

VILLAGE VOICE

December 2020 - January 2021

SEASONS

GREETINGS



FROM THE TEAM

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



At this time of year, we usually look forward to a packed festive programme but never in our wildest dreams could we have imagined the scenario in which we find ourselves. Diaries were obliterated for the majority of the year, special events, anniversaries and birthdays were cancelled and there is still uncertainty about Christmas, but hopefully it will be celebrated with loved ones in some way. Our parish has thought up new ways to keep the essence of Christmas alive, the normal church carol concert will be replaced by a virtual one so you can actually sing without worrying. The school is encouraging everyone to take part in a Christmas illuminations event which will brighten up the village and lift spirits. Look out for their posters.

Glimmers of hope are on the horizon with talk of vaccines but, in the meantime, if we all play our part and follow the guidelines (you know the drill by now) this virus can be beaten. What better gift for family and friends alike?

A big event of 2021 is the UN Climate Change Conference being held in the UK and the parish is already actively looking to the future and finding solutions to problems, as explained in the articles from the Parish Council, Buckland Phone Box and the Parish Hall. It's something we can all get involved with, even the smallest changes can make a difference so why not make it your new year's resolution? There is a need to focus on the positive so why not make plans for something fun? Follow the example of our Queen who is leading by example in preparing for her Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

The magazine has had to be produced with a reduced group of people, consisting of the editorial and compiling team along with help from Kit and Gillian Marshall, Gareth and Linda Scott and Graham and Barbara Smith, without whom it would have been more difficult, so a huge thank you to them. The remainder of the team are not forgotten and we fervently hope that at some point next year we can all get back together. As this extraordinary year draws to a close all that remains to say is: -

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

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A NOTE FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR RUFUS GILBERT.

Well, what a year this has been !

As I write this note to you on November 4th we are tomorrow about to go into our second lockdown this year till December 2nd

I hope that, by the time that you read this note, we'll either be coming out of lockdown or indeed have been set free for Christmas.

I have, since March, been keeping your Parish Council informed on Covid-19 and other related matters.



HIGHWAYS.

I am very much aware of the traffic issues that took place throughout the summer in your parish and will continue to work with the Parish Council to help mitigate matters for next year.

Main Street is to be re surfaced with work commencing on 22nd February for 4-5 days subject to any Covid-19 delays. The work will be from Memorial Cross to Kerse Cross.

A379 Plymouth road just West of Modbury at Edmeston. The work there is to commence on 11th January for some weeks.

BROADBAND.

CDS (Connecting Devon & Somerset) are at present completing the tender process for installation of fibre to the premise across all six Lots spanning Devon and Somerset. The outcome will be finalised before Christmas.

Lot F which covers South Devon is one of the six lots. I hope to be able to inform you of the outcome in early new year and soon after the lead in times for the installation of the infrastructure in your area.

All Lots must be completed contractually by December 2024 and, for reasons of procurement confidentiality, I'm unable to supply any further detail at this stage. Also, you may have been contacted by BT Openreach regarding a 'rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme' as an alternative provider.

This would involve a BT installation target cost figure being achieved by pledging your Gigabit vouchers to BT Openreach.

Once the pledged vouchers total value has reached the BT target figure and you wish to proceed, BT would aim to install the infrastructure within twelve months.

LASTLY

This is my final note to you before the May 6th County elections next year. I hope to be given an opportunity to continue to serve you and my other fifteen parishes for a further four years.

Rufus Gilbert

Parish Hall News

by Alison Daily (Secretary)

Our Covid Risk Assessment was finally drawn up when 6 of us attended two very chilly meetings due to the need for ventilation, even hats and scarves donned the second time didn't help. Thank you to all for shivering your way through especially Chris White, Diane and Paul Martin who did the majority of work. Lisa White and Paul Martin had a spending spree to obtain the necessary equipment, which included a wall-mounted non-contact thermometer, litres of sanitisers for the automatic dispensers, wipes, masks etc.



A new cleaner was also found and we were ready to re-open on Monday 2nd November..... well you know what happened the following Thursday! Alas it was not to be but at least the hall is ready for when the time comes.

The time of inactivity has been used to think about changes for the future. An area highlighted by the pandemic is the warm air heating which uses re-cycled air and is a risk for all viruses that occur during winter months, coupled with the fact it is oil based and we are all being encouraged to reduce our carbon footprint in order to reach emissions targets set by government. This was an opportunity to investigate alternatives, which is exactly what Chris White did and settled on Infra-red heating

The time of inactivity has been used to think about changes for the future

via inconspicuous panels set in the ceiling. These heat objects and people, giving a feeling of being under gentle sunshine. To satisfy himself it was a viable option he found a church in Exeter with the heating installed and went with Paul Martin for a demonstration, which I am pleased to say went very well, even with doors open they

didn't freeze. We are looking to install the heating in phases starting with the main hall, before moving on to the rest of the building. Battery storage to complement the solar panels will also be researched enabling the hall to be at the forefront of environmentally friendly and sustainable energy.

The hall has been able to help a local business 'Hattie's Pizzas', which you may remember from the last couple of Family Fun evenings. Hattie is moving into the area and asked if she could set up her wood fired pizza van in the car park on a Friday evening once a month. Look out for further details on the website: - <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk>

2020 has been a difficult year but I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the committee, those who were able to attend virtual meetings and helped make many decisions and those who were unable to join in, but entrusted us to make these decisions. Hopefully it won't be too many months before we can have face to face meetings once again. We are always looking for volunteers so if anyone would like to join the committee or help out at future events please contact us.

Finally have a Merry Christmas and a healthy and, hopefully, more normal new year. Stay safe.





THURLESTONE HOTEL

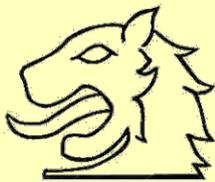
Dear Thurlestone Parish,

We are really sorry that we will no longer be able to house the bottle bank on the hotel premises anymore. The sheer volume of bottles and frequency of collections coupled with COVID protocols, which means we cannot touch bottles left by others, has forced us to reluctantly take this decision.

You will be able to find bottles banks in Churchstow or Kingsbridge.

For any more information on alternatively bottle banks please contact South Hams District Council.

All of the team at Thurlestone would like to thank you for your cooperation and hope you are all keeping safe and well.



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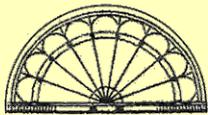
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NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting 5th October 2020, held online

OPEN FORUM A member of the public questioned why SHDC had held a Development Management Committee Meeting regarding another large, local application, but failed to do so in regard to the earlier Thurlestone Hotel application.

Two residents stated that they had read the AONB consultation report on the Bantham Estate office application with interest as it echoed the points that they had made. They were still unhappy that the PC had not done the same.

The Bantham phone box door had been taken for repair by BT and would be returned in due course. Residents in West Buckland contacted Cllr Williams, concerned about the number and frequency of domestic bonfires in recent months.

An officer from Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) gave an overview of Saving Devon's Treescapes, a project to plant 250,000 trees across Devon in order to mitigate the impact of Ash Dieback, which is expected to affect 90% of trees in the county.

MATTERS ARISING Cycling on the coast path – the SW Coast Path association has been contacted and they will look into it.
No parking signs up by the war memorial – it was agreed that the Clerk would order a new No Parking sign for the PC which Cllr Rhymes will install.

PLANNING

THURLESTONE HOTEL Replacement and extension of the balcony on the 3rd floor and replacement of the balcony on the 2nd floor on the south elevation.
SUPPORTED.

WEST BUCKLAND BARN (Bantham Estate) - Change of use of barn to C3 holiday let and erection of new agricultural/estate store. OBJECTION.

DEVELOPMENT SITE OFF LEONARDS CLOSE (WHIMBRELS EDGE), THURLESTONE Approval of reserved matters for erection of two detached dwellings with associated driveways and landscaping. OBJECTION.

TOURISM AND TRAFFIC It was agreed that a Working Group would be set up to look at how tourism businesses could work together to improve traffic flows in and out of the parish during the summer.

WILD CAMPING correspondence from Thurlestone Golf Club about issues this summer caused by wild camping on Broadsands Beach was discussed.

PUBLIC TOILETS it was agreed that these would close from 1st November to 28th February.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Quayside Leisure Centre needs to be used (along with others in the area) or we risk losing them.

PARISH MATTERS

The Friends of Thurlestone Church are overseeing large expenditures on repairs and have asked people to join as a Friend or trustee and give time or money.

Meeting 2nd November 2020, held online

OPEN FORUM A member of the public questioned the point, and accuracy of the revised documents for the Bantham Estate Office planning application, and gave an update on plans to reopen the Parish Hall. The main issue is the heating system, which is a recirculating hot air system. He also pointed out that the new mobile phone mast which was to be discussed, would not benefit residents, and would be a blot on the AONB landscape.

A resident spoke about the Bantham Estate Office planning application and said that the 40 objections to the application have since been supported by statutory consultees, and wondered why the PC had treated this application differently to the most recent application from the Estate as the same points applied equally to the Estate Office application. She asked if the PC would take the opportunity to revise its comments in line with the NP. If not, then would the PC provide an explanation for the inconsistency in the use of the NP and why the PC response is out of kilter with the AONB and Landscape Officer. It was agreed that the PC would respond by email to these questions.

A resident spoke about the impact of the Thurlestone Hotel development on the local roads as there has been a very noticeable rise in traffic, speeding and parking issues this year. Concerns were raised about the amount of traffic that would be generated by the construction as well as by the extra visitors. A 20mph speed limit through Thurlestone was considered to be essential. and holiday homes should have permits for visitors to park in the Parish Hall car park rather than on the road. Councillor Crowther confirmed that planning permission had been granted for the Hotel development but that the PC was looking at traffic issues in the parish and what can be done to mitigate them.

A question was asked about how the PC makes its planning decisions and it was agreed to send an email response.

A member of the Malborough and South Huish Climate Change Group spoke to councillors about their plans. They are working with South Huish PC to talk about what they can do to help people reduce their carbon footprint. They have carried out a beach clean at Hope Cove and they intend to baseline the energy usage of properties in Malborough and speak to residents about how they can improve this.

PLANNING

1 THE OLD RECTORY, THURLESTONE Cypress – Fell due to safety reasons. SUPPORTED.

GROVE COTTAGES, WEST BUCKLAND Ash – Fell due to Ash Dieback, and replant with 4 other trees. SUPPORTED.

LAND AT WESTERN LODGE, THURLESTONE Installation of 15.97m high replica telegraph pole accommodating trisector antenna within GRP shroud and 2 x 0.3m dishes. OBJECTION.

COB COTTAGE, WEST BUCKLAND Listed building consent for construction of boundary wall. SUPPORTED.

COMMUNITY LED HOUSING SHDC Officers are presently assessing the site viability. If successful, they will embark on the detailed design/planning process in December and aim to make a detailed planning application in May 2021. Councillor Crowther is looking into sources of funding.

