

# VILLAGE VOICE

December 2023 - January 2024



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL OUR READERS

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone*



Phew, what a year it has been! Turbulent is perhaps the most appropriate adjective we can find to describe what has been going on globally, nationally and locally. Even the weather decided to join in with the theme!

Here in our sleepy parish drivers have had their motoring skills severely tested of late by a range of challenges: flooded roads to negotiate, potholes to avoid at all costs and roadworks springing up here, there and everywhere it seems. Arriving at ones destination in one piece and with nerves unfrazzled has not been easy. Some of us decided to opt for the local bus service instead so that we could sit back and let the Tally Ho driver take the strain whilst saving our tyres and undercarriages! We are lucky to have our trusty bus and would love to see more people using it to ensure that it continues to run.

However, it's time to put away the soapbox for now. Let's think instead about what this latest issue of Village Voice has to offer our readers. We have a new contributor in Gill Markham who will titillate your tastebuds with her excellent restaurant review. Hopefully, Gill can be persuaded to tell us about more gastronomic adventures during 2024. Some of you may be encouraged to do a bit of bat-spotting after you read Malcolm Breton's fascinating report on the creatures visiting his garden under the cover of darkness. With all our regular articles, puzzle pages and reports we feel that we offer something for everyone. As always, though, if there is something you would like to see in Village Voice or if you have something to contribute, please let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

All that remains is to wish all of you, our readers, a very Merry Christmas followed by a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

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## **December 2023 - January 2024**

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# 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](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/meeting-information)

## **Thurlestone Parish Council Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 in Thurlestone Parish Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Rosa Lewis (in the Chair), Cllr Adam Ryan Carter, Cllr Gill Stone, Cllr Eric Palmer, Cllr Nigel Hadaway, Cllr David Smyth.

**In Attendance:** Helen Leather (Clerk), SHDC Cllr Mark Long. 9 Parishioners.

**OPEN FORUM.** A member of the public commended Graham Gilbert on the work he has done to try and get a path through the field from the Avon Estuary Way to a point by Dixons Quay on the estuary recognised. Another member of the public spoke to say he wanted to thank Cllr Long, Cllr Dennis and the Parish Council for the work they had done to save 30 car parking spaces from a planning application on the Bantham Estate. A member of the public asked about the waste bins outside the Thurlestone Staff house. The Clerk responded that the Hotel has promised to put some screening up.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MARK LONG** reported that letters had gone out for SHDC to 1,500 householders advising them their waste and recycling was classified as commercial and they need a commercial waste contract to collect both residual and recycling. The Council will be looking to address the same issue with Council Tax rated properties that operate as holiday lets such as Airbnbs. There is a draft corporate strategy out for consultation that will run through until the 30th November. A new Planning IT system goes live in November, and this will provide better access for the public and a better search function.

**CLERK'S REPORT.** Road closure from West Alvington Cross to Ilbert Rd starting on second of January 2024 to the 11th of March 2024 by Wales and West Utilities. Peter Sandover, Chair of the South Devon AONB has confirmed his attendance to the Parish Council meeting on the 4th of December 2023.

**PARISH MATTERS AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS.** The council considered a proposal for funding to update the public toilets in Thurlestone. All Councillors agreed to an amendment to the wording of the neighbourhood plan. It was agreed that TPC support the Schedule 14 PROW application for the field adjacent to Aune Cliff made by Graham Gilbert. The Parish Council expressed thanks to Graham Gilbert. Cllr David Smyth reported that Devon and Cornwall police are working on Project Community Access, which aims to establish a network of hubs across the region which police can use as a local base. Cllr Gill Stone gave an update on the discussion of permitted development. She had taken on board the comments from the councillors and responded to the government consultation paper on behalf of the parish. Cllr Lewis and Cllr Stone had met with Anthony Magnall and talked about permitted developments and the concerns that have come up from parishioners.

### **PLANNING:**

3117/23/HHO - Land Cottage, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NE. **Thurlestone Parish Council Support**  
2900/23/HHO - Apple Trees, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LZ. **No Decision – Site Visit Planned**  
2458/23/FUL - Thurlestone Golf Club, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NZ. **Thurlestone Parish Council Support**

### **SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

2227/23/HHO -16 Meadcombe Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3TB. **Conditional Approval**  
2786/20/FUL - West Buckland Barn, TQ7 3AJ. **No Decision Yet**  
0915/22/FUL - Land off Bantham Beach Road. **Refusal**  
3013/22/FUL - Aune Cliff. **Readvertised**  
4118/22/FUL - Edgecombe House, West Buckland. **Application awaiting finalisation of legal agreement**  
2312/23/HHO - Lower Goosewell Cottage, Ilbert Road, Thurlestone. **Conditional Approval**



2451/23/HHO - West Wing, Warren Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NT. **No Decision Yet**  
2198/23/VAR - 5 Sea Haven, Old Rectory Gardens, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PD. **No Decision Yet**  
2510/23/HHO - 1 Meadcombe Road, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, TQ7 3TB. **Conditional Approval**  
2722/23/HHO - 7 Meadfoot, Thurlestone, TQ7 3TD. **Conditional Approval**  
2543/23/HHO - 7 Eddystone Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NU. **Conditional Approval**  
2515/23/HHO - 24 Court Park, Thurlestone, Devon. **Conditional Approval**

### **Thurlestone Parish Council Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Thurlestone Parish Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Rosa Lewis (in the Chair), Cllr Adam Ryan Carter, Cllr Gill Stone, Cllr Eric Palmer, Cllr David Smyth

**In Attendance:** Helen Leather (Parish Clerk), SHDC Cllr Mark Long, SHDC Cllr Sam Dennis, Parishioners/guests: 13

**OPEN FORUM:** A member of the public commented on the flooding on the access roads in and out of the village and wondered if anything could be done to alleviate the problem. Cllr Lewis responded that in the last two weeks there had been an excessive amount of rainfall and flooding. The majority of these situations have been dealt with recently, with the help of Cllr Palmer. Cllr Palmer explained that many of the problems related to damaged pipes and drains that are Devon Highways responsibility. Cllr Lewis responded that the council are taking measures to alleviate as many problems as possible.

A member of the public asked if the vegetation cut down along the raised footpath in Thurlestone could be taken away and not left lying on the road. Cllr Lewis assured him that the council will be taking action to ensure this is done. Another member of the public drew attention to an overhanging tree on Court Park Road, and an overgrowth of ivy on the pavement which was a hazard. Cllr Lewis assured them this would be dealt with.

A member of the public asked if there was any news about the blue bins outside the Thurlestone Hotel Staff quarters. The Clerk responded that Tim Hassell from Thurlestone Hotel is currently waiting for his builder to come and undertake the work of screening of the bins.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS. Cllr Mark Long:** There is a public space protection order consultation regarding the control of dogs across the district. This takes place every three years and the consultation is open until the 14th of November. People that needed the new recycling and waste collections have now received new bins and the new collections will begin on the 20th November.

**Cllr Dennis** reminded everyone that the draft corporate strategy is still out for consultation. Residents have until 30th November to respond.

**CLERK'S REPORT.** Dog Control Consultation, open until 14th November. Councillors and the Clerk met with the person who undertakes grass cutting for the parish, Mr Lee, and he has agreed to undertake some extra duties for the council. He will help clear gullies and culverts with Cllr Palmer's help. South Hams District Council closed the public toilets on the 1st November and they will be re-opened at beginning of March. The Parish have had notification from SHDC of a Tree Preservation Order for 3 areas of West Buckland. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue are asking for the views of local communities on the level of precept (council tax contribution) for the fire and rescue service. An extension of the temporary closure of Thurlestone Footpath 13 has now been extended until 18th June 2024 or until the works are complete, whichever is the sooner. Notice of Temporary prohibition of traffic for one day on 25.01.24 from Whitley Cross to Huxton Cross, Thurlestone for Pole Replacement.

**PARISH MATTERS AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS. Cllr Stone** suggested that if the council decide to upgrade the public toilets then quotes will be needed for the work. Jack Rhymes suggested that the drains might need improvement work. Regarding proposed modification

to the neighbourhood plan, the council had put in a proposed non-material amendment which unfortunately had been turned down. Cllr Stone read out a report by Cllr Hodges on flooding. He had marked four areas that are at risk of flooding in the parish due mainly to culverts and broken pipes. The Clerk and Cllr Hodges will draw this to Cllr Rufus Gilbert's attention to see if Highways can carry out repairs.

**Cllr David Smyth** reported that the Parish Hall Committee had agreed that the Parish Hall could be used as a police hub as and when required.

#### **PLANNING:**

RATIFICATION 2900/23/HHO – Apple Trees, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LZ. Thurlestone Parish Council **OBJECT to this Application**

4258/22/HHO – Morstones, Bantham, TQ7 3AP. **Conditional support with comments**

3468/23/CLE – Thurlestone Hotel, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NN. **No Comments**

3588/23/HHO – West Seacombe, Ilbert Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NY. **No Decision – site visit planned**

3336/23/VAR – Outside Land At Sx 699 454 Bantham. **Thurlestone Parish Support**

#### **SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DECISIONS:**

3117/23/HHO – Land Cottage, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NE. **Conditional Approval**

2900/23/HHO – Apple Trees, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LZ. **Conditional Approval**

2458/23/FUL – Thurlestone Golf Club, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NZ. **Conditional Approval**

2786/20/FUL – West Buckland Barn, TQ7 3AJ. **No Decision Yet**

3013/22/FUL – Aune Cliff. **Conditional Approval**

4118/22/FUL – Edgecombe House, West Buckland. **Application awaiting finalisation of legal agreement**

2451/23/HHO – West Wing, Warren Road, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NT. **Conditional Approval**

2198/23/VAR – 5 Sea Haven, Old Rectory Gardens, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PD. **Conditional Approval**

## **A Note From Your County Councillor - Rufus Gilbert**

As I write, it's the last week of October and still half term, with many visitors and their families still enjoying our beautiful South Hams, albeit the weather is very wet.



The last time I wrote, the local SHDC and Parish Council elections were drawing to a conclusion. The outcome proved interesting, with many changes to SHDC elected members and to Parish and Town Councillors. The result from which has brought forth new ideas and approaches at Salcombe, Modbury and Thurlestone to name but a few. This has brought about my having to assist and adjust to those new approaches.

Also, at the same time there began many changes at Devon County Council. In particular, the top tier of officers including the CEO. The result of which has resulted in much needed change and monetary savings. The effects of these, are already obvious and felt by all at DCC, with improved service delivery within Childrens Services and Adult Social Care.

Modbury Main Street, road closure: this will commence for six weeks from January 8<sup>th</sup> to repair and service the sewage pipes. There will be two diversions - one for light traffic within Modbury and another longer route for heavy traffic.

I finish by giving you a few stats on the DCC proactively 'farmed estate'. There are 65 fully equipped residential farms across Devon, comprising of 9,588 acres. Devon is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest local authority 'farms estate' in the Country.

Take Care.

**Rufus**

**DCC Cllr for Salcombe Division**

**Cabinet Member Economy & Skills.**

# Thurlestone Phone Box

We have packed away the ghosts and spiders from Halloween, enjoyed by so many and are now planning our Christmas Display.

As previously advertised the **Carols on the Green**, will take place on Monday 11th December at 4.30pm. We are hoping that it won't be as cold as last year, but wrap up warm just in case! We look forward to seeing you all there.

