

A Merry Christmas to all our readers



December 2019 - January 2020

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



Once more we are fast approaching the festive period which is illustrated so beautifully on our front cover by the wonderful Margaret Houghton with additional artistry from Chris White.

The last couple of months have been rather wet and windy, to say the least, but at the moment we have escaped quite lightly compared to other parts of the country; you cannot help but feel for the poor people who have had to vacate their homes.

Let's hope the weather behaves itself because as you browse through the magazine you cannot fail to notice the plethora of events that have been organised for your enjoyment in the run up to Christmas. There will be no time to sit and relax if you wish to participate in any of them and for some you will need to be in fine voice.

The great thing about these events is it gives the community the chance to come together and enjoy the company of others as well as the opportunity to catch up during this very hectic time.

One slightly unusual event amongst them, which is not so festive but cannot be ignored, is the General Election to be held on 12 December. Will this herald a change for our Parish as well as the whole country? Who knows in these unpredictable times? Well, we won't have long to wait to find out.

Hopefully it will not dampen your celebrations too much.

We shall not only be leaping into a new year but a new decade. What will the 2020's bring? Harking back to the last century and the 1920s, this was the period in which the recently released Downton Abbey film was set. A charity opening night was recently held in Kingsbridge in aid of the Triangle Cancer Support Centre. If you are unaware of this supportive organisation you can find out more from the article in this edition.

The Village Voice team wish all our readers, advertisers and contributors a Merry Christmas and Happy New year, and hope you all have a marvellous time with family and friends.

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Front Cover

An original painting by
Margaret Houghton

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Village News Round-Up

The Thurlestone Singing Group The group is looking forward to singing at the Carol Services both here in Thurlestone and also in South Milton. They welcome folk to join them for this and shall be devoting one hour on three Saturday mornings - Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th and 14th from 9.30-10.30am. - to rehearse the choir carols. If you want to know more, please give Alastair Durden a ring on 560509 or just turn up at the church.

Rain Stopped Play This phrase is normally associated with the game of cricket but in our case, it is the indoor activity of Bridge. How can this be, I hear you cry. Well on Wednesday 6th November after a torrential downpour with local roads becoming flooded, for the first time in the club's history, the decision was made to abandon play and send the participants home.

Calling all Readers As you are aware there is a regular book review in the magazine. Whilst we are indebted to Carolyn Taylor for contributing to every edition, we would like other readers to come forward. If you have a favourite book or read one of interest during the colder months then please send in your review.

Oxfam Kingsbridge Oxfam urgently need help in opening their shop on a Sunday and raising money to beat poverty and suffering. They require till people, fashion people and online shop people - there are lots of ways to help! Make 2020 the year you give to those who have so little! oxfamshopf3240@oxfam.org.uk - 01548 857936

Devon Air Ambulance Trust **Night Landing Site in Thurlestone**

On a wet, windy Wednesday 25 September 2019, the new power supply for the DAAT night landing site was connected and the lights were installed on the pole located in the field opposite the entrance to Court Park, just as you enter Thurlestone. To date, some 120 DAAT night landing sites are operating in Devon – 250 is the target. However, our site is different (of course!) as it is a field, whilst many sites use playing fields with lighting that can be adapted, e.g. Kingsbridge and Malborough.

Our night landing site was a coordinated effort involving three companies – **Western Power** who did the cabling and provided the meter box, **EDF Energy** who supplied the meter and the power, and **MAT Electrics** who did all the wiring, connected up the lights, tested all the equipment - and made it happen. But it was all worth it when six hours later as dusk fell, the MD of MAT Electrics was able to switch on our lights remotely from the M5 – and, better still, switch them off!

Roll on two months, and the night landing site is completed and functional. We are very grateful to those who donated to this project, to Geoffrey Stidston and his family who have allowed the site to be on their land, and to Devon Air Ambulance Trust, who not only did a lot of the planning for the site, but also gave the parish a large grant to help pay for it. Thank you to Village Voice for giving the project publicity, which resulted in us receiving donations from parishioners, which contributed to the funding.

A small celebration was held on November 20th in the Yeo room when Toby Russell of DAAT gave a brief presentation about the night landing sites. Following this, we went up to the site, and Toby ceremonially turned the lights on from his mobile phone. We were so sorry that Geoffrey Stidston was unable to join us for this occasion, and we all wish him well for a speedy recovery from his recent accident.

Sue Crowther and Anna Martin

Devon Air Ambulance





Carols on the Green

Monday, 9 December

4.30pm

War Memorial

THURLESTONE Village Green

BBC DJ Shep from Radio Devon

Father Christmas down the Phonebox Chimney



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A NOTE FROM YOUR DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR



Summer beachside parking

Hopefully parking in the beach areas did improve a little this season, after more enforcement. It will never be enough, I know. I'll keep trying to improve the situation.

Brexit preparation for Devon

A DCC dedicated web page www.devon.gov.uk/brexit has key messages for residents, EU citizens, businesses and schools, with supporting Government department information.

Climate change

This continues to be an issue that we all have concerns about. DCC is doing all it can in exploring avenues, so as to play its part in helping to reduce its carbon emissions. Many of the outcomes will have influence on Parishes and Towns relating to, for example, planning and highways.

5G (ultrafast mobile phone speeds)

Devon County Council remains under considerable pressure on perceived health side effects of 5G. Public Health England continues to monitor any health-related evidence and updates accordingly as required. 5G is important to rural communities as well as towns. It will dramatically improve the mobile service provision and indeed some say will be a replacement for 'fibre to the premise' broadband.

Highways

I recently met with the Parish Council and an officer from Highways to look at ways of improving traffic flows and speeding in Bantham. Unfortunately, a recent speed check did not show there to be a speeding issue in Bantham.

Nevertheless, we did consider various ways in which improvements could be used. I am now waiting to know whether a Traffic Order exists limiting the speed to 30 MPH in Bantham.

At the time of writing we are suffering from very wet conditions which are having a bad effect on the state of the roads. I'm hoping this winter will not be too harsh on the road network.

Broadband

At present I have no further news, other than to say CDS are proceeding to procure a new contract, replacing Gigaclear, to roll out the service across Devon and Somerset. I will keep you informed as to Thurlestone's timing.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Rufus Gilbert, DCC Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Innovation.

Engaging Rural Micros

Are you a rural micro business or sole trader? Are you interested in shaping the future of business support? Then the Engaging Rural Micros project wants to work with you!

Engaging Rural Micros is a research trial to learn how to stimulate positive mindsets towards improving business efficiency.

Micro businesses, freelancers and sole traders (less than 10 employees) make up 90.1% of Devon's rural economy*. Research suggests that there is a need for these rural micros to overcome their tendencies towards overworking, and increase time working *on the business* rather than *in the business*.

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The trial will be based in rural areas of Devon (outside of settlements with a population over 10,000).

If you are a micro business owner, freelancer or sole trader, sign up online at www.engagingruralmicros.com or contact engagingruralmicros@devon.gov.uk before the end of December 2019.

*statistics excluding Exeter



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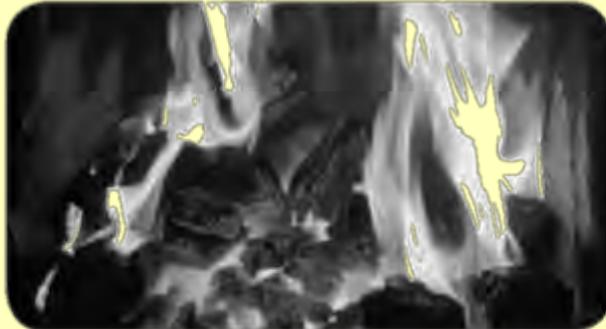
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SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST – 'PILLAGE!'

If you'll forgive me, I am writing this issue's piece on a Thurlestone family that I am connected to, primarily its most famous member, Sir Philip Pilditch (1st Baronet ;1861-1948). Thurlestone Golf Club displays a board listing former captains, which includes Sir Philip who retired here around 1931 and was Captain of the Golf Club in 1935. He was a man of many accomplishments and, as one might expect of a 1st baronet with so many credentials, was a close relative of mine. A fourth-cousin-three-times-removed, in fact!!

It isn't possible to give a detailed biography here, but further details (also photos) are easily found on-line, re. his architectural career - he designed the impressive 'Nag's Head' pub in Covent Garden - and his political career as a Conservative Unionist. As a surveyor, he worked for the Duke of Bedford, and had a role in the saving for posterity of a number of historic monuments such as Hadrian's Wall and, as President of The Old Plymouth Society, was instrumental (with others) in preserving the historic Barbican area. His knighthood in 1929 related to work during the First World War.

As a well-educated young man, he left his native Plymouth and at first lived in Islington, working as an auctioneer's clerk. The wider family were involved in the building trade in one way or another, stemming from a long line of carpenters in previous generations.

His father and grandfather lived in Plymouth (East Stonehouse). His great-grandfather William was the one who moved into Plymouth from Newton Ferrers, where he was born. William's father however, was a Thurlestone man, one Daniel Pilditch. One further generation back we find John Pilditch (1703 - 1751), another carpenter, who is the 3x great-grandfather of Sir Philip, and 6x great-grandfather of yours truly – our ancestor in common.

We can trace this line (which is on my mother's side) back to a marriage in 1578 between David Pilditch & Thomazine Rogers – one of the earliest in the Thurlestone registers, and meaning that David would have been born around the 1550s and during the reign of Queen Mary. We had no idea of any connection before my parents moved here thirty years ago – it is pure coincidence. A document exists which I don't have a copy of signed by a Pilditch in the 16th or 17th century to do with the Church House in Thurlestone village (and it's in 'dog Latin' too, so not easily readable if I did have it!).

The Pilditch clan was solidly based in Thurlestone though naturally with each new generation, families moved far and wide. South Milton became another 'hotbed' of Pilditches, again, mostly carpenters. I have to wonder how much of the woodwork in the parish churches of Thurlestone or South Milton include the handiwork of one of the Pilditch carpenters. The churchwardens' accounts of 1778 have an entry of a sum paid to one Jonathan Pilditch for wedging the bells; wedges were driven between the framework and the walls of the tower. (My thanks to Graham Collyer of South Milton for that).

One piece of ephemera which has survived was found in what is now 'Pond Cottage' and deposited with Reading University's 'Rural History Centre'. This is a receipt for work done for Mr. Baker of Collacot in 1786 (see right). Jonathan Pilditch who carried out this work is my 5x great-grandfather, the brother of the above-mentioned Daniel. He was then a tenant of what is now 'Pond Cottage'.

