

# VILLAGE VOICE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TO YOU

ALL



December 2018 - January 2019

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone*



## TIME MARCHES ON



It was heartwarming to see the Parish coming together in commemoration of the 100-year anniversary of the ending of WW1 during Remembrance weekend. Many people attended the church service at All Saints and the excellent exhibition at the Parish Hall masterminded by Robin Macdonald. Both were very emotive and a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives to enable us to live in and appreciate our wonderful surroundings.

It is the time of year that excites children so much. Yes Christmas is almost upon us, so the team invited the children of All Saints Primary School to participate in designing the cover for this edition. After careful consideration the judging panel decided on the picture you see on the front. Looking at all the different events being held during the festive period, everyone is going to have a very busy social calendar.

Where has the year gone? I'm convinced time goes twice as fast here as elsewhere. Time to reflect on the events of the past year such as the Beast from the East followed by the long hot summer and the Neighbourhood Plan being voted in. Not forgetting the changes here at Village Voice; never did we imagine at the beginning of the year we would take on the mantle of editing and compiling the magazine. There is much still to learn but we are proud to carry on the wonderful work of our predecessors the Macdonalds. So as this year draws to a close, all that remains is for the whole team to wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.



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age 7

## December 2018 - January 2019

37th Year of Publication

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# **A NOTE FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

One of the difficult things for residents in an area where there is a District Council and a County Council, is knowing which council does what.

Broadly speaking the County Council deals with highway matters, education, social services, public health, and libraries. The District Council deals with most planning matters, housing, environmental health, waste collection and street cleaning and all aspects of revenues (council tax and business rates) and benefits. Benefits used to include many different ones, but now for all new applicants and those requiring changes, Universal Credit is being rolled out in our area.

There are areas though where the functions of the two councils are quite confusing. For instance, planning applications, where some are handled by the County Council, but any applications likely to be made by a resident or local business will be to the District Council.

Confusion can also arise in the area known as 'regulatory services'. Environmental Health matters such as premises inspections, noise nuisance and vermin related issues are dealt with by the District Council, but animal inspections and trading standards by the County Council. Anything to do with housing being in a fit condition comes under the District Council, as do mandatory means tested grants for disabled facility adaptations, although both are closely related to public health and social services respectively.

Finally, the County Council is in charge of all road signs and road markings as part of the highways function, but the District puts up all the street name signs.

These days, contact with your council can mostly be done on line. You can report potholes on line to Devon County Council and you can report most things like a missed bin emptying or when you need more recycling sacks online to South Hams District Council, as well as making a planning application online. The home page of both websites will help you to find what you want. Additionally, South Hams has produced an amusing infographic which you can find in the bottom right hand corner of the home page, where the various services provided by parish, district and county are illustrated. If you click on the service name, further details come up.

There is also a box on the South Hams home page called 'Join the conversation'. This takes you to all the aspects of district council activities where we would welcome your input or opinion. If you would like to be more involved in shaping council policy, or would like to test out ideas we have before they are rolled out to everyone, do have a look at this. If people in the parish use this facility, we are hopefully more likely to get what local people want.

As usual, please contact me any time you have a query, either by phone on 561370, or at [Cllr.Pearce@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Pearce@southhams.gov.uk) or [jude.pearce06@btinternet.com](mailto:jude.pearce06@btinternet.com).

**Judy Pearce**

District Councillor, Salcombe and Thurlestone Ward

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

## Neighbourhood Plan making its presence felt in the parish



The Neighbourhood Plan has now been in place nearly 6 months and is having an impact on planning applications and initiatives promoted in the Plan.

The initiative that is furthest along is the **DAAT night landing site** and for this we are indebted to Geof Stidston, Toby Russell of DAAT, Anna Martin, Robin Macdonald, Cllr Charlie Mitchelmore, and our parish clerk, Helen Nathanson, who have made this happen. It is 2 years ago since Robin first started looking for sites on behalf of the Steering Group; planning permission for the field at the top of Court Park has now been granted and the opening is scheduled for 2019.

Running parallel has been the **Community Wif** initiative, also on schedule for 2019. Initially, a 4G mobile connection was set up at the repeater mast at Buckland Farm, as a temporary solution, but once BT has made a superfast data connection from Churchstow, Community Wif can be installed and will be available to Buckland and Bantham. We are grateful here to Chris White who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the past 2 years to move this project along.

Two further initiatives are also underway. With the invaluable assistance of Neill Irwin, an application has now been made to SHDC for the former **garage** to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. If successful, the parish will have the opportunity to purchase the site for commercial/community uses, including much-needed parking for the village.

The second initiative is **community-led housing**. The Neighbourhood Plan supports proposals for affordable housing, both to rent and to buy, as this is important for the future sustainability of the parish. Escalating rents and house prices are well beyond the reach of local working people and our parish is well placed to benefit from government funding that SHDC has received to help address this problem.

Our present objective is to help those people who are eligible for community-led housing to progress a small-scale development of up to 6 dwellings in a suitably sustainable location within the parish. The initiative is aimed at enabling local working people to get a foot on the property ladder and is supported by SHDC, which has been allocated £1.88m to help facilitate such schemes. Rob Ellis of SHDC was invited to speak to the Parish Council about the initiative on 5 November and the minutes of that meeting are available on the parish website.

The next step is an **open forum/workshop** to be held on **Monday 28 January 2019** in the Parish Hall at 7.00pm to take this initiative forward.

In the meantime, it would be really helpful if those people interested in being involved in the initiative and who have a local connection, i.e. live or work in the parish or have close links, such as immediate family or wish to move back to the parish, could contact Jessica Wellens, who is leading the project. Her email is [jessicabow@hotmail.com](mailto:jessicabow@hotmail.com).

It would also be helpful if any landowners who have a suitable site that they would be willing to sell to SHDC to make this initiative possible, could contact the parish clerk, whose email is [thurlestoneparish@gmail.com](mailto:thurlestoneparish@gmail.com).

For details of how this initiative is progressing, please check the parish website.

## Thurlestone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group

# NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

## Meeting 3rd September 2018

**# Open Forum** The latest update on the Community WiFi system and Wireless Broadband revealed that the rollout had been delayed.

A West Buckland resident asked if the village could be provided with a Dog Poo bin. The Chairman agreed to raise this, and the possibility of another one in Thurlestone, with SHDC. Our District Councillor informed the meeting that it is now permissible to put suitably bagged Dog Poo in ordinary waste bins.

A quote has been obtained for installing the landing lights for the Air Ambulance Night Landing Site. The Air Ambulance have offered a grant to cover the labour costs of this and the Parish Council have to pay for the lights, cable, etc. at approx. £2000. Our District and County Councillors offered grants to help with this.

**# Parish Benches** An inventory of these is to be compiled, to ensure that they are all properly maintained.

**# Waste Procurement** Our District Councillor reported that the next two critical dates in the decision process on the future of Waste Procurement were 27<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**# Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group** The first meeting of this group was to be held the next day, 4<sup>th</sup> September. One item on the Agenda would be the process for having the Garage recognised as an Asset of Community Value.

**# Leasfoot Public Conveniences** SHDC have announced that these are to close, as they cost £10,000 pa to look after. A PC sub committee will look into ways of keeping them open, as they are

considered to be important for the Parish.

**# West Buckland wall repairs** Our County Councillor was delighted to report that a Deviation Order had been approved for 24<sup>th</sup> September so that necessary wall repairs could be carried out.

## Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

**# Open Forum** Closure of public toilets – A Parishioner expressed an opinion that SHDC is playing politics with the Parishes by passing on costs, and that SHDC is too worried about costs rather than retaining and supporting tourism in the area. Running public toilets is not a statutory service for District Councils.

Another Parishioner stated school parking as far away as Seaview Terrace is becoming untenable and parents are regularly blocking residents' driveways (for long periods of time). The Chairman to contact our local police about this.

**# Dog poo bins** SHDC has been approached about placing a new bin in West Buckland but has said that this is not possible because the collection rounds are full. If there are any dog bins in the Parish which aren't being used enough then they can be moved to West Buckland but they are not prepared to take on any new ones.

**# Air Ambulance landing site** Planning permission granted.

**# Public Conveniences** A presentation from SHDC showed that the stated annual running costs were not actual, but extrapolated, so the true costs are not known. The working group would investigate further.

**# Double Yellow Lines** Councillors requested the September Parish Council meeting to ask DCC to remove the double yellow lines on the road outside The Village Inn, Thurlestone. The Thurlestone Hotel would like them to remain, so the Parish Council will not request removal.

**Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – held in the Main Hall**

**# Open Forum** The necessary BT line is to be installed on 15<sup>th</sup> November, allowing the Community Wi-Fi project to proceed.

**# Community led housing** This is the development of low-cost housing for the Community, and is supported by the Neighbourhood Plan. Rob Ellis, SHDC, gave a presentation explaining how the system worked, and progress to date with proposals for the Parish. 3 possible sites have been ofered by landowners, and the one preferred by SHDC (but not necessarily the PC) is at West Buckland and owned by the Bantham Estate. No decisions have been made on the choice of site, and that the Community would decide who will live in the new houses if and when they are built. They will be reserved in perpetuity for people with local connections. A follow up public meeting will be set up in late January, to talk about the project in more detail.

**# District Councillor's report** SHDC budget is currently being set. There is a £600k deficit to cover. The Joint Local Plan is in final consultation phase. SHDC is setting up Seamoor letting agency to help local people find accommodation. SHDC is looking into ways of helping our High Streets. The

people who organised the cutting down of 3 trees in Salcombe, which were subject to TPOs, have been prosecuted and fined (the maximum is only £2000). The contractor has been referred to the Crown Court.

**# County Councillor** Rufus asked about the situation regarding school car parking as he had been contacted by a Parishioner. He was advised to put pressure on the School Federation.

**# Planning** 1, Avonside, extension, and Chuka Cheese farm, erection of new steel framed machinery storage shed. Both comply with the Neighbourhood Plan, and are supported by the PC. Buckland Lodge, alterations and extensions, supported in principle, but decision deferred until after a site meeting.

The PC will formally ask SHDC why the decision on the proposed new bungalow at the Downs has not yet been received, although it was due on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**# Public Conveniences** . We are still looking at ways of keeping these open. The Golf Club will assist with cleaning. SHDC are to carry out a structural survey.

**# Highways** DCC are to be informed that the condition of Glebe Field road is rapidly worsening, and constitutes a hazard.

**National Trust South Hams Centre  
Programme for December 2018 and January 2019**

**Wednesday  
5<sup>th</sup> December**

**“Christmas Treats” at Killerton (NT) and Darts Farm, Topsham.**  
This year's Christmas spectacular sees Killerton transformed into the icy world of Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale “The Snow Queen”. Earlier, we visit Darts Farm with its high-quality local food and gift shops and an excellent café for lunch.

**Thursday  
17<sup>th</sup> January**

**“Divas and Dictators, my life as a female diplomat”.**  
Our committee member, Karen Wolstenholme, is a former British Ambassador to The Peoples Republic of North Korea. She will talk about her extraordinary life and career across the globe. Kingsbridge Methodist Church Hall (top of Fore Street) at 2.30 pm. Entrance £4 includes tea.

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>  
January**

**Winter Coffee Morning at Avon Mill.**  
By popular request, a mid-winter opportunity to meet up with friends for coffee upstairs above the café. Be tempted by gifts from Overbeck's table and from the Garden Centre's various shops. At 10.30-12.00 noon. Entrance £4 includes coffee.

