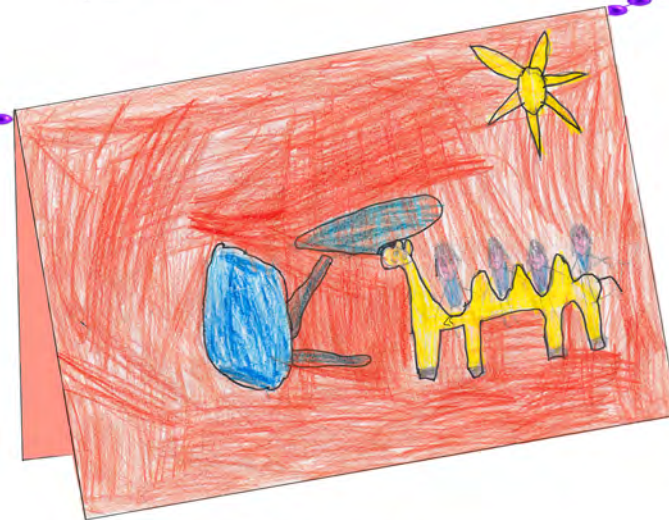


VILLAGE VOICE

December 2022 - January 2023



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



Since Village Voice last went to press we have all endured something of a roller-coaster ride to say the least. Political, environmental and economic matters have contrived to keep us all on our toes and wondering what on earth tomorrow will bring. With our latest edition we hope to introduce a sense of calm familiarity into your often hectic lives with articles to inform and entertain you during the festive season.

We are delighted to have two new contributors on board. Adam Ryan-Carter, a Parish Councillor living in West Buckland, is determined to encourage us all to make our local area a more environmentally-friendly space. Roy Townsend, a resident of Thurlestone for many years, gives an insight to the work done at Moorhaven Hospital when it was in existence. Each article is fascinating and thought-provoking in its own way.

To highlight just two of the talented people living here in our villages, we have reviewed recent publications written by John Davie (along with his co-writer Harry Mount) and Sue Westendorp. Turn to "Bookshelf" to find out more.

We have recipes to titillate your taste buds and help you to deal with some of the problems that festive cookery can bring as well as a restaurant review that may tempt you to splash the cash and take a break from kitchen chores. All this in addition to regular, well-loved articles from our esteemed contributors of long-standing. Remember, we are always on the look-out for new material so anyone out there with an interesting tale to tell and a desire to see your name in print-get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

All that remains is to wish every one of our readers a wonderful Christmas and New Year from the whole Village Voice team. See you all down by the phone box for mulled wine, mince pies and carols!

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Front Cover

Christmas card
drawings by children at
All Saints' School,
Thurlestone

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December 2022 - January 2023

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DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

by Judy Pearce



It's the time of year at the District Council when we start setting the budget for the next municipal year. As you are all council tax payers, you may be interested to learn how we go about this and how we consider how the council tax should be spent.

The starting point is that of all the council tax you pay; only 8% goes to paying for District Council services. Often this is not fully understood because the district council is the 'collection authority'. So all of the council tax is paid to the district council on behalf of the County Council, the police, fire authority and your local parish (or town) council, and then we pass it on to them. This year the district charge is £180.42 for a Band D property. All calculations are based on Band D, so all other property bands and figures for them are calculated as 'Band D equivalents'. Each year, regardless of inflation, we are only allowed to increase your council tax by £5, or less than 2% (effectively 1.99%). For us, £5 is still slightly more than 1.99% of the Band D charge, so your council tax is likely to increase by £5 or, in other words, slightly less than 10p a week per Band D household. If we don't charge this, we would lose about £200,000 a year on a compound interest basis, so this small annual increase paid by you is extremely important to the council's finances year on year.

Running a district council is at least partly like running a business, because many of our services are self-financing, since users have to pay a fee for the service. This includes car parks, the Dartmouth lower ferry, Salcombe Harbour and to a large extent the licensing service, building regulations and aspects of the planning service. We also own a number of business units, which are let out on a successfully high occupancy rate, which includes tenants in the parts of Follaton House which are no longer occupied by council officers.

Over the years the amount of government grant we receive has severely diminished, which makes any income generating all the more important for us to be able to continue financing the ever increasing cost of providing services. Obviously, at the same time, we have changed our way of working. We rely far more heavily from year to year on improved IT services and remote contact for now nearly all our services as the default option. It is the most efficient way of either providing you with a new or extra service, and of keeping our records up to date.

Officially we receive no revenue grant at all from central government now, though we do get lesser amounts such as the Rural Services Grant. This helps to fund the extra cost of having to deliver services such as the waste collection to a very rural area rather than just street collections in an urban area. We also get a grant called 'new homes bonus' for delivering new houses above a certain base increase every year, and this is topped up further for any affordable housing delivered. Each year other small amounts come through for specific purposes such as reducing rough sleeping, but what it really boils down to is that we have to deliver all our other services through the council tax you pay.

Next time I'll go on to explain how we set about calculating the service costs, prioritising how we are going to spend your money and finally putting the budget together, so that you have the information before the new budget is set in February. Importantly, we have to set a balanced revenue budget, so if we can't find the funds, we have to start cutting services. This though, is something we would never want to do, and thankfully does not, at least for the moment, look likely for us.

Notes from Parish Council Meetings

The most recent Parish Council meetings are summarised below. The detailed minutes can be seen online at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/meeting-information

Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2022 at Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Jill Munn (Chairman), Sue Crowther, Paul Gunning, Rosa Lewis, Adam Ryan-Carter, Gill Stone and Sian Williams.
In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long and 13 members of the public.
Apologies: County Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

Open Forum

Matters raised: (1) Local farmers have received an increasing amount of unacceptable abuse from motorists while they carry out hedge trimming works and civility is requested for any slight delays they may cause. (2) It was noted that SHDC has set aside £200k setting up community composting sites, but that no one has taken up the offer. Councillors were asked for an update of the brown bin service and whether there will be a guarantee on the future paid for service which is due to commence in March 2023. (3) It was asked whether there had been any response from Bantham Estate providing assurance to West Buckland residents that they will not be affected by shot during the shoot, as per the previous year. (4) The architect for the West Buckland Farmhouse planning application gave an overview of the proposal.

Clerk's Report

- There is no public consultation for Temporary Event Notices (TENs), only the police are consulted and then only if the gathering is likely to be in excess of 500 people. The Parish Council is writing to SHDC to obtain more information.
- The Bantham Estate Shoot will commence October 24th through until February 4th and will be twice per week (Monday and Friday) with occasional Saturday shoots.
- Parishioners are requested to report ALL parish highways issues.
- A new Tree Preservation Order has been served for the woodland to the South of Clanacombe Lodge, West Buckland.
- A review of grit bins in the parish is required.
- Between 24th– 28th October there will be road closures Kerse Cross to Whitley Cross & Eddystone Road to Kerse Cross. This is an Openreach application to allow for safe access to underground/overhead cabling.

Parish Matters

- (1) The defibrillator at the Sloop may not be operational and is no longer accessible. The unit at the Coronation Quay is checked fortnightly, but believed to require new pads. Cllrs Williams and Gunning will look after the unit at the Sloop and Cllr Ryan-Carter will look after the unit at the Quay, on behalf of the Bantham Sailing Club. Cllr Munn will speak to the Golf Club about their unit.
- (2) Cllr Munn has met with Golf Club representatives to discuss whether they would consider adding a small monetary increment on the price of a parking ticket for the beach car park, which can then be used for the upkeep of the public toilets. (3) The gritter is being inspected to ascertain if it is still roadworthy and a new home is required to store it. (4) The Parish Council is now the registered leaseholder of Island View Green. The green is for public recreation only and the Parish Council is responsible for its maintenance.

District Councillors' Reports

For information regarding cost-of-living help, see <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help>. The brown bin service will stop at the end of October, plans are in place for a new paid for service to commence from Spring 2023 at an annual cost of £49 per property. This can be subscribed to online and there will be a service guarantee in the contract between SHDC and the subscriber. There will be a new online webtool to assist planning applicants, including more information regarding climate change. South Hams now has 167 Ukrainian guests and over 71 hosts and SHDC are still receiving up to 3 families per week. If any type of avian influenza is suspected in poultry or captive birds, it must be reported immediately to the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.

Planning and Tree Matters

Ratification of 1251/2/HHO Tree Tops, Thurlestone. Single storey extension with first floor balcony above and external alterations.
Object.

2402/22/HHO 2 Mead Lane, Thurlestone.
Cladding to south elevation. **Support.**

2160/22/HHO West Buckland Farm. Refurbishment, extension, raised roof and rebuilding outhouse. **Object.**

3045/22/HHO Apple Trees, Thurlestone. Alterations, extension and construction of garage block. **Object.**

SHDC Decisions: 3026/21/FUL Vineyard, NW of Buckland and 2178/22/HHO Lower Furlong, Ilbert Road, Thurlestone, were approved. 1416/22/HHO 2 Valleyside, West Buckland, was withdrawn and Tree Preservation Order 1069, 2 Leonards Close, Thurlestone, was confirmed.

Meeting held on Monday 7th November 2022 at Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Jill Munn (Chairman), Sue Crowther, Rosa Lewis, Adam Ryan-Carter and Gill Stone.

In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Rufus Gilbert, District Cllr Judy Pearce and 11 members of the public. Apologies: Cllrs Paul Gunning and Sian Williams and District Cllr Mark Long.

Open Forum

Matters raised: (1) Shot had fallen on some properties in West Buckland during the Bantham Estate shoot on 4th November. (2) There are concerns that the Estate propose to use Coronation Boathouse for public events in the future. (3) The Parish Council was asked what the situation was next year regarding the Rockbox and its application for a future licence. The acoustic of the business sited at Thurlestone Golf Club this summer was not pleasant for properties in the vicinity and on the Mead. (4) Thurlestone Hotel was asked to incorporate something to prevent light pollution in their current planning application, particularly as some of the trees at the bottom of the golf course have fallen down or been removed. (5) The Parish Council was thanked for assisting obtain a Tree Preservation Order for the woodland opposite Clanacombe Lodge. (6) The Coronation Boathouse and cliff above both require repair and a request was made for the application to be assessed on its planning merits. (7) The Torr Quarry Depot needs attention. (8) The architect for the Coronation Boathouse applications introduced himself. (9) The glass in the West Buckland noticeboard glass requires cleaning. (10) Leaves on Clanacombe Hill need to be swept

away. (11) The three remaining executive members of the Parish of Thurlestone Society, which was created to refurbish the pump house, met last week and have agreed that the society would be wound up. (12) The Parish Clerk read a letter received from a parishioner objecting to the Coronation Boathouse planning application.

Clerk's Report

- Useful website links were provided covering a wide range of subjects, from police to highway information.
- The Devon & Somerset Fire Service consultation has been received and is open until midday on 30th November. There is an online survey to help the service make more informed decisions for the next financial year.
- The Citizens Advice Consumer Service operates the primary reporting tools for scams in England, see <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/reporting-a-scam/> or contact their consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Parish Matters

(1) Councillors would like to consider pursuing a 20mph restriction and weight restrictions to help alleviate traffic issues and Cllr Gilbert agreed to take this up with Highways. (2) Councillors wish to receive advance notice of Temporary Event Notices (TENs) for events such as the Rockbox. At present, only the Police, Environmental Health, Fire and Weights & Measures departments are informed and only they can object within a 3-day window. (3) Councillors recently met with the Bantham Swoosh Race Director to discuss how the highway issues that had arisen this year could be avoided in the future. He will review the organisation of the event and another meeting with Councillors will take place in February 2023. (4) Bantham Estate have informed the Parish Council that they are fully aware of the issues regarding the shoot, keen to discuss the issues with residents and do whatever they can to address any of their legitimate concerns. (5) The Neighbourhood Plan is monitored annually. Over the last four years to July 2022 there have been around 129 planning applications in the parish, 95 were approved by SHDC and only 15 were contrary to Councillors' submission to refuse them. The Plan is due to be reviewed at the end of its fifth year, in July 2023. (6) The Public Rights of Way Warden for the area has retired and not yet been replaced. The officer presently dealing with reported footpath matters is based in Exmouth. (7) The

Neighbourhood Policing Team is being strengthened locally so there should be more opportunity for local public engagement. (8) The outdoor kitchen project at Thurlestone Primary School requires community engagement to secure funding. A notice will be posted on the Parish Website. (9) The public toilets will be closed until April 2023. (10) The Sustainable South Hams Assembly met at KCC on 8th October. The Assembly is a network for climate and nature groups in the South Hams. Plans are being worked up in the parish, including a wildlife booklet, which it is hoped will draw together members of the community to create an interest in climate change. (11) It was reported that the Parish Hall questionnaire was well responded to and an update will be provided in December. A particular concern had been raised regarding the mobile library and issues with parking at the hall. Cllr Gilbert advised that the continuance of the service is presently under review due to the cutbacks and the outcome will be issued shortly.