Account of work done for Mr Baker at Collacot
by me Jonathan Pilditch Carpenter
1786 April the 11 for mending of gates and sels - 8-9
the 25 half a baye my self - 0-9
for timber and sels - 1-6
June the 28 for a new gate and hanging and sels - 6-6
9-4
June 30th 1786 the
of above Bill by me
Jonathan Pilditch

Jonathan's daughter Elizabeth married South Milton carpenter John Harris and they lived at 'Trutes', down by the stream in South Milton. Having discovered these ancestors many years ago I was on a visit 'home' and my father got hold of a gravestone plot for S. Milton. We searched in vain for a Harris grave but to no avail. I remember saying "Give back the map and say thank you, but I'm going right over there to see for myself". Sure enough, I went straight to a small tombstone not shown on the map. On the N.W. side of the churchyard, in an otherwise empty area, is the gravestone for my Harris 4x G-Grandparents. Not only that but Jonathan & Elizabeth Pilditch, the previous generation, are on a small stone adjacent. I have absolutely no explanation except to say that I was led there – and this has happened to other people I know as well.

Scanning through the scrawl of ancient parish registers throughout the South Hams (I have many ancestral lines here!) I began to notice a number of occurrences of the name 'Pillage' (or variants of) which reminded me of a tale handed down by other Pilditch researchers. Most rural folk were illiterate centuries ago and surnames were written into the registers 'as heard' with local accents, so I assumed that 'Pillage' was a derivation of 'Pilditch', and sure enough it wasn't long before I found a record of both variations for the same individual.

The strange piece of folklore is that the vicar of South Milton adopted two sons of a woman, all of whom were shipwrecked in the vicinity - in 1436! These were named Pilditch supposedly – or Pillage? A very specific date from so long ago, and nobody knows the exact source. It seems very fanciful, but in my experience with family history, there is seldom smoke without fire – just the embellishments of centuries! The origins of the surname are unclear so could there be some ancient connection at a time when surnames were just taking shape? It dawned on me that the derivation was more likely the other way around and that 'Pillage' was the original name – perhaps someone with a speech impediment repeated it so often that 'Pilditch' became a common alternative version.

Winding forwards, Sir Philip, on his retirement, came back to his roots and did a little family history. He played a large part in the restoration of the Barbican, earmarked for slum-clearance in the '20s. He helped save at least a dozen Grade II listed properties including "The Elizabethan House" in New Street. My Great-Grandmother, Mary Ann Ida Harris, descended from the South Milton Harrises I mentioned above, was a Plymothian. She married a Barbican Fisherman, John Chown, who was born at 32 New Street, "The Elizabethan House" in 1865 - its less salubrious days. They lived to see it restored but had absolutely no idea that one of the key players responsible was her 4th cousin!

To bring the tale back to Thurlestone, Sir Philip was playing golf one day when he asked a lad, his caddy, what his name was. "Pilditch Sir" said the lad. Sir Philip put the boy through Naval school and he became a Master in the Merchant Navy. The sad part is that Arthur (the boy's name) was killed on the MV 'Empire Stanley' in the Second World War. This shows us the nature of a man who briefly returned to his roots to retire, having left a priceless legacy for future generations. Sir Philip returned to Surrey - perhaps due to infirmity, as he was 87 when he died.

As I have no further pictures for this article, here's an oft-used view of Hope Cove, seen on many a postcard and book cover. The lady in the doorway married well-known fisherman Isaac Jarvis. Her maiden name was Clara Jane Pilditch – a 4th cousin of both my Great Grandmother and of Sir Philip. I found that out only last year!



Michael Stephens



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NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting 7th October

OPEN FORUM An update was requested about DCC's recent speed survey carried out in Bantham and how representative it had been.

The new Head of Thurlestone Academy introduced herself. She is very interested in how the school can build links with the community.

COMMUNITY HOUSING A public session had been held before the meeting to discuss the comments from the NP meeting on 1st October and to allow members of the public to make further comments as appropriate. (See separate minutes)

The Chairman explained that the duty of the Parish Council was to support a site for Community-led housing that could be delivered in accordance with the Thurlestone Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Councillors had read the comments in full obtained on 1 October about the West Buckland and Buckland Park Farm, North Upton site. They had also read comments about the site recently suggested by the Estate on land opposite the village shop in Bantham and were aware that, as yet, there was no planning application on the table for this site and it was not considered in our January consultation. In view of the above, the Chairman invited councillors to vote for which of the two sites that were already on the table in January, at the start of the consultation, would deliver this Community-led Housing initiative for the parish.

A vote was held and the unanimous decision was to made to proceed to make an application for the Community-Led Housing scheme at Buckland Park Farm forthwith and without delay.

SANDERLING EDDYSTONE ROAD THURLESTONE Householder application for extensions to existing dwelling. SUPPORTED.

WESTERN LODGE, THURLESTONE Erection of agricultural store building (Revised plans). OBJECTION.

PLOT 29 HIGHFIELD, EDDYSTONE ROAD, THURLESTONE Outline application with all matters reserved for the construction of a single dwelling. OBJECTION.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Councillor Gilbert reported that Glebe Field has been allocated funding for the repair of the road surface. DCC Cabinet will discuss the process by which utility companies apply for road closures so as to make the closure times shorter and the work more efficient.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS SHDC needs to find £200k in savings and they will be discussing this in the next few weeks. They have also agreed to take on two more Planning Enforcement Officers and there is a new section on the website for reporting a planning enforcement situation.

AVON ESTUARY PATROL AND FERRY Councillors discussed the need for the Patrol and the level of service it provides. They agreed that it would be useful to see the document awarding the 5-year contract to the Bantham Estate so that they could better understand exactly what service level has been agreed. A question was also asked about whether the ferry was the same boat as the patrol boat and if the two services could be combined. It was decided that there were a number of questions which needed to be addressed before looking at additional funding.

PARISH MATTERS DCC has taken some sample speeds in Bantham and these did not show any speeding. As there was some disagreement about the time at which the speed survey was taken, and as councillors feel strongly that this needs more investigation, it was agreed to have a site meeting with the DCC Highways Officer and County Councillor Gilbert on 31st October to discuss this in more detail.

An issue had been raised about the lights along the pathway near Homefield: the lights are on all night and residents are querying whether this is correct. Councillor Rhymes agreed to speak to neighbours about this.

LITTER BINS Councillor Pearce is still trying to sort out the dog bin by the war memorial. SHDC has bought new litter bins but they are not fit for dog litter purposes and she is working on trying to get proper dog litter bins to replace them.

MEMORIAL BENCHES Councillor Rhymes had carried out a survey of benches in the parish and there is quite a lot of work to be done on the ones we have already. Councillors agreed that it would be more appropriate to ask anyone who would like a memorial bench to make a contribution towards an existing bench, which could then be refurbished and fitted with a memorial plaque (not all of the benches have memorials at present).

ISLAND VIEW PLAY AREA The Parish Council took on this area as a green space for the Parish and we pay to maintain it. The PC needs to consider registering the title with the land registry. The Clerk was asked to speak to the insurers to find out what cover might be required.

Meeting 4th November

OPEN FORUM The mirror at Aune Cross by Chucka Cheese Lane has been very successful and now needs some repair.

At least 3 properties in the Parish are contravening the Dark Skies policy in the NP. All have large, exposed windows without coverings and one has bright lighting in the garden at night. The Parish Council was asked to raise this with the homeowners.

There are some cables down on the road between the Old Chapel at WB and The Sloop in Bantham which are broken and appear to be disconnected. The PC was asked to request removal of the cables and also the poles if this is the case.

The vote on the Community Housing scheme was queried and it was confirmed that the vote to look at the Buckland Park Farm site was unanimous.

There was a query about whether or not the West Buckland site was still available for community housing because some people had heard that it was still possible.

A member of the public asked why the Buckland Park Farm site was being considered for community housing.

A member of the public stated that, if necessary they would set up a Community Land Trust if the Parish Council continued to support the Buckland Park Farm site.

DAAT LANDING SITE has passed its safety inspection and is now operational. An opening ceremony is being organised for this month.

SUMMER COTTAGE WEST BUCKLAND Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. Supported.

GABLES END BANTHAM Householder application for construction of summer house in garden. Supported.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT There was a meeting in Bantham this week between Councillor Gilbert, the DCC Highways Officer and Thurlestone PC.

DCC needs to check whether or not there is actually a legal speed limit in Bantham.

There is no possibility of reducing the speed limit to 20mph as it is not DCC policy to do this except in specific cases where there is a proven speeding problem. This policy is being reviewed Devon-wide but the Police tend not to support the 20mph speed limits.

Councillor Williams has registered with the Community Speedwatch programme, which involves residents volunteering to measure speeds and gather evidence, which then goes to the Police and the DVLA.

Parking time limits along the village road will be left as they are at present, which prohibits parking from 8am – 6pm.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS Climate Action Plan – this is being hosted by DCC and there is a consultation going on at the moment in which members of the public can raise topics that they would like to be discussed.

THURLESTONE PUBLIC TOILETS The PC agreed to take them over on the basis that SHDC would cover the cost of the cleaning through their sub-contractors and that they would pay the legal fees for the transfer. The Golf Club was thanked for agreeing to make a financial contribution.

PARISH MATTERS The quote for the crown reduction of the Oak and the Chestnut by the bus shelter in Thurlestone was approved and the works will be authorised.

Councillors discussed the requirement for a Parish Lengthsman and how the job could be supported through voluntary labour. Councillors were asked to speak to parishioners to gather more views about the work required and the discussion will be finalised at the December meeting.

For more detailed information, see the full Minutes on the Parish Website.

DOWNTON ABBEY

PREMIERE AT MERLIN CINEMA SUPPORTING

TRIANGLE DROP-IN CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE KINGSBRIDGE

144 people, some dressed in period character clothes, attended the Merlin Premiere showing of the film Downton Abbey. They were served by butlers with Prosecco and chocolates, entertained with music and, of course, a brilliant film. The Gala evening, which included a raffle for the charity, raised £1300.

The Triangle Centre's role is to help cancer patients and families navigate through their treatments and recovery. It helps patients with the explanation of treatments and their aims along with strategies for coping with any side effects.

It also offers emotional and practical support for patients, carers and family and practical help with Benefits. It can assist patients in dealing with the impact of a cancer diagnosis and its treatment upon relationships, sexuality and intimacy.

Complimentary therapies and counselling are available, with time and privacy to explore what matters to you.