For more information about these events, or about joining the NT South Hams Centre, please contact Joan Johnson on 01548 857014 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm only please).

A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

# Village News Round-Up

## JOHN KING

John King of Thurlestone died in early October and his funeral took place at Thurlestone parish church. A retired orthopaedic surgeon, John wrote very entertaining local 'dining out' articles for Village Voice over several years, until he had to give up when Deidre, his wife, became ill. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

## SIR ERIC YARROW, Bt

Eric Yarrow died in September. He had a distinguished career in his family's shipbuilding firm in Scotland. He will be long remembered by his many friends here. The following is an extract from his obituary notice which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* "He golfed from childhood and became a member of five clubs, including Thurlestone Golf Club where 'Albemar', the family holiday home, sat by the 17<sup>th</sup> tee and was known as the 'Albemar Arms' where drinks were served when the 19<sup>th</sup> hole seemed too distant." We send our condolences to his family.

## MICHAEL DART

Michael died on 4<sup>th</sup> November in Oxfordshire. His late wife Prunella used to write the 'Horswell Diary' for Village Voice and sometimes Michael would provide amusing substitute articles. They were missed when they left for Oxfordshire.

## LIFEGUARDS

Congratulations to Bantham's Lifeguards! They recently competed in the Surf Life Saving Rescue Boat championships and won six national titles. Three teams represented Bantham, led and supported by Pete Lawrence - women's, men's and over-40s. Kate Doison was the leader of the women's team and was asked to represent GB at the world championships in Adelaide. The teams have been working hard to support her.

As the RNLI lifeguard season has ended, the only patrolled beach in the South Hams is Bantham and Supervisor Charlie Gillett's advice is to take notice of the safety signs

at the entrance to beaches, to go with a friend or tell someone where you are going. If walking the coastline you should check local tide times.

## SURFING

Brothers David and Patrick Renaud, owners of Bantham Surfing Academy are making waves in the surfing community. David (aka Dave the Wave) has been selected as head surf coach for Great Britain, who are hoping to qualify for the Olympic Games in 2020. Meanwhile Patrick has been coaching in India and Sri Lanka.

## LOCAL HISTORY

Some lucky residents have the book "Thurlestone Church & Parish" by the Rev Frank Egerton Coope, MA, first published in 1913 and revised and reprinted in 1920. The late Dr Neville Oswald, formerly of The Old Rectory, willingly paid £28 for a copy when the late Edna Rollinson's household goods were auctioned at 'Yarmer' in 1985. 100 years later here is a new book, "Thurlestone at War 1914-1918" by Robin Macdonald, which adds to our knowledge of the people of this parish. Rev Coope compiled a list of all those who were tragically killed during WW1 and also those who served and survived. Both groups were researched in detail and are included in this new book, which serves as a tribute to them all, ensuring all their names will be remembered. Copies of this book are available at the PO Store in Thurlestone or from Pat Macdonald (01548 560436) at £7.50. **All proceeds will be donated to the Friends of Thurlestone Church.**

## HOOTING OWLS

We are urged to listen out for the night-time calls of tawny owls as they are in decline. The 'kewick' of the lady is answered by the 'whoo' of the gentleman together they make the 'twit-twoo' sound. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is asking people to listen for 20 minutes one evening per week. Contact e-mail [gbw@bto.org](mailto:gbw@bto.org) to report what you do or more importantly, do not hear, as they are keen to establish where the species may be missing.

### **WALK & TALK FOR HEALTH**

Every week, starting from the Band Stand on Kingsbridge Quay, four local walks of differing lengths, from 1 to 4 miles, set off between 9.30am to 10.15am. All walks are free and full details can be found at the Kingsbridge Information Centre on the Quay or phone Chris on 01548 852160 or Vivienne on 01548 856766

**KINGSBRIDGE REGAL BRIDGE CLUB** in conjunction with Thurlestone Bridge Club held a successful Swiss Teams Event on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October in Thurlestone Parish Hall. 20 teams from Plymouth, South Devon, Exeter and East Devon competed. A raffle in aid of Kingsbridge and Saltstone Caring raised over £400. This is an annual

event, which raises money for a variety of local charities.

### **BOWEL CANCER WEST**

120 runners took part in the first Total Obstacle Run, hosted by David Darke and his Grandson Tom of Trendwell farm, in support of local charity Bowel Cancer West. Once obstacles were navigated on the beach the runners then encountered a 5 kilometre cross-country obstacle course. £11,000 has been raised so far but is expected to grow.

### **PALM OIL**

Dog owners please be aware palm oil is being washed up on our beaches.

## **THE ARTS SOCIETY KINGSBRIDGE**

formally KEDFAS

**Meetings: January-February 2019**

### **January Weds 30<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 31<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Hidden Canvases - Street Art and the City**

Speaker Doug Gillen

Hidden Canvases is a beginner's guide to the biggest art movement since pop art. Doug will explore the key stages in street art's growth examining the different elements and styles that comprise the scene with no rules.

### **February 2019 Weds 27<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### **The Architecture of the British Raj is remarkable, 'Let's celebrate it.'**

Speaker Anthony Peers

Anthony will talk about Colonial Architecture in India, the buildings, their history and their future. Focusing initially on the work of George Gilbert Scott in Mumbai, he will branch out to consider the broader historical, cultural and architectural context of the archaic truth of the British Raj.

Further details from Gill Markham at [gill.markham@talk21.com](mailto:gill.markham@talk21.com) or 01548714364

**Meetings in Kingsbridge Methodist Hall, 100 Fore St, TQ7 1AW on Wednesdays at 7.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10.30am**

**Visitors always welcome on payment of £8 which includes Tea/Coffee**

# 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 as per the list:

	<u>SHOP</u>	<u>POST OFFICE</u>
Saturday 22nd Dec	8.00am - 4.00pm	9.00am - 1.00pm
Sunday 23rd Dec	8.30am - 1.00pm	CLOSED
Monday 24th Dec	8.00am - 5.00pm	9.00am - 4.00pm
Tuesday 25th Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday 26th Dec	9.00am - 12.00pm	CLOSED
Thursday 27th Dec	8.00am - 5.30pm	9.00am - 5.30pm
Friday 28th Dec	8.00am - 5.30pm	9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 29th Dec	8.00am - 4.00pm	9.00am - 1.00pm
Sunday 30th Dec	8.30am - 1.00pm	CLOSED
Monday 31st Dec	8.00am - 5.30pm	9.00am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 1st Jan	9.00am - 12.00pm	CLOSED

(NORMAL OPENING HOURS RESUME WEDNESDAY 2nd JAN)

Our Christmas Draw will take place on Monday 24th December at 11am, 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 in time for Christmas. From us all at Thurlestone Post Office and Stores, may we Thank You for all your support over the past year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Sarah and Staff.

## Do you have a legal issue? Are you worried about how much it will cost?

Come and chat to a solicitor at one  
of our free legal advice clinics

Kingsbridge library  
2.30 - 4.30pm: 18 December & 15 January  
Dartmouth library  
10.00am - midday: 7 December & 4 January

No appointment necessary, contact us for further details



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# POSTBAG



**Dear Editors,**

Thanks to a lot of hard work, the new Parish Hall was built over 10 years ago. It was sad to see so very few people supporting the Autumn Fair on Saturday to help it to be sustained to its present high standards. This is the second year running it has not had much support. Even the W.I. cake stall had to sell of some cakes at half price, unheard of years ago. Where do we go from here?

Sincerely,

**Rosemary Mackay**

**Dear Editors**

Robin Macdonald asked me to write to Village Voice to thank the Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS) and all the kind Thurlestonians who worked hard to make the recent Remembrance Weekend at the Parish Hall so successful. He had planned and so looked forward to the occasion but was, alas, not well enough to follow it through.

Special thanks must be given to Malcolm and Judith Le Grice, Paul and Diane Martin, Julian Ware, Chris White, Alan and Alison Daily, Philip Abel, Valerie Butler, the Cookworthy Museum, and all those who loaned artefacts, who helped in any way or came to the exhibition.

I would like to add my personal appreciation to the many residents who made Thurlestone's Remembrance Weekend live up to its name. Robin would have been delighted with the event. Thank you all so much.

**Pat Macdonald**

## **Don't make life easy for criminals**

Cyber-criminals use weaknesses in software and apps to attack your devices and steal your identity. Software updates are designed to fix these weaknesses and installing them as soon as possible will keep your devices & data secure.

Software updates don't have to get in the way of what you're doing. You can choose to install them at night, when your device is plugged in and connected to wi-f . You can also configure most devices to automatically install software and app updates.

For more information on how to stay secure online, visit [www.cyberaware.gov.uk](http://www.cyberaware.gov.uk) or follow @Cyberprotectuk on Twitter.



**STANBOROUGH CHORUS**  
December 2018



Friday 14th December 7.30 p.m.  
The Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Boniface  
Plymouth



**CAROL SERVICE**



Collection for the Primrose Foundation

\*\*\*\*\*



Saturday 22nd December 7 for 7.30 p.m.  
Thurlestone Parish Hall



**A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS**  
Refreshments will be served

Tickets £10/Under 16s free entry (to include refreshments)  
available from Kingsbridge Information Centre  
Choir Members: May Crimp 01548 842361  
Tom Gilkes 01548 560973



\*\*\*\*\*



Christmas Eve 24th December 4.30 p.m.  
St. Edmund's Church

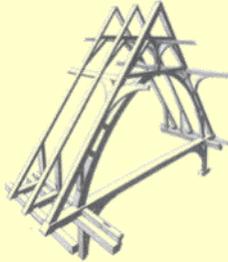


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# THE PATAGONIAN CONNECTION

*Kit and Gillian Marshall continue their Family History*

George Chaworth Musters was born 13 February 1841, the youngest of three children. He was orphaned at a very early age and as a consequence was brought up chiefly by his mother's brothers. One of these was Robert Hamond who had sailed with Captain Fitzroy and Charles Darwin on the Voyage to South America on HMS Beagle. (George was cousin to Kit's Great Grandmother)



*George with the Tehuelche Indians of Patagonia*

to document the region, living with the Patagonian Indians, and travelling with one of their groups from the Straits of Magellan to the River Negro, and then crossing northern Patagonia from east to west, a journey of almost 1400 miles, half of which was unknown to Europeans. He wrote a most detailed description of his travels in *At Home with the Patagonians* which was published in 1871. (This book was reprinted in 2005)

In 1872 the Royal Geographical Society presented him with a gold watch 'for his route maps and contribution to knowledge of the Patagonian people'. His travels earned him the nickname 'King of Patagonia', and he was regarded as one of the most distinguished nineteenth-century explorers of southern Argentina

In fact, when we travelled to Patagonia in 2007, we visited a local museum where Kit was "accorded the due deference befitting the descendant of the King"! We discovered that "Musters" is still highly regarded by anthropologists as an expert on the Patagonians and that his book has even been translated into Spanish "Vida Entre los Patagones". There is also a lake and a small village in Argentina named after him. We eventually managed to find a copy of a map dated 1865 which made it easier to follow his route.

He married the daughter of an Englishman resident in Sucre, Bolivia and returned to live in England but died at the young age of 37.