County and District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Gilbert advised that the main road through Modbury will be closed off for three months in early 2023 for the Victorian sewers to be upgraded. A national Avian Influenza Prevention Zone has been declared making it a legal requirement for all bird keepers to follow strict biosecurity measures. Some progress is being made regarding DCC finance, but millions of pounds still need to be saved. There will be a significant cut in some services and others will be stopped completely. It is hoped that the budget will be set in a few weeks. Fibre broadband continues to be rolled out. There are road resurfacing and supporting works in Loddiswell 28th November – 5th December, essential tree works at Halwell overnight on 24th November and road works between Elston Cross and Hedgeswell Cross on 22nd January 2023. The road by Thurlestone Golf club has been assigned a contractor for the works to prevent future flooding, but a date has not yet been set. The Thurlestone-West Buckland road works are now due to be actioned in 2024. Highways will be asked if they can supply appropriate signage for hedge trimming works.

District Cllr Judy Pearce advised that the brown bin service has now stopped and South Hams garden waste subscriptions are now live. Residents can sign up either via www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste or call 01803 861234. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been reviewed and is now in

consultation – full details are on the SHDC website. There are changes to the taxation of self-catering properties. The Climate Emergency planning statement will now be operative to applications registered after 30th November. With regard to avian influenza, any dead birds should be reported directly to the local landowner (if known) whose responsibility it is to clear them.

Planning and Tree Matters

Ratification of 3247/22/FUL Edgecombe House, West Buckland. New dwelling, renovation of barn for ancillary use, replacement bat roost outbuilding & site landscaping works. **Object.**

2605/22/FUL & 2606/22/LBC Bantham Boathouse. Proposed conversion of first floor into holiday let & cliff stabilisation works (part retrospective). *Deferred to public meeting on Monday 14th November when a holding objection was made pending the submission of information necessary in order for Councillors to make an informed decision.*

2643/22/VAR Thurlestone Hotel. Application for variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) & 8 (tree protection) of planning consent 1720/19/FUL. **Object.**

3550/22/VAR 1 Avonside, Bantham. Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 3011/21/HHO. **Support.**

3601/22/CLE Cowrie House, Ilbert Rd, Thurlestone. Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing material commencement of building operations undertaken. **No comment.**

3206/22/TPO Furzey Close, Thurlestone. T1: Holm Oak - crown lift to 4m from g/l and remove obstruction to telephone wires. To clear obstructions to vehicles and wires. *Deferred to public meeting on Monday 14th November, when the works were agreed.*

SHDC Decisions: 1420/22/FUL Upton Grange, Bantham, 3027/21/FUL Vineyard, N of Lower Aunemouth, 2402/22/HHO 2 Mead Lane, Thurlestone and 2160/22/HHO West Buckland Farm were approved. No objections were raised in respect 2489/22/TCA Tree Works at The Old Workshop, Parkfield and 3247/22/FUL Edgecombe House, West Buckland, was withdrawn.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 5th December 2022 in the Parish Hall.



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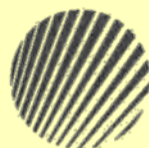
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VILLAGE NEWS ROUND-UP

Modbury Road Closure

The main road through Modbury will be closed in January for three months due to Sewer works. The work will be done in sections, so any diversions, which need to be on roads large enough to take the main road traffic, will constantly change. The advice is for people to work out their own diversions, on whichever roads suit them, and stick to them!

Brown Bin Garden Waste Collection

As from 31st October the brown collection ceased due to a shortage of drivers and will be replaced with a paid for garden waste service commencing in Spring 2023.

Residents can subscribe for this service from now until 22nd January 2023.

Collections will start from 6 March 2023 on a fortnightly basis - so this hasn't changed.

The intervening time will enable the waste team to ascertain the total number of properties who've applied for the service and plan new rounds accordingly, to make them as efficient as possible. In February 2023, if you've subscribed to the service, you will be issued with a sticker for your bin to make it easier for the crews to identify. The question has been asked as to why the cost was not added to council tax bills and the answer is; because 30% of council tax payers do not have a brown bin, it was decided to switch to a signing up basis for those who wish to carry on.

If you no longer require this service and would like your brown bin removed this can be requested by using the contact form on the SHDC website. They will start removing the bins from now.

Alternatively, there's lots of information online about how to turn your unused brown bin into a compost bin or water butt, quickly and cheaply. Just search for 'converting a wheelie bin to a compost bin' to find videos and instructions.

Book Club

Various parishioners have expressed an interest in forming a monthly Book Club on an informal basis. Members would take turns in hosting the group in their homes or alternatively, if preferred, it could be held in the Yeo room at the hall. If you are interested, please contact Alison Daily on 561472 or email aldaily@waitrose.com.

Book Signing

John Davie who is co-author of the book 'Et Tu, Brute? The Best Latin Lines Ever' featured in this edition's Bookshelf will be holding a book signing session in Kingsbridge library on Tuesday 6th Dec at 3pm.

End Polio Now

The Rotary Club of Kingsbridge is holding its annual QUIZ Night and Raffle in aid of End Polio Now at the Parish Hall on Thursday 9th February. This is a very popular event so don't delay in putting together your team of 6 people and booking your table with Peter Gornall on 01548 560333.

Mobile Library

The mobile library, which visits the Parish Hall car park every 4 weeks on a Wednesday, is changing its regular time slot to between 10.30am and 11.00am. The next visit will be on Wednesday 11th January.



Phone Box Committee presents!

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Monday 12th December @ 4:30pm

**Thurlestone War Memorial on Village Green
With DJ Shep from BBC Radio Devon**



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a donation to the school fund and wear your best Christmas Hat**





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PSYCHIATRIC NURSE TRAINING AT **MOORHAVEN HOSPITAL 1961**

World Mental Health Day was on October 10th and our psychiatric health care has progressed over the years, but here is an insight of what life was like at Moorhaven Psychiatric Hospital during the 1960's and 70's written by Roy Townsend, a long-standing resident of Thurlestone.

Moorhaven Hospital was closed many years ago and has since been developed into luxury residential properties. In 2018 The Plymouth Herald described Moorhaven Village as *'The idyllic village inside an old asylum – for some its name was associated with padded cells, strait jackets and things that go bump in the night'*.

I commenced my training as a Psychiatric Nurse at Moorhaven Hospital, Bittaford near Ivybridge in June 1961 aged 24 years. I was married with a 1 year old son.

Moorhaven Hospital was built in 1899 and additional units were built in the late 1950's. It was a very progressive Hospital with an excellent reputation. There were no locked wards and the high surrounding walls had been removed in the 1950's. It had a shop for patients use and they had their own servery for refreshments etc. There were also very attractive and well maintained gardens, tennis courts, a putting green, a fish pond and a Dove Cot. All of these were greatly enjoyed and appreciated by patients and staff alike.

Staffing levels were high. Many were trained Psychiatric and General Nurses, there were also Nursing Cadets who started at the age of 16 then commenced training when they were 18 years old. The hospital had its own Community Nursing Team which covered Plymouth and most of the South Hams. It also had its own Social Work Team plus Occupational Therapists, and Art and Music Therapy. Moorhaven was held in high regard even internationally.

My introduction to the life of the hospital was reading a copy of the "Moor News" a paper which was printed weekly. Patients and staff would make comments/complaints with the proviso that they accepted the "Right of Reply".

New students were expected to attend the Patients General Committee where you were asked to introduce yourself and give some background information, and also why you wanted to train as a Psychiatric Nurse. At each meeting guest Outside speakers were invited to attend. The Member of Parliament for the area frequently attended and the minutes were recorded in the Moor News for all to see.

Training for General and Psychiatric Nurses in the 1960's was "In House", and the training I received was 1st class. Two weeks would be spent in the classroom after 4 weeks on the wards which involved a 12 hour shift for 4 days. Time in the classroom doing 9 – 5 felt very enjoyable. However the standard set was very high and if you didn't pass the first 6 month exam you would not be able to continue. Fortunately, I passed. As a first year Student Nurse my wage was £7 per week so I made myself available for any overtime work. Sometimes I would work an extra day or two and this was a great help to our household budget. I was still enjoying my work and training.

This was a time when people with Mental Health Illness were being cared for and treated with progressive thinking and attitudes. The Community Nursing Team were treating people at home and Psychiatrists were seeing people at Out Patient Clinics etc. to try to help to reduce in-patient admissions to the hospital.

After I qualified in 1964 I was offered the opportunity to do my General Nurse Training at Plymouth General Hospital, I qualified in 1966 after which I returned to Moorhaven and became a Deputy Charge Nurse.

Looking back at this period of my life, I would say that the practical training on the wards and most importantly learning from the wider experience of the older nurses are things that you cannot find in books. An example of this was with regard to a patient who had been a Prisoner of War of the Japanese, and had been very badly treated both physically and mentally. He would have periods when he became very disturbed and would bang his head against the wall whilst in bed to the extent that he would cause himself injury. At the same time he would call out for his Mother. The Charge Nurse would take off his white coat, lay on the bed with him and say in a gentle voice "Mother is with you" and within minutes he would be asleep. I later learned that the Charge Nurse himself had some terrifying experiences as a soldier in the war.

I had the opportunity of working with the Community Nurses, visiting patients at home. I could see how important this was in assisting people to manage in their daily routines, checking on medication and providing links to clubs etc to prevent isolation and loneliness. This was alongside the Social Work Team who assisted the finding of employment, as it was often difficult for those who had suffered serious mental health issues from returning to work or finding new employment.

Moorhaven Hospital had its own farm so their Catering Unit had plenty of fresh produce. This section won many top awards. The food for patients and staff was of a very high standard. On a personal level I always put on weight when doing night shifts. Some patients were reluctant to leave hospital, particularly if they lived alone as they would greatly miss the good food!

I find it very sad when I reflect on the positive experience of Mental Health Services in the 1960's comparing it to what is available in 2022. There were still improvements to be made but I felt we were going in the right direction.

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Our Garden in November

by Sue Dwyer

November 1st has arrived with a tremendous storm last night, causing extremely high winds that have floored most of the tall dahlias in the garden. The clocks have gone back so the evenings start earlier with night fall about 5 pm. At least the mornings are lighter so when I start my morning walk, I do not feel I am walking in the dark often thinking perhaps I should be using a torch. As the sun is so low in the sky and daylight hours are getting to their shortest in about 7 weeks it is important to make the most of any daylight. This applies especially to greenhouses. So today I have spent half a day emptying my tomato greenhouse of plants, removing the last tomatoes and bringing them indoors to ripen, putting on my waterproofs and washing the glass panes inside and out. I use soapy water and a floor cloth and mop. However, the drips from the roof always make my clothes and myself rather wet. I finish by using the hose pipe to wash away the soap suds and immediately the greenhouse becomes a brighter place. I then return the stored staging after washing each piece. After this I finally take a stiff brush to clean the capillary matting used to line the staging. Using this saves hours of time watering and the pots do not become water logged. The plants can absorb water through their roots from the damp matting. I buy a 50m roll which lasts about five years and is made of wool, each piece I cut off and use lasts about two seasons. I then dispose of this in the compost heap and cut a new piece from the roll. While doing this I discovered 3 shiny dark brown spiders which looked like ebony. The matting had been rolled up and stored on a shelf in my other greenhouse during the summer. Also, on one piece, a spider was surrounded by a mass of tiny baby spiders which had recently hatched. Looking on the internet I am sure these were False Black Widow spiders. These were first identified in Devon but are now found in all southern counties. They can bite humans if disturbed and feel threatened, but the bite is harmless although it can cause some irritation.



False Black Widow Spiders
Male (left) & Female (Right)

I returned at the end of September from walking in Greece and was amazed how wonderful the garden looked. The dahlias had normal sized flowers unlike the small pathetic ones I had left and the salvias were in full flower as were the roses. Several delphiniums were producing a 2nd flush of flowers as were Red Hot Pokers. The rain whilst I was away had regenerated the garden. The grass and weeds had started to grow in my absence.

The Royal Horticultural Society did a survey in July about which garden plants were most affected by the heat and drought and produced a list of ten plants. Hydrangeas were top of the list and looking locally I can agree with this and I will mention those plants on the list which I have in the garden. In 4th place was astilbes which I echo, as I wrote last time, I had dug mine up and put in pots, they look splendid now ready to go back in the soil. In 9th was phlox and this year mine were pathetic. We had quite a few clumps of the old-fashioned pink highly scented phlox which have now been removed divided and potted so I can give them to various plant sales because in a garden which has wetter soil than mine, they will thrive. Other plants mentioned were roses, heuchera, ferns, acers and hardy fuchsias. Our roses really were fine and I think this was because of all the compost we have dug into the borders over the last 40 years.

Removing the clumps of phlox allows me to try other plants. This autumn I have purchased several varieties of fritillaria. I have learnt something important about their planting. I tried the tall *Fritillaria imperialis* about 20 years ago but they only flowered once and then disappeared. I have subsequently found out that fritillaria bulbs should be planted on their side as water comes down the stems and enters the bulb which then rots. Those that were planted correctly a couple of years ago have come up every year. So, I am trying some new varieties in some of the spaces left by the phlox. Two varieties *Fritillaria persica* and *Fritillaria*

persica Alba which are also known as Persian lilies are described as a spring flowering, robust, bulbous perennial. Lance-shaped leaves are produced on upright stems, up to 25cm long, coloured glaucous to grey-green. Up to thirty pendant, narrow bell-shaped flowers, brown to deep-purple in colour, held in racemes appear in the spring. The Alba version has white bell-shaped flowers, also known as Ivory bells. The ultimate height of each is 1 metre. In addition, I have *Fritillaria assyriaca/uva vulpis* a bulbous perennial growing to 30cms with grassy leaves and dark mahogany, bell-shaped flowers tipped yellow due to flower in mid to late Spring. Each stem can have 1 to 3 small downward facing flowers. I have these in a large pot for their first year. In another large pot I have *Fritillaria meleagris* which has a chequered pattern in shades of purple and white with a grassy foliage. It flowers from March to May and will grow to 15-20cm in height. This plant likes to be planted in well-drained, sandy soil and is perfumed. Having had success last year with *Eremurus robustus*, a very tall foxtail lily, I have bought two more varieties to try this year in places where we have removed patches of phlox. These are *Eremurus bungei*, coloured burnt orange and *E. cleopatra* which is yellow, both growing to 1.5 metres.