The **Triangle Cancer Support** is a drop-in centre at **South Hams Hospital** on **Tuesdays** between **10 am and 4pm**. Either drop in or telephone **01548 852349**

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>
Monday 23 rd Dec	8.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
Tuesday 24 th Dec	8.00 - 4.00	9.00 - 2.00
Wednesday 25th Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED
Thursday 26 th Dec	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Friday 27 th Dec	8.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
Saturday 28 th Dec	8.00 - 4.00	9.00 - 1.00
Sunday 29 th Dec	8.30 - 1.00	CLOSED
Monday 30 th Dec	8.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
Tuesday 31 st Dec	8.00 - 4.00	9.00 - 2.00
<u>2020</u>		
Wednesday 1 st Jan	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Thursday 2 nd Jan	8.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30

(Normal opening hours resume Thursday 2nd Jan)

Our Christmas Draw will take place on Tuesday 23rd December at 11am, with drinks and “nibbles” for everyone. Tickets are available in the shop. All proceeds will be put towards the prizes.

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

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.



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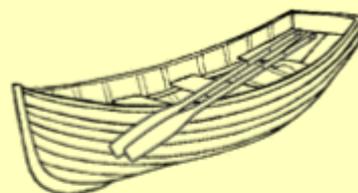
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*All
Saints*

RECTOR:
Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

LAY READER: Peter Gornall



Division, Anger and Christmas Hope

Preparations for Christmas this year are being made against the background of an impending General Election. We are told that our country is divided and this is certainly the case. There is, however, nothing new about division. Within democratic societies we are able to air our differences and divisions and find some resolution to these at the ballot box. The problem that we face today is not division but dysfunction. The failure to resolve Brexit, one way or another, is the problem.

It is all too easy for us to blame politicians for this failure, but we would be wrong to do so. We, the people, elected the current House of Commons in 2017. Both the Conservative Party and the Labour Party made manifesto commitments to honour the Referendum result, but honour it in very different ways. In other words two very different visions of Brexit were laid out. We, the people, had a choice. Unfortunately neither party persuaded the electorate, in sufficient numbers, to gain a Commons' majority for their vision. The current impasse was created not by political failure but by both parties sticking to their different visions of Brexit, whether we like the result or not.

What then of Christmas? Does the action of God in the manger at Bethlehem have anything to say at this present time in the life of our nation? Needless to say, I believe that it does. It is all too easy for us to descend into anger and bitterness. It is all too easy for us to blame others for the Brexit impasse or a whole range of other problems. But to give in to anger, bitterness and blame takes us a million miles away from that Christmas manger. At Christmas God spoke, and speaks, the words of peace, joy, love and hope.

After the Election on 12th December we, the people, will have elected a new House of Commons. Whatever the result there will be some who are happy and others who are unhappy. It may be that Brexit happens quickly or it may be that more negotiations take place followed by a People's Vote. Whatever happens it is not the politicians alone that bear the burden of action. We too, in electing those who represent us, bear that burden as well. Maybe if we reflect on shared responsibility we might be able to temper anger, bitterness and blame; maybe we might be able to allow God's vision for our future to equip us, each of us, to play our part in the future of this nation.

2000 years ago God had plenty to be angry about and plenty to blame humanity for. But he decided not to hate, not to destroy, but instead to love. A happy (and peaceful) Christmas to each one of you for 2019.

David Hartley

Everyone, especially accompanied children, would be welcome to join



Carol Singing

AROUND BUCKLAND

MONDAY DECEMBER 16TH

in aid of Children in Distress

Meet 5 p.m. at VALLEYSIDE LAMP POST

Finishing at the **LANGMANS WEST** (the Martins' house) **for seasonal refreshments**



If weather is wet, check with Liz Webb 560090



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)
DECEMBER 1ST	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Fairtrade Stall) 4.30pm Benefice Advent Carol Service at <i>Thurlestone</i>
DECEMBER 8TH	11.10am Matins
DEC. 15TH, 22ND; JAN. 5TH, 19TH	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Fairtrade Stall Jan. 5)
FRIDAY DECEMBER 20TH	 6.00pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols followed by mulled wine and Mince Pies Collection for <i>Children in Distress</i>
CHRISTMAS EVE	11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (CW)
CHRISTMAS DAY	11.10am Christmas Family Service followed by shortened Holy Communion (CW)
DEC. 29TH, JAN. 12TH	11.10am Morning Worship
NEW YEAR'S EVE	6.00pm Informal New Year's Eve Service (½ hour)
JANUARY 26TH	(Note time) 11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) at <i>Thurlestone</i> with Renewal of Covenant

Regular Midweek Services

 except December 23rd - January 2nd

THURSDAY DEC. 5TH/JAN. 2ND	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



2020 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
Souper *only £5*
followed by tea/coffee & cake
FRIDAY DEC. 6/JAN. 17
12.30 p.m.
MEETING ROOM
in aid of Church Funds



Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for:-

<p>Coffee-Time WEDNESDAYS 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.</p>  <p><i>Donations in aid of monthly charity</i></p>	<p>Films for All</p> <p>DECEMBER 3RD</p> <p>Mary Poppins Returns <i>Emily Blunt, Ben Wishaw, Emily Hamilton, Colin Firth, Meryl Streep, Julie Walters</i></p>	<p>TUESDAYS 2.30 PM</p> <p>JANUARY 7TH</p> <p>Stan & Ollie <i>Steve Coogan, John C. Reilly, Nina Arianda, Danny Huston, Shirley Henderson, Rufus Jones</i></p>
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Thurlestone Church Christmas Services

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20TH

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)

School Report



**ALL SAINTS'
THURLESTONE**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Thurlestone All Saints' School has it all wrapped up for Christmas 2019

The School will be holding its annual Christmas Fair on Friday December 6th between 3.30 and 5.30pm and as always it promises to be full of festive fun and cheer, plenty of stalls and a range of goodies and treats to buy. Firm favourites such as the sweetie tombola, the wine tombola and the toy table are back as well as children's craft stalls, amazing local raffle prizes and festive hampers. Father Christmas will be making a guest appearance with his team of little elves should the children wish to place a particular present order! There'll be plenty of mulled wine on offer and a warm welcome so do please come along and bring friends, neighbours and relatives.

In other news, a Touch Typing club has been running at the School for 5 years now and has proved invaluable in giving children the chance to learn this very useful lifeskill which they are then able to take up to secondary school. However the current teacher is stepping down after Christmas and we are looking for someone to take over. All the equipment is there (funded by the FTS) and you don't need to be an expert as full training will be given. Currently the club runs on Tuesday lunchtime and Tuesday after school so no more than 2 hours a week commitment but this could be flexible to suit. It is a paid role so if you are interested and need more information, please contact the school on 560494 or thurlestone@lapsw.org

Finally many thanks to all those who attended the FTS fundraising quiz night at the Village Inn on Nov 14th. A huge thank you also to the pub and all their staff for supporting the school's biggest fund raising event of the year and to the quizmaster, Mr Tim Bunn, who is always entertaining! Hundreds of pounds were raised which will go towards new books, IT and PE equipment for the school. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends and neighbours!

Sian Williams



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Wednesday 18th December 7:30
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Parish Hall News

By Alison Daily (Secretary)



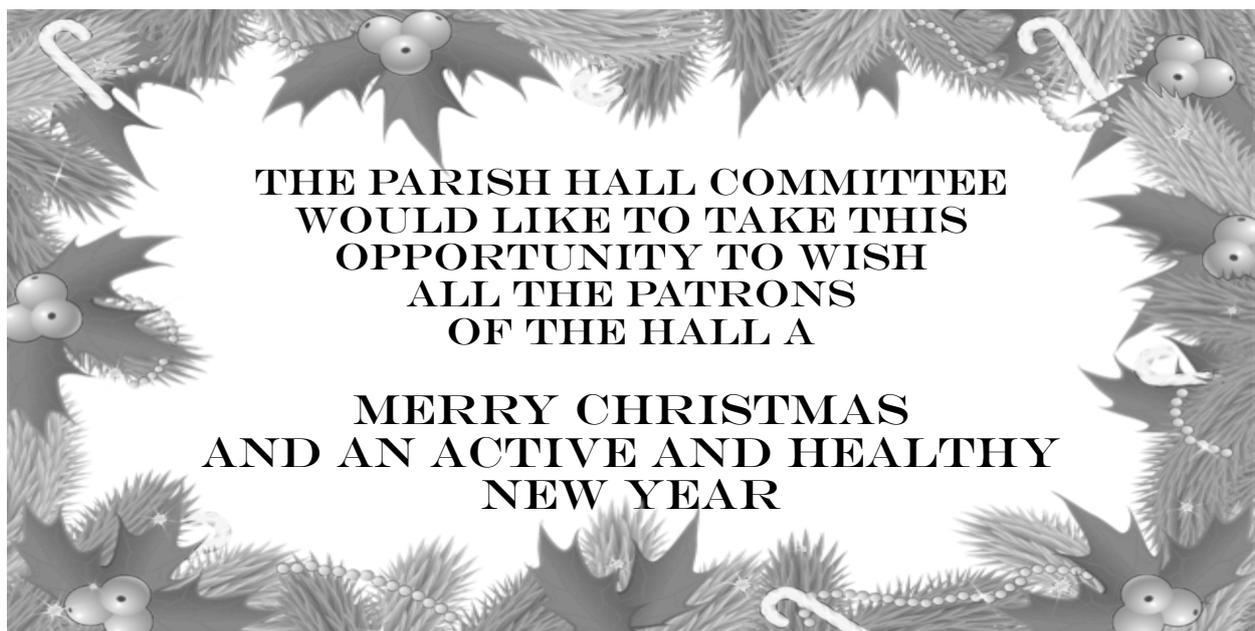
Thursday 10th October Antiques Call My Bluff

The 35 people who attended had a highly enjoyable and entertaining evening, provided by Chris, Nik and Brian from Bearnas Hampton and Littlewood. They brought along 10 antiques giving 3 possible explanations as to who created them, what they were and the value. We then had to mark which of the options we thought was correct on our quiz sheets. For example - we were shown an exquisite pair of earrings. Were they cubic Zirconia worn by Marilyn Monroe in the film 'Some Like it Hot'; were they made of glass?; or genuine diamonds? They were diamonds- valued at £12 -14000, a very popular exhibit with the ladies. Perhaps they were purchased at the auction in Exeter as a Christmas present. Was the small painting of a bird's nest by one of the Van Rental brothers, in this case Hertz Van Rental? We so wanted this to be true, but sadly it was not!

The evening's winner, with an impressive 8 out of 10 correct answers, was Peter Stanier who won the coveted bottle of fizz. Well done.