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY It was agreed that the PC would follow Devon County Council and South Hams District Council in declaring a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. A working group would be set up, and anyone who is interested can be involved. See the Devon Climate Emergency website or the South Hams Climate Change website, Village Voice, and the Parish website.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS It was the fifth week of the new waste collection rounds. Reports of missed bins in some areas continue and people are encouraged to report them.

SHDC has sent in a robust response to the Planning White Paper which has been circulated to councillors.

£200,000 of the Better Care Fund has been reallocated to help people insulate their homes – details are on the SHDC website.

The Saving Devon's Treescapes Project is up and running. If anyone would like to plant trees on their land please contact Devon Wildlife Trust.

THURLESTONE MOBILE LIBRARY Libraries Unlimited has recently purchased, with the help of Devon County Council, a second-hand van to replace 'Gertie', the current Mobile Library serving communities in the South Hams, including Thurlestone Parish. They are seeking to raise funds to refurbish the van. You can support them by sharing the word through social media, website and email, using the link justgiving.com/campaign/get-mobile-library-on-road

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

Thurlestone Phonebox..... Ring Ring

This time last year we were busy getting ready for the Phonebox Carols on the Green. Joannie was madly mixing mince for her scrumptious pies, Father Christmas was stuffing his sack, Rudolph beaming his shiny red satnav onto the Phonebox, DJ Shep lubricating his larynx and back home we were strenuously dedicating our efforts to check on the quality of the mulled wine.

The school was busy making lanterns for their dramatic arrival to the Green and their choir practising carols and oh what fabulous renderings they gave us.

Sadly, not this year.

For obvious reasons there can be no Carols. However, the Elves will be hard at work decorating the Phonebox and we have invited the school to make baubles (preferably from foragings from the beach) and hang their masterpieces on Len's holly tree for us all to enjoy. For that matter if anyone else fancies doing just that please feel free to join the fun.

Whatever and however we can spend Christmas this year, maybe one evening at home have a mince pie, a glass (or two) of mulled wine, sing some rousing Christmas Carols and dream that you are joining in our merriments on the Green. What better way to warm up for Christmas.

Have a good one and let's hope for better times in 2021.

Kit Marshall



School Report

The show must go on!

We might all be living under tight restrictions these days but Christmas preparations are gathering pace at the school with even the promise of a Nativity! The children are busy making decorations competing for the 'best decorated door' as well as making festive creations to place around the school building to ensure we all start to get into the Christmas spirit. The children are also looking at themes of faith and religion as we approach the Christmas season with the younger ones creating artwork that expresses their thoughts and feelings on an issue. The older children have been reading the Indigenous American story of the Rainbow Crow and composing emails to believers and followers of different faiths and worldviews. Teachers and staff at the school have been working hard to figure out a way to put on a Nativity play and are planning a 'Virtual' performance on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th of December at 2pm. At the time of writing, the finer details were still being thought through so let's hope we can make it work. There will also be the obligatory Christmas Jumper Day, separate parties for the different year groups depending on their 'bubble', a Christmas lunch, a non-uniform day and a Christmas Quiz. Some of these events ask for a small donation which goes towards our wonderful Friends of Thurlestone School (FTS) to help raise funds for additional resources for the children. You may also have heard about our 'Thurlestone Illuminations' event. Householders are being asked to decorate a window of their house with a Christmassy display using lights and whatever their imagination comes up with. Let us know if you are planning to join in and you'll be included on a special map which will be sold in the village shop. All proceeds going to the FTS. Families can then take a 'tour' of the Illuminations, socially distanced of course, and there'll be a competition running to spot the letters in each window to reveal the festive answer. If you'd like to take part, please email thurlestone.illuminations@hotmail.com as soon as possible and the event is planned to run between the 12th and 31st of December. There will be a prize for the winning entry. All that's left to say is have a very Merry Christmas, look after each other and stay safe. Thanks, as ever to all the village and residents for your support and donations towards the school.



Sian Williams

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 did Adam say to his girlfriend on December 24th?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What is the most popular Christmas wine?

"Oh mum, you know I don't like Brussels Sprouts!"

What is the best present you can get at Christmas?

A broken drum - you can't beat it!

What is King Wenceslas' favourite pizza?

Deep-pan, crisp and even.

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Saints*

RECTOR:
Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

LAY READER: Peter Gornall



MERRY(ISH) CHRISTMAS!

Are you looking forward to Christmas? In one sense the answer is yes. You can only look forwards to that which lies in the future. If you look backwards, then you won't find it. But in another sense our answers might be slightly more circumspect. At the time of writing this letter we are in the middle of Lockdown (part II). Hopefully this will finish in early December, but it certainly won't lead to "business as usual". There can be no doubt that Christmas 2020 will be very different from previous Christmas celebrations. In the life of the church we won't be able to have our usual round of Carol Services due to the prohibition on congregational singing. I'm not sure that a Carol Service without Carols would go down that well. ("And now we stand and mime O come all ye faithful" wouldn't be the most festive words that you could ever hear). Unfortunately there will be no midnight service and on Christmas Day we will gather for a short communion service with a limited number of worshippers. Again, it doesn't feel very festive.

What is true in the life of the church is also true for us as families and individuals. It's unlikely that we'll be permitted to have large gatherings (although, at the time of writing, we just don't know). Hopefully pubs and restaurants will be open, but occasions will not be grand and gatherings will not be many. This year, as we approach Christmas, it would be easy to give up hope. But before we do so, let's take another look at Christmas 2020.

At the heart of the Christmas message is the story of the birth of a baby. A child that would grow into a man that would save the world. At the heart of the Christmas message is an affirmation of hope, of love and of joy. The heart of this year's Christmas will be no different from the heart of previous Christmases. Much will be different, but that which really matters will be the same. We will miss the services and we will miss the company of family and friends. Much will be absent. But the one thing that will not be absent, and indeed will be fully present, is the person of Jesus - the Christ in Christmas.

I hope and pray that we will be able to gather at Christmas 2021 like we gathered at Christmas 2019. I hope and pray that the vaccinations will be fully available and that we will finally be on top of Covid-19. But in the meantime we have the here-and-now. We have this Christmas. Whether it will be a Merry Christmas (and a Happy New Year) is down to us. But if we can find it in our hearts to be joyful, we will experience this joy with that one special guest that no restrictions can remove.

O come, o come, Emmanuel - God is with us!

Merry(ish) Christmas to you all!

Daniel Hartley

P.S. We are hoping to have an on-line Virtual Carol Service (see Church Services page)

LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

While you may not feel able to come to church, the following may help:

DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE: For those without access to the internet Daily Hope offers music, prayers, reflections and services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line (0800 804 8044).

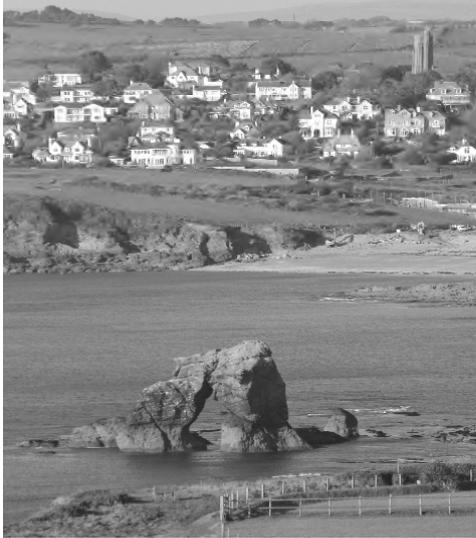


RADIO WORSHIP RESOURCES: BBC Radio Devon Sunday Service (8.00a.m. Sunday) and daily Pause for Thought (6.35a.m. weekdays, 7.35a.m. weekends).

INTERNET SERVICES: Exeter Diocese: Sunday services and a weekly sermon <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/worship/sunday-services-to-watch-online/>

National Church of England: Sunday services on <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

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Village News Round-Up

South Devon AONB Celebrating 60 Years

As you may have read in the local press, the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) has recently celebrated the 60th Anniversary of its designation. We have a number of activities planned during the coming year thanks to a modest Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

We have also decided to raise some funds for Young Carers from South Devon to have some respite days out on the coast next summer. We are asking people to walk the 60 miles of the South West Coast Path in the AONB to celebrate the 60th Anniversary. The timescale is between now and April 2021 and people can do this as individuals or groups, collecting sponsorship for their efforts. Our target is £6,000.

We would be most grateful if you would consider making a donation via our 'justgiving' page.

Full details of the campaign can be found on: <https://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/60at60/>.

Avian influenza (bird flu)

Poultry and other captive birds

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been declared across England effective from 5pm on 11 November 2020.

All poultry keepers in England (whether commercial flocks or just a few birds) are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions.

If you keep poultry (including gamebirds or pet birds) or other captive birds, you must act now to reduce the risk of disease in your flock by following the relevant biosecurity measures required within the AIPZ. Your stock needs to be fed and watered under cover to prevent contamination from wild birds.

Good biosecurity improves the overall health and productivity of your flock by helping keep out poultry diseases such as avian influenza and limiting the spread of disease in an outbreak.

All bird gatherings within the AIPZ are prohibited therefore the general licence that had permitted bird gatherings has been revoked.

For more guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77).

Public Health England advises that the risk to the public's health is very low. Food Standards Agency (FSA) has said that on the basis of the current scientific evidence, avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for UK consumers.

Avian influenza is unconnected with coronavirus (COVID-19).

Voluntary registration

You can choose to register fewer than 50 birds, or birds you keep as pets. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) encourages you to register even if you do not have to by law.

By registering,

- APHA will be able to contact you if there's a disease outbreak (such as bird flu) in your area
- you'll help prevent the spread of disease and protect the national poultry flock

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Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st January 2021.

Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email:

cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

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

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 - Hard

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

Sudoku - Fiendish

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

There were 6 correct entries last month. First out of the hat to win the coveted bottle of wine is Rolf Burnie. Commiserations to Stephanie Adams, Dave Gibby, Jeanette Hodges, Pauline Lonsdale and Gill Pollard.

Eating Out Locally



Woodys Restaurant

As you step into Woodys Restaurant in Kingsbridge, you enter a light uncrowded place. The décor is uncluttered and easy and, as you might expect, it's woody. With no delay we had a warm welcome from a waitress, and were taken to our table.

It's seldom that we see Chateaubriand steak on a menu. Woodys has it. That mild, delicate beef which is the middle cut from the tenderloin, has incredible tenderness and it's usually the right size for two people to share. And, like Woodys other steaks, is delicious.

Burgers, several varieties of them, with thoughtfully compiled mixtures including bacon, cheese, onions, and more... are listed on the menu. They are succulent and are served with chips and salad. Like the steaks, the beef, lamb, chicken or pulled pork that forms the burgers, is prepared at their own butchery.

A starter may be croquettes, ribs, or chicken wings priced around £6.

To finish, perhaps dressed up lemon tart, chocolate brownie or cheese cake, for £6.

Woodys Restaurant was established by The Salcombe Meat Company to serve beef from their own hand-reared, slow grown, grass-fed cattle. Their farm 'Herdwick' is where their herd of Dexter cattle, as well as Closewool and Herdwick sheep, all thrive. They tell you, 'we truly shepherd our animals from field to fork using sustainable practices and high standards of animal welfare.'