Fritillaria meleagris

Another plant which has done well this year have been eucomis or Pineapple Lilies. The clumps I have were in the garden when we moved into this house 40 years ago. A couple of years ago I bought another variety *Eucomis comosa* which has purple edge leaves and flowers growing to about 30cms. I have added two more varieties *Eucomis bicolor*, similar to *comosa* and a fantastic purple leaf and flower variety Sparkling Burgundy. I saw this on a visit to Wildside near the Garden House and added this to my must have list.

The early flowering camellias are in flower at the moment, these are from the sasanqua group of camellias originating in Japan. Most are small to medium sized single flowers with smallish leaves. These flower from October to December and are perfumed. I have two bushes, one, I have no idea of its name, I transplanted from my father-in-law's garden when he died 32 years ago. Until last night's storm the bush 2m x 2m was a mass of flowers with a delicate perfume. The other is Yuletide a single red with yellow stamens. Of interest to me was I bought this in full flower about four years ago and placed it with my spring flowering camellias at the bottom of the garden. I never saw another flower but the small bush increased in size. Last autumn I read about Yuletide and discovered this needs to be in sunshine, so we transplanted it to the top of the garden. Many flower buds appeared over the summer and yesterday to my delight I saw the first open bloom, however this was blown off last night but I await more to open. I have another double white camellia which also flowers at this time. This was a present about 40 years ago from my late father-in-law, however I am sure this is not a sasanqua as the leaf is too large and waxy. Unlike the sasanquas this has a prolonged flowering period until March.

Colour at the moment is provided by winter flowering clematis, Wisley Cream and Jingle Bells while the *cobaea* is still in full bloom. Also climbing through the *cobaea* is *plumbago* which seems very late, but I am sure that this along with many other plants have just delayed producing flowers due to the heat and drought of the summer. *Gazania*s small dahlias, *antirrhinum*s in many colours are in abundance despite the storm.

Usually by this time of the year dahlias are beginning to die back but not this year, however due to the wind damage last night they may now begin to do so. I do not lift the large clumps but the tops need to die so the tubers seal off from the stems. *Penstemon*s and *agastache* are better left to cut down in the spring as this stops them producing new growth too early which gets frost damage.

The greenhouse is a great place to spend many happy hours in the winter checking on pots, sowing seeds, pricking out seedlings and growing plants on for next year. I had a great thrill recently when some of my saved *eremurus* seed produced a seedling which is now about 15cm tall. So, I am looking forward to caring for the plants this winter, Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to everyone and get ready to start another gardening year.

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Parish Hall News

by Alison Daily



Car Park

Unfortunately, I have to start on an unpleasant note after complaints received about the abuse and inconsideration of some parents from the school while using the Hall car park. I want to clarify that priority is for those who've booked the hall, attend classes and hold permits. Parents of the younger age group attending the school have been allowed to park on condition they do not interfere with the aforementioned users, parents of older pupils should be parking in Court Park. Although the Friends of Thurlestone School pay towards the wear and tear and replacement of gravel, I'm afraid this does not give them entitlement over our much-valued fee-paying users. The situation will continue to be monitored but if there is a recurrence then the situation will need to be addressed. Can I please ask that you be considerate and kind towards others if you wish to continue to use this facility? Thank you.

Questionnaire

Firstly, I would like to thank Karen Barker for all the time and effort she has put into the questionnaire, a job very well done! Secondly, thank you to all of you who took the time to complete it. There were 94 responses, 23.33% of the questionnaires distributed and a fairly even response across the three villages. We are so appreciative of everyone who took the time to complete it for us and to those offering help.

The committee will now take time to digest and discuss all the information gathered and how we need to move forward. The majority of the suggestions are achievable but unfortunately, some are not, due to practicality, lack of space and storage. As you've just read, the reduction of the size of the car park would not be viable. What I can say at this stage is there is a definite need for a wider variety of activities covering all age groups, some of which will need outside expertise to enable these to take place. Look out in Village Voice and our Facebook page for specific requests and further information. The next couple of years will be interesting as we attempt to try out as many of the popular suggestions made as possible. Watch this space!

Welcome to the Parish

One event we wish to implement straight away is a Social drop-in session where everyone's welcome to come along for a chance to meet new people over a glass of wine whilst finding out what goes on, not just at the hall but throughout the parish. Other groups and organisations will also be invited to attend. There will be no obligation on anyone's part but those new to the parish, as well as more established residents, can perhaps find a new activity or interest. We look forward to seeing you, so save the date!



Drop in Session

All welcome to a glass of wine and a chat
on Friday 27th January at Thurlestone
Parish Hall from 7pm until 9pm



Merry Christmas

The committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happier and healthy new year and we look forward to welcoming you to the Hall in 2023.

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 2023. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk

NAME THAT (CHRISTMAS) TUNE

Find the Christmas songs/carols using the cryptic and anagram clues below

CRYPTIC

1. A trio of sailing vessels spotted by yours truly (1,3,5,5).....
2. Could have been Lady Godiva's nickname! (8,5).....
3. Undersized beast of burden (6,6).....
4. My gift of choice would be a pair of shiny new incisors (3,1,4,3,9,2,2,3,5,5).....
5. Gazing around, it would appear that the festive season is almost upon (3,9,2,4,1,3,4,9).....
6. A pair of evergreens (3,5,3,3,3).....
7. Not a sound to be heard at bedtime (6,5).....
8. The occasion when a rotund bearded gentleman had a problem extricating himself from the flue (4,5,3,5,2,3,7,).....
9. Give an ear to the tuneful heavenly messengers (4,3,6,6,4).....
10. Ringo Starr in the making? (6,7,3).....
11. Over here all you believers! (2,4,3,2,8).....
12. A dozen 24-hour yule periods (3,6,4,2,9).....

ANAGRAM

1. I watch his terms (5,9).....
2. Honest trifle (3,5,4).....
3. My bodily crash (5,3,5).....
4. Yon fly ate a firework (9,2,3,4).....
5. Be interlinked with ma (2,3,5,9).....
6. Wired down lantern (6,10).....
7. Sonic gas knowledge (4,4,9).....
8. Tinsel two (3,2,4).....
9. Sweet gherkin (2,5,5).....
10. Len begs Jill (6,5).....
11. The chalk sled (4,3,5).....
12. Hymns, not software (6,3,7).....

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Pepsodent 2. Treets 3. Pal 4. Boursin 5. Ronseal 6. Harpic 7. Thomas Cook 8. Pringles 9. R Whites 10. L'Oreal 11. Colgate 12. Opal Fruits 13. Frosted Flakes, or Frosties 14. Shake n Vac 15. 1001 (Carpet Cleaner) 16. Shredded Wheat 17. Marmite 18. Bournville 19. Cadbury's Cream Egg 20. Carlsberg 21. Fry's Turkish Delight 22. Coca Cola 23. Nike 24. Mars 25. Tunes

There was only 1 all correct entry last month, from 8 received, so the coveted bottle of wine goes to David and Mary Horne.

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ESTUARY ISSUES

A good deal of interest was stirred up in August by an article in The Guardian about the state of the UK's rivers, with focus on our own Avon. Whilst there was nothing new in the article, the Devon Avon is probably in slightly better shape than many other rivers in the UK, but suffers from the same general problems – except for industrial pollution. However, the article has re-focussed attention on the state of the river.

I have been looking at the 2021 data from the Rivers Trust cataloguing the extent of Combined Storm Overflow (CSO) discharges into the river from South Brent to Aveton Gifford; 282 overflows, totalling 1,708 hours; and that is only from the six main discharge points. There are many other minor inputs and the so-called Event Data Monitoring by the Environment Agency may be less than 90% accurate owing to communication failures or equipment breakdown issues. The true impact of the CSOs is difficult to assess without information on the timing, volumes and full characteristics of the discharges in comparison with the dilution by natural water flows in the river at the various locations during discharges. No doubt that information exists somewhere but the question remains whether the Environment Agency analyses all that data and, importantly, the implications for the ecology of the river.

The fear is that any spillage, no matter how small, will have a damaging, insidious long-term effect on biodiversity, although it may not necessarily cause a shorter-term major pollution event. Hence we end up with the dire situation of a steady decline in biodiversity observed in many UK rivers, including the Devon Avon (Aune). Despite an invitation to SWW to attend the Avon Estuary Forum (AEF) in late September to discuss water quality, nobody from SWW turned up either in person or by Zoom.

Indeed, a recent 'public consultation' by SWW about drainage and waste water up to 2050 was only brought to the attention of all those present by the EA's South Devon Catchment Coordinator - a distinctly unsatisfactory state of affairs! I had wanted to draw attention to all those unacceptable CSOs along the Avon, the unreliable monitoring schemes due to communication system failures, the self-monitoring of overflows by SWW and the complete lack of monitoring of the many smaller sewerage systems discharging into the Avon.

What is being done, or is planned, to eliminate these damaging CSOs along the full length of the river? Not very much, it seems! SWW's Level 2 plan for the Lower Avon indicates extreme complacency regarding this question i.e. they write 'We are monitoring performance at the treatment works and we are not expecting any issues due to lack of capacity between now and 2050'! Regarding Loddiswell Water Treatment Works, specifically, a conclusion is offered that 'This catchment is changing and requires a long-term strategy' - no doubt to cater for the expanding population in that town owing to new housing development: no details are provided, other than further monitoring, despite the potential threat to shellfish waters being identified. This cannot be allowed to continue until 2050 and beyond!

To add to this depressing scenario, I would add that the current reliance on so-called Citizen Science monitoring for collection of river water quality data (owing to draconian staff cutbacks at the Environment Agency) has its drawbacks although the intention is laudable.

Sampling is constrained by what is possible, cheap and easily available for use under field conditions. For example, in my experience the phosphate testing kit provided by the West Country Rivers Trust is too insensitive to detect anything but a major pollution event and it would not pick up the insidious effects on river ecology and biodiversity of lesser (and possibly much more frequent and more prolonged) pollution events. In an ideal world, we'd have independent, continuous monitoring capability by the Environment Agency.

The increasingly extensive use of the estuary for recreational use by SUPers, kayakers, etc. is directly affected by any pollution, of course. For each of the past few years there has been a Bantham 'Swoosh' involving over 1,000 swimmers from the Outdoor Swimming Society (now called 'Swim Collective') travelling from Aveton Gifford at the head of the estuary to Bantham at the estuary mouth on the ebb tide. Some of the swimmers even travel back to AG on the incoming tide. Very few of these people are aware that after heavy rainfall, the river may contain raw sewage thanks to the CSOs from the AG Sewage Treatment Works (10 permitted per year) and additional release from STWs upstream. No alerting service for swimmers exists in the estuary, despite the best efforts of the Aune Conservation Association to persuade SWW to cooperate in setting up such a system.

A scheme does exist for the coastal bathing water at Bantham where the Environment Agency performs regular seawater checks in summer. In the past, the ACA has been unsuccessful in attempts to get the EA to designate the upper estuary as a bathing water. However, I have recently been contacted by 'Surfers Against Sewage' who, through DEFRA, are trying to increase the number of Designated Bathing Waters in the UK. Perhaps it is the time with the help of the surfers to seek such a designation for the entire tidal part of the estuary. Please let me know what you think about such a proposal. My contact details are below.

Another issue of importance to all recreational users of the estuary is the demarcation of the water ski zone. The Aune Valley Ski Club has been in discussion with the Salcombe Harbourmaster, the ACA and other members of the AEF about how to replace the previous markers, which fell victim to time, wind and tide. Recommended replacement buoys were bought by the ski club and earlier this year were installed by the Bantham Estate but, once in place, were thought to be insufficiently visible to be effective as a warning to others to stay clear. Further, more suitable replacements or alternatives are currently being sourced.

Stuart Watts

Chair ACA
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Partial Solar Eclipse, October 25th. Photo by Matt Bright.