Saturday 9th November Tim Kliphuis

On a sometimes wet and windy evening about 100 people travelled from near and far for a wonderful evening filled with great music, featuring a combination of classical, folk, gypsy jazz and world music provided by the popular Tim Kliphuis Trio, consisting of Tim (Violin) together with Roy Percy (bass) and Nigel Clark (guitar). Tim likes to incorporate smaller venues in amongst larger ones so we are very privileged he chose once again to return to our parish hall to perform as part of their 2019 world tour. The captivated audience was treated to adaptations from their Grappelli album as well as compositions from their new album together with their renditions of the Brandenburg Concertos and Vivaldi's Four Seasons. All agreed it was the most sublime evening and provided a fitting end to our entertainment programme of 2019.





Many years ago, Mary Berry used to take holidays in Thurlestone, and stayed at Heathfield, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Darby. She devised a recipe for a wonderful Beef casserole, and used to bring half of it down to Thurlestone for the first evening's dinner, and leave the other half at home for use on her return. Hence the name for this wonderful dish, which was recently used to fortify the Tim Kliphuis trio before their concert in the Parish Hall.

Judging by the relish with which it was received, and the quality of the concert, it hasn't lost its magic touch.

Village Voice is indebted to Kay Morley for providing this recipe.

Thurlestone Beef

Serves 12, but can be halved or quartered quite easily.

Ingredients

4lb stewing steak cut into 1" cubes
3 rashers streaky bacon, snipped
3 tablespoons sunflower oil
3oz flour
Heaped teaspoon of curry powder
8 sticks celery, sliced
2 onions, chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1lb carrots, cut into thin strips
Quarter pint Port wine
1½ pints Beef stock
2 x 14oz cans chopped tomatoes
Salt and freshly ground pepper



Method

1. Heat oil in a large flameproof casserole, and brown meat and bacon in batches.
2. Return all to casserole, sprinkle in flour and curry powder, and mix well.
3. Add remaining ingredients, and bring to the boil
4. Cover casserole dish, and place it in a pre heated oven at 160C.
5. After 2 hours, check that meat is tender.
6. Sprinkle with freshly chopped Parsley.
7. Serve with noodles.

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Puzzle Page

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

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

CODEWORD

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

Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

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

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

Sudoku - Fiendish

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

Sudoku - Hard

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

There were a few correct answers last month so we drew the winner of the coveted bottle of wine from a hat. Congratulations to Pauline Lonsdale!

THURLESTONE THEN

Continuing the memoirs of Monica Coope

CHAPTER 4

Forty years ago our village possessed that most golden of possessions - silence. It brooded over the cottage gardens and the village street, in the quiet coves, the lanes and the deep valleys, but there was music too in the sighing of the sea, rustle of trees, the sudden singing of feathers as a gull swooped past your head. But this music came to you intermittently between the silence, so perhaps you noticed the music more keenly, and only when you went away to city life and to the noise that is not music to country ears, then only did you realise that the great and ancient quiet of an old village is the song in your heart.

The sounds of Thurlestone were lovely ones, and surely the only melody that can be exquisite even though it is out of tune is that of church bells. Our five bells were not in tune, yet Father always said that the tenor bell had the sweetest tone of any in Devon, and when I hear a peal that is tone perfect I have the feeling that anything so right cannot be quite right, and that the mingled sob of the imprisoned peal in a belfry is the perfect discord.

The music of Thurlestone started for us with the first cawing of the rooks in the elms up the drive and the squeaking bough of one tree that overlapped another. Neither of them would give way, so year after year they leant against each other and complained with a high, thin note every time the wind blew. Then a farm cart would go up the road with a creak, and the slow clip-clop of the old horse taking his time about it and not to be persuaded otherwise. A scuttering of padded feet heralded the cows going to be milked, and we would hear Jim Bevell chanting in a sing-song voice "Here we come down; here we come down." Later on we knew we should hear the same scuttering of feet, and Jim would be singing to his herd "Here we come up; here we come up".

Behind a great door-banger and somewhat flat footed, Father heralded his up-rising by the tread of heavy feet and the slam of a distant door, so we knew we had to look lively if we were not going to be late for prayers.

Up we got all of a hurry, shoved on our clothes, baptized our foreheads and called it a wash, brushed our hair at the temples and hoped it would pass, pulled on long black woollen stockings and buttoned them to the strips of elastic with holes at intervals which served us for suspenders. Then, if you were unlucky, the strains of "New ev'ry morning is the Love" would arise from the dining room, and you either had to sneak in and trust you were not noticed (which you were) or else take French leave and potter around until the scraping of chairs indicated that family and maids were rising from their knees and the time had come for you to make your entrance and your explanation. "An excuse is no reason" was the chief stumbling block.

Our stable yard was cobbled, and the sound of the pony being led out to be harnessed, with her iron shoes ringing on the rounded stones, was the moment to hurry if you were going out in the trap. Father spoilt his ponies more than he did his children and we were never allowed to keep the pony waiting. Dora was patient and did not punish us, but Belle was always in a bustle to be off, and if she had to stand by the front door longer than she liked, she would pay you out when she felt your weight on the step at the back. Before there was time for you to yank yourself into the seat and seize the reins, Belle would back quickly and obliquely into the wall of the house, and then if she did not succeed in crushing you to death, she took a leap forward and galloped up the drive, turning at right angles out of the gate as if the devil were on her tail.

None of us was ever hurt, but we were often badly scared, and so must have been those in the roadway as Jehu flashed by. We did not flash for long though, for the hill started to rise steeply about fifty yards off, and then Belle would suddenly drop to a wearisome, dawdling walk, as if absolutely exhausted by the long wait in the drive and the inconsiderate behaviour of the person at the reins.

In those days the women wore pattens over their shoes to go to and fro from the pump with their pails and they made a peculiar sound, which is best described by the word itself. How nice such words are and how ugly the word which describes them. How I love shiver, and clink, and boom and hiss. Splutter is a good one; so is tantrum, and lazy, and cavern. Especially cavern, for you can hear the echo of your voice dying away in a hollow undertone as it would in a cavern.

Crash - that word itself transports me to Lea Foot on a stormy day when the Atlantic rollers have become enraged and great breakers are rearing up with white horses frilling their edges as they speed and come towards you, uplifted in menace. But they miss you again and again and crash with their power expended on the stony shingle just below where you stand, only to rush back with a deadly under suction to gather momentum for the next spring, leaping and tearing through the rocks, foaming with anger..... Crash.

In such weather seaweed piles up in stacks and, if it is the variety known to us as horses' tails, there will soon be a cart lumbering down to the tide mark to garner the precious stuff and haul it away to manure the fields. Father used to have a load every year for his asparagus beds and the stench of it when it matured in the hot sun was the only thing that would keep us out of the kitchen garden when Father and the gardener were safely elsewhere. A high wall of cob surrounded this garden and the door into it by the stables was kept locked for eleven very good reasons, for although we got plenty of fruit to eat, we were never satisfied. My own method was simple, as the light six-foot ladder was within my strength to carry and once up on the top of the wall I could pull it up and let it down the other side with ease. Making a basket never entered my head because for one thing, if I were caught, the basket would be evidence enough to hang me. But I felt in honour bound (since honour had to come into it somewhere) to take back enough for those outside, so the obvious place was the legs of my blue cotton bloomers, conveniently held at the knees with elastic. Stuffed with ripe peaches, greengages and golden plums, I had to walk carefully to avoid crushing and the anxious ascent of the wall and safe arrival down the other side was full of suspense for me and mine.

Father must have guessed that someone was stealing fruit because I never stinted and only the best was good enough, but he never asked me, or anyone else, about it and continued to padlock the walled garden as soon as the gardener went home. Mother never asked questions either when I approached her with a blushing peach, warm in its prime and put it into her hand.

An extra trace horse would come down to the shore while the seaweed cart was being loaded and even then it was all the two of them could do to drag the heavy weight up the shelving shore to the road by the club house. The wheels were deeply sunk into the shingle, and the horses would strain and tug and strain again before they could get going, with the carter putting his shoulder to the wheel and shouting encouragement to Boxer & Daisy, while we threw our puny weights in at the back and imagined we were helping. At last they struggled on to the metalled road and made their steady way home, with a merciful rest on the steep corner of the hill by Drury Lane. (Miss Drury lived down it). Then with a heave they were off again, harness creaking and the chain trace going rattle-tattle against the shafts, and so on and up until they reached their destination where, with a tip and a heave backwards, their shining slippery load of brown seaweed, rich in iodine, was tipped and stacked.

Boxer blew contentedly through his nostrils and stood quietly in the shafts as Daisy was led out of the traces and re-harnessed to her own waiting cart. Daisy has been a friend in deed and in need.

When Gwen and I were living in London, we brought to what we considered perfection, two of the sounds we loved best in Thurlestone, the cry of the seagulls and the surging sigh of waves as they broke. I did the gulls and she the waves, although we could understudy each other pretty well; it was our little parlour trick and we used to do it until we felt so homesick that we had to stop. The sea noise was pretty difficult and apt to give you a sore throat, the outgoing pull being a deep breath in the pharynx. "Let's do Lea Foot," we would say, as we sat by the fire two hundred and more miles away and the cry of the gulls would arise in Kensington, while the blue sea of Devon rose and fell with our London lungs.

When the nights were breathless with heat and sleep seemed far away, Hilda, Wins and I would lie on our little iron bedsteads, blankets flung off, looking for pictures in the branches of the elm trees in the drive and when darkness fell and a kindly breeze fluttered the curtains and stroked our hot foreheads with cool fingers, then we would hear a sound of Thurlestone that we listened and waited for night after night - the young men of the village coming home from their cider and ale, singing as they came, with accordions and mouth organs setting the tune. It was harmonious singing, not raucous or drunken and the songs they sang were the old ones, songs we knew too, and our small voices would chime in very softly with "Oh dear, what can the matter be", as they passed by our garden wall into the village and so to their own homes and quiet fell upon us and them. But the melody that rings louder and truer in my memory than any other is on the dark nights, with the oil lamps burning in a gentle glow and a wood fire of apple sending blue and green and purple flames licking up the chimney. Then Mother is sitting relaxed at her piano and her small white hands, with a stretch I could never attain weaving magic for her entranced little girls upstairs. Wealth we had not, nor position, nor prospects, but we went to sleep enriched by the strains of Liszt's Consolations and we lapped in the beauty of those sweet sounds.

Storms there were and terror by night when the souwester reared and shouted and the sea became a demented cruel monster, thirsting for the souls of men and ships. Then it was that we knelt and prayed for all those at sea tonight and prayed with all our hearts, for those who live their lives by the sea fear it as well as love it and when it goes mad on a winter's night we know that brave men are in danger. Brave men not only on the sea but also on the shore; the coastguards at watch on the cliffs, ready to summon help and to give it, together with the lifeboat men who in our day manned their boat at Hope Cove and had not then the protection and benefit of the breakwater. Yes, they had to launch her right into the waves, generally in a high gale and often with the tide running strongly against them.

