

VILLAGE VOICE



February - March 2018

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone
now archived on the Parish website at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk*



NUMBER 209
February - March 2018

NOT SPOT TO HOT SPOT

Poor mobile phone reception has long been a widespread complaint in this parish, and public meetings about installing a tall phone mast showed that local opinion on the subject was deeply divided.

However, as our front cover picture shows, a repeater transmitter has now been installed on top of the Thurlestone Hotel which will receive the signal from the West Alvington mast and retransmit it to Thurlestone. Anyone with line of sight to the Hotel mast will benefit as soon as the transmitter is switched on - though sadly this will not apply to Bantham and Buckland.

It has been put up by O2, so will benefit O2 users and others who use the O2 network. Chris White informs us that O2 have also been working on the West Alvington transmitter. He reports that *"I can now definitely get a 4G data signal from the first floor of my house – so we've gone from 1G to 4G in one go, and an improved signal in the Village, without going through 2G, and 3G. We've finally made the 21st Century!"*

It now remains for other providers to find a way to join this scheme, or for non-O2 users in Thurlestone to switch their allegiance to O2.

The Thurlestone Hotel is to be congratulated for enabling this improved signal coverage to benefit the local community.

So it's Three Cheers for the Hotel, and 4G for those above Chris White's bedroom. Hoorah!

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Front Cover: O2 mast on Thurlestone Hotel

Front cover photo by Mike Bone

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



My last Update in the November issue of Village Voice recorded the posting of the **Pre-submission Consultation Draft Plan** on the Parish website and the beginning of the six-week Pre-submission Consultation period from 15th September until 27th October. Parishioners were encouraged to read the draft Plan online and hard copies were made available at the four Consultation Sessions held in the Parish Hall, at the Bantham shop and Buckland Box. Hard copies could also be obtained by contacting Steering Group members.

This Consultation exercise resulted in a total of 40 comments from parishioners, local stakeholders and statutory bodies (including South Hams District Council) who were sent copies of the Plan in accordance with the neighbourhood planning regulations. These comments were considered in detail by the Steering Group at its meeting on 7th November and responses were prepared to each comment. Some minor amendments were made to the draft Plan and it was agreed that a small delegation led by the Project Director Sue Crowther should meet the South Hams District Council officer to discuss their comments.

The following documents were then finalised and produced to the District Council before Christmas: (a) the **Submission Version of the Draft Plan 2015- 2034** - *110 pages* (b) **Consultation Statement** setting out how we had consulted with the Parish in the preparation of the Plan and including appendices of each community event, list of consultees, and comments we received in the course of the Consultation and our responses to them - *248 pages* (c) **Evidence Base** upon which the Plan was drafted including hyperlinks - *41 pages* and (d) **Basic Conditions Statement** detailing how the draft Plan contributed to achieving sustainable development, has regard to national policies and advice, is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the existing Local Plan and compatible with European legislation and human rights requirements - *19 pages* - including the Health Check Report prepared by an Independent Examiner confirming that the draft Plan meets the Basic Conditions.

All this documentation was delivered to the South Hams District Council on 12th December and on 9th January 2018, it was uploaded by South Hams District Council onto their website, at <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3882/Neighbourhood-Development-Plans-and-Orders>. You can use this link to see the status of other Neighbourhood Plans in the South Hams that are at an advanced stage, namely, Ugborough, South Milton, Newton and Noss and also the decision notice for Ivybridge which now has a neighbourhood plan following a successful Referendum where 85% people voted 'yes'. Copies of the Pre-submission Draft Plan and supporting documentation for our own draft Plan are also now available on the Parish website.

I e-mailed Sue in the following terms:

Dear Sue

*I have only just had an opportunity to wade through this paper work.
Another immense piece of meticulous scholarship! I am left astounded by
the scale of what you have done. A team of planning officers would be
proud to have produced this amount of work.*

*My personal thanks and congratulations, with which I have no doubt all the
Steering Group and indeed the whole parish will wish to be associated.*

I do urge everyone to go online to review this documentation which is very clearly and meticulously set out and we are particularly grateful to Mike Bone whose IT expertise made it possible to get all these documents online and to create hyperlinks to many more.

The uploading of the Submission version of the Draft Plan and supporting documents on to the South Hams District Council website marks the start of their own six-week Consultation period (which expires on 21st February 2018) during which the Plan is circulated to the same stakeholders and statutory bodies that have already been consulted on the Pre-submission Draft Plan for any further comments.

Once the District Council have received the responses to their Consultation, they will then submit the draft Plan and supporting documentation to an **Independent Examiner** who will decide whether or not the Plan can proceed to a Referendum in the Parish.

Given that the draft Plan has now been through one stage of public consultation, it has begun to acquire some weight and can be referred to as a material consideration in deciding planning applications. I was therefore able to refer to the draft Plan when appearing on 10th January before the District Planning Committee to object on behalf of the Parish Council to two recent planning applications. It was very gratifying to be able to refer to the policies of our own draft Plan, as well as those of the District Council.

Tony Goddard
Steering Group Chairman

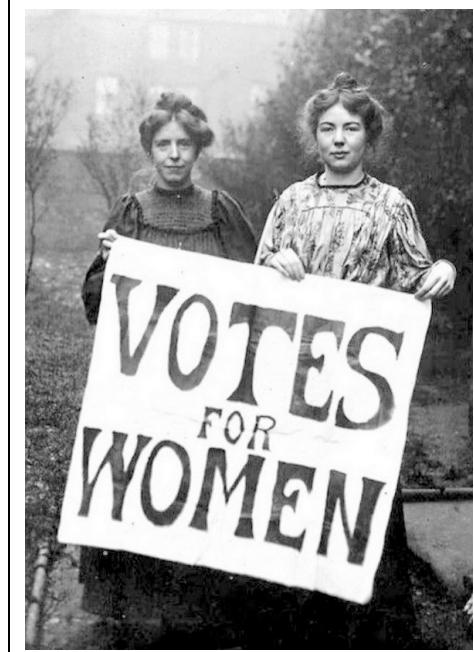
Votes For Women

In December 1918, for the very first time, these women were allowed to participate in a parliamentary election.

Before 1918 no women were allowed to vote in general elections, which led to a protracted campaign for women's suffrage, or right to vote. (Annie Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst, two famous suffragettes, are pictured here.)

In 1918 there was finally an acknowledgement of the need to give women the vote and *some* were allowed to participate following the Representation of the People Act in February 1918. A number of events are planned to mark the centenary.

The UK Parliament will host a **Voice and Vote** centenary exhibition in summer 2018, in Westminster Hall, as part of its ongoing *Vote 100* season. The National Trust is also commemorating the long struggle for women's suffrage, with the launch of its 'Women and Power' programme in 2018. Its properties around the country will be giving prominence to the stories and experiences of women which may have been overlooked in the past.



YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Firstly, many thanks to those of you whom helped me get re elected with such a majority in last May's local elections. I will continue to do all I can to represent you at the County.

Here are a few salient points for your information:

- The Government has increased from 2% to 3% the amount council tax can be increased without a referendum. This only applies to District Councils and County Councils.
- Devon has been awarded pilot status for a 'Business rates retention scheme' by the government. This is worth £17 million to Devon with the County receiving £10M and the eight Districts £7M to be divided between them. This demonstrates a good spirit of co-operation between the Districts and the County.
- SHDC are responsible for the collection of waste and DCC for the disposal. 100% of SOUTH Hams waste goes to the EFW (Energy From Waste) plant and not landfill, with 95% going to the Plymouth plant. This is very good news. I can highly recommend a visit to the Plymouth EFW plant. It is interesting, clean and a worthwhile visit.
- Adult care in the community continues to prove challenging, both financially and operationally. Devon's ageing population continues to grow and I can't see that changing. The government does at last seem to recognise the elephant in the room.
- The Great Western Railway (GWR) franchise has been extended, so as to allow new intercity rolling stock to be introduced.
- 25% of doctors and 30% of nurses nationwide are due to retire in the next four years. The implications of this need no explanation.
- Skanska have now taken over the 8000 miles of roads maintenance in Devon.
- The balance of the road running through Thurlestone village should be dressed this year.

By the time you get to read this note, the daylight hours should be longer and ever closer to spring. All the best.

Rufus Gilbert

Devon County Councillor Salcombe Division.

Open Gardens 2018

The Parish Hall committee have decided to repeat the Open Garden afternoon on 15th July 2018. Several gardens opened 2 years ago are not participating this time so PLEASE consider offering your garden if you are proud of your display or of any feature in your garden. The garden need not be large, the smallest last year amazed people of how to manage a small area to the maximum.

If you are interested yourself or know of a lovely garden please contact Sue Dwyer on 560648 for further information in March. Teas will again be served in the Parish Hall.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 4 December 2017 and 8 January 2018

Report by Citizen

In December six Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, County Councillor, District Councillor and eight members of the public attended and in January five Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, both District Councillors and eight members of the public were present.

OPEN FORUM

21 Court Park 13 objections to this planning application had originally been made but the revised application still creates a privacy loss by neighbours.

Pebble painting The school children were congratulated on this poppy project for the War Memorial.

TAP funding is being sought for the community wi-fi scheme but Bigbury are not interested in joining us. County Councillor Rufus Gilbert said he would speak to Bigbury Parish Council chairman.

Thurlestone main street Despite the resurfacing of the stretch from Sunny Bank to Warren Road it has a very poor finish and is already breaking up. Potholes also need attention higher up on the village road.

HIGHWAYS

Parking A letter has been received, and acknowledged, from the school about a meeting to discuss the problems created by parents' parking.

Drainage Gulleys need clearing between Hill Top and the bottom of the village road.

FOOTPATHS

The footpath from Yarmer to the golf course still needs to be repaired and the golf club will be contacted.

The raised footpath from Swallows to Heathfield needs repair and resurfacing.

The stile on the coastal path from the church car-park needs repairing.

TREES

Parish Councillor Charles Mitchelmore reported that a letter from Toad Hall about Buckland Park trees did not enclose the tree report.

An application for conservation tree work had come from Thurlestone Hotel.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Parish Councillor Tony Goddard reported that all comments received have been incorporated in the 400-page document sent to SHDC and should by now be on their web site and ours. If the next stages of the process are completed without undue delays we anticipate that the Referendum could be held in early summer.

Mike Bone was complimented and thanked for all his work in creating hyperlinks for the document and putting it on our website.

PARISH CLERK

Parish Clerk Graeme Martin had attended a course for new Parish Clerks.

He thanked District Councillor Judy Pearce for her assistance in clarifying the TAP application and also Councillor Tony Goddard for help with letters to SHDC about the planning applications for Bantham House and 21 Court Park.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Rufus Gilbert reported:

- (1) Government money for pothole repairs to Devon is £1.75m, and 20,000 tonnes of salt were ready for the roads when needed.
- (2) 91% of Devon's schools (366 with 91,000 children) were given good or outstanding reports.
- (3) 95% of waste is converted to provide energy.
- (4) Some 700 children are in care in the county but future recruitment of care workers is of concern.
- (5) A better adult social care policy is needed. Age concerns and costs for Devon are challenging.
- (6) Some 13,000 people in Devon have dementia for which there is a budget of £180m.
- (7) So-called 'bed-blocking' costs £36m annually.
- (8) 25% of doctors and 30% of nurses are due to retire from the NHS in the next four years.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Councillor Simon Wright said:

- # No decision on a Council Tax cap had been made.
- # Empty property charges will be increased from 150% to 200%, double the normal rate.

District Councillor Judy Pearce said:

- (a) Budget proposals are looking at closing the toilets opposite the Golf Club and the question arises as to who will look after

them if this happens.

