

VILLAGE VOICE

February - March 2019



The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



It's a little late to wish all our readers a 'Happy New Year' but we do wish you well through 2019. The first month has slipped by and now we're seeing the arrival of early daffodils and crocuses, reminding us that winter has been chilly but without bitter temperatures.

Thank you Margaret Houghton, for donating the painting for the front cover - a beautiful presentation of spring and summer.

In this issue we are starting the serialisation of the book 'Thurlestone Then'. It is the transcription of an interview with Monica Coope, conducted by Kendall McDonald, probably in the 1970's. We are indebted to David Houghton for his work in creating this transcription, and to Kendall's daughter, Jo Acourt, for permission to publish. It is a fascinating personal and historic illustration of our village and its reading is well recommended.

We'd like to draw your attention to the quiz that's taking place in the next few days which we would not want you to miss. It is on 7th February in Thurlestone Parish Hall, in aid of the 'End Polio Now' campaign. Details are in the Village News Roundup.

Thank you to all our contributors. We welcome your input. The editors are always seeking items of local interest from Buckland and Bantham. Or, perhaps you have a photograph that you would like us to consider for the cover?

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Front Cover

Watercolour painting by
Margaret Houghton

February - March 2019

37th Year of Publication

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Robin Macdonald 1932 - 2018

Robin died, aged 86, on 4 December. His private cremation took place later that month. He was born in Wirral and graduated from Liverpool University having studied English Language & Literature. When Robin's work in the food industry brought him from Oxfordshire to Devon in 1966 he and his wife, Pat, came to live in Newton Ferrers. He loved playing golf but the journey from Newton Ferrers to Bigbury Golf Club to indulge his passion was one of the reasons he decided to live nearer a golf course and chose Thurlestone. Although he joined TGC and enjoyed the course his loyalty to BGC prevailed and instead he made many journeys from Thurlestone to Bigbury, during which time he served as Captain, Board Director and Chairman, and President of the club.

Always interested in family history, a lot of his leisure time was spent researching the Clan Macdonald, connections which often took him to Scotland. This hobby led to his looking into the names of the men on Thurlestone's war memorial and resulted in an exhibition at the Parish Hall in 2014. A reprise of this exhibition was held during Remembrance Weekend in 2018 and this, together with a list of parish residents who served in WW1 but who returned safely (taken from a list compiled by Reverend Coope), formed the basis of his book 'Thurlestone at War 1914-1918', published just before he died.

Never one for 'fuss or bother' Robin was a quiet and patient man with a dry sense of humour. He took a keen interest in village life and set up 'Teamakers' (Thurlestone Enthusiasts At Mouse And Keyboard Exercises for Recreational Satisfaction - the initial letters making up the name) at his home getting on for 20 years ago. This was the computer academy from which many Thurlestone residents graduated and had their first taste of modern technology. Later he initiated Pensioners Ping Pong at the Parish Hall, which is now an active Thursday evening table tennis club. He also served on the more recent Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Probably his greatest - and invaluable - contribution to community life was his work on Village Voice for 23 years, a job he really enjoyed. He was a sports fan and music lover and enjoyed playing the piano, but usually only in the winter months when there was no golf. During his lifetime, he made many good friends whose support he valued.

Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

The funds necessary to proceed with the proposed night landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance have now been raised, with enough extra money to keep as a contingency fund. Thank you so much to all those individuals and groups who have donated to this project, and also to Devon Air Ambulance who gave us a much larger grant than we were expecting.

Western Power and MAT Electrics have now been instructed to proceed with the work required. The road will have to be closed for a short time, and a road closure apparently usually requires 13 weeks' notice, so it is probably going to happen in early April.

Anna Martin

A NOTE FROM YOUR DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Since my last note to you in the August/September issue, I have taken up my new role of DCC Cabinet Member responsible for Devon's Economy Innovation and Skills. The portfolio is both varied and challenging. My driving mileage has definitely increased!

I list below five recent and ongoing concerns for Devon's Economy and the implications thereof. GVA = gross value added, which is a more accurate local measure of GDP = gross domestic product.

- **Babcock (Appledore)** - Shipyard, 382 jobs at risk, £18.7m GVA. 258 additional jobs and a further £11.8m linked to the supply chain. £362,000 of Business Rates currently generated per annum by the yard.
- **Wolf Minerals** - Tungsten mine, currently up for sale. 242 jobs at risk, £20.3m contribution to GVA. 242 additional jobs in local supply chain, with overall supply chain worth £20.3m to Devon.
- **Flybe** - Airline, based at Exeter Airport. 1,000 jobs within the Devon area, with a GVA contribution of around £90.6m. Includes significant training and other high value skills assets. Wider supply chain worth in the region of £45m, employing 880 individuals. Business rates in the region of £675,000 per annum, including training academy.
- **Ambrosia / Premier Foods** - Food production facility for Ambrosia product line currently up for sale as underperforming business unit. Employs 280, contributing around £6.3m to Devon economy. Supports a further 66 jobs and £3.3m of GVA across the County. Generates £260,000 of business rates.
- **Barden** - Producer of ball bearings in Plymouth. Employs 380 across the Plymouth and Devon areas, with a contribution of around £19m to GVA. Wider supply chain employs 260 and supports a further £12m of GVA.

Superfast Broadband & Thurlestone - I'm quietly optimistic that most of Thurlestone Parish not already connected will be this year or in 2020. (*Ed. - See article later in magazine for further details*).

I'm not standing in May's SHDC elections after twelve years of service. This will allow me more time to dedicate to my DCC roles and sixteen parishes and towns, plus perhaps a little more leisure time?

Highways - the first half of this winter saw an almost monsoon amount of rain causing some flooding issues. We'll have to see what the second half brings. Perhaps not quite so savage as last year's Beast from the East?

Finally, I'll finish by saying that 2019 looks to be an interesting year, domestically, macro economically and internationally.

Devon County Councillor Rufus Gilbert.....Salcombe Division.

..... **Have your say.....**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall, led by Alison Hernandez, is asking residents if they would be prepared to pay more Council Tax in order to fund an increase in police officers. You can have your say by going to the website <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/> and clicking on the banner "Investing in your police force" to take the survey, or you can contact their office at 01392 225555 and they will send you a paper survey. Responses need to be submitted by 6th February.

NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting 3rd December 2018

OPEN FORUM

- A new quote has been received for the Western Power works for the night landing site and DAAT has offered an enhanced grant to cover the small rise in cost from the last quote. Works are due to start in March 2019.
- The condition of the steep hill at Clanacombe is hazardous for drivers because of the leaves in the road. The Parish Council will ask if DCC can sweep the road as there have been several complaints about it.
- BT have now decided that they need to close the road in Churchstow before they can provide a data connection for the Community WiFi system.

TREHEARNE, 13 EDDYSTONE

ROAD SHDC is minded to approve the amended plan on the grounds that the remedial drainage works are effective.

COMMUNITY LED HOUSING More work is required to help identify the number of people with a local connection who may be eligible before a decision can be made about the scale, type, mix and location of the housing. There will be a public meeting on Monday 28th January 2019 at 7pm in the Main Hall, which will take the form of an open forum/workshop for all interested parties, ranging from those who may be eligible for the housing, to those wishing to discuss and comment on its design and possible location.

2019/20 BUDGET The final budget will be set at the January meeting. It was agreed that new provision will need to be made in the budget for: the cost of taking on and running the Thurlestone public toilets; works for the DAAT Night Landing Site; and costs associated with implementing the Neighbourhood Plan.

NEW DOG POO BIN IN WEST

BUCKLAND This will be discussed again at the January meeting when Councillor Pearce has more information.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- He has not yet had a chance to speak to the Chair of Governors about Thurlestone School Parking issues.
- The information on the Gigaclear website has been improved, but we await dates for the revised installation rollout.
- The road outside Heathfield, which was poorly repaired, will be investigated.
- He will enquire about the possibility of repairs to Glebe Field.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A Government consultation on business rates and second homes is taking place and SHDC will be responding because many second home owners are applying to be put on to business rates rather than council tax which means that SHDC, DCC, Police and local services do not receive this income.

HIGHWAYS Sand is now available behind the estate of ce in Bantham and there is grit in West Buckland. The Chairman also has supplies of grit and a spreader.

SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD A letter has been received from DCC about the Parish Council's use of the school playing field outside of school hours. The Clerk was asked to contact the DCC Legal Department to establish who owns the field and then further discussion will take place about how this arrangement can work in the future.

21 COURT PARK To note that the appeal had been allowed, as SHDC did not follow the correct procedure for the first application.

Meeting 7th January 2019

OPEN FORUM

- DAAT Night Landing Site fundraising has now raised enough money.
- Community WiFi – BT may provide a data connection by the end of the month.
- A resident of Old Rectory Gardens reported that criminal damage to plants has taken place in the communal gardens. The police have been involved.

ERECTION OF AGRICULTURAL STORE BUILDING, WESTERN LODGE

The Council objected to the application.

ERECTION OF A NEW DWELLING IN WEST BUCKLAND

A site visit will be held before making a decision.

THURLESTONE PUBLIC TOILETS

The survey carried out by SHDC was inadequate and we await a new one. The repair and running costs are also still not clear, so it was agreed to write to SHDC and say that the PC is still prepared to take on the toilets but not until the 2020/2021 financial year.

NEW DOG POO BIN

Councillor Pearce has negotiated the installation of a bin in West Buckland.

SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk has contacted DCC Legal Department and the School and is awaiting replies.

2019/20 Budget

It was agreed to increase the precept by 15% on last year.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- He has been unable to get a reply from Thurlestone School about the parking issue.
- Work to Glebe Field road has been agreed, though no date was given.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Councillor Pearce drew attention to the bungalow which is available in Parkfield on the Devon Home Choice list. Concerns were expressed that residents of the Parish may not have seen this or be checking up to date availability, in which case the homes go to people from outside the Parish.
- *Under the terms of the new waste contract, an employee will be visiting homes to spot check recycling and find out if people are recycling the right items.*
- SHDC now officially has a 5-year land supply again.

TREES AND HIGHWAYS

- Trees on South Hams land at Valley Side are not protected but SHDC should be contacted before any work is carried out.
- The tree over the Thurlestone telephone box needs cutting back. The Clerk was asked to speak to SHDC.
- The cobbled road is again starting to cause concern because a large gully is starting to appear close to the kerb on the memorial side. Councillor Rhymes is getting quotes for repairs.

Could you help produce Village Voice.....

The Village Voice team is always looking for new members to help produce the magazine. In particular, we would welcome new recruits to the printing team. The commitment is only 2 hours every other month and full training will be given. Printing is normally done in pairs so why not come along with a friend? If you think you could help, please contact Chris White on 560505 or email cgwmead@gmail.com.

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THURLESTONE THEN

Chapter 1

Based on an interview with Monica Coope, conducted by Kendall McDonald

When I close my eyes to look at Thurlestone I see nothing that is new or recent, but it is just as it was in our childhood's days. I am at the top of the village, looking down the hill, with Mrs. Pound's sweet shop on my left, the tiny post-office on Buckland Corner, and the cottages, white-washed and thatched, with bee-hive windows, elbowing each other down the hill until the pink cob wall of the Rectory garden at the bottom stretches into the near distance, framed by the high elms through which one can glimpse the square beacon tower of Thurlestone Church.

There is much to tell of those days, more than fifty years ago, when nothing seemed to happen except life and death; everyone in our little orbit was of importance to us and their joys and sorrows were ours too. Beside ourselves, only the Ilberts, the Chandos-Poles and the Groses were permanent residents in the village itself, so the influence of the cottage folk was a powerful one, and our contact with them was that of intimate respect. So here I shall tell you of them, the Jackmans, the Ellises, the Snowdens, the Moores, of Mrs. Toms the school teacher, of Maudie Watchett who wasn't very well, and of Good-for-Nothing Harry. I shall tell you of the Elliot Squares, who came over to "Homefield" for their holidays from Plymouth, and remained through the years our dearest confidants, (and beat us at everything). Our Dartmoor pony Dora will trot in and out of the pages, and so will our naughty Belle, her daughter, who took liberties with our lives and limbs and always got away with it. Jimmy Hooter, the owl, Tip Towzer, Weal and Venus, faithful beloved dogs. Ned Perraton catching Topsy the pig for ringing; Jim Bevell driving the cows to be milked and singing to them; Father on the war-path in church; Mother so self-effacing but always there when she was needed; and in and out, good, naughty, sad and happy, eleven ordinary children, to whom Thurlestone was a crock of gold.