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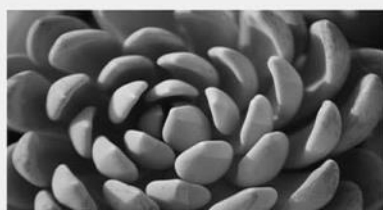
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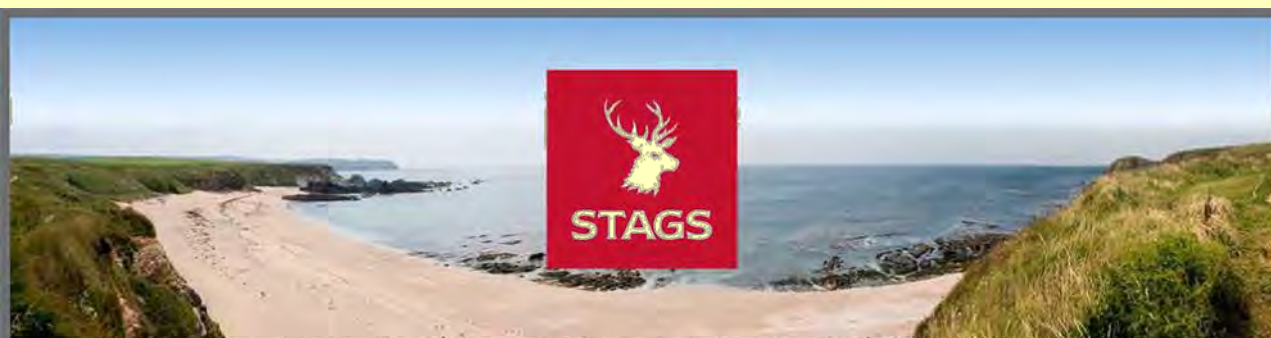
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*All
Saints*

RECTOR:
Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

LAY READER: Peter Gornall



Christmas... Again!!!

Tempus fugit. Or, in the vernacular tongue, "times flies". It doesn't seem that long ago that we were planning our first "post Covid restrictions" Christmas. And yet here we are, 12 months later – Christmas 2022!

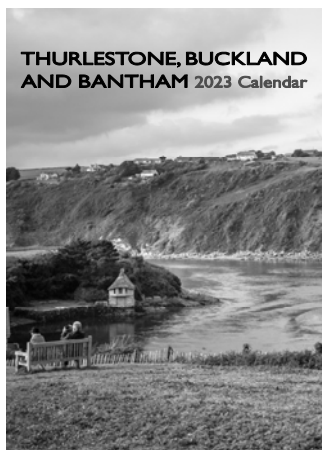
And yet it has been a tumultuous year. A year when we said goodbye to our Queen after her 70 year reign. A year when we said goodbye to two Prime Ministers, one of whom had been in office for only 50 days. Apparently an iceberg lettuce lasts longer than a UK Prime Minister these days! On a darker note it has also been a year when war returned to Europe and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the people of Ukraine. As 2022 draws to a close we face a worrying cost of living crisis. Millions of people face economic uncertainty and there will be many difficult choices this coming winter.

In this world of change and instability we long to find a constant, an anchor, a foundation. When all that is solid melts into air it can be difficult to find something to hold on to. The Christmas message, a message that will sound throughout our nation again this December, is precisely the sort of constant, anchor and foundation that we need. In this message we hear of a God who sends his Son into the world because of God's love for the human race. This is the same message that has rung out for 2000 years. It remains powerful and potent because it provides us with a hope. A hope that nothing, not even death itself, can diminish or destroy.

So join us this Christmas 2022 in our Christmas Festivities. Join us for our Carol Service, for our new Children's Crib Service, for our 10.00 pm Christmas Eve Communion, for our 11.10 am Christmas Morning Service. Join us and place your feet upon the solid ground of God's enduring presence. A message of hope for 2023!

Daniel Hartley

[Please see separate page for information about our Christmas and New Year Services]



2023 CALENDAR

featuring photos of the Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham area entered in the competition in the Meeting Room in June

£8 from Church & Meeting Room,
Thurlestone & Bantham Shops
in aid of Church Funds

or by post, email thurlallsaints@btinternet.com
Don't delay we are nearly sold out!!!

Entry forms for the 2023 Photographic Competition available on www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/photo-comp-form

See all the photos on
<https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/2023-calendar.html>



All Saints' Diary

CHURCHWARDENS: Liz Webb (560090) & Mike Hodges (561124)

Everyone is welcome at all services

Church Services at Thurlestone Church,
unless indicated otherwise

2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS

8.00am Holy Communion (said) (2nd: BCP ; 4th: CW)

DEC. 4TH, 18TH, JAN. 15TH

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

DEC. 11TH, JAN. 8TH

11.10am Morning Worship

For information about Christmas Services, please see separate page

DECEMBER 31ST

6.00pm Informal New Year's Eve Service (½ hr)

JANUARY 1ST

11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) (Note time)

JANUARY 22ND

11.10am Matins (BCP)

JANUARY 29TH

11.00am Benefice Covenant Service (South Milton)

Midweek Services

EVERY WEDNESDAY

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

THURSDAY DEC. 1ST, JAN. 5TH

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

For changes to the services listed above please see the current month's services on the Church Notice Boards and <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church.html>



Sunday Services led by the Revd. Daniel Hartley

www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html

Social Activities in the Church Meeting Room



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A chance for parents/carers to chat, while the children socialise

THURSDAYS 9.30 - 11.00 a.m.

(during term-time)

Contact Siân Hodges (561124/07784893405/sian2.hodges@btinternet.com)



Souper Friday only £5

Homemade Soup followed by
tea/coffee & cake
12.30 p.m.

FRIDAY DEC. 9TH, JAN. 13TH, FEB. 10TH



Coffee Time

Coffee/Tea & Biscuits
WEDNESDAYS

10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

in aid of Church Funds/Monthly Charity

All are welcome to **Films for All**

TUESDAYS 2.30PM

DEC. 13TH *Fishermen's Friends: One & All*

JAN. 21ST *Military Wives*

Donations to Church Funds Leaflets in Church, shop & MR



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All Saints' Church

for more information about
All Saints' Church



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Thurlestone Church Christmas & New Year Services

THURSDAY DECEMBER 22ND 6.00 p.m.



CANDLELIT FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

with Collection for *Children in Distress*

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30 p.m. CRIB SERVICE

We invite children and their families to come and hear the Nativity Story, help build our crib under the altar and sing some carols. If they wish, children may come dressed up as a figure from the nativity scene or bring a suitable toy.



10.00 p.m. (Note earlier time)

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION



CHRISTMAS DAY

11.10 a.m. FAMILY SERVICE

followed by shortened **HOLY COMMUNION**



NEW YEAR'S EVE 6.00 p.m.

INFORMAL SERVICE TO START THE NEW YEAR

AVIAN INFLUENZA (Bird Flu)

Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds was introduced to all areas of England from Monday 7th November, following a decision by the United Kingdom's Chief Veterinary Officer.

The housing measures legally require all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and to follow stringent biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the disease, regardless of type or size.

The order will extend the mandatory housing measures already in force in the hot spot areas of Suffolk, Norfolk and parts of Essex to the whole of England following an increase in the national risk of bird flu in wild birds to very high.

All bird keepers (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard) are now required by law to take a range of precautions to protect their flocks.

There are minimum requirements for all bird keepers to follow. If your birds are not housed, they must be kept in fenced / enclosed outdoor areas. Precautions include (amongst others): feeding birds under cover where wild birds cannot access, preventing access by captive birds to ponds and watercourses and effectively cleansing and disinfecting any hardstanding surfaces in areas where birds are kept. Full details of what is required can be found on the government website - <http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

You can find a self-assessment checklist at the above link to help you put the measures in place, as well as more information about the virus. You can keep up to date by regularly visiting the avian influenza section on the government website, and by registering for email or text alerts - www.gov.uk/guidance/apha-alert-subscription-service.

Remember that if you have poultry/captive birds it is your responsibility to keep updated on any outbreaks.

If you have any concerns about the health of your birds, you should promptly speak to your vet.

The risk to public health from the virus is very low, however it is important that people don't pick up sick or dead birds. You can report finding dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as birds of prey, to the DEFRA helpline on 03459 335577.

POSTBAG



Dear Editorial team,

Belated congratulations on the wonderful tribute to our late Queen Elizabeth which has indeed expressed the love and respect for Her Majesty! Our thoughts too go to King Charles 111, in the hope that he can carry out the heavy responsibilities of the duties set before him.

The Village Voice is always such a welcome delivery and we keep it nearby and refer to it frequently. Thank you and all the team for your efforts.

Best wishes,
Beryl and Mac McCoy.

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New Years' Eve

Open 12:00pm

Food Served 12:00-14:00 / 18:00-21:00 **Bookings advised**

Closing at 01:00

Boxing Day

Open from 12:00pm

Food served from 12:00pm—17:00pm **Bookings advised**

Closing at 20:00pm

New Year's Day

Open 12:00pm

Food served 12:00pm—15:00pm / 18:00pm-20:30pm

Closing at 22:30pm

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A Tower of Strength

Not many can claim to have headed up a charitable body for nearly 26 years but Martyn Grose has done just that as the Chairman of the Friends of Thurlestone Church. He has now decided to hand over the reins after many years of dedicated service and commitment. The Trust was formed back in the mid 90s when there was real concern that the Diocese might not replace the retiring Rector, Peter Stevens and the Church could be made redundant as had happened in South Huish years previously, and to ensure that funds raised for the preservation of the building were outside the jurisdiction of the Diocese.



Facing decline and possible dereliction, the idea of making some kind of provision to ensure the survival of the Church building was discussed by the then Rector, Peter Stevens, Church warden Jim Woodrow and Peter Wright. The formation of an endowment fund proved to be the answer which would ensure a pot of money solely for the maintenance and preservation of the Church building and its surrounds for the future. It was decided that a Trust should be created to manage this fund and membership should be non-denominational i.e., it would not matter if you attended the Church or not, have a particular faith or no faith, the money raised would be to protect the Church and to restore parts of the building when needed. It is worth mentioning that the Church does not receive any funding at all from the government to help with repairs to its structure.

Martyn was approached in 1994 to see if he would be interested in taking on the Chairmanship of the Friends of Thurlestone Church or the FTC as it became known. Martyn's family connections to Thurlestone Parish are well known going back to 1892 when his grandparents came from Cornwall to take on the lease of a farm in Court Barton. The emergence of the tourism and leisure industry, the growing popularity of the sport of golf coupled with good train connections led eventually to the development of the Thurlestone Hotel by the Grose family. Martyn's father was also much involved in Church life working as the Rector's warden for many years.

Martyn agreed and Jim Woodrow began the complicated business of firstly registering a Building Trust and then creating the fund raising arm of that Trust which became the FTC. The next job was to encourage residents to join and make a regular donation. As it transpired, both locals, visitors and second home owners had a great affection for our Church and felt strongly that it should not be left to deteriorate and that its preservation was of huge importance, not just as a place for worship but also as a central community asset and focal point. Many of us who have attended a wedding, funeral service, school nativity, school leavers service, harvest festival or just as a place for quiet reflection can attest to this.

Martyn explains more about those early days; "Back then to become a friend was £5 per year or £250 for life membership, we had quite a lot sign up, then we simply wrote letters to people who we knew had been coming to the village for years on holiday. We also held a party at the Hotel to introduce people and to talk about what we were doing. 1999 was the year of the solar eclipse so we had a proper Ball with a live band and we also staged a Millennium Masked Ball at the end of the year. These were mainly promotional events but did introduce the Friends to a wider consortium of different people and were very useful."

One of the first areas of concern was the roof. Here, Martyn pays tribute to Graham Worrall, the Church Warden who was to take over from Jim Woodrow as the Church representative on the FTC, "Graham was fantastic, he was very interested in the building and was the advisor as to what was necessary, he was vital in telling the

Trustees what the priorities were. Ron Parkin followed Peter Wright as Treasurer and served outstandingly until he died some three years ago. The tower problem was in our sights from very early on but I think the first major spend was the roof, we put in £10,000 fairly quickly. Word got around and numbers grew but actually the major donations were coming from outside."

Martyn used his contacts to help get the best out of the fund, including from his old friend David Scholey who had good contacts in the City and had a long connection with the village, spending family holidays here after the War. George Hubbard also came on board to help advise on the fund and provided a steady influence over many years. Other important members were John Crawford as secretary and then later Gillian Marshall for many years. Ron Parkin, Derek Yeoman as the Parish Council representative and Kit Marshall as a trustee.

One of the major projects to be completed was the re-pointing of the Tower in 2015/16. No major work had been carried out since around 1904, although a lot of repairs had been done back in the 1840s and '50s, however, years of erosion and weathering had caused the stonework to decay, water was seeping into the structure, loosening the mortar and causing deterioration. It was an enormous restoration project costing £160,000 of which the Friends contributed £50,000 and around £40,000 coming from a direct appeal to members.

More recently between 2019 and 2021, three out of the four stained glass windows were restored costing around £8,000 each with the most westerly facing window on the south wall 'The Christopher, St. Martin and St Francis' cleaned and re-lead just last month at a cost of £9,000. Engineering consultant, Paul Carpenter has also proved invaluable, providing his time for free during works to repair a fault to the structure of the tower roof.

Another large project recently completed involved repairs to the falling masonry on the parapet wall around the clergy vestry, replacing damaged or missing roof slates and re-pointing with lime mortar. The steel clasps holding the flag pole have also corroded and need replacing to ensure the pole remains safe in very high winds. Until this is completed, the amount of flag flying time has had to be cut back to reduce any potential risk.

Martyn now hands over the chairmanship to Martin Beck who he admits to 'chasing for quite a few years' with Mike Hodges kindly agreeing to take on the role of the Church representative following the sad passing of Graham Worrall earlier this year, Phil Millard remains as Secretary and David Martin as Treasurer. Martyn is optimistic about the future and knows that his successor will bring much to the role with his enthusiasm, business knowledge and close association with the local community. Already plans are afoot for activities and events for 2023.

