They have to be introduced by the waiter of course and the jus dutifully poured but are absolutely delicious. I had Heritage Tomato salad with Fowey crab, Gazpacho jelly, and basil oil, and Mrs K chose Courgette flowers with Lobster mousse, Seaweed potato, and Shitake Dashi.

On the mains are:

1. Line Caught Pollock, Red Wine Salsify, Sweetcorn, Sunflower Seeds, Jerusalem Artichoke & Miso ;
2. Roast Bass, Mussels, Butternut Squash, Crystallised Ginger, Sumac & Pumpkin Seeds;
3. 40 Day Old Fillet of Ruby Red Beef Cooked Over Coals, Smoked Bone Marrow, Garlic & Spinach (£5 Supplement)

Again three out of six available. I avoid steaks as I prefer to cook them myself but felt I should see what could be done here; just great, as was the Bass. There are good vegetarian dishes. Veg is extra and we needed none.

Puddings were well represented; Selection of Cheeses, Home-Made Digestive Biscuits, Seasonal Chutney, Fig & Hazelnut Bread (£5 Supplement); Hazelnut & Thyme Rarebit, Spiced Digestive, Fresh Honeycomb, Cider & Seasonal Chutney; Curgurrell Corner Lemon Verbena Sorbet, White Chocolate & Macadamia Nuts; Driftwood Chocolate Bar, Salted Peanut, Honeycomb & Milk Sorbet. The cheese board, local, good but not outstanding, the Rarebit was to return for.

The 3 course dinner menu is priced at £60 including VAT (service not included).

The wine list fascinated me. There are lots of familiar wine varieties but not attached to everyday wine makers, giving an excuse for very significant mark-ups. The restaurant looks good with white damask and candles; service is spot on; there is a step between its two main sections. Bedrooms are spacious (and en-suite) with lovely views, firm beds and good linen. All cushions have the trade mark "karate cut" dent in the middle.

Breakfasts were up to par as well; a full English was both a work of art and delicious.

John King



And here is Vivien Stickland's account of a visit to the The Maltsters Arms at Tuckenhay, the local hostelry made famous (or notorious?) when Keith Floyd was in charge there.

The Maltsters Arms

The Fish Pub on the Dart at Bow Creek, Tuckenhay

There's a place to eat south of Totnes that has unique character and charm. Beautifully located beside Bow Creek is a Devon pub and restaurant with local ales and ciders, as well as very fresh fish served in a style that's delicious and not fussy. 'Keep it fresh and keep it simple' is the adage. Maltsters Arms is at Bow Creek on the River Dart between Dittisham and Totnes. As you enter the historic 18th century riverside inn and close the door to shut out winter's chill, your attention is likely to be drawn to The Dart Cavern immediately on your left. Red flames from burning logs in the grate greeted us from that cosy room. Smiling faces of young diners seated there added cheer to the fire's warmth.

Further inside the pub there are tables alongside the well stocked bar. From there you may enjoy the hub of the pub as you eat, but the prime restaurant overlooks the creek. We had a table booked in the Keith Floyd room. It's on the riverside with lovely Bow Creek views. Keith Floyd's travel books are displayed on the walls and the tales they tell are of the restaurant in the 60s. We order from the menu and, while waiting for our meal, look out over the relaxed river scene where rental canoes glide on its slow moving, murky, tidal water. Kingfishers can be seen diving for fish as the tide comes in. Grey Herons walk around in the mud when the tide is low just waiting to snatch passing fish. There is tranquillity.

We ask for nibbles and have a starter bowl of whitebait, with a dip, to share. We enjoyed the soft lighting from T-lights, oil burners, and filament light bulbs overhead, as well as fresh flowers on the table. One of us ordered skate wing with capers - served with roast new potatoes, broccoli spears and French beans that were all beautifully cooked. Our other order was smoked haddock on a bed of bubble-and-squeak and topped with a poached duck egg. It was perfectly prepared and reminiscent of a childhood favourite. Other fish choices include oysters, haddock, scallops and sole, but if it's meat you prefer, some choices are lasagne, duck breast, steak, or seriously popular burgers.

There is a function room downstairs where shooting parties can be hosted. Yacht-naming ceremonies and other private functions are held in 'The Quarterdeck'. Outside, patio tables along the river bank are in a fabulous setting especially for summer. And if you are into boating, check the tide times and pre-order refreshments to be served on the poop-deck of your yacht as you moor up.

Prices: Starters are £4.50 upwards; Mains are £12 – £20; Puddings are around £6. Sunday lunch is £8.50 for a local roast meat dinner; £12 for two courses.

For more details, call their number: 01803 732350

Vivien Stickland

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October

This meeting was well-attended no doubt because our speaker, Janet Cowlard, had been our guest on two previous occasions so we knew how well-researched and interesting her talk would be. This time she spoke about the Abdication of King Edward VIII and the furore it caused in the 1930s. She viewed this historic event from how it was perceived to have affected Edward, Wallis Simpson, the royal family, the government and the public. Her diligent researching came up with fascinating nuggets of information which had sometimes helped to fuel the many public expressions of outrage from all quarters. A quote from the time.....
"No man has ever given up what he did for that woman!"

Barbara Williams was welcomed as a visitor and prospective new member. A cake stall was our contribution to the Parish Hall Autumn Fair. This annual event is organised so that each of the groups or organisations using the Hall can, by running a stall of their choice, raise funds to help maintain the Hall. Our stall raised in excess of £100 and those members who had contributed were warmly thanked.

The pub lunch outings have recommenced with the first to the Crabshell on Thursday 20 October, and will be a firm part of the future programme. The outings are held on the Thursday after the WI monthly meeting, and will be to a different venue each time. Transport will be arranged.

The sewing group has started again in the Yeo Room on Mondays from 10 am to noon, so if you use a craft needle of any kind you would be welcome to bring your work along and join in.

A successful and enjoyable taster of 'kerling' was held in the evening of 22 October and there is a short report about it on the *Village News Roundup* page

elsewhere in this issue. If there is enough support it may well be repeated. The event made £144.

November

Maggie Duffy's talent produced lots of laughs and much applause at the November meeting. A born and bred Brixham woman she is a wonderful *raconteur*, gifted with words, an ability to play guitar, a very musical singing voice, and knows her fishing community inside out. With words she is certainly the equal of Pam Ayres and just as comic. She was supported by her 'sound engineer' Chris Jones.

The pub outings were enjoyed to the Crabshell in October and to the Oyster Shack on 17 November.

As a result of the raffle at our last meeting, we have been able to send £30 to the Denman College appeal.