But the rocket signal of distress in Bigbury Bay was enough for them and somehow or another - most of the able-bodied villagers lending a hand - the lifeboat would take to the water and the crew bend to their oars with strength and determination.

The explosion of a rocket at sea would get us all out of bed, peering through the windows for the sight of another, which would give us some idea where the wreck was. Generally it would be on the reef of rocks running across the bay well inside the tip of Bolt Tail and known and avoided by mariners, but sometimes in those days of sail the running sea and the lashing gale took command and then it was that the rockets flared and shot skywards and the good men of Hope answered the cry for help.

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BOOKSHELF

'Whiskey When We're Dry' by John Larison

I have never read a Western novel before, although I've seen plenty of Western films, but I was intrigued by a review of this book. The narrator is Jessilyn Harney (Jess) whose mother died giving birth to her, leaving Jess at a very young age looking after her Pa and brother Noah. In her words 'I did the woman work while Pa and Noah labored the spread. I dreaded my lonely washings and stewings and mendings and tendings. But better breed enthusiasm or you in for a tough go in this life'. During this time, however, whenever Pa teaches Noah how to shoot, she is quietly watching and learning.

Later, Noah has a fierce argument with his Pa and runs away, becoming a sought after outlaw. Not long after this Pa dies, leaving Jess alone on the homestead. She is now an excellent shot and, worn down with trying to keep everything going, she decides to go and look for Noah and bring him home. Spring 1885, she cuts her hair, binds her chest, and wearing Noah's old clothes, she saddles her mare, Ingrid, and her adventures begin! It's a romp of a tale. She meets some pretty nasty individuals, gets injured, finds a taste for whiskey (helps the pain) and then because of her shooting skill, takes part in betting matches which earn good money. She catches the eye of the State Governor, who takes a shine to her, and takes her on as his guard, but whose mission is to find the infamous outlaw, Noah Harney. (I keep referring to a 'she' but remember, to everyone she meets she is a 'he').

Obviously more adventures follow and she does eventually find Noah and she finds love, but both are not quite what she expected.... I really enjoyed this unusual tale, particularly Jess's voice throughout. However, I think I'll stick to old Western films where the baddies wear the black hats and John Wayne usually wins the day.

Carolyn Taylor

Christmas Giggles



What do you call people who are afraid of Santa?
Claustrophobics

Why was the snowman rummaging in the bag of carrots? - He was picking his nose.



What is the best present you can get at Christmas? - A broken drum-you can't beat it!

What did Adam say to his girlfriend on December 24th? - It's Christmas, Eve!

What happened to the man who stole an Advent calendar? - He got 25 days.

What happened to Santa when he went speed dating? - He pulled a cracker!

What is King Wenceslas' favourite pizza? - Deep-pan, crisp and even.

Who forgot to put on his boxer shorts before he went out delivering presents?

Saint Knickerless!

Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct - if you don't have all the answers, send in your entry anyway - you never know!) drawn on 1st January 2020. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk

CRYPTIC FILM TITLES

1. Australia's top magician (3,6,2,2)
2. Spot the German guy (9)
3. The highest weapon (3,3)
4. 24 carat digit (10)
5. A hot flush at the Disco? (8,5,5)
6. Examine girl's device (9,6)
7. Buying and selling fish (7,6)
8. Dating Jagger (9,3,5)
9. Blazing wagons (8,2,4)
10. Yankee vandalism (8,8)
11. Red Rum returns on a train (6,2,3,6,7)
12. Lunar gardener (9)
13. First Lady's biography (3,5,3)
14. 8 legged cat (9)
15. Explosive bovine, we hear (10)
16. Wide awake in the USA (9,2,7)
17. Recline on monarch (4,4)
18. It's a wind-up, this vitamin C source (1,9,6)
19. Does this spy sing in our town? (8)
20. Celebrity battles (4,4)
21. Courageous pump (10)
22. Criticizes maze (4,9)
23. O.D. on viagra (3,4)
24. Rig vote and get dizzy (7)
25. Sank - with confused cat in it (7)
26. First rule - do not talk about this film! (5,4)
27. Mrs Robinson's toy boy (3,8)
28. I burped - and it disappeared! (4,4,3,4)
29. Mushy novel (4,7)
30. Here's looking at this film, kid (10)

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter: 1. Heartbreak Hotel 2. Secret Love 3. Rock Around The Clock 4. She Wears Red Feathers 5. Singing The Blues 6. Three Coins In The Fountain 7. Unchained Melody 8. Memories Are Made Of This 9. Great Balls Of Fire 10. Magic Moments 11. On The Street Where You Live 12. Side Saddle 13. Mack The Knife 14. Stupid Cupid 15. What Do You Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For 16. My Old Man's a Dustman 17. Running Bear 18. Come Outside 19. I Can't Stop Loving You 20. Bachelor Boy 21. Delilah 22. Pretty Flamingo 23. Paint It Black 24. Puppet on a String 25. Lily The Pink 26. I Heard It Through The Grapevine 27. Something In The Air 28. It's Over 29. With a Little Help From My Friends 30. What a Wonderful World

There were quite a few perfect entries last month. First out of the hat to win our congratulations and the coveted bottle of wine is Ron & Carol Taylor!



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TRAMP REPORTS JULY TO OCTOBER



July 1st. Gareth Scott. A Historic Tour of Plymouth Waterfront 5 miles.

On a sunny Monday morning, sixteen Tramps mustered at the Mount Batten ferry for a Plymouth waterfront walk. Having crossed to the Barbican and after pointing out the highlights of the waterfront area (the Leviathan and Mayflower steps), we set off towards Plymouth Hoe.

As we walked along, we saw the Stella Maris, St James Scallop, the Royal Citadel and the first of the Elmer painted elephants which are fundraising exhibits for St. Luke's hospice. The Elmer trail followed the route of most of our walk so we had great fun spotting the next elephant and admiring its decoration. We stopped to look over the Tinside Lido which was inviting. Carrying on down to the West Hoe we passed the site of Plymouth's bullring and pier, the latter had been wrecked by some German tourists in March 1941. Walking on round the Rusty Anchor (the grand terrace built for senior naval officers in the 1850's) we had a sad reminder of how small the Royal Navy has become: there are a number of model ships on the wall and all but one of the real ships they represent have been sold or scrapped. We did however watch a rather rusty looking landing craft, going back and forth, taking supplies and personnel out to HMS Albion (a Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship) which was at anchor in The Sound.

At the corner of Millbay park, we stopped to admire the Eddystone Lighthouse pavement. It shows how John Smeaton designed the interlocking stonework that enabled the tower to withstand wind and wave for 123 years before being replaced because the rock on which it was stood was wearing away. We also read the grizzly tale, told on the lead nugget, about the fate of one of the lighthouse keepers of the previous lighthouse. I was going to show the group the gold bullion just around the corner but this had been removed due to redevelopment! The

display had been installed to show that of all the goods which passed through Millbay, the most exciting was gold bullion. Stacks of gold bars awaiting shipment to Fort Knox were often seen, guarded by a single unarmed policeman. Walking on round Millbay we positioned ourselves so that we could read the message on the railings. We then walked along Durnford Street where we had quotations from Sherlock Holmes to help pass the time. All along the route, embedded in the pavement, were telegraphic code words which had been invented by Captain Bernard to reduce the cost of sending a telegram. Having stopped to look at the Artillery Tower and take in the views from Devil's point, we descended the Royal William Yard (RWY) steps into the RWY where we had our picnic lunch.

We then headed off into Stonehouse and the delights of Devonport!

After crossing the creek, we followed the coast path around Mount Wise to Mutton Cove where the coast path meets the southern wall of the dockyard. At this point we headed towards the Devonport Column. The column was built in 1824 by public subscription to celebrate the granting of the Royal Charter for Devonport which had become a separate town and was no longer part of Plymouth. The column is over 100 feet tall. A 20-foot statue of King George IV was planned for the top but many of the promised subscriptions failed to be honoured and so the statue was never made and the builder took possession of the column to cover the building costs, charging the public to climb to the top to take in the views. Devonport Corporation eventually acquired it in 1887.

Due to time constraints, we didn't look round the interior of the Guildhall but several Trampers expressed an interest in returning to try out the coffee shop in the basement. Walking back towards the city we passed the "Egyptian House", also known as Odd Fellows Hall. This

provoked much hilarity as a couple of Trampers said that their fathers had been oddfellows! We then headed up Union Street to see the old "New Palace Theatre" and then on to the Barbican where we resisted the temptation of the gin distillery but did have a well-earned ice cream before going to catch the ferry back across to Mount Batten and the cars.

Sept 24th. Jenny Webb. East Portlemouth to Gara Rock. 5 miles.

A fine day – we drove to East Portlemouth for the beautiful walk to Gara Rock.

Parking at the top of the village, overlooking Salcombe and the Kingsbridge Estuary, we stood and admired the delightful panoramic view before setting off along the footpath and down the many steps to the estuary below.

High tide did not allow us to walk along the beach so we followed the estuary road up to Mill Bay. Here we joined the coast path leading through the woods and further along the estuary where we stopped to look down on the "pretty" Sunny Cove. Here the dogs took advantage of a quick dip!

We continued along the path with views across to South Sands, Bolt Head and Sharp Tor. As we reached the mouth of the Salcombe estuary, the views opened out to sea and the well-defined and undulating path took us eastwards along the cliff with Portlemouth Down stretching inland.

Continuing along the cliff path and up and over the ridge, Gammon Head and Prawle Point came into view with the coast watch station sitting on top. Prawle Point is the most southerly tip of Devon.

As we approached Gara Rock, we followed the track leading up to the pretty, thatched, look-out hut that perches on the cliff edge. After a welcome cup of coffee, whilst enjoying the magnificent scenery, we reluctantly made our way down the shaded, wooded lane of ancient lime trees back to Mill Bay.

Following the estuary road and a climb back up to the cars, we lingered again to soak up the scene from this amazing viewing point before heading home after a delightful walk.

Oct 4th. Eric & Liz Candy. Yealm Estuary & Warren Point

Five walkers and a dog gathered in the Wembury Beach Car Park on a sunny but blustery morning. The original numbers of eleven walkers and a dog had been reduced through threatened strong winds from hurricane Lorenzo plus personal and health issues. We set off downwind following the South West Coastal Path on the climb up above the Yealm Estuary with spectacular views of the estuary. We walked along the top of the cliffs above the bay ominously called 'The Tomb'! After this we then proceeded to the interesting view from above Season Point of the bar at the entrance to the Yealm River and Cellar Beach on the opposite side of the river with the forebodingly named Misery Point to the north east of it.