We leave the last word to Martyn to whom we say an enormous 'Thank You' for being the driving force and a tower of strength in helping to keep our church standing for nearly the last 3 decades, to all those trustees past and present and of course to all those who have donated so generously over the years, "I've greatly enjoyed my time with the FTC and without the Friends, the Church would not be in the condition it's in today."

Please consider joining as a Friend, you can donate as little or as much as you like and help save our wonderful church for future generations. Remember the Church building receives no funding at all from the Government or the Church of England and every penny given to the FTC helps to restore and maintain its structure.

Contact secretary Phil Millard for more information: millardpj@hotmail.com

Article by Sian Williams, Trustee of FTC

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BOOKSHELF

Bookshelf is slightly different for this edition as we feature two books recently published by Thurlestone residents. There has only been time to review one of the books so a synopsis of the second has been provided.

Rainbows End **By Sue Westendorp**

Sue started writing this book during lockdown, whilst convalescing from extensive surgery (after being diagnosed with a rare form of asbestos related cancer), and features a series of anecdotes from her life.

Judging from her early and school years, life certainly was not dull with Sue around, she proved quite resourceful (shall we say), in how she dealt with situations which were not quite to her liking. Sue's love of food is well documented as well as her sense of fun, her family were very sociable and hosted many entertaining events at their home. A tradition Sue carried on until curtailed by her cancer diagnosis.

Sue explains her reasons for becoming a teacher and how her spirit of adventure took her to Kenya to teach and where she met her future husband, Frank. During their time there they had many escapades, including a serious medical emergency, but also had lots of fun.

Following an eventful journey back to the UK, arriving just days before their wedding, they had to find any work that was available as they didn't have jobs. A few years later they adopted their beloved son Mark. Once he started school Sue was able to resume her teaching career for another 20 years before retiring to Thurlestone in 2005. Sue's love of the area shines through in the descriptive passages within the book.

Sue talks candidly about her cancer and the ravages of surgery on her body and how she copes with a Stoma bag. Her positivity, courage and faith helped her to lead a near normal life until quite recently when she suffered a setback, but is dealing with this in her usual positive way.

The book is a very personal and enlightening read which is told in true Sue style and contains lots of lovely photos. Available to purchase from the local shop or the Church meeting room, all proceeds are being split between two charities dealing with asbestos related diseases.

Alison Daily

Et Tu, Brute? The Best Latin Lines Ever **By Harry Mount and John Davie**

John Davie has a post-graduate degree in Classics from Oxford and an MA from Glasgow University. He taught at Harrow School before becoming Head of Classics at St Paul's School. For 20 years he taught at several Oxford colleges one day a week, including Trinity College, where he held the post of lecturer in Classics. He has translated Greek and Roman authors and also runs a local U3A class on the Ancient World.

John's book, co-written with his friend Harry Mount, editor of the Oldie magazine, takes a light-hearted look at different aspects of Roman life through the eyes and words, translated, of Roman writers. There are letters from homesick legionaries freezing on Hadrian's Wall to passionate love poetry and the grim combats of the Colosseum.

Like the literature left by the Romans, this is a book written by adults for adults and is a celebration of life. It is also a useful introduction to a people who gave us 60 per cent of our language and through their empire laid the foundations of modern Europe and reveals how ancient Latin can help us live in the present day.

Published by Bloomsbury, it is available in the Harbour Bookshop in Kingsbridge.

Xmas Tried and Tasted

Get-Ahead Gravy

Ingredients

- 2 celery sticks, trimmed and roughly chopped
- 2 carrots, roughly sliced
- 2 onions, quartered
- 5 bay leaves
- 5 sage leaves
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 2 star anise
- 2 rashers unsmoked bacon
- 8 chicken wings
- 30ml olive oil
- 4 tbsp plain flour
- 60ml sherry/port (optional)
- 2 dsp cranberry sauce

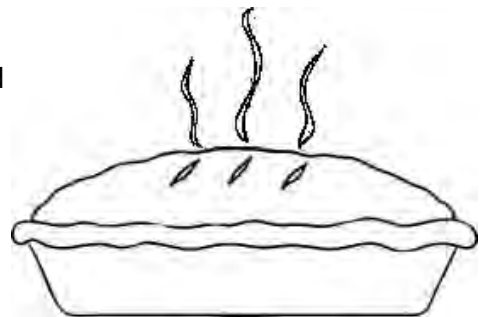


Put the vegetables, herbs and star anise into a roasting tin. Break the chicken wings open and bash with rolling pin to release more flavour, put in the pan, scatter over the bacon. Drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper, then toss it all and cook for 1 hour at 200C/Fan 180C/Gas 6. Remove from oven and place on a low heat, use a potato masher to really grind everything up, keep mashing and scraping all the goodness from the bottom of the pan. Mix in the flour to thicken it. The longer you let everything fry, the darker your gravy will be. When the flour is combined, pour in 2L hot water, turn the heat up and bring to the boil for 10 mins, until thickened. Turn down the heat and simmer for approx 25 mins, stirring occasionally. Add sherry or port for flavour. Push through a sieve into a bowl, really mash everything down to get all the flavour. Once cool, pour into a container or freezer bags. (You can then add it to the sediment in the turkey pan).

Leftover Turkey and Leek Pie

Ingredients

- 2 rashers of smoked back bacon
- ½ bunch fresh thyme, leaves picked
- Olive oil
- Large knob of butter
- 2 kg leeks, washed, trimmed, white end chopped into chunks, green end finely sliced
- Salt and Pepper
- 800g cooked turkey meat torn into big chunks
- 2 heaped tbsp plain flour
- 2 pts turkey/chicken vegetable stock
- 2 tbsp crème fraîche
- 1 packet of puff pastry
- 2 sprigs sage leaves, leaves picked (optional)
- 1 egg, beaten



Fry the bacon and thyme in butter and oil for a few minutes, add the leeks and cook until covered with butter and then gently for ½ hr or until soft, stirring occasionally. Add the turkey (and stuffing if any leftover), stir in the flour and then the stock. Add the crème fraîche and bring to the boil. Add salt and pepper and pour into a deep dish/tin. Roll out the pastry big enough to cover the baking tin, lay on top of the meat mixture. Score the pastry diagonally with a knife, add a pinch of salt to the egg, brush on top and bake 35-40 mins at 190C/Fan 170C/Gas 5 until the pastry is puffed up and golden brown.




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Thurlestone Phone Box

With the clocks going back, there is a more autumnal feel around Thurlestone. The children have really enjoyed their Halloween celebrations and we have certainly had a lot of visitors to the Phone Box who revelled in the decorations and were thrilled by the spooky voice on the telephone!



We are very grateful for the generosity of locals and visitors to Thurlestone. Whether it's a donation to our money box in the village shop for books taken from the library or kind donations of books in exchange. (We have now run out of storage, so please don't leave any more bags of books) It all helps us keep going! A new resident of Thurlestone, Caro Mellor has very kindly offered to make a Christmas wreath for the Phone Box door. At this time of doom and gloom on the news, these acts of kindness really lift our spirits.

We are busy organising the Carols on the Green. After cancellations for the last couple of years due to Covid, we are really looking forward to this special event. It will take place on Monday December 12th starting at 4.30pm. Our compere will be Shep from BBC Radio and we are looking forward to performances from Razor Sharp and the children at Thurlestone School. Remember to bring your own cup/glass for the mulled wine which will be served with Joan's wonderful mince pies! There will be a prize for the best Christmas hat and we look forward to welcoming a very special guest from Lapland!

Mary Horne

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SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER
7.30 p.m. at Thurlestone Parish Hall

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Brigitte Haddy (01548 581465), Jenny Kinder (01548 810750)
All Choir members

CAROLS FOR ALL
Saturday 24th December, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
St. Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge

ALL WELCOME
Retiring collection for Primrose Appeal and Chestnut Appeal

Tramp Reports

September to November



26th September. Aveton Gifford. Linda Scott. 5.5 miles.

On an overcast but dry September morning, 9 Trampers and Heidi set off from Aveton Gifford for a five-and-a-half-mile circular walk. We began walking on the path through the dog walking area and the football pitch where we just had to stop to admire the amazing new play equipment – complete with a tower arrangement which had just been completed.

We walked around the ford and stopped to look over the bridge at the vast numbers of water boatmen. We went up the hill near the church then joined the footpath across the fields until we eventually came to the road by Chantry. After 100 yards we picked up more footpaths across the fields and a green lane down to Idestone.

By this time, we were ready for a coffee break so rather than sitting in a damp field we stood around on someone's driveway. We resisted the temptation of going to sit on their comfy looking chairs and using their table too in their beautiful garden! After a very brief shower, the rain cleared and we set off again up another hill and then onto the footpaths which took us into the back of Loddiswell. We followed some of Loddiswell's passageways towards the raised pavement and then up the hill opposite the old school to join the footpaths and eventually a green lane which would take us down to Hatch Bridge. This lane is deeply rutted and boulder strewn and is, interestingly and surprisingly, labelled as a County Road.

At Hatch Bridge we stopped to admire the enormous blackberries which were hanging from the bridge and we decided that in order to harvest them we'd have to suspend a Trampler over the parapet. We promised to hold on to their legs but as we had no takers decided to play Pooh sticks instead. This proved to be extremely competitive with the participants choosing their sticks carefully and dropping them into the fastest flowing sections of the river. We thought the sticks had got stuck as they didn't appear on the other side for ages but, when they emerged, the cheers went up! The progress of the sticks was monitored carefully – and commented upon especially when my stick,

which had been last all along, suddenly had a spurt of energy and sailed majestically past all the others!

We walked along the road admiring the views of the river and Churchstow church on top of the hill opposite. We went up hill again and on to a footpath which gave us wonderful views of Aveton Gifford bridge and the river. Passing behind two recently renovated properties we came onto Rock Hill where we could admire the beautifully crafted wooden and metal gates at their entrance. We couldn't believe how well they had been designed and couldn't resist touching them! We walked down the hill, with one Trampler taking advantage of the free apples on offer, back down to the stream which we followed back to the carpark. It had been a lovely walk with lots of interesting conversations – and it stayed dry for nearly all the way.

7th October. Dartmouth Castle to Kingswear. Linda Chilcott. 3.5 miles.

There was only one taker for this walk; maybe Friday was not a good day to plan a walk despite it being a market day. Nevertheless, my fellow trampler and myself set off from Dartmouth Castle down to Stumpy Steps to catch the ferry to the centre of Dartmouth. It was such a beautiful day with a blue sky and a crisp visibility which made everything look clear and sharp. The ferry ride was great which enables one to look at both Dartmouth and Kingswear from the water and their array of affluent and historical buildings.

We disembarked and walked on to the higher ferry across the river Dart taking a path up through Hoodown Woodlands owned by the National Trust. From here one looks back on Dartmouth, and of course the Britannia Royal Naval College which has a very imposing position, and has been training cadets since 1905. Historically fascinating, but a sobering fact I discovered, that this college is the world's second largest consumer of Pimms!

Hoodown led us down to the top of Kingswear estuary where we stopped for coffee and cake. A narrow path led us eventually to a car park come boat yard. From here one can clearly see the coloured

cottages one of which is still owned by the late Sir Francis Chichester's family. We walked past Kingswear steam railway station, which seemed to be buzzing with activity with steam engines shunting to and fro.

As it was just the two of us, we decided to take the lower ferry back to Bayard Cove, an area famous for the Mayflower and Speedwell ships which lay here at anchor on their way to the New World in the 17th Century. Speedwell was leaking badly and was eventually abandoned. Bayard was also used in the making of the film The Onedin Line.

The more I delved into the history of Dartmouth and surrounding area, the more I have come to realise just how rich, historically, it is dating back to the Domesday book till the present day. Our walk ended back at the delightful and busy Dartmouth Castle Cafe, surrounded by stunning views and a sparkling sea.

12th October. Cremyll Ferry & Mount Edgcumbe. Eric & Liz Candy. 4.5 miles.

This year everyone used the shortest of the two ferry routes to the Cremyll landing slip on the Cornish side of the Tamar, i.e., the ferry from Admiral's Yard. On a dry autumn morning with a forecast of rain later, fourteen people plus three dogs gathered at Cremyll between the Ferry Landing building & the bus shelter.

Following a short break to enable those wanting to use the rarity these days of a public convenience, we then passed through the entrance to the Mount Edgcumbe Estate, turned left and walked through the entrance to the attractive historic gardens. Walking across the front of the Orangery Café we then headed along the sea front past the columned Thompson's Seat on the right, after which we then started the long rise up through the woods still travelling parallel to the coast. This led us past the National Camelia Collection, Milton's Temple, the Folly ruin (adjacent to Raveness Point) & Lady Emma's Cottage all on the right.

Continuing on the path, we reached a fence erected across the footpath because the original path was closed by landslips. The diverted route meant that we almost turned back on ourselves and started one of the two steepest ascents of the walk. This included two flights of steps. The path then continued to run parallel to the coast. Between Redding Point & Picklecombe Point we reached the lookout platform (The Red Seat) with

magnificent views of the breakwater & Plymouth Sound. Members of the group took this opportunity for the first of short refreshment breaks.