Diners get fine quality produce. It's a great meeting place! And they do takeaways. Woodys Restaurant, The Warehouse, Prince of Wales Rd, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1DY See their website and phone: 01548 858855

Kid Hod Thai. For Takeaways of another eating style, you can try Kid Hod Thai. Some say they have not tasted better Thai food. The menu can be found on Facebook. Pre order before 12 for collection at 5.00pm - 8.00pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Unit 6, Garden Mills Industrial Estate, TQ7 1SA. Kid Hod Thai could well be a lockdown treat.

Place you order on email kidhodthai.kb@gmail.com

Wild Artichoke offers yet another style of fare that's all ready for you to collect and eat at home. Unit 1 Centurion Works, Lower Union Rd, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1EF. Wild Artichoke's dishes are of a superb quality. The venison pie and fig tart dessert, which we picked up from them, were full of flavour and gave generous portions.

Take a look at Wild Artichoke's website for details.

On Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, their meals each have a theme. Thursday's recipes are from cookery books on Wild Artichoke's library shelves.

Friday is Curry & Spice night. Each week they feature curry from a different area. It's a set meal for two (you choose a meat or veggie option or both) and it comes with rice, plus sambals, dahl, pickles and salads depending on the curry.

Find out more... and about what they're cooking for Saturdays, and for Sunday Lunch, online. Their website tells all. Tel: 07376 559078

The Sloop in Bantham, is closer to home for takeaways and is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. See their website for the takeaway menu and call 01548 560489 to place your order. Collect between 5.00 and 8.00 p.m.

Vivien Stickland

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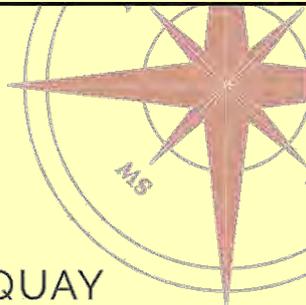
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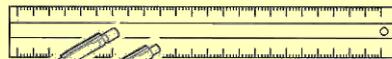
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BOOKSHELF

The Cowslip Dell: A life in the wild by David Allen

The title relates to a treasured spot in east Devon, where cowslips once grew amongst green-winged orchids, where David's passion for plants was first born. In Stockland, over the last twenty years, David has been closely involved in the management of 65 hectares of turbarry, land once used by the community for cutting peat turf for fuel, firewood and for grazing. Much of the land is now under a Higher Level Stewardship agreement and biodiversity has been regained. David has also found time to write about the Wildflowers of the East Devon Coast and the Wildflowers and Common Trees of East Africa.

David and I were contemporaries at Wye College (1963-67), the agricultural faculty of London University. David has led an absorbing, if at times tumultuous, life since those enjoyable days at Wye. The book, with wholehearted forewords from two of his contemporaries is part memoir, part travelogue.

After studying horticulture at Wye, David's career encompassed plant pathology and research across a range of tropical and sub-tropical environments, mainly in Africa. After postgraduate degrees, gained at Exeter and Cambridge, David worked at a number of research institutes, agricultural colleges and universities, often concerned with improving the production of food crops.

It is not surprising that David became an intrepid traveller, conceived 'in Chungking ... when the Japanese were advancing across mainland China' but born in Guildford, the only child of parents in the diplomatic service. After his early years in Washington DC, David boarded at a prep school in Dorset, before proceeding to Bryanston. During his time at Wye, his father was British Ambassador to Turkey, which enabled David to enjoy exciting climbing expeditions with the chance to absorb local culture.

David's list of mountain achievements is impressive: from Snowdonia, to the Alps and onto many of the significant African summits. He writes of his expedition to the Ruwenzori mountains on the Uganda/Congo border, trekking through the infamous Bigo Bog, to gain superb views of the several peaks. Like the reviewer, he is excited by the European 'discovery' of this mountain range, first depicted in a remarkable map of Africa by Claudius Ptolemy in 150AD, and first climbed in June 1906 by the Duke of Abruzzi and his companions.

Following the end of his third marriage, David's life appears more settled. He had met Leonora in the Colombia, when visiting the International Centre of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Soon after their return to the UK, with his mother then in her nineties, they moved in with her at Higher Quantock in Stockland. David recounts how Leo soon became involved in village life. At the post office, having introduced herself and her baby, she is asked 'Is David Allen still making babies?' His reputation had clearly travelled.

David has a captivating story to tell, although the presentation is marred by some unprofessional typesetting, coupled with insufficient editing. The reader could be assisted by the provision of a timeline and appendices – but there is plenty here to fascinate most readers.

The Cowslip Dell (218pp) from Quantock Nature, £17 to include UK post/packing, at leo@leoallen.plus.com.

Malcolm Alexander

An update from the Trustees on your local Kingsbridge Area Foodbank

Kingsbridge Foodbank worked hard in preparation for the second lockdown. That was necessary as referrals for new clients were rolling in daily from October 29th. At the time of writing, we were supplying food to 360 clients.

We are fundraising to be able to keep up with demand, but also need to think about the future and how we can continue to help our community securely and sustainably. Our present location in the Avon Centre is temporary until the site is developed for housing. So, we need to find permanent premises to safeguard our future.

We're starting a campaign to encourage people to make a standing order so we have an assured monthly income. In that way, any additional income we can raise through grants can be invested in a fund to secure permanent premises.

Meanwhile, Christmas is not far away and we are preparing gift boxes for children and acquiring gifts for adults. We also want to provide extra meals for children entitled to free school meals during the Christmas holidays so that no child goes hungry.

To make a standing order, our bank details are:

Account name: Kingsbridge Area Foodbank

Account number: 17928860

Sort code: 77-09-24

Alternatively, cheques can be sent to our address below.

Food donations can be given at Tesco and Morrison collection bins.

New gifts for children and adults for Christmas can be taken to The Avon Centre, Wallingford Road, Kingsbridge - please call beforehand on 07759 683567 to arrange delivery so we can all stay Covid-19 safe!

Thank you for your support.

Your generosity will help us to help our community through this crisis.



We are still here and determined to
Keep Calm and Carry On.....

Due to current restrictions we cannot meet in our usual venue The Methodist Church, Kingsbridge, but all is not lost, our meetings will go ahead at a different time via Zoom. If you wish to enjoy our programme and are not Zoom ready, don't worry, we will attempt to pair you up with a member who is.

Please note there will be just one talk on a
Wednesday at 2pm. Queries: 01752830579

**Talks continue
throughout 2021
by Zoom on
Wednesday at 2pm.**

**JANUARY 27th
Canal History & Heritage
Roger Butler**

**No meeting in December because
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cancelled due to Covid19**

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January 2021

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Wednesday at 2pm



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THURLESTONE THEN

Continuing the memoirs of Monica Coope
Chapter 7 Part 3

Then the day came when Father very sadly told us that we were going to lose our dear T' Amy and it leaked out that she was going to get married to a man of whom Father felt he could not approve. We said our farewells to her, and she and her maid Old Ann went out of our lives. The rift between her and Father never healed, although her marriage did not turn out so badly, and I think she was happier looking after her black sheep than she had ever been before. Old Ann was extremely jealous of us and did her best to keep the breach open, so whenever any of us tried to go and see her in her widowhood, Old Ann would have her leg bad (Ann's leg became a chronic jest) and we would not be welcome. Wins was the only one who managed to muscle in sometimes, but not often.

Our education was Father's great concern; the elder ones were at boarding schools, but we younger ones had to be provided for, so he engaged two sisters, the Misses Phillips, who came to live in T' Amy's cottage, and set up a tiny private school to which we went, together with Hilda and Frances Clark from Bantham, and Una and Margie Stidston from Thurlestone. Other children came and went, but our little lot was the backbone of the school, and we were certainly well grounded in essentials. The Phillips were followed by Mrs and Miss Webb, and Miss Webb was distinguished by having a jaw which would suddenly give a loud crack, and stay in a queer position. Miss Webb would hurry out of the class and come back later looking rather pained, but with her jaw in the right line once more. She coached Wins, Hilda Clark and me for our first examination, the College of Preceptors Preliminary. It was a solemn day when we packed our little bags and drove in the pony cart to Kingsbridge to catch the train for Plymouth, where Wins and I were to stay with the Squares, and the others in a real hotel. We were there for three days, and lunched under Miss Webb's supervision at Goodbody's which was thrilling, because Wins and I had never had lunch out before, and I had fried hake every day.

I prided myself on my spelling, and sailed into the Dictation exam with great confidence, which was shattered later on when I realised that 'sheperd' was not the right spelling. However, Wins and I passed all right, but our joy was damped by Hilda's failure, and Miss Webb seemed to be cross with us and told us that Hilda had worked much harder than we had, and we need not be too proud of ourselves.

It was a point of honour that we ran all the way home from school, but if you knew Buckland Hill you might not believe me. We never drove the pony down or up it, and a farm cart could only get down with drags on the wheels, and the carter holding the straining horse by sheer force of his own body. We even went so far as to tie treacle tins on our feet with string through holes made with nails, and clip clop down the hill that way. With treacle tins you could walk right through the stream in the valley instead of going over the stone bridge like a little lady. These tins were the only possible answer to the Square's stilts which filled our souls with envy, but Father would never allow us to get on them. On her stilts Honor could see right over our garden wall, and the pace she could get up when in form was astounding. Honor did everything well, and to see her standing up on Belle's bare back with no saddle or bridle and careering gaily round the field made me realise even more dolefully that the Squares did everything better than we did.

Once a week we went up to Mrs Toms, to learn sewing and knitting. She was the infant school teacher, the widow of a real sailor who had been drowned at sea, and she taught in the village school to support herself and her little daughter Blanche. One wall of her sitting room was entirely covered by an enormous coloured print of Queen Victoria in her Jubilee robes, and in the window, behind the white lace curtains, were pots of scented geraniums. We had great fun at our sewing lessons,

and Mrs Toms knew how far to let the fun go. Starting yawning was our best joke; we would take it in turns to yawn until it became the real thing, and Mrs Toms was always the last to succumb. "Enough of that now" she would say sharply, stifling another big yawn, and we would settle down again to seaming and felling with our aim accomplished.

Harcourt shared these afternoons with Mrs Toms, and after we had finished our work and said good-bye to her, we had another ritual to perform. We had to sneak round to her back door without her seeing us, and rat-a-tat upon it. Then she would open it and we would shriek with laughter at the surprise she invariably showed, but once the surprise was ours, for we let her hens out into the road by mistake. We chased then and shooed them, but could not get them back, and at last she said not to chase them anymore, but to go home.

Dadie, Wins and I were in tears as we made our way up to Mother's room where she was putting the new baby to bed. We told her sobbing of our misdeed, and rightly got the scolding we deserved for being so careless, but later on that evening kind Mrs Toms, realizing how cut up we were, came down and told us that the hens had come in to bed, sure enough, and not to fret about it.