Remember to bring a cup for the mulled wine, which is kindly donated by Toad Hall Cottages, and enjoy a lovely mince pie made by Joan Booth. Special thanks to the Village Inn for covering the cost of the ingredients.

As usual, we are looking forward to performances from All Saints School and Razor Sharp, organised by 'Shep' our compère. We are also expecting a visit from Father Christmas, who is planning to visit despite his very busy schedule at this time of year!

I am extremely grateful to all the Committee who do all the preparation for this event, it's a lot of work but very worthwhile.

We were very saddened to hear about the death of Gillian Marshall, she and her husband Kit originally started the Phone Box Library Exchange, and all the subsequent events. She was a special lady, who worked so hard at each event, and regularly kept the Phone Box tidy and stocked with books. We will miss her greatly; she was a very dear friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kit and his family.

**Mary Horne**

## **Gillian Marshall 1943 - 2023**

Born Gillian Brenda Harriman in Colombia, she spent over half her life in Peru before coming to England and then spent her last quarter century in Thurlestone.

Gillian called herself an explorer of life! She visited over 100 countries, well beyond the normal tourist areas. She was often found squatting and laughing in mud huts, stirring the pot, swapping headdresses, and communicating with laughter in unknown languages. Yarns of adventures from the Amazon jungle to the Himalayan peaks, from Timbuktu to 'farcical' Vegas, in minus two-star hotels, to safari glamping, mending bridges or crossing chasms, and even a crash landing, were all told with a lively twinkle.

Bi-lingual, Gillian attended San Silvestre school in Lima and, 74 years on, was proud to still be in touch with her school friends.

Wherever she was, Gillian made an impact. In Peru, many a society enjoyed her enthusiasm, and on arriving in England, she arranged containers full of clothing, old spectacles and even items such as unwanted prostheses, which were sent to the shanties in Peru.

Despite a pact not to get involved in anything for a year, when we came to live in Thurlestone, within two weeks Gillian was involved in the Parish of Thurlestone Society. Then came the Friends of Thurlestone Church, she became a leading member of the group which built the Parish Hall, not to mention popping into the bus shelter, Pump House, and beaches for a quick clean up. Gillian contributed many articles for the Village Voice. She also found time to sew the rings onto church hassocks. But perhaps her lasting legacy will be the Thurlestone Phone Box. That was definitely hers! Despite all that, she found time to write a book on her life in Peru and gathered together centuries of family history.

Gillian spread an aura of great love which encompassed her family. Married to Kit for 58 years, her children Amanda, Lalu, Timo and James are extremely proud. Grandmother of Oli, Ana, Louie, Alicia, Lara, Phoebe, Tessa, Rosie and Jack, not to mention her many friends. She is so missed, but what happy, happy memories.



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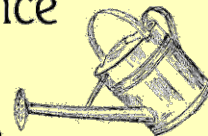
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# Going Batty in Thurlestone?

If you walk around Thurlestone in the early hours you may be in for a small surprise, as I found out when I joined in with the Wildlife Trust's Devon Bat Survey in early September.

The Devon Bat Survey aims to give people across Devon the opportunity to find out what Bats are active near them, and to contribute that data to the county's biodiversity database held by the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC). The data will be used to inform research and conservation activities.

Anyone within reach of one of the host centres can book a bat detector for 3 nights during the survey period. You need to check that you can get to one of the host centres during its opening hours to collect a detector, and return it 3 days later. Next just click the link to sign up to take part and the adventure starts from then.

When it is your time to survey, you collect the detector kit from the host centre and follow the instructions for setup. The bat detector is pre-programmed to record bat echolocation calls each night. After 3 nights of recording, you pack away the detector and return it to the host centre.

Our nearest 'Host Centre' was Avon Mill Garden Centre so on 5<sup>th</sup> September I went along and collected my pre booked equipment. It all looked quite complicated at first but with a little help from my techie assistant (my wife) I was ready to go.

I set up the microphone and recording device in a quiet corner of my garden and left it to its own devices for 3 nights. Packed it back up and after a few more IT problems took the equipment back to the centre and mailed off the computer chip for analysis.

Expectations were not high so imagine my surprise and delight when I discovered that 10 different species of Bat had visited our little corner of Thurlestone during my 3 nights.



**Grey Long Eared Bat**

Of the 10 species two are classified as rare in this area – The Grey Long Eared Bat (not to be confused with its common Brown version which also visited) and Bechstein's Bat.

The recordings are analysed and each call is given a probability index. Anything over 80% is considered to be a very strong probability. As well as the 3 previously mentioned species, the following 7 were recorded with high probability ratings: Serotine, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, Leisler's bat, Noctule, Lesser horseshoe bat, and of course lots of Common pipistrelles.

For more information on the Grey Long Eared Bat go to the following site:- <https://tinyurl.com/2c5rxhyr>

For more information on Bechstein's Bat go to the following site:- <https://tinyurl.com/4berr2cv>

**Malcolm Breton**

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk)

## WORDS OF A FEATHER

Find a word that fits together (either before or after) with each of the three words given. An example is given to start you off.....

E.g. glass, rye, double (6).....WHISKY

1. office, last, card (4).....
2. white, board, flake (4).....
3. band, shirt, brush (4).....
4. stag, political, birthday (5).....
5. up, formal, cocktail (5).....
6. ground, soft, Shakespeare (4).....
7. man, rocking, arm (5).....
8. own, post, keeper (4).....
9. shooting, sign, film (4).....
10. ballot, news, chase (5).....
11. ginger, belly, bottle (4).....
12. chocolate, flood, flour (5).....
13. beauty, over, walk (5).....
14. evening, university, wide (4).....
15. baby, target, tenant (7).....
16. gates, queen, whites (6).....
17. gum, heat, riot (6).....
18. finder, shooting, mountain (5).....
19. down, off, under (5).....
20. belt, ever, man (5).....
21. foreign, bumpkin, walk (7).....
22. flower, single, bugs (3).....
23. song, cage, black (4).....
24. cracker, case, hazel (3).....
25. sandwich, cottage, cream (6).....

### Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Turkey 2. Panama 3. Ireland 4. Hungary 5. China 6. Chile 7. Peru 8. Russia 9. Mali 10. Luxembourg 11. Greece 12. Iceland 13. Slovenia 14. Honduras 15. Netherlands 16. United States of America 17. Portugal 18. Mauretania 19. Burkina Faso 20. Algeria 21. Sri Lanka 22. Thailand 23. Namibia 24. Germany

*There were 4 all correct entries last month. First out of the hat, and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Lesley Kalisher. Commiserations to John Anderson, Gaynor Day, and Trisha Wilson.*

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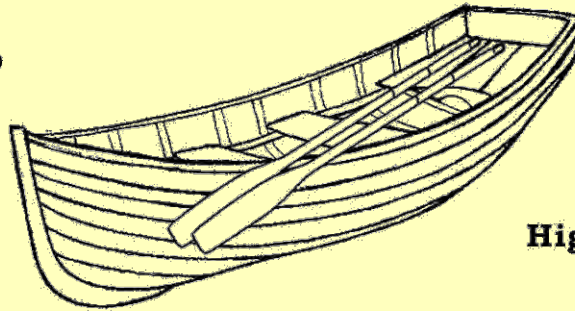


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# HEIDI – A TRUE THURLESTONE CHARACTER IS NO MORE

Sadly my late mum Rosemary Mackay's beloved dog Heidi is no longer with us. Her back legs just could not support her any longer and she could not walk.

Heidi brings to mind many memories of her illustrious time in Thurlestone. She first arrived at 3b Landpath at the tender age of 3 years old after an unsuccessful breeding spell in Loddiswell.

She made an instant impact with her voracious appetite but very gentle and fun loving character. Heidi was perhaps one of the most mischievous of all the many Labradors that my mum had been surrounded by throughout her long life.

Her frequent escapes from mum's house (both 3b Landpath and latterly 12b Mead Lane) to her favourite hideout (the Thurlestone Hotel) are legend amongst most Thurlestonians. She was frequently found in the hotel kitchen sniffing out and in some cases stealing the rarest cuts of beef and pork until the hotel made the inevitable call to Rosemary to request that Heidi be escorted back to base.

In fact, Heidi was singlehandedly responsible for Mum giving up driving. One day in Mum's early 90's, Heidi escaped from the house and as usual made her way down to the hotel looking for scraps of food and willing staff. When Mum got one of the many calls from the hotel to go and pick her up (they had her phone number taped to the switchboard), Mum was particularly busy and the last thing she had time for was to pick up the errant hound. Nonetheless, she drove down to the hotel and parked in front of the front doors, got a little flustered by her rush and drove into the car in front thinking she had put the car in Park. Then panicking, she put the car in reverse and went into another car behind her. Thus she decided, "I have had enough of driving".



On many of Mum's social events where she was hosting, great care had to be exercised to keep any nibbles and food above 3 feet and even then, when your back was turned food often mysteriously disappeared. On one famous occasion when Mum was making some bread, she had left the dough to rise on the kitchen counter. When she returned to continue, she found that Heidi was licking her chops and wagging her tail and no bread. Mum laughed it off and said there would be hot cross buns later that night!

A few years ago, on one of her frequent escapes to pastures greener, Heidi went across the road and in the garden she smelt some tasty bonemeal fertilizer which she guzzled down with nonchalant ease, only to find that it did not agree with her stomach, radically! She made it home and proceeded to convulse on the doorstep with all sorts of vile liquid coming out of all her extremities and then she passed out. After we were thinking that that was it and life was over, she woke up staggered to her feet and said "what was that all about" and carried on as if nothing had happened.

Heidi was a frequent Tramp walker and loved her walks with other dogs and people as well as frequent dips in the rivers and sea where she swam and chased after balls.

Sadly at 12 and half years old, life was taking its toll with arthritis and cataracts.

Rest in Peace dear Heidi.

**Neil Mackay**



# AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

*'Conserving the Devonshire Avon, from source to sea'*

## Metamorphosis of the ACA into the ARC

As background, I am standing down as ACA Chairman by the end of 2023 after about 18 years in the role. Ros Brousson is also in a similar position regarding her role as Secretary and Treasurer. However, nobody from the membership has volunteered to take over in either of these roles. Therefore, the ACA has reached a crossroads in its existence! This has all come at a time of rapid change in the external environment in which public awareness of the importance of water quality and associated biodiversity has risen enormously.

In order to capitalise on the knowledge and contacts built up over the 40 or so years for which the ACA has been in existence, and avoid the waste involved in the organisation's dissolution, I am setting in train some important changes. These changes were sanctioned unanimously at an ACA Committee meeting on 21st September at which Louise Wainwright of Avon River Champions ([info@avon-river-champions.org](mailto:info@avon-river-champions.org)) was co-opted on to the committee. Subsequently, the changes were agreed by the wider ACA membership at a well-attended Extraordinary General Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October - in accord with our Governing Document.