"They must live in the country, by the sea, in a large house with a big garden. They must learn to be content with simple pleasures that money cannot buy, and every penny we can scrape together must be spent on their education and training."

Thus spake Father, and Mother agreed, so we came to Thurlestone, six children with promise of more. It was a far cry from Sussex to Devonshire, and a very weary little band of hope finally arrived on that winter's evening in 1897, the winter after the great blizzard that had enveloped the Devon moors and valleys; isolated farms and cottages for weeks, and devastated the flocks and herds, starved and buried in the man-high snowdrifts.

"The Rectory" was an ideal home for us, but not for our Mother, who had to adapt herself to oil lamps and candlelight, pumped water, no bathroom, an outside earth closet, rambling passages, vast attics, and not a single cupboard anywhere except a small black hole under the stairs. Apart from the post-office and Mrs. Pound's sweet shop, you could not even buy a boot-lace without driving into Kingsbridge, nearly five miles away, and although the butcher and baker called at intervals, you had to take what they brought you, and it was not always good.

"I believe you always send me the old sheep" Mother complained to the butcher. "Well, mum, someone has got to eat them", he answered, civilly enough, and that was that. Fish? Well, hardly ever. The catches coming in at Hope Cove were already bespoke for the London market, as were the crabs and lobsters scrambling around in the pots in Bigbury Bay. Later on, when Mother got wiser, she sent off a cheque to a Grimsby firm and we got a

regular supply once a week, but sometimes it did not travel as quickly as fish should. Of course, we had ample milk, eggs, and fresh fruit and vegetables, but even so I marvel now at her ingenuity in producing a good and satisfying meal at least once a day for her large household, consisting as we did of parents, eleven children, a governess, a nurse, and two maids, not to mention the various daily helps who came in to scrub and launder. Labour was cheap then and there was no lack of helping hands, although there was so much work to do that they often fell by the wayside, and we always seemed to have fresh faces in the kitchen.

We were bonny children, round-faced and hazel eyed, brown haired, inheriting our good complexions and clear skins. Mother dressed the older ones in scarlet coats and bonnets, and the comments of the villagers "The little dears, they're lovely", a sharp reproof from our nurse Annie, and the smug look on Mary's face faded! Katherine, Arthur, Mary, Hilda, Winefride, and Monica. That was the bag so far, but one day a small person toddled up the passage to Mother's room and pummelled on the closed door.

"Who is it?" asked a strange voice
"It's Baby", I replied.

"No, not Baby anymore. Run away my dear, you can't see your Mother now" A howling despairing form was dragged away by an elder sister, and the twins reigned in my stead. The nursery was a big sunny room facing south over the garden terrace, and communicated with the night nursery. The windows looked out over Bigbury Bay to Bolt Tail, and there also stood Thurlestone Rock, set in the sea like a gigantic pair of trousers, withstanding every storm that buffeted through its high arch, battering at its strong base, and never succeeded in harming it one jot or tittle.

"Brave every shock like Thurlestone Rock" was the village motto, and indeed we took our name from the Thurlestone, which means a hole in a rock, although in the Domesday Book it is spelt Torlesten.

At low tide you could clamber out to the Rock and see the lovely cowries while walking about in the deep pools there. Masses of cowries are washed up every spring and summer on the sand, but the Gulf Stream may be responsible for most of them as other lovely and exotic shells are there in abundance too. Once we were hurried down to Lea Foot to see the fleet of "Portuguese Men-of-War," and there they were, tiny craft with bright blue sails, being cast ashore in their hundreds, and perishing in the hot sun. I have never seen or heard of these queer creatures since then, but I believe they are jellyfish and very poisonous.

There once stood an ancient forest of oak where the sea takes possession between the Rock and the shore, and one can still pick up fragments of the bog oak in the rock pools at low tide.

Although when we came to Thurlestone there were under four hundred people living there, it was a widely scattered parish, with the hamlets of East and West Buckland, and Bantham, together with outlying farms at Whitley, Aunemouth, and Worthy. Father reckoned to pay a personal visit at every cottage twice during the year, and this entailed visiting at least four afternoons a week all the year round. He was very particular about this and did not limit himself to the church-going people, as so many lived far off and had duties to their live-stock on Sundays, so they really could not often manage the long walk both ways. Also the chapel folk would always come up to church for special occasions, and their last journey was to the churchyard overlooking the sea.

In order to spare himself the fatigue of the long hills Dora would be saddled and give Dad a lift when he felt tired. Sometimes one of us would go too, and take it in turns with Father to ride Dora, and look over the top of the high banks. We enjoyed these visits, which were mostly of a social nature, as Father never forced religion on people. If an old soul wanted him to say a prayer while he was there he did so, and down I would go on my knobbly knees on a stone floor and join in with a will, and think it very nice. Then up on Dora again and away to the next farm, hoping perhaps for a slice of sarron cake with a blob of cream on top, and a cup of thick, sweet tea.

Mother had not time to go to the far distant cottages, but she was unwavering in little kindnesses in Thurlestone and Buckland, keeping small bundles of cash in her bureau labelled, "Sick Fund," "Comforts for Old Folk," with which she supplemented the meagre allowances under parish relief which was then all that was available for those past earning a living; and how their pride suffered in taking it. Being "on the parish" was only one step above the ignominy of the workhouse. Her voluntary duties seemed endless, and included playing the harmonium at all services, training the vociferous choir, and looking after the church linen. Mrs Chandos-Pole took over the brass and linen eventually, and also made the High Altar a place of beauty with her massed arrangements of flowers.

Once when she was away and Mary had been delegated the altar flowers, she devised a pretty scheme of red dahlias with a background of white, but they had to be hastily altered as too many thought they recognized Mr & Mrs Gladstone in the flat vases and were moved to irreverent and wandering thoughts.

While the church was being restored we repaired to a large barn in the farmyard next door, which was especially consecrated for the purpose. Hens came and joined in with their cackling, and swallows flew up and down inside while we watched them with some foreboding. The harmonium was replaced by a new two-manual organ when the church was ready, and the wheezy old instrument came up to our dining room, where we used to play the most unsuitable tunes on it with much religious fervor.