Aged 13 he joined the Navy. He served in HMS Algiers from 1854-1856, and saw action in the Crimean War, receiving the English and Turkish Crimean medals by the time he was fifteen. He served on several other vessels ending on HMS Stromboli from 1861 until June 1866, serving on the coast of South America. He was promoted to Commander, but took half-pay in 1869 and took the opportunity to explore southern South America. He was one of the first Europeans

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### **October Meeting**

Our meeting took a different form from usual as we had an afternoon of Kurling, both spectating and joining-in. The Parish Hall has acquired a set of Kurling equipment, plastic "stones" moving on small wheels, with "pusher" sticks, with the aim of getting the "stones" on to a calibrated mat. There was a lot of laughter when high-scoring "stones" were subsequently pushed aside by those of members of the opposing teams. A group of people meet in the Hall, on a fairly regular basis, to enjoy an evening of Kurling.

We also welcomed two new members, Maureen Bunn and Maureen Lywood.

### **November Meeting**

In the absence of Jo Parkin, Barbara Williams took the chair. She reminded us of the Sea Coast Carol Service on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30pm at Thurlestone All Saints Church, the WI's from Salcombe, South Milton and West Alvington have been invited. We were asked for volunteers to provide mince pies or cake, and help to make tea and serve.

We were also reminded about our Christmas Lunch on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30 for 1.00pm at Thurlestone Golf Club.

Our 2019 subscription of £42 will be due and can be paid at the Christmas Lunch or in January.

We are extremely sad to be saying goodbye to two of our long-standing members, both past Presidents and committee members, Pat Clarke and Karen Livett, who are moving to be closer to their families. We hope they will be very happy in their new homes, and will find other WI's to join.

Our Speaker, Jill Cooper, was talking about her life-long interest in textiles and textile art, starting from a very early age with embroidering pre-printed patterns. She said the fascination started with the lovely bright-coloured threads. Having spent many years making her own and her children's clothes, she embarked on spinning, using especially Jacob's sheep fleece. On retirement, she did a City and Guilds course in Stitch Textiles, followed by a Diploma using different techniques, fabrics and quilting. On coming to live in the South Hams, she became a member, and then Chairman, of Quay Quilters.

She brought a wide selection of her art to show us. One item was based on a rug she saw in Marrakesh, which she reproduced on a smaller scale with dry felting and topstitching, and another on Moroccan pointed slippers in appliqué. A ceiling in the Alhambra gave her the inspiration for a 3-D interpretation, using many layers of silk and beading. Many of her works include photography, printed onto fabric, quilted and then topstitched, giving 3-D effects. A great inspiration for many of us!

Looking ahead to the New Year, there is a programme already in place, starting in January with a talk by Phil Worth, whom many will know as the leader of a local folk dancing group, talking about the History of the Hope Cove Lifeboat. There are several "hands-on" / practical demonstrations, and a legal advice talk by a solicitor. Lots more fascinating talks. More details in the next edition!



# Grey Matter



A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk)

## FIND THE BOOK, FILM OR PLAY FROM THE LITERAL DESCRIPTION

e.g, Undersized female adults (6, 5)                      Answer- Little Women

1. A trio of male persons in a floating receptacle (5,3,2,1,4)
2. Heavenly messengers with grubby countenances (6,4,5,5)
3. Male of spring as well as Lotharios (4,3,6)
4. The monarch as well as myself (3,4,3,1)
5. Slaying aboard the eastern fast train (6,2,3,6,7)
6. Circumnavigation of the globe in just under 12 weeks (6,3,5,2,6,4)
7. The equine animal constructed from timber (3,6,5)
8. A journey to an Asian sub-continent (1,7,2,5)
9. Fatality of a vendor of goods (5,2,1,8)
10. Feline atop a scorching metal house covering (3,2,1,3,3,4)
11. A domestic space that has an interesting outlook (1,4,4,1,4)
12. Daily written record belonging to an unimportant person (5,2,1,6)
13. One dozen irate male adults (6,5,3)
14. A citrus fruit with a wind-up mechanism (1,9,6)
15. The definitive method of catching small rodents (3,9)
16. The spouse of the person who journeys between the ages (3,4,10,4)
17. An abode for small toys modelled on people (1,5,5)
18. The great African feline during the coldest time of the year (3,4,2,6)
19. A great deal of fuss concerning zilch (4,3,5,7)
20. To do with small long-tailed creatures and male humans (2,4,3,3)
21. A goodbye to weaponry (1,8,2,4)
22. The unclothed along with the demised (3,5,3,3,4)
23. The strange happening concerning a canine during hours of darkness  
(3,7,8,2,3,3,2,3,5-4,)
24. Short getting together (5,9)
25. An adult male suitable for every time of the year (1,3,3,3,7)

### Answers to the previous Grey Matter

1. mind 2. ware 3. strong 4. shed 5. phone 6. set 7. sweet 8. side 9. work 10. pot 11. hand 12. mushroom  
13. white 14. shelf 15. walk 16. apple 17. bag(back) 18. hat 19. face 20. class(meeting) 21. chain 22. loan 23. final  
24. letter(match) 25. line 26. patch 27. bed 28. shaker 29. art 30. hall

*Congratulations and the bottle of wine go to Susan Penwell*



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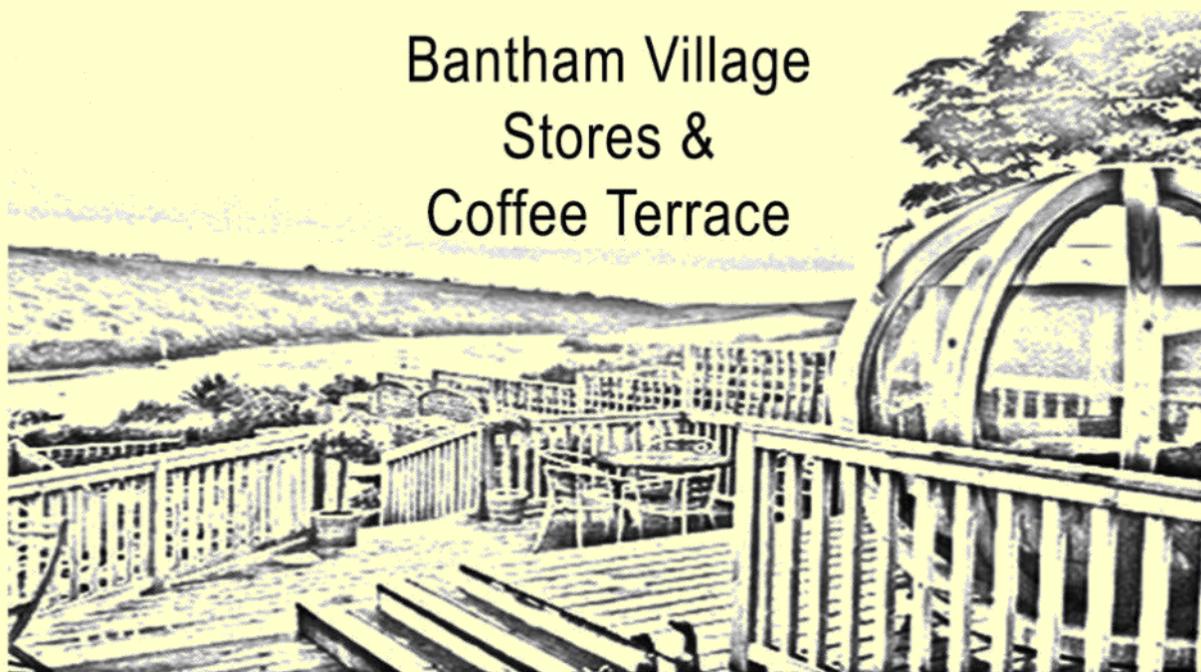
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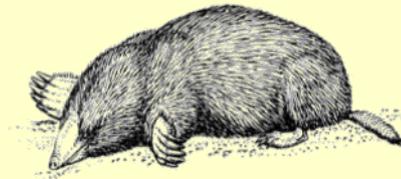
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Aune Conservation Association

# Biosecurity & Safety of Avon Estuary water

by Stuart Watts

The perennial issue of water quality in the Avon Estuary came up again recently and it may be helpful to review the situation: what do we put into the water and what might come out to harm us?

Unless it is a Designated Bathing Water, open water is not routinely tested for contamination by the Environment Agency and can contain sewage, contamination from livestock, and pollution from farming or industry. As stated in the government health leaflet, 'Swim Healthy', anyone can become unwell from swimming in open water as there will always be microorganisms present.

All of these sources of potential contamination apply to the Avon Estuary. In the past, we have had problems with overloaded and/or antiquated domestic sewage systems discharging waste directly into the estuary. Contamination emanating from the plot known as Little Marsh on the bridge at Aveton Gifford has been eliminated since the Bantham Estate purchased the plot.

More disturbingly, the sewage works at Aveton Gifford is permitted 10 Combined Sewage Overflows (CSOs) per year onto the marsh at North Efford, in order to cope with the problems caused by excessive rainfall entering the foul water system. (Surprisingly, this situation is not unusual; there are around 31,000 CSOs in the UK, according to Surfers Against Sewage).

Of course, this is a highly undesirable situation, made worse by the fact that no warning system exists to alert the public to any sewage release. Granted, such releases are likely to occur during weather that is particularly unfavourable for recreational activity in or around the estuary, and - of course - the estuary is flushed by the tide twice per day. On the Aune



Conservation Association's (ACA) behalf, I did enquire about designating the estuary as bathing water but DEFRA's response was that the Bathing Water Directive applies only to waters that are used by a large number of bathers; usage for boating could not be considered. Furthermore, the application would also need the support of the District Council because local authorities have specific responsibilities under the Bathing Water Regulations at designated bathing waters, and if the land at the proposed bathing water site is privately owned, DEFRA would also need confirmation from the riparian owner that they support designation. In practice, local people say that their children have often played in the river with little or no after-effects and surfers in the open sea are more likely to suffer health problems caused by sewage contamination.

It remains that open water swimming can increase the risk of gastrointestinal infections (diarrhoea and/or vomiting) as well as respiratory, skin, ear and eye infections. Most symptoms of these illnesses, for example from organisms such as norovirus, *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*, will generally be mild. However, there is also a risk of more severe infections caused by organisms such as *E. coli* O157 - which may cause severe gastrointestinal illness, and leptospirosis - from rat urine, which can cause liver and kidney problems.

The issue of contamination of estuary water by wading livestock or by run-off from agricultural land is one that, in the past, has been intensively pursued as a result of DEFRA's Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative which, with the ACA's active participation, provided local grants for fencing, and hard-standing around improved cattle-watering facilities. Over the years, some of these improvements may have decayed and constant vigilance by farmers is required to maintain high standards.

The many birds and other wildlife around the estuary also add to the micro-organism load, of course, so the source of any bugs in the water remains a topic for more extensive scientific investigation. When swans were being routinely attracted to the estuary by artificial feeding, I calculated how much faecal waste 70 or so swans would dump at their main gathering point in the course of a year; equivalent to a staggering numbers of intestinal bugs!

Cockles, mussels, oysters, marsh samphire and various fish species are amongst the foodstuffs taken from the estuary, although only oysters have been commercially farmed in recent years. Consuming oysters is a risky business because the animals are filter feeders and potentially accumulate and concentrate any microbial contamination – a genuine problem if they are eaten raw. Oysters have been farmed in the Avon Estuary for decades and, to put the record straight, the process has always been beset with micro-organism pollution but the Avon is no worse than many other estuaries. The risk of shellfish contamination has not increased significantly in recent years, to my knowledge, but the surveillance system to protect the human food chain has probably become more rigorous, so more contamination is detected. In practice, food safety regulations currently require oysters from the seed beds in the Avon to be harvested and sent to North Devon, where they mature over six months in cleaner water to purge any detectable contamination. The mature oysters are then tested before being permitted for human consumption.