Once a week she spent an afternoon in the schoolroom doing our mending, and mending there was in mountains. She sat there in a squeaking basket chair, with her back to the light, and she was never alone for long, for her company and her shrewd conversation drew like a magnet, Father included, and Mrs Tom's afternoon with us was one we all enjoyed and looked forward to. When the Board of Education insisted upon certificated teachers in all day schools, Mrs Tom's future became an anxious question, but those who knew what she was capable of, and how admirably she taught and disciplined the tiny ones, managed to arrange that an Inspector should come down and see for himself before the die was cast. So, Mrs Toms stayed on and ran her Infants as only she could, and was loved and respected, as she deserved to be.

One evening after our needlework, Wins and I thought we would like to walk back to Aunemouth with Dadie, and we had nearly got to her house up the long hill when we heard the quick trot of hooves and someone shouting. Round the corner came Father on Dora, both very hot, and Father said Dadie was to come back with us, as her father was ill. Later on, we knew that her father had died that day, and we felt sad and downcast, for he was a kind and gentle man and we knew we should miss him very much. In fact, he had shot himself.

There were occasions when for some reason we did not go down to Buckland for school, and went to Rockhill instead for a few days to Miss Helen Ilbert. She had never taught children in her life before, but boy could she teach. Every lesson was a treat, and to this day I can remember going into the blue and white dining room, with the polished mahogany table, and Miss Ilbert put our chairs in a row and said, "Are you ready? We are going to the Scilly Islands for the day" and go we did. We embarked at Falmouth and felt a bit seasick on the way. We came into the little harbour and saw the smacks and the fishing boats drawn up, and the bigger ships, which were going to bring back the spring flowers to England. Then we went into the fields and picked daffodils and narcissi, and bunched them up with their spiky leaves, and saw them packed into the wooden boxes which would not be opened again until they came to Covent Garden in London town. We were home again by midday, and pushed our chairs back with a feeling that we were great travellers, and would travel again, please Miss Ilbert. Mrs Ilbert gave Wins sixpence once for reciting *The Wreck of the Hesperus* very nicely, and I stood there impatiently, word perfect with "I once had a sweet little doll, dears" but didn't get asked, and felt deprived of my rights and

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my sixpence. This was a fortune to us on our penny-a-week pocket money, which was soon dissipated at Mrs Pound's on a sugar mouse, or six strings of liquorice. We rarely had more than a penn'orth of sweets in our possession, and if we grised about it were warned to have a look at Maggie Vale's teeth. We did have a look, and they were coal black. . . Too Many Sweets you see. Sometimes a visiting clergyman indulged us, and once Mr Houseman, our hero, gave us a whole pound of Algerian Fruits, but Father knew about rationing long before Lord Woolton thought about it, and our pound was made to last far, far too long.

Mr Houseman was a young clergyman, who used to come and do duty sometimes, and I loved him deeply and longed to marry him, but he did not long to marry me, being about thirty then to my ten. We used to have a private bet among ourselves as to whether the latest "gunea-pig" would tell us he was married at the meat course or during pudding. Tell us they always did, with a wary eye on the older members of our vast family, and then we would kick each other joyfully under the table. We were never allowed to speak until pudding was served, those of us who were promoted to dining room meals, and although it was a beastly bore (forbidden expression) it did teach us to keep silence and control our unruly tongues, and I for one was grateful for the discipline later on at boarding school when we were expected to keep an unbroken silence at supper during lent. Some of the other girls would become hysterical and laugh foolishly and get order marks, but little Monica sat there with a prim face thoughts far away.



THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET – 2021/22

In January, the Parish Council will be setting the budget for the next financial year and we would like to hear your ideas and suggestions for parish activities and projects which could receive funding. We held a public meeting on Monday 16th November to get the ball rolling and thank you to all those who gave us their suggestions, which include:

Installing a boardwalk along the marshy section of the footpath behind The Sloop in Bantham, to make it passable during the wet months	Replacing the NAS back up drive which sits in the Parish Hall and which provides a back-up service to all users of the Parish website
Replacing the pads in the Buckland phone box defibrillator, which is maintained by volunteers	Refurbishment of the benches around the coastal path
Producing a leaflet which explains and encourages wildlife friendly gardening	Providing a play area or bike track for children/young people
Providing more parking in the villages.	Provision of allotments in Thurlestone village
Tidying up the area by the public toilets	Repairing and refurbishing the Cobbled Road by the War Memorial
Creating an off-road footpath between Buckland and Bantham	Signs for the beaches to encourage people to keep them clean and tidy

If you have any more ideas please send them to the Parish Clerk at thurlestoneparish@gmail.com or chat to one of the councillors when you see them out and about.

Our last proper WI meeting was held back in March just before lockdown number one. We were almost ready to resume meetings under the rule of 30 when it became the rule of 6 and now we find ourselves in lockdown number 2. The Devon Federation has been keeping in touch with each of its WIs with a monthly Stop Press from the Federation Chairman and a Membership Matters newsletter from the Federation Advisers. We in turn distribute these to our members along with local news. Unfortunately some of our more recent news has been very sad as we have lost a past member, June Huggins, and a current member, Maureen Lywood.

In October Lisa White attended the virtual Devon Federation Autumn Council Meeting which she found to be an interesting experience. There are around 6400 members in 226 WIs in Devon so this took some organising with several zoom meetings over several days. Each WI is a charity in its own right but we belong to the Devon Federation. We have managed to navigate our way through the Charity Commission's current rules which resulted in the decision to cancel our 2020 Annual Meeting but we have had our 2019/20 accounts approved.

We are delighted to announce that Pat Macdonald has been awarded the Devon Federation Chairman's Rosebowl for 2020. The Devon Federation Chairman, Shirley May Saunders, drove to Thurlestone on 20 October so that she could personally present Pat with this award on her doorstep. With the rule of 6 in place at that time this was a somewhat subdued and well - spaced affair with only myself, our secretary Carolyn Taylor, and our treasurer Lisa White, in attendance on Pat's driveway. It would have been lovely to have been able to have all our members present to celebrate. This award is for a Devon WI member who has gone "above and beyond" both within the WI and the local community. Pat's contributions within the village, as a member of the Horticultural Society, as a supporter of the Parish Hall and indeed this very publication have been well documented but readers may not be so familiar with her contribution to the WI.



Pat has been a WI member for many years and involved not only locally but also at County level. She was a member of the Devon Federation Executive Council, taking on the post of County Publicity Officer and also served as a Voluntary County Organiser. As a VCO she opened several WIs: Wellswood at Torquay, Chillington, Plympton and Elburton. She started the WI Market in Ivybridge and was Secretary of the WI Market in Kingsbridge, for which she also did some of the cooking. Unfortunately, as a VCO, Pat was also involved in closing down some WIs: Totnes, Modbury, Galmpton, Churchstow and Kingston, but some of them have since reopened.

Pat is a keen member of and contributor to our own WI. For many years she organised our annual programme, found and liaised with the speakers and then wrote reports of our meetings for the local newspaper. She also found the time to provide the monthly birthday posies for members. She enthusiastically joins in many WI activities not least the annual Federation Quiz - she is a very valuable member of our team.

If we had been able to hold meetings this autumn we would also have had several very special birthdays to celebrate: Jean Patey's 90th, Jean Jones' 95th and Rosemary McKay's 99th. We usually do this in style with bubbles to drink and cake, of course, but hopefully, when we are able to resume our meetings the rules will allow us to have a party to celebrate all of these events.

Sally Martin

President

Devon Coast to Coast footpath - part 2

My first account of our walk ended in Widecombe with a cream tea. We decided to stay overnight in convenient locations to walk the next 8 sections. As we booked accommodation when we could see a few days with a good weather forecast, it was quite difficult to find suitable places as so many other people wanted a break in early September. Again we took two cars, leaving one at the end of the day's walk, and driving to the start.

Section 5 Moorland car park on road sign posted to Southcombe, near Widecombe, to Chagford 4.9.20

We drove from home to Chagford, leaving my car in the car park there, then drove to the moorland car park. Two horses quickly appeared at the car, and were obviously hoping to be fed. As we walked off, one of them kicked the car in disgust! The path was straight and we passed several barrows which all had stones in front of them with 'DS' on them. This was because the Duke of Somerset had owned land here. We walked to Hameldown and then walked down a steep path to Grimspound, which is a well preserved Bronze age enclosure with the remains of 16 hut circles and 8 stone buildings. We walked up to Hookney Tor where there was no obvious path. We felt that we were following the instructions in our 2 books but luckily David realised that we had walked on too far so we scrambled down to the road below and ended up walking south along the road for about 1.8 miles to Bennetts cross, which dates from the 13th century, whereas we should have just crossed the road at that point. The weather clouded over, as had our spirits, and the next mile or two was a barren part of the moor with no sign posts or obvious landmarks, but we managed to get ourselves to Yardworthy, where we joined the Mariners way and climbed up to Frenchbeer. Here we started to see some lovely properties and the weather had brightened up too. We were heading for Teigncombe and were not quite sure if we had taken the correct footpath. A woman was walking her dog and I stopped to ask her if we were on the right path. She confirmed rather frostily that we were. That was when I realised that it was the actress, Jennifer Saunders, who probably thought that I was going to ask for her autograph! From there it was easy, and we walked on to the very pretty Leigh bridge where the North and South Teign rivers merge. We passed a sign post to Gidleigh Park and then went on into Chagford, where we checked in to the Ring o' Bells, which was a nice, simple pub, serving a good breakfast, but sadly was not doing evening meals. So we ate at the Globe on both nights, enjoying 2 delicious meals.

We had walked 13 miles (probably 3 more than we should have done) and had seen 22 people.

Section 6 Chagford bridge to Binneford Cross 5.9.20

Chagford is one of the 4 Stannary towns and is delightful. I could easily have spent the day browsing in the shops and sampling the wares of some of the cafes but that luxury was not permitted by my walking companion. I was allowed to go into James Bowden and Son - a wonderful emporium selling a wide selection of products - from Barbour jackets to toys. It has been in the same family since 1860 and has a small museum at the top of the shop.

It was an easy walk down to Chagford bridge then to Rushford bridge and on through woodland beside the beautiful Teign river to reach the grounds of Castle Drogo, where we walked along the Fisherman's path. Next we went up to the

Hunter's path which leads along the side of the impressive Teign gorge. The path is quite narrow there and I suddenly heard a crash, followed by an expletive, and turned to see my dear husband flat on his face and in danger of rolling off the path. Luckily he only had a grazed knee and a slightly painful wrist, but, from that point on, he agreed to use the walking pole that was strapped to his rucksack. We left the path and took some steps up to a path which led to Drewsteignton - a pretty village and definitely worth exploring. We walked on to the northern boundary of Dartmoor National Park, where we saw the memorial to Joe Turner who inspired and set up the Two Moors way. Here we crossed the A30 by a road bridge then walked across fields to Whitethorn farm, where we reached a lane with high hedges on either side. We continued until we completed that section just beyond Binneford cross. We had parked our car at Yeoford as there really was no other place to park apart from passing places, but that added 2 miles of walking along the very uninteresting lane. We had walked 12 miles, and had seen many people in the Castle Drogo grounds.