- (b) The RNLI at Bantham and Thurlestone Sands will no longer receive subsidies from the SHDC.
- (c) Planning fees will rise by 20% this year with fees ring-fenced.
- (d) Waste removal is being looked at, as brown bin contents with food have to be sent to Oxford for incineration. A separate food container is probably the answer with brown bin collection having an annual charge. An outside contractor for brown bin collection is also being considered. The Torr Quarry waste facility is run by SHDC.
- (e) The Salcombe Harbour-master is leaving.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Andrew Rhymes reported:

- (a) He has spoken to Bush about the community wi-fi and progress is being made. User-interest needs to be registered.
- (b) The mobile phone mast on the top of the Hotel is underway.
- (c) The cobbled road and the green leading to Yarmer is being damaged by contractors' vehicles servicing new builds on the estate. A meeting with the estate to be sought.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 5 February, 7.30pm, Yeo Room.

EDITORS SEEK RETIREMENT

The Village Voice editorial team is looking for new local aspirants to take over the preparation of this magazine. Induction guidance will be given if required. Please contact 560436.

Village News Round-Up

SARAH HURRELL

Sarah Hurrell, wife of Simon, sadly lost her courageous fight against cancer and her funeral took place at Thurlestone parish church on 15 December 2017. We extend to Simon and his family our sincere condolences.

JOHN MONTAGU

The death occurred on 23 December 2017 of Bantham's John Montague and a celebration of his life was held at Kingsbridge Methodist Church on 27 January. John was a well-known local horticulturalist and sang with the Stanborough Chorus. We send our condolences to Caroline and the family.

THE DEARES

Very sadly Doreen & Phil Deare left Thurlestone on 18 January and headed for pastures new in Warwickshire to be nearer their family, and this is to place on record how much these stalwarts of village life will be missed by the many friends they made here. They volunteered, joined in and entered into the spirit of every village event and helped in so many ways. Doreen was a good WI member, a keen line-dancer, keep-fit enthusiast and short-mat bowler, being one of the first to offer to 'lend a hand', make a cake, or give assistance in whatever way she could. She was also one of the deliverers of Village Voice.

Phil was cut from the same mould and will be particularly remembered for his fund-raising to enable the parish millennium video "Land of the Five Beaches" to be made - it got a Royal Television Award! - as well as being Treasurer of POTS (Parish of Thurlestone Society) and an active member of Thurlestone Golf Club. Phil took part in the 'Teamakers' early computer tuition sessions and became a very skilled maker of greetings cards, his new-found hobby. Village Voice sends them all good wishes for happiness and enjoyment in their new surroundings.

DAMAGE TO THE GREEN

The Parish Council has expressed its deep concern about the constantly recurring damage to a very important spot in Thurlestone, namely the War Memorial green and the cobbled road running alongside. It is believed most of this damage is being

caused by building contractors' heavy vehicles using the cobbled road to access and leave the Yarmer estate. Not all of the culprits are known and therefore not charged for repairs, so it means that in these cases the Parish Council has to foot the bills. They feel that the money they have to spend on such repairs is depriving other good causes elsewhere in the parish. A meeting with representatives of the Yarmer estate is being arranged to try and find a satisfactory solution to this problem.

WILD ARTICHOKE

This popular local restaurant will be putting on a pop-up dinner at Thurlestone Parish Hall on Saturday 10th March at 7.30 pm. To book for this event you must contact their website at www.wildartichokes.co.uk and make a reservation.

ZUMBA

A new class starting on Tuesday afternoons at 1.15 pm at the Parish Hall, and run by Alicia Prowse. The class provides a choreographed work-out suiting all abilities, ages, and fitness levels. Contact Alicia on 07375 704 069.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF



KATS presents this celebrated and much loved musical, at Malborough Village Hall each evening at 7.30 pm from Tuesday 20 March to Saturday 24 March plus a matinee at 2.30pm on the Staurday. Ticket prices range from £7 to £14 and the demand is expected to be high. Please book via Kingsbridge Information Centre using cash or card, or online at www.kats-kingsbridge.co.uk.

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

One of our postal subscribers, Myra Skinner, wrote recently to renew her subscription, and added:

"We spent wonderful times on holiday in Links Cottage, 10 years in total, but life changes and my husband's health problems prevented it continuing, so receiving the Village Voice is my therapy. It takes me back to such happy times, so you can understand I didn't want to miss any copies. Enjoy your wonderful surroundings. It's the nearest you will get to heaven on earth."

PARISH HALL NEWS

Chairman: Neill Irwin



All together now. "*Never mind the weather, so long as we're together, we're off to see the Parish Hall show.*" OK, I know it does not scan as well as the original - but don't let us be put off by minor details. The Parish Hall show for 2018 is spectacular.

We have two super fun feasts planned. Not one but two evenings of international star musicians performing for your delight. A celebration of the vast range of artistic talent in our parish, and a fun filled summer evening for all your family and friends. The opportunity to see at first hand the results of the highly developed horticultural skills around the villages. And all this is topped and tailed with a wild freestyle ceilidh, and a detective-defying murder mystery.

Starting with the musicians, we are delighted to welcome back concert pianist Tim Abel accompanied by vocalists Emma Dalton (soprano) and Connor McAllister (tenor) on 21st April to present **Cabaret Night**. Many of you will remember their wonderful concert here three years ago. A real treat - and not to be missed.

The open gardens day organised two years ago was a great success, in spite of some awful weather. This year's event should, by the law of averages, take place in warm sunshine on 15th July. There are many talented gardeners in the area and this is a real opportunity to learn from them and to admire the results of their work in large and small gardens.

In the hot June weather for which our Parish is famous there is nothing more relaxing than a long lazy lunch. On the 23rd June we have organised just such an event. There will be a wide range of classic and specialist cheeses and pate dishes, all to be accompanied with a refreshing glass or two of wine.

The fun and games evening for all the family on 29th May has always been popular and it just gets better every year. The much-admired human fruit machine will be in full swing as will the rest of the new and traditional games. There is a view, probably apocryphal, that a trip to the wine table improves your luck at the fruit machine. Later in the year this theme of the parish coming together is reinforced by the many talented groups who put together the Annual Autumn Fair on 15th September.

Our second star musician is South African concert pianist and composer Johan de Cock, who will make his first appearance at Thurlestone on 27th October, following his performance at the 7th Ken Reed Memorial concert at Salcombe a week earlier. Fix the date in your diary and do not miss what promises to be an outstanding performance.

The first two events of 2018 are outstanding. On the 10th February the Parish Hall will bounce to the wild tunes of a Ceilidh Band. If you are not sure what a ceilidh is then just think of Michael Flatley while he was still learning to dance. The music is lively, the caller is enthusiastic, and the urge to dance is irresistible. The second event is completely new to us. It is a sophisticated meal organised and presented by the very experienced team, Wild Artichoke. It is going to light up the Parish Hall on the 10th March and is guaranteed to blow away the gloom of winter.

To finish off the programme, and the year, there is a rumour of a local murder mystery which will perplex the forces of law and order. No more about this just now. Enough to say you need to keep the 17th November clear. Best wishes for 2018.

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Wild Artichokes Pop-Up Dinner

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SATURDAY 10TH MARCH 2018

7PM FOR 7.30PM SERVICE

£30 FOR TWO COURSES

BYO - Corkage proceeds go to parish hall funds

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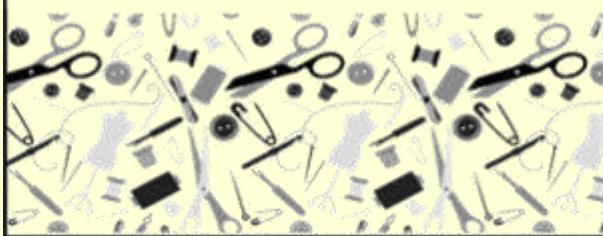
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National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for February and March 2018

- Thursday
15 February** Talk 'Hairy Hands, Black Dogs and Witches - all on curious Dartmoor' by Paul Rendell. A spine-chilling talk illustrating the myths and reality of Dartmoor. New venue Kingsbridge Methodist Church (top of Fore Street), 2.30pm. Entrance £4 including tea.
- Wednesday
28 February** Annual Lunch at the Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove. A regular favourite - three course meal and coffee.
- Wednesday
14 March** Our 38th AGM at 2.00pm will precede 'National Trust and filming *Flog It* to *Poldark*' at 2.30pm. An entertaining presentation by Harvey Edgington, Trust's head of filming and locations. New venue Kingsbridge Methodist Church (top of Fore Street). Entrance £4 including tea.
- Tuesday
20 March** A day out in Britain's ocean city. On arrival at the National Aquarium in Plymouth, we will have a brief introductory talk before viewing the amazing displays at leisure. Visit the in-house 'Waves Café' before strolling through the Barbican to Plymouth Gin Distillery for our short afternoon tour (with souvenir G&T!).

For information about these events, or about joining the National Trust South Hams Centre,

Festive Ceilidh Evening



Saturday 10th February
Thurlestone Parish Hall
7.30 pm

Music by **Rumpus**
with
NIGEL & SARAH
(formerly with Mrs Crottie's Band)

Tickets £7.50

Diane Martin 560070

Wine Bar

Lisa White 560505

Thurlestone Phonebox Ring Ring

Despite the lack of parking in Thurlestone, Santa Claus managed to find a spot for his sleigh and reindeer over the Christmas period outside your Phonebox library. He even dropped in to visit us for our Carol Evening which was enjoyed by well over a hundred revellers, old and young, two and four-legged, who joined in well-known carols, the Thurlestone Phonebox anthem and an entertaining Phonebox carol specially written for the occasion.

The singing was led by the Razor Sharp Plus group who kept us all in tune. Stars of the evening were without doubt the Thurlestone School Choir who showed great talent and were totally endearing. Our sponsors, Toad Hall Cottages, Village Inn and Tesco enabled us to provide the revellers with mulled wine, mince pies and sundry refreshments and the whole event was held together by our adopted DJ, Shep, who managed to escape from BBC Radio Devon to join us. He had the unenviable task of judging the Best Dressed Dog competition but fortunately for him there were enough prizes so that all entries won a prize.

Thanks to everyone's deep pockets we have been able to present the school with £200, which will go towards a new CD player, plus a tin of chocolates which despite the best efforts of the children and one or two adults was left over from Santa Claus's stash of goodies.....and the weather stayed fine and provided a fabulous Thurlestone sunset.

February will bring us Valentine's Day and the Phonebox is still available for you to hire for that special romantic evening. The CCTV camera will be switched off! The days are getting longer so its downhill all the way. Have fun!

Kit Marshall

Buckland Box

The Buckland Box held its now annual Christmas party after the Buckland carol singing, led by Liz Webb, on Tuesday, December 19th at the Box. It was a still, mild and beautiful night, and 40 adults and children came to have a mince pie and a drink with their friends and neighbours. Nitca had decorated the Box beautifully, and Carey and Adam had made their garage look like a magical grotto.

Our next event will be on Easter Saturday, March 31st in the afternoon, and will involve cakes, cups of tea and an activity for children. Precise details will be advertised in the Box and on the Parish website nearer the time.

Anna Martin



*You Are Invited
To a Special Thurlestone Evening Entertainment*

Cabaret Night

Including well-loved numbers from the world of theatre, and piano solo pieces presented by



Tim Abel (piano)

with concert artists

Emma Dalton (m-soprano)

Connor McAllister (tenor)

Saturday 21st April at 7.30pm

Thurlestone Parish Hall



Tickets £12

Pat Macdonald 560436
Lisa White 560505

Thurlestone Parish Villages Website

www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk



First of all, "**Happy New Year**" from the website team to all Village Voice readers. The Parish website has now been going for two years since going live on the 1st January 2016. Its content has grown in variety and usefulness over this time making it informative to residents and visitors alike. There is something for everyone... we hope!