After the twins were born, and came to be known as Boydie and Girls, it became a problem how to transport us all on our daily walks, as it was much too hilly for prams. Then it was that Brownie the donkey came to live with us, and he had a little saddle with basket panniers each side into which the twins were stowed, the rest of us took it in turns to perch on the saddle and rest our legs. "We must have made a comic cavalcade, especially when Brownie felt reluctant to proceed and dug his forefeet squarely down, and stayed there."

Sometimes the one in the saddle would shoot over his head in the surprise of this sudden halting, but it was not very far to go he always allowed you to mount again, where you would sit patiently until Brownie decided that it was time to move off again. The twins were sweet little babies, and as toddlers Mother dressed them in sailor suits, serge in winter, white drill in summer. They were the pride of her life, and it was a great shock to all of us (even the deposed ex-baby), when they both fell ill and Boydie died of pneumonia on an Easter Sunday when he was just three years old. I was not yet five but remember so clearly kissing the soft cold baby face, and hearing Mother sobbing. I wanted to comfort her and did not know how. There were no more children for two years after that, and then John came, and Mother's sad heart bloomed again. There are carved oaken angels flying around the roof of the chancel in Thurlestone Church; they are John's angels, as a thank you for his birth.

Three more girls followed John and so Clare, Joan and Gwen completed the family, and Gwen deeply resented being the youngest, (although easily the most petted, the most indulged and the least punished of the lot.) She tried to work out, on the principle of the average expectation of life, how soon she would be an only child, but so far the thing has not worked and

she is still the youngest. Joan was a cantankerous child at times and subjected us to stormy scenes, but Mother sensed a nervous strain in her and had her own way of dealing with the sobbing stamping child. Of they would go, the two of them, down to Church, and there, with one of us blowing for her, Mother would practise the chants and hymns for next Sunday, and play a gentle voluntary, while Joan crouched between the chairs in the Lady Chapel, looking at pictures in Holy books. She would come back soothed and happy, with tranquil eyes, ready to play with us again.

It was a good thing that the Rectory had been built by Mr. Ilbert for his own large family, for it was still big enough to hold us comfortably. The Ilberts had been there five and fifty years and were part and parcel of the life and existence of Thurlestone. His widow lived at Rockhill at the top of the village with her daughter Helen and son Donald and his married daughter Mrs Robert Campbell down at Bantham. The Rectory and Rockhill were both blessed with really beautiful wide staircases coming down the centre of the hall and giving great character to the houses. Half way down ours was a long lancet window filled with stained glass, and in the drawing room at Rockhill were two strange circular windows also with stained glass, which entranced us when we were told that they were two of the wheels from the coach which had taken Mr & Mrs Ilbert on their honeymoon.

The chimneybreast on the north side of the Rectory has a cross let into the stonework, and over the front porch was a figure of the Good Shepherd in a niche, which in summer was surrounded by pink cottage roses. Outside the study window was a passionflower vine, which stood all weathers and flowered in abundance with purple and white blooms. A pink ivy-leaved geranium shared honours with a climbing banksai rose, which thrust its creamy clusters into the nursery window, and assured us that here for certain was a rose without a thorn. Below, in the shelter of the red arbour, stood a clump of arum lilies, getting ready to decorate the Church every Easter without fail.

Being clergy children we naturally lived from one feast, fast, ember or Rogation Day to another. Lent to us meant giving up sweets (but not sugar) except on Sundays, and going to church on Wednesday evenings and moaning the Fifty-first Psalm to our favourite chant. Also there was the excitement of a fresh preacher who stayed to supper. Christmas Day itself could not be given up by our parents to their children, as they had other duties, but we had our stockings and presents, and Christmas dinner like everyone else, and did not expect to be entertained. In fact, we had to be hushed down so that Father could get a bit of rest between services.

We never had hot meals on Sundays, a cold joint being de rigueur, and the maids were given as little work as possible with regular time to go to church. We were not tied down with irksome restrictions on Sundays, and after we had been to Church we could play with our dolls and read our storybooks, but no sewing or rowdy games. But as we had six days a week in which to make a noise we quite enjoyed fresh fields on Sundays, and our Noah's Ark was one of them. It was a beauty, a big ark with lots of lovely hand carved animals, quite out of proportion one to the other; the rats being about half the size of the camels, and the elephants and donkeys much of a muchness. We used to march our animals into the ark across the green drawing room carpet after tea, with Noah and his family acting as a reception committee. Noah was a venerable gentleman with a fine white beard, but the rest had no claim to beauty.

Having our own roomy nursery, we were not allowed downstairs except after tea, and Sunday "Who Knows" played on the dining room table taught us an amazing amount of superfluous Old Testament History. We would sit there each with a large card in front of us, while Katherine dipped into the question box and handed over a ticket to the one who answered correctly.

The target was to get your card filled up first, and at that time I could have told you the names of all the sons of Israel, their wives and children, and where Moses was when the light went out. Bingo!

The fact that our Sunday games were special privileges not accorded on weekdays gave us the impression that Sunday was a nice day; besides which we decked ourselves out in our best clothes and pea cocked down the road to church. We disposed ourselves there in twos and threes, here and there, with Arthur invariably alone in his glory for he would not be seen dead in church with his sisters and even refused to walk down the road with us. He was heartily ashamed of his gaggle of sisters in public, but in private no one could have been nicer to us and his word was law.

The choir was a mixed bag of men, women and children, who lifted up their voices, and the roof, with a will. When the new organ was installed Father had caused an inscription to be painted across it in Latin, to the effect that it is Love not Noise, which reaches the Heart of God. He should have appended a translation!

In the old days, long before our time, there was a minstrel's gallery and a clerk who gave out the hymns and notices. One day so it said, he announced that the choir would now sing, "Who is the King of Glory" and a voice from the gallery was heard to say, "Pass up the rosin Joe, and us'll show I am who be the "King of Glory".



Restoration at The Rectory

The Old Rectory at the very heart of Thurlestone Village is well known to villagers and passers-by. The large house, with its extensive terraced gardens, was built by Reverend Peregrine Ilbert in 1834 and became the church's property when he died in 1895. It changed ownership five times until, eighty years later in 1975, it was divided by Jonny Johnson.