The Soup & Puds lunch hosted by Thurlestone at the Parish Hall was well patronised with members coming from the other WIs in our area.

A group of members attended the Resolutions Special meeting at Ipplepen on 23 November.

Future Events

The county quiz is due to be held on 18 February at Moreleigh and it is hoped we may be able to field two teams.

The programme of speakers for 2017 has been finalised and will be available at the Christmas Lunch, fixed for 15 December at the golf club - contact Lisa asap if you wish to book a place.

Our meeting on 12 January will include 'A tasting of Cider and Cheese' by Annette Hunt of Hunt's Cider, Totnes.

In February Liz Cole will come and tell us about the National Marine Aquarium at Plymouth.

Kate's



Kitchen

Do you plan to have a Christmas dinner 'starter'? If so, here are a couple of light and simple recipes, one requiring no cooking and the other just a little. They both make use of smoked salmon which is now very reasonably priced. Buy the avocado in advance so it is nicely ripened by the time you want to use it in the first recipe. In the second recipe the asparagus spears can be fresh or canned.

AVOCADO & SMOKED SALMON MOUSSE (4)

Ingredients

250g/9oz thinly cut smoked salmon
1 large ripe avocado
1 tablespoon double cream
1 tablespoon mayonnaise
A few prawns for garnishing
Juice of half a lemon Salt & pepper



Method

- ★ Line 4 ramekins with cling film, taking it up and over the sides.
- ★ Place pieces of salmon into the ramekins, allowing it also to come up and over the sides. Puree the avocado flesh with the cream, mayonnaise, juice and seasoning. Spoon into the ramekins and fold the salmon over the top.
- ★ Fold the cling film over each dish and chill them for 2 hours.
- ★ When ready to serve, turn ramekin contents on to plates and remove cling film. Decorate with prawns.

ASPARAGUS & SMOKED SALMON CUSTARDS (6)

Ingredients

6 asparagus spears (rinsed & trimmed if fresh, drained if canned)
175g/6oz smoked salmon
2 large eggs
Half pint single cream
Pepper
Lemon wedges to garnish

Method

- ★ Set oven at 160°C fan or 180°C standard.
- ★ Butter 6 ramekins lightly.
- ★ Steam asparagus for about 3 minutes, cut into small pieces and divide into ramekins.
- ★ Put salmon, eggs, cream and pepper into a blender and process, then pour into ramekins. Place all the filled ramekins in a roasting tin, then carefully fill the tin with boiling water to come no more than half way up the sides of the ramekins (known as a *bain-marie*). Take care not to spill any water into the ramekins!
- ★ Cover with foil and bake until lightly set.
- ★ This will keep up to 2 days in the fridge. Serve warm or cold.



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AN ORIENTAL REFERENDUM

by Ken Hammonds

The ongoing furore over the recent Brexit referendum, with messages of hope clashing with dire predictions of doom, has been reviving memories of the only other referendum I have been involved in. They are thankfully not that frequent. It was in the mid-1960s and about Singapore becoming part of Malaysia.

A quick recap of the situation that led up to it: Malaya became independent in the late 1950s with Singapore following in the early 1960s. That left Britain with the colonies of British North Borneo (now called Sabah) and Sarawak and the Brunei Protectorate to look after in South East Asia.

Then Tengku (Prince) Abdul Rahman - the man who led the independence talks with Britain and became Malaya's first Prime Minister, earning himself the title of Bapak Merdeka (Father of Freedom) - came up with the idea of merging Malaya, Singapore, Brunei and the two colonies into a new country to be known as Malaysia.

Brunei, perhaps with an eye on what might become of its huge oil reserves, decided to drop out of the proposed union. In Singapore, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew held a referendum asking the people what kind of membership they wanted. He offered them three options:

- One: Full integration into Malaysia.
- Two: Becoming part of Malaysia whilst retaining control over things like finance.
- Three: Joining Malaysia with what amounted to Home Rule for the island.

The run-up to the big vote kept the *Straits Times* newsroom busy, with reporters running around in the heat and humidity of the tropics - something I was quite glad to avoid since I was working on the paper's Sunday edition the *Sunday Times*. But the referendum vote was to be held on a Saturday, so the three of us on its full-time staff - editor Sabaratnam (known as Saba), his assistant Lim Heng Loong (known as Peter), and myself - knew our day would come. The result would not be known until the early hours, so, during the week leading up to the vote, we prepared three versions of Page One for the Sunday paper. Each detailed what would happen depending on which option won.

To backtrack a little, when Malaya became independent and Lee Kuan Yew was breathing fire and fury in the talks over Singapore's independence, the *Straits Times* moved its headquarters to Kuala Lumpur. So, every Friday night, a chartered plane would fly Sabah to KL accompanied by boxes of the flongs - sort of extra stiff papier mache moulds of the pages used to cast the rollers back in the days of hot lead printing. He would direct operations by phone. The last call would come in around 3.00 am and if nothing new was happening he would bid us goodnight.

This became known to everyone but Sabah as the 'Goodnight Irene Call'.

Come the day, we all cast our votes (voting is compulsory in Singapore) and went to work. Things went smoothly and there were no frantic moments. The 'Goodnight Irene Call' finally released us and we sub-editors left a deserted newsroom and headed for the Badminton Hall, where the votes were being counted. One of the observers was Wee Kim Wee, the paper's managing editor for Singapore. On a break for some fresh air in dawn's early light he told us "The count has a way to go but, judging from the piles of counted ballots, Option Three is the way ahead and going to win".

Peter used a public phone to call Govindasamy, the foreman, and tell him to go with the Option Three front page. Then, duty done, we hung around for a bit before going for breakfast and then home to bed. It had been a long day, night, and early morning, but it is not every day that you have a chance to participate in the birth of a new nation.

Footnote: Singapore's membership did not last long. Mr Lee and the Tengku had a game of golf in Malaysia's Cameron Highlands and Singapore was "invited to leave".

Wee Kim Wee was head-hunted by the Foreign Ministry and began his diplomatic career as Singapore's High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur. I remember a visit I made to KL with one of my colleagues while Kim Wee was there. My colleague suggested giving our High Commissioner a call to say hello. Kim Wee's response was typical. "Come round at 12.30. We'll go for lunch".

Riding in a chauffeured limousine with CD plates and your nation's flag flying is an experience to remember. After lunch he asked us where we were going "We're meeting some friends in Bukit Bintang" I told him. On returning to the High Commission he told the chauffeur to take us to our destination - with the flag furled this time. All the same we attracted a lot of attention at traffic lights and there was a great temptation to give a regal wave, but we resisted it.