Continuing along the coast as we approached Fort Picklecombe, the path turned north around the side of the valley behind the fort, prior to returning towards the coast running south west. We then took a short cut which avoided a descent & ascent, joining with a path going north along the east side of Hooe Lake Valley. At the head of the valley, during the steepish ascent up through open fields we stopped for the second coffee break to take in the magnificent views including Kingsand and Cawsand.

We then walked north east towards Maker Church, the resting place of the Edgcumbe's. Unfortunately, but not surprising these days the church was locked. The church marked the maximum elevation of the walk.

Travelling north west we descended via steep zig zags through Pigshill Wood to Lower Anderton. At one point the path has rope hand rails, leading around what looks like a deep bomb crater. In the wet this descent can be slippery and a walking pole is advised. Once clear of the woods we experienced lovely views of Millbrook Lake & the Hamoaze with the Tamar bridges in the distance.

The path followed the coastline towards Palmer Point and continued following the coastline north east past the old windmill on the right, along the quaint quay at Empacombe, followed by passing the Obelisk on the right & boatyard on the left, before returning to Cremyll. The walk has the advantage that there is interesting walking within Mount Edgcumbe Park including its lovely formal gardens for those wishing to avoid the steeper ascents and descents. The whole walking party stayed on for lunch at the Edgcumbe Arms who had kindly laid out a whole room for us. We were lucky that the forecast rain did not start until we were snugly tucked up in the pub.

24th October. Staverton circular. Annie Lukehurst. 4.5 miles

The sun shone and there were smiles all round: a grand walk was enjoyed by all. The forecast had not been at all promising as we drove through damp weather up to Staverton. There was plenty of activity at the station, but no locomotives to be seen. As the walk progressed however, the steam engines could be heard in the distance.

The walk took us across the bridge over the river Dart, up the hill, and turned into the woods which were looking magnificent in the autumn sunshine. Climbing steadily, we eventually reached the road into Dartington, where a coffee stop was enjoyed and, for some, treats from The Green Table Cafe.

Carrying on along the road we turned down across the fields and picked up the path along the river bank. There were plenty of dog walkers out and about, as well as Barney & Heidi joining our group of Trampers (which were swelled in number by the half-term visit of my daughter and two grandsons).

Glimpses of deer could be seen in the distance. We returned along the lower paths through the woods, a touch over four and a half miles.

31st October. Historic Modbury. Robin Hart.

A comfortable group of 8 of us set out on what turned out to be a super morning. We parked in the Poundwell Car Park and turned up Church Lane heading towards the infamous walk known as Runaway Lane. This is where the Royalists ran away after the Battle of Modbury.

We journeyed along the very heavily trodden pathway with the butterflies flouncing around. The hedge has a rich variety of tree species.

Those included field maple, sycamore, ash and elder tree. There were some stunning views through the Embankment. The public footpath joins Runaway Lane up to the main road and we then took a lovely walk towards where the Ayleston Brook joins the River Erme at Oldport.

We then turned down towards Cottlass. After a leisurely coffee break at the bridge, we moved on up the Hill ignoring the short cutback to Modbury and climbed steadily upwards. We had some stunning views towards Dartmoor, Edmeston with Ermington Wood cresting the Hill behind. The top is reached near Rogues Roost. We then headed back down the tarmac stretch towards Modbury and to the Coffee Shop!

1st Nov. Kingston to Wonwell beach via Scobbiscombe. Tony Burn. 4.5 miles.

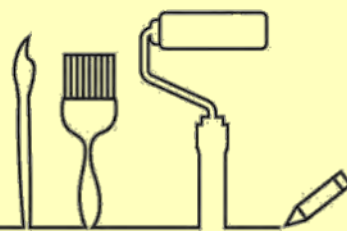
The walk on the 1st November was well attended by 11 people, who were spurred on by the sunny weather and clear skies, even if it was a bit chilly to start with. The walk started in Kingston and headed to the SW Coast Path, via Scobbiscombe farm. We then headed to Wonwell beach for a coffee stop, and then back up through the woods and back to Kingston. The most strenuous part of the walk was after Wonwell beach up the steep hill through the woods, before getting the views over to Dartmoor.

A list of walks for Jan-Mar 2023 can be seen below. A listing of the full programme for 2023 will be published in the February - March issue of Village Voice and will be available shortly on the Parish website at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/tramps.

TRAMP 2023 PLANNING CALENDAR				
Date	Day	Leader	Miles	Planned route
Jan 2nd				
Jan 12th	Thurs	Tricia Wilson	3 to 4	Kingsbridge highways and byways
Jan 16th	Mon	Mike & Sian Hodges	5	Soar Mill circular
Jan 23rd	Mon	Alan Rustad	5.5	Wembury circular
Feb 2nd	Thurs	Vanessa Barton	5	Diptford - quiet roads. Hilly
Feb 6th				
Feb 14th	Tues	Wendy & Peter Gornall	4.5	Staverton snow drop walk
Feb 20th				
Feb 27th				
Mar 6th				
Mar 13th	Mon	Alastair Durden	4.5	Dartington Estate
Mar 22nd	Wed	Jill Miller	6	Stokeley & Slapton
March 30th	Thurs	Wendy & Peter Gornall	4	Parke, Bovey Tracey

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Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st January 2023. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

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

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
							S		D			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
								V				

Sudoku - medium

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

Sudoku - easy

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

There were 2 correct entries last month, out of 5 received. First out of the hat to win the coveted bottle of wine was Neill Irwin.

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Over the festive period, the Shop and Post Office will change their 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
Saturday 24 th December	8.00 - 2.00	9.30 - 12.30
Sunday 25 th December	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 26 th December	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Tuesday 27 th December	8.00 - 2.00	CLOSED
Wednesday 28 th December	8.00 - 2.00	9.00 - 1.00
Thursday 29 th December	8.00 - 5.00	9.00 - 4.00
Friday 30 th December	8.00 - 5.00	9.00 - 4.00
Saturday 31 st December	8.00 - 2.00	9.30 - 12.30
Sunday 1 st January	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Monday 2 nd January	8.00 - 2.00	CLOSED

(Normal opening hours resume on Tuesday 3rd January)

Our Christmas Draw will take place on Friday 23rd 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**



What did the Greeks and Romans do for art?

A talk by Gillian Hovell

January 25th : 2 for 2.30pm

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Visitors welcome - for a £10 donation or become a member for £50 per year which includes 10 lectures, a magazine, self funding outings and a Christmas special.

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Note: No lecture in December as we incorporate it into our Christmas lunch event at the Thurlestone Hotel.



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The Accidental Environmentalist

Saving the Planet One Hedgehog at a Time

Meet our new parish councillor Adam Ryan-Carter and join him on his mission to make our Parish more wildlife friendly.

The Indoor Years

As a young lad growing up in central Manchester, I didn't give much thought to the symbiotic relationship between mini-beasts, bacteria and fungi existing beneath the school playing field as I went in for yet another attempt on goal, in my daily quest to become the next George Best, during the school lunch break. Unfortunately, my football dreams were never realised and I blame my sister. On the afternoon I finally got the call to join the school football team, just as I was lacing up my boots, news came that someone had been knocked down outside the school and that 'there was blood everywhere!' That someone was my sister and instead of on the pitch scoring goals, I found myself sat in an ambulance off to the Accident and Emergency department. Despite her broken pelvis, jaw and missing teeth, I had little sympathy for her after she'd shattered my boyhood dreams.

During my teenage years the outdoors lost its appeal and I swapped my football obsession for music, practising drums in our cellar for hours on end 'till my fingers blistered. Later there followed the years of humping drum kits around, playing gigs in smoky clubs, recording in dark studios and sleeping during daylight hours. Not much thought given over to biodiversity, nesting birds and pollinating insects. As far as I was concerned my food came from the "Red Cherry" Kebab shop not the local farm and the only fresh air I got was my pilgrimage to Old Trafford.

A Slow Dawning

Next came the years with a young family and the suggestion by my wife that we might go for a walk. "Why would we want to do that?" I asked. I didn't see the attraction of getting my trainers muddy and coming home wet through.

Despite my resistance, I found myself standing on the limestone pavement above Malham Cove, peering down over the outstanding natural beauty of the Yorkshire Dales and suddenly life outside of a dingy music studio seemed full of possibility. I began to picture myself climbing those hills with a dog for company but it was my wife this time that wasn't keen on the idea of mud in the house.

It was to be another traffic accident that acted as a catalyst to change the course of my life again but this time for the better. One wet October day in 2010 my wife was knocked off her Vespa by a car. I arrived at the scene and on entering the ambulance found her in agony with a broken knee and a very deep flesh-wound desperately sucking on the mouthpiece of a gas and air canister for pain relief. I swooped on the opportunity whilst she was semi-delirious on Entonox, (there was no time to ask her how she was feeling) 'what you need to help you recover is a lovely dog to stroke whilst you lie in bed' I suggested. Three months later we welcomed our dog 'Muppy' into our family and outdoor adventures beckoned.

Discovering Devon

Foreign holidays go out of the window when you have a dog and instead, we began our mission of finding dog friendly holidays by the sea. We discovered 'Links Court' and 'High Corner' in an unspoilt village called Thurlestone. Then the waves of Bantham started calling me and the sea became my new playground. On returning to Manchester the frustration of being a 'landlocked surfer' grew as did the appeal of working 12-hour days in the dark. It was time to take a gamble, it was no good waiting for retirement to move to Devon we had to go whilst I was young enough to 'pop up' on a surfboard.

Middle Age Creeps Up On You

Around my 50th birthday the inevitable happened. It seemed my arms were no longer long enough to hold my phone at a far enough distance for me to be able to read it. After a trip to the opticians, I found myself listening to episodes of the 'Archers' and learning about Pip and Adam's 'herbal leys' and 'mob grazing' techniques to improve the quality of the soil and pasture at Brookfield Farm, wondering how the cool music producer part of me reconciled this new imposter within my personality. I also noticed I was becoming less bored when my wife watched 'Gardener's World.' Monty Don's words became oath in our house and I discovered that there was much more to gardening than planting pretty flowers and growing vegetables in a crumpled linen jacket and corduroy trousers. I now know the

importance of adding organic matter to the soil and all the bacteria and fungi that works within it to provide nutrients right at the bottom of the food pyramid. Imagine my surprise to find that compost could be made simply at home for free instead of wasting petrol traipsing to a garden centre and buying a product wrapped in yet more polythene. I began to welcome bees and even wasps after a lifelong phobia of them and actually chose to plant specific flowers that would attract them, enjoying a new kind of music as they hummed in unison around the flower borders. Most of all I began to grasp the concept of balance in the garden to tackle so called pests. If you kill all the greenfly with pesticide what do the ladybirds eat? If you have a pond, you can keep your slug population in check as the frogs and hedgehogs you attract will feast on the surplus. The fact that everything in the ecosystem is dependent on each other might have been obvious to someone who'd been born and bred in the countryside but it had to be learnt by a city boy like me.

Unlikely Parish Councillor

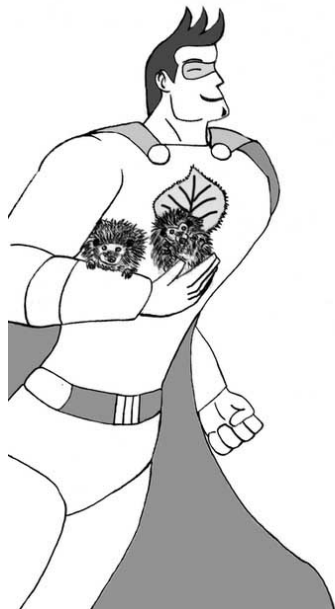
I blame Parish councillor Sian Williams for my meteoric rise from Manchester lad to almost respectable pillar of the community overnight. But it's also Muppy's fault. If I didn't walk a dog, I wouldn't have accidentally bumped into her on the beach that day. I initially thought of 101 reasons why I couldn't stand for parish councillor when she first suggested I stand for election, then I went home and as we say in Manchester 'had a little word with myself.' In the 10 years I had lived here I had grown to love this place and was ready to join the fight to preserve its beauty and uniqueness. You can't live in an AONB and ignore what the 'N' stands for.

More Unlikely Tree Warden and Environment and Climate Change Officer

During one of my earliest Parish Council meetings, I entered the room knowing we were to be assigned roles. "Just don't give me tree warden, I know nothing about trees" I whispered to the Chairman. No prizes for guessing who the new tree warden is and the councillor responsible for the environment and climate change. So, with a promise from experienced councillor Mark Long that he'd hold my hand and armed with a carrier bag of books from Charlie Mitchelmore, I hoped to eventually be able to tell the difference between Dutch Elm disease and athlete's foot.

WE CAN DO IT

So here I am, the Accidental Environmentalist. I've thrown myself into my role with uninformed enthusiasm and after meeting with other Parish Councillors from districts across the South Hams, I have sadly realised that our Parish of Thurlestone, West Buckland & Bantham is lagging behind when it comes to environmental initiatives. I'd like your help to change this. I'm certainly going to have a go and together we can see how much tangible change can be made in a short space of time.



Graphic by Jay Ryan-Carter

Firstly, I'd like you to look out for the booklet 'Gardening for Wildlife' that will be delivered alongside your next issue of the Village Voice and give it a read. Then join me in future issues of the Village Voice to see how I've got on testing out some of the ideas in my own garden.