The changes will involve:-

1. a name change from Aune Conservation Association (ACA) to Avon River Champions or ARC - our objectives are identical but ARC is a sub-group of the broader South Hams River Champions coalition (Clean Rivers - Thriving Wildlife - Sustainable Communities)
2. the use of existing monies in the two ACA bank accounts to support the newly-branded ARC

Several other actions will follow automatically:-

- the dissolution of the ACA committee and the formation of a new ARC Steering Group – Ros and I have both agreed to help with the transition
- the incorporation of most of the information and research content on the ACA website onto the ARC website
- a transfer of ACA participation in the SeaMoor Lottery to ARC
- preservation of the current tax exempt, charitable status of the ACA along with the name change to ARC
- an invitation to current ACA members to participate in the activities of the ARC
- a change of logo to the following image



Louise has already undertaken the energetic development of a network of River Guardians to conduct and coordinate the monitoring of water quality throughout the Devon Avon and to collaborate with similar programmes on other South Devon rivers. I wish them all well and shall do whatever I can to help. I anticipate that Louise will represent the ARC at the Avon Estuary Forum and I plan to maintain my own interest.

With best wishes for the future.

**Stuart Watts**  
**ACA Chairman**



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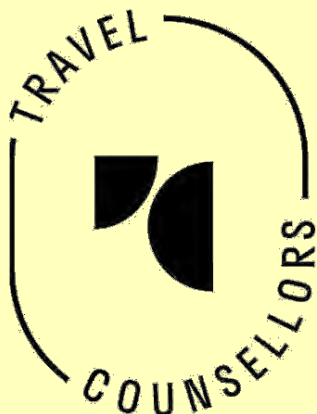
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# VILLAGE NEWS ROUND-UP

## **Kingsbridge Food Bank**

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, more people need help, especially from the local Foodbank. They have been actively fundraising to keep going with the increased demand for their support. However, the number of grants and funding pots has decreased so significantly that they are unable to rely on these anymore. As an independent Foodbank, they do not receive any direct government funding, so must rely on donations of food and money from supporters, as well as raising funds from grants. Difficult decisions have been made recently, in order to be able to continue to provide food parcels to those struggling to make ends meet. They currently support 175 households EVERY week, and urgently need donations to be able to carry on supporting the most vulnerable in our community. If you are able to, please consider making a regular monthly donation to help them continue to help those in need of support. **Email [kingsbridgefoodbank.org.uk](mailto:kingsbridgefoodbank.org.uk) or telephone 01548 714924.**

## **Mobile Library**

In spite of gaining a reprieve in July, after further analysis of the costs involved in maintaining the mobile library, officers from Devon County Council sadly recommended "decommissioning" the service by February 2024 and it was unanimously approved.

## **Police Community Access**

Police Community Access is a collaborative project in the South Hams between Devon and Cornwall Police and the local Parishes. Thurlestone Parish Council along with Thurlestone Parish Hall is one of the latest Parishes to sign up to the scheme. The scheme provides the Police with access to 'hubs' across the South Hams where they can hold pop-up surgeries to discuss community concerns; be seen around smaller parishes and build relationships. Details of the first surgery to be held at Thurlestone Parish Hall will be advertised once the date is confirmed.

## **Parish Lengthsman**

The Parish Council has appointed a Parish Lengthsman who will be responsible for the general tidiness of the parish such as cleaning up leaves. If you feel there is something that needs reporting for the Lengthsman attention, parishioners should contact Helen Leather the parish clerk at: [thurlestoneparish@gmail.com](mailto:thurlestoneparish@gmail.com).

## **Rotary Club of Kingsbridge Annual Quiz**

A date to put in your diary for next year is the annual Rotary quiz in aid of End Polio Now, which will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Thurlestone Parish Hall and includes a raffle. This is always a very popular and well attended event so put together your teams and tell **Peter Gornall 560333**.

## **Fish and Chip Van**

The Codmobile has started to visit Thurlestone on Tuesdays from 5pm to 8pm. They can be found in the Parish Hall car park and take cash only. You can order in advance by **phone on 07977 538506 or Facebook Messenger. Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/2cctkrhs>**

## **Bosko Bus**

If you would prefer something lighter take a look at the Bosko Bus which can be found at Bantham on weekends throughout the winter. Menus can be found on their website [www.theboskobus.co.uk](http://www.theboskobus.co.uk)

## **Share Shed**

For a fee you can become a member of the world's first mobile library of things, which enables you to borrow all manner of items ranging from tools to gazebos. If you have a one-off occasion or job and don't want to splash out this could be your answer. They are located in Town Square, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1HS on Fridays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Full details can be found on their website: [www.shareshed.org.uk](http://www.shareshed.org.uk)



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# Vive Le Vignoble!

Picking grapes under blue sunny skies. Not normally a scene one associates with Bantham, particularly after the summer we've just had. However, on this day we could have mistakenly believed we were in the South of France, this was more like the Côte de Bantham! The Community Harvest days on the Bantham vineyard during October saw dozens of volunteers from both the parish and neighbouring villages come together for an enjoyable few days of harvesting, for what was to be the vineyard's first ever crop! Day one was all about the Pinot Gris, (the French equivalent of the Italian Pinot Grigio) a sort of light purple coloured grape, although it can be a blue-grey colour, destined to become a crisp dry white wine.



Under the expert guidance of Manon Fosburgh and Mark Sharman, as well as all the other very helpful Estate staff, we received about an hour's training on the dos and don'ts of cutting a perfect bunch. Watch your fingers on the 'snips' being the first lesson (although plasters were to hand should you lose concentration), hold the bunch carefully with one hand and be careful not to cut any shoots. That was the easy part; any shrivelled, split or mouldy ones must be teased out with your snips. Grapes have to be carefully placed in the bucket, no



leaves, snails, soil or wedding rings please and then up to the large containers for collection. We pleasantly passed the hours chatting and laughing whilst meandering up and down the vines in a 'sort of' orderly fashion, although I'm sure I missed a few and before too long it was time for a tea-break.

Sitting by the side of the vines, under a clear blue sky, the sunlight dancing across the waves and with the Island in the distance, it all started to feel very Year in Provence. We were all beaming and feeling jolly pleased with ourselves until we realised, we'd only got half way and with a one and half tonne target to reach, there was no time to ponder our inner vendangeur.

It was another short burst of energy to get the second block done, but with our new found skills we made quick work of the remaining vines just in time for a hearty lunch provided by the Estate team. I got chatting to a local fellow mum friend who told me her son is studying Land Management at a local Devon College and bikes down to the Vineyard on his free days to do work experience. Think home grown produce nurturing home-grown talent.

With other grape types available; Pinot Meunier, Noir and another Pinot called Précoce, there's something for everyone. Even the pheasants are getting a look in and with some of the lower growing grapes deliberately left for them, they seem to be very partial to the Chardonnay ones.

The second picking team at Lower Aunemouth pulled in an impressive few extra tonnes, working on the Pinot Noir and Meunier grapes and along with Chardonnay grapes picked on another day, a total of nearly 6 tonnes were taken away to a central pressing centre with a view to having a finished product next spring.



We're hoping for an invite to the wine tasting and knowing that we put just a little bit of our heart and soul into the product, I'm sure the wine will taste that much sweeter.

**Sian Williams**

# BOOKSHELF

## **The Sentence is Death**

**by Anthony Horowitz**

The author's name may be familiar to you as he has written several novels including Magpie Murders as well as creating and adapting TV series such as Poirot, Foyle's War and Midsomer Murders. Anyone who has read his books will know he doesn't conform to the norm and this book is no exception. It's the second in a series about private detective Daniel Hawthorne, nothing unusual about that but Anthony has written himself into the story with the objective of writing a trio of books based on Hawthorne's investigations.

Richard Pryce is a barrister specialising in divorces who is killed by a bottle of wine (very Midsomer Murders), which Hawthorne informs Anthony about on the set of Foyle's War. Moments before Pryce was killed, he was overheard on the phone talking to the suspected murderer. When another incident occurs, the pair are left wondering if there could be a connection between the two.

There are plenty of interesting personalities both real and fictional, but the main emphasis is the dynamic between the two main characters, with Anthony resolving to find out more about his partner in crime by making it his business to uncover secrets Hawthorne is trying to hide. They seem to have a grudging respect for each other even if Anthony doesn't like some of the traits in Hawthorne's nature.

This is a quirky detective novel containing some humour due to Anthony acting as sidekick which opens him up to hostility from the real police detectives. The descriptive passages of locations used in the book were particularly good and it is an easy read if not thought provoking, a couple in the group found it a bit childish and clichéd but on the whole it was enjoyed by the majority.

## **Blood Sisters**

**by Jane Corry**

The majority of the books we've been given to read so far have been thrillers and this is another. Three girls leave for school but never reach their destination due to their involvement in an accident, when one of them unfortunately dies.

Of the two survivors, Kitty is in a care home with no memory of the accident due to a brain injury sustained and rendering her unable to articulate properly. Alison is an art teacher who seems to be coping on the outside but suffers from guilt because she survived. When an opportunity arises to take up the position at an open prison as an artist in residence, she takes the role in the hope it will enable her to make reparation. In the background lurks someone who seems to know their secrets and wants revenge. You'll find revelations galore throughout as these secrets are revealed.

This book is on the Sunday Times best seller list with good reviews but the group found it full of flaws with far too many coincidences and one-dimensional characters who were difficult to like. We were almost unanimous in our dislike of this book feeling it was poorly written and difficult and uncomfortable to read due to the content. I wonder what your opinion would be?

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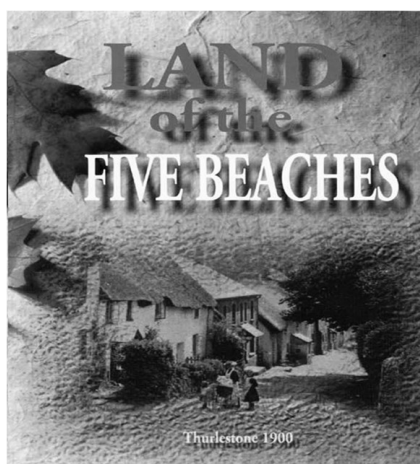
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# THE BUCKLAND BOX

We would like to say a huge thank you to Anna Martin who has done an amazing job of leading the Buckland Box committee. In the next article, we will be covering the history of the Buckland Box, from its very beginnings, to the wonderful work that the committee, led by Anna, has undertaken over the past 10 or so years.

Anyone interested in becoming part of a new committee, to run and take care of The Buckland Box, please get in touch with myself, Kay Barry (Holbrook Tel. 562005), or Sarah Sylvester (Canford House).

## Soft Plastic Recycling

We are now collecting **clean** old soft plastic, as well as the crisp packets, which cannot currently be recycled by our kerbside recycling. It will be sent away for recycling, where it will be made into new products (eg. furniture) and packaging. Those villagers who already take theirs to the local supermarkets for recycling, please continue. But for those who don't visit a recycling facility, please put your soft plastics in the fabric bag hanging from the ceiling of the phone box. Jed Barry will be doing regular collections, and sorting for his Duke of Edinburgh volunteering. The aim is to help the Parish keep the collected material out of landfill.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

**Kay Barry**

## ARTS SOCIETY KINGSBRIDGE forthcoming meetings 2023/24

Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> then a break until January 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 2pm for 2.30pm + **Zoom**. 01548 532850 for a link



Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Inspired by Stonehenge**

*Julian Richards*

Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup>

**Dancing Fawn: A Personal Story of a Masterpiece**

*Bertie Pearce*

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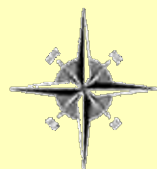
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# Our Garden

## by Sue Dwyer

I am writing during Storm Ciaran. The garden is getting a battering after having had a quiet spell in October, when it was full of colour due to the warm temperatures. I have cut little down as many plants were still in full flower, but after the storm most things will be flattened. However, the garden beds can now be prepared for winter, with the compost spread thickly to protect delicate plants such as dahlias which I leave in the ground.