Section 7 Binnaford Cross to Morchard Road 6.9.20

We were determined not to park in Yeoford again and found a suitably large passing space where we left the car for our first full day in mid-Devon. We started walking on a quiet lane, then a green lane, followed by fields to West Wotton. After walking through a wood, we crossed the single track Exeter-Okehampton railway line on which the heritage trains of the Dartmoor railway run at certain times of the year. We walked through lots of well signposted fields and passed Paschoe House, an attractive neo-Gothic building, which is now a hotel. Crossing more fields, we saw the characteristic red soil of the area then crossed the A377 and walked to Shobrooke railway bridge and along to where we had parked our other car at Morchard Road. We had walked 7.45miles, and had seen 5 people.

Section 8 Morchard Road to Witheridge 11.9.20

Morchard Road seemed a strange little settlement, with a pub (closed) a few houses and a small car park with some public loos. We did not start walking until about 11.30am, having driven from home to the day's destination. We had just got going when we met a couple, who had already walked 12 miles from Drewsteignton, and were heading for the same destination as us. They had camped, were carrying their tent, and were doing the whole Coast to Coast in a week. They were quite a bit younger than us!

We crossed Shobrooke bridge, and walked across fields, down a green lane and across more fields to Morchard Bishop, which was a pleasant little village with a church, a shop, a pub, and a school, where the children were playing outside. We went in to the churchyard from where there was a good view of Dartmoor. The rest of the walk consisted of more fields and green lanes, and was all very gentle. We stopped to visit the pretty church at Washford Pyne, which was built in 1883 after the earlier one had burnt down.

We arrived at the village of Witheridge, whose centre is a conservation area, and spotted the hardy couple from the morning. They were treating themselves to B&B at one of the pubs there! We had walked 10.5 miles and had seen only two people on the footpath. We then drove to the Hartnoll hotel, just outside Tiverton, where we stayed for the next 2 nights. It was very comfortable, served delicious food, and the décor was immaculate.

Anna Martin

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THE FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH AND THE CHURCH BUILDING TRUST

The Church has a rich history much of which has been documented in the Revd. Coope's excellent book "Thurlestone Church and Parish". In explaining the aims and purpose of the Friends of Thurlestone Church I have taken the liberty of reciting here a very brief outline of the story of this fine ancient building to emphasise the importance of its preservation for future generations to enjoy.

A building probably stood on the current site from the 9th Century onwards traditionally as a place of worship. From Church and Parish records it is clear that it also witnessed over the centuries bootlegging, murder, rebellious villagers and fighting Rectors.

The first record of a Church at a place called "Torlestan" appears in the Domesday Book of 1068. William the Conqueror awarded the Village, the Church and surrounding land to Judhel, one of his military commanders whose castle in Totnes is still intact today.

In 1100, during the reign of Henry I, a building of cob and thatch replaced one destroyed by the avenging sons of King Harold. This was replaced in 1230, at a time of a boom in agriculture, by a more permanent stone building. This year also recorded the first Rector, Henry, licensed by Pope Gregory IX.

In 1327 a "shedding of blood" in the Church is recorded. The details remain a mystery as does the recalcitrance of the villagers who refuse to pay for the purification of the Church. In the midst of this crisis the Rector, Robert de Pynho, applies for licence of absence to go on pilgrimage. Threatened with excommunication in 1328 village defiance is broken, the Church is re-sanctified and services resume.

In 1370 the first Antipope of the Great Schism, Clement the VII, is elected by the French Cardinals in Avignon. The Rector of Thurlestone, Sir John Whyteleghe, goes to fight against Clement with the Bishop of Norwich again leaving the Parish priestless. In 1400 and 1509 a new taller tower, with a beacon, and the South Porch respectively are added, the latter being approved by Henry VIII himself.

In 1646 another fighting Rector, John Snell who had been appointed by Charles I, is besieged with Sir John Fortescue by Fairfax's parliamentarians in the Olde Bullwarke in Salcombe (now Fort Charles). He was reinstated as Rector in 1660 with the Restoration of the Monarchy.

In 1654 the oldest surviving bell is installed in the tower.

By 1800 smuggling is the local trade of the day. Smugglers stored their booty in the roof of the Church Porch. In 1839 the Rector, Peregrine Arthur Ilbert, refuses a bribe of a keg of brandy in a bid to end the smuggling in the village. He then rebuilds the tower in 1848 to repair a list. The kink can be seen to this day.

From 1941 to 1946 the Church was used by the Royal Marines, billeted in the Thurlestone Hotel, for their Church Parades. By 1948 a clock and a sixth bell had been added to the tower.

In 1994 at the time of the retirement of the Rector, Peter Stevens, there was real concern that the Diocese might not appoint a replacement and the Church might be made redundant as a place of worship as had occurred in South Huish a century earlier. This led in 1995 to the registration of a Charitable Trust to hold an Endowment Fund solely for the maintenance and preservation of the Church Building and its surrounds for the future.

The objective of the Friends of the Church is to raise funds for the Trust. The Friends are non-denominational and not confined to Parish residents. The Trust is governed by six Trustees and is independent of the Diocese and Parochial Church Council (PCC). Naturally we maintain a close liaison with the latter in matters relating to the building itself. The Parish Council and the PCC appoint one Trustee each.

Since 1995 the Friends have raised £250,000 and the Trust has made grants of £124,000 towards projects such as roof repairs, replacement of the organ, rewiring and lighting of the building, re-pointing of the tower, repair of the lych gate and re-leading of the stained-glass windows amongst others. In addition to the donation from the Trust Fund in 2015, Friends individually supported the Tower Appeal with gifts of a further £30,000.

In the immediate future we will be supporting the PCC with repairs to the tower roof and a continuation of the window project toward which works we have pledged some £30,000.

We are always keen to gain new members, particularly from those who are new to the Parish and those who are visiting Thurlestone for the first time. Help us to preserve this ancient building, for worship or simply for people to enjoy, as an architectural centre of the village. It has a long, interesting and in many ways unique history. Long may that continue.

C.W.M. Grose

Chairman of Trustees

For details of The Friends please contact:

Phil Millard , 1 Wingfield, Thurlestone. TQ7 3TE. millardpj@hotmail.com

Martyn Grose, The Swallows, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NS

The Over-the-top Christmas Tree

When I bought it, it seemed quite small
Alongside SOME trees, which WERE tall.
Once at home I was not so sure
It reached from garage roof to floor.
Where we want it, it sure won't go -
What on earth shall we two do?
Take the saw and cut it down to a more convenient size and shape
Which I did sans measuring tape.
A gold stand's been bought and brand new lights
This tree's to be a festive sight.
With hubby's help inside it came
But dearie me and WHAT a shame:

The tree's still too big and FAR too wide.
I stressed and jiggled and hubby sighed;
More chopping, lopping to get it right
And then we found it listed quite.
Some while later 't'was almost straight
But consequently lunch was late.
Hunger sated, back to work
For we've never yet been known to shirk.
Lights on first, that's how it's done,
The rest should now be really fun.
But by jings, we had a fright,
The lights were very bright and white.
Another problem to be sorted:
The lights will have to be

disguised
By every bauble, bow and bell
By every handmade dog as well.
The tree's now decked from top to bottom
Not a bough has been forgotten
But still the lights offend me so
With their ultra-blue-white glow.
Lights on or off? What should we do?
Buy lights of a different hue?
Back to Noyces, off we go
And yes, they've got such lights on show.
Home once more, begin again –
This tree is driving us insane.

Sheila Fairley

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Thurlestone Bay Birds - Visible Migration

Autumn is a really interesting time for Birdwatchers - many species leave our shores to migrate, mostly south for warmer climes to spend their winter months. At the same time other species migrate to the UK from Northern Europe as our winters are not so severe (usually!)

To enjoy the passage of birds there are 3 main requirements - An early start, clear skies with dry conditions and high ground. This year October started well, particularly from the 7th - conditions were ideal for early morning watching. Having tried several different sites over the years, I now concentrate my efforts on the high ground behind the Church adjacent to the Golf Course. Quite a few of the Thurlestone residents have stopped to talk and find out what I am up to.

A total of 29 species have been logged with a total of 9 days watched - the total number of birds logged was 9904.

At the beginning of November with clear skies and cooler mornings, a spectacle which must not be missed is the migration of *WOOD PIGEON*. This year the first sign of flocks was on 4th November with 5430 and the next day only 1980. (Friday 6th a total of 1350 was over South Huish Marsh). So far this year only 7 *STOCK DOVE* have been sighted.

Every year the next highest totals are always *SKYLARK*- 889, with a maximum of 242 on 9th October and *MEADOW PIPIT* – 695. The highest daily total was 170 on 11th October.

The last of our Summer visitors depart in October - this year *SWALLOW* totalled 17 with the last being 2 on 15th October. *WHEATEAR* can be seen sat on the walls or running across the greens, 4 on the 7th and the last a single on 11th October.

Warblers are thought of as Summer visitors. However, in the South Hams both *CHIFFCHAFF* and *BLACKCAP* do overwinter - a total of 12 *CHIFFCHAFF* recorded with the final 2 on 5th November. A surprise on the 4th November were 3 *BLACKCAP* - these were probably migrants from Germany which have started overwintering here.



FINCHES can be significant migrants, in particular *CHAFFINCH* - 74 recorded this year, *GOLDFINCH* - 140, *SISKIN* - 63, *BRAMBLING* - 2, *LINNET* - 112, *GREENFINCH* - 16.



From the middle of October *THRUSHES* start to be seen, this year - *BLACKBIRD* - 26, *SONG THRUSH* - 7, *MISTLE THRUSH* - 2, *REDWING* - A winter visitor from *SCANDINAVIA* - 10.

A bonus is when the unexpected turns up. This year produced 3 *GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER*, 1 *GREEN WOODPECKER*, 3 *GOLDEN PLOVER*, 1 *LAPWING* and a bird from Northern Europe which was flushed by a dog walker, a *WOODCOCK* and 2 *CROSSBILL* on 9th October.

I have to mention the flocks of *CANADA GEESE* which are a wonderful sight as they move from their overnight roosting sites on the Avon and Erme Estuaries to the freshwater lake at South Huish Marsh. They are equally impressive when they do the return journey each evening.

The flocks rapidly increased in early October with a maximum I recorded of over 700 on 18th.

Since the beginning of September we have seen some scarce birds - sometimes only staying for less than an hour particularly around South Huish Marsh - A *GLOSSY IBIS* on 3rd September (breeds mainly in Southern Spain).



YELLOW BROWED WARBLER in my garden on 15th October (breeds in the very north of Europe and parts of Siberia), finally, a juvenile *GLAUCOUS GULL* briefly on 2nd November - breeds in Eastern Greenland above the Arctic Circle.