Visitors to the website have grown substantially, with an average of over 700 users a month in 2017 – up from just over 500 in 2016. We suspect some of this growth is due to people keeping up-to-date with the details of the Neighbourhood Plan, but we hope they will continue to use the website in 2018.

A lot of work goes into the structure, look, and content of the website and so we always want more people to "take a look". We cover information on all aspects of parish life. For those who have not yet ventured to take a look, the first page you see is the HOME page and is the starting point to get to all subjects via the tabs at the top of the page. These can be expanded to see further pages.

Here is the list of those tabbed subjects and a little explanation to the headers.

EVENTS - forthcoming main events in and around the parish. Many are in the parish hall but not all. There's also Diary Dates and the Church Events Diary pages with more specific events information.

CLUBS & GROUPS - Data on 20 clubs and groups run in the parish, providing exercise, entertainment and stimulation.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY - Information and contact details on all professional trades and services to help our residents in everyday life.

VILLAGE VOICE - A complete archive of the Village Voice magazine from Issue No.1 to the present day.

GALLERIES - Brilliant pictures from our residents showing off this area's natural beauty and some of our community events.

CONTACTS – A listing of all the easy to use contact forms that allow you to make email contact with many of the group leaders on this website.

OUT & ABOUT - Information * eat out * walks * travelling here * our beaches * sports

annual events * days out * historic attractions.

FACILITES - Information on parish community facilities like the shops and post office, pubs, schools, golf club, hotel, phone boxes etc.

PARISH HALL - Comprehensive facility used by all. Info to know about it, or book it or see up and coming events already booked.

CHURCH - All aspects of All Saints' Church in Thurlestone and links to the "The Rock" magazine and all church activities.

LOCAL INFORMATION - All those local vital links we need to know - our history, transport, parking, medical help, weather, recycling, emergency numbers etc.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - Comprehensive information on the content, status and position of this document for the planned future of our Parish.

PARISH COUNCIL - Everything you want to know about our Parish Council - objectives, meeting dates & minutes, parish plans, planning advice, finances, etc.

Finally, don't forget the link on the home page to a totally free "for sale" and "wanted" area for residents to advertise items no longer wanted and needing a new home. The website thrives with regular updates and new content – and we need your help! This is a *community* website, so please let us know of anything you think would improve the site, or send us some new material so that we can keep it growing.

Mike Bone – Tel: 288436, Email: mikebone18@hotmail.com

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Malcolm Alexander continues his story of WWI in East Africa ...

Swallows & Amazons

Probably the best known episode of WWI in Africa concerns *Mimi* and *Toutou*! The Germans had achieved dominance on Lake Tanganyika, until John Lee, a British big-game hunter, had the idea of attacking the enemy on this completely land-locked, inaccessible lake. Rather than compete with the Germans in terms of size, why not dispatch a smaller but faster vessel? Thorneycroft suggested two mothballed 40-foot craft, armed with long-range guns in the fore and aft; capable of 19 knots, they would be the fastest ships on the Lake.

The self-proclaimed hero was to be Geoffrey Spicer-Simpson, a superannuated Royal Navy commander, part Rider Haggard, part Monty Python. Describing Spicer-Simpson as "something of an eccentric" is an understatement, others have highlighted his lack of modesty, tact and luck. He had twice been beached for incompetence; once for ramming a liberty boat with his destroyer and then for allowing a German warship to sink a coastal defence vessel under his command, as he watched from shore while dining with his wife. To his failings as a naval officer, others added braggadocio and condescension. The naming of the motorboats became an issue with The Admiralty, who eventually agreed on *Mimi* and *Toutou*, sounding like a pair of pet Pekinese.

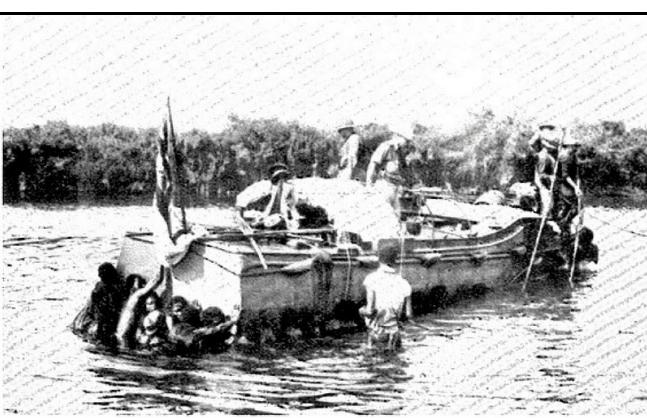
Spicer-Simpson's more relevant credentials for the forthcoming mission included fluency in French and German, and a four-year stint on survey up the Gambia River.

After trials in June 1915, *Mimi* and *Toutou* were shipped to Cape Town, then overland by train to Elisabethville in the Congo, and finally to the village of Fungurume, where the line ended. It then took six weeks to cover over 100 miles through the Mitumba mountain range, requiring the construction of 150 bridges over streams and gorges, using two steam tractors, dozens of oxen, and hundreds of Africans, to reach Sankisia. A 15-mile stretch of narrow-gauge railway took them to Bukama, where barges were used on the shallow Lualaba River as far as Kabalo.

After another rail journey, the weary expedition eventually arrived at Lake Tanganyika on 26th October 1915. The entire journey from Cape Town had been accomplished in four months, covering a distance of 3,000 miles by rail, river, road and track, a Herculean achievement, outstripping even the Germans' transportation from Dar-es-Salaam of their *Graf von Goetzen*.



Geoffrey Spicer-Simpson RN



LIFTING "MIMI" OVER SHALLOWS—UPPER CONGO RIVER

Mimi and *Toutou* were launched in December 1915 and were soon in action, with their first engagement on the 26th, hitting the *Kingani* below the waterline, forcing surrender. Once repaired, and renamed '*Fifi*', this vessel was taken by Spicer-Simpson as his flagship, and in February 1916 he used her to score a second success by sinking the *Hedwig von Wissmann*. When the *Graf von Goetzen* returned to look for her, Spicer-Simpson held his crew off from an attack, and went off to Stanleyville to look for a bigger boat. He found the *St George*, which was being used by the British Consul at Banana Island, situated in an Atlantic inlet to the Congo, and the home of the main Belgian Naval Base. The steel vessel was dismantled, transported and reassembled, ready for service on Lake Tanganyika.

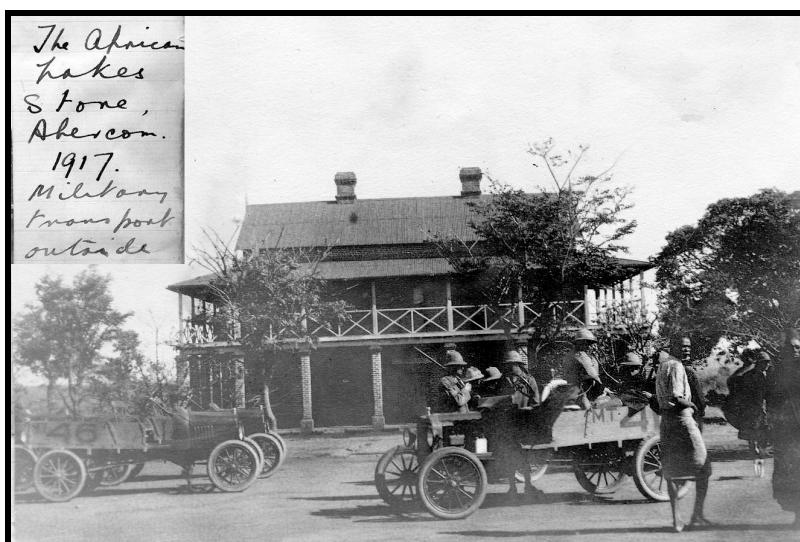
My great-uncle, Claude Oldfield having been on six months' home leave, arrived back in Northern Rhodesia at Abercorn in May 1916, to find that the British were busy

planning a strike into GEA from there. This decision, made by the Colonial Office, which was still in charge of local military operations, had been spurred on by native instability in the area, not helped by a reduction in administrative staff, the stretched resources contributing to food shortages and discontent. Brigadier-General Edward Northey, the new British commander, began the push northwards into GEA

on 26th May. Lt.Col. Ronald Murray led two companies of British South African Police (BSAP) and a large number of volunteers in a unit known as "Murray's Column".

Back on the lake, the enlarged British flotilla, under Spicer-Simpson, had set sail on 5th June to attack the harbour side of the German fort situated on a promontory at Bismarkburg. This would have been a highly effective pincer movement with "Murray's Column", but when Spicer-Simpson sighted the heavily armed fortifications, he erred on the side of caution and withdrew. Murray was also worried that he did not have the strength to assault the fort and on 7th June tried to bluff the German fort commander, Lieutenant Hasslacher, by threatening that '*as soon as my guns arrive, I will blow you into the Lake*'. The request for surrender was firmly rejected, but this was misunderstood and a group of BSAP troopers, led by the Medical Officer, Dr. Harold, a former Irish rugby international, marched up to their door and attempted to seize Hasslacher. In the ensuing skirmish, lives were lost, and many obvious questions asked in the *post mortem*.

That evening Hasslacher quietly withdrew his men and using a concealed dhow and fleet of canoes, moved north up the Lake, much to the ire of Lt. Col. Murray. To the great chagrin of Spicer-Simpson, the guns on the German fort turned out on closer inspection to be wooden imitations, and he would not have enjoyed his subsequent severe dressing-down by Murray.



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Grey Matter

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SYNONYM SILLINESS

Uncover the titles of pop songs disguised by the cunning use of synonyms

Eg Small infants (Billy J Kramer)(answer) Little Children

- 1 A steed with no title (America).....
- 2 The abode of the ascending large star (Animals).....
- 3 The deity is the sole holder of knowledge (Beach Boys).....
- 4 He isn't weighty, he's my male sibling (Hollies).....
- 5 It is precipitating humans of the male variety (Spice Girls).....
- 6 A day away from an Oklahoman town (Gene Pitney).....
- 7 Crossing point over disturbed H₂O (Simon and Garfunkel).....
- 8 Perambulating in reverse to contentment (Helen Shapiro).....
- 9 Lovely long-legged bird (Manfred Mann).....
- 10 Large profligate (Shirley Bassey).....
- 11 Strike me with your tempo cane (Ian Dury).....
- 12 Audible hilarity in the downpour (Neil Sedaka).....
- 13 Romani, vagrants and robbers (Cher).....
- 14 Avid devotee of couture (Kinks).....
- 15 Passenger vehicle traversing Liverpool waterway (Gerry and the Pacemakers).....
- 16 My male parent is a rubbish collector (Lonnie Donegan).....
- 17 I'm a follower of a faith (Monkees).....
- 18 Farewell dearest (Everly Brothers).....
- 19 No opaque white fluid in the present 24 hours (Hermans Hermits).....
- 20 Missive in a container for liquids (Police).....
- 21 Ignite my conflagration (The Doors).....
- 22 Rapping on the entrance to paradise (Bob Dylan).....
- 23 Striped big cat's paws (Mud).....
- 24 Suspended on the apparatus for communicating orally over long distances (Blondie).....
- 25 A difficult 24 hours of darkness (Beatles).....