Secondly, if you have more time, passion or expertise to commit to improving Thurlestone Parish's green credentials, please consider joining the newly formed 'Thurlestone Parish Sustainability Group' formed by Mike Hodges. Contact Mike on 01548-561124 or email: mike2hodges@btinternet.com.

Thirdly, if you're stuck for Christmas present ideas for a family member who already seems to have everything why not visit the RSPB website and buy them a birdbox, or a bug hotel or hedgehog house from the Wildlife Trust. Imagine the immediate difference we could make if every reader did that.

Finally, make it your New Year's resolution to at least try. I've realised in a very short space of time that it isn't enough to just watch David Attenborough and hope to get the cardboard in the correct recycling box. What we need is to follow his words at the end of Frozen Planet II "**If we can do something about it, just do it WE CAN DO IT**"

Adam Ryan-Carter



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SCHOOL REPORT

Do I Hear The Distant Sound Of Jingle Bells?



The Autumn term has been rattling by, and amid the showers and wind-blown leaves we have seen our All Saints' football club going from strength to strength. With match fixtures in the calendar for the first time in years, a crowd gathered on the side lines to cheer on the home team as we pitted our talents against the other 2 schools in our South Hams hub – West Alvington and Charleton. It was all in good spirits though, and was so popular that more matches have been promised.

There was also a lot of activity in the school hall, and some of the residents of Glebe Field may have recently heard the Macarena faintly drifting out as the school disco got under way. Complete with glow-in-the-dark face paint, and some funky moves, a great time was had by all - including some parents and members of staff! It was kindly arranged by our Friends of Thurlestone School (FTS) parents/teacher association, and is always a much loved annual event.

After a brief pause, the ever-popular Friday Cake Stall has been reinstated, but with the addition of a new range of healthy snacks, for those who may have already had their cake quota! This important weekly fundraiser enables each class to book a trip or choose an educational treat to enrich their learning each year.

You may also have seen children arriving at church for their Harvest Festival service, where another bumper collection for Kingsbridge Food Bank was made. And of course, they returned once again on 10th November for a Remembrance Service.

With the autumn finally coming to an end, we start to look towards the end of term, and all the excitement and activities that Christmas brings. We really have got a busy festive period ahead of us!

In preparation for the Christmas Fair on 2nd December, we will be holding a whole school "crafternoon" with each class making decorations to sell and help raise funds.

The younger children will be performing their Nativity on Wednesday 7th December, which is always a highlight of the school year for parents. The older children will be in fine voice for their carol service on Tuesday 13th December.

The children are also lucky enough to be enjoying a wonderful theatre trip. With the older children heading over to Torbay to see a performance of the pantomime Aladdin, the younger ones will be watching Pinocchio at Theatre Royal Plymouth. Subsidised by our brilliant FTS and the funds raised by our parents, this trip is a real treat for all age groups who get so much from outings like these.

Finally - look out for us on the last day of term – all the children will be out and about on a whole school welly walk! Fingers crossed for some sunshine to see in the holidays!

INVITATION FROM FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE SCHOOL

From 2.30 – 5.00pm on Friday 2nd December we warmly welcome anyone from our local community who would like to join us at the Christmas fair for handmade gifts, tombolas, crafts, fun and games, and, of course, refreshments.

It's an important fundraiser for us so please bring friends and family to join the festive fun and help support the school - but don't leave it too late if you want a mince pie!

Emma Richards

Thurlestone Bay Birds

Mid September to Mid November

South Huish Marsh continued to be flooded for most of the Autumn, when the outlet pipe was cleared by a JCB water levels would rapidly drop, unfortunately within 48 hours the tides washed the sand over the pipe blocking it again. Having exposed mud around the shoreline of the marsh provides a feeding ground for waders - illustrated by records on 20th September, within 48 hours of the pipe being unblocked there were 51 waders feeding on the marsh - 18 *SNIPE*, 7 *BLACK TAILED GODWIT*, 16 *DUNLIN*, 9 *RINGED PLOVER*, 1 female *RUFF* as well as 30 *TEAL* feeding in the shallow water.

On 22nd September the waders increased to over 60 with the highlight being 3 *CURLEW SANDPIPER*, stopping off on their journey from breeding in the Arctic Circle around Greenland to their wintering feeding grounds in Southern Africa.

The previous day a *WRYNECK* was found by the pumping station at South Milton Ley - another species only recorded in England on passage from Scandinavia to its wintering areas in the forests of Africa. A most unusual bird: it is a member of the *WOODPECKER* family and is the only migrant species found in England.

The numbers of *SWALLOWS* and particularly *HOUSE MARTINS* have been reducing, however the Marsh attracts them during migration back to Africa, being one of the few fresh water areas along the south coast. On 20th September I was fortunate to witness flocks flying west: in two hours from 09.00 over 2,000 *HOUSE MARTIN* (largest single flock was 800), 400+ *SWALLOW* and 15 *SAND MARTIN*.

Whilst *GANNETS* are regularly seen in the Bay some of the Autumn passage can be spectacular and on 28th September, in just over an hour, I recorded 625 flying west: a wonderful sight of flocks of over 30 of these large white birds with black wingtips gliding over the sea.

Other interesting birds recorded visiting South Huish marsh were 4 *GREAT WHITE EGRETS* - these are taller than a *HERON* with very long white necks, a scarce visitor to our area on 20th October, followed a few days later by the last *YELLOW WAGTAIL*, another bird making its way back to Africa.

Winter visitors have started arriving; *WIGEON* and *SHOVELER* are on the Marsh now and numbers will rise if any colder weather arrives. Winter Thrushes have arrived in some numbers this year with many thousands being watched feeding on berries on Dartmoor, the largest local flocks have been at nearby Aveton Gifford on 25th October with over 800 *FIELDFARE* and 200 *REDWING*; these birds have arrived from their breeding grounds in Scandinavia.

Another bird that passes through and can over winter is the *BLACK REDSTART*. Over a few days around 26th October there were up to 5 recorded, 3 of which were around my house; these will have most likely bred in France or Germany.

Autumnal gales can produce some wind blown birds into the Bay, on 1st and 2nd November SW gales of up to Force 10 produced - *ARCTIC SKUA*, 4 *BRENT GOOSE*, *GREAT NORTHERN DIVER*, *LITTLE GULL* and best of all 2 *LEACH'S PETREL*. The *PETRELS* will be making their way to the far South Atlantic where they spend the Winter. A very scarce bird; my last record was in November 2013 with only four records since 2000.

Finally on the 2nd November amongst the *BLACK HEADED GULLS* on the Marsh was a juvenile *SANDWICH TERN* sheltering from the gale force winds - normally they depart to their Wintering areas by late September - this was my first ever November record.

Work on installing a new outlet pipe at South Huish Marsh was supposed to commence on 7th November - likely to be delayed by the frequent gale force winds that we are experiencing. Hopefully it will be completed by the end of the month.

Late news of an exceptional morning's sea watching on Tuesday 8th November. After a very stormy and wet night the morning started cloudy, clearing to some sunny periods by 10.00 although the gale force SSW wind continued.

In almost 25 years of sea watching the numbers of *LEACH'S PETREL* were way beyond any expectations - from 9.00 to 12.30 I recorded 39 birds moving through the Bay - highest single count was 8. In addition 3 *ARCTIC SKUA*, 1 *POMARINE SKUA*, 1 *LITTLE GULL* and a juvenile *SABINES GULL* were also seen. All morning a passage of *KITTIWAKES* flying SE coping majestically with the wind, many of the 360 were 1st Winter birds, I logged 170+ which is probably more than I have seen in total in the last 10 years - must have been a good breeding season this year. There was even more activity seen by visiting Birdwatchers between 12.30 and 16.20 who recorded another 21 *LEACH'S PETREL*, 1 *ARCTIC SKUA*, a *LONG TAILED SKUA* and another *SABINES GULL*. A truly remarkable day.

Anyone who follows my website - thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk may not realise that a momentous anniversary will occur in the middle of November - the total hits since I started it in January 2012 will pass the 1,000,000 mark.

Mike Passman
mikepassman@modbury.me.uk

Thurlestone Village Moths

This Autumn has been very good for Moths particularly with the extended period of very mild weather which brought an increase in the number of immigrant species with some coming from Southern Europe and North Africa - these are the result of some mild temperatures and winds coming from the Canary Isles.

In September my garden attracted 1,416 moths of 97 species and in October 808 moths of 67 species - lower last month due to almost two weeks away on Holiday. Since the last report 28 new species for the year have been added to the total of 362 for this year.

Some of the more interesting ones were:-

HEDGE RUSTIC, LUNA UNDERWING, BEADED CHESTNUT, FEATHERED RANUNCULUS, LARGE RANUNCULUS, CYPRESS PUG, CYPRESS CARPET, RED LINE QUAKER, YELLOW LINE QUAKER, BLACK RUSTIC, TAWNY PINION, PINK BARRED SALLOW, AUTUMNAL RUSTIC, FLOUNCED CHESTNUT, WHITE POINT, GREEN BRINDLE CRESCENT, RED GREEN CARPET, BRINDLED OCHRE, NOVEMBER MOTH, FEATHERED THORN.

With my garden very close to Thurlestone Marsh I attract quite a number of moths that breed in marshy wetland habitats.

The WAINSCOT family of moths do illustrate this -

- LARGE WAINSCOT - 164 recorded since early September with a high count of 19 on 21st September.
- L-ALBUM WAINSCOT - an immigrant from Europe with 18 recorded. COMMON WAINSCOT - 19 recorded.
- SHORE WAINSCOT - a scarce moth in Devon with a late record on 5th October.

Only 1 HAWK Moth during the Autumn but very nice to have a CONVULULUS HAWK on 18th September - this was the 7th of the year for this immigrant.

Another very scarce moth in Devon is BRINDLED OCHRE again one of the moths that breed in wetlands - each year I usually record 1 or 2; this year the first was on 26th October with a second 2 days later. I am only aware of one other Devon record this year at Otter Nurseries and one in Cornwall.

Some of the scarce immigrant moths recorded included - SCARCE BORDERED STRAW on 18th September - 3rd this year. PALE MOTTLED WILLOW on 26th September. WHITE SPECK and WHITE POINT were both recorded on the same day - 6th October. The latter was a new record for my garden.

A special mention must be made for BLACK RUSTIC first recorded this year on 29th September - the only almost all black moth likely to be found in my garden - it is almost Goth like in its appearance; this year has been an exceptional year with a total of 54 recorded with the last 4 on 5th November. A new record day count of 9 on 26th October.

Many of the moths I have mentioned will have little meaning to most Village Voice readers - I do put photographs on my website - thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk - look for the banner heading Moth Photos.

With the nights now getting much longer and cooler the likelihood of putting the moth traps out beyond the middle of November is unlikely. I will be spending the winter nights looking through the several thousand photos I have taken and looking forward to starting again in March 2023.

Mike Passman
mikepassman@modbury.me.uk

Thurlestone Golf Club



During our 125th year we have endeavoured to give the readers an insight into the history of our Club. It is fitting, as we have just honoured Remembrance Day that we delve into the war years.

The onset of the Second World War was quick to make its mark on the Club with key staff called up immediately. In addition, the views from the clubhouse were dramatically changed with the wrecking of a Belgian cargo ship off Leasfoot Beach. The S.S. Louis Sheid from Antwerp had been evading German U boats in the Channel when it ran aground.

In 1940 Leasfoot Beach was mined by a contingent of the Buffs, (The Royal East Kent Regiment) who were the first military personnel to arrive at Thurlestone. This operation and the erection of barbed wire fencing necessitated the moving of tees for the second hole. Anti-aircraft guns were sighted near the second green at the rear of the 5th green. The Home Guard took over the Artisans hut (which had been formed 7 years earlier), for the purpose of storing equipment and ammunition. It is interesting to note that, when they were disbanded in August 1945, the Club had to buy the hut back at a cost of £7.10s.

Various units patronised the Club during the war, including contingents of WAAFs and WRNS with the clubhouse being used as a canteen and mess. When the Thurlestone Hotel was commandeered in 1941 as a Royal Marine Officer Training Unit, the Club began to thrive, with servicemen outnumbering the local members and summer visitors. Cadets up to 200 at any one time, were all given playing rights on the course. It is reported that the annual allowance of 300 bottles of gin were never enough – fortunately the quota was increased when the WRVS took over the catering!

Sheep continued to graze across the course, and potatoes were grown on about an acre of land close to the 12th tee at the behest of the Devon War Agricultural Committee. On one regular inspection it was deemed there were too few sheep for the acreage, and that the fairways were being cut too low. A letter from the said committee made it clear that mowing must cease or else! The severe restrictions on mowing fairways compounded the problems for golfers who, having discovered new balls very hard to come by, now found even greater problems searching for them amongst the longer grass!

On a more serious note, there were two fatalities on or adjacent to the course. In one incident the Commander of the Royal Marines unit was accidentally killed in a live firing exercise whilst he was ordering troops to cease fire. In the other incident, a Wren stationed at Loxlea, was killed by a mine on Leasfoot beach. Although accounts vary, one version tells that whilst playing the 1st hole, either her ball or her hat had gone through the barbed wire and in the process of reaching through the wire she triggered the mine with the end of her club and was killed.