Kim Wee finally crowned his career by becoming his country's President, and there is a building named after him on the University of Singapore new campus. Telling any Singaporean you meet that Kim Wee was once your boss always gets an amazed reaction. He was always totally unpretentious, a real gentleman.

I sometimes wish I had been there when he was President.

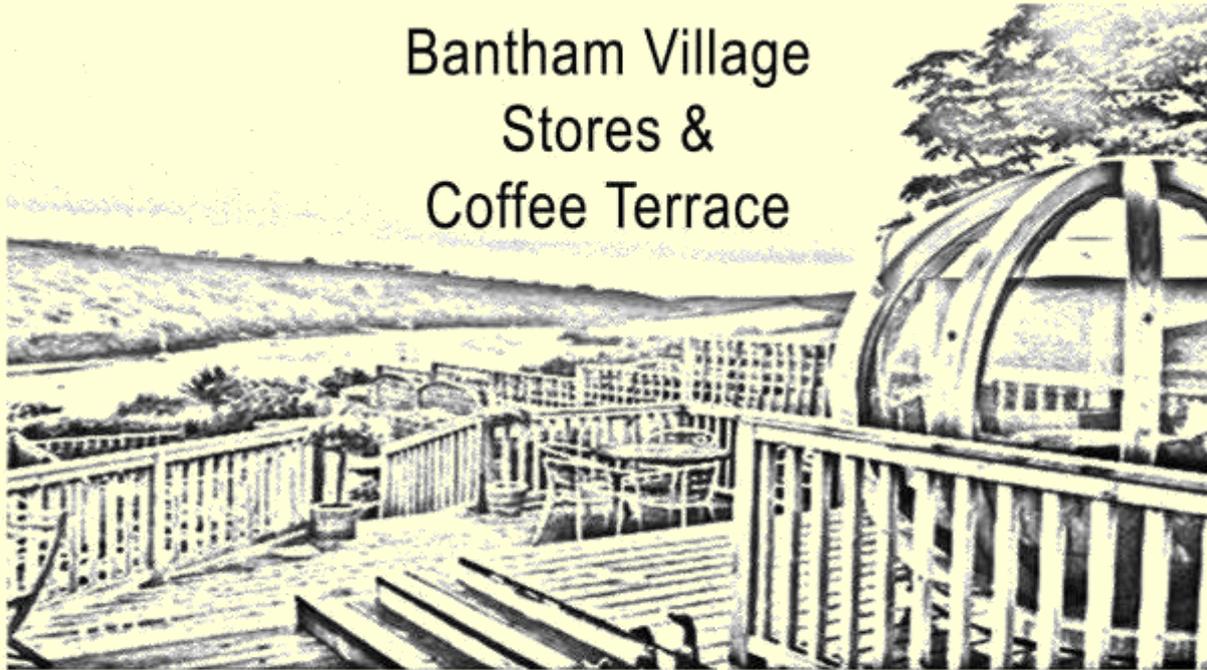
Ken Hammonds



Wee Kim Wee

Names Note: In the case of Chinese names, I have followed their tradition of putting the surnames first.

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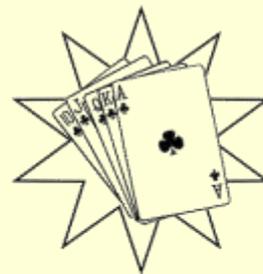
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		3			7			1
		2	6				4	9
	8			3		6		
					4	1		8

Tough

No. 126

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

Tougher

No. 125

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

Tougher

No. 126

STILL TOO TOUGH?

There was a small, but select collection of all-correct entries to our last challenge. Perhaps it was down to the US election, or *Strictly*, which have been occupying our screens of late. So it was from a ballot of just Messrs Delafield, King, and Irwin with mesdames Killingsworth, Leare, Lonsdale, and White that **Lisa White** emerged as the winner, though our congratulations go to all seven. Entries for this month's New Year four-part challenge to 25 Mead Lane as usual by 5th January 2017, please.



Thurlestone Post Office & Stores



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Over the festive period, the Shop and Post Office will change its usual times of operation. The times listed below are a "minimum" guide for the Shop, and may be extended to meet demand. The Post Office will keep its opening hours strictly in accordance with the times listed below.

DATE	SHOP	POST OFFICE
Friday 23 Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Saturday 24 Dec	08.00 - 16.00	09.00 - 13.00
Sunday 25 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 26 Dec	08.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Tuesday 27 Dec	08.00 - 13.00	CLOSED
Wednesday 28 Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 13.00
Thursday 29 Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Friday 30 Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Saturday 31 Dec	08.00 - 16.00	09.00 - 13.00
2017		
Sunday 1 Jan	09.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Monday 2 Jan	08.00 - 13.00	CLOSED

Normal opening hours resume on Tuesday 3rd January

Our **Christmas Draw** will take place on Friday 23rd December at 11.00 am, with drinks and nibbles for everyone. Tickets are available in the shop. All proceeds will be put towards the prizes.

Orders for vegetables, bread, mince pies etc, should be placed well in advance, to ensure availability for collection during Christmas week.

Make someone a millionaire! Don't forget to buy your loved ones a Scratch Card or Lottery Ticket as a stocking-filler this year.

**From us all at Thurlestone Post Office and Stores,
may we say a big Thank You for all your support
over the past year,
and wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year**

Sarah and Staff



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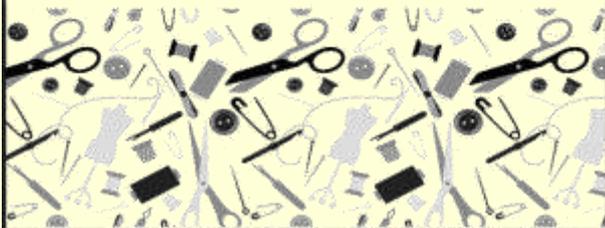
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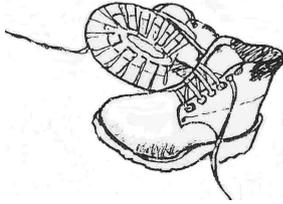
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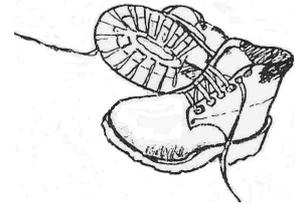
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TRAMP



1 This year's trip away for the Tramps group was four days staying in the pretty Cornish village of St Mawes, starting on 16th September. Twenty one happy Trampers - and Ben - met at the Rising Sun for lunch before setting out for an afternoon's walk round the St Mawes headland. From the quay the walk took us along the shores of the Percuil River before climbing up over farmland and down to the coastal footpath on the other side. The footpath runs adjacent to the Carrick Roads, giving us great views over to Falmouth and beyond. At the end of the headland we passed St Mawes castle, built by Henry VIII to guard the entrance to the safe anchorage in the Carrick Roads. Then back to the Ship and Castle hotel for a meal and a few tunes from Alastair on the hotel's piano.