Having walked above the lower part of the River Yealm with beautiful views of the wooded riverbanks and boats resting at their moorings below, we then walked down the wooded decent to arrive a few meters above sea level at the picturesque Warren Point. From here we followed the path round the point to the Ferry Steps. Here a seasonal foot ferry connects three landing locations; the Warrenpoint Ferry Steps, the Bearing Point landing steps (Noss Mayo side of Newton Creek) plus the pontoon at the bottom of Yealm Steps adjacent to the Harbour Master's Office (Newton Ferrers side of Newton Creek). The Warren Point Ferry steps afforded us lovely views both up Newton Creek to Newton Ferrers plus further up the River Yealm.

Leaving Warren Point Ferry Steps behind us we then made our second steep climb up to where the Clitters Wood path branched off. At this point, we decided to avoid the steep climb back up from Clitters Wood and join up with the route from Clitters Wood at a point towards Old Barton Farm. We then followed the

footpath near to the intriguing walls around Wembury House and cut back to the Wembury Beach car park skirting round the edge of Wembury Village. The descent to the car park gave us marvellous views of The Great Mewstone off Wembury Point.

The whole party celebrated this enjoyable walk by retiring to The Odd Wheel pub in Knighton/Wembury where we all partook of a pleasant pub lunch.

October 9th. Anna & David Martin

The weather forecast was not good for the day of our walk, and threatened scattered heavy showers. So, we were delighted that 13 other people and 2 dogs turned up. We drove our cars to the National Trust car park at Snapes point, and set off round the point and walked down to Batson. We gave the walkers several options for the second part of the walk, including walking in to Salcombe for coffee, which was the choice of the majority. Just as we approached Island Street, the heavens opened, and we scuttled to the Salcombe Dairy, where we sat outside, but under a canopy, and had delicious coffee, and excellent hot chocolate. By the time we had finished our drinks, the rain had stopped and we were able to continue walking without getting wet again.

We walked back to Batson, and then on to the car park by road.

October 17th. Sheila & Graeme Fairley. Bolberry Down – not as advertised!

Super dog Ben to the rescue!

Now Ben may not be the youngest of Spaniels on the block but he is still remarkably fleet of paw and quick thinking with it. It was a windy day, though luckily not otherwise inclement. Eight of us plus 3 dogs set off from South Milton for Bolberry and on top of the cliff, Harry lost his hat. Quick as a flash Ben ran and caught the cap and deposited it, without any thought of treats, at Harry's feet. We were all very impressed. It was still a topic of conversation at Ocean's Restaurant, where we enjoyed coffee and a very delicious apple and ginger

cake. I am hoping that Lily the Airedale will have taken note.

Trisha to the rescue!

It was going to have been a boring linear walk, because despite now being full time residents for more than 2 years, I didn't know any better. Trish suggested we do the circular route through Sweetheart's Lane, along the fields and down to St. Clement's Church. The sun was shining, the views were stunning, so what was not to like. Thank you, Trisha.

October 23rd. Richard Swan. Lustleigh Cleave. 8 miles.

On arriving at the Trendlebere Down car park located high at the Southern end of the Cleave, we (9) were greeted by a magnificent view of the "V" shaped Cleave stretching away to the Northwest, with the River Bovey below and Hunters Tor rising steeply in the distance on the Eastern slopes.

It is neither the river nor the valley which gave the Cleave its name, but the great granite cliffs, blocks and boulders that castellated its sides and lip. (Cleave is derived from Old English cliff or bank).

A place apart, Lustleigh Cleave shows better than anywhere else in Devon, the dramatic effect that the Sticklepath Geological Fault had on the landscape. Starting in Torbay, this Tertiary period (2-60 million years ago) wrench fault forms a line through the Bovey Basin, along the eastern side of Dartmoor and on to Bideford Bay on the north coast. Prior to the faulting, this area of Granite we now see was formed some 280 million years ago (mya) as a Batholith (igneous intrusions) beneath Devon, Cornwall and the Scilly Isles. This molten mass was originally formed some 2000/3000M (6000/10000ft) below the then surface sedimentary deposits of Slates and Sandstones. Erosion over the Millennia removed these deposits by the end of the Carboniferous Period (65 mya), allowing the Batholith to cool and physically rise in elevation due to the loss of surface weight. This is the view that we now see, although the land would have then been fully forested.

With the above understood, our enthusiastic group set off down slope through Hisley Wood towards the fast-flowing River Bovey. On crossing the river, a second bridle path lead us gently northwest up the eastern slopes of the valley through the pleasant environs of woodlands. After a mile or so, the character and paths became more testing with outcrops of large weathered granite boulders. It was suspected that some had been organized into enclosures and /or shelters in ancient times.

A further push uphill led to the Sharpitor Nutcrackers (Logan Stone), a massive outcrop of granite, which provided panoramic views across the Cleave from North to South. Views included Haytor and Hound Tor to the Southwest and Manaton and Easdon Tor to the West. This outcrop is frequently used by the climbing fraternity.

The terrain now changed from woodlands to a gently rising but exposed ridge path leading to our picnic site, Hunters Tor elevated at 320m. We enjoyed full panorama views of the lush lowlands of Lustleigh Cleave and Manaton, along with the aggressive granite highland outcrops of Hound Tor, Rippon Tor and Hayne Down.

To the east of Hunters Tor are the remains of an Iron Age hillfort. It is thought that it was constructed, along with many others, to check the invading Romans. Local legend has it that a bloody battle between the local tribes and the Romans once took place here. Roman coinage has been found in the area.

We were now on the return leg of our journey, which started with a good downhill stretch to the River Bovey winding its way southwards through the Cleave. Our path led through Pecks Farm to the river at Foxworthy, a most delightful location complete with thatched cottages and picturesque stone bridge. It is worth noting that Pecks Farm and surrounding walls were originally constructed from material removed from the Hill Fort above.

A long and upwards traverse of the Eastern flanks of the Cleave returned us to the woodlands and massive boulders via Raven's Tor and Harten Chest, terminating with a welcome downhill stretch back to the River Bovey crossing at Hisley Bridge and finally back to our cars and the comfort of casual shoes.

Tramps week-end in the Quantock Hills, October 4th to 6th.

Our thanks are extended to Annie Lukehurst and Harry Forrester for organising a splendid week-end in the Quantock Hills.

Here are reports of the exertions and socialising from the 3 days.

Friday 4 October

Our lovely weekend started with an introductory walk in the heart of the Quantocks and our instructions were to meet up in the Quantocks Quarry Car Park slightly left and slightly right from the Foxy Bean Café. This navigational task proved to be a bit of a challenge for some as we were well off the beaten track, with several possible car parks of similar names and all accessed off an unmetalled road. However, 13 adults and 2 dogs managed to find each other prior to the 1pm rendezvous for a quick sandwich lunch followed by a 4-mile loop through Ranscombe Great Wood.

The loop was undulating through evergreen and broadleaved woods rising to a high point at Dead Woman's Ditch – an intriguing name for a rather grisly historic murder!

Luckily for those of us who missed out on a morning coffee and cake, an extra 200 steps brought us straight to the Foxy Bean Café and comments 'Oh! I passed this several times earlier today trying to find the meeting point'.

Then it was another navigational activity to find our hotel in Holford and start the weekend proper!



Saturday 5th October. Two 4-mile walks.

It takes genius walk planners to accommodate England fans who want to watch the Argentina match and walkers who want the exercise in the woods and hills. If they didn't plan England progressing to the World Cup quarter final, they surely got right the 2 hours of morning hill walking. We emerged from misty woodland on the east side above Combe Lane into sunshine over gorse, heather and bracken heathland; and to the sky-line silhouette of a deer calf and mother. Behind us the mist was still drifting in the Holford Combe. Ahead the oak woods, which on Quantock can rise to the summits, led us downwards from Dowsborough along a stream to the hotel.

The hotel lawn by midday was in sunshine, and there were equivalent smiles on the faces of the Rugby watchers. Our picnic bags held simple tasty food. There was never a moment's hurry, yet time passed easily, and soon we were marshalled (Including the Rugby-watchers) to the afternoon walk. On the west side the woodland ascent brought us to the Bicknoller Post, with its superb viewpoint over the bay to Minehead. Turning north-east we soon had views of Hinckley Point and the massive nuclear plant building site; and there were grand views of the Bristol channel to Steephelm, Barry Island and

the hazy form of the Welsh coast. The downhill woodland had alder, birch and sweet chestnut as well as holly early-dressed for Christmas. We reached the hotel even before tea-time! Two wonderful walks, no pressure; and plenty of time for a book or some bridge.

Sunday 6th October

We were delighted to see the weather was still bright and sunny. After a hearty breakfast we all set out towards the coastal path accessed through the woods near our hotel. Peter Coates and Gill Durden had some shopping to do and so cut out the first half hour to meet the others in Kilve not far from the house lived in by Samuel Coleridge, which was a quaint old house now owned by the National Trust. Then we set off over some beautiful fields and finally got to the coastal path where we were treated to some breath-taking views of the North Somerset coastline with views over to South Wales. We were interested to see the ancient rock formations that made natural breakwaters, and then our path led us to an old mine shaft which was interesting. We traversed an exceptionally pretty village called East Quantoxhead with a pretty lake full of ducks.

After an enjoyable stop for our packed lunch we followed the path uphill adjacent to the woods to get to our hotel...a pleasant four hour excursion.

The Buckland Box is looking a bit battered these days as it seems to get hit by vehicles on a regular basis, and covered in mud from time to time, which is a little disheartening. However, that has not put us off having some seasonal food and wine after the Buckland carol singing on Monday, December 16th. The carol singing will start at 5pm, at the Valleyside lamp post for those who wish to sing. Otherwise, please come to Langmans West at 6pm for drinks and mince pies.