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Eating Out Locally

Dream Turkish Restaurant



The Dream Turkish Restaurant has risen in popularity since its opening a couple of years ago. Mill Street in Kingsbridge is now quite a hub for quality authentic cuisine in the English, Indian, Chinese, and Turkish traditions. No, it's not a dream. Turkey's authentic Mediterranean foods are now to be had just a short drive from our villages. The sotes, ezmes, Kleftiko, kebabs etc. are served with some unique touches along with rice, salad and very good chips. The Dream Turkish restaurant's varied menu includes a mixed grill which, like other dishes, can be ordered to share between 2, or 4, or more people.

But, to start at the beginning, the menu lists starters which highlight vegetables. Mushrooms in a creamy sauce is excellent; there's a soup; and a selection of mezze dishes. However, if you skip that course and page through to main meals, you find chef's choices and traditional meals, which are well known to Turks, in which lamb and chicken are well represented and beef and pork appear too. Aubergines, filled with minced beef cooked in their tomatoey sauce is delicious as is any one of the sotes. Chicken sote is very good.

You can relax with your chosen starter while your main meal is prepared. If you've ordered just a main course, a complimentary appetiser will be brought to your table - warm bread, olives, mock mojito and dips to eat before your menu choice arrives. To drink, there are cocktails, good Turkish beers and wine by the glass or bottle which are moderately priced.

Background music is light and cheerful and allows you to have easy conversation with those at your table. Gold, green and black are used in the décor. It's predominately black, but used so cleverly that it's not drab. The serviettes on your table are black too and are held in gold serviette rings which adds an unusual charm to the table setting. Through the wide window there's a brightness from outside lighting, which lasts through the evening.

When your starter is ready, wooden supports are set out on the table. It's just one of the interesting touches brought to the Dream Turkish's food presentation. The array of foodstuffs (meze) is spread between you and your partner. Bowls with sides and accompaniments to the main dish of your choice, will be arranged there too. Your main meal is brought on a board where there'll be a sauce as well as a salad, excellent chips and rice which is light and easy on the palate.

Desserts have a baklava theme and delicious kunefe is highly recommended for good closure to a satisfying meal. Turkish coffee, or a more usual coffee, can complete the meal with a scattering of chocolates, small enough to eat without feeling they're an indulgence.

The Dream Turkish Restaurant is open seven days a week from 12 noon until 11 o'clock. If you prefer to eat at lunch time, you benefit from their 20% discount. It's applied to everything on the menu between twelve and five o'clock. You need to arrive hungry to enjoy all that they serve, or you may have to send food back. It's food which is usually very much enjoyed by children and so offers a memorable family experience. Shared platters work well. There's friendliness here with courteous service. This is food which has drawn praise from Turks who vouch for its authenticity. Yes, we have visitors from Turkey in Kingsbridge. Call 01548 856570 to book a table or visit www.dreamturkishkitchenrestaurant.co.uk.

Vivien Stickland

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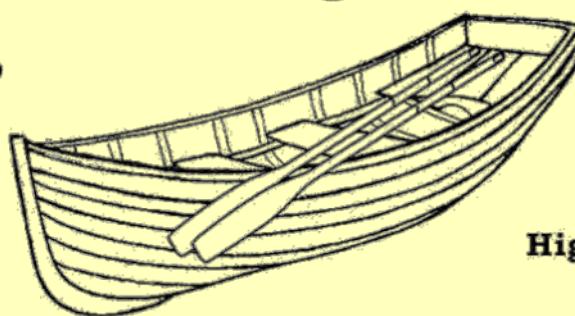
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Weather Wag



I began the last Weather Wag notes with, 'Today, 14th September, is yet another lovely day, sunny, dry and no wind.' Today, 17th November, is exactly the same, maybe a little cooler but the sun is shining, it is calm and altogether it is an idyllic day. Usually, at this time of the year there are gales, heavy seas, rain and the temperature is falling away sharply. I am, along with many of you I guess, relieved to see the sun and experience the calm, the saying goes; 'calm before the storm'. There really isn't a storm in the offing, for which I am eternally thankful. However, it has not always been true. I can think of many a day like today with the following days wet and windy, and like now, in winter, it is cold and unpleasant to say the least. NE blast for the weekend!!

This last comment is borne out in my book *The Wrong Kind of Snow* for 23rd and 24th November which gives a catalogue of storms and mishaps at sea and on land. (I have just watched the headlines on the lunch-time news). The situation in Western Canada is devastating. Floods and snow have caused huge problems for the population. Many have had to leave their homes as waters have risen to flood them out. I am reminded how lucky we are to live in this equable area on the western edge of Europe.

The rainfall in October was quite meagre at 83mm, about half the usual amount for us. Most of it fell in the first 5 days of the month. Thereafter, the days were dry and calm until the last week when another 33mm fell on two days. The weekend of 8th -11th was warmer than average with the top temperature at 23C. There has been just one frosty morning, so long may it last as the days get shorter and shorter for just another 5 weeks. November promises to be a rather dry month unless the heavens open in the next two weeks or so. Today the weather is fantastic, calm, sunny and warm, just the day for a spot of clearing up in the garden, which I am about to do. The main lawn was cut two days ago and now the flower beds and veg patch need to be cleared. I feel that wallflowers and some bulbs need to meet up with the earth which nourishes them.

As the winter closes in, I hope that those seeking thrills or just experience on the remote highland areas will obey all the rules and take all the advice that they can in order to stay safe. There have been some real tragedies related to 'fun' on our highlands. The one I read about in *The Wrong Kind of Snow* took place in the Cairngorm Mountains in 1971. A group of school children, 6 in total, and two teachers were caught out in a blizzard. One teacher went for help but was too late, a helicopter eventually found the group but all but one child had died. She was lifted out and since then it is mandatory for groups to leave a plan of their route, take radios and many other safety effects like survival bags, lightweight, spades and survival rations. I'm sure more is required of present-day precautions. Nearer to home we only need to think about the Ten Tours disaster of a few years ago to appreciate the consequences of inclement weather on remote highlands.

On that note I hope that December and early January will be kind to us even if it is the sort of weather that we expect in the winter months. Look out for the superb sunsets and the bright starry skies that occur at this time of the year. Why is it that the stars look brighter in the winter months?

Take care, and keep weather watching.

Jan Turner

DIARY DATES

December

Saturday	3	Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Monday	5	Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	6	TRAMP - Worthy and South Milton 6 miles - Linda Chilcott
Wednesday	7	Alvington Singers in Concert - St Edmunds Church, Kingsbridge 7.30pm
Thursday	8-10	Salcombe Players - Original Pantomime Script by Alan P Frayn - Cliff House, Salcombe at 7.30pm
Monday	12	Thurlestone Community Carols on the Green by the War Memorial 4.30pm
Wednesday	14	Alvington Singers in Concert - Salcombe Parish Church 7.30pm
Thursday	15	TRAMP - Christmas Walk and Lunch - booking essential
Friday	16	Devon Schools - end of term
Saturday	17	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm Celebrate Christmas with Stanborough Chorus at Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm Tickets £10
Sunday	18	Movies on the Square - The Quay, Kingsbridge - "It's a Wonderful Life (U)" 4.30pm
Saturday	24	Stanborough Chorus - Carols for All at St Edmonds Church, Kingsbridge 4pm to 5pm
Sunday	25	Christmas Day
Monday	26	Boxing Day
Tuesday	27	Bank Holiday (for Christmas Day)

January

Sunday	1	New Years Day
Monday	2	Bank Holiday (for New Years Day)
Tuesday	3	Devon Schools Spring Term starts
Saturday	7	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Monday	9	Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	12	TRAMP - Kingsbridge Highways and Byways 3 to 4 miles - Tricia Wilson
Monday	16	TRAMP - Soar Mill Circular 5 miles - Mike and Sian Hodges
Saturday	21	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Monday	23	TRAMP - Wembury Circular 5.5 miles Wembury Circular - Alan Rustad
Wednesday	25	Kingsbridge Arts Society Methodist Hall 2pm for 2.30pm (and on Zoom) - "What did the Greeks and Romans do for Art" - a talk by Gillian Hovell
Wed	25 - 28	MAD Kids Group presents "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" Malborough Village Hall 7.30pm (Saturday matinee 2pm)
Friday	27	Thurlestone Parish Hall Drop in Session, 7pm to 9pm

February

Thursday	2	TRAMP - Diptford 5 miles - Vanessa Barton
Friday	3	Kingsbridge Estuary U3A - Monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am to 12noon - "The Chelsea Flower Show" with Saul Walker
Saturday	4	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm Kingsbridge Choral Workshop 10am - 5pm Kingsbridge Community College - Coronation Music - Elgar's "Coronation Ode" and Parry's "I Was Glad"
Monday	6	Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	9	The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night in Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	14	TRAMP - Staverton Snow Drop Walk 4.5 miles - Wendy & Peter Gornall

Bolberry Down Parkrun. A free, weekly, timed 5k walk/jog/run at 9:00am every Saturday. Details at www.parkrun.org.uk/bolberrydown/ or on Facebook.



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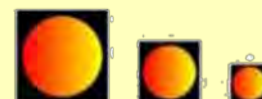
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For further information or to arrange a viewing please contact the Manager at:

**Abbeyfield House
Saffron Park, Kingsbridge,
Devon, TQ7 1RL**

Tel: 01548 854090

email: kingsbridge@abbeyfieldsws.org

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CONTACT INFORMATION

CLUBS & GROUPS

ALVINGTON SINGERS (Wed 7pm - 9pm)	Contact	Liz Coates	714849
ART CLASS (Tues 11am - 1pm)	Contact	Marianne Smith	531413
AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	Chairman	Stuart Watts	810373
BADMINTON CLUB (Fri 4pm - 5pm)	Contact	Sian Hodges	07784893405
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary	Nikki Smith	560275
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wed 6.15pm)	Contact	Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX	Contact	Anna Martin	560796
FITNESS YOGA WITH SUZI (Mon 5pm - 6pm)	Contact	Suzi Griffiths	07557334802
FRENCH CONVERSATION (Thurs 1.30-3.30pm)	Contact	Angela Luckhurst	521595
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Phil Millard	560843
HEALTHY MOVEMENT (Mon 2.15pm)	Contact	Saffron Craig	07840788511
LINE DANCING (Wed 2pm)	Contact	Sue Bain	07989817898
POWER HOUR WITH SUZI (Tuesday 2pm - 3pm)	Contact	Suzi Griffiths	07557334802
SEA BEYOND PILATES	Contact	Sharron05@btinternet.com	
SMASH HIIT WITH SUZI (Thurs 6pm - 7pm)	Contact	Suzi Griffiths	07557334802
STITCH and BITCH	Contact	Sally Martin	561356
TABLE TENNIS (Thurs 7.30pm)	Contact	Paul Ferguson	07866802800
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Office & General Enquiries		560405
TENNIS SECTION (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop		560715
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX	Contact	Mary Horne	561853
THURLESTONE SINGING GROUP	Contact	Alastair Durden	560509
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Linda Scott	560298
YOGA with Sarah (Tues and Thurs 9.15am)	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 - Wednesdays

Recycling Boxes 1 and 2, Reusable White Sack, and Food Waste Caddy - EVERY WEEK
 Black/Grey Bin (non-recyclable landfill) alternate Wednesdays from 14th December
 Brown Bin (garden waste) alternate Wednesdays - temporarily suspended
 Special collection dates over Christmas and New Year period - check SHDC recycling website

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 Open Monday, Friday 9am - 6pm
 Tuesday, Wednesday 9am - 5pm, Thursday closed
 Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall Car Park Wednesday January 11th 2023 - 10.30am to 11.00am - NOTE NEW TIME!

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Local Bus Service - Tally Ho! Service No. 162 - Destinations from Thurlestone (Bus stop by Shop) are:- Kingsbridge, South Milton, Malborough, Galmpton and Hope Cove.
 For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see www.tallyhocoches.co.uk/162-timetable
 For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233
 Taxi Companies - Taxi-Mike (0771 4512516) - see advert in this magazine

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCIL

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

Chairman	Jill Munn	560732
Vice-chairman	Vacant	
Parish Clerk	Kathy Harrod	thurlestoneparish@gmail.com
Members	Sue Crowther	560098
	Paul Gunning	07971 378121
	Rosa Lewis	07463 856156
	Adam Ryan-Carter	562708 (Tree Warden)
	Gillian Stone	07967 666719
	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

THE PARISH HELPLINE Co-ordinator Milla 07711 870337

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, Tues, Thu, Fri	8.00am - 5.00pm
	Wednesday	8.00am - 2.00pm
Special Xmas Opening Hours -	Saturday	8.00am - 2.00pm
see poster in Village Voice	Sunday and Bank Holidays	8.30am - 2.00pm

Post Office Hours	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.00am - 4.00pm
	Wednesday	9.00am - 1.00pm
	Saturday	9.30am - 12.30pm
	Sunday	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	Mon, Thurs Fri, Sat, Sun	9.00am - 1.00pm
	Closed Tuesday and Wednesday	
	Closed Monday 19 th December until Thursday 5 th January	

PUBS

The Village Inn (Thurlestone) - 563525

The Sloop Inn (Bantham) - 560489

Organic Milk Delivery - How Now Dairy 01752 466870 - Monday and Thursday

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

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