Speaking about compost, I attended the free Composting day in September organised by the local sustainability group STBB, which was run by Ben Bryant. The afternoon session was extremely good. We have a large composting area, two 2m square adjacent areas made from builders' pallets. All compostable material is gathered over the year in one, with the other being the previous years. Thus, each has two years to mature before use. Then it is dug out in December, the present years collection is layered with other collected material in bags, into the area which has just been cleared. I usually add some Garotta, a compost enhancer, to hasten the process. The huge mound is covered and over a few days gets very hot. This shows the composting is working, and any weeds and seeds etc. are killed. Over the year the pile lowers from over 8ft to 4ft. I have always been hesitant to put perennial weeds onto the compost, but I am reassured from the course that this is fine, providing the temperature gets hot enough. I learnt to add more cardboard, rather than disposing of it in the council recycling collection, to scrunch up newspaper, not to put it in in sheets. So, despite making good compost now, I hope next year the results will be top drawer. Well done to the STBB group for organising the afternoon.

I described my new toy for taking cuttings in the last article. Well, I have had excellent results with many salvias. I have about 24 varieties in the garden, some root easier than others. The cuttings are taking longer to root now, due to less daylight. The process becomes addictive, so when one row has rooted, I cannot wait to take more cuttings to replace them. I have decided the Hydropod will have a break over the winter, so must be firm with myself that the present 40 will be the last. Those I took in early August are about 30cm tall and in flower. My labelling system was a little suspect to start with, so I look daily to see what colour flower opens, I can then correctly name the plant. I can narrow it down now before any flowers appear, as their leaves vary from shiny green to very furrowed, and small to large, slightly furry, pointed or round, and some are very long and thin. The more recent cuttings are not growing as quickly, due to less daylight and falling night temperatures. They will form a good basis for the Plant Sale on June 9<sup>th</sup>, which will be in my garden as part of Open Gardens next year.

Talking about salvias, I have three new ones this year, all of which I saw in full flower at RHS Rosemoor last November. All are late flowering, about 1 metre tall and make a statement in the borders. With my iPhone, I was able to photograph them along with their names. All three come from Mexico and are not fully hardy in this country, so I have taken cuttings to ensure I have them next year. The first is *S Leucantha* and it flowers from October onwards. The alternative name is the Mexican Bush Sage. The plant grows into a bush about 1 m tall with lovely racemes of furry purple flowers, the leaves are distinctive greyish green, long and thin. Another is *S Involucrata* also known as the Rosy- Leaf Sage. The cerise-rose coloured flowers are encased in a pink bract, and are interesting as they come from large terminal buds, which appear in August and flowering continues until November. The flower stem can grow to 1 m in length, the first flowers drop off and more appear adjacent to the bud. The leaves are large, rich green and oval with reddish veins, which are attractive in their own right. There are several varieties of this plant. On a recent Gardeners World, there was a feature from Coleton Fishacre near Dartmouth, and this plant was highlighted. The third plant I have is *Salvia Elegans*, of which one variety is known as Pineapple Sage as it smells of pineapple. It flowers in the autumn, and is often grown as an annual due to its tenderness. This plant has not done so well as the other two. I planted it in a windy part of the garden, the leaf foliage is fine, but the long red raceme flowers are rather spindly. I have cuttings so will re-site this next year. Many other salvias which are shorter, bushy with small flowers have given a blaze of colour in all of the flower beds.



Three years ago, I bought a couple of Ginger lilies, and being tall planted them at the top of the main border. Every year I have had a mass of green foliage but no flowers. This year I have given the plant regular top ups with water when we have had a dry spell, as they like moisture and my garden drains quickly. I was looking out of the window about six weeks ago and was surprised to see a flower. Two days later, there were masses of apricot-coloured flowers with a pleasant perfume. The flowers lasted over a month as more kept coming. I had almost given up with this plant and was going to remove it if it failed to perform in its fourth year. So hopefully it will repeat flowering next year.

Two types of bulbs that have been disappointing, are firstly the magnificent Fox Tail Lily I grew 18 months ago. Greenery came up this year but no flower. I did try growing them 30 years ago and had the same result. So, I live in hope for next year. Galtonia, the summer hyacinth also flowered poorly this year, so I have high hopes for this next year. Again, leaves came but poor flowers. However, I saved the seed last year and have 50+ small bulbs which should flower in 2 years' time. I have seen photographs showing Galtonias which have self-seeded and thrived, so I await to see the result of my efforts. The number of plants from a single one, mimics *Verbena Bonariensis*, which someone described to me as, 'once you have this plant you will never need to buy any again'.

I have a mass of seed heads from various plants to try this year. Last year, I had great results from saved *Eucomis* seeds, and have many small bulbs which may flower in a couple of years. The Himalayan Lily has huge seed pods, which I know will grow but will take 7 years, so I have to be patient. I am also trying seed which I have saved from Kangaroo Paw, (*Anigozanthus*) and Catanache this year. Others I have had success with are previously named *Cobaea*, *Watsonia*, *Dahlia*, and *Cleome*.

I have never seen so many snails as this year! Tiny ones are abundant on the walls of the house. On GQT this Sunday, one of the experts commented about the snail population this year, so it seems to be general. I have had some evening patrols, they seem to become active at night, in both greenhouses, decking, patios and walls. Carrying a torch and large container with a lid, I inspect all pots and shine a torch on and under all surfaces and walls. Any snail or slug is removed and placed into the container. I always bang the container on a firm surface before adding more, as it's amazing how quickly these creatures can move. When I have collected 30-40, I screw the top on, and next day walk down to the coastal footpath and relocate them. I know there are thousands of slugs and snails in the soil, but certainly the number I find in the greenhouse is much reduced.

Every year at this time various fungi appear on the lawn. I have read, that I should try and remove them before they open and disperse their spores. On the composting session, I learnt fungi are excellent for compost so I now add these to the heap.

A problem which has appeared in some dahlias, is *Dahlia Mosaic Virus*. One badly affected plant I only bought as a tuber this year. Once a dahlia has been infected with the virus, it enters the plant's cells and begins multiplying. This makes treating dahlia mosaic infected plants impossible. To prevent spread, it is best to remove dahlias with the virus. Fortunately, Dahlias with the mosaic virus can't directly infect other dahlia plants. The virus is only spread by sap from an infected dahlia to a wound or opening in an uninfected one. The infected plant has pale areas along the leaf veins, and dark green spots on the leaf. Most important, is to sterilise your secateurs when dead heading, and I now do this by taking a jar of surgical spirit with me and dipping the blades into this before touching another plant. Reading about this virus, it states you should only buy certified seeds and tubers which are free of the virus. I must say, I was not aware of this and have never seen this highlighted when buying new stock. So be warned!

Preparations are in progress for Thurlestone Open Gardens 2024, on 9<sup>th</sup> June between 1-5pm. So please contact me 01548 560648 if you are interested in allowing visitors to come and see your garden, whether small or large. Everyone who has participated in previous years has always enjoyed the afternoon. See further details elsewhere in this magazine.

Despite the wind there are plants which I associate with spring in flower now, an azalea and choisya, plus the regulars sasanqua camellias, osteospermums, kaffir lilies, cyclamen and winter flowering violas!

Happy Christmas and look forward to next year.

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## A Fond Farewell to Pat

November 2023 marked the end of an era in Thurlestone as Pat Macdonald moved away from the village to be near her niece who has been a friend and helping hand for many years.

Pat made an enormous contribution to the parish. She was a leading light in many organisations including WI, the Horticultural Show, the Parish Hall, POTS and of course the Village Voice.

When our parish magazine was in danger of folding, she and her husband Robin took over, with Pat editing and Robin compiling. They remained at the helm for 25 years. Today we have a team of 10 fulfilling the same roles! Pat also served as Secretary for POTS during the massive project to produce the "Land of the Five Beaches", which involved mountains of admin and paperwork. She toiled endlessly for the Parish Hall, starting when the old hall was still in use and continuing for many years. She was an ever willing volunteer when something needed doing and must have raised thousands of pounds for the Hall through her pet project the Autumn Fair. In 2020 the Devon Federation Chairman of WI awarded the Rose Bowl to Pat for going "above and beyond" in both the WI and the local community, a huge honour and well deserved recognition of her work. Pat was clearly a doer, very generous with her time but always self deprecating. When asked once whether she would be prepared to tackle the arranging of an event again, her response was "Of course, it's easy, it organises itself". We all know that nothing ever organises itself, but that's Pat for you!

We could fill the entire magazine with our thanks and details of all she has done for the local community and still not do her justice. Suffice to say she will not be forgotten! We all wish her every happiness as she moves to pastures new.



## Open Gardens 2024

Thurlestone Parish Hall Committee are holding the Open Gardens afternoon  
on Sunday 9 June 1pm to 5pm

**Please consider offering your garden if you are proud of your display or feature in  
your garden eg your vegetable plot or water feature.**

We are looking for gardens of all sizes, the smallest in 2022 amazed people on how  
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If you are interested or know of a lovely garden please contact  
Sue Dwyer 01548 560648 for further information

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# Local student wins the Coast & Country Cottages Christmas Card Competition

*We have been sent the following article from Coast & Country Cottages...*

The Salcombe and Dartmouth based holiday letting agency Coast & Country Cottages was delighted to once again run its art competition this year, offering children across the South Hams the chance to design the company's 2023 Christmas card. After receiving masses of fantastic entries, the winner was chosen as Susannah Trumble, age 9, from All Saints' Academy Thurlestone, for her design of a gingerbread cottage.

The children were asked to design something that not only celebrates Christmas, but also acts as a reminder of the region's beauty - a challenge the children in the area rose to wonderfully. After much deliberation by the judge, Susannah was triumphant with her creation, which displayed some impressive artistic skills, winning herself art supplies worth £50 and a bundle of Christmas cards in her own design to share with friends and family. Thurlestone School also received £200 for its art department.



The judge of the competition, landscape artist Lucy Gunning, who lives locally and has a true love of the county, said "It was such an honour to be asked to judge this competition, I was thrilled to be involved. I have really enjoyed admiring all the entries, and it was fun seeing how the children responded to the brief. The originality of the designs was incredible. Well done to everyone that took part, and congratulations to the worthy winner, Susannah."

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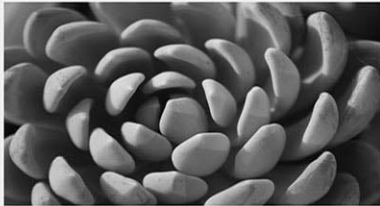




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# Eating Out Locally

## ANDRIA RESTAURANT & CHEF'S TABLE

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Whilst looking for somewhere different for my John's birthday meal out, much to my amazement I found 'Andria' in both the Good Food Guide and Guide Michelin. It has also won the 2023 Best Newcomer Award in the Trencherman's list.

The name of the restaurant intrigued us, assuming it was a female relative of the Italian chef Luca Berardino. In fact, it is a town in southern Italy just north of Bari, where Luca's mother lived and from where he gets his inspiration.