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter

1(E.G.) Register 2. Chemistry Lab 3. Tuck Shop 4. Caretaker 5. Photocopier 6. Satchels 7. Packed Lunch 8. Climbing Frame 9. Calculator 10. Whiteboard 11. Head Girl 12. Playing Field 13. Playground 14. Lost Property Box 15. Pianoforte 16. Supply Teacher 17. Girls Toilets 18. Nit Nurse 19. Prefect 20. Secretary 21. Staffroom 22. Deputy Head 23. Filing Cabinet 24. Gymnasium 25. Hockey Stick 26. Assembly Hall 27. Headmaster 28. Headmistress 29. Chewing Gum 30. Teacher's Pet

Congratulations and the bottle of wine to Alison Bone

December

On 15 December a large gathering of Thurlestone WI members met at Thurlestone Golf Club to enjoy a festive drink and our annual Christmas lunch. The dining room was beautifully decorated, tables laid to perfection and the food delicious, and a warm vote of thanks was passed to the club's staff who had made it all possible. It seems a long time ago now, but it started Christmas off nicely.

We had a very short business discussion, with President Judith Le Grice reminding us all to come to the January meeting with the resolutions voting slip which had been printed in the latest *WI Life*. Resolutions this year are concerned with positive body image in a digital age, female genital mutilation, modern slavery in the UK, mental health and healthier mouths healthier bodies. We were urged to read the information accompanying the form and come prepared to vote for one only.

Liz Candy, our newest member, was the lucky winner of a splendid Christmas hamper. Subscriptions are now due and programme cards for 2018 were distributed. Judith wound up a happy occasion by expressing seasonal good wishes to all our members.

January

It was in 1830 that the police force appointed the first "Superintendent Surgeons" but not all were perfect citizens as one is recorded as being found drunk on duty no fewer than 26 times!

Our February speaker, Dr Peter Moore, as a young trainee GP in Plympton in the 1970s had also to be on call as a police surgeon seeing to "...the mad, the bad and the sad" in police custody. He recalled with much dry humour the many interesting cases and their consequences that he came across over the years during his work for the police. He retired from medical practice last year, and has written a book *A Police Surgeon's Lot - 30 Years in the Real World of a West Country Police Surgeon*. This will be a must-read for anyone who is a fan of crime dramas on TV or in print.

The good news is that Vivienne Day is slowly recovering from her recent surgery and that Margot Slinger is back home from her unexpected stay in hospital. Warm wishes were expressed to both for a good recovery. The sad news is that Doreen and Phil Deare are leaving the village to live in Warwickshire. Doreen will be much missed by the WI, where she has been hugely supportive and we wish them all future happiness.

There was Walking Netball tuition at the Kingsbridge Leisure Centre on 14 January and the new Kurling team turned out for practice on 18 January. We wish our team well in the County Quiz on 17 February and a reminder was given about the visit to the Garden House and Buckland Abbey on 3 May to celebrate our WI 90th birthday.

2018 Programme of Speakers

11 January: Dr Peter Moore on The Police Surgeon's Lot

8 February: Ursula Myers on Memland & Lord Revelstoke's carriage drive

13 March: Marilyn Bishop on history of beer through pub signs

12 April: Felicity Goodall on teaching English to Burmese orphans & street children

10 May: Andrew Scowcroft on looking after your feet

14 June: Penny Townsend on Strawberries & Suntan - summer with Jane Austen

12 July: Chris Seth-Ward on Ukuleles across the Atlantic (hands on)

13 September: Professor Ian Barclay on Art Nouveau

11 October: Kurling demo - participate, spectate and socialise!

8 November: Jill Cooper, textile artist

If you are not a WI member but would like to hear any of our speakers, please come along - men included - at 3pm. You will be made welcome, and invited to have a cup of tea or coffee.

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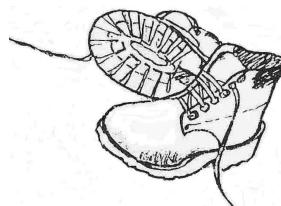
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TRAMP



1 14 November was a rather overcast morning as we started out from Court Park with a near-record sixteen walkers and a dog. The village had been in lockdown the previous day for road repairs so we were glad to have chosen this date many months before. The route to the tennis court car park in Noss Mayo was still, however, fraught with large trucks not always happy to meet the Tramps convoy! In a slight change to the planned programme, we reverted to the 4½ mile easy but interesting tramp around Revelstoke Drive from Noss Mayo which had to be cancelled back in March owing to torrential rain. The Stoke Point variant will reappear next year.

After an initial climb out of Noss Mayo, we turned clockwise to follow the wide and well-trodden coastal path once used as a carriage drive. There were a few squelchy sections after the recent rain and some hazard-tape marking missing barriers so we happily ignored the steep diversion down the cliff path in favour of the higher level views of sea and coast. We were briefly puzzled by signs of artillery practice just out at sea, while Benjy sniffed out a few smaller animals and gave the cows and sheep a wide berth. It is a lovely walk with views of the sea, and of the quirky architecture, and finally of the estuary.

Despite the cloud cover everyone was happy to stretch their legs and get to the Ship Inn for lunch after a quick photocall.

George and Catherine Delafield

2 The weather forecast for Wednesday, 22 November was not very promising as showers and strong winds were predicted. I was not unduly surprised, but was a little disappointed that no one was at the Tramps meeting place in Court Park. However, on returning to West Buckland, I was delighted to find four keen walkers waiting for me.

We walked to Clanacombe and took the footpath at its western perimeter, and then on over the fields to Worthy farmhouse and then on to the Bantham lane. We crossed over the

road and followed the foot path to Osborne Newton farm, and then over more fields to Stadbury, where we joined the Avon Estuary walk, and then on to Bantham. We walked at a good pace and it only took 2 hours, and not the usual 2.5hrs, to get to the Bantham shop, where we had cups of their delicious coffee to sustain us on our way back to Buckland.

The rain did not materialise, the wind was not too strong and we even saw the sun from time to time. If you would like to do this walk, come and join us on March 28th, when we will be leading it again.

Anna Martin



On 1st December 13 happy Trampers tore themselves away from their Christmas preparations and set off from the car park of the Oceans Restaurant on Bolberry Down. We headed inland down the hill, through Bolberry and then up the hill on the other side, turning left up Sweethearts Lane (obviously too chilly for sweethearts). We carried on up to Higher Barton, and then on through the fields, heading off along the ridge towards Hope Cove, with beautiful views over to Galmpton and beyond.

Dropping down into Hope Cove we stopped off to look inside St Clements, the beautifully kept "Chapel of ease" (a church built for those living at a distance from the Parish Church, ie Galmpton). There are two unusual stained glass windows in the chapel, the East Window with St Clement, the patron saint of tanners and fishermen, looking down the whole church. He is shown with a large anchor as the poor man was sentenced to death by drowning tied to one. The west window shows St Peter, the Patron Saint of Fishermen, holding the keys of Heaven and his boat. Around his feet there is a lobsterpot, a lobster and a crab as fishing for these crustaceans was a prominent part of the Hope economy for many years.

We then turned left into Inner Hope and started up the coastal path towards Bolt Tail. After climbing about 200 yds we stopped at

the bench in memory of Christine Hammer, a longtime member of the Tramp group, who sadly died so suddenly five years ago.

Emerging from woods into the open we climbed to the coastal path and turned back on the cliff path towards the start of the walk. We were all looking forward to our lunch at the new Oceans Restaurant, built alongside the apartments now on the site of the old Port Light Pub. We weren't disappointed, with good walkers' fare of soups and sandwiches and other light lunches on offer. Another good morning's walk with friends.

Liz Coates

4 The last walk before the Christmas finale took place on Wednesday 6 December, and storm Caroline was threatening somewhere else. As often South Hams had a pretty good day for December – cloudy and cool but not icy; an occasional spit of damp; windy at start and finish, but the rest of the walk in shelter.

Ten humans plus Ben set off from Malborough car park south-easterly via the quiet road to Collaton. The farm track leads away from the hamlet and just before turning sharp south-west gives a great view over Hangar Mill to North Sands. Across fields surprisingly green we headed into Collaton Woods where the leaf fall was still dry and the scuffing was more like mid-autumn. We emerged on the hill shoulder overlooking North Sands and the welcoming lights of the Winking Prawn were irresistible. So hot drinks were taken by all, and a few had naughty pastries too. Although we were still in time for the all-morning breakfast, no one dared!

The return walk took us past some surprising semi-detached chateaux in Moult Road (or are these all flats?) and through woodland to Combe. After following a quiet road the path resumed, leading past Portlemore Barton (and not forgetting the sewage works) to the back roads of Malborough. This was a walk agreed to be "just the ticket" for the time of year, with Tramp's weather-luck holding up well.

Peter and Wendy Gornall

5 There was a magnificent turnout for the Tramp Christmas Walk on Friday 15 December at Beesands, amazing

weather, and a great walk! 34 Tramps registered for the lunch at 1.00 pm, but first of all the fit ones (26) opted to go for a walk in the hot sunshine in our beautiful countryside.

We set off at 10.15 am in a northerly direction along the coast path before turning inland across pastures. Some evidence was around of the wet previous night but just slippery rather than muddy. A decent track then took us to Lower Widdecombe Farm where Vivien and Mike served warm mince pies and hot mulled wine to all 26. This was a great spot with views over the countryside towards Beesands and the sea.

From the farm, a recently renovated and resurfaced wide track took us comfortably down to Beeson village. Here we took to the pretty lanes and after negotiating steep hills, both up and down, we arrived safely at the Cricket Inn, the venue for our lunch.

This was not a strenuous walk, but did enable us to work up an appetite for the lunch to come. The staff at The Cricket Inn gave us a great welcome, good service for such a large party, and with enormous food portions.

We recommend this pub to all our readers!

Mike Stickland

6 Huge congratulations to those who 'survived' the first Tramp of the year on Wednesday 18 January 2018. Sunshine and showers had been forecast for the morning and, in that respect, we were lucky most of the way.

The route took us through the recreation ground in Kingsbridge and over the green lane to old Bowcombe bridge. From the high point overlooking the estuary we then crossed the stile into the field following the stream down into West Charleton. However, horses and maybe cows had been there before us and, with all of the recent rain, it was a real quagmire.

Vanessa, who'd just returned from skiing, said that the mud was trickier than the snow! Everyone soldiered on valiantly but we eventually escaped to the road and took the easy road back!

Annie Lukehurst

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The Lost Princes

By John Davie

The National Portrait Gallery in London some time ago hosted an exhibition on Henry Stuart, the son and heir of James VI and I, "The Lost Prince" who died tragically at the age of eighteen. It was the cause of national grief and devastated his parents and younger brother, the future Charles I. The funeral in Westminster Abbey at the end of 1612 was even more magnificent than that of Elizabeth nine years earlier. Crowds lined the streets in an unprecedented outpouring of grief that found artistic expression in music, art and poetry. The prince's international reputation as a rising star is reflected in Ben Jonson's optimistic lines:

"O shoot up fast in spirit, as in yeares;
That when upon her head proud Europe weares
Her statliest tire, you may appeare thereon
The richest gem, without a paragon."

The image of the prince as a young sapling full of growth recalls Thetis' description of the young Achilles in the *Iliad*, similarly full of promise as a warrior (but ironically fated to die young).

We know that George Chapman held a minor position in Henry's household and dedicated to him his celebrated translation of the *Iliad*. The prince did not learn enough Greek to read Homer in the original, and Chapman saw his work as "furnishing princely precedents" in the way that Arthur Golding in the preface to his translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* had recommended princes to study the deeds of Theseus as "a spurre to prowesse". In his dedication Chapman compared Henry with Alexander the Great, claiming that the great general had found Homer's poetry more useful in conquering Asia than all his armies. Like the young Alexander according to Plutarch, Henry was more suited to the gymnasium than the schoolroom. On a visit in 1606 the French ambassador wrote: "Henry studies two hours a day and spends the rest of the day tossing the pike, leaping, shooting the bow, vaulting and other such exercises". The exhibition shows two sets of armour presented as gifts to Henry and worn by him for military exercise and displays, one of which shows wonderful gilt decoration of scenes from the life of Alexander.