The following day we were up bright and early ready for an all day walk of 8-9 miles following the South West Coast Path round St Anthony head from the Place Ferry landing to Portscatho. The ferry took us to the head of Place Creek, where in the Middle Ages a small Augustinian monastery stood. We spent some time wandering round the church with its impressive 12C doorway and the churchyard where a moss-shrouded medieval coffin is to be found. The walk then took us along the south bank of the Percuil river, round Carricknath Point and passing some pretty sandy coves until we came to the lighthouse and battery at St. Anthony Head with great views over to the Tudor castles at St Mawes and Falmouth. We followed the coastal path, past the long beaches of Porthor and Towan, stopping to investigate the 'wreck post' used, up until the 1930s, for practice with the rocket-fired breeches buoy. After lunch at the Plume of Feathers in Portscatho we returned via the coastal path, crossing the peninsula to follow the path on the Percuil River to pick up the ferry. After supper that evening we were all sadly too tired to take part in the quiz that Linda had prepared for us! Keep it for next time, please, Linda.

Day three saw us crossing the river Fal on the King Harry Ferry on the way to Mawnan church from where we walked out to the

coast. We then followed the coastal path round Rosemullion Head and followed the path on the south bank of the beautiful Helford river, finishing up for lunch at the Ferry Boat Inn at Helford Passage. In the afternoon we took the short route back inland to Mawnan giving us time to stop off at Trellisick Gardens by the King Harry Ferry. That evening a few of us enjoyed making fools of ourselves with a game of charades designed by Mike and Vivien.

The walk on the last day was changed as many of us wanted to visit the 13th century church and churchyard at St Just in Roseland, described by Sir John Betjeman as 'the most beautiful churchyard in England'. A 19th century rector introduced many tropical plants, and the combination of the church on the water's edge and the wonderful flowers and shrubs in the churchyard are what gives the church its uniqueness. The path down to the Church is lined with granite stones which are carved with quotations and verses taken from the Bible. A gentle walk up through the fields behind the church finished up an enjoyable four days' get together.

Liz Coates

2 On September 22nd, seven of us met up at Shaugh Bridge on the fringe of Dartmoor for this delightful and varied circular walk following the River Plym to Cadover Bridge. We set off up a steepish climb, but were rewarded with gorgeous views across the Plym valley, with the Dewerstone Rock - a favourite place for rock-climbers - a prominent feature on the other side.

All the time we were following an old clay pipe which used to carry china clay mixed with water from the clay pits near Cadover Bridge to a processing plant above Shaugh Bridge. The path entered North Wood - a beautiful stretch of woodland - with the rushing river not far below. We continued to follow the river upstream to Cadover Bridge which is a favourite picnic spot in the summer; then, having crossed the river, we made our way across Wigford Down - the high ground here affording marvellous views over to the tors on

the western fringe of Dartmoor and ahead of us to Plymouth Sound. We then reached Dewerstone Hill which is a fairly insignificant outcrop of rock (!), whence we descended to the river. Our descent took us past granite quarries and the ruins of a winding house which housed machinery operating trucks carrying granite down the slope on a pulley system. It was interesting to be reminded of the industrial nature of the area, and to imagine all the activity there in former times.

Alastair Durden

3 Tuesday, 27th September saw 10 Trampers plus Ben and a visitor with dog set out from Down Thomas taking the footpath over farmland and then joining the Erme-Plym Trail down to Wembury beach. Turning west along the Southwest Coast Path we stopped at Wembury Point where we had a good view of the Mewstone, the striking wedge-shaped island just offshore.

Today it hardly seems credible that anyone could make a home on the Mewstone, but in 1744 a local man guilty of some petty offence was sentenced by a magistrate to be 'transported' to the island for 7 years. Not only did he remain there quietly with his family for the entire time without once setting foot on the mainland but, when the time came for the family to leave, his daughter chose to remain behind! Luckily today it is owned by the National Trust who do not allow public access in order to safeguard the large bird populations attracted by the Mew Stone's rare isolation.

We carried on along the coastal path to Heybrook Bay for a welcome lunch stop at the Eddystone Inn. Resuming the walk we went on to Andurn Point, where there were some wonderful views across to Plymouth and beyond with the added interest of watching the Navy coming back into harbour. We then took the footpath inland up the hill and back to our cars at Down Thomas. A good walk with excellent company.

Peter and Liz Coates

4 On Tuesday 4 October seven walkers and Ben the dog headed to the moors. Driving across Dartmoor along a lovely secluded stretch of open moorland where sheep, cattle and ponies grazed freely, we saw that the foliage of ferns and bracken were beginning

to change the landscape into its autumnal colours. We parked up near Warren House Inn on the B3212 just past Postbridge. High up on Dartmoor, this is an exposed area and although a fine dry day there was a blustery wind.

Striding out, with craggy Birch Tor on our left, we followed the path down (and out of the wind) to Headland Warren. Further on to Headland Warren Farm we stopped to admire a small herd of alpacas. From here we began the gradual ascent to the summit of Hookney Tor. Reaching the top, where it was very exposed, we huddled behind the huge granite rocks to shelter from the wind and take a refreshment break. Having recovered from the climb, we then ventured out from our protective cover and viewed the magnificent 360 degree panorama.

Descending from Hookney Tor, a rocky stone path leads down to Grimspound, a really impressive ancient settlement. Around 3500 years ago Bronze Age settlers built this village - an area of stones and mounds encircled by a ring of rocks enclosing 24 hut circles. The remains of these structures on this bleak hillside gave us a stark reminder of the rigours of prehistoric life on Dartmoor.

We left Grimspound and continued on to Challacombe Down, following a pleasant easy level track leading to Challacombe Farm. The farm is part of the Duchy of Cornwall estate and is managed to conserve and enhance its archaeology and wildlife whilst maintaining its economic viability. Evidence of the old ploughing systems (lynchets), dating back to medieval times, can be seen on the hillsides. Unusual rare-breed sheep, ponies and beautiful long-horn Highland cattle roamed freely. We even came across two spotted pigs foraging in the mud!