The Old Door

Since the conversion, there remains an impressive outlook over the gardens and the sea beyond. The house is secluded, hidden from the road by a wall through which there is a heavy arched door. It had no doubt provided the Rector Ilbert with a shorter route to the High Street and the church.

Recent inspection of that old door showed deterioration that was beyond repair. Made in pinewood, it might well have dated back to the original build.

The present owners, Bryan and Marian Rigby, commissioned Nigel Philips, a craftsman known to them, to construct a replacement door.

They chose oak rather than pine to ensure that the new one would last for future generations.

What they have produced is beautifully constructed and has been fitted into a new frame. Built in solid oak, the new arched door is a fine copy of the original and a credit to the village.

And behind it lies a particularly sheltered part of The Rectory's garden where apricots, plums and ornamental bananas grow in profusion.



The Replacement Door

Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1st March 2019. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk

Sudoku puzzles

We have had requests for some simpler puzzles, these are level easy / mild
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

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

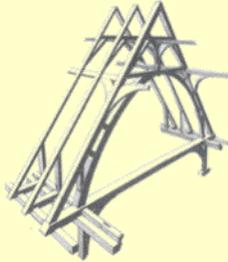
4		5	6		8	2		7
		1		7		3		
6								5
	1		7		2		8	
		6				1		
	5		3		9		7	
9								3
		7		4		9		
5		2	9		3	7		1

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

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

1st out of the Puzzle Hat this time was Neill Irwin of Mead Drive, Thurlestone. Congratulations and the treasured bottle of wine from the VV Sudoku wine cellar goes to him.

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Saints*

RECTOR:
Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

LAY READER: Peter Gornall



Kindness is the Best Safety

There was a heart-warming recent television programme about Sicily; the long and varied history, the re-breathing Etna (of course) calm beautiful scenery and the stunning cities. So near to North Africa, the island is landfall to many refugees and migrants, a potential source of all sorts of difficulties. So the interview with the wise Mayor of Palermo was especially heart-warming when he said that kindness was the best safety. How wonderful to find someone in authority with deep trust in the basic goodness of human nature.

The ruling classes and legal experts of Jesus's day were aghast that he spent time, and so much of it, with the folk who had no voice, no negotiating skills to see them through, no great chances for their children, outcasts whose livelihood was by petty extortion or the sale of their bodies. Just a part of Jesus's legacy changes how such people are viewed and treated, both in the community at large and in the corridors of power. The foodbanks of our time mean that there really is a drawing alongside some of the marginalised and those whose personal crises are so often borne in sad silence.

It is easy to get our attention diverted from the urgent needs of the dispossessed, for instance the migrants without hope (and often with much fear) in their own countries and rough-sleepers here. Let us hope for organised priority to helping the source nations of those migrants and refugees. Supporting with kindness the dignity of the down-trodden and fearful, in these islands and elsewhere, is following the advice of that wise mayor. Hidden in his wisdom is a whole gospel of who really might be in charge in our public life and what sort of heart-warming Kingdom we might be living in.

Every blessing!

Peter



2019 Photographic Competition

Don't forget to enter photos of the Thurlestone Area for a 2020 Calendar

Entry forms: Church & Meeting Room, Bantham & Thurlestone Shops

The photographs will be displayed at a Photographic Exhibition

in the Church Meeting Room MAY 25th - MAY 29th



All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

Everyone is welcome at all services,
which are at Thurlestone, unless indicated otherwise

Church Services

Sundays

- EVERY SUNDAY** 8.00am Holy Communion (said) (alternating BCP & CW)
- FEB. 3RD, 17TH, MARCH 3RD, 17TH** 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Fairtrade Feb/March 3rd)
- FEBRUARY 10TH, MARCH 10TH** 11.10am Morning Worship
4.30pm Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh
- FEBRUARY 17TH, MARCH 17TH** 5.30pm Prayer & Praise in the Church Meeting Room
- FEBRUARY 24TH, MARCH 24TH** 11.10am Matins (BCP)
- MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 31ST** 11.10am Mothering Sunday Family Service

Weekdays

- THURSDAY FEB 7TH, MARCH 7TH** 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham
- ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 6TH** 10.00am Benefice Communion (CW)
- EVERY WEDNESDAY** (except March 6th) 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)
- MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY** 8.30am Morning Prayer (said) (8.15am on Wed.)
(except February 18th - 21st)

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

Everyone is welcome to join us for
Activities in the Church Meeting Room

<p>Coffee-Time</p> <p>WEDNESDAYS 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.</p>  <p>Donations in aid of monthly charity</p>	<p>Films for All TUESDAYS 2.30 p.m.</p>	
	<p>FEBRUARY 5TH</p> <p>The Post <i>Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Sarah Paulson</i></p>	<p>MARCH 5TH</p> <p>The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society <i>Lily James, Michiel Hulsmann, Glen Powell, Jessica Brown Findlay</i></p>
	<p>MARCH 26TH</p> <p>Finding Your Feet <i>Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie, Timothy Spall, Joanna Lumley</i></p> <p>Homemade Soup only £4 followed by tea/coffee & cake</p> <p>FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15TH & MARCH 15TH 12.30 - 1.30 p.m. in aid of Church Funds</p>  <p>Disabled access - Wheelchair available - Lift available for all activities, contact Liz Webb</p>	

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Old Age as seen by the Greeks and Romans

Part 3 of 4

The Romans imposed themselves militarily on Greece but it was a strange relationship. As the poet Horace put it, "Captured Greece captured her savage conqueror". He was referring to the impact of Greek culture on Rome which was profound. The earliest Roman literature consisted of a translation of Homer's *Odyssey* and many Roman aristocrats were bewitched by the refined and rich culture of Greece.

Roman Comedy used Greek models, principally Menander, transposing these to Roman settings. The great dramatists here were Plautus and Terence, whose plays had a considerable influence on later drama, for example Shakespeare's early *Comedy of Errors*. Not just drama was influenced. P.G. Wodehouse freely admitted that the plays of Plautus and Terence had greatly influenced his comic novels and Cicero his prose style, all Roman authors he had been introduced to at his school, Dulwich College.