I hope you find this article interesting - trying to provide you with some idea of the superb bird life we have in our unique little area of the South West.

mikepassman@modbury.me.uk

The World Of Moths In Thurlestone

As of the 9th November, the number of species of macro moths trapped in my garden since 9th May stands at 240.

I had not realised what a superb area of habitat for Moths Thurlestone Marsh could turn out to be.

Whilst the Autumn period is going to see fewer species on the wing since my last article, another 31 species have been added.

I have previously commented on the different moths in the *WAINSCOT* family - new for the year were *L ALBUM WAINSCOT* - an immigrant moth from Europe and *SHORE WAINSCOT* on 12th September - there were no previous records for this in South Devon in 2019. Large *WAINSCOT* were previously thought of as scarce in South Devon with only 19 being recorded last year - from my trap since the 1st October I have recorded 163 – there are obviously few people with traps that overlook marshes.



On 14th October a first record of *LUNAR UNDERWING* was recorded - In the following 9 days a total of 302 were trapped.

October trapping is very dependent on weather conditions - strong winds and heavy rain overnight is not conducive to producing good flights.

One of the other exciting moths found in the trap at first light was - 18th September, a *CONVOLVULOUS HAWK MONTH* - an immigrant from Europe which is 55mm in length making it one of the largest UK moths - the 6th member of the family of *HAWK* Moths trapped.



Last year South Devon had 1 record for *BRINDLED OCHRE*, so far I have trapped 3.

On 2nd October, a superb *MERVEILLE DU JOUR* - a beautiful moth in strikingly Green and Black colours.

Other new records for the year include *BLACK RUSTIC*, *FEATHERED RANUNCULUS*, *REDLINE* and *YELLOW LINE QUAKER*, *FEATHERED THORN*, *BRINDLED GREEN*, *GREEN BRINDLED CRESCENT*, *PORTLAND RIBBON WAVE*.

Due to adverse weather conditions, opportunities have been restricted to only 3 nights since the 24th October. Hopefully there will be more opportunities in the remaining weeks of 2020.

It's very difficult to describe the beauty of these important species in our Thurlestone wildlife - there are some photos on my website- thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk under the heading Photos 2020 from 1st July and 14th September.

Mike Passman

Richard Jackson

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TRAMP REPORT

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

As planned, we re-opened our Tramp walks programme on October 5th. The “pent up” demand was immense with over 18 walkers requesting to walk each week. As we set a maximum number of walkers at 18 (= 3 x 6 in groups), we had some disappointed Trampers! We only achieved five weekly walks prior to the latest Covid-19 bad news and yet another “shut down”.

Walk on 5th October 2020. Local walk to Bolberry. Linda and Gareth Scott.

When Mike's email entitled "Let's Get Walking" dropped into my inbox I was excited. He asked if the leaders were still keen to lead their walks and I replied immediately and said “yes, of course”. We were so enthusiastic!

Nearer the time, we sat down to finalise the route. This had been left as "TBA around Thurlestone" last November at the planning meeting. We decided that this would be an even better idea now for the first TRAMP Covid-19 walk as it wouldn't involve car sharing. We were unsure whether people were happy to share lifts and we didn't want to exclude anyone on this basis. We organised the route and then began to realise how different this walk would have to be and the extra planning that would be necessary. We knew that the ‘Rule of 6’ had to be followed and started to work out how to implement this. Several people cited how other groups walked and that this rule wasn't applicable to us and suggesting that 15 or even 30 were acceptable group sizes. We began to wonder if we were being over cautious but decided to stick to a group of six.



We sent out the route for the walk and asked Trampers to let us know if they were wanting to join us so that we could track and trace everyone if needed. Mike held their details and we just had to supply him with the names. The names flooded in and we immediately had 21 people keen to walk - a large number even for Tramp except at Christmas and the mid-summer walk! This surprised us and we went back to the drawing board and decided that 18 was the maximum manageable. We would have 2 leaders - one with the first and another with the third group. The second group would have a map and walk description and would be told to wait for group 3 to catch up if they were unsure of the route! We identified pinch points and safe places to re mix the groups. I felt a bit like a very bossy school teacher when I sent out an email setting out the rules. I hope this didn't put too many people off but we had to be confident that everyone understood what we had put in place to keep us all safe! Luckily for us - but not for those who had to drop out for various reasons - we ended up with 2 groups. I have to say, it was a bit of a relief for us, being responsible for the success of the first Covid-19 walk.

Eventually, two groups of very happy trampers left Court Park Road and walked through the Mead and on to the coast path heading for Hope Cove. Two people joined us at Links Court and another joined at Thurlestone Sands where we took the opportunity to swap the groups around. The forecast hadn't

been at all good and whilst it was blowy it wasn't wet or blustery or cold and it was great to be out walking and among friends once more. One Trumper, who hadn't done a lot of walking recently but was keen to meet up, had only planned to walk with us as far as Hope Cove and so we bade him farewell there. The remaining walkers went through Hope, up the steps by St Clement's Church and on to a track which gave way to a footpath through the fields. Just before Burton Farm we turned left and continued through more fields, over the footbridge and into Bens Close in Galmpton. Here we had a socially distanced picnic/coffee stop. We then walked through Galmpton, crossed the main Hope Cove Road and picked up more footpaths heading towards South Huish. We walked down a lengthy and very pretty green lane to South Huish Cross. From here we passed 'The Keeping Place' and Jarvis Farm and crossed the ford by the footbridge and then headed uphill to another green lane. Here we said goodbye to three of the people who had walked from South Milton to join us. My worries over numbers were lessening all the time! After a few more fields we reached Horswell Cottages where we stopped to admire a Trumper's garden and newly painted house - both of which are lovely. We left three more Trampers here - they decided to stay for a cuppa! We also inadvertently left a third very speedy walker here - he had been using the facilities but he didn't catch us up so we assumed he also decided to stay and have a cuppa! The three of us who were left walked across the ley nature reserve, over the road and up the farm track and then the fields heading for Court Park again. I needn't have worried about the number of walkers after all! We all agreed that it had been a lovely walk and very, very sociable albeit in a Covid safe way. What a relief! Hopefully it also showed that Tramp walks are as sociable as ever - and safe - and so even more

people will be given the confidence to join in - up to 18 each time of course!

WE were so relieved that everyone agreed that the format had worked well and that TRAMPERS could look forward to many more safe and wonderful walks.

Walk on 15th October. Noss Mayo and the Yealm Estuary. Eric and Liz Candy.

On a sunny autumn morning we gathered at our meeting point in the Noss Mayo Tennis Court Car Park. The car park was unusually full, resulting in the alternative car park at the southern end of Noss Creek off Passage Road close to The Ship Inn having to be used. Fortunately, the tide that day meant that water should not arrive on the rising tide at the northern end of the car park until early afternoon, allowing time for those wishing to partake of an early post walk lunch at The Ship. As groups of six walkers plus dogs were assembled, they departed to ensure good social distancing. Unfortunately, the walk was oversubscribed resulting in not all those who applied being able to join the walk.

The walk has the advantage that the main climb of the walk is at the beginning, when we walk up the wide track Hannaford Road past Brooking's Downs Wood into rolling open countryside. At the top of the climb we turned left walking east on the Worswell Farm access road and then right into the National Trust Warren car park. Here the last group of four met up with the last two members of the group who were delayed in their departure from Thurlestone by a prior engagement. The southbound track from the car park lead us through a gate to join up with the South West Coast Path, which also runs west along part of Lady Baring's Carriageway. Lady Baring's Carriageway is a nine-mile drive that was built by the banker Charles Baring the First Lord Revelstoke so that visitors to the estate could admire the beautiful coastal views from their carriages.

Walking west past Warren Cottage along The Warren, we recalled that this was the area used in the past for commercial rabbit breeding. As well as the magnificent coastal views we walked past a few South Devon, or similar, cattle on the carriageway. They assiduously ignored both walkers and dogs! At Gara Point the carriageway turns north then east at Mouthstone Point, where we had magnificent views over the Yealm estuary. This was a suitable place for the group I was walking with to have a coffee break. The carriageway then started its' slow decent passing through Brakehill Plantation and then past the Coastguard Cottages. We were then walking above the beautiful River Yealm as we passed through Passage Wood and then on to Ferry Wood alongside Newton Creek. On reaching Noss Creek we turned south to reach The Ship Inn at the end of the walk.

Many of the walkers celebrated this enjoyable walk by stopping at The Ship Inn for an excellent socially distanced lunch using some of the pub's many outside tables.

Walk on 20th October – Circular walk from Little Dartmouth - Alastair Durden

On a somewhat blustery day, fourteen of us drove to the National Trust Car Park at Little Dartmouth to commence our walk - partly along the Diamond Jubilee Way and partly along the coast path. The former was created to commemorate the 60th anniversary in 2012 of our Queen's accession to the throne and it takes in some of the most glorious countryside in the West Country. Anyway, we set off from Little Dartmouth Farm along the edge of fields, passing through Higher Week Farm, reaching the main A379 which we had to walk along for 30 metres while keeping a careful watch for fast moving traffic! We then began a long gradual descent down Jawbones Hill. A little way down the track, we diverted into Beacon to take in a breath-taking view

over Dartmouth towards the Britannia Royal Naval College. Further down, we found a footpath traversing the side of Dyer's Hill with glorious views over the River Dart estuary. This footpath led us into Dyer's Wood, owned by the National Trust, and eventually on to Above Town road. Passing the creek at Warfleet, we continued along the road to Dartmouth Castle where we were met by another member of TRAMP. We stopped here for a well-earned coffee at the Castle Tea Room. At this point, some of the group opted for the shortest route back to the car park, while the rest continued along the coastal path for a further 2¼ miles, enjoying the beautiful coastal scenery. On returning to the cars, some of us drove along the coastal road back home, stopping at Blackpool Sands for a welcome lunch at the Venus Café.

Walk on 28 October from Kingston & via Wonwell beach. June and John Richardson.

Well, Tramp Walkers are a hardy bunch - the forecast was not good and we met at Court Park on a blustery wet morning but the group were ready for some good exercise in a lovely location, even if the conditions were not ideal. We set off for Kingston along the tidal road and added to the group at the Dolphin pub where we managed to negotiate the bin lorry in the pub car park, had our briefing and set off in a socially distanced fashion towards the cliffs.

Two new Trampers, Jo and John, were welcomed to the group and Peter Coates was welcomed back after an absence of two years. The walk followed the lane towards Scobbiscombe then diverted on to the footpath before the farm, giving wonderful views of the rolling surf in the Erme estuary, although the wind at this point made standing up tricky, let alone walking!

The relative shelter of the beach at Wonwell was relished allowing us to prepare for the long uphill through

Furzedown Wood. At the top, Ben became a little uncertain as to the route and decided to go back towards Wonwell but soon realised his error before too many fields were crossed and then happily rejoined everyone else.

The Dolphin pub was a welcome sight to all and our group managed to take over both bars and most walkers partook of some refreshment although one walker's disappointment at the disappearance of the box of burgers from the chef's store was profound in the extreme.

The weather was much better than had been anticipated - an enjoyable walk in wind with lovely views of the Erme estuary and Flete. There was even sunshine glistening on the moor!