We passed Challacombe Cottages and followed the track uphill, bearing right and on to a delightful stretch of path. A forest came into view across to the left and the path gradually descended through a gate and along the forest edge, passing varied mining remains. Tin mining on Dartmoor started in the 12th century and continued in this area until the last working mine on Dartmoor, the nearby Golden Digger mine, closed in 1930.

As the path progressed, craggy Birch Tor came back into view on our right. Our route continued along the floor of the valley passing

through more old mine workings. We took care as the path here was wet and muddy. Eventually arriving back at Headland Warren we retraced our steps back up the track to where the cars were parked. This had been an enjoyable and interesting 6-mile circular walk and whilst three members of the group headed home, the remaining four had a pub lunch at the Warren House Inn.

Jenny Webb

5 On a bright, warm 10th October morning, 12 very jolly Trampers and Ben set off from Brixton on a six and a half mile circular walk.

On leaving the village we passed under the first of several railway bridges, built in 1892 to carry the Great Western Railway's single track branch from Friary Road, Plymouth, to Plymstock. The line was planned as part of a route to Modbury, and the scheme was completed - though only to Yealmpton - in 1898. With the increased use of the car, the passenger service was withdrawn in 1930 but re-opened during the Second World War to enable Plymothians to evacuate the city during Nazi raids. This service ceased in 1947 and the goods service on the line finished in 1960. Anyway, enough of the history lesson and back to the walk!

We passed the cottages at Winston, the sewage works (which provoked several non historical comments) and walked through fields then woodland alongside the beautiful River Yealm until we joined the track along the disused railway line to Steer Point Road. One knowledgeable Trumper was kind enough to give us an interesting talk on the Steer Point Road brickworks and its planning conditions. The original brickworks date back to the 1890s but the present factory was built after the Second World War in the quarry of the original works. Early in 2003 the factory at Steer Point employed 70 people but was closed in the financial crisis of 2008.

We passed the railway workers' cottages and walked up the road to where the route continued across the fields. Here, one of the backmarkers noticed a sheep stuck in the wire mesh fencing. He and two other animal lovers went to rescue it but, on seeing their earnest faces coming towards him on their mission, the now terrified sheep made one last valiant effort and managed to free himself before they could commence their ministrations. Much hilarity followed!

We then walked along several very pretty green lanes until we arrived at Cofflete bridge, an attractive ancient double arched structure over the frequently flooding tidal ford at the head of Cofflete Creek. At Brixton Tor we turned to walk between the very pretty 300 year-old properties. We then went under a very long tunnel of the former railway line, which was used as an air raid shelter by Plymouth people at night in World War 2. On arriving at the tiny hamlet of Coombe, shrieks were heard and we all expressed concern until we realised that one of the Trampers had met someone she used to work with and they couldn't believe their luck.

We admired the lady's beautiful garden and went on our way again. After the morning's excitement we just had to stop at the garden centre for coffee and cake (although one Trumper, armed with a shopping list from his wife, loaded up his rucksack with salad items for that evening's supper party!)

Rather reluctantly we left the garden centre, crossed the main road then headed up the hill. From the summit we had fantastic views over Plymouth and Dartmoor. We all studied the beautiful vista and tried to spot various landmarks which was good fun and really interesting. We crossed the fields around the back of Brixton and then arrived back where we had started from. Everyone agreed that it had been a really lovely walk – rather unusual, amazingly varied, interesting and, above all, mostly flat! People now knew what lay behind the A379!

Linda Scott

6 On a grey and drizzly morning 12 Trampers and Ben the dog drove to Beesands to commence our walk. Starting from the car park we walked along the front past the village green, where work is currently under way to improve the sea defences, passing the football pitch, which must have one of the best views of all soccer clubs, and then taking the public footpath at Beesands Cellars, where they used to transport stone from Beesands quarry and slate from Stokenham.

The rain having stopped, we proceeded up steps away from the beach through trees until finally reaching the gate leading to the coastal path, where we discovered a large parasol mushroom in the field. Walking along we took in the panorama of Torcross and Slapton

Sands. After passing the entrance to the blue and white building of the old Greyholmes Hotel, which is now a couple of holiday apartments, we took the path down to the seafront, where the engineers in the group studied the precautions taken to defend the houses and sea wall against the sea.

Crossing the road to the Sherman tank and skirting the Ley, making black-headed gulls take flight, we took the permissive path to Stokenham that runs along the A379 before taking the footpath that passes through the Caravan Park to the car park in Stokenham.

We stopped briefly outside the 15th century St Michael and All Angels Church built of Stokenham slate, which was badly damaged in the Second World War. Crossing over the A379 we then took the lane opposite for a short way before bearing right by an old barn on to a green lane. This was a bit of a rocky climb and caused a few comments.

Once everyone had successfully made it to the top they breathed a collective sigh of relief and we then progressed along a flat surfaced road to Widewell before arriving at a kissing gate on our right. This took us up and across a field skirting trees to our right before reaching another gate where we could pause, turn around, and take in the lovely views along the coast at Slapton.

We then set off along the drive to the reconstructed 18th century Widdicombe House (said to be designed by Capability Brown), where General Eisenhower stayed during the war, before following the public footpath past cottages and bordering the semi-wooded grounds of Widdicombe House. This time we came across an impressive display of Oyster mushrooms at the base of a tree.

Emerging from the trees to the magnificent vista of Beesands Ley, Beesands, Beeson and the coast to Start Point we followed the path along the edge of the field, marvelling at the beautiful autumnal colours of the cliffs.

We rejoined the path leading down to the front at Beesands saying goodbye to three of our group before the rest of us adjourned to the comforts of The Cricket Inn, an historic pub (first opened in 1867) where in the 1950s Mick Jagger and Keith Richards gave their first public performance. A nice way to end what had begun as a very grey day!