Following the pattern of characters in Greek New Comedy, Plautus and Terence used as stock characters, the feckless young man with more money than sense, the pretty girl not always suitable for marriage, the angry old relative, usually the young man's father, and the resourceful slave who often dictated the action. It is not difficult to detect in this line-up the origins of Bertie Wooster, Aunt Agatha and, of course, Jeeves. Old men in Roman Comedy are invariably gullible, irascible or lecherous, and sometimes all three. They are no doubt a caricature but the portrayal must have contained more than a grain of truth. In his play *The Ghost* Plautus shows the clever slave Tranio enjoying his ability to pull the wool over the eyes of two old men, his master and his master's neighbour, while showing the former round the latter's house:

As he stands between the two old men, he points out to his short-sighted master a painting of a crow teasing two vultures. The painting doesn't exist but Tranio can't resist mocking the old men who think themselves his superiors. "Where is it?" the old man asks. "I don't see any painting." "Don't you, sir?" says Tranio. "I do. A crow standing between two vultures and plucking at them alternately. Look in this direction, towards me, then you'll see the crow at any rate. Got it?" "Hanged if I can see any crow anywhere," says the old man, exasperated. "Well, look in your direction, then", says Tranio. "If you can't see the crow perhaps you can see the vultures." "Damn it!" comes the reply. "I tell you, I can't see any picture of a bird." "Well, not to worry, sir", says Tranio. "I expect it's your eyesight failing with age".

This is the comic stage, however, and comic poets have always exaggerated for the sake of laughs. The Romans, in fact, venerated their ancestors and invested old age with profound respect. Cicero makes an etymological connection between *senex*, the Latin for an old man and *senatus* or *senate*, the respected governing body under the Republic. The point is, presumably, that advanced years confer the necessary wisdom for government. Here we must note an apparent contradiction in Cicero's argument: entry to the Roman senate was open to men as young as thirty, hardly elderly citizens. But this is to ignore the fact that the term *senex* was used to describe men who no longer had the upper body strength to fight in a Roman legion, that is, men in early forties. The Roman *senex*, bent over and supporting himself with a stick, hardly represented the majority of citizens in this category. The truth is that there was a considerable age range in the Roman senate and, as in Sparta, the opinion of the more senior members was always listened to with the utmost respect.

At every point, whenever the Romans had to reach an important decision, recourse was had to the *mos maiorum*, “the custom of the ancestors”, on the principle that their wisdom was the yardstick for future policy. In the light of this, it would be strange if fathers of households were not treated with the utmost respect. Such a man was called *paterfamilias* and his influence was so great within the family group that he had the power of life and death over his wife and children. An illustration of this is the man credited with founding the Republic after the banishment of the seventh and last king of Rome. This man, Brutus, expelled the king who had behaved like a tyrant and then proclaimed that any Roman citizen found guilty of attempting to restore the monarchy should be executed. Within a week incontrovertible evidence was brought to him that his own sons had attempted to do this, and Brutus without hesitation condemned them to death. The great 18th century French painter Jacques Louis-David caught the drama and pathos of this unforgettably. He shows the dead bodies of the two sons being carried on stretchers into the house of Brutus amid the intense mourning of their mother and sisters, while, in the foreground, staring out at us implacably, sits their father Brutus, in whom the patriot has defeated the father but at a cost too terrible to contemplate.

Before we turn to Cicero’s influential essay on old age, the classic treatment of the subject in antiquity, and written, appropriately, towards the end of his life, we should take into account the view of a relatively young man, Rome’s greatest love poet, Catullus. We are given a telling insight into his attitude to senior citizens in the early poem to his mistress:

“Let us live, my Lesbia, and let us love, and as for the gossip of puritanical old men, let’s not give a penny for that.”

Catullus was a member of a set of young, innovative poets who set their faces against traditional poetic forms and wrote a new type of poetry for their own pleasure and edification. Hand in hand with their disregard for tradition went a dismissal of the so-called wisdom of old age and a desire to live life to the full. WB Yeats caught the irony of such a poet being subjected to the scholarly scrutiny of an older generation:

“Bald heads forgetful of their sins,
Old, learned, respectable bald heads
Edit and annotate the lines
That young men, tossing on their beds,
Rhymed out in love’s despair
To flatter beauty’s ignorant ear.

All shuffle there, all cough in ink;
All wear the carpet with their shoes;
All think what other people think;
All know the man their neighbour knows.
Lord, what would they say
Did their Catullus walk that way?

Catullus wrote a poem about a townsman of Verona. This man, clearly no longer young, has a spirited and pretty young wife but has no idea how to treat her. Such a man, says the poet, should be pitched headlong from the town bridge into the clinging mud below, which alone can match his lethargy. This was an innate problem in Roman society where a girl could regularly be half the age of her husband, as the normal age for marriage was fifteen and, sexual matters apart, the relationship was often more that of father and daughter than husband and wife. Roman marriages were remarkably successful despite this age difference and the stupid indifference of the elderly husband in Catullus’ poem should not be seen as typical. Too many

inscriptions on tombstones testify to the happiness and mutual respect of married couples for us to think Catullus' poem is at all representative of Roman marriage.

Before we look at Cicero's thoughts on old age, an important point about the Romans needs to be made. They saw themselves as the descendants of Mars, the god of war, and it was their warlike nature above all, together with a genius for administration, that transformed a village on the river Tiber into a great city that dominated Italy, then all the lands round the Mediterranean, and finally extended its power from the Straits of Cadiz to northern India. The central body that controlled this vast empire was the Roman senate, composed at first of Roman aristocrats, then of men from all Italy, and finally of men from all over the empire. Underpinning this political will was the highest trained army in the world at that time, professional soldiers whose ruthless efficiency was not to be matched again until the time of Cromwell. These soldiers were discharged at the age of 42 on the grounds that they were then no longer fit enough for the job. Such a man became technically at that age *senex*, which we translate as an "old man". In fact, they were tough men who turned their efforts to farming and left the terrible trade of Mars to younger men. So the transition from young man to old man is a technical one based on military service and aptitude for bearing weapons.

These hardy veterans were clearly a world away from the doddering old men of comedy. Old age in our sense would begin for a Roman at sixty, given that seventy was considered a good innings and disease was often fatal.