Walk on November 2nd – West Alvington – Annie and Harry

The novelty has not worn off. Everyone is keen to be out walking with Tramp after such a long summer (albeit with restricted numbers), and within an hour of sending out the "flyer" we had filled the list and had reserves in hand. And then, one by one, people realised that they were double-booked, had appointments elsewhere, and whatever so, by Sunday evening, we were down to a very neat "two groups of six". Then one more was added on Monday morning aagh, how will we socially distance with 13?

And then, at the eleventh hour we had one last drop out phew!

What a lovely morning for a walk ... mild, breezy, some sunshine perfect! So, gathering near the village hall in West Alvington, we quickly organised ourselves into two groups, the keen ones at the front with me, and those wanting a gentler pace with Harry at the back. Harry and I had done several versions, longer & shorter, of this route during lockdown, and had also recce'd the route just two days ago, when the final downhill into the village had proved rather slippery, so we decided on an anti-clockwise direction instead.

We set off down towards Longbrook, to the beautiful old grain store perched on its "staddle stones" or mushrooms, as some say.

Then up through the woods to the communications mast at Easton. Down to Autun, where there must surely be some youngsters in residence, with a variety of stuffed, fluffy animals to greet us. After Youngcombe, we crossed a number of fields to skirt the edge of Woolston, turning east to join up with the "old coach road".

Heading back on the road, through Collapit, past the Gerston turning, and off into the fields again for the return to West Alvington. The views were fabulous ... and so was the company.

TRAMP Walk Dates Jan - Feb 2021

Week starting	Date	Day	Leader	Miles	Suggested route	Lunch
	Jan 4th					
	Jan 13th	Wed	Annie & Harry	5	Belle Cross Rd, Kingsbridge & circular	Dodbrooke Inn
	Jan 18th					
	Jan 25th					
	Feb 1st		Tony Burn		East Prawle	
	Feb 8th					
	Feb 15th		Wendy & Peter Gornall		Snowdrop walk, Staverton	Sea Trout ?
	Feb 22nd	Mon	Vanessa Barton	5	Aveton Gifford/Loddiswell circular	

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

CHRISTMAS TREATS.

Solve the anagram clues to find some of the things that are traditionally enjoyed at Christmas.

EG: Inters pilot (4,7) R - - - S - - - - - Answer: Ripe Stilton

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Girls knew pain (9,4) | S - - - - - W - - - |
| 2. Stray path (5,4) | P - - - - H - - - |
| 3. Treats quietly (7,6) | Q - - - - - S - - - - - |
| 4. Ram eats chicks (9,4) | C - - - - - C - - - |
| 5. Created Red Toe (9,4) | D - - - - - T - - - |
| 6. Clings on a rig (5,7) | C - - - - S - - - - - |
| 7. Sky tour rate (5,6) | R - - - - T - - - - |
| 8. Ignore spent pens (7,8) | O - - - - - P - - - - - |
| 9. Barry can secure (9,5) | C - - - - - S - - - - |
| 10. Planet tail (1,6,3) | A L - - - - - N - - |
| 11. Has cared (8) | C - - - - - |
| 12. Shaped for Rory (1,4,2,6) | A D - - - O - S - - - - - |
| 13. Mustard chips (9,3) | C - - - - - P - - |
| 14. Stable pink gins (4,2,8) | P - - - I - B - - - - - |
| 15. Store tapas too (5,8) | R - - - - P - - - - - |
| 16. Curt snacking (8,4) | C - - - - - N - - - |
| 17. Vic's plates (2,8) | T - S - - - - - |
| 18. Exotic nobles (9,3) | S - - - - - B - - |
| 19. Grain or fries (7,5) | R - - - - - F - - - - |
| 20. EG nude in clover (14) | O - - - - - |
| 21. Shocking gin angst (7,9) | H - - - - - S - - - - - |
| 22. Cat and lavender (6,8) | A - - - - C - - - - - |
| 23. Slashing seat (6,6) | S - - - - S - - - - |
| 24. Toss superb slurs (8,7) | B - - - - - S - - - - - |
| 25. Hence sheep quest (3,6,6) | T - - Q - - - - S - - - - |
| 26. A class aunt (5,5) | S - - - - C - - - - |
| 27. Most elite nudist shrieking (7,5,3,9) | K - - - - - U - - - - T - - M - - - - - |
| 28. Scars harm crickets (9,8) | C - - - - - C - - - - - |
| 29. Miss mad thing (8,4) | M - - - - - M - - - |
| 30. Retrying dog mate (5,4,6) | D - - - - G - - - M - - - - |

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Apocalypse Now 2. Casablanca 3. In The Heat Of The Night 4. Animal Crackers 5. The Italian Job 6. Taxi Driver 7. Jerry Maguire 8. Dirty Dancing 9. Carry On Cleo 10. The Producers 11. Toy Story 12. The Silence Of The Lambs 13. Forrest Gump 14. The Blues Brothers 15. Gone With The Wind 16. Psycho 17. The Railway Children 18. Life Of Brian 19. The Sixth Sense 20. Grand Hotel 21. On The Waterfront. 22. Dead Poets Society 23. Some Like It Hot 24. Citizen Kane 25. Terminator 2. 26. Dr Strangelove 27. Jaws 28. Back To The Future 29. Raiders Of The Lost Ark 30. Crocodile Dundee

There were 2 all correct answers last month. First out of the hat and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Gill Pollard. Commiserations to Stephanie Adams..

Weather Wag



It is a strange world that we inhabit at this time in history. In my research for this article, there were many topics I could write about. However, I decided to stick to two: - one nearer the weather in its purist sense and the other as pertinent to events that eclipse our country at the moment.

It is the year when La Niña occurs in the Pacific Ocean, which in turn affects weather patterns across the globe. I know that I have written about El Niño, and the effects that the event can cause across the globe, now this is almost the opposite. El Niño means the boy in Spanish, and La Niña means the girl in Spanish, this latter one usually follows on after an El Niño.

The way the sea water behaves along the Pacific Coast of South America is key to this phenomenon. The Trade winds which are usually constant in their habit, strengthen and the warm water moves farther west than usual, with an upwelling of deeper, cooler water to the ocean surface in the eastern Pacific. This can mean heavy rainfall bringing flooding to the western Pacific, including Australia and south east Asia.

For us in the UK and in Western Europe, the effects can lead this year to possibly colder weather in December but not quite as cold as 2010. This was due to a very heavy and influential La Niña that year. Perhaps a very cold snap is what is required to influence the cessation of the dreaded Covid-19 that is affecting us.

I looked up information on the Great Plague of 1666 which was the last great plague to affect the British Isles, though not so devastating as the Black Death of 1348. The 1666 Plague claimed nearly 100,000 across the country and included nearly one sixth of the population of London. After a cold spell in the winter, which curtailed the spread initially, the rats (from whose fleas the virus emanated) were spared death as the powers that be, decided that all cats and dogs should be destroyed. Fires were kept burning night and day to cleanse the air and everyone, including children, were encouraged to smoke tobacco. In the end it was the COLD weather that almost kills it off, the final straw was the Great Fire of London which ends it completely. Towards the end of November, Pepys writes 'The plague is come very low ...and great hopes of a further decrease, because of very exceeding hard frost'. King Charles II, who had fled the capital earlier returned with his court to his palace in February.

Certainly; today 10th November now in the afternoon, the sky has clouded over and the temperature has dropped noticeably. The forecast for tomorrow Wednesday 11th November is not very encouraging. There will be an upsurge in demand for Electricity and Gas supplies as the heating in houses is upped to satisfy the needs of people.

Perhaps spending more time in bed may help! Or perhaps put on an extra layer, it is surprising how much the human body can stand in respect of the cold. Perhaps we could learn, and according to some information I have gleaned, that it may be possible to entertain some type of hibernation, lowering the body temperature in order to survive the rigours of our winter. NASA is looking at something like this to enable long-duration space travel to take place. Hypothermia is a lowering of the body temperature, and in some extreme cases people have survived unscathed.

Paul Simons relates 'In 1999 a woman in Sweden fell into a hole in the ice and remained trapped for more than an hour. When rescued, her body temperature fell to 13.7C, the lowest recorded in a living human, but she made a full recovery'.

There is chance for us yet, here's to a refreshingly cold December.

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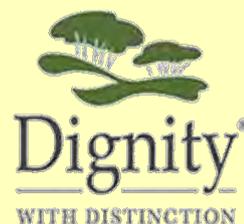
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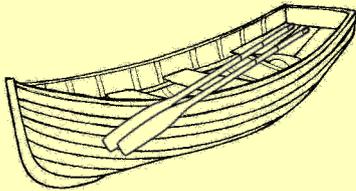
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HELP US TO RECYCLE FOR A GREENER FUTURE

Interview by Carey Ryan-Carter. Photograph by Eve Barry.

We all know that plastic pollution is a serious global issue and many of us have already started to change our habits to reduce the amount of one-use plastics we throw away. However, covid safety and the massive use of PPE, facemasks and hand sanitisers has meant the amount of one-use plastic being produced and disposed of daily has increased massively. Fortunately our parish is home to two young passionate eco-warriors who are determined not only to help protect our planet by keeping as much plastic out of our oceans and landfill as possible but also to help Homeless people and other charities by introducing a new exciting recycling initiative at the **Buckland Telephone box**. I caught up with 11 year olds, **Jed Barry** and **Leo Colin** to find out more about their idea.

Q. What would you like people to recycle at the Buckland box?

Leo - "We'd like people to start collecting used **crisp packets** (any size) and empty **printer inkjet cartridges** and drop them off at the Buckland Box. It would be brilliant if the crisp packets could be opened up by cutting down one side and along the bottom to make a foil rectangle, then washed and dried and stored flat. When we have enough we will send them to a charity that fuses them together to make waterproof sacks that are given to homeless people to keep their sleeping bags warm and dry. It takes 150 packets to make one bag." (Further information can be found online at **crisppacketproject.com**)

Jed - "We will receive a donation of up to £1.75 for each ink cartridge we recycle so we'd like to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust because our neighbour Joely suffers from this condition."

Q. Why do you think it is important for people to recycle?

Jed - "If we don't recycle then the plastic pollutes the earth and kills animals and the animals will become extinct. There are terrible examples like turtles having straws stuck up their noses. As we pollute more the animals die more. The world is in peril and our very existence depends on the moment when we decide to act. We need to make a stand to show everyone what this planet means to us. Everyone in the Parish can help us 'be the change we want to see in the world.'"

Leo - "Animals are dying and we just sit and watch. It's time for us to act. Global warming is taking over the world and we need to fight back. Heart-breaking discoveries show that baby albatrosses are dying because their parents are feeding them our plastic. We are killing our environment as well as ourselves and one day there will be no animals left. If the animals die then so do we."

Q. Why do you think it is important for young people to get involved in environmental projects?

Leo - "If younger children see older children doing a beach clean for example those little kids then grow up thinking beach cleaning is important."