Alan & Alison Daily



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**Thurlestone Parish Hall
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**Buckfast Abbey
Friday 16th December
7.30 to 8.30 pm**

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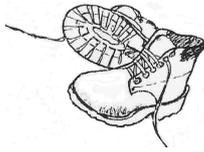
**St Edmund's Kingsbridge
Saturday 24th December
4.30 to 5.30 pm**

Carols for all the Family
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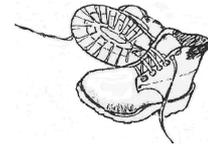


Details from

May Crimp 01548-842361
Tom Gilkes 01548-560973
Kingsbridge TIC or Chorus members



TRAMP WALKS 2017



No	Date	Day	Length	Approximate route / location	Leaders
1	Jan 3rd	Tues	Short	Kingsbridge to Salcombe. Bus back	Annie Lukehurst
2	Jan 9th				
3	Jan 18th	Wed	Short	Batson Green and Salcombe	T & R Wilson
4	Jan 23rd				
5	Jan 30th				
6	Feb 9th	Thurs	Long	Coleton Fishacre	Sue Girling
7	Feb 13th				
8	Feb 20th				
9	Feb 27th	Mon	Long	Devonport Leat	A & G Durden
10	Mar 7th	Tues	Short	Revelstoke Drive (clockwise)	C & G Delafield
11	Mar 15th	Wed	Long	Slapton, Torcross, Stokenham	P & W Gornall
12	Mar 23rd	Thurs	Short	Shaugh Bridge and Cadover Bridge	A & G Durden
13	Mar 29th	Wed	Long	Dartmoor - Diamond Track -	June Richardson
14	April 4th	Tues	Short	Stoke Fleming - Strete	A & G Durden
15	April 11th	Tues	Long	Meavy and Burrator reservoir	M & V Stickland
16	April 20th	Thurs	Short	East Allington & Goveton	Alan & Alison Daily
17	April 25th	Tues	Long	Ferry to Greenway - Broadsands	R Wayth & M Baker
18	May 4th	Thurs	Short	Mountbatten, Bovisand, Hooe Lake	Christine Wilson
19	May 9th	Tues	Short	Hembury Woods, Dartmoor	Jenny Webb
20	May 19th	Friday	Short	Bantham & Avon Valley	L & P Coates
21	May 25th	Thurs	Long	Avon Mill, Loddiswell, Knap Mill	J & P Braithwaite
22	May 29th	????	TBA	TBA	Jill & Brian Munn
23	June 8th	Thurs	Long	Beesands and Tor Cross	Alan & Alison Daily
24	June 13th	Tues	Long	Shipleigh Bridge & Avon Dam	Jenny Webb
25	June 20th	Tues	Long	Evening walk to Hope Cove	Lisa White
26	June 30th	Friday	Short	Diamond Jubilee Walk, Dartmouth	R Wayth & M Baker
27	July 5th	Wed	Long	Kingston & Scobbiscombe	J & P Braithwaite
28	July 13th	Thurs	Short	Around Modbury	Sue Girling
29	July 18th	Tues	Long	Overbecks to Thurlestone	C & G Delafield
30	July 28th	Friday	Short	Haytor, Hound Tor & Saddle Tor	R & H Swan
31	Aug 2nd	Wed	Long	Plymbridge to Saltram	T & R Wilson
32	Aug 10th	Thurs	Short	Poundsgate & Dr Blackall's Drive	M & V Stickland
33	Aug 18th	Friday	Long	Hallsands, Lannac'mbe, Pigs Nose	L & P Coates
34	Aug 22nd	Tues	Short	Whitstrand, East Portlemouth	Annie Lukehurst
35	Aug 30th	Wed	Long	Widdecombe, Grimspound & loop	Vanessa Barton
36	Sept 4th	Mon	Short	Brixton circular	L & G Scott
37	Sept 12th	Tues	Long	Dartington Estate and Staverton	A & G Durden
38	Sept 18th	Mon	Short	Plymouth, M'batten, William Yard	L & G Scott
39	Sept 25th	Mon	Long	Bowcombe Bridge	Annie Lukehurst
40	Oct 4th	Wed	Short	TBA	P & W Gornall
41	Oct 13th	Friday	Long	Lustleigh Cleave	R & H Swan
42	Oct 19th	Thurs	Short	Ashburton	Lisa White
43	Oct 25th	Wed	Long	Avon Valley from West Buckland	A & D Martin
44	Oct 30th	Mon	Short	Prawle Village, Eleander Cove	June Richardson
45	Nov 10th	Friday	Long	TBA	G & J Markham
46	Nov 14th	Tues	Short	Revelstoke and Stoke Point	C & G Delafield
47	Nov 22nd	Wed	Long	TBA	Vanessa Barton
48	Nov 27th	Mon	Short	Ringmore circuit	L & P Coates
49	Dec 6th	Wed	Short	TBA	P & W Gornall
50	Dec 15th	Friday	V Short	Beesands - Christmas lunch	M & V Stickland

Thurlestone Phonebox Ring Ring

Squeaky and shiny with a new lick of paint in time for some spooky Halloween shenanigans. Did you listen to the telephone hot line to the parish coven of witches? Scary or what? Our thanks to the painters who for political reasons must remain anonymous, and also to the Halloween prop builders.

With darkness falling ever earlier, time to stock up with some good reading material.



We've had a good turn-over recently so a wide range of books to be found. Thank you to the recent donor of children's books and we would be grateful to receive more as they are always in hot demand.

Gearing up for the Carol Singing event on the Village Green on Monday 12th December at 4.30 pm. This year we will have a bigger than ever choir to lead the carols and for the first time a guest appearance by the Primary School Choir. I am told

they have something special up their sleeves which will be 'really cute'. Highlight it in your diaries to get your Christmas jollities under way. See our separate page for full details. Even if the weather gods don't smile on us we will hold the event in the Church Hall, ***so no excuses!***

Until then, but if you really can't make it, Thurlestone Phone Box wish you and yours all the very best for a great Christmas and many good things for 2017.

Kit Marshall

Buckland Box

The Buckland Box will be providing seasonal refreshments and some musical entertainment after the Buckland house to house carol singing on Tuesday 20th December.

Carol singing will start at 5pm from Valleyside, and refreshments will be served at the Buckland Box from 6pm. If it dares to rain, we will move to an alternative convenient venue, signposted from the Box.

Anna Martin



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Our state of the art building has a white board and an ipad and we have a wonderful mud kitchen which has been updated over the holidays. We share curricular learning activities and experiences with Reception class at Thurlestone primary school through our Partnership Foundation Stage Unit called "Papillion."

Here are just a few of the exciting activities we have planned this term.

- "Diwali Celebrations." The Hindu Festival of Light. These wonderfully colourful celebrations include dressing up, Indian dancing and Indian food sampling!
- A trip to Forest and Beach in Beeson.
- A coach trip to The Theatre Royal in Plymouth to see a puppet production of 'The Emperor's New Clothes.'
- Our Christmas Nativity play - "Mary's Knitting."
- The Children's Christmas Party
- Children in Need - "spotty week."
- Making Christmas cakes - with Sue Durant from Tesco's
- Toddler group / open afternoon sessions every Thursday for our youngest members of the community and for parents who would like to drop in to see us to talk about their future plans for their little ones childcare.
- Teashop takes place every Friday at 3.30pm after school to raise essential funds for resources such as a range of healthy snacks and new resources for the children. If anyone would like to offer support by making cakes or helping to run the stall please contact us.