*The obvious answer to remaining safe is to carefully wash and to cook anything taken from the estuary for human consumption and to thoroughly rinse with fresh water any person, equipment or clothing that has been in the estuary.*

Arguably, just as important as the contamination of humans by organisms emanating from the estuary is the prevention of spread by humans of invasive, non-native species (INNS) INTO the estuary. For example, multiplication of the Pacific Oyster outside of the farmed racks in our estuary is prevented by limiting the externally-sourced juveniles to triploid (infertile) individuals. The effects of invasion by *Spartina* or Cord Grass in the Avon Estuary after artificial introduction by Man are all too evident in the steady accumulation of silt and mud. The ACA has collaborated with the AONB Estuaries Partnership in producing a new biosecurity plan to help stop the spread of marine non-native species in our South Hams estuaries.

***Please be vigilant and thoroughly wash of any boats, clothing or equipment that have been used on other rivers before bringing them to the Avon.***

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# BOOKSHELF



## Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson

Widowed Major Pettigrew (Retd) lives quietly, not really interested in village life or gossip – particularly all the ladies who want to get him 'involved', although he does enjoy a round or two of golf. He doesn't have time for modern life believing as he does in respectability and duty. He loves a 'proper' cup of tea (no tea bag in hot water, thank you). Mrs. Ali who runs the village shop keeps special blends of tea especially for him, and when his younger brother dies suddenly he finds himself talking more to her, finding they both have a love of Kipling. Things change, however, when Mrs. Ali, a widow with no children, has to hand over the shop to her late husband's nephew and is forced to return to Pakistan to look after an elderly relative.

So far this may seem a bit dreary but the book contains much more and is told so lightheartedly and amusingly. Major Pettigrew alerts his son to his uncle's death and he comes to stay with his *f*ancé. His son is rather ambitious, fawning to his bosses, and trying to 'get in' at the golf club, which leaves Major Pettigrew wondering if he should have spent more time with him when he was younger. The son also cannot believe his father is friendly with a woman from Pakistan. Helen Simonson has such a good eye for characters and we meet plenty including the relatives from Pakistan, where we follow another storyline, and the various golf club members. So much goes on in this book – it's a 'must read'.

## The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan

Another delightful book! Anthony Pearde, a widower, collects lost things, in the hope that he can atone for a broken promise many years ago. Laura, his housekeeper for six years, loves his house, the peace and quiet of it and the beautiful garden. Sensing this Anthony leaves the house and all its contents to her when he dies, also leaving her the task of reconciling all the lost things to their owners. Daunted and depressed at first by the enormity of the task, Laura finally gets down to it with the help of two very different characters – the young girl next door and the gardener.

Interspersed with this are the stories of the owners of the lost things and how they got lost.

These are the bare bones of the story, which is utterly charming, and trust me, when you have finished reading it you will put the book down with a smile!

Carolyn Taylor

## **THURLESTONE AT WAR 1914-1918** by Robin Macdonald.

Robin Macdonald's book was published in time to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and is a welcome addition to the bookshelf labelled Local History. It evolved during the commemorations marking the centenary years of the war, following on from Thurlestone's exhibition in 2014.

Robin researches the lives of all the men and women with Thurlestone connections who served their country during the conflict and, before writing about those individuals, he examines the life and times of the parish long before the outbreak of the war. Thurlestone had “remained a typically structured rural English community until the latter half of the 19th century”.

Robin Macdonald’s starting point about the servicemen who went to war from Thurlestone, was a list, drawn up in 1920 by the Rev Coope. Robin, with the help of three volunteers, thoroughly examines

the backgrounds of the men whose names appear on the war memorial, and also uncovers information about all of the 98 men listed by Parson Coope. In his book, Robin pays tribute to the Thurlestone servicemen.

This lavishly illustrated book becomes the latest in a growing list of Thurlestone legacies.

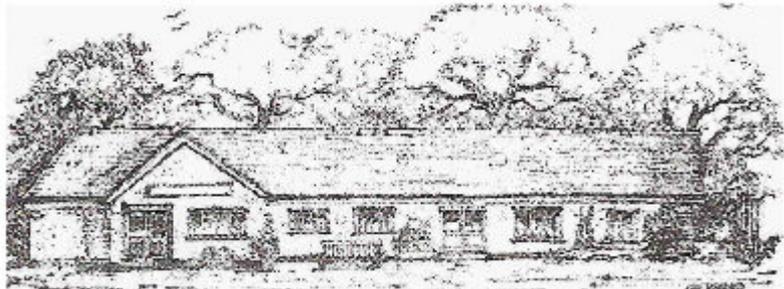
Adapted from Graham Collyer’s ‘Delving into the Past’ article. The Gazette 2 Nov 2018

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# Parish Hall News

**On 17<sup>th</sup> November “Pantomurder” by Murders Assured**

was held at the Hall, with 62 would-be sleuths attending and a highly entertaining time was had by all. The winner with the correct solution won a bottle of fizz, the runner-up a bottle of wine and a booby prize of a detective kit was presented to the person with the most amusing solution. I would like to thank everyone who attended and all those who helped in clearing up afterwards, it was greatly appreciated.

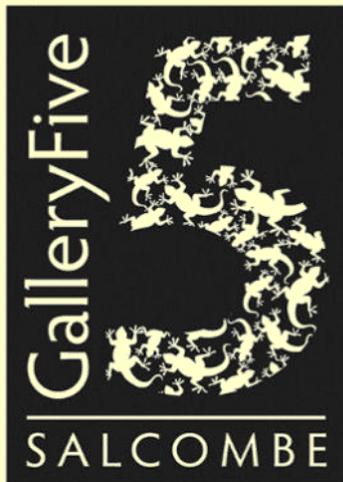


At the end of the evening, Bill and Pat Clarke, who are sadly leaving Thurlestone, were thanked for their huge contribution to the Parish. Amongst many other things, Pat has been President of the WI on several occasions, and Bill was the Treasurer of the Parish Hall, before, during, and after the rebuild. A huge task.

Events help raise money to update or repair the Hall; one recent addition is a new screen in the Yeo Room, which replaces the old screen and projector. It is widescreen, to match up with modern PCs and TVs. It is easier to use, as it can be connected to a computer via a wired connection or wirelessly. Anyone can use it without needing access to cupboards and remotes. You can connect your PC and either make a presentation or use it as a teaching device as it will mirror the computer screen and, therefore, the actions of the tutor. It also connects to the system for the projector in the Main Hall and the TV decoder. We would like to thank our District and County Councillors, Judy Pearce, and Rufus Gilbert, for their assistance with the cost of purchasing this valuable addition to our Hall.

As the year draws to a close the committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you to our events in 2019.

**Alison Daily (Secretary)**



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## Thurlestone Phonebox.....Ring Ring

Autumn seems to have delayed its arrival, but now in November is finally making its presence felt. Well timed to just miss this year's half-term holidays, somewhat extended with schools around the country choosing different weeks.

A busy period for your Phonebox, be-decked for the last time this year for a wedding. Then our working Halloween phone with a direct line to Spooky-land, caused much mirth and hopefully not too many nightmares.

As I write, the Phonebox is decorated with Poppies and banners supplied by the Royal British Legion, on the one hand to celebrate the Centenary of Armistice Day and on the other the poignant Remembrance of the many who have died or been wounded mentally or physically in the far too many conflicts of recent times



It won't be long before we are dusting off the Christmas decorations and getting ready for the **Phonebox Christmas Carols on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm** on the Memorial Green. BBC Radio Devon's one and only Shep will be compering and we look forward once again to being enchanted by our Parish school choir. Mulled wine and mince pies will be generously provided by our sponsors and Father Christmas has assured us that he will be there as this event is the highlight of his busy calendar. Please put it in your diaries and join in the fun. Until then.....

**Kit Marshall**

## Buckland Box

The Buckland Box has been repainted and returned to its former glory after many hours of painstaking work by John Taylor (who advertises in the Rock), and now has the crowns painted in gold, which BT only started doing in the early 1990's. We hope his wonderful work will last rather longer than the last time it was done, which was disappointingly short, probably because I bought the wrong type of paint. This time, I made sure I got the correct paint by phoning the British Coatings Federation, which is a body representing paint manufacturers, but even then the paint was difficult to track down, as the code they gave me was not recognized by local suppliers. In the unlikely event that you ever need to paint a telephone box, I can give you all the information!

We are having our annual after party for the Buckland carol singers, and anyone else who would like to join us, at 6.30pm on Tuesday Dec 18<sup>th</sup> at the Buckland Box. Do come along.

**Anna Martin**

# SCHOOL REPORT



**ALL SAINTS'  
THURLESTONE**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Well, it has been a very busy, but wonderful first term here at Thurlestone All Saints CoE Academy. Our youngest children have adapted beautifully to school life, joining in all our events, from the Harvest Festival to our popular school disco! We have been continuing our weekly Forest School sessions, using the beautiful grounds on Lower Kerse. The warm autumn sunshine has also allowed us numerous beach visits, promoting the children's learning and fostering a love of their local environment.

Equally, our school Eco Council has been going from strength to strength. They are in the midst of carrying out a Thurlestone 'litter Footprint' study; happily we can confirm that we live in a very tidy village! We will continue to organise regular beach cleans however, to help protect the marine life and health of our seas.

Finally we would like to thank all the members of our Community who have helped tend to our 'Garden of Life' over the Summer Holidays. A huge abundance of herbs and vegetables have been growing, allowing our pupils to have weekly cooking sessions! We have now prepared it for the winter and look forward to watching it flourish again next spring.

As always, we would like to continue to welcome you to all our Community events and fundraisers.

**Tasha Kostka**

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE SCHOOL

*Christmas fair*

FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER  
2.30PM TO 5.00PM

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

MULLED WINE CRAFT STALLS SANTA'S GROTTTO  
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Chris Trant

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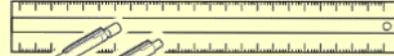
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# All Saints' Diary

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

## Church Services

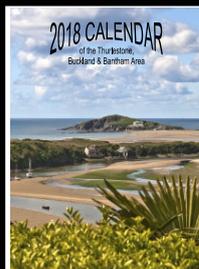
- Every Sunday** 8.00am Holy Communion (said) (alternating BCP and CW)
- Dec. 2nd, 16th; Jan. 6th, 20th** 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (*Fairtrade Stall Jan. 6*)
- December 9th** 11.10am Matins *Fairtrade Stall*
- Thursday December 13th** 4.00pm Crib and Christingle Service
- Friday December 21st**  6.00pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies  
Collection for *Children in Distress*
- Christmas Eve** 11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (CW)
- Christmas Day** 11.10am Christmas Family Service followed by shortened Holy Communion (CW)
- Dec. 23rd, 30th, Jan. 13th** 11.10am Morning Worship
- New Year's Eve** 6.00pm Informal New Year's Eve Service (½ hour)
- January 27th** (Note time) 11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) *at South Milton* with Renewal of Covenant

## Regular Midweek Services

 except December 24th - 31st

- Thursday Dec. 6th/Jan. 3rd** 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham
- Mon., Wed. & Thursdays** 8.30am Morning Prayer (said) **(8.15am on Wednesdays)**
- Every Wednesday** 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

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



**2019 Calendar**  
of Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham  
**£7** from local Shops,  
Church & Meeting Room  
*in aid of Church Funds*  
Don't forget to get your photos  
ready for next year's competition!  
Entry forms at points of sale

Everyone is welcome for  
**Homemade Soup only £3**  
followed by tea/coffee & cake  
**Friday Dec. 7 & Jan. 4**  
12.30 - 1.30 p.m.  
**Meeting Room**  
*in aid of Church Funds*



Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for:-

<p><b>Coffee-Time</b> <b>Wednesdays</b> 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.  Donations in aid of monthly charity</p>	<p><b>Films for All</b> <b>Tuesdays 2.30 pm</b> <b>December 4th</b> <b>January 8th</b> <b>Breathe</b> <i>Andrew Garfield, Claire Fox, Hugh Bonneville</i>  <b>Mamma Mia! Here we go again</b> <i>Meryl Streep, Lily James, Amanda Seyfried, Cher, Pierce Brosnan</i></p>
<p>Information leaflets in church, shop &amp; MR</p>	

Disabled access - Wheelchair available - Lift available for all activities, contact Liz Webb

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

*All  
Saints*

**Rector :**  
Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

**Lay Reader :** Peter Gornall



Christmas is almost upon us. It's return is always predictable – that's the point of a fixed date in the calendar! The repetitive nature of Christmas should render it predictable and uninspiring, in the same way that putting the bins out occurs on a weekly basis without fanfare or excitement. And yet the experience of Christmas could not be further from the mundaneness of the weekly bin collection. Why?