Jed - "Young people can keep the beaches clean so people can enjoy the natural environment and the animals won't suffer the problem of plastics that we have created. The young people can enjoy seeing the animals recover."



Q. Why is the Buckland Box a good location for the collection point?

Jed – “It’s on the way to the beach so lots of cars come this way. Local people can just walk or cycle there.”

Leo – “It’s on the junction where the 2 roads down from Thurlestone and Bantham meet. There is room for a car to pull in so it doesn’t block the road when people are dropping off their recycling.”

Q. Have you been influenced by any famous figures? Or programmes?

Jed – “I read a book called ‘Plastic Sucks’ by Dougie Poynter from the band McFLY. He came to Thurlestone School and we did a huge beach clean with him. We have both watched David Attenborough programmes and seen horrible things like the dead Albatross chicks. Their digestive systems can’t digest the plastic so it stays in their stomachs until they die.”

Q. How will you make your collection point covid safe?

Leo – “We’ll provide hand gel. We’ll be checking the box on our way back from the school bus everyday so can keep the box clean. We’ll be wearing compostable gloves when we sort through the crisp packets and cartridges before we post them. It’s also why we’re asking people to open and clean the crisp packets first.”

Q. When will the recycling point open?

Jed – “As soon as lockdown ends on 2nd December. We plan to put up a sign to tell people how many clean crisp packets and cartridges have been collected each month. Hopefully that will encourage them to drop more off.”

NEWS FROM THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

Last month, Thurlestone Parish Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in recognition of the clear evidence that climate and ecological changes are happening and that they represent a threat to the life opportunities and well-being of future generations. Whilst this is a huge global challenge, many solutions are local and need to be addressed at all levels of government and within our communities.

The Parish Council invites interested members of the Parish to join a new Climate Action Group which will consider and propose actions to tackle these challenges and create an Action Plan for our villages. We welcome all who have an interest in this, whatever your level of experience and whether or not you are involved with similar projects already or are completely new to it.

There are many types of projects and activities with which we can get involved. It could be: commissioning audits of energy use in our homes; promoting schemes to increase biodiversity, for example by reducing the use of pesticides in gardens and creating wildflower rich verges; working with local businesses to engage with the visitors who come here to enjoy our beaches and coastal scenery; or encouraging natural approaches to carbon capture such as tree planting. Whatever the projects, it is clear that the best way to do our bit is by working together and sharing ideas and knowledge.

To find out more about what is happening in Devon to address these issues, have a look at www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk.

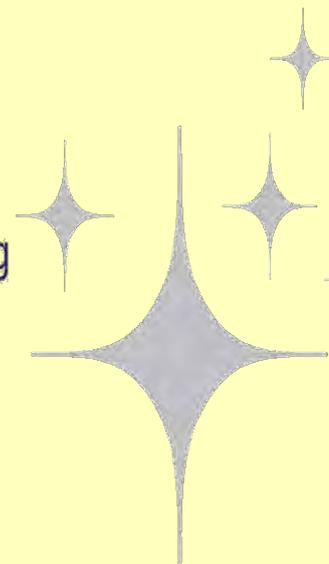
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THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES

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:

SHOP

POST OFFICE

Wednesday 23 rd Dec	8.00 - 2.00	9.00 - 1.00
Thursday 24 th Dec	8.00 - 4.00	9.00 - 2.00
Friday 25 th Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED
Saturday 26 th Dec	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Sunday 27 th Dec	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Monday 28 th Dec	8.00 - 2.00	CLOSED
Tuesday 29 th Dec	8.00 - 5.00	9.00 - 4.00
Wednesday 30 th Dec	8.00 - 2.00	9.00 - 1.00
Thursday 31 st Dec	8.00 - 4.00	9.00 - 2.00
<u>2021</u>		
Friday 1 st Jan	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Saturday 2 nd Jan	8.00 - 2.00	9.30 - 12.30
Sunday 3 rd Jan	8.30 - 2.00	CLOSED

(NORMAL OPENING HOURS RESUME ON SATURDAY 2ND JANUARY)

Our Christmas Draw will take place on Thursday 24th December at 11am. 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.

Sarah and Staff





Thurlestone Illuminations

Take a magical walk
around the village this Christmas!
Come and enjoy the festive light displays!

12th - 31st Dec 2020

MAPS AVAILABLE FROM THE THURLESTONE VILLAGE STORES £3.00

ENTER YOUR WINDOW OR GARDEN

Thurlestone Residents - please let us know who will be lighting up their homes this Christmas!
Please email us at thurlestone.illuminations@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

BUY A MAP

Purchase a map of the lights for £3.00 (proceeds to Friends of Thurlestone School FTS)
Maps available between 12th - 31st December 2020 from Thurlestone Village Stores

WALK THE ROUTE

Walk the route 12th - 31 December 2020
SPOT the letters in each window or garden to reveal a Christmas Phrase!



@friendsofthurlestonschool #thurlestoneilluminations



Thurlestone Illuminations 2020



thurlestone.illuminations@hotmail.com





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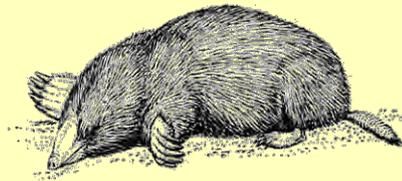


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COCKTAILS & CANAPES

Ruby Sparkler - serves 1

1part ruby port
1part cranberry juice
Champagne or sparkling wine
Blueberries

Chill a champagne flute before adding the port and cranberry juice. Top up with the Champagne and garnish with blueberries.

Dark 'n Stormy Cocktail - serves 1

Ice
Juice of half a lime (optional)
2 measures dark Rum
Ginger beer (if you want it 'gale force' use the hot and fiery one)

Add ice to a tall glass. Squeeze limes over the ice, then pour in rum and ginger beer, and stir. Garnish with a slice of lime.

Clementine Martini - serves 10 glasses

Juice 6 clementines, plus 2 on the side for serving
100ml Vodka
100ml Cointreau
1 bottle of Prosecco

Put some Martini glasses (or champagne flutes) into the freezer. Mix the clementine juice, Vodka and Cointreau in a jug, then chill for 1 hr (or up to 1 day). Thinly slice the 2 clementines to use as a garnish.

To serve, put a clementine slice into each frosty glass. Fill almost halfway with the chilled jug mixture, then open the bottle of fizz and top up the glasses.

Mulled Pear & Cranberry Punch - serves 8-10 glasses

1ltr pear cider
1ltr pear (or cloudy apple) juice
1ltr cranberry juice
Handful of fresh or dried cranberries
2 cinnamon sticks
2 vanilla pods, scored lengthways

Put all the ingredients into your biggest saucepan or casserole dish. When you're ready to serve, heat to just below simmering point, then ladle into glasses.

Festive crackers Take 20 small crackers or crostini. Spread 1 tsp pesto onto each cracker, top each with a piece of mozzarella from a 125g ball and garnish with basil leaves.

Seafood croustades Fill each mini croustades case with crab, mixed with a little mayonnaise and dill or salmon mixed with cream cheese and dill.

Cucumber bites Slice a cucumber into rounds and top each one with a spoonful of houmous and sprinkle with paprika.

Mini Parma Ham vegetable Tarts

2 eggs

200ml cream

150g chopped vegetables – we used sweetcorn, asparagus and pepper

1tbsp pesto

8 wide slices Parma ham

Heat the oven to 200C, gas 6.

In a large jug mix together the eggs, cream, vegetables and pesto.

Line 8 spaces of a 12-hole muffin tin with Parma ham. Mix 2 eggs with 150g of chopped vegetable such as sweetcorn, pepper and asparagus, add 200ml of cream and season to taste. Pour into each parma ham case and bake at 200C or 180 fan for 15-20 mins or until the egg has set to the touch. Cool a little before serving.



DIARY DATES

December

Friday	4	South Hams Society Beach Clean - West Charleton Marsh 2pm - meet at the bird hide, far end of the marsh
Saturday	5	Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
Monday	7	Parish Council Meeting, conducted remotely via Zoom 7.30pm
Saturday	19	Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
Friday	25	Christmas Day
Saturday	26	Boxing Day
Monday	28	Boxing Day Bank Holiday
Thursday	31	New Years Eve

January

Friday	1	New Years Day
Saturday	2	Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
Monday	4	Parish Council Meeting, conducted remotely via Zoom 7.30pm
Wednesday	13	TRAMP Belle Cross Rd., Kingsbridge, circular
Saturday	16	Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
Wednesday	27	Kingsbridge Arts Society 2pm conducted via Zoom -Canal History and Heritage with Roger Butler

February

Monday	1	TRAMP East Prawle
Monday	15	TRAMP Snowdrop walk, Staverton
Monday	1	Parish Council Meeting, conducted remotely via Zoom 7.30pm
Monday	22	TRAMP Aveton Gifford/Loddiswell, circular

All Events are subject to change due to the Coronavirus

CONNECT CABS

TAXI PRICE OFFERS

Thurlestone <==> Totnes Station

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

Thurlestone <==> Exeter Airport

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

Thurlestone <==> Bristol Airport

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

Thurlestone <==> Southampton Docks

Meter price typically £355 - My set price from £240

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CONTACT INFORMATION

CLUBS & GROUPS

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

HEALTH CENTRES

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

POLICE

Emergency 999 Non-emergency 101

RUBBISH COLLECTION - Wednesday except collections due on 30th December now Saturday 2nd January; 6th January now Friday 8th January; 13th January now Thursday 14th January
Black/Grey Bin (non-recyclable landfill) alternate Wednesdays from 2nd December
Brown Bin (garden & food waste) alternate Wednesdays from 9th December
Blue & Clear sacks (recyclables) with the Brown Bin collection

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 September)

Mon - Fri 9.00am to 4.30pm, Sat - Sun 10.00am to 4.30pm (1st October - 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 2nd Dec & 13th Jan 3.10pm - 4.00pm

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

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

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

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

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

PARISH INFORMATION

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

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

PARISH HALL (see Thurlestone Parish Website for more details)

Telephone (Payphone in foyer) 562189

Chairman: Vacant

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

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

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH See All Saints' Diary pages earlier in magazine
Church Meeting Room Telephone 561246

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL Executive Head Miss Lesa Garside 560494

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES Contact Sarah Tyers 561917

Shop Opening Hours	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	8.00am - 5.00pm
Subject to change	Wed	8.00am - 2.00pm
Special Xmas opening hours - see poster in Village Voice	Sat	8.00am - 2.00pm
	Sun	8.30am - 2.00pm

Post Office Hours	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.00am - 4.00pm
Subject to change	Wed	9.00am - 1.00pm
Special Xmas opening hours - see poster in Village Voice	Sat	9.30am - 12.30pm
	Sun	Closed

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

BANTHAM VILLAGE STORES & COFFEE SHOP Contact Kelly Seymour 560645

Opening Hours	October	Mon - Wed and Fri	9.00am - 1.00pm
Subject to change		Saturday and Sunday	9.00am - 1.00pm
		Thursday - Closed	

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

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

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

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