Linda Quinn (Manager) 01548 560816

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This year we had the pleasure of hosting eight Chernobyl children from Belarus and, as always, we had a lot of fun. But despite appearances their visit is not just about having fun. It is about giving them a month's respite from the appalling conditions they still have to contend with, 30 years after the catastrophic fire and explosion at the nuclear power plant. Many of the children who come to Britain appear healthy but this is deceptive, as the radiation will affect the region where they live for hundreds of years to come.

Their plight is worsened by a difficult economic situation, a shortage of medical facilities and medicine, poor living conditions, poor nutrition, contaminated food, unemployment, changing family circumstances and social hardship, as well as long harsh winters and, as a result, generally poor health. The respite we offer the children is that when they come to the UK they eat fresh food, breathe clean air, and go home with their immune systems recharged.

The Totnes & South Hams Link of Chernobyl Children's Lifeline will be inviting up to ten children to visit us in June/July next year. We urgently need more Host Families who would be prepared to look after two ten-year-olds (boys or girls) for two weeks, for either the last two weeks of June or the first two weeks of July. Could you help these children by being their hosts? The children are accompanied by a bilingual leader from their area and have a programme of activities arranged for them. You will also have support throughout their visit.

We need to recruit Host Families asap as there is a certain amount of red tape involved, so please don't delay if you think you can make a difference to these children. We are also looking for supporters to help us in many other ways. Please contact Sue on 01548-561783, e-mail cclltotnes@hotmail.com, or visit our website www.ccll.org.uk/totnes for information.

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Weather Wag

by Jan Turner

It is supposed to be nearly winter (not officially until 1st Dec) now! Up until last week 1st Nov the sun shone, the sea was blue, and the atmosphere calm and warm. It seemed that the cold days were just waiting in the wings to assail us and let us know that the seasons were on the march, quietly but inevitably. Now I feel that the colder season is here, along with the darker evenings. No real gales as yet, but early snow has blanketed some areas in the north of the country. It is, as you know, the variety of weather that makes us one of the most interesting areas of the world, to forecast anyway.

Around 5th November has always seen the first frosts of the year. For the last three years, here at Beach Cottage, no frost has been seen around that time. This year just one or two so far, however. This is in fact somewhat of a blessing around Halloween and bonfire night. Often bonfire night and the day after is the most polluted time of the year. It may even create its own toxic smog. When fireworks explode they release tiny particles of metals, which give them their vivid colours. Paul Simons goes on to explain: "This is how Victorian scientists identified chemicals - burning in a flame and looking for different colours: blue from copper, red from strontium or lithium and bright green or white from barium compounds. The smoke from the fireworks also contains potassium, aluminium and perchlorates, which are used for shooting the fireworks into the air." The latter is especially powerful – Nasa uses them as fuel in rocket boosters! These particles can also be breathed in deeply and aggravate all sorts of medical problems. The other problem with the smoke is that it contains poisonous carbon monoxide and other pollutants.

In very calm humid weather smog can form, rather like the smog of the 1950's resulting in possible reduction of visibility by an average of 25% and can last for up to 2 days. This year there was a northerly wind, brisk in nature with some rain which helped get rid of any pollution from the fireworks and bonfires. Paul adds that in India, Delhi was blanketed in a shroud of toxic smog the morning after the Hindu Festival of Diwali. Hundreds of thousands of people had celebrated by setting off crackers and fireworks, which raised the levels of air pollutions to more than ten times the recommended limit set by the World Health Organisation.

We now have in the South Hams a period of showers and sunshine with a brisk North westerly wind so typical of November (and any time of the year really!). But what a superb Autumn and early winter days we have had. Trees of all types have been clothed in their best colours and have held on to them for longer than usual, and haven't we enjoyed them! I hope that our Remembrance Day procession to our War Memorial will be calm, fine and sunny. We do not often have bad weather for this event, cold, yes but gales and rain, no, so here's hoping. Yes, it was a lovely morning, calm and mild, just right for the quiet contemplative nature of our gathering.

Autumn rainfall here so far has been well below normal with 191mm in September, 64mm in October and so far 13mm in November. Saturday 4th September saw 31mm fall in just 4 hours in the afternoon, and on 24th October 38mm in 12 hours. Nationally, October was the driest October since 1951, so unusual to say the least.

Today 13th November is a quiet, sunny and cool day, so yes our Memorial service was quiet and fine as we stood to pay our respects to the fallen of all the conflicts of last century and this. In 1842, unlike this day, when a famous artist recorded a huge storm of blizzard-like conditions, JMW Turner painted his depiction of a ship amid a swirling vortex of water, wind and spray. The ship is hard to see but the event has become historic in meteorological

terms. The W K of S states that he told a friend that he was on board the ship *Ariel* out of Harwich that night, and had asked the sailors to lash him to the mast so that he could observe the storm. He says that he was there for four hours and did not expect to escape but felt bound to record it if he did. There is considerable doubt as to the authenticity of this account because no ship called *Ariel* ever left Harwich. However Turner's biographer states that a vessel named *Fairy* does set out from Harwich, we know this because it was among several ships lost in the storm that day. Turner could have taken on some changes, eg *Ariel* becomes *Fairy* as in Shakespeare's spirit Prospero in 'The Tempest'. Or he could have been in another boat just looking on, we will never know, but there were certainly storms such as this at this time of the year.

One such storm was also recorded by a French artist Claude Vernet's 'Storm on the Coast' of 1754. Meteorologists are generally of the opinion that Turner's storm paintings and others represent a good record of weather conditions at the time. (*We remember 15th October 1987 the Great Storm of Michael Fish renown*). So these events can happen even in the mildest of maritime areas such as ours.