Robert Peake painted the teenage prince about to draw his sword in a composition clearly based on a contemporary print by Hendrick Goltzius of the Roman hero Titus Manlius Torquatus. This great hero of the Republic was a striking embodiment of Roman virtue and piety and so an ideal model for the aspiring young ruler in whom England and her European allies were now vesting such hope. In another portrait Peake showed the young Henry on a magnificent white horse, pulling along a bearded Father Time, as if the youth represented unlimited hope and was destined to glorify his ancestry by the promise he showed.

Almost seventeen centuries earlier another young man of equal gifts had carried on his shoulders hopes no less high. Marcellus, nephew and son-in-law of Rome's first emperor, had won golden opinions from his contemporaries for his fine accomplishments, which were, like Henry's, predominantly (but not exclusively) military. Augustus had been sufficiently impressed to adopt him formally in 25 B.C., giving him his own daughter Julia in marriage, and marking him out as his heir in preference to his stepson, Tiberius, and his foremost general, Agrippa. But as was to happen with Henry later, tragedy struck in the form of severe illness followed by painful death. Barely living one year more than his royal counterpart of later years, Marcellus left his family and the whole of Rome utterly distraught.

The magnificent funeral ceremonies in the Campus Martius provided Virgil with the subject where the *Aeneid* makes closest contact with contemporary events, as he imagines Anchises in the Underworld foretelling the grim fate of the young warrior “with sad brow and downcast eyes” to an enquiring Aeneas. The pathetic beauty of Virgil’s tribute is said to have reduced Marcellus’ mother to tears, and it deliberately mutes the triumphant roll-call of great Romans with which book six would otherwise have ended. Anchises, the father of his people, is made to speak for the whole Roman world’s sense of loss: “Fate will just show him to the earth – no more. The gods in heaven have judged that the Roman race would become too powerful if this gift were theirs to keep ... No son of Troy will ever so raise the hopes of his Latin ancestors, nor will the land of Romulus so pride itself on any of its young.” (*Aeneid* 6. 869-71 and 875-7, translated by West.)

Horace, writing before the sad event, spoke of the Julian star eclipsing all rivals as the moon outshines other heavenly bodies (*Odes* 1.4. 46-8). His thoughts here focus on Augustus himself but the context makes it clear that the young Marcellus, latest in a line of glorious ancestors, supplies part of this brilliance. For Propertius, voicing the grief of a nation in his own heartfelt tribute, the young man’s body will be rowed across the Styx but his soul is unquestionably bound for heaven, to join the ranks of the pious and just (3.18.31-4). As a special honour Augustus had Marcellus buried with extraordinary honours in the imperial Mausoleum he had recently built in the Campus Martius, beside the Tiber.

There is nothing in Jacobean literature to suggest that this parallel I have suggested between Henry and Marcellus was noticed by contemporary writers but it is clear that these two young men had much in common. We know that on more than one occasion Charles I resorted to the *sortes Vergilianae*, the practice of consulting Virgil’s works at a critical time in the hope of finding some useful insight into the future. One wonders what he would have felt if, in the 1640s, as Cromwell’s army was asserting its superiority, his finger had lighted on Anchises’ poignant address to Marcellus (*heu miserande puer, si qua fata aspera rumpas, / tu Marcellus eris*, *Aen*.6.882-3). Would his thoughts have strayed to the brother who would have ruled in his place? It is perhaps fanciful to imagine Henry averting civil war through a combination of his Protestantism and a more tactful handling of Parliament, but one cannot ignore the plaudits he received at a young age from several foreign ambassadors and from political observers of the day. The king of France is known to have admired him especially. Like Marcellus he inspired great hope and trust despite his youth, and, together with another famous prince, “was like to have proved most royal”.

Virgil in his tribute to Marcellus presents him as a worthy descendant of his splendid ancestor who served with distinction against Hannibal in the Second Punic war. No doubt English minds in 1612 would have recalled the early splendour of young Henry’s royal forefather and namesake, the redoubtable Henry VIII, who had also been the very image of a Renaissance prince. As we know, Father Time, so subservient in Peake’s portrait, had the last laugh over both young men: Augustus’ failure to anoint as heir either his gifted nephew (or either of his grandsons) meant he had to sanction the succession of his stepson Tiberius, by then an embittered man, and England received as king the bookish Charles, both very different from the two “lost princes”.

[John Davie graduated in Classics at Balliol College, Oxford, and went on to teach Classics at Harrow and St Paul’s School. He played golf for the University, but missed out on a Rugby blue through injury. For the past twenty years he has taught Classics to undergraduates at various Oxford colleges, and for the last six years at Trinity College, but intends to retire this summer. He currently runs a U3A class on Greek sculpture, and avidly supports Exeter Chiefs and Scotland’s Rugby team. We hope to persuade John to write more for Village Voice in due course. Ed.]

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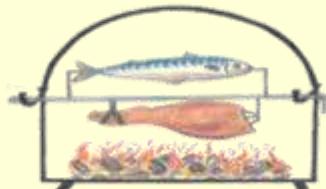


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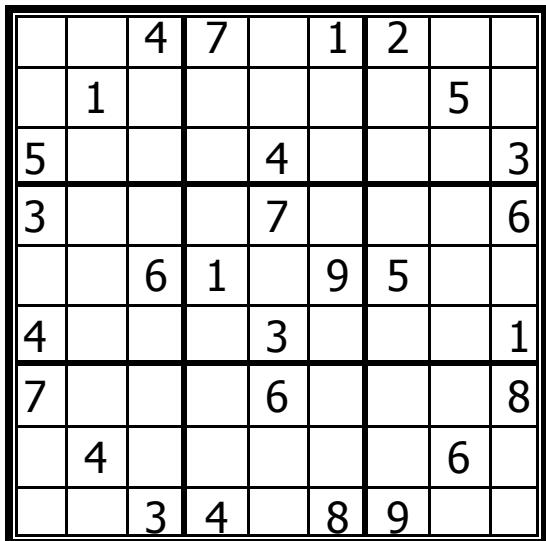
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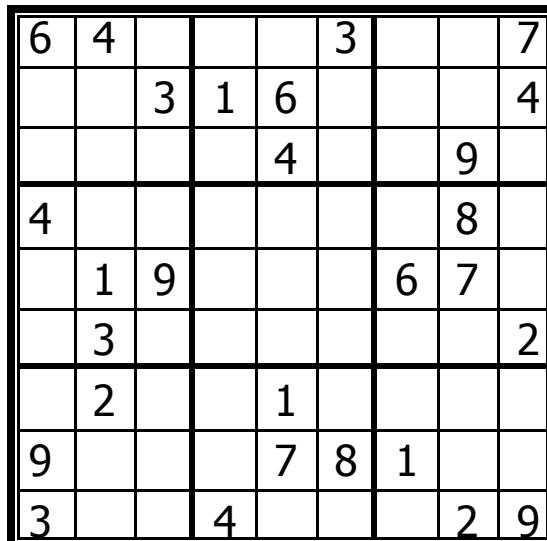
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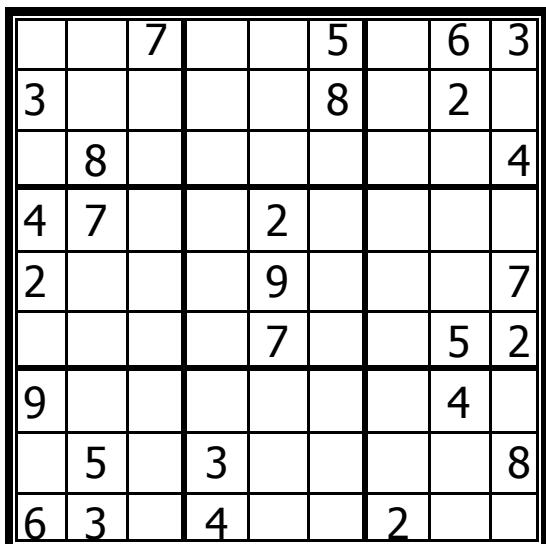
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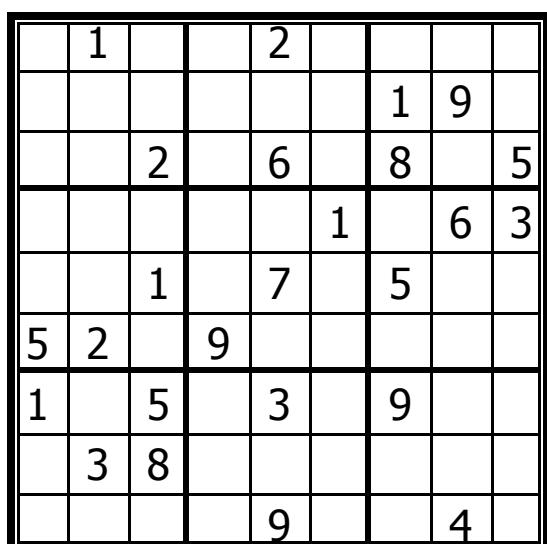
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Samurai Solvers

Twelve puzzlers were able to complete and return the Christmas Samurai Sudoku, and all were correct. Congratulations go to Messrs. Delafield & Irwin, and also to Mesdames Edgeley, Grant, Killingsworth, Leare, Lonsdale, Marshall, McLay, Pain, Pollard, and White. The draw this time favoured **Gillian Marshall**, and her celebratory selection from the chateau cellars is being gift-wrapped as we write. Entries for this month's four-part competition to 25 Mead Lane as usual by 5th March 2018, please.

BOOKSHELF

Conclave

by Robert Harris
(Arrow £7.99 paperback)

The Pope is dead. 118 Cardinals gather in conclave behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel to elect his successor. Most are ambitious men and most have secrets to hide. There is also a question hanging over the Pope's death. Why was there a delay before it was officially announced?

We follow the story with Cardinal Lomeli, who presides over the election and must ensure that it is conducted fairly. The poor man copes with gossip, scandals and unsavoury rumours, and is certainly not helped when a surprise outsider joins the ranks of the Cardinals. This is Cardinal Benitez who had been made a Cardinal *in pectore* by the Pope - appointed in secret without declaring his name publicly. When his name is revealed he can then carry out the duties of his office. Ballot follows ballot.....and the book gathers pace.

You have to keep on reading. Who will it be? I also learned one or two things along the way, as Robert Harris has certainly done his research. This is an engrossing read - as are all of his books - and just wait for the twist at the end!

Carolyn Taylor

Himself

by Jess Kidd
(Canongate Books £8.99 paperback)

This tale begins with a man called Mahony stepping off the bus in Muldering, the village where he was born. He has a letter and a photo in his pocket. Now, you need to find a little bit of the Irish in you to really appreciate this novel. Mahony spent his childhood in an orphanage and now comes seeking the truth about his mother. Did she just abandon him to the nuns, or is there something more sinister about her disappearance? Both mother and baby vanished 26 years ago.

He finds that his mother, Orla, was always in trouble, a rebellious teenager. The story the villagers tell is that she either abandoned her

baby altogether, or that she boarded a bus with him, away from Muldering. Someone must know the truth. He meets some very lively characters - there is the elderly witty actress he stays with, the sly devious priest, and a bitter widow among others. Also the ghosts of the long dead hover around, all having characters of their own. Mahony himself is full of charm, the ladies of the village all succumbing to it. The joy of this book is just following the author's imagination - which is terrific - so long as you keep a little bit of the Irish in you!

Carolyn Taylor

Mary Tudor

by David Loades
(The National Archives Hardcover)

Probably most of us have dismissed "Bloody Mary's" short reign - only 5 years - as being all about burning heretics, being on the throne when England lost Calais, the last bit of its French possessions, and Catholicism. As the daughter of Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon and grand-daughter to Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, she was born to be a royal consort, the wife of a powerful king. Instead she became the first female to be crowned as monarch of England, holding deep-set Catholic beliefs and principles.