Anna Martin

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THURLESTONE TRAMP 2020 PROGRAMME

<u>2020 Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Suggested route</u>
Jan 6	Mon	Annie & Harry		K'bridge to S'combe, old coach road
Jan 16	Thur	Rachel Wayth		Ashburton
Jan 22	Wed	Tricia Wilson	4	Malborough to Salcombe - bus back
Jan 27				
Feb 3	Mon	Linda & Gareth Scott		Thurlestone circular
Feb 10	Mon	Mike & Sian Hodges	S	East Charleton
Feb 21	Fri	Jill Miller	S	Revelstoke Drive, Noss Mayo
Feb 24	Mon	Rolf & Viv Burnie		TBA
Mar 2				
Mar 9	Mon	P & W Gornall	S	Stover Country Park
Mar 19	Thur	Sheila Fairley	6	Avon Valley & Woodleigh Woods
Mar 26	Thur	J & J Richardson	5	East Prawle
Apr 1	Wed	Jenny Webb	6	Holne Woods to Sharrah Pool
Apr 6	Mon	Sue & Declan Dwyer	9	Wembury Warren circular
Apr 17	Fri	Peter & Liz Coates		Bolberry and Hope Cove
Apr 22	Wed	Neil Mackay		East Soar, Bolt Head and Sharpitor
Apr 27	Mon	R & H Swan	8	Lustleigh Cleave
May 6	Wed	Anna & David Martin	8	Avon Estuary
May 12	Tue	Alastair & Gill Durden		Dartington Estate circular
May 19	Tue	J & P Braithwaite		Avon Valley & Loddiswell
May 25	Mon	P & W Gornall	7	Sharpitor to Merrivale
June 3	Wed	Neil Mackay	4.5	Wistman's Wood & Longaford Tor
June 12	Fri	Rachel Wayth		Jubilee Walk, Dartmouth
June 16	Tue	Mike Stickland		Summer Evening Walk - Hope Cove or Bantham
June 22	Mon	Mike & Sian Hodges	L	Dartmoor "letter box" walk
June 29	Mon	Vanessa Barton		Aveton Gifford circular
July 7	Tue	Alastair & Gill Durden		Sheepstor
July 13	Mon	Sue & Declan Dwyer	9	Merrivale circular
July 20	Mon	Annie & Harry		Salcombe ferry & Gara Rock
July 31	Fri	Liz & Peter Coates		Ringmore & Kingston
Aug 5	Wed	Christine Wilson	6	Jennycliff
Aug 12	Wed	Tricia Wilson	4	Aveton Gifford circular
Aug 17				
Aug 25	Tue	Vanessa Barton	8	W'combe Pound via Grimspound
Sept 2	Wed	Mike Stickland		TBA
Sept 7	Mon	Anna & David Martin	4	Snapes Point, Salcombe
Sept 17	Thur	Eric & Liz Candy	4	Noss Mayo, Yealm Estuary
Sept 21	Mon	P & W Gornall	5	Lustleigh, Dartmoor
Sept 30	Wed	Claudette Uff	5	Stokeley Farm Shop circular
Oct 5	Mon	Linda & Gareth Scott		TBA
Oct 15	Thur	Eric & Liz Candy		Cremyl Ferry and Mount E'combe
Oct 23	Fri	Alastair & Gill Durden		Dartmouth Food Festival - bus back to Strete
Oct 28	Wed	J & J Richardson	7	Dartmoor TBA
Nov 2	Mon	Annie & Harry	5	Blackawton
Nov 9	Mon	Jenny Webb		Headland Warren & Grimspound
Nov 19	Thur	Sheila Fairley	6	South Milton to Bolberry circular
Nov 23	Mon	Rolf & Viv Burnie		TBA
Nov 30				
Dec 7				
Dec 17	Thur	Mike Stickland	S	Christmas walk. Xmas Lunch at Cottage Hotel?



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THURLESTONE BAY BIRDS

BUNTINGS



The family of birds described as Buntings are predominately seed eaters and some of them can be visitors to your garden bird feeders, particularly in Winter.

Of the 8 species of Bunting that have been recorded on the patch, 3 can be described as regular with the remainder scarce migrants.

The outstanding success story in the last 20 years is the increase in breeding pairs of CIRL BUNTING with the South Hams part of Devon becoming one of the main areas of improvement. Thanks to a programme of support from the RSPB, Devon Bird Society and local farmers the UK population has increased from 180 pairs to over 2000 pairs.

The male CIRL BUNTING has a distinctive black and yellow face and will often sit at the top of a large bush calling tsi - tsi - tsi. In the Winter they will feed in barley stubble fields whilst during the breeding season they will often feed on the ground underneath your garden bird feeders.

When I first moved into Thurlestone in 2008, sightings were rare but in the last four years they have been regular visitors to my garden even bringing their young with them. Around the Thurlestone and South Milton villages there are at least 5 sites where I regularly see them and recently in one stubble field there were up to 8 birds including this year's young.

There are now more CIRL BUNTING breeding pairs than YELLOWHAMMER and REED BUNTING, something I would never have expected a few years ago.

YELLOWHAMMER breed in the hedgerows around both villages. In Winter they join flocks of FINCHES feeding in stubble fields.

Last Winter in fields near the South Milton Ley sewage works there were up to 20.

REED BUNTING as the name implies like to live in the local reed beds. Sadly since Thurlestone Marsh was drained the numbers wintering have dropped significantly - in 2012 it was not unusual to have up to 40 visiting our garden feeders.

I must mention the records in March 2012 when Bob Burrige, who for many years ringed birds at both marshes, ringed 2 LITTLE BUNTING - a very rare visitor from North Eastern Europe - one of which remained for 4 weeks drawing visiting birdwatchers from Lancashire and some Midland counties.

The last record of a SNOW BUNTING was on the beach at South Milton/Thurlestone in November 2011, the only previous record this century was one located on the coast path near the Golf Club in the winter of 2002 by the late John King.

The CORN BUNTING was a regular breeding bird up to the 1980's particularly in the fields around South Milton Ley. Sadly the loss of habitat led to them no longer being recorded, not only in our area but across all of Devon.

Mike Passman

mikepassman@modbury.me.uk

thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk



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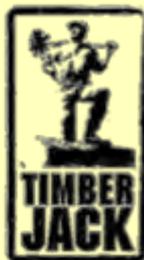
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Thurlestone Phonebox Ring Ring

The Phonebox has certainly seen some exciting days recently from both the weather and the many embellishments that have adorned it for different celebrations. Now we must gird our loins for the Christmas season and all that that entails. Our now traditional fun **Community Carol Singing will be held on Monday 9th December, kicking off at 4.30pm.** Details can be found elsewhere in Village Voice but this year the Primary School pupils will be doing something extra special for us.



The Phonebox had a call from none other than Father Christmas himself, confirming that he has the date in his busy diary and that his staff are busy preparing a sack of special goodies for the children. If you think that that can't possibly be true because, as we all know, there is no telephone in the Phonebox, then you obviously missed out on our Halloween excitements when there was a telephone installed with a direct line to Ghouland and spine chilling messages greeted anyone who was brave enough to answer when the phone rang.

So, we hope to see and hear you at our Carols to give you a joyful start to your Christmas festivities.

We wish you all the best for the Christmas season and many good things in the New Year.

Kit Marshall

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Open Gardens 2020

The Parish Hall committee are repeating the Open Garden afternoon on
June 28th 2020. 1pm to 5pm

PLEASE consider offering your garden if you are proud of your display or of any feature in your garden. E.g your vegetable plot or water feature.

The garden need not be large, the smallest in 2016 amazed people with how a small area can be managed.

If you are interested yourself or know of a lovely garden please contact Sue Dwyer 560648 for further information.

Teas will again be served in the Parish Hall.

Tickets will be £2 pp with under 14 year olds free

There will be a sale of perennial plants in Sue Dwyer's garden on Yarmer.

All proceeds are given to the Parish Hall.

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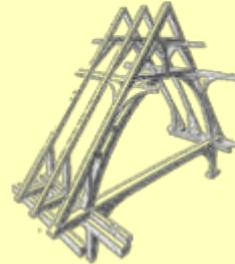
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October Meeting Report

We all came to the talk armed with our thimbles and pinking shears as the title was "A Stitch in time". It turned out that the "stitch" was to make sure that we had all made our Wills and Powers of Attorney and were not putting them off till too late.

David Duke made a possibly rather gloomy but important subject interesting, amusing at times, and very relevant to us. We were free to ask as many questions as we liked and he was able to explain in plain language what we wanted to know.

It is possible to make a will yourself or do it on line, but there are so many pitfalls and regulations, for most people it is better to get professional advice which may well save money in the end. Many of us had organised "Enduring Power of Attorney" years ago, but there is now a change it has become "Lasting Power of Attorney" and allows personal affairs as well as financial ones to be covered, it is possible to bolt the latest one on to the other.

There were lots of questions which were answered with clarity, also lots of laughter especially when David asked if he was going to be offered a cream tea, he could see the scones from where he was sitting! David had brought his wife along as support in case he was asked anything about sewing.

The vote of thanks was given by Joan Booth as she is our expert needlewoman, it turned out that the subject was particularly relevant to her and her family at this time. Altogether a very useful and instructive talk.

November Meeting Report

This month's WI meeting was held on the 14th November. As the President was away the meeting was chaired by Lisa White. Our speaker today was Marilyn Bishop a Devon artist who gave an interesting talk titled "Fighting the Black Dog". It was about the life of Sir Winston Churchill and how with the support of his wife he managed his depression, or the "Black Dog" as he called it, by painting. Following the death of his daughter Marigold he started painting, he worked alongside many other artists who helped him develop his style and apparently, he even encouraged some Heads of State to take up painting. Sir Winston Churchill's famous book "Painting as a Pastime" was published in 1950 and has never been out of print since that time. He travelled the world painting scenes of the areas where his friends lived, exhibiting his paintings in many exhibitions including the Royal Academy.

Our next meeting will run alongside our annual Christmas Lunch which is being hosted by Thurlestone Golf Club on Friday 13th December. The National WI meeting next year will be held on June 4th 2020 in the Albert Hall and the Devon Federation will be organising transport so members can attend.

Liz Candy

Thurlestone Golf Club



With winter now upon us the 2019 golfing season is drawing to a close. One of our final competitions was Devon vs The Rest of The World where the real locals, having been born in Devon, take on those that were born outside of the County. In the 18 years of this competition The Rest of the World have only won it once! Nothing changed this year with the Devon team securing the win.

Whilst the golf continues for those brave enough to face the wind and rain we focus more on the social side.

Friday 1st November saw the skies of Thurlestone illuminate with a spectacular firework display. It was touch and go all day whether we would be able to hold the display as our British weather was doing its very best to prevent its happening. Thankfully a small window opened to allow the lighting of fireworks but unfortunately, we were unable to strike light to our 'guy' as it was deemed unsafe to light the bonfire. The clubhouse was packed for this event with many (non-member) villagers joining in. Like all shows much work goes on behind the scenes and I cannot thank our greenkeepers, staff and helpers enough for their hard work in making this such an enjoyable and safe night.

The Sunday Carvery continues to be very popular. By becoming a Social Member (currently £35 through to the end of April) we would welcome you to join us. We offer 1,2 and 3 courses ranging from £10 to £16.50. Come and enjoy our Carvery and company and let us do the work. Please contact the office for further details regarding Social Membership (01548 560405).