It has something to do with the concept of "non-identical repetition". Christmas is the same every year, but we are different. The cherished traditions and routines provide a framework of meaning to which we can bring the complexities of our own ever changing identities. This is the nature of tradition. Tradition is the celebration of fixed points and repeated practices. It is a framework that provides points of familiarity in the otherwise unfamiliar navigation of life. Tradition is not about a nostalgia for the past, it is about the grounding of life in the tangible connection between past, present and future.

The coming of Jesus into the world is an event that has happened, yet its significance is felt not just as a past event, but also as a present reality. We are invited to repeat the practices and traditions of Christmas in order to incorporate who we are, in the here and now, into the life of God.

On the previous and next pages 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. It's not every day that you get a chance to engage in non-identical repetition, or maybe it is!

*David Hartley*

Families would be particularly welcome at the  
**Candlelit Christingle  
and Crib Service**  
Thursday  
December 13th  
at 4.00 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**  
*Refreshments in Meeting Room before the Service*

Everyone, especially accompanied children, would be welcome to join  
**Carol Singing**  
in aid of *Children in Distress*  
**around Buckland and**  
**Tuesday December 18th**  
Meet 5 p.m  
**Valleyside Lamp Post**

We will finish at the  
**Buckland Phone Box**  
for seasonal refreshments  
If weather is wet,  
check with Liz Webb 560090



# Thurlestone Church Christmas Services

**Thursday December 13th**

**4.00 p.m. Candlelit Christingle  
& Crib Service**

Families specially welcome  
Collection for *Children's Society*



**Friday December 21st**

**6.00 p.m. Candlelit Festival of  
Nine Lessons & Carols**



with collection for *Children in Distress*  
Mulled wine & mince pies will be served  
afterwards in the Church Meeting Room

**Christmas Eve**

**11.30 p.m. The First Communion of  
Christmas**



**Christmas Day**

**11.10 a.m. Family Service** followed by shortened  
**Holy Communion**

**New Year's Eve**

**6.00 p.m. Informal Service for the  
Start of a New Year (½ hr)**



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# Thurlestone Golf Club



## Captains Newsletter

October saw two annual events at the golf club - the AGM and the Prize Presentation Evening. The Presentation Evening, with dinner beforehand, was a very pleasant event; the clubhouse looking splendid with the silver trophies sparkling, and the glassware gleaming.

The AGM saw the retirement of Pam St Leger as Chairman of the Executive Committee and election of Graeme Fairley to the post. Our thanks to Pam for taking it on for a year. She has done a great job. Philip Laud also takes over as Chair of the House Committee.

I attended the Juniors Presentation Evening in November with one of Brent's splendid buffets for fifty parents and juniors. It was great to see the trophies they have won this year. The Juniors section were sorry to see the retirement of Nigel Whelan as team manager but they welcomed three new members to the junior committee.

### **Auction of Promises, Saturday 17th November**

There was an auction of promises online, for the Junior Section, to raise money for two charities: 'Young Devon' and, 'Shelter', for whom Miss Charley Adams (a local marathon runner) raises funds from sponsorship. "Young Devon" is the largest young people's charity in the South West. Their mission is simply to make Devon a better place for all young people. Each year they work with over 2,000 of them, building quality relationships to help them thrive.

The Junior Section also support 'Shelter' who help millions of people every year struggling with bad housing or homelessness, through its advice, support and legal services. A list of promises was displayed in the clubhouse to allow everyone to put in some bids for the blind auction. Those

wanting to put in a bid, contacted Nigel Whelan and Tony Adams.

### **Christmas Draw Night with Carols**

This is one of my favourite nights of the year, with all the draw prizes given away and the singing of carols and the eating of mince pies.

Keep Friday night, 21st December free for this.

**New Year's Eve** - This year the Club will be hosting a fabulous New Year's Eve Party with music and a splendid menu. Why not give Gaynor a ring to book your table?

**Car Park** – The Car Park scheme should be up and running by mid-December after a little delay.

**Ladies Christmas Fair** – This was on Saturday 24th November, and non-members were also able to buy their Christmas presents.

**Hole in One** – Nick Lipson and, new member, Glyn Spencer both aced on the third hole recently using their 7 irons. Congratulations to them both!

This is my last newsletter as club captain. I wish the new captain Mike Doyle and his vice-captain Robert Eva success and hope for good weather for the New Year's Day drive.

**Harry Cattell**

## Lady Captain's Newsletter

We are enjoying our golf in the Autumn sunshine at the moment, although the course is quite wet underfoot. The Medal Winners trophy, the Tregelles Trophy and the Closed Meeting, have all been played for, which rounds of the trophy competitions for this year. The medal winner's cup was won by

Jennifer Roberts nett 72, and the Tregelles trophy by Sally Nelson Roberts, with 32 points.

The Closed Meeting had ten trophies to be played for - too many to list, but it all went well and we had a presentation after the competition.

The winter knockout competitions are now underway with the Winter Foursomes, and Murray Smith cup singles knockout all keenly contested.

The Presentation Evening in October was a great success and the Ladies Section was very well represented and supported with eleven ladies collecting twenty cups. Multiple winners; Gill Hicks won the Order of Merit trophy, Betty Ord Memorial trophy, and the Scratch singles match play cup.

The Ladies club championship Oswald cup this year was won again by Jennifer Roberts who also won the Underhill Scratch trophy, Medal winners cup, Stableford winner's trophy and the Veterans Salver.

Liz Sharman won the Ford Salver, Duchess cup, Patey and Steer bowl, Senior Shield and the Wright Burgoyne Trophy. Sheila George won the Douglas Robertson cup, Vets Handicap Salver and the Jennifer Yeo Rose bowl.

The team captains have been presented with a small gift from the Ladies Section in recognition of supporting and guiding their teams. There was a successful dinner in October for all team members organised by Sue Curry.

I can hardly believe that I am writing a November report. The year end is rapidly approaching, and we had the AGM on the 23rd November and soon the Christmas activities; a lunch, a dinner and the Turkey Trot, and Scramble competitions.

I would like to thank my committee for their support; the Main office of Simon,

Bett and Pip; Vic Dyer and his team of Greenkeepers; Gaynor, Brent and the catering team; and Steve, Duncan, Glenn, Joan, Lorraine; the Pro shop team who have all helped the Ladies section enormously. The next newsletter will be written by our 2019 Ladies Captain Lesley Saffin and I wish her good luck for a successful year and good weather for the drive in on New Year's Day.

**Heather Spencer**

## Junior Section Newsletter

The juniors have had a good year. They won their division of the West Devon League and so qualified for Championship day at Stover where they came second. Unfortunately, they were beaten in the League final by Boringdon A team.

The juniors also won their share of trophies in the men's competitions and collected 3 trophies at the club presentation in October. Finn Whelan won the Parkinson trophy for best nett in the Club championship; Ollie Griffiths won the Prouse Salver and, George Holland the Members Challenge Cup.

The junior's presentation evening was attended by over fifty parents and juniors. Marc Mulligan organised a competition for the day. The CONGU group winner was Finn Whelan with 38 points from Sammy Inghitam with 35. The non Congu 18 holes winner was Vinny Lowden (54) 44 points from Lockie Turner Jones (33) 42.

The Academy juniors had their fun competitions in the clubhouse with Professionals Steve, Duncan and Glenn in attendance. The weather was too bad to go out.

Following a delicious buffet, the presentation evening began with Academy juniors receiving their awards first. The junior section then collected 19 trophies.

This year, 14 juniors reduced their handicaps. Noah Mulligan came down from 14 to 6 and Toby White, down from 14 to 8. Fantastic achievements due to hours of practice and coaching from the Professional team. Eight juniors have handicaps lower than 10 - the lowest, George Holland on 4, Sammy Ingham on 5 and Noah Mulligan on 6. The juniors play for Devon. In the under 18 team: George Holland. Under 16 team: Sammy Ingham and Finn Whelan. Under 14 team: Toby White, with Noah at 10 years, the youngest member.

The Junior Academy run by Steve, Duncan and Glenn now have seven groups on Saturdays, including an all-girls group of seven. Friday club evenings, organised by Steve White, Marc Mulligan and Dave Mulligan, have finished for winter.

Finally, I must thank Nigel Whelan and Lee Bellamy for the organisation of the junior team. Nigel is retiring from the committee but Marc Mulligan, Sam Tabiner and Jonathan Ingham are coming on. Steve White will take on the junior team management with Jonathan Ingham. Lee will run the Access golf for the non congu juniors with Sam Tabiner. Marc Mulligan will run the club evenings with Dave Mulligan and other parents. I will continue as secretary for the junior section.

Thanks to Finn Whelan for being a hardworking Junior captain with vice-captain Sammy Ingham. Sammy will be Junior captain next year with Ollie Grif this as vice-captain. I wish them good luck for a successful year.

**Liz Line**

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## **IMPROVED BROADBAND SPEED**

### **Fibre To The Premises**

Unsurprisingly, Gigaclear are behind schedule on nearly all their contracts with Connecting Devon and Somerset – this is, after all, a hugely complex undertaking. As a result the start date for Thurlestone, along with all contracts not yet started, is shown as “To Be Conf rmed” on their website.

We shall continue to bring you updates in this magazine, but if you want to check for yourselves, go to <https://www.gigaclear.net/connecting-devon-and-somerset-rollout-schedule> and click on “Lot 6 – South Moor”.

# Eating Out Locally

## Gara Rock Restaurant

An expansive curved window gives diners at Gara Rock restaurant a panoramic view of the sea and coastline. Gara Bay, below it, nestles between cliffs and rocky outcrops where a family of seals lazed in the autumn sun on the day we visited. Gara Bay is a favoured stretch of the South West coastal path and is where significant Bronze-age relics - swords and daggers, have been found. 17<sup>th</sup> century shipwrecks, from North Africa, have been discovered along the shore.



The restaurant's alfresco site overlooks more of the coast as well as the spread of agricultural farmland that extends to the horizon inland. These scenic features contribute to make the drive to this lone hotel and leisure resort very worthwhile.