The format for the A La Carte dining is a bit like Tapas. A list of 4 "snacks", effectively amuse bouches, then 11 'small plates' and 3 'sides', from which you can choose as many as you like. But we found 2 snacks and 5 small plates between us was perfect and left room for a dessert.

We are enthusiastic 'sharers' of each other's dishes and this is encouraged. We were advised to order in sequence of top to bottom, as the dishes come in that order when they are ready. Service was knowledgeable, friendly and at just the right pace for us.

The guides describe the cuisine as Modern European, which really doesn't do justice to the breadth of Luca's imagination. We started with 2 'snacks', Bolognese Arancini with grated Parmesan on top and a truffle mayonnaise, beautifully light, 3 mouthful portions. It was a challenge to divide in two, as were the Cheese Gougere, (a sort of profiterole) with pickled walnut on top, which went perfectly with the cheese.

Our 5 'small plates' included Black Onion Gnocchi with leek sauce and crispy roast yeast, Citrus cured Monkfish with pickled cucumber, and Local Ling Cod (unusually), with mushroom sauce and crispy kale pieces. For me this was one of the many highlights, and it was such a surprise how well the mushroom went with the fish.

Although vegans and vegetarians are well catered for, carnivores could choose between a beef and duck dishes. We chose the beef, perfectly cooked through but rare, on a caramelised onion and beef fat crouton.

Perhaps the highlight of the whole amazing experience was the sprout dish, stir-fried with tahini, miso caramel and chili. Such an imaginative and delicious combination, which even wowed John, with his lifelong distaste for sprouts! I was sorry not to have room for the Truffle Fries with parmesan, which sounded wonderful and will be on the list for our next visit.

We only just had room for Sticky Toffee Pudding with Earl Grey tea sauce, and a Citrus sorbet (perhaps a bit too sharp), but it did balance the sweetness of the toffee.

Andria also does breakfast, lunch and a "Chef's Table", in a separate room where you can sit and watch Luca prepare the locally sourced dishes. You will not be surprised to hear this fantastic eating experience doesn't come cheap, but it was worth every penny.

I have tried not to be too 'gushing' with my praise, but it was difficult with such imaginative dishes full of intense and unusual flavours. We are so lucky to have yet another top-class restaurant (perhaps for special occasions) on our doorstep. The challenge will be to find more special occasions, as excuses to go again and again!

**Gill Markham**



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Jesus had a remarkable ability to affirm people who were in self-doubt, to convince to live for others those who had never committed to anything beyond their own well-being and their sense of self-righteousness. The world of the people called by Jesus is full of changes and challenge, never of monotony and sameness.

All Saints' Thurlestone has entered a time of so-called Vacancy – no priest at the Rectory; pastoral work entirely the responsibility of the church community; much of the worship in the hands of Licensed Lay Ministers and Worship Leaders; visiting clergy celebrating Sacraments. That is a change from the last 8½ years. It is the start of changes which can help not the church people particularly but everyone in all our villages to prosper because the Church is changing; to grow in spiritual awareness; and to value talents of all kinds which are put selflessly into our community. This needs prayerful collaboration of all those who value the presence of a gathering of people of faith among us.

I hope two things: first that anyone and everyone who has something to say to All Saints' Church people about change at this opportune time will please get in touch with a Church member and let us know your ideas, your input to helping the Church to change and be enriched by new opportunities for serving the community. Yes, please do get in touch.

Second, that you will all have very peaceful Christmas and a New Year of happiness and fulfilment.

***Every Blessing!***

***Peter Gornall***



## 2024 CALENDAR

featuring photos of the Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham area  
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<https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/2024-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

**DEC. 10TH, JAN. 14TH\* & 28TH\*** **8.30am** Holy Communion (said) (2nd: BCP ; 4th: CW)

**DEC. 3RD, 17TH, JAN. 7TH** **11.10am** Parish Eucharist (CW)

**DEC. 10TH, JAN. 14TH** **11.10am** Morning Worship

For information about Christmas Services, please see separate page

**DECEMBER 31ST** **11.00am** Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Churchstow

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

**JANUARY 21ST** **10.30am** Benefice Covenant Service (Thurlestone\*)

**JANUARY 28TH** **11.10am** Matins (BCP)

## Midweek Services

**EVERY WEDNESDAY\*** **10.00am** Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

**THURSDAY DEC. 7TH, JAN. 4TH** **10.00am** Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

*\* As we are now dependent on visiting clergy, please check for changes on the current month's services on the Church Notice Boards, by using the QR code below or log on to <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church.html>*



**Weekly Sunday Morning Online Worship**

[www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html)

All are welcome to **Activities in the Church Meeting Room**



## Aune Valley Toddlers

for children under 4 years accompanied by parents or carers  
*A chance for parents/carers to chat, while the children socialise*

**THURSDAYS** (except Dec. 14th - Jan. 4th) **9.00 - 11.00 a.m.**

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. 8<sup>TH</sup>, JAN. 12<sup>TH</sup>, FEB. 9<sup>TH</sup>**



## 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. 12<sup>TH</sup> Foster**

**JAN. 16<sup>TH</sup> Cutting Edge**

*Donations to Church Funds Leaflets in Church, shop & MR*



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**PLEASE SCAN**



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# Thurlestone Church Christmas & New Year Services

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 22ND 6.00p.m.**



**CANDLELIT FESTIVAL OF  
NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**  
with Collection for *Children in Distress*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

### **4.30p.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.



**9.00p.m.** (*Note earlier time*)

## **CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION**



## **CHRISTMAS DAY**

### **11.10a.m. FAMILY SERVICE**

followed by shortened **HOLY COMMUNION**



### **NEW YEAR'S EVE 6.00p.m.**

**INFORMAL SERVICE  
TO START THE NEW YEAR**

# Thurlestone Golf Club

Firstly, the Club would like to wish all the readers of the Village Voice a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.



A short summary of golf club news:

Beach Conservation Area, Leasfoot – Recent storms have unfortunately taken some of the chestnut paling fencing away. However, it our policy to try and reduce the erosion by human activity using the beach. Therefore, this fencing will be replaced in the early spring, once the winter storms have passed.

Public Car Park – After 5 years of unchanged car park charges, readers will welcome that we have slightly reduced our winter tariff, but as you might expect, we have increased our summer tariff and the new charges are listed below:-

## Winter Tariff 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March

£1.00 up to one hour  
£2.00 for up to three hours  
£5.00 all day

## Summer Tariff 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October

£1.00 up to one hour  
£5.00 for up to three hours  
£8.00 all day

As before you will be able to pay by cash, card or via the Phone & Pay app.

Collapsed Dry Stone Wall – We apologise for the time it will have taken for us to repair the collapsed dry-stone wall by tennis court no 7. We have now confirmation of its repair by a local contractor in the New Year. The work will start in mid-February, and take about two weeks to complete. It is proposed to rebuild the dry-stone wall, so that it remains in keeping with the rest of the wall. We do not believe we will have to close the road, but “men at work” signs will be prominent during this time.

**Simon Bawden**

## 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:

	<u>SHOP</u>	<u>POST OFFICE</u>
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	8.00 - 4.00	9.30 - 12.30
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8.30 - 12.00	CLOSED
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 - 2.00	9.00 - 1.00
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 - 5.00	9.00 - 4.00
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 - 5.00	9.00 - 4.00
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 - 4.00	9.30 - 12.30
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	8.30 - 12.00	CLOSED
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	9.00 - 12.00	CLOSED

(Normal opening hours resume on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January)

Our Christmas Draw will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**



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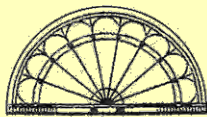
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# Parish Hall News

by Alison Daily



We recently received sad news regarding two former members of the committee. **Gillian**

**Marshall** passed away last month and we send our condolences to Kit and all her family. **Pat Macdonald** left the parish to be closer to family in Kent and we wish her happiness in her new home. The community owe both of these remarkable ladies a huge debt of gratitude for the many years of work they dedicated to the Parish Hall. They will both be greatly missed.

Since the last edition two further **Pub Nights** have taken place, one in September and the other November and are proving to be popular. If you've never attended one of these evenings, why don't you join us at the next one in March? You can let us know if there are any improvements needed to make them even more enjoyable.

On **October 20th** we welcomed the **Divertimento** quartet who performed pieces by Benjamin Brittan and Edward Elgar amongst others. It was a successful evening with an appreciative audience of 42 people who thoroughly enjoyed the calibre of music given by the quartet.

The upcoming event on **13th January** is a repeat showing of the award-winning **Land of the Five Beaches** which some of you missed previously. In addition, **Village People** will also be shown, this was filmed during the 1960s when the expansion of the villages was gaining pace. There will be a bar for your pre-film and interval drinks. Please join us for an evening of fascinating local history. Incidentally, whilst researching for another article I came across an amusing little anecdote regarding the **Five Beaches film** – many copies were sent abroad including Hong Kong where some were impounded by customs officers because they needed to check them carefully for any pornographic scenes! However, after viewing up to the smuggling sequence, they let the videos through. It did make me chuckle.

As mentioned previously, the Hall has been endeavouring to reduce its carbon footprint by moving away from fossil fuels and introducing cleaner energy. The final stage has been completed by the installation of **infra-red heating** to the remainder of the building after the success of using it in the main hall. It won't be fully operational until the remaining oil is used up. Many thanks to **Paul, Mike** and especially **Chris** for all the groundwork put in to complete this major project.

The committee have been busy drawing up a range of events for 2024, some dates are confirmed while others have yet to be finalised. The following list will give you a taster of what is in store for you. Hopefully, there is something for everyone but if there is anything not mentioned then please let us know.

**13th January – Film Night and the Five Beaches and Village People**

**8th February – Rotary Quiz (non-Parish Hall Event)**

**16th March – Pub Night**

**April – Disco**

**9th June – Open Gardens**

**6th July – Beer (and other beverages) and Boules.**

**14th July – Live streaming of the Men's Wimbledon final**

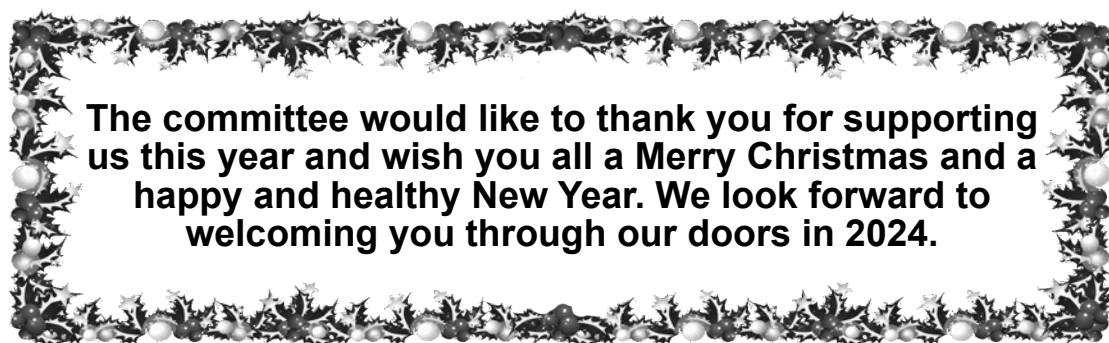
**August – Family Fun**





**14th September – Live streaming of the Last Night of the Proms**

**12th October – Welcome to the hall for tea and cake**

**October – Live band**

**16th November – Murder Mystery by the Candlelight Theatre Company**








Phone Box Committee presents!