What about these last few evenings:- the **MOON** has taken pride of place in the news and the weather forecast programmes. I'm sure that most of you are now familiar with the reason for this unusual sight. Today 14th Nov, there is no chance of seeing the moon. The sky is overcast with a heavy layer of cloud. In case you have not heard all about it here is a quick résumé:- It is referred to as the 'Supermoon' because it appears bigger and brighter than the usual moon. It is best viewed as it rises above the horizon on a clear night. It is 7-14% bigger than usual and 16-30% brighter than usual. How much depends from where you view it. As the moon orbits the earth in an elliptical path, it comes closer at times like now. Ptolemy in the 2nd century commented that any object viewed across the land looked larger than the same object viewed across empty space. When I looked at the moon a few nights ago it was huge as it rose above the horizon, then when I looked again later when it was higher in the sky it really did look smaller. Was I imagining it! Is there a reason? Is the atmosphere acting like a lens for the impression of the variance of size? Opinions differ, so I guess I (we) must choose which one (or none) to believe in. I believe in my own eyes that, yes, the moon was huge - a supermoon. I am with Ptolemy! The last one occurred 69 years ago and it will not occur again until 2034, when once again the moon will be closest to the earth at 221,525 miles. I hope that you will have witnessed a rising supermoon, it is also referred to as a 'Low-hanging moon' effect.

In today's Western Morning News there is an article reporting on the effects of global warming on health. Quote: "The World Meteorological Organisation said provisional figures show global temperatures this year are approximately 1.2°C (2.16°F) above pre-industrial levels and 0.88°C (1.85°F) above the average for 1961-1999, which it uses as a reference period. As a result, 2016 is on track to be the hottest year in records dating back to the 19th century, and 16 of the 17 hottest years on record will have occurred in the 21st century." The article points out that of the health issues, hotter summers will be the most serious, more cases of heart disease and more frequent, severe asthma attacks. These impacts on health must be urgently considered. Just something to mull over as the warm temperatures continue.

Today, 15th November is a quiet, misty day, just right for a bit of hedge trimming. Mine have grown beyond all sense this year. However, the perfume from my Eleagnus is sublime and I even love going to the greenhouse, through an arch to savour this wonderful gift of nature.

Hope you all have a very happy Christmas and that the New Year will be safe and your gardens productive.

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DIARY DATES

December

- Friday 2 Christmas Fair, All Saints school, from 1.30 pm
Saturday 3 **High Society** Jazz & Dance, Parish Hall, 7.30pm (see ad)
Monday 5 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 10 Stanborough **Christmas Concert**, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Monday 12 Carol Singing at the Thurlestone Phone Box, 4.30pm
Thursday 15 WI Xmas Lunch at the Golf Club, 12.30 for 1pm
Friday 16 TRAMP, Christmas Lunch walk (short)
Tuesday 20 Buckland Carols, Valleyside to Phone Box, 5 to 6 pm.
Saturday 24 **Carol Concert**, St Edmund's Kingsbridge, 4.30-5.30pm

January

- Monday 2 Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm, Parish Hall
Tuesday 3 TRAMP, (short) Kingsbridge-Salcombe (bus back)
Thursday 12 WI Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Hunt's Cider & Cheese tasting)
Wednesday 18 TRAMP, Batson Green, Salcombe, (short)
Thursday 19 *More than a year in Provence*, NT talk at Parish Hall, 2.30pm
Wednesday 25 KEDFAS, K'b Methodist Church, 7.30pm (Isambard K. Brunel)
Thursday 26 KEDFAS, K'b Methodist Church, 10.30am (John Cooper)
Friday 27 NT Coffee Morning, Avon Mill Garden Centre, 10.30-noon

February

- Monday 6 Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm, Parish Hall
Thursday 9 TRAMP, Coleton Fishacre (long)
Thursday 9 WI Parish Hall, 2.30pm (National Marine Aquarium)
Wednesday 22 KEDFAS, K'b Methodist Church, 7.30pm (Restoring Paintings)
Thursday 23 KEDFAS, K'b Methodist Church, 10.30am (Sarah Cove)
Monday 27 TRAMP, Devonport Leat, (long)

VILLAGE VOICE

Your *Cut Out and Keep*

PARISH DIRECTORY and DIARY DATES

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

There is also a **subscription service**, which mails copies to readers at an annual cost for 2016 of **£15.00 for six issues**. Please apply to:

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

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

It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship. This does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in these pages are the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council, and they should only be ascribed to the authors concerned.

In Thurlestone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers organised by **Graham & Val Palmer**. In Buckland it is delivered by **Caroline Donald** and in Bantham by **Anna & David Martin**.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Feb-Mar) ISSUE = 5th January 2017

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

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

Whole Page - £75.00 Half Page - £55.00 Quarter Page - £35.00

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL (Meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf)

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Vice-chairman	Charles Mitchelmore	560602
Parish Clerk	Philip Millard	560843
Members	Tony Goddard	562282
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Jill Munn	560732
	Bronwen Zaffiro	560020
District Councillor	Judy Pearce	561370
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659
Tree Warden	Charles Mitchelmore	560602

PARISH HALL	Chairman	Neill Irwin	561661
	Bookings	Diane Martin	560070
	Pay-phone in foyer		562189

PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)	Chairman	Chris White	560505
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH	Rector	Rev Daniel Hartley	562727
CHURCHWARDENS	Graham Worrall	562016	Liz Webb 560090
CHURCH MEETING ROOM ACTIVITIES	Office		561246
COFFEE TIME (Every Wednesday 10.30 -11.30 am)	Contact	Rosemary Chipman	562013
FILMS FOR ALL (1 st Tuesday Monthly 2.30 pm)	Contact	Liz Webb	560090
LUNCH CLUB (Fridays 12.30 pm)	Contact	Liz Webb	560090
SOUP & A ROLL (2 nd Monday Winter 12 noon-1.00 pm)	Contact	Liz Webb	560090
UNDER 3s (Thursdays 9.30-11.00 am term-time)	Contact	Lucy Panteney	560508

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Gillian Marshall	560214
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ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL	Executive Head	Susan Rowe-Jones	560494
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PEARSON'S PRE-SCHOOL	Manager	Linda Quinn	560816
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AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	Chairman	Stuart Watts	810373
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BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary	Jo Smith	560347
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BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
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BRIDGE CLUBS 6.30 p.m Wednesdays and Fridays	Contact	Lisa White	560505
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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Clubhouse & all enquiries		560405
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TENNIS SECTION	Chairman	Jane Smyth	561084
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TAI CHI	Contact	Simon Bowden	07738373051
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PILATES (Advance booking essential)	Contact	Franny Morris	07590506027
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YOGA	Contact	Sarah Scott	07879627939
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TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Mike Stickland	560763
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HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact	Caroline Alderton	562250
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2. Sloop Inn, Bantham (lobby)
3. Golf Club (entrance foyer)
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DIRECTORY

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

W. I. 2.30 pm Parish Hall Contact Lisa White 560505
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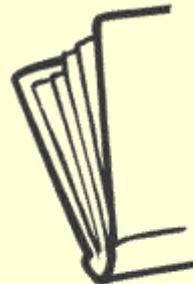
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