It is 14 miles (40 minutes) from Thurlestone, via Kingsbridge and Frogmore, but to make an outing of the trip, park in Salcombe and cross to East Portlemouth on the foot ferry. Ferries run on the hour and half hour (costing £1.60 each way) and take 10 minutes. At East Portlemouth, a driver from Gara Rock will pick you up and cover the couple of miles of Devon lanes to Gara Rock in a Land Rover. This free 'taxi service', from the Ferry Dock, is booked with a phone call in advance.

The warm welcome sets a tone for service that is characteristic of the restaurant. Attentive staff are agreeable, accommodating, cheerful and relaxed.

Being seated at a window table indoors you see the wide sweep of southern coastal scenery, but the generous light from the arc of windows means that the brightness continues further inside where the décor is unobtrusive and the ambiance remains easy.

For our visit in October, the Gara Rock lunch menu offered:

Tasty **Starters** that included local fish like Dartmouth Sardines and Devon Crab.

Some Lunch-time **Mains** were: Beef Burger; Pork Belly, Fish and Chips, Mussels, and a vegan option. All are served with seasonal vegetables, many from local sources. Among the sides are yummy Chips with Herby Cheese Topping which, on their own, are a substantial informal choice for coastal walkers wanting a break from their ramble.

For something **sweet**, there's an excellent Baked Custard + Berry Fruits; an Apple Tarte Tatin; Salcombe Ice Cream; and a Cheese Platter.

Gara Rock coffee is very good.

A day (or stay) here might especially appeal for its get-away-from-the-buzz-of-life quality. It is a destination on a Devon lane that ends at the sea. The lane goes nowhere else.

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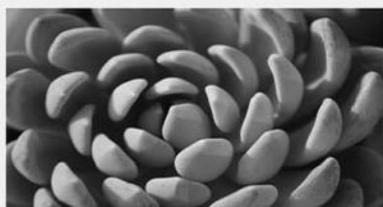
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# Old Age as seen by the Greeks and Romans

## Part 2

**H**ow were the old regarded in classical Athens? On the positive side we know that within the family the status of elderly parents was high, as in modern Greece and Italy. The Greek word *tropheia* illustrates this. Originally used of the wages paid to a nurse, the word was often used metaphorically to describe the debt owed by children to the parents who had reared them, and grandparents were expected to receive honour from their family. There was certainly no question of putting them in a home.

When death came, mourning lasted for 30 days after burial. Family members were expected to visit the tomb on the third, ninth and thirtieth day. After this special month, the grave was visited every year on the anniversary of death, with ribbons and wreaths of flowers, and food and drink offerings over the grave. All this implies respect for the elderly but it is also true that the Greeks feared haunting or ill omen if they neglected the dead, and honouring them properly was seen as an act of worship that was vital to both image and reputation.

Tragedy and comedy were performed in the theatre of Dionysus throughout this century before the audience of citizens, that is, predominantly men of voting age and visitors from the rest of the Greek world. The evidence for women attending performances is not conclusive, although a joke in Aristophanes' play *Birds* certainly depends on their being at home during the performance. Old age receives mixed reviews from the dramatists.

In his *Agamemnon*, the first play of his Oresteian trilogy, Aeschylus shows a chorus of elderly men condescending to the queen, Clytemnestra, as a foolish woman while she proceeds to run rings round them and proceeds, unhindered, to murder her husband on his return. "It is always springtime for an old man to learn a lesson", they sing, but Aeschylus shows them to be locked in a mental winter by their lack of judgement. The wisdom of the old is valued, as in Homer, but set against this is failing wits and feebleness. Only special cases like prophets are regarded as truly wise, but this does not prevent even them from being abused by impatient rulers on the grounds of taking bribes.

Euripides in his play *Alcestis* presents us with a strange situation: a young king is fated to die but, to prevent this, his wife insists that she will die in his place. At her funeral the king blames his old father for not dying when he had so little left of life. His words are full of bitterness:

"How insincere they are, these prayers for death voiced by the elderly, these complaints they make against old age and the tedious passing of the years! If death draws near, not one of them wants to die; old age is suddenly a burden that weighs lightly on their shoulders."

The king's father will have none of it. "You are happy to see the sun's light," he tells his son. "Do you imagine your father is not? It's a long time I reckon I'll be spending dead, a long time, and only a short one alive, but all the more precious for that".

They part acrimoniously, refusing to have anything to do with each other in the future.

In his greatest play *Bacchae*, we are given an insight into the frustration the old can produce in the young. An old king is asked by his demented daughter to praise her for her successful hunting expedition. She holds up the head, she thinks, of a lion,

but it is in fact her own son's head. When her father, aghast, refuses to admire her trophy, she exclaims, "How churlish a thing in men is old age, with its scowling face!" This is an attitude that members of the audience must have recognised and perhaps shared in at times of family stress. In his play *The Children of Heracles* the great hero is dead and his children are being persecuted. Iolaus, an old man now and Heracles' loyal friend, wishes to fight a battle to decide the children's fate, despite his advanced years. Nothing will deter him and by a miracle he is transformed from old to a young man who turns the tide of battle.

The message is clear: for an old man to make a significant contribution to events, a miracle of rejuvenation is required. Men must have the physical powers to back up their intentions and old age denies them this.

Comedy in classical Athens, like comedy in all ages, involved distortion and exaggeration but, in order to be genuinely funny, it had to portray life in a recognisable way to its audience.

Old men are regular characters in the plays of Aristophanes and usually represented as gullible and not as clever as they think.

In his early play *Knights*, Demos, the people of Athens, is an old man led by the nose by unscrupulous politicians. In the later *Clouds*, old Strepsiades enrolls his wastrel son in the school of Socrates, hoping he will become a clever fellow capable of winning any argument. The son learns so well that he ends up having no respect for convention or tradition but follows his natural instincts instead, which means he beats up his irritating old father, who learns a painful lesson.

In a later play *Frogs*, those who do violence to their parents are consigned to the depths of Hell. This is far more in line with normal Athenian thinking. Old women are treated no more kindly in the *Lysistrata*, where the women of Athens decide to go on a sex-strike to persuade their husbands to stop fighting the war against Sparta. Three old women are portrayed as desperate to get a young man into bed and he is equally desperate to escape their clutches. The implication is clear: no woman of a certain age can be sexually desirable, any more than an old man.

Plato, writing in the first quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, gives us an interesting portrayal of old age in the first book of his most famous dialogue *The Republic*. The setting is the house of Cephalus, an elderly Sicilian resident of the Piraeus who has grown rich from trade and manufacture. Athenian citizens mainly made their living from land, and it was men like Cephalus, "resident aliens" living in Athens and its surrounds without citizen rights, who controlled commercial forms of moneymaking. Plato's Socrates has contempt for the life dedicated to money and for the complacency it can engender. At first, we are lulled into sympathising with this picture of a dignified old man sitting in his household enjoying a peaceful old age free from cares. But, *The Republic* was written much later than the time it portrays and Plato's audience knew that Cephalus' family had been totally ruined as a result of the war. The security based on wealth, which the old man had spent his life building up, was entirely illusory.

As always, there is a malicious undertone to Socrates' polite questioning. Before long, it appears that, for the old man, morality is something entirely external, a matter of rules to follow and duties to perform. He doesn't really care about morality and as soon as Socrates asks questions that require him to think, Cephalus loses interest and excuses himself. He has the ordinary person's view of justice and behind the comfortable façade we are shown a complacent and limited man. But he is not entirely a bad example of old age. He tells Socrates that old men grumble about missing out on the pleasures of their youth but he thinks they're

missing the point. Some old men, he admits, no longer receive respect from their families but this is the fault not of their old age but of their character. If men are sensible and good-tempered, old age is easy enough to bear; if they are not, youth as well as age is a burden. As for sex, it is merely one of several desires one loses in old age and to be rid of them is to be released from a lot of mad masters.

A century later the Athenians were still enjoying performances of comedy but the genre had undergone a change. Instead of dealing with public issues comedy was now more concerned with down to earth human affairs. Language was plain and typical of ordinary conversation. The master of this genre of New Comedy, as it is called, was the Athenian Menander, the creator of drawing-room comedy or the comedy of manners. The plays of Moliere and Oscar Wilde are in direct line of succession from Menander. The sands of Egypt recently yielded one of his lost plays that suits our purposes well, as its central character is a bad-tempered old man. Fed up with having to make decisions, he says to his son,

“I’d like to say a few words about myself and my ways. If everyone was like me there would be no lawcourts, no imprisonment, no war. Everyone would have enough and be satisfied. But I guess people like things better as they are. Carry on then, this cantankerous old malcontent will soon be out of your way.”

He is still master of the house and its property but he wants no more of it, just to be left to live as he likes. He is more humane than he likes to pretend but doesn’t much like what he sees of the modern world. No wonder Julius Caesar, no bad judge of literature, said that Menander more than any other writer held up a mirror to life.

**John Davie**

## Kingsbridge Men’s Breakfast Group.

Twelve years ago, Rod Hardwick founded a Kingsbridge Men’s Breakfast Group which would appeal to all men who enjoy a “Cracking full English Breakfast” followed by good conversation, lots of fellowship and listening to an inspiring speaker. This has proved to be very popular.

There is now a new leadership team tasked with expanding membership to include a wider area of the South Hams, particularly those men in outlying villages who would like the opportunity to meet and build friendships with like-minded men who have a heart for providing community support to those in need. The new leadership team includes Bob Fretton, Dave Chapman, Roy Mitchell and Martyn Rest.

On the last Saturday of each month the Men’s Breakfast Group meet at 8.00am at the Kingsbridge Methodist Church on Fore Street and a “Big Welcome” awaits all men from across the South Hams who come and meet together with new friends. No pre-booking is required and, if you would like to bring along a group of your own, you can invite other men to join you.

Lifts can be arranged for anyone wishing to attend who does not have transport. You can telephone Martyn Rest on 07870-743723 who will see that everyone who wants to, can attend.

The next meeting, in The New Year, is a date for your diary January 26<sup>th</sup> 2019. Everyone is very welcome.

# Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk)

## Samurai Sudoku

Samurai Sudoku puzzles consist of five overlapping Sudoku grids. The standard Sudoku rules apply to each 9 x 9 grid. Place digits from 1 to 9 in each empty cell. Every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box should contain one of each digit. The puzzles on Samurai Sudoku have one unique solution which can be found with pure logic, no guessing required.

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

*1<sup>st</sup> out of the Puzzle Hat this time was Helen Edgeley. Congratulations and the treasured bottle of wine from the VV Sudoku wine cellar go to her.*

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## **TRAMP ACTIVITIES** **AUTUMN 2018**

Visitors are welcome to join us on our walks. Weekly details are posted in the window at the Post Office a few days in advance.

New members are welcome - contact Mike Stickland on [stix@talktalk.net](mailto:stix@talktalk.net) for more information.

### **Haytor walk on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 —** **Richard Swan — 6 miles**

A hearty band of our group arrived at the Haytor car park at 10.30 on Tuesday 4th September with the weather fine and expectations high. Although this walk has been experienced by most members, it always remains interesting from a geological, industrial and occupancy history combined with the outstanding natural beauty of Heather, Gorse and Woodlands in full bloom. The overall Landscape provided an explosion of Yellows, Greens and Purples set in upheavals of Grey Granite.