Sadly, she did not always know how to present herself or how to behave in a "man's role". She was very popular with her subjects and it is believed she was instrumental in paving the way for the success of Elizabeth's subsequent 45 year reign. Her marriage to Philip of Spain unfortunately only brought her unhappiness and rejection by Philip.

Since David Loades wrote his first book about Mary Tudor he has re-thought aspects of her life and reign, and that of her husband, with new research bringing to light further information about them, hence this his second book on the subject. Considered to be one of the leading authorities on the life of Mary, his scholarly story-telling is compelling.

Pat Macdonald

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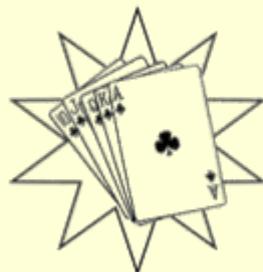
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Permanence or journeying?

In the tenth year of writing in this column I might be allowed some personal reflections; if not, then please turn over! The immediate reflection is about house building and furnishing, which has exercised Wendy and me with 30 months of negotiating up to planning consent, and another 12 months to the present. "The end is nigh" says the bill-board, and for our house-build it really is.

By contrast, I reflect that perhaps one great leap for humankind was to leave the cave and to live by caring for flocks and finding them pasture. The earliest revelations of a single overarching and caring Deity were not to city dwellers with permanent addresses, but to nomad shepherds. Settling in Egypt with its regular seasons and predictable economics had advantages, even for slaves. But history's most spectacular and longest lasting growth of nationhood and of communal cohesion, vision and purpose was enacted in the Sinai wilderness. And I remind myself that the principle of "Love your neighbour as yourself" was worked out by nomads. It demands so much more than mere civility: in the desert it can mean life rather than death in the face of a sandstorm or a wolf-pack.

So is building a house such a big deal, I ask myself? Actually not – neighbours and friends are so much more important. Providentially we are only going to be moving a few yards. And if our vision and purpose implies, not permanence and comfort, but journeying, seeking and discovery, then the same overarching, caring Deity will reveal Himself more explicitly. He too had his time in the desert, as we shall be commemorating from Ash Wednesday onwards; and the final journey to Jerusalem, commemorated in the last week of March, heralded the greatest revelation of all.

Every blessing!

Peter

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All Saints' Diary

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Sundays

| | |
|--|--|
| EVERY SUNDAY | 8.00am Holy Communion (alternating BCP & CW) |
| FEB. 4TH, 18TH, MARCH 4TH, 18TH | 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (<i>Fairtrade Feb/March 4th</i>) |
| FEBRUARY 11TH | 11.10am Morning Worship 4.30pm Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh |
| FEBRUARY 25TH | 11.10am Matins (BCP) |
| FEBRUARY 25TH, MARCH 18TH | 6.00pm Prayer & Praise |
| MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 11TH | 11.10am Mothering Sunday Family Service 4.30pm Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh |
| PALM SUNDAY MARCH 25TH <i>Clocks go forward!</i> | 10.55am Palm Sunday Procession leaves Parish Hall 11.10am Palm Sunday Family Service |
| EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 1ST | 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) with hymns 11.10am Easter Family Communion (CW) <i>with Drop-in Crèche for very young children + adult</i> |

Weekdays

| | |
|--|--|
| THURSDAY FEB 2ND, MARCH 2ND | 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham |
| ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14TH | 10.00am Benefice Communion (CW) |
| GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 30TH | 10.00am Readings and Meditation |
| EVERY WEDNESDAY (except Feb 14th) | 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) |
| MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY | 8.30am Morning Prayer (said) (8.15am on Wed.) |

CW = Common Worship (modern language) BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language)

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| MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 29TH | 6.00pm Benefice Maundy Thursday Communion (CW) |
| GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 30TH | 12 noon Benefice Prayers & Readings at the Cross 2.00pm Benefice Good Friday Communion (CW) |



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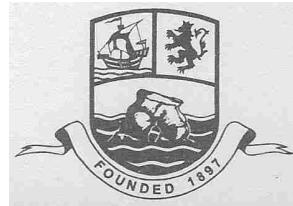
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Thurlestone Golf Club



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

New Year's Day Captain's Drives-In have been traditional at Thurlestone, but unfortunately this year the course was closed due to water-logging. However, fortunately the sun shone and we were able to complete our traditional drives down the first fairway and raise some money for charity with members guessing the length of our drives.

My charity this year is the Hope Cove Lifeboat. Thank you to everyone who supported the event; all funds went to the two captains charities. Darrell Day and Judith Lungmuss won the squares we landed in and will be parking in our spaces for January.

I am delighted to be able to represent the Club during 2018 in my position as Club Captain, and hope to be able to meet as many members as possible, and support as many teams as I can throughout the year.

I am looking forward to working with Heather Spencer as Ladies captain and Finn Whelan the juniors captain as well as Tom Burnett the seniors captain who has taken over from Chris Holmes. Chris did sterling service for three years as seniors captain.

We are lucky at Thurlestone to have an excellent course manager Vic Dyer and his team, and Gaynor Tabiner the stewardess and Brent Wilkinson our head chef and the catering team look after us so well.

Simon Bawden, our new General manager, and his assistants Bett and Pip have settled into the main office and give us excellent service. Steve White and the Pro shop team are always on hand to make our lives easier.

I am looking forward to supporting our men's teams this year, we have entered four teams. The Dartmoor League team plays local clubs in both home and away matches and the format is four ball better ball and is captained by Tony Adams. The Devon

County men's Paliaret trophy is a Devon knockout competition played off handicap in foursomes and our team is captained by Steve Pike. In this knockout trophy we usually recruit some juniors to play in the team. George Holland handicap 5 and George Messias handicap 7 both played last year and will be keen to play again.

The Devon Men's Golf knockout Parker trophy is played off scratch in foursomes match play. The team consists of six players and the clubs are drawn and have to play off a neutral course. The Parker team is captained by Darrell Day.

The Annodata competition is a new National Golf Club Team Competition. All Golf clubs in England, Scotland and Wales can enter a 5 man + 5 Lady team in the Matchplay event and we are entering men's and ladies teams.

We also enter the Daily Mail Foursomes which is a National competition. The qualifying competition was played on Saturday 6th January and Ashley Crow and Matthew Reed will represent Thurlestone.

I would encourage everyone to take part in the inter-club matches that have been arranged for this year, just put your names down on the lists that will soon appear on the noticeboards. These matches are an excellent way to meet players from other clubs, and play at different courses.

I wish Tom Burnett good luck with his seniors team this year as they play a large number of home and away matches against other Devon clubs.

The year is also full of Mixed competitions and matches and I would urge you to sign up and support them this year. Thanks to Wendy and Phillip Laud last year's organisers we now have mixed events every month.

The tennis season will start soon and Last years captain Stewart Barnes takes over as the chairman. Stewart has a wealth of tennis experience and also plays for the Devon seniors team. The first tennis tournament is the Valentine's tournament on 13th February, then the Easter Bonnet tournament on the 29th March.

We also have a varied calendar of social events organised. First is the Valentines evening on Wednesday 14th February. Brent has put together a very good menu and tickets are selling out quickly. The night is limited to 60 members, so to reserve your place see one of the catering team.

I wish you all a very happy new year with plenty of enjoyable golfing and social events.

Harry Cattell

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

This is my first report as Lady Captain, a position I regard as a great privilege. I look forward to the good mix of both serious and fun golf that we have planned for the coming year. We have entered four Ladies teams this year. The President's Team is captained by Wendy Stewart and Victoria Gibbens. The Sheelah Creasy team is captained by Diane Baker. Our Devon League team is to be led again by Sue Curry. We are also entering an Annadota team this year captained by myself. We also have some friendly matches planned. Linda Cant and Barbara Smith will be in charge of our mixed matches, and it promises to be a busy season!

The Ladies Committee this year comprises Janet Richardson as Secretary and Jan Brooking takes up the position of Treasurer. Jane Mahood continues as Handicap Secretary until we find someone to take over. The other committee members are Sally Huntley, Linda Cant, Gill Markham and Liz Davies, who I know will give me strong support during my year of captaincy.

I have been a member of Thurlestone Golf Club for twelve years, and was Captain of the Still Cup team when they reached the final in 2014. In 2017, I was team captain of the Ladies Annadota team and played for the Presidents team as well as being vice captain. My charity this year is a very small charity called 'William's Fund'. All money raised is handed over to Cancer research for children at Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

To recap on the last two months, the Presentation evening took place in November and was well attended by around 50 members, where we saw a big turnout for

the presentation of the trophies won during the year. There were 17 trophies collected by the ladies, 11 mixed and seniors trophies and 19 men's trophies. It was great to see the Clubhouse so full and many of us went on to enjoy a wonderful meal. Our thanks must go to Tom, Brent and Gaynor for ensuring the evening was so successful.

The Ladies AGM in November was well attended with outgoing captain Sheila George thanking her committee who had worked hard during the year to ensure the smooth running of the section. Sheila said she had thoroughly enjoyed her year and would recommend it to anyone. The Ladies section have raised over £1620 this year for her charity the NSPCC. Barbara Smith stands down as competition secretary after three years, and Liz Line, Gwen Hale, Jane Mahood also leave the committee after three years.

Only twenty brave ladies had some tough conditions to contend with in the December Stableford with very strong winds and this was reflected in the scores. In division one Jenny Roberts (3) managed to beat the wind and scored 34 points, runner up was Gill Hicks with 33. In division two the winner was Liz Baker, and division three was won by Janet Hartley.

The Turkey Trot competition in December had to be turned into a variety of indoor sports due to gale force conditions but we all had an enjoyable time with our Christmas hats and jumpers and a delicious meal. Jan Brooking and Shirley Worrall took first place.

The highlight of January is always the Captain's drive in on New Year's Day. Sadly, the weather had other ideas this year. About a hundred members gathered to welcome in the new year but the course was closed due to waterlogged conditions, so the competition couldn't go ahead. However, the new captains went to the first tee to carry out the drive-in which is quite a nerve racking performance. Luckily, I managed to hit a good drive down the middle of the fairway. The money raised will go to our charities. Everyone then returned to the clubhouse for bacon baps, mince pies and drinks to warm up.

I would like to thank Sheila George and her committee for their support and dedication over the last year, I regard it as an honour to be Lady Captain at Thurlestone Golf Club and with my new committee I am really looking

forward to the challenge. I wish the new club captain Harry Cattell a great year and I hope the teams will do well. Also the new seniors captain Tom Burnett, and juniors captain Finn Whelan good luck in all their matches. I am sure we shall enjoy a happy and successful 2018.

Heather Spencer

JUNIORS SECTION NEWSLETTER

We start the new year with a new junior captain and vice captain. Many thanks to last year's captain Ethan Bellamy and his vice captain Finn Whelan who did such a great job. The new captain is fifteen year old Finn Whelan, a pupil in Year 10 at Kingsbridge Community College. Finn has a handicap of 9 this year, and started playing when he was eight years old and in the junior team when he was eleven. He learnt with the Academy at Thurlestone, having lessons with Steve White and Jack Wallace. His vice captain is Sammy Ingham who is fourteen years old with a handicap of 9. He has been a junior team member for three years.