Now we turn to Cicero, Catullus' contemporary who outlived him by a decade, the greatest orator in a society which prized public speaking far more than we do today and made it the cornerstone of higher education. Cicero chose the law for his career rather than the army, and through hard work and talent became the greatest barrister of his age. Preferring defence to prosecution but formidable also in attack, he won a string of cases early in his career and rose to the office of consul in 63 BC, an astonishing achievement for a man of his provincial background and testament to the fact that talent without high birth could take the right man to the top in those days. Another example was the poet Horace a generation later. The son of an ex-slave he rose through talent to become the poet laureate under Rome's first emperor, Augustus.

Cicero misjudged the times and failed to see that the Republic was doomed. A series of warlords culminating in Julius Caesar brought the power of the senate down and, as he approached the age of sixty, Cicero was forced to retire from public life. He was a great admirer of Greek literature all his life, and he set himself the task of bringing Greek philosophy to the attention of his fellow Romans.

Among the philosophical works he wrote at the end of his life in the tranquillity of his villa at Tusculum was a discussion of old age. This, together with its companion work, *On Friendship*, was much admired by Erasmus and David Hume, and has been described by A.C. Grayling as the finest treatment of the subject ever written, praise indeed, when the competition includes such luminaries as Aristotle, Montaigne and Voltaire. Cicero, as we saw, had been driven by despair at the demise of the Republic to seek consolation in work. A further blow had been the death of his only daughter whom he had greatly loved. Given these blows of fortune, one might have expected the tone of these works to be melancholic. In fact, Cicero's picture of old age is extremely positive and gives hope to us all. The editor of the *Oldie* at my suggestion recently adopted Cicero as an honorary *Oldie* and asked if he might use my translation for OUP to write an article on the great man's thoughts on the subject.

John Davie

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SERENADE

This will be a very special evening of orchestral music played by the Dartmoor Strings, under the baton of our own Alastair Durden. The programme will include such established favourites as Elgar's Serenade for Strings, Peter Warlock's Capriol Suite, Bach's Double Violin Concerto featuring two professional soloists – Brenda Willoughby (who is also leading the orchestra) and Catherine Hayek, Bruch's Kol Nidrei for cello and orchestra as well as some film themes such as Schindler's List and Gabriel's Oboe. 'Save the Children' is a charity involved with helping children to better health and education and fighting child poverty across the globe. One of the orchestral players – local resident Judith Reynolds – is closely connected with 'Save the Children' as her son is a Vice President of the charity.



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Village News Round-Up

John Stuart

We are sad to report John's death whose funeral took place at Thurlestone on 17th January. John was originally from Stourbridge, part of the Stuart Crystal family, and lived in Thurlestone for many years, first at Yarmer and then on the Mead. He loved singing, a hobby he pursued with enthusiasm via the 'Kingsmen', the Kingsbridge Barbershop Chorus. We extend to his family, Shirley and his friends, our sympathy.

Keith & Tricia

The Millmans are staying temporarily with their daughter, Valerie, in Crowborough, East Sussex and the following are extracts from their Christmas letter to their friends in Thurlestone, ".....*Following a difficult year, the time has come to move closer to our family. They have all been so helpful and welcoming, making the decision to move away from you all a little easier..... Thurlestone has been a special place to call home for forty years and we will miss it, the village and you all.....Once we have a new home and address you will be amongst the first to know.....* "

Pat & Bill

The Clarkes left Meadcombe Road at the end of November to return to leafy Warwickshire whence they came. Bill will be remembered as a keen rugby supporter and the man who, as treasurer of the old Parish Hall, was instrumental in gathering in the funds to allow our new one to be built back in 2005! Amongst many things

Pat, a retired district nurse, was a tower of strength at the WI, the tennis section of the Golf Club, and a keep-fit enthusiast. Although their move was prompted by Bill's failing health we are happy to report that they are now enjoyably ensconced in a lovely McCarthy & Stone retirement apartment at Stratford-on-Avon.

The Great Thurlestone Quiz

Don't forget The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night on February 7th. Organised by the Rotary Club of Kingsbridge, it is to be held in the Thurlestone Parish Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Teams of 6, £7.50 per person including light refreshments. Licensed bar available. To book contact: Andrew Girling (561915) or Peter Gornall (560333).

Rosemary MacKay

Rosemary has officially retired from her duties at Village Voice after over 20 years. She was one of the group of people who were instrumental in keeping the magazine going after Kendall McDonald relinquished his role as editor. Not only did Rosemary print and collate the magazine but very generously provided her house for collating, when everyone walked round and round her dining room table, probably wearing out the carpet in the process. In recent years Rosemary gave up the production side but continued to deliver copies of the magazine, with the help of Heidi, to households on the Mead and elsewhere. We would like to thank her for her wonderful contribution over the years and wish her well.

POSTBAG

Dear Editors,

I, Scally-wag would like to thank all my friends who gave so generously to Doreen, who had a collection box for me. My friend Freddie and I thought we could spend it on a large tin of sweet biscuits, but 'she' had other ideas and we drove off to a large pet shop and she bought us new cushions to go in our baskets, so my throat would not be stabbed on the hard surround of my bed. Between her and my doctor, I was persuaded of the biscuits and now I am enjoying the comfortable new bed (it doesn't matter which one I choose because they are both lovely to snuggle down into). She also got me two coats to cover me up in the cold weather. Underneath I am as warm as toast and the blue one lets rain run off. My doctor is very pleased with the two scars and says they are gradually closing up and my hair is growing back, black. But if it wasn't for all your kindness, I do not know what would have happened...thank you all so very much – anyone want a lick all over?

With love from, Scally-wag

(Ed. This letter is written on behalf of the dog that lives in Thurlestone and was doused with boiling water just before Christmas).

Parish Hall News

By Alison Daily (Secretary)



As another year dawns and we lament over waistlines that have expanded after the recent festivities, perhaps we should look at new ways to expand our minds and stretch our bodies instead. If you peruse the Parish Hall pages on the village website you will see the many diverse activities taking place here, from the more sedate such as art and sewing to the physical like Table Tennis and NIA (Non Impact Aerobics). Why not come along and try something new or get more active as well as meet new people.