# CAROLS ON THE GREEN


**Monday 11th December @ 4:30pm**

**Thurlestone War Memorial on Village Green**

**With DJ Shep from BBC Radio Devon**





 Father Christmas down the Phone Box Chimney

 Razor Sharp & School Choir to lead singing

 Thanks to sponsors, Toad Hall, Village Inn and Tesco

 If bad weather we will move to the Church Hall

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 Prize for the best Christmas Hat

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## Jack's Journey – Part 3

Continuing our talk about Jack's training, mum mentioned how the training has changed him. Even in a year, you could see his posture has changed, his strides, and his overall fitness and ability.

He hurt his back last year, from lifting weights, so he had to have a few months off. He had hyperextended his back. An injury that can happen to anyone, of course, but a setback for someone for whom fitness has become so important.

Mum told me how Karen Dory at Quayside, who teaches the elite swimmers at 'Kingfishers', was a huge help to Jack. As swimming is Jack's weakest area in the triathlon, Karen has been helping him with his swimming techniques. This has helped him to improve immensely.

Mum had to leave at this point, so it was just myself and Jack. It was clear as Jack started to speak, that he felt he could speak more candidly once his mum had gone. You can feel that he wants to protect her.

Jack spoke of the hemiplegia, (which affected the right side of his body from the neck down). Also hearing the words, 'you might not be able to move again', and as mentioned before, his reaction was **Yes, I will!** Then hearing that the tumour might only be a glioma, and not really being told anything else. It felt a very uncertain time, as Jack and his family didn't really know what was going on.

The physio's who helped Jack were brilliant. It took time for him to regain movement, as he was actually having to remap the pathways in his brain. The pathways were damaged during the operation. If you are a bit queasy, like I am, you may find the next part hard reading. For the operation they had to shave his head, and then cut open his skull, to see what was happening in there. The surgeon did what he had to do, and closed it all up again. Jack then had an MRI scan, to check all was well. Sadly, there was a bleed on his brain, and it was too big to leave. He then had to go into surgery again. When he came out, he was put in ICU. After he woke up, there were two things he noticed, one was that he felt 'away with the fairies' due to all the drugs he was on, and the other was that he couldn't move! He wanted to sleep, but needed to be woken up every hour for observations. It is hard to imagine how that must feel, to be in that situation, especially when the hard work was about to begin.

Jack's motor neurone connection had reset itself to zero. He was in the same position as a baby. He needed to re-learn everything, how to eat, how to move, how to walk. He had to force his muscles to move. This took determination, and an unwillingness to accept that he wouldn't walk again. He spent 2 or 3 days on the parallel bars trying to walk, he could then only walk with support. His "proprioceptors were shot". Proprioceptors are sensory receptors located in the subcutaneous tissues, (these tissues are the deepest layers of your skin). These receptors are capable of detecting movement and positioning the body, through a stimulus that is produced within the body. They relay information to the brain, to let it know when a body part is moving, or to let the brain know it's position relative to the rest of the body. The fact that Jack's were ruined, meant that he didn't know his bodies position. Trying to walk when you don't know where your legs are, or in fact any movement, is not something we would normally think about. We take it for granted, that when we want to move, we will and be capable of doing so. Even the clumsiest of us can still move around relatively unharmed because our receptors are doing their job. For Jack, he was experiencing something he had never encountered before, and something not many of us could comprehend. Whilst he was making progress with his walking, it took a week for him to be able to move his arm. He kept saying to himself "I am going to move it", but there wouldn't be any movement. The opinion was he wouldn't be able to move it, but "Yes I can!" was his opinion. He then moved his elbow, and he thought "that's a start". He gives credit to his stubborn and contrary personality traits! He was determined to not give up, and he had great support from the physio's and nurses helping him. Unfortunately, this community is under-funded and there is just "not enough money". This is a huge shame, as the work they do makes such a huge difference to people's lives. It can mean the difference from beating the odds and giving up.

Jack went on to talk about his tumour. He had the surgery in July 2019, and left hospital in September 2019. It was November 2019, when he was called into hospital for the results of the surgery. When they were first told about the cancer, they didn't really understand what it meant. The words being used, were not ones they had heard before. The consultant asked if he wanted to know more, but his answer was No! At this point his mum was in bits, and his first thought was to protect her "I'll sort it out myself", is what he was thinking.

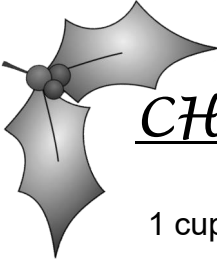
Jack had radiotherapy from December 2019 to January 2020, and then chemotherapy from February 2020 to August 2020. It was during this time that he looked up the statistics. For a start, he was the only person of his age in the UK to be diagnosed with that type of cancer that year. The next part he read was not very pleasant and that is the survival statistics:

Most people live for only 12 – 18 months, less than 5% live 3 – 5 years, less than 1% live over 10 years. Jack had surgery 4 years ago.....

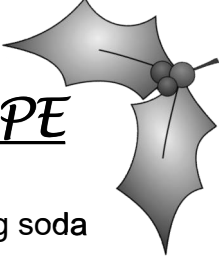
If you would like to donate, please visit [www.gofundme.com/f/help-jack-compete-at-the-paralympics](http://www.gofundme.com/f/help-jack-compete-at-the-paralympics). Here you can read more about the beginning of his journey, in his own words. You can also check out Jack's Instagram page [www.instagram.com/jackrehab/](http://www.instagram.com/jackrehab/)

Thank you once again, to all those who have already donated. Your kindness and generosity are much appreciated by Jack and his family.


**Natasha Baldwin**



## CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE RECIPE



1 cup water	1 cup sugar	1 tsp baking soda
2 cups dried fruit	4 large eggs	juice of a lemon
1 cup brown sugar	1 tsp salt	Bottle of whisky
1 cup butter	8oz nuts	



Method:-

Sample the whisky to check the quality. Take a large bowl. Check the whisky again!! To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink!! Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one tsp sugar and beat again. Make sure that the whisky is still okay. Cry another tup! Turn off the mixer.

Break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the dried fruit. Mix on the turner.

If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loose with a drewscraver.

Sample the whisky to check for tonsisticity. Next sift two cups of salt, or something, Who cares??

Check the whisky. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts! Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees.

Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out the window, check the whisky again and go to bed.

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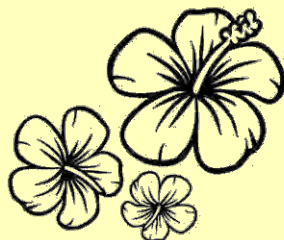
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# Thurlestone Bay Birds

## October - November

Since my last report, the sometimes-fine autumn weather has progressed into a period of strong winds and lots of rain, coupled with the reduction in daylight hours, making the prospect of another winter daunting!

Part of the drainage system at South Huish Marsh required some intensive work with a JCB Digger to ensure the water can continue to flow out through the new drainage pipe system. This was completed before the middle of October, and further extensive work to support the banks of the two main pools will have to be completed in the middle of next year.

Waders that have visited during the last 2 months included an exceptional count of 19 *RUFF* on the evening of 27th September - we would normally expect just singles of the species, which nests in the far north of Scandinavia and Russia, and winters in South Europe and North Africa. This is the largest flock recorded in Devon for at least 10 years.

Other Waders recorded were - *GREEN SANDPIPER*, *COMMON SANDPIPER*, *DUNLIN*, *CURLEW SANDPIPER*, *RINGED PLOVER*, *BLACK TAILED GODWIT*, *SNIFE*, *LAPWING* and *BAR TAILED GODWIT*.



**A Ruff**

On the nearby rocks, additional wader species recorded have been *CURLEW* (a flock of 15 flew northwest on 15th October), *WHIMBREL*, *KNOT*, *TURNSTONE* (up to 20) and *OYSTERCATCHERS*, the highest total was 18, on 7th November. There are usually a few *LITTLE EGRET* resident on the Marsh - this autumn there were also records of a *CATTLE EGRET* on 18th September, and a *GREAT WHITE EGRET* (larger than the resident *GREY HERONS*) briefly in early October.

During periods of strong winds and gales unusual birds can get blown briefly into the shelter of the Bay. On 27th September, a *GREY PHALAROPE* was observed, battling with the waves flying south eastwards - this would normally spend the winter out in the Atlantic Ocean. A *SHORT-EARED OWL* was seen flying in off the sea over Bolt Tail on 15th October. This coincided with a small influx of migrants in East Devon and Cornwall. The last of the *BALEARIC SHEARWATER* were recorded on the same date flying south east.

Watching for the arrival of Duck species, which winter on the Marsh, can also produce some more interesting passage migrants. On 27th September both a male *TUFTED DUCK* and a female *GARGANEY* were recorded - both are scarce visitors particularly in autumn.

On 6th November I spent a very interesting 2 hours from 07.50am on my balcony. At this time of the year there are usually large numbers of *WOOD PIGEON* moving south. Unfortunately, this year they bypassed Thurlestone, and large numbers were observed in East Devon. However, there were plenty of birds migrating. I managed to log 32 different species which included *BULLFINCH*, *GOLDFINCH*, *CHAFFINCH*, *PIED WAGTAIL*, *BLACKBIRD*, *SONG THRUSH*, *MISTLE THRUSH*, *REDWING* (a winter visitor to Devon from Scandinavia), *COAL TIT*, *LONG-TAILED TIT*, *SNIFE*, *SKYLARK*, and I heard the 'squealing pig' call of a *WATER RAIL*. A couple of days before a *BLACK REDSTART* was briefly in my garden, and being continuously chased off by one of our resident *ROBINS*.

Finally, the last of our summer visitors are making their return to North Africa and beyond – *SWALLOWS*, which we eagerly wait to arrive, heralding the early days of Spring. This year there have been 3 late November records - at South Huish Marsh, singles on 1st and 7th, with 2 on the 12th, hopefully they will survive their long migration and return to breed in 2024.

**Mike Passman**  
thurlestonebaybirds

# Thurlestone Moths

## Mid-September - Mid-November

I continue to be amazed by the number of moths in my garden and the new species recorded. During this two-month period just over 1,300 moths were recorded with four new species for the garden. A further 17 added to the total for 2023, which has now reached a new record of 399 species. You may hear my shouts of delight when the 400th is seen.

Moth trapping is very weather dependent, they dislike wind and cold nights, but don't seem too bothered by light rain. In recent weeks, we have certainly seen plenty of heavy rain and an increase in gale force winds.

Some of the highlights for the last 2 months: -

17th September - photographed 2 *RED UNDERWING*, a relatively scarce moth in Devon with only 17 records last year. A similar moth was with them, and after checking my identification, it was confirmed by the Devon Moth Recorder that it was indeed a very scarce migrant from Southern France - a *ROSY UNDERWING*. There have been less than 20 recordings in England, and only 3 previous records in Devon, all in September 2021. A fantastic fourth record for Devon.

On 11th October a moth flew into my garden chalet and landed on one of my identification books - a *BRINDLED OCHRE*, last year there were only 4 Devon records, 2 of these were from my Thurlestone garden. It is a moth which inhabits coastal cliffs, and a second one was photographed on 13th October, which I was able to confirm was a different one to the first.

On 20th October, I had my first *COSMOPOLITAN*, another moth from Europe, again it is scarce with only 8 recorded in South Devon last year.