To recap on the events of November and December. We had a very successful junior presentation evening in November. The day started with a Junior competition organised by Jonathan Ingham and the difficult weather conditions did not deter the juniors. The winner of the CONGU group was Ethan Bellamy (9) 31 points, from Sammy Ingham. The 9 hole non Congu winner was Emma White 20 points from Aiden Mulligan 18 points. The Academy juniors had their fun competition in the afternoon with the professionals Steve, Jack and Glenn in attendance. The winners were Finley Moore, Madeline Rossiter and Lockie Turner-Jones. Following a delicious buffet the presentation evening got underway with the Academy juniors receiving their awards first then the juniors collected 19 Junior trophies and 8 of the men's trophies that they had won over the year. Multiple winners were George Messias, who won the Yarrow putting cup, the Junior gross championship cup, Thurlestone Hotel cup, and the Membland Trophy. Alfie Messias won the Presidents cup, Jades cup and the Allcomers cup. Noah Mulligan won the Liz Line cup, Junior

handicap championship cup, and the Parkinson trophy. Ethan Bellamy won the Junior boy's cup, Junior Shield, Summer cup and the Prowse Salver. Toby White won The Geoff Mills cup, Stableford winners cup, Graham cup and the Links Hotel cup.

Junior organiser Nigel Whelan praised the team who had won the Tamar cup this year and played well in the Basil Steer cup and the West Devon League. Ethan Bellamy as junior captain gave a speech and thanked the club and committee and handed over the role of junior captain 2018 to Finn Whelan.

Jack Wallace and Steve White have had great success their Junior Academy in 2017. They now have 5 groups of Juniors coming every Saturday during the school term time, with a mixture of boys (75%) and girls (25%) aged from 5- 14 years. Certificates have been given out to the youngest golfers for completing their first level of the Golf Foundations Junior Golf Passports.

In December the juniors had a Christmas Stableford competition as well as an Academy Christmas Texas Scramble competition. In the 18-hole CONGU group the winner was Finn Whelan (10) with 39 points and a handicap reduction to 9. In the Non-Congu group who played 9 holes the winner was Louis Tollins. We also had 13 juniors playing in the Academy Christmas Competition which was a Texas Scramble. Both Jack Wallace and Steve White's teams scored 27 over the 5 holes but Glenn's Team won with a Score of 25. They were Vinnie Lowden, Connor Cleary, Alfie Tabiner, Scarlett Boyt and Jacob Brooker. The weather was great and they all enjoyed themselves, especially as they got a Christmas Present each!

In 2018 we have one junior competition each month in the diary and this will be a qualifying Stableford. We have a number of parents helping to organise the competitions this year, and we are very grateful for the help from Griff Griffiths, Jonathan Ingham, Marc Mulligan, Lee Bellamy, and Phil Holland. We will also host the Devon Order of Merit competition on 8th July.

This year George Holland has been selected to play for Devon in the U18 County Squad, George Messias, Finn and Sammy for the U16, Toby White and Alfie Messias for the U14 , so we wish them all good luck.

Liz Line

Postbag

Dear Editor

THE OYSTER SHACK UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

I have some news to share. After fifteen years of nurturing The Oyster Shack into what has become one of the top (and most cherished) seafood restaurants in the country, I am handing the reigns over to a new custodian from the 1st February 2018..

Having already stepped back from my day-to-day role over the last two years, as my growing drinks business has demanded more commitment, I feel now is the right time to give a new restaurateur the opportunity to take the Shack into the next decade – and beyond. To this end, I have taken much time and care to select the right individual to take on this next chapter, to continue to develop its cherished ethos and legacy.

Kieron Vanstone and Dino Buonaguidi, the new leaders of the ship are thrilled to be taking over at The Oyster Shack. Kieron was born locally and worked in the restaurant as a teenager, as did most of his family, and he is very excited to be returning to his roots in Devon. Kieron has achieved great success as a producer of events and immersive theatre in London, as Director of London's premiere alternative arts venue The Vaults. Dino is a London-based chef and restauranteur, who has worked all over the world and owns the renowned Yab Yum Resort in Goa, India, as well as running quirky London drinking-hole Vaulty Towers.

Both Kieron and Dino adore the restaurant and want to maintain it's delicious local menu, excellent sustainable ethos and all round fabulous shack'y dining experience and are excited to meet you at the Shack.

I am keen to reassure you that nothing is changing within the business: for the past year Ali, who I am sure you have all met, has been managing the ship brilliantly, along with our front of house team. The commitment of Head Chef Andy Richardson for the past four years and the rest of the

team to their roles will ensure that your enjoyment of wonderful food and enjoyable ambience will continue as ever.

It's been a wonderful pleasure to get to know those of you that are "Shackers" - all of your continued support and loyalty has been incredible and I have many fond memories. Your love and passion for the Shack has been invaluable to its success over the past years.

In the meantime – the team hope to see you at The Shack to enjoy some glorious seafood and the many events and offers over the coming months. Please note that the restaurant will be closed from Monday 15th January and will re-open on Friday 2nd February onwards.

If you would like to keep up to date with the journey of my drinks business ROCKTAILS, as we launch nationwide with the first botanical distilled, craft soft drink, please subscribe online at www.rocktails.co.uk. If you would like to stay in touch here are my details: chris@rocktails.co.uk

Here's to the next chapter.

Chris Yandell

Dear Editor

My daughter Kat has challenged me to run the London Marathon this year with her to fund-raise for the RNLI. She qualified as a Lifeguard last summer and is passionate about doing some fundraising for them. 2018 is a special year for us. I will be 50 and Kat 18. See our fundraising site at:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/katayandjac> We are organising a Fashion Show at Threads, Avon Mill, on Wednesday 28 March at 6 pm, with our beautiful models displaying the new collection. Tickets are £10 with a glass of prosecco and nibbles on arrival at 6pm, show starts at 6.30pm. Please bring your family and friends. Tickets are available at Threads or from Jac on 01548 561133 or 0777 193 1068. Many thanks.

Jacqui Wallace

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Kate's Kitchen



CHILLI BEEF PIE (2)

This is a handy one-pot dish, just the thing for a cold winter's day, which is simple, quick to make and tasty!

Ingredients

454g/1lb prepared weight potatoes, peeled and sliced wafer-thin
1 tablespoon sunflower oil
1 largish onion, peeled and finely chopped
Half a teaspoon ground chilli powder
250g/half a pound lean minced beef steak
1 beef stock cube
Small can (200g) kidney beans, drained
Small can (220g) chopped tomatoes
25g/1oz melted butter plus a little for buttering the dish

Method

- * Set oven to 200°C
- * Put sliced potatoes into a pan, cover with cold salted water, bring to the boil, drain well
- * Heat the oil in a large frying pan and gently soften but don't brown
- * Stir in the chilli powder, add the beef and continue cooking until it just changes colour
- * Remove the pan from the heat, add the stock cube and stir until it dissolves
- * Mix the kidney beans and tomatoes into the meat with a little salt
- * Transfer mixture into a buttered oven-proof dish
- * Arrange the sliced potatoes neatly over the top, slightly overlapping them
- * Brush potatoes well with the melted butter
- * Stand the dish on a baking sheet and cook 50-60 minutes until topping is golden

And for a quick pudding for two **on the day you're not dieting**, try the following

HOT TOFFEE BANANA CUSTARD

Melt an ounce of butter (not margarine) in a small frying pan over medium heat then add two tablespoons of light brown sugar and stir until it has dissolved. Add two peeled sliced bananas and a teaspoon ground cinnamon, cook, stirring, for 2-3 minutes until just beginning to soften. Stir a carton of ready-made custard into the pan, heat for a further minute and serve immediately on a slice of ginger cake. Yum!



Eating Out Locally

Vivien Stickland reports on another two local hostelries

The Pantry Kingsbridge

A chalkboard on the pavement states 'Award Winning Crab Sandwiches' and on the reverse side, 'Don't Worry, Be Happy'. It is The Pantry's way of saying 'Relax - you have reached The Pantry, leave your cares at the roadside and enter into The Pantry mood'. We are here for brunch believing that to go out for a late breakfast is a delightful start to sunless winter days. Inside The Pantry we pass a show counter of delicious-looking deli foods before we reach the cafe at the back.

A bright waitress welcomes us and from The Pantry's various ways of preparing eggs, bacon, smoked salmon and more foods, we order a Pancake Stack with Bacon & Maple Syrup; and Smoked Salmon & Scrambled Egg. All breakfast prices are under £7. We enjoy the promptly served coffee and tea and check out an array of items in the shop that are special enough for gifts if consumables are what you like to give.

Our food, with presentation that is in keeping with the cafe's character, is served by one of the two sisters who revitalised the cosy cafe. Sandwiches on the lunch menu have excellent filling choices as well as sausage rolls, pasties, pastries, and quiche and there are jacket potatoes and soups too. Everything is under £10. A salad bar provides still more lunch options. For a coffee or tea stop, the carrot cake is just one of several superb treats. Gingerbread lattes are favourites for children.

The Pantry is on Duke St. (off the lower end of Fore St.). Phone 01548 856100

Valley View Cafe Aune Valley

Here is another very popular place for daytime meals. You can park with ease and as you head for the cafe you may be tempted to pop in to the Aune Valley farm shop where a lot of the produce satisfies our Green awareness. The butcher's meat is from fine local sources and we also find a good supply of other farm produce, including cheeses and vegetables. Satisfied with our quality purchases we go next door to the cafe where the buzz of conversation is from customers of all ages - families, seniors and young couples. Some have met for coffee or tea with such scrumptious cakes as sticky ginger & rhubarb, or date & walnut.

A short queue moves forward and we soon have a table where the tantalising mix of bacon and coffee aromas waft by. Our own beverages arrive and are soon followed by our food orders. The surprisingly generous servings are each priced at £7. Our 'Butchers Breakfast' and vegetarian 'Field Breakfast' are brought by nice waitresses wearing practical aprons. They are part of the authentic country kitchen ambiance and, here and there, cotton fabrics with small floral prints complement the mood. We sit among happy families and, through the wide window, take in the valley view. The lower limits of green rounded hills meet for a panoramic scene. We leave, full of the loveliness of Devon and of good food from this cafe at Valley View.

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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

After days or even weeks of unpleasant weather by our standards, today 6th January is a startlingly beautiful day. The wind is in the east, the sun is shining and it is bitterly cold! Yesterday a fearsome black cloud gave way to lightning, thunder and a vicious hail storm. It only lasted about 15 minutes but made its presence felt in no uncertain terms. Roads in South Milton turned into raging waterways carrying away precious soil from the fields around, the sides of the roads were piled high with hailstones, and as usual in these times the church main roof allowed water to seep up and over the lead to cascade down around the organ. Thankfully, not a huge flood, but enough to have to mop it up with towels, 'dustpans and brush' to stop it from working its way further into the church (think of California!). Now today, 10th January, the sun has shone all day and the temperature is 10°C or above. Tomorrow will not be the same, I'll be bound! Mind you, I won't object if it is the same.

2017 was not a spectacular year in general. It was warm though not as warm as the previous year, it was not very wet overall, and there were a few storms and the odd spectacular weather event. Rainfall at Beach Cottage was 761mm for the year, modest for the most part. The Coverack event July 18th was special, as a one off and not part of a storm, no name, but devastating and reminiscent of Boscastle. We have the Irish Met Office (Met Eireann) to thank for naming the storms, it helps to remember the event if there is a name attached to it.

Despite having storms the year was warmer than most (the warmer the air when colliding with cold the more storms we get - NB the Jet Stream) so it figures that as the climate warms we are likely to get more of the same in the future. 2017 was the 5th warmest year since detailed records began in 1910, and the 9 warmest years have occurred between 2000 and 2017. This is a trend to note!

Now for the storms (in brief not in a tea-cup). The winter really began in 2016 with OPHELIA on October 30th, the anniversary of the 1987 Great Storm. From January 2017 to December 2017 there were 6 named storms. February 23rd DORIS, 62mph clocked here; February 26th EWAN; September 12th (new series of names) AILEEN; October 16th BRIAN; December 7th CAROLINE; December 31st DYLAN. This last one caused the cancellation of South Milton's New Year's Eve celebration in church as well as no bells). The flagpole at Thurlestone suffered at the speeds of Dylan. Then on January 2nd 2018 ELEANOR blew in at 76mph.