The basic route was intended to be roughly triangular in geometry. Starting at the main Haytor car park and heading North East to Hound Tor, South to Saddle Tor and finally North East back to Haytor.

Prior to starting the walk, we were informed that the Haytor Iron Mine, located just to the South, was the most productive on Dartmoor. It started production of Magnetite, Haematite, Copper and Tin as an open cast and later as an adit mine between 1800 and as late as 1921. Local people can remember the estimated 12000 Tons of products being transported by steam traction engines to local railway and shipping depots.

The first stop on our journey NE was a small lake within the 'Templer Quarry' located a quarter of a mile NE from Haytor Rocks. This Granite quarry was owned and operated by George Templer of Stover from 1780 when the first roads were being constructed across Dartmoor, and Princetown foundations were being laid. The Granite was transported to London via a nine-mile Granite railed tramway from the Quarry to the Stover Canal at Teigngrace and



finally seagoing barges to London via Teignmouth. The Granite Tramway was operated using twelve trucks with twenty four inch wooden wheels, each carrying three tons. It required a team of eighteen Shire Horses to pull the uphill sections. The Granite was used for the construction of the old London Bridge and the columns of the old British Library.

It was now time to move on towards the planned visit to the thirteenth century Medieval Village via a most beautiful walk past Smallacombe Rocks with views of the old Bronze Age hut circles, down Haytor Vale and across the Becca Brook stone bridge and past Greater Rocks. There was a settlement at this site as early as the Bronze Age but abandoned in 1350 due to climate change and possibly the Black Death. The Domesday Book informs that the village was owned by Tavistock Abbey and consisted of eight farmers, two slaves, twenty eight sheep, eighteen goats, one cow, land for four ploughs, nine acres of woodlands and two meadows!! We were able to walk between the remains of three longhouses which sheltered both humans and animals within the same buildings.

With all this overload of information we agreed to bypass Hound Tor and turn South West downslope to a perfect picnic site by Becca Brook, just upstream from the stone bridge. The Team were now fully refreshed and really looking forward to the hard grind and slightly tricky climb back up the Southern Flank of Haytor Vale to the second and third series of Haytor Granite Quarries operated by George Templer. Evidence of stone splitting techniques and shelters for quarrymen were identified and discussed.

At this point some of the group were feeling tired after the climb out of Haytor Vale and it was mutually agreed that Saddle Tor could wait for another day. A heading due South was taken to take us past the Eastern Flank of Haytor rock and down to our start point. However, a group of archaeologists were spotted excavating a Bronze Age hut. The dig leader, Mr Lee Bray of the Dartmoor Ranger Group, kindly explained the objectives of their work and the "finds" to date. (Anyone interested in joining the archaeology group for Dartmoor as a volunteer, should contact Lee on lbray@dartmoor.gov.uk.).

Now it was time to finalise our walk by passing through the vibrant colours of gorse and heather at the crest of Haytor and back to our start point. We concluded that late summer is the best time to be on Dartmoor.

### **Burrator walk on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Alastair & Gill Durden. 4.5 miles**

A beautiful summery day greeted us in September for a drive to Burrator Reservoir. We parked near Burrator Dam and set off on the road round the northern edge of the reservoir. We were intending to take a footpath which follows the shoreline, but this was closed due to tree-felling, so we had to stay on the road. We stopped at Norsworthy Bridge at the eastern end of the reservoir and drank our coffee. Then we made our way along a track which passed some ruined buildings and eventually led us into Burrator Arboretum. There are nature trails here and a boardwalk which follows alongside a stream - well worth a visit if you haven't been there! Exiting the arboretum, we were back on the road for a short distance. We then took the footpath along the southern edge of the reservoir, amazed at how low the water in the reservoir was (under 50% capacity) owing to the exceptionally dry summer. We crossed Sheepstor Dam - an earth dam that had to be built in the 1920s when the water level of the reservoir was raised by 10 feet - and back to the imposing granite dam (built in 1895) where we started.

### **A hilly 4.5 mile walk from South Pool September 21<sup>st</sup>. Rolf Burnie**

Eleven variously abled Trampers plus three dogs set out from South Pool on a day of strong blustery winds and

threatened rain showers - and immediately headed for cover under some overhanging branches as a passing cloud did its thing. Fortunately, that was the only rain of the day as, aided by the strength of the wind, we'd have been in for a good wetting.

Heading south to near the top of Waterhead Creek we then entered Wood Lane, a well sheltered path up onto high ground to find glorious views out over rolling hills and valleys, farms and fields and sheep and cows - rural South Hams countryside at its best.

West Prawle Farm marked our furthest point south and our route then took us northwards, out into the open, with fine views towards Dartmoor in front of us, strong wind on our backs and grassland under our feet, on down almost to Goodshelter.

Back on the road again for a short time then over the stepping stones at the head of Waterhead Creek and steeply up and over and down to Southpool again for a well-earned lunch outside in the sun at the back of Millbrook Inn.

Lots of uphill but with some stunning views of the estuary and our local countryside.

### **September 25<sup>th</sup>. New Bridge, Sharrah Pool and Holne. 6 miles. Jenny Webb.**

On a lovely sunny day, nine walkers including two visiting German ladies (staying in West Buckland) and three dogs (Ben, Heidi & Oscar) set off for our walk to Sharrah Pool.

We parked at New Bridge in the Dartmoor National Park just north of Holne and west of Ashburton. Crossing the River Dart via the stone bridge, we turned right through a gate and into the trees, joining up with the Two Moors Way as it headed towards Holne through Cleave Wood. After a while we left the Two Moors Way at a Y-junction and continued to follow the rampaging river along a well-trodden path. The twists and turns of the Dart charging recklessly around rocks and over drops delighted the senses and offered perfect photo opportunities.

Passing through a gate into Holne Woods, we walked on through the lovely green forest-scape along a path lined with moss-covered rocks. This route took us beneath a small water fall and across a small stream via stepping stones. The path went over a hill before

dropping back down to water level. Passing over a stile, we descended to the idyllic spot known as Sharrah Pool - a renowned wild swimming area. The perfect place to stop for coffee and refreshments and soak up the peaceful atmosphere.

The path peters out beyond the pool so, revitalised, we returned the way that we had arrived with the scenery just as beautiful when viewed from the opposite direction. On reaching the Y-junction, we said farewell to one of the group whilst the rest of us re-joined the Two Moors Way across footpaths and fields to the pretty village of Holne. The old 14th century pub, the Church House Inn, was not serving food (as the chef had done a runner!!) so lunch was at the Community Tea Rooms. Run by volunteers, the food was wholesome and tasty and there is a pleasant garden in which to sit.

A quick look at the medieval church before heading back the way that we had come to New Bridge car park and the end of a very pleasant walk.

#### **10th October. Parke and a little more. Peter & Wendy Gornall. 4 miles.**

Parke Estate, west of Bovey Tracy, is a delightful woodland estate belonging to the National Trust and housing their Dartmoor office. The estate grounds are open every day of the year and, in the experience of the walk leaders, every morning there is a dog-walkers' festival. Eight of us plus two dogs set off from the car park to the river Bovey and, after crossing it, wended through woodland up the left bank to the mediaeval weir. A few hundred paces further, we left the estate where the old Moretonhampstead railway line crosses a road junction.

We walked up hill on traffic-free Hatherleigh Lane, noting the early autumn colours around the farmsteads. A drover's lane took us downhill to Lower Knowle road. There is a sloping connection to the disused railway track by which we re-entered Parke estate. We took the "purple" path (on the Parke guide map) to the Home Farm Cafe.

So, in sunshine, ten of us (how did that happen?) lunched al fresco. The Home Farm Cafe is worth a detour from Bovey Tracy, or even from the A38. A good walk, good weather and good food - a perfect day.

#### **October 19<sup>th</sup>. Strete to Dartmouth Food festival. 7 miles. Al & Gill Durden**

It was a fine October day for the eight walkers who gathered in Strete for our seven mile coastal walk to Dartmouth. This had the added attraction of visiting the first day of the annual Dartmouth Food Festival. The walk started over fields, crossed a steep-sided valley, then over the main road for a descent through trees with their lovely autumnal colours to Blackpool Sands where we stopped for a coffee at the Venus Café. From here, the path took us through the village of Stoke Fleming, past the church and the Green Dragon pub, back across the main road and along Redlap Lane towards Little Dartmouth. From the National Trust car park there, we walked down to the coast, skirted Compass Cove and on to Dartmouth Castle. In the past we have stopped here at the Castle Tea Rooms for refreshments, but today we decided to walk on into Dartmouth town centre where, at the Food Festival, there was plenty of opportunity to find something to eat and drink, as well as watching a (free) cookery demonstration. It was a memorable walk — scenically very varied with wonderful views over Start Bay; and visiting Dartmouth is always enjoyable, but especially so today with the Food festival.

#### **26th October. East Prawle. John & Rosie Richardson. 5 miles**

Six Trampers and a dog met at Court Park on a fine breezy morning and drove to Prawle. We met another Trampler at Prawle so seven walkers set off. A cold north wind encouraged us to keep moving down to the coast path through lanes tracks and fields.

The sea was sparkling, the sky was blue and visibility was crystal clear - a fine morning. The pristine sand of newly washed Maceley Cove was crying out for footsteps across it but the steep path down was left for another time and we continued along the coast path to the Coastwatch station where we enjoyed the displays in the visitors' room then continued down to Sharpers Head and Horsley Cove.

Turning back up towards the village we started the long slow climb, enjoying the ever-changing wonderful views as we climbed. The Pigs Nose Pub was a

rewarding sight and we were welcomed by a further 3 Trampers in the busy pub and some well-deserved refreshment.

**31<sup>st</sup> October. Avon Valley. Anna Martin. 5 miles.**

13 walkers and 4 well-behaved dogs joined us for our walk from Buckland. We had intended to do our usual walk from the chapel at Buckland, along to Clanacombe, Worthy, Osborne Newton and on to the Avon estuary walk, and back to Buckland via Bantham. Unfortunately, when we reccied it 3 days before, we found a field of cattle, with calves and a bull and decided that we should change our route!

So, we left the chapel on a cloudy morning and walked along to the Buckland Box, admired the new paint work, and went up the footpath in front of Summer cottage. We joined the green lane at the top of the field and joined the lane which goes up to Aune Cross. We went straight over the crossroads, down the lane and straight on into a green lane which took us down to a field above Stiddicombe wood. We walked through the wood, so joining the Avon Estuary walk and on into Bantham, where 4 walkers took the direct route to

Thurlestone by the path behind the Sloop. The rest of us walked across the Ham and up the coast path to the golf course, where we walked along the side of the fairway, and then along the ridge by The Downs. Some of those who live in Thurlestone left us at Piper's bench and the rest of us walked back to Buckland.

**Tramps programme for 2019**

The draft programme for our walks in 2019 can be found on the Parish web site under [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/tramps-walk-schedule-2019](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/tramps-walk-schedule-2019)

The final programme will be issued in the next edition of Village Voice.

And a final thought for 2018 .....

**Whether the Weather**

Whether the weather be hot,  
Or whether the weather be not,  
We'll weather the weather whatever the weather,  
Whether the weather be hot, or not.