The final addition to the garden list was a *SATELLITE*, recorded on 22nd October, there were only 29 records in South Devon last year.

Other interesting additions to this year's list were: -

17th September, a *BLOXWORTH SNOUT*, a scarce resident in the coastal habitats of South Devon, with 18 records last year. This year, two more sightings have been added. *WHITE SPECK*, another migrant from France, with 25 records last year and yet 8 have been recorded within the last 7 weeks. *WHITE POINT*, another migrant now regularly recorded in South Devon. *AUTUMNAL RUSTIC*, a moth which is found on shingle beaches in the Autumn months, not surprising to find its way into my garden.

An Autumnal migrant from Europe is *VESTAL*, having seen them whilst on holiday in Majorca in early October, I returned home to find 3 in my garden on 7th October. Several more recordings during the month, with an unusual version on 17th which was all pink. Another Autumn visitor from Europe is *GEM*, although only 13 records in South Devon last year, I have recorded 10 this year with a surprising 4 in one night on 19th October.

One of the moths I always look forward to recording is a *MERVILLE DU JOUR*, not scarce at all, but resident amongst oak trees. We don't have many oaks around Thurlestone, so one seen on 19th October was very welcome, I have only recorded my previous one in 2020. *CONVOLVULUS HAWK* moth is definitely one of my favourite migrants, with only 55 records in South Devon last year. I have managed to record 10 this year, latest were 2 on 20th September, and one on my latest ever date of 18th October.



It will very soon be time to put the traps away until early Spring of 2024 with the expectations of what the new year will bring.

**A Merville du Jour Moth**

Lots of photographs of the Moths on my website [thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk](http://thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk), well worth a look.

**Mike Passman**



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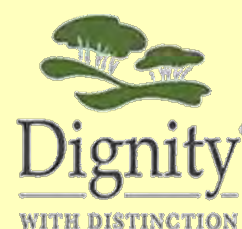
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# TRAMP Reports

## September/October



### **The Italian Garden, Great Ambrook, 14th Sept, Jill Miller**

A different Tramp experience on this lovely warm September day. Sixteen of us made our way to the Italian Secret Garden at Great Ambrook, for a tour of this estate. The estate is just beyond Totnes /Ipplepen in a very secluded location.

The garden was originally completed in 1912. The secluded location was chosen by Arthur Graham Smith to provide a private location for himself and friends to socialise and relax together, without restraint – which would otherwise not be possible due to his homosexuality. The garden became neglected around 1960 and gradually became overgrown. However, since 2014, it has been undergoing restoration by the present owners, volunteers and the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

Our guide, David, was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic, and provided us with a fascinating history of the garden and the work taking place in uncovering it, the plants, trees and the architecture. This is very much a work in progress and each month another aspect is revealed. It will be interesting to have another visit in the future to see the progress that has been made. There are also luxurious rooms in a walled orchard where you can stay and get immersed in the fabulous atmosphere. The best way to find out more about the garden is to look on their website [www.theitaliangarden.org](http://www.theitaliangarden.org)

### **Noss Mayo & part of Lady Baring's Carriageway, 20th Sept, Eric & Liz Candy**

The seven walkers & one dog who gathered in the Noss Mayo Tennis Court Car Park set off in the rain to go on a revised more sheltered but still beautiful walk. It had been agreed, that we would walk up Lady Baring's Carriageway, a nine-mile drive that was built by the banker Charles Baring, the First Lord Revelstoke, so that visitors to the estate could admire the beautiful coastal & river views from their carriages. The coastal ridge to Gara Point provided us good shelter from the wind & the woods good shelter from the rain. When we reached the more sheltered Mouthstone Point the buffeting from the wind produced an instant decision that we would turn round. We walked back down Lady Baring's Carriageway passing through

Brakehill Plantation, and past the Coastguard Cottages. Inside Passage Wood, alongside the Yealm River we managed to have our coffee break sheltering from the rain. Leaving Passage Wood, we then entered Ferry Wood walking alongside Newton Creek, & then turned right up alongside Noss Mayo Creek to the Ship Inn.

### **Avon Mill, 27th Sept, Harry Forrester**

A recce a week before the off, revealed that contrary to what was shown on the O S map, the foot path from Hatch to Hatch Bridge was a no go. The bridge having vanished sometime in 2012 according to local knowledge. Accordingly, the 5.7 miles promised was reduced to 5.3 miles on the day, and despite the dire warnings of the imminent arrival of Storm Agnes, six intrepid souls gathered at Avon Mill for the walk, which happily proceeded without recourse to wet weather gear! A brisk stride along the road for half a mile led us onto a footpath, through fields beside the river Avon, followed by a modest/grind of a climb (depending on which walker was speaking). This took us into Loddiswell, where we explored/discovered parts of the village not usually seen. We then paused at Lod's Well for a well-earned rest with coffee & cake. On from there, back down into the valley for a nut picking forage, again alongside the right bank of the river Avon to the railway bridge, enabling us to return to Avon Mill alongside the left bank and a welcome finish with lunch in the Mill Cafe.

### **Lannacombe circular, 5th Oct, Linda Chilcott**

Perfect walking weather, we met as usual at Court Park to car share. Six of us plus 2 dogs set off from Lannacombe Green, heading out of this steep valley passing Hollacombe House, down a steep hill to Hallsands. Here we stopped at Prospect House, previously "The Trout Hotel". The viewing platform, which was built by the local district council at a cost of £20,000, overlooking the now ruined fishing village, is blocked off due to erosion. It's hard to believe that there were 35



cottages, a pub, famous for its white ale, and a community room, nestled against the cliffs. In 1897, it was decided to dredge for shingle and sand from the sea bed in front of the village, to use as aggregate for building of the naval base at Devonport, much to the objections of the villagers. After 4 years and 650,000 tons later, dredging was stopped. Over the next few years, storm damage started to appear on the cottages, and by 1917, a great storm ruined many of the cottages making them uninhabitable. A book called "Sisters Against the Sea", a true story based on the Trout family who lived in the village is a fascinating read. We rested in the beautifully kept garden of Prospect House enjoying a coffee, chatter and fabulous views. Then onto Start Point car park. As we walked, the views were just amazing, the sun shimmering on the water, and a dolphin was spotted. Views of the ruined fishing village can be seen from here, Beesands, and Slapton Sands seen clearly in the distance. One of the reasons Start Point Light House was built was due to a Sand Bank running for 3 miles out to sea, called "The Skerries", causing many ship wrecks in the past. In 1837, the light shone for the first time. The path was eroded, so a short steep climb was necessary. From here it was a reasonably gentle walk arriving at Lannacombe Beach. In warm sunshine, we ate our lunch, watching people swimming in the surf. Reluctant to leave, we walked back to Lannacombe Green.

### **Cremyll Ferry & Mount Edgcumbe, 11th Oct, Eric & Liz Candy**

With a forecast of rain, nine people plus one dog set off on this interesting walk with lovely views. The walk is circa four miles & takes around three hours. We walked through the entrance to the attractive historic gardens. Walking past the Orangery Café, we headed along the sea front, past the columned Thompson's Seat, after which we started the long rise up through the woods, 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. Between Redding Point & Picklecombe Point, we reached the lookout platform (The Red Seat) with its magnificent views of the breakwater & Plymouth Sound. Members took this opportunity for the first short refreshment break. Continuing, we approached Fort Picklecombe, the path turned north around the side of the valley behind the fort. We then took a short cut to join a path going north along the east side of

Hooe Lake Valley. At the head of the valley, during the steepish ascent 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 Edgcumbes. 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. If wet, this descent can be slippery, 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 past the old windmill, along the quaint quay at Empacombe, followed by the Obelisk & boatyard. Before returning to Cremyll, we stayed on for an excellent lunch at the Orangery Cafe.

### **Dartmouth Daymark, Froward Point and Coleton Fishacre, 19th Oct, Tony Burn**

The journey to the start of the walk involved boarding the lower ferry from Dartmouth to Kingswear, where a strong tide meant the crossing was a bit of a roller-coaster ride. However, we made it to Kingswear unscathed. A group of 10 set out from the Brownstone Lane National Trust car park, and headed off to the Dartmouth Daymark, with its incredible views across the Dart estuary and Start Bay. The Daymark, a Grade II listed tower, was built in 1864 as a navigational aid. While many of us had seen it from the sea, only one of our group had been up close, and we were all impressed by its size, measuring over 20 meters high. From the Daymark, we set off towards Brownstone Battery, built in 1942 and used as a defence against the German Navy. Hidden amongst the trees, there is an extensive collection of wartime buildings, built to protect the Dart estuary and nearby Slapton beach and Blackpool Sands. After a brief visit to the National Coastwatch Institution centre, within one of the wartime buildings, we headed off down the steep and slippery hill, to view the rest of the gun emplacements and searchlight buildings, before rejoining the coast path. Then on to NT Coleton Fishacre. We entered from the coast path, and walked up through the gardens, which still had an impressive display of flowers despite being mid-October. We all enjoyed lunch in the NT café before heading off uphill and back to the cars.

# SCHOOL REPORT

## Preparing For A Beautiful Spring



Often at this time of the year, the school calendar is bursting with festive activities focused on the 'Most Magical Time of the Year'! Whilst this is still the case, and tinsel time is just around the corner, we are also looking forward to the new year, and planning for springtime by teaming up with Mike Hodges to assist with the Devon Living Churchyards project.

Following the successful survey and wild daffodil planting before half term, small teams of our children will be assisting Mike by bulb planting, making bug houses, and preparing seed beds for wild flower sowing in the spring.

Hopefully, all of their hard work will encourage new wildlife over the coming months, and they can capture their impact with another survey next year. It's a wonderful opportunity for our children to make a difference to the local community and give something back.

In more seasonal news, the school Christmas Fair will be held in the Parish Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Opening with our school choir at 1.30pm, there will be raffle tickets on sale for some fabulous hampers, and other prizes, so please do join us for some festive cheer.

We will also be holding a wreath-making evening on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 6.30pm. The cost is £40 including drinks and nibbles, and all are welcome. If you would like to join us, please see the poster outside school or call Victoria Rendle on 07734446659.

All funds raised by these events will be put towards building an outdoor classroom.

The school fair is not your only opportunity to see our choir in action though – they have been invited to perform at the Thurlestone Hotel Christmas Event on 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 5pm. And we will all be in fine voice, supporting our choir for the Carols on the Green on 11<sup>th</sup> December from 4.30pm.

And finally, for the attention of dog owners ...

It has been brought to my attention that a dog has taken to using the pavement outside school to do its business. Please could we politely request that dog walkers pick up any mess, especially in the vicinity of the school, as the youngest children often don't spot it and the results are very unpleasant!

**Emma Richards**

TRAMP JAN/FEB 2024 PLANNING CALENDAR				
Date	Day	Leader	Miles	Planned route
Jan 10th	Wed	Tricia Wilson	3 to 4	Salcombe Circular
Feb 6th	Tues	Gill & Alastair Durden	4.5	Ugborough Beacon
Feb 14th	Wed	Peter & Wendy Gornall	4	Staverton's snowdrops
Feb 23rd	Fri	Sian & Mike Hodges	4.5	Cornworthy/Tuckenhay

# Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk)

## 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. Two letters are already in place to get you started.

Answer to last puzzle.