I found some interesting data on a site named ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-long range Weather Forecasts). The data-set shows that global average surface temperatures exceeded 14.7°C making 2017:

- about 0.1°C cooler than the warmest year on record (2016) and warmer than the previous 2nd warmest year (2015).
- the warmest year not influenced by El Nino conditions in the tropical Pacific.
- around 0.5°C warmer than the 1981-2010 climatological reference period.
- an estimated 1.2°C warmer than the pre-industrial value for the 18th Century.

I am impressed by these figures and with all the other factors which we are witnessing that are being attributed to global warming, I feel that there is definitely

a problem to be faced if our planet and peoples are to survive. This is in addition to the scenes we are viewing on television re plastic, and all that they imply for us.)

With the warming of the planet come strange weather patterns across the globe. Monsoons fail or are too violent, hurricanes are stronger and greater in number, rain falls in desert areas causing flash floods, exceptional rainfall in mountainous areas cause landslides/mudslides, and of course wild storms at sea cause coastal flooding.

In recent days there has been a disastrous mud slide in California. The rainfall was high on the mountains behind the coastal strip. These mountains had also been seriously affected by wild fires late in 2016. As a result the valuable vegetative cover had been stripped from the surface of the ground leaving it open to erosion when the rain came. As the surface was hard baked the water ran off very freely and the consequences have been apparent in the populated areas in the foothills and beyond. The people of Boscastle, Coverack, Lynton and Lynmouth will know only too well how devastating the event can be.

So far this winter there has been only a short spell with snow making the news and life hard for some folks. You all know that I quite like a bit of snow. It seems to make the land hushed and almost serene (when the snowfall has stopped) and footsteps are slow and crunchy. I guess that for many children snow has not entered their personal experiences, just scenes on the TV. However, Paul Simon has some info about it - "usual chaos! snow is not that common in Britain". He then goes on to say - "December is the least snowy month with an average of 3.9 days. It is 5.3 days in January, 5.6 days in February, 4.2 days in March". (Met Office figures) We know that for the most part snow falls on high ground where temperatures are lower. Scotland's Cairngorms have 76.2 days of snow or sleet in an average year. Cornwall, on the other hand, is least likely to get snow with only 7.4 days on average seeing snow or sleet falling during the year. Paul goes on to quell a couple of myths about snow. The first is that it is coloured white. In fact ice crystals of snow are translucent, but the sides of the crystals interfere with light, and with lots of ice crystals in a single snowflake, the light is scattered and bounced, which makes the snow appear to be white. Secondly, 'that it can be too cold for snow'. Snow can happen in very cold weather, even down to minus 40°C, but only when there is enough moisture available in the air. Exceptionally cold weather is often dry, making snow more unlikely to happen. He goes on to explain about the snow in Antarctica. There is rarely any snow, in fact it contains the driest places on earth. The "Dry Valleys" (which we may have seen on recent TV coverage with David Attenborough) are devoid of moisture and have not had rainfall over the last 2 million years. Overall in meteorological terms Antarctica is the largest desert in the world. Snow does however fall near the coast where there is more moisture and the seas are warmer. They are getting warmer as is the air above so there is likely to be more snow in the future, perhaps going further inland.

I am still hoping for a proper cold snap of about a week or ten days with some snow to delight the eye and freeze the feet, paralyse the usual pace of life, and just let us know that with global warming may come cold snaps as well!

Enjoy the lovely winter sunshine, the rolling surf and the lengthening days, long walks along the cliffs and beaches and be proud of our neck of the woods with all its peculiar weather patterns.



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DIARY DATES

February

Monday 5 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday 7 Tramp, Aveton Gifford (short)
Thursday 8 WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm, (Membland & Lord Revelstoke)
Saturday 10 **Rumpus Ceilidh Band**, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday 14 Tramp, Loddiswell (short)
Thursday 15 NT Talk, K'bridge Methodist Hall, 2.30pm (see NT ad inside)
Wednesday 21 Tramp, Modbury (short)
Wednesday 21 Arts Soc (*The Guildhall Art Gallery*), Diana Wright, 7.30pm
Thursday 22 Arts Soc - K'bridge Methodist Hall, 10.30am (as above)
Thursday 22 **The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night**, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 24 Choral Workshop, K'bridge Community Coll, 10am-5pm
Wednesday 28 Tramp, Prawle and environs (short)

March

Monday 5 Tramp, Kingston and environs, (long)
Monday 5 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday 8 WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm
Saturday 10 **Wild Artichokes** pop-up supper, Parish Hall, 7.30pm (see ad)
Wednesday 14 Tramp, tba (Dartmoor long?)
Wednesday 14 NT AGM & talk, K'bridge Methodist Hall, 2.30pm (see ad)
Tuesday 20-24 KATS, *Fiddler on the Roof*, Malborough v Hall, (see Roundup)
Friday 23 Tramp, Dartmoor, (short)
Wednesday 28 Tramp, Avon Valley, (long)

April

Monday 2 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Monday 9 Tramp, Bowcombe and environs (long)
Thursday 12 WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm -Teaching English to Burmese orphans
Saturday 21 **Cabaret Night**, Parish Hall, 7.30pm (see advert inside)

VILLAGE VOICE

Your *Cut Out and Keep*

PARISH DIRECTORY and DIARY DATES

Village Voice is available free to permanent residents of the villages in the parish.

There is also a **subscription service**, which mails copies to readers at an annual cost for 2017 of **£15.00 for six issues**. Please apply to:

Judith Reynolds, Pilgrim Cottage, Post Office Lane, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3ND Telephone : 01548-560912

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship. This does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in these pages are the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council, and they should only be ascribed to the authors concerned.

In Thurlestone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers organised by **Graham & Val Palmer**. In Buckland it is delivered by **Tink Donald** and in Bantham by **Anna & David Martin**.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Apr-May) ISSUE = 5th March 2018

Please drop any contributions marked "Village Voice" through the letterbox at 25 Mead Lane before that date (or e-mail to RbnMacd@aol.com)

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| | Kit Marshall | 560214 |
| | Jill Munn | 560732 |
| | Bronwen Zaffiro | 560020 |
| District Councillor | Judy Pearce | 561370 |
| County Councillor | Simon Wright | 561033 |
| | Rufus Gilbert | 856659 |
| Tree Warden | Charles Mitchelmore | 560602 |

PARISH HALL (See Parish website)

 Chairman
 Bookings
 Pay-phone in foyer

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

1. Thurlestone Parish Hall
2. Thurlestone Hotel (Garage)
3. Golf Club (entrance foyer)
4. Sloop Inn, Bantham (lobby)
5. Bantham Quay
6. Buckland Phone Box

PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------|
| ALL SAINTS CHURCH | Rector | Rev Daniel Hartley | 562727 |
| CHURCHWARDENS | Graham Worrall | Liz Webb | 560090 |
| CHURCH MEETING ROOM ACTIVITIES | Office | | 561246 |
| COFFEE TIME | (Every Wednesday 10.30 -11.30 am) | Contact | Rosemary Chipman |
| FILMS FOR ALL | (1 st Tuesday Monthly 2.30 pm) | Contact | Liz Webb |
| LUNCH CLUB | (2 nd & 4 th Fridays 12.45 pm) | Contact | Anne Bowden |
| SOUP & A ROLL | (3 rd Fridays Sep-Easter 12.30-1.30 pm) | Contact | Liz Webb |
| UNDER 3s | (Thursdays 9.30-11.00 am term-time) | Contact | Kate Davey |

FIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

Contact

Gillian Marshall

560214

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head

Susan Rowe-Jones

560494

PEARSON'S PRE-SCHOOL

Manager

Linda Quinn

560816

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Chairman

Stuart Watts

810373

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

Secretary

Jo Smith

560347

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Clubhouse

560447

BRIDGE CLUBS

6.30 p.m Wednesdays and Fridays

Contact

Lisa White

560505

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

Gen Mgr - Simon Bawden

Clubhouse & all enquiries

560405

TENNIS SECTION

Chairman

Stewart Barnes

07967-042095

TAI CHI

Contact

Simon Bowden

07738373051

PILATES (Advance booking essential)

Contact

Franny Morris

07590506027

YOGA

Contact

Sarah Scott

07879627939

TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)

Contact

Mike Stickland

560763

HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)

Contact

Tom Gilkes

560973

DIRECTORY

PARISH WEBSITE (www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk)

Contacts Mike Bone 288436 Paul Martin 560070

W. I. 2.30 pm Parish Hall

Contact Judith Le Grice 562135

Second Thursday monthly (except August)

TABLE TENNIS Thursday 7.30 to 8.300 pm

Parish Hall Robin Macdonald 560436

NEW ZUMBA CLASS Tuesday 1.15pm

Parish Hall Alicia Prowse 07375 704 069

HEALTH CENTRES Kingsbridge 853551

Salcombe 842284

MILK DELIVERY R. Bruckner & Son

01803 - 832801

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

Dave & Sandra Edmonds 01548 - 853132

VILLAGE SHOP Thurlestone Village Shop

Sarah Tyers 561917

Opening Hours M, T, Th, F, 8.00 am - 5.30 pm

Wednesday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm

(Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm) Saturday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm

Sunday, 8.30 am - 1.00 pm

(NB. The 1.00 pm closing times may sometimes be extended during school holidays and at weekends)

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE

See Advert for dates pf closure week 561917

Open : Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

 Postal collections : 4.00pm Monday - Friday; Noon on Saturday; **NO collection on Sunday**
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX

Contact Kit Marshall 560214

BUCKLAND PHONE BOX

Contact Anna Martin 560796

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Co-ordinator Charles Mitchelmore 560602

POLICE Dave Gibson (Community Support Officer)

08456 - 568637

Emergency 999 General enquiries & Non-emergency calls 101 Minicom

users 01392 - 452935 Confidential information 0800-555-111

RUBBISH COLLECTION

 Monday (But **Tuesday** in Bank Holiday Monday weeks) **Grey Wheelies** - alternate Mondays from **5th February**
White & Blue Sack collections (recyclables) **and Brown Wheelies** - alternate Mondays from **12th February**
RECYCLING CENTRE (Torr Quarry Site, Totnes Road - Telephone 521609)

Opening Hours Monday to Friday 9.00 am - 4.30 pm Saturday & Sunday 10.00 am - 4.30 pm

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE

For ALL bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE 0871 200 2233

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 DevonBus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk
GARAGE (Blight Engineering)

Keith Foale 560220

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY

 (Mobile Library from Ivybridge now calls only monthly - **Wednesday 7th February & 7th March**)

South Milton (Backhay Close) 14.15 - 15.00 pm Thurlestone (Parish Hall Car Park) 15.10 - 16.10 pm

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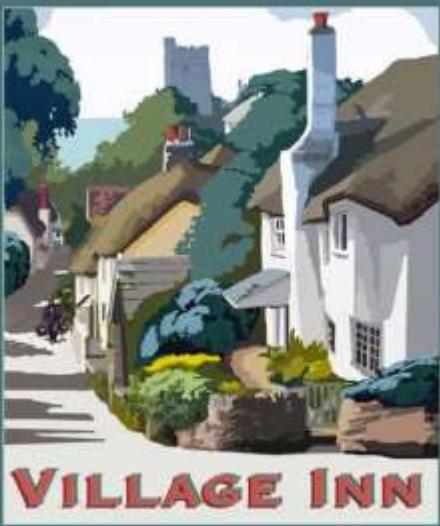
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Mob: 07970 970387

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Friday

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5.00—10.30pm

Saturday

11.30am – 10.30pm

Sunday

12.00am – 10.30pm

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