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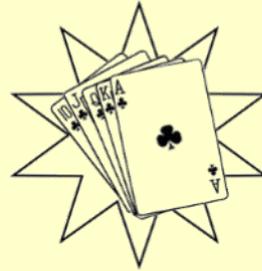
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# WEATHER WAG

Last evening, November 12<sup>th</sup> I was on my way to a meeting, it was raining hard and by the time I had reached the top of my road there had been a flash of lightning and a rumble of thunder. I don't remember when it last thundered here, it must be a year ago if not more. There were three flashes and a very loud rumble, very heavy rain and some hail to boot. Of course, you all know that the event was totally typical of a squall shower passing through. The rain drops were large and the hailstones equally large. Being in the car I had no fear of the storm as it is probably the safest place to be. I did though get very wet running from the car to the house where the meeting was held. In all it lasted about 7 minutes, so just a thunder shower not a storm.

It is hard to remember that it is in meteorological terms nearly winter, (by the time you read this, if you do!) December will be in full swing and winter will officially be with us. Despite this the weather, day by day, is still warmer than it should be. Day-time temperatures are still in double figures and even night-time is much warmer than it should be. There have been some frosts; the first usually occurs about November 5<sup>th</sup> Bonfire Night. This year it was October 30<sup>th</sup> -1C. It was cold enough for a thin layer of ice to form on the open water of the South Milton Ley. On 5<sup>th</sup> October the top temperature was 20C and in the middle of the month Storm Callam struck producing 16mm of rain on 12<sup>th</sup>. This was the first real bout of rain to fall since last spring. (not before time either said all those concerned with the land.) November has seen much more in the way of rain, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> with 0.5mm THEN November 5<sup>th</sup> arrived 17mm rain fell, making bonfires a bit wet, fortunately many had their bonfires on the previous Saturday which wasn't so bad. (I have a bit of a conscience writing this after watching the wildfires in northern California, how they would like some of our rain!)

The total amount of rain for November 1<sup>st</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> was 84mm. At least this will go some way to replacing the reservoir levels and ground water in the limestone areas. I am a fickle weather-watcher; I like the wet, I like the cold as long as there is NO WIND! But then I like the hot days, but with a little breeze! There is no pleasing me is there! This is what makes being a weather wag so interesting.

Turning now to my "Wrong kind of Snow", the entry for 23<sup>rd</sup> November is titled 'The Outrage'. This refers to a combined gale and storm surge that struck the Dorset coast on this day in 1824. It was a freakish confluence of spring tide and a dying Atlantic Hurricane. It was one of two weather events of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Labelled the 'Great Gale' or 'The Outrage' as it became known, the high tide arrives 5 hours early, and then the water just keeps on rising. It rises up the East Fleet (London) 'as fast as a horse can gallop', carrying with it a haystack and debris from the fields. The mighty Chesil Shingle Bank is breached, destroying eighty houses behind it and drowning between fifty and sixty people. Hurst Spit, the other great south coast shingle bank, on the West Solent, is described by Sir Charles Lyell (Darwin's geology tutor) as 'moved bodily forward for 40 yards.' The Plymouth Breakwater is ruined, as is the Cobb at Lyme Regis. Weymouth wakes to find most of its handsome Esplanade demolished and the seafront basements full of sand and water. As for shipping, wrecks litter the coast of Hampshire, Dorset,

Devon and Cornwall. 'In the midst of this sublime and terrible storm,' records the Rev. Sydney Smith, "Dame Partington, who lived upon the beach, was seen at the door of her house with mop and pattens, trundling her mop, squeezing out the seawater, and vigorously pushing away the Atlantic Ocean." I haven't quite got to that stage as yet, but as the low, softish cliff by the steps to the beach gradually creep back, and the dunes wash away on a high tide and westerly storm, I must make sure the brush, bucket and spade are at the ready. However, I am sure that as the dunes are washed away, at sometime in the future the sand will be replaced and the dunes will grow seaward again. It has happened in the past, and despite rising sea levels my faith is unwavering.

A cold snap is due on 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> November 2018, and a short article in 'THWKOFS attracted my attention. Titled 'FOG MIST AND SNOW CLEARED BY CAR BATTERY' James Herriot, the Yorkshire Vet writes about it - It was one of those iron days at the end of the 1930's when the frost piled thickly on the windscreen blotting out everything in minutes, but this morning I was triumphant. I had just bought a wonderful new invention – a couple of strands of wire mounted on a strip of Bakelite and fastened to the windscreen with rubber suckers. It worked from the car batteries and cleared a small space of vision'. This was the first electrically heated windscreen, the Mistproof Plate appears in 1922 - a 16inch wide glass panel with practically invisible resistance wires across the surface. Unlike most automotive inventions, which are American, it, along with the fog lamp, is proudly British, Say no more. 'No more did I have to climb out wearily and scrub and scratch at the frozen glass every half mile or so, I sat peering delightedly through a flawlessly clear semicircle about eight inches wide at the countryside unwinding before me like a film show..... I was enjoying it so much that I hardly noticed the ache in my toes.' No heating feet and faces in those days!

I watched an item on the local TV last evening about fishermen/anglers, who are being encouraged to wear lifejackets, even when fishing from rocks or the shore. There have been a number of rock fishermen this year who have been washed off rocks by a rogue wave and lost. I wonder if they would have survived if they had been wearing a lifejacket which would have kept them afloat and given them a chance of survival. Lifejackets have been in existence for a long time with varying degrees of success in the life saving stakes. The earliest lifebelts made of cork and canvas were invented in 1854 by one Captain Ward, who was a RNLI Inspector. The loss of the Rye lifeboat in November 1928, when 17 crew were drowned, an inquiry decided that the "improved kapok" ones they were wearing should be improved again by fitting waterproof covers. Then in 1917 a collar was added to keep an unconscious person afloat. During the second world war, the inflatable lifejacket was developed and today there is an extensive range of styles to fit every person and for every situation. So, all you sailors, boat users, and fishermen both professional and amateur don your lifejackets before you go fishing.

The weather is due to change soon, so get your logs sorted and check your supplies of gas and oil. Keep warm and safe as our typical cold snap arrives.

Have a very Happy Christmas.

**Jan Turner**

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# DIARY DATES

## December

For Christmas & New Year Church Services in Thurlestone see poster in Village Voice

Saturday	1	Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas from 9am.
Saturday	1	St Nicks Xmas Fair Kingsbridge Community College 11.30am - 2.30pm
Monday	3	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	5	South Hams NT - Xmas Treats at Killerton & Darts Farm, Topsham
Friday	7	WI Sea Coast Carol Service 2.30pm All Saints Church, Thurlestone
Friday	7	Friends of Thurlestone School Xmas Fair - Parish Hall 2.30pm - 5pm
Monday	10	Thurlestone Phone Box Carol Evening on the Green 4.30pm
Wednesday	12	Alvington Singers Holy Trinity Church, Salcombe 7.30pm
Friday	14	WI Xmas Lunch 12.30pm for 1pm Thurlestone Golf Club
Friday	14	TRAMP Xmas Walk and Lunch
Tuesday	18	Buckland Phone Box Xmas Carol Evening 6.30pm
Wednesday	19	Alvington Singers, St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Stanborough Chorus, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Sunday	23	Barbershop Singing with Razor Sharp & Friends at the Village Inn 7.30pm
Monday	24	Carols for All - St Edmund's Church Kingsbridge - 2.30pm

## January

Monday	7	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Monday	7	TRAMP Kingsbridge Town Walk (short - 2 miles)
Thursday	10	WI 2.30pm Thurlestone Parish Hall - Hope Cove Lifeboats
Thursday	17	TRAMP Around Dartington (short - 5 miles)
Thursday	17	South Hams NT - Divas & Dictators - My Life as a Female Diplomat - Kingsbridge Methodist Church Hall 2.30pm
Saturday	26	Men's Breakfast - 8am Kingsbridge Methodist Church
Monday	28	Community Housing Project Open Forum - Parish Hall 7pm - see insert
Tuesday	29	South Hams NT - Winter Coffee Morning at Avon Mill 10.30am - 12noon
Wednesday	30	Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 7.30pm Hidden Canvasses - Street Art and the City
Thursday	31	Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 10.30am Lecture as Wednesday

## February

Saturday	2	Ivybridge Methodist Church Jonathan Veira concert in aid of Prison Fellowship - see insert for details
Monday	4	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	7	The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night - Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Saturday	9	Kingsbridge Choral Workshop 2019 10am - 5pm See advert
Thursday	14	WI 2.30pm Thurlestone Parish Hall - Willow Weaving

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# PARISH INFORMATION

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

Chairman	Andrew Rhymes	560564
Vice-chairman	Charles Mitchelmore	560602 (and Tree Warden)
Parish Clerk	Helen Nathanson	07813 689717
Members	Tony Goddard	562282
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Jill Munn	560732
	Bronwen Zafro	560020
District Councillors	Judy Pearce	561370
	Simon Wright	561033
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659

**PARISH HALL** (see Thurlestone Parish Website for more details)

Chairman: Vacant

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

**PARISH WEBSITE** ([www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk)) Mike Bone 288436 Paul Martin 560070

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH** See All Saints' Diary pages earlier in magazine

**ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL** Executive Head Susan Rowe-Jones 560494

**PEARSON'S PRE-SCHOOL** Manager Linda Quinn 560816

**THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES** Contact Sarah Tyers 561917

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- **Bantham Quay**
- **Buckland Phone Box**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## CLUBS & GROUPS

<b>AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION</b>	Chairman	Stuart Watts	810373
<b>BANTHAM SAILING CLUB</b>	Secretary	Jo Smith	560347
<b>BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB</b>	Clubhouse		560447
<b>BRIDGE CLUB</b> (Wed & Fri 6.30pm)	Contact	Lisa White	560505
<b>BUCKLAND PHONE BOX</b>	Contact	Anna Martin	560796
<b>FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH</b>	Contact	Phil Millard	560843
<b>HORTICULTURAL SHOW</b> (annual)	Contact	Tom Gilkes	560973
<b>LINE DANCING</b> (Wed 2pm)	Contact	Sue Bain	07989817898
<b>NIA WITH NOLA FITNESS</b> (Mon 10.15am)	Contact	Nola Baylis	842877
<b>PILATES</b> (Mon 2.15pm Wed 9am)	Contact	Franny Morris	07590506027
<b>PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOC (POTS)</b>	Chairman	Chris White	560505
<b>TABLE TENNIS</b> (Thurs 7.30pm)	Contact	Paul Ferguson	560578
<b>TAI CHI/CHUAN</b> (Wed 10.30am)	Contact	Vida Hodder	561182
<b>TAI CHI/SHIATSU</b> (Thurs from 9.30am)	Contact	Greg Cutler	07816230211
<b>THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB</b>	Of ce & General Enquiries		560405
<b>TENNIS SECTION</b> (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop		560715
<b>THURLESTONE PHONE BOX</b>	Contact	Kit Marshall	560214
<b>TRAMP</b> (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Mike Stickland	560763
<b>WI</b> (2nd Thurs in month 2.30pm not Aug or Dec)	Contact	Jo Parkin	561215
<b>YOGA</b> (Tues 9am)	Contact	Sarah Scott	07879627939

## HEALTH CENTRES

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

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## TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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

## LIBRARIES

Kingsbridge - Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1EB T: 852315 (closed all day Thur, Sun and Sat pm)  
Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall car park Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup> Dec and 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 3.10 - 4.10pm

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

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For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see [www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable](http://www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable)  
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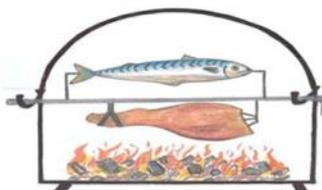


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