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

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

[illegible]

## Sudoku - hard

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

### *Sudoku - medium*

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

*There were 7 all correct entries last month. First out of the hat and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Pauline Lonsdale. Commiserations to John Anderson, Dave Gibby, David and Mary Horne, Neill Irwin, Susan Penwell and Lindy Price.*



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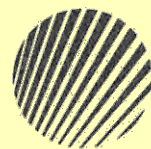
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# Weather Wag by Jan Turner

Today, 17<sup>th</sup> November, the weather is beginning to feel decidedly wintery, it is dull, wind is North West, showers possible and it is feeling cold. Perhaps that is just me because the temperature today is 10.8C at 9am, rounding off three days of double figure highs e.g. 15.8C on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

The trees are holding on to their leaves and the grass is still growing apace. Until night-time temperatures fall to 6C we are not into winter conditions. October is usually a month of contrasts, but this year until the end of the month it was very dry. Up until 11<sup>th</sup> there was only 4.5mm, then on the 12<sup>th</sup> there was 25mm, and during the rest of the month the total amounted to 121mm. In November, so far we have had 127mm. It looks as though it will be a damp Autumn overall.

I value my variety of Barometers, I have one which is a Barograph. This is a wonderful instrument which gives a continuous reading, set out on a graph, of the trend at any given time. Barometric pressure is the key to weather conditions, present and into the near future. The BP decreases with altitude so if you are using one, remember to set it according to the height above sea-level - this is invaluable as a guide to an aircraft and the height it is attaining. Falling BP = approaching unsettled weather; rising BP = a period of settled weather, fine and calm, warm in summer, cool in winter. Just what the doctor ordered so to speak. It will be ever thus I am told in my books.

As to the future, I know I shall not be popular among you, but I do like a snowy spell, not too much, just enough to enjoy the quietness that comes with it (after the blizzard)! Footsteps become a crunchy sound and the dog makes lots of snuffly noises as she noses along trying to find out what is underneath.

On that note, wrap up your precious plants or clothe them in a protective layer of frost proofing material. Sort out your plant pots, a good scrub and dry off, keep the weeds down and take the moss off the drive.

Happy winter weeks and Christmas Festival.

## Wind Speed and Direction return to Thurlestone's Weather – Live!

Some of you may have noticed that back in May the Thurlestone Weather station data on the Parish Website started behaving rather strangely reporting wind speeds in excess of 150mph!. Initially this was thought to be a problem with the cabling to the wind speed and direction sensor atop one of the chimneys in Mead Lane. New connections were made and things seemed to return to normal, but the fault soon re-occurred. As further spares were no longer available for this particular weather station the decision was made to replace the station, and to ensure replacement wind sensors would be available for years to come.

Interestingly, Thurlestone is not alone in having problems with Weather Station wind sensors in the South West. The wind sensor on the far more expensive weather station at NCI Prawle Point National Coastwatch fails several times a year, due to the high winds and salty air!

We are now pleased to announce that the new Weather Station, new Rasberry Pi computer, and latest release of display and plotting software are now up and running - go to the [Thurlestone's Weather - Live!](#) page on the Parish website and have a look.

The new station was in place just in time to record the "Weather Bomb" from storm Ciaran when the centre of the low pressure passed over the South Hams and the atmospheric pressure dropped from 993mbar to 954mbar at 3am on the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The definition of a "Weather Bomb" is when the atmospheric pressure drops 24mbar in 24hrs. We saw a 29mbar drop in just 15hrs! While we only recorded a max wind speed of 55mph, as Thurlestone is somewhat sheltered from the North West wind, NCI Prawle recorded 84mph at 7:57am on that morning.

**Mike Hodges**

# DIARY DATES

## December

Friday	1	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop with Caro Mellor - Thurlestone Parish Hall 6pm to 10pm
Saturdays	2	Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas 10am - 4.30pm
	2 and 9	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop with Caro Mellor - Thurlestone Parish Hall 2pm to 6pm
	2	Salcombe Lifeboat Big Band Night 7pm Malborough Village Hall Tickets £15
Monday	4 - 23	Kingsbridge Christmas Craft Market in Market Hall 10am - 4.30pm. Closed Sundays
	4	Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Thursday	7 - 9	The Salcombe Players present "Mother Goose" at Cliff House 7.30pm. Pantomime by Ben Crocker
Friday	8	All Saints Primary School, Thurlestone. Annual Christmas Fair opens at 1.30pm with the school choir - in Thurlestone Parish Hall
Monday	11	Thurlestone Community Carols on the Green by the War Memorial 4.30pm
Wednesday	13	Alvington Singers Christmas Concert - St Edmunds Church, Kingsbridge 7.30pm Tickets £12.50
Thursday	14	TRAMP - Christmas Walk and Lunch - booking essential
Friday	15	Carols on the Quay with Dulcie Dixon and the Kingsbridge Silver Band 6pm by The Christmas Tree in Kingsbridge
	15	School Term ends
Saturday	16	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am to 1pm
	16	MAD Group Christmas Table-top Sale - Arts and Crafts, Bric-a-Brac and pre-loved items £10 per table 10am to 1pm Malborough Village Hall
	16	Stanborough Chorus Christmas Concert - West Charleton Village Hall - 4.30pm
Saturday	23	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am to 1pm
Sunday	24	Stanborough Chorus celebrates Christmas: Carols for All at St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge 4pm to 5pm. Collection for Coastwatch
Monday	25	Christmas Day
Tuesday	26	Boxing Day
Wed	27 - 29	Kingsbridge Christmas Craft Market in Market Hall 10am - 4.30pm.

## January 2024

Monday	1	New Year's Day
Tuesday	2	Devon Schools restart
Saturday	6	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am to 1pm
Monday	8	Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Saturday	13	Film Night - Thurlestone Parish Hall - "Land of the Five Beaches and Village People" 7.30pm
Saturday	20	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am to 1pm
Wednesday	24	Kingsbridge Arts Society, Methodist Hall, Kingsbridge 2pm for 2.30pm (and on Zoom - 01548 532850 for a link) - Dancing Fawn - "A Personal Story of a Masterpiece" with Betie Pearce
Wed	24 - 27	MAD Kids Group presents "Robinson Crusoe & The Pirates" at Malborough Village Hall 7.30pm (Saturday matinee 2pm)
Saturday	27	Burns Night Supper event organised by the Friends of Thurlestone School

## February

Friday	2	Kingsbridge Estuary U3A monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am until noon - "Listening to the Enemy - War comes to a Cornish Village" with Mike Griffiths
Saturday	3	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am to 1pm
	3	Kingsbridge Choral Workshop 10am - 6.30pm Kingsbridge Community College - Handel's "Messiah" From Scratch
Thursday	8	The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night in Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm

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

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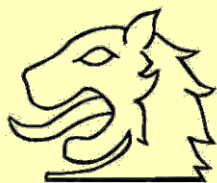
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# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

## **CLUBS & GROUPS**

<b>ALVINGTON SINGERS</b> (Wednesday 7pm - 9pm)	Liz Coates	714849
<b>ART CLASS</b> (Tuesday 11am - 1pm)	Marianne Smith	531413
<b>AVON RIVER CHAMPIONS</b>	Chairman Louise Wainwright	810991
<b>BADMINTON CLUB</b> (Friday 4pm - 5pm)	Sian Hodges	07784 893405
<b>BANTHAM SAILING CLUB</b>	Secretary Nikki Smith	560275
<b>BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB</b>	Clubhouse	560447
<b>BRIDGE CLUB</b> (Wednesday 6.15pm)	Lisa White	560505
<b>BUCKLAND PHONE BOX</b>	Anna Martin	560796
<b>CRAFTY MONDAYS</b> (Monday 10.00am - 12.30pm)	Sally Martin	561356
<b>FITNESS YOGA with SUZI</b> (Monday 5pm - 6pm)	Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
<b>FRENCH CONVERSATION</b> (Thursday 1.30-3.30pm)	Angela Luckhurst	521595
<b>FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH</b>	Martin Beck	
<b>HEALTHY MOVEMENT</b> (Monday 2.15pm - 3.15pm)	Saffron Craig	07840 788511
<b>LINE DANCING</b> (Wednesday 2pm - 3pm)	Sue Bain	07989 817898
<b>PILATES with LARA</b> (Thursday 2pm - 3pm)	Lara Christopher	07765 423906
<b>POWER HOUR with SUZI</b> (Tuesday 2pm - 3pm)	Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
<b>SEA BEYOND PILATES</b> (Wednesday 9.30am-10.30am)	Sharron05@btinternet.com	
<b>SMASH HIIT with SUZI</b> (Thursday 6pm - 7pm)	Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
<b>TABLE TENNIS</b> (Thursday 7.30pm - 9pm)	Paul Ferguson	07866 802800
<b>THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB</b>	Office & General Enquiries	560405
<b>TENNIS SECTION</b> (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop	560715
<b>THURLESTONE PHONE BOX</b>	Mary Horne	561853
<b>THURLESTONE SINGING GROUP</b>	Alastair Durden	560509
<b>TRAMP</b> (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Linda Scott	560298
<b>YOGA with Sarah</b> (Tuesday and Thursday 9.15am)	Sarah Scott	07879 627939

## **HEALTH CENTRES**

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

## **POLICE**

Emergency 999      Non-emergency 101

**RUBBISH COLLECTION** - Mondays - Please note the new day. Special collection dates over Christmas and New Year period - check SHDC recycling website

Recycling Boxes 1 and 2, Reusable White Sack, and Food Waste Caddy - EVERY WEEK

Black/Grey Bin (non-recyclable landfill) alternate Mondays from 11th December

Brown Bin (garden waste) alternate Wednesdays (no change in day) from 8th December

(Note - No Brown Bin collection Sun 17th December to Mon 15th January)

**RECYCLING CENTRE** - Torr Quarry Site, Totnes Road, Kingsbridge TQ9 7QQ T:0345 155 1010

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 269190, 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 Wednesdays 13<sup>th</sup> December and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - 10.30am to 11.00am. This service is to be discontinued.

## **TRAVEL & TRANSPORT**

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

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

For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233 7am - 8pm)

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 and Bank Holidays

Chairman	Rosa Lewis	07463 856156
Parish Clerk	Helen Leather	thurlestoneparish@gmail.com
Members	Nigel Hadaway	07885 518333
	Mike Hodges	561124
	Eric Palmer	0796619202
	Adam Ryan-Carter	562708
	David Smyth	07768300358
	Gillian Stone	07967 666719
District Councillors	Samantha Dennis	07720 863626
	Mark Long	843828
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659

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

Telephone (payphone in foyer) 562189

Chairman: Malcolm Breton

Bookings: Ingrid French email: via Parish Website or directly on [tphbookings@gmail.com](mailto:tphbookings@gmail.com)  
or telephone 07586 560358 Mon to Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm

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

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH** See All Saints' Diary pages earlier in magazine  
Church Meeting Room Telephone Liz Webb 560090

**ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL** Head Teacher Miss Katie Coombe 560494

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

<b>Shop Opening Hours</b>	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

<b>Post Office Hours</b>	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.00am - 4.00pm
	Wednesday	9.00am - 1.00pm
	Saturday	9.30am - 12.30pm
	Sunday and Bank Holidays	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

<b>Opening Hours</b>	Dec/Jan	Every Day	9.00am - 1.00pm
	Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day		

**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