The village quiz nights that we now host are as popular as ever. Mike and Brenda Jones are continuing to make the quizzes thought provoking, debate leading, often frustrating but most of all fun and enjoyable. A one course supper can be enjoyed prior to the quiz at £9 if booked in advance. All are welcome to the quiz nights so form a team and come and test your grey matter.

Christmas really is fast approaching. I'm sure we will see some of you celebrating at the club but if not, may I take this opportunity to wish all Village Voice readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bett Rhymes (Simon is on holiday!)

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WEATHER WAG



Today is November 13th 2019 and David Brain (Weather man BBC South West) has just shown some pictures of Dartmoor under one inch of snow. It is many years since we have had snow so early in November- frost, yes, but not snow. I wonder if it is a sign of things to come?

There has been a surfeit of rain in the past few days, not just here but even more in the area around Doncaster. To date, at Beach Cottage there has been 81mm in November and in October there was 149mm. Highest days rainfall were 7th Nov. 25mm. 12th October 15mm. Right now the land is saturated, the springs are high and are running from their emergence points, e.g. on the South Milton road to Milton Lane End. Here they are forming quite a little stream along the road and down the hill to the stream by the New Farm buildings. There are times and places where a spring appears where there has never been one before. I can't give you an answer to this phenomenon, perhaps an earlier route has been obstructed or maybe the lie of the land has altered somewhat for a reason of which we are not aware. For example, there was always quite a wide stretch of Links Road that was running with water under similar circumstances but latterly none has appeared. Has the water table dropped in this area? If so, WHY? Has the farmer tapped into the spring in winter to supply water for his animals? This coming and going of spring water is always out to perplex us.

There are many farmsteads in our district where the water supply is a spring or a number of springs. Our ancestors knew where to place a farmstead – water and shelter from prevailing winds being the two most important factors.

Very often severe rain is accompanied by strong winds, but of course winds can be very powerful and destructive without rain. We, living as we do by the sea, are well aware of the effect of a gale from the west on our coastline and harbourage. In the book "The Wrong Kind of Snow" (Antony Woodward and Robert Penn) the account of the arrival of William of Orange in Brixham tells that it was as the result of favourable winds. The Chaplain of the fleet Gilbert Burnet said, "Only the finger of God could have brought William through the storms and high seas to anchor safely here." This was 1688 and these words marked the beginning of the last successful invasion of England. Easterly winds saw William able to sail down the Channel unchallenged as the English fleet was pinned in the Thames estuary by the same wind – a Protestant wind (the west wind was the Popish wind). The huge fleet of ships carried 28,000 troops, all of whom were watched by thousands on the shore of the Channel. Off Brixham the wind veered around and the fleet sailed gently into the harbour. King James II abdicated and in February 1689 William and his wife Mary, (James's daughter) were crowned. The ballad 'Lilliburlero', which includes the line 'Ho! by my soul, 'tis a Protestant wind', became the nation's most popular song. This is just one little example of how weather, in all or one of its guises, can influence the outcome of human endeavour. There are many accounts in our history where the weather at the time influenced the outcome of a situation.

I'll leave you with a dilemma - is there, or is there not definitive evidence of a warming of our world, showing its effects on the extremes of physical features such as glaciers and ice caps and also upon human life now and into the future?

Keep warm and dry and a Happy Christmas

Jan Turner

DIARY DATES

December

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 2 | Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm |
| Thursday | 5 | WI Sea Coast Carol Service Holy Trinity Church Salcombe 2.30pm |
| Thursday | 5,6,7 | Salcombe Players Pantomime 2019 "The Snow Queen" Cliff House |
| Friday | 6 | All Saints Primary School, Thurlestone. Annual Christmas Fair 3.30pm - 5.30pm |
| Saturday | 7 | Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas from 9am |
| Saturday | 7 | St Nicks Christmas Fair Kingsbridge Community College 11.30am - 2.30pm |
| Saturday | 7 | Christmas Family Bingo Night - Malborough Village Hall 6pm Free entry. Proceeds to Malborough Baptist Church |
| Monday | 9 | Arts Society K'bridge - Christmas Lunch & Lecture at Thurlestone Hotel Malcolm Jones - Pantomime |
| Monday | 9 | Thurlestone Community Carols on the Green by the War Memorial 4.30pm |
| Tuesday | 10 | South Hams NT - Christmas Treats at Killerton and Darts Farm, Topsham |
| Wednesday | 11 | Alvington Singers in concert at Kingsbridge Methodist Church 7.30pm
Tickets £5 under 18's free |
| Thursday | 12 | TRAMP Christmas Walk and Lunch |
| Friday | 13 | WI Christmas Lunch at Thurlestone Golf Club 12.30pm for 1.00pm |
| Saturday | 14 | South Hams Society Beach Clean - Thurlestone Sands - meet outside the Beach Hut at 2pm |
| Monday | 16 | Buckland Telephone Box Carol Singing 5pm |
| Wednesday | 18 | Alvington Singers in concert at Holy Trinity Church, Salcombe 7.30pm
Tickets £5 under 18's free |
| Friday | 20 | Stanborough Chorus - A Celebratory Service for Christmas 7pm The R C Cathedral of St Mary & St Boniface, Plymouth |
| Tuesday | 24 | Stanborough Chorus - Carols for All - St Edmunds Church, Kingsbridge 4.30pm |

January

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 6 | TRAMP - Kingsbridge to Salcombe |
| Monday | 6 | Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm |
| Thursday | 9 | WI 2.30pm Thurlestone Parish Hall. Speaker Karen Wolstenholme, "My Life as a career Diplomat" |
| Thursday | 16 | TRAMP - Ashburton |
| Thursday | 16 | South Hams NT - "Jordan & Trekking in Wadi Rum" an illustrated talk by Norman Maudsley at Kingsbridge Methodist Hall 2.30pm entrance £4 to include tea |
| Wednesday | 22 | TRAMP - Malborough to Salcombe |
| Wed | 22 - 25 | MAD Kids Group presents "Sinbad the Sailor" Malborough Village Hall 7.30pm (Sat Matinee 2pm) Adults £10 Child (under 16) £5.
Tickets from Malborough Post Office and Kingsbridge TIC |
| Saturday | 25 | Men's Breakfast at the Methodist Church, Kingsbridge from 8am. |
| Monday | 27 | TRAMP TBA |
| Tuesday | 28 | South Hams NT - Winter Coffee Morning at Avon Mill Garden Centre 10.30am |
| Wednesday | 29 | Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 7.30pm .Timothy Walker discusses "The Role of Colour in English Gardens" |
| Thursday | 30 | Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 10.30am Lecture as Wednesday |

February

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|----------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | 3 | TRAMP - Thurlestone Circular |
| Monday | 3 | Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 8 | Kingsbridge Choral Workshop 10am - 5pm Kingsbridge Community College |

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

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

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Just never got round to it?

This is the top reason why nearly two thirds of UK
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Without one means that your possessions, money,
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It's also important to regularly review your existing Will
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Devon. TQ7 1ES

CONTACT INFORMATION

CLUBS & GROUPS

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	Chairman	Stuart Watts	810373
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary	Nikki Smith	560275
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wed & Fri 6.30pm)	Contact	Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX	Contact	Anna Martin	560796
FRENCH CONVERSATION (Thurs 2pm - 3pm)	Contact	Angela Luckhurst	521595
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Phil Millard	560843
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact	Tom Gilkes	560973
LINE DANCING (Wed 2pm)	Contact	Sue Bain	07989817898
NIA WITH NOLA FITNESS (Mon 10.15am)	Contact	Nola Baylis	842877
PILATES (Mon 2.15pm Wed 9am)	Contact	Franny Morris	07590506027
PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOC (POTS)	Chairman	Chris White	560505
TABLE TENNIS (Thurs 7.30pm)	Contact	Paul Ferguson	07866802800
TAI CHI/CHUAN (Wed 10.30am)	Contact	Vida Hodder	561182
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Office & General Enquiries		560405
TENNIS SECTION (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop		560715
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX	Contact	Kit Marshall	560214
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Mike Stickland	560763
WI (2nd Thurs in month 2.30pm not Aug or Dec)	Contact	Sally Martin	561356
YOGA (Tues 9am)	Contact	Sarah Scott	07879627939

HEALTH CENTRES

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

POLICE

Emergency 999 Non-emergency 101

RUBBISH COLLECTION - Mondays except W/C 30/12 and 6/1 - 1 day late

Brown Bin (garden & food waste) alternate Mondays from 2 December

Blue & Clear sacks (recyclables) with the Brown Bin collection

Black/Grey Bin (non-recyclable landfill) alternate Mondays from 9th December

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

T: 0345 1551010

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm, Sat - Sun 10.00am to 6.00pm (1st April - 30th Sept)

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

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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

LIBRARIES

Kingsbridge - Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1EB T: 852315 (closed all day Thur, Sun and Sat pm)

Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall car park Wednesdays Dec 18 & Jan 15.10pm - 4.10pm

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

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

For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable

For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233 (7.00am - 10.00pm)

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

PARISH INFORMATION

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

Chairman	Andrew Rhymes	560564
Vice-chairman	Jill Munn	560732
Parish Clerk	Helen Nathanson	07813 689717
Members	Sue Crowther	560098
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Charlie Mitchelmore	560602 (and Tree Warden)
	Sian Williams	560339
District Councillors	Mark Long	843828
	Judy Pearce	561370
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659

PARISH HALL (see Thurlestone Parish Website for more details)

Telephone (Payphone in foyer) 562189

Chairman: Vacant

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

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

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

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL Executive Head Miss Lesa Garside 560494

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES Contact Sarah Tyers 561917

Shop Opening Hours	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	8.00am - 5.30pm
	Wed	8.00am - 1.00pm
	Sat	8.00am - 1.00pm
	Sun	8.30am - 1.00pm
	Hours extended to 2pm on Wed & 4pm on Sat in summer, and to 4pm on Sun in school summer hols	

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

Last postal collection: 4.00pm Monday to Friday; Noon on Saturday; NO collection on Sunday
See advert for Christmas Opening Hours.

BANTHAM VILLAGE STORES & COFFEE SHOP Contact Kelly Seymour 560645

Opening Hours	Every day in winter	9.00am - 1.00pm
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PUBS The Village Inn (Thurlestone) - 563525 The Sloop Inn (Bantham) - 560489

MILK DELIVERY R. Bruckner & Son 01803-832801

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

- **Thurlestone Parish Hall**
- **Thurlestone Hotel (Garage)**
- **Golf Club (Tennis Pav Wall)**
- **Sloop Inn Bantham (Lobby)**
- **Bantham Quay**
- **Buckland Phone Box**