The committee is currently finalising our events programme for this Year, but will include returning favourites Tim Kliphaus and the Family Fun Day. A Call My Bluff evening is also planned for later in the year when we will welcome Auctioneers from Exeter who will provide objects to tease us with. If you have any ideas as to events you would like to take place we are always open to suggestions, which can be made at our AGM in the main hall on **Tuesday 12th March at 6p.m.** Anyone is very welcome to come along to hear what is planned and comment on any aspect of the Hall. Our aim is to keep the building in a good state of repair and to provide the most up to date equipment. We are looking to give the Hall a bit of a spruce up this year.



of to a great start, so make a note of all these dates in your diary to help ensure the Hall is used to it's full potential.

We are very pleased the Hall is being used by other Charities to host events and there are three to look forward to in the coming months. The first is the annual **Great Thurlestone quiz on Thursday 7th February** in aid of eradicating Polio then an **Orchestral Concert on 2nd March** for Save the Children and finally, on **23rd March**, the Rotary Club of Kingsbrige is holding a **Race Night** for Chernobyl Children's Lifeline. We have an excellent variety to enjoy and get this years events

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MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD – by Stuart Watts

Have you ever been up to your neck in that black, gluey and smelly mud which abounds in the upper reaches of the Avon Estuary and around the salt marsh areas - thinking you might never escape its clutches and, somehow, might have to call the Coastguard for rescue if only you could get your hands free of the stuff? If so, you might want to withdraw your curses and instead sing its praises, rather like the old Flanders and Swan song - "Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud" - because, with the recent renewed level of interest in global warming, that black goo has now been reinvented as 'Blue Carbon'.



According to the website at BlueCarbonPortal.org, 'Blue carbon' is the carbon stored and sequestered in coastal ecosystems such as mangrove forests, sea grass meadows or inter-tidal salt marshes. These valuable ecosystems hold vast carbon reservoirs; they sequester atmospheric CO₂ through primary production,

and then deposit it in their sediments. In fact, most blue carbon is found in the soils or sediments beneath the vegetation.

The rates of carbon sequestration and storage are comparable to (and often higher than) the sequestration rates in carbon-rich terrestrial ecosystems such as tropical rainforests or peatlands. Unlike most terrestrial systems, which reach soil carbon equilibrium within decades, deposition of carbon dioxide in coastal ecosystem sediment can continue over millennia. However, when these coastal ecosystems are degraded or destroyed, they can become carbon dioxide sources due to the oxidization of biomass and organic soil.

Because coastal ecosystems do contain substantial amounts of carbon, and because this carbon is in danger of being released, they are important in mitigating climate change. Unfortunately, however, the rate of loss of mangroves, seagrasses and saltmarshes (driven mostly by human activities) is estimated to be among the highest of any ecosystem on the planet, prompting international interest in managing them more effectively for their carbon benefits.

Although the Avon Estuary's contribution to carbon sequestration may be small on a planetary scale, that contribution to conservation strengthens the argument for its designation by Natural England as one of the new Marine Conservation Zones and for the inclusion of the embryonic salt marsh at South Efford within its boundary - NE's decision is awaited as I write!

Those anaerobic bugs thriving in the mud, locking up carbon, could be the saviours of our planet. Disturb them at your peril!!! GLORIOUS MUD indeed!

Thurlestone Phonebox

From Redundancy to a Festive Star

In just a few short years the Phonebox has gone from an outdated and shabby lump, to take on a shiny central role in village life, thanks to the vision and energy of Kit and Gillian Marshall.

Throughout the year, but especially in summer, you can see passers-by stopping and smiling, sometimes taking a book and leaving money in the minibox in the shop. £119 has been donated this year. Most of the money goes on upkeep and for the decorative celebrations which appear throughout the year.

The climax now is the Christmas scene complete with reindeer, sleigh, trees and lights. Many children (and the occasional slightly furtive adult - tut,tut!) have been seen sitting in the sleigh which consequently needs a bit of an MOT before next year.



The decorations set the scene for the Carol Evening which has become a high point in the Village's seasonal celebrations. This year nearly 150 people attended, sang beautifully (though not so well as the School Choir – bless 'em) and donated £166 to the School PTA. Mulled wine was drunk, mince pies consumed and Santa was applauded.

The evening was compered by Shep from BBC Devon, Razor Sharp kept the singing tuneful and Toad Hall Cottages and the Village Inn sponsored the refreshments.

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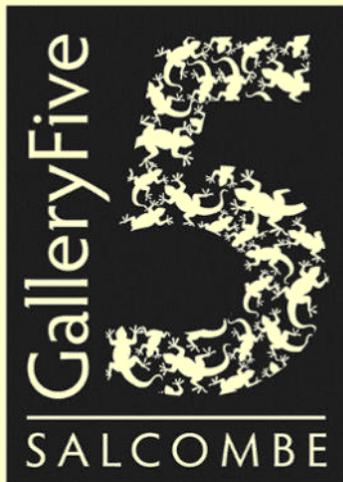
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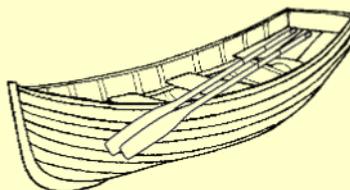
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CALOR

BOOKSHELF

'Ulendo' by Malcolm Alexander

Published by Aldridge Press

Many of you will have read the articles in 'Village Voice' by Malcolm Alexander, and now, inspired by photo albums of his great uncle Claude, he has written this splendid book. Following Claude's life, we are treated to a history of Northern Rhodesia up to the present. I don't know which is more fascinating – Claude's life, or the absorbing history.

Claude was born in 1889, the youngest son of Thomas Smedley Oldfield, who worked hard from poor beginnings to become a classics tutor. He hoped his son would do well and Claude does – up to a point, graduating from Cambridge in 1911 with a Lower II Class B.A. degree. After leaving Cambridge Claude joins the Colonial Service and his first posting is to Abercorn (now Mbala) in Northern Rhodesia. His duties involved long journeys, on foot; to visit all the villages in his area checking all was well. A Colonial Officer would need to be very fit as these journeys involved taking cooking equipment, tents, folding tables, etc., all of which would be carried by porters, but even so the officer would be responsible for everything. A diary was kept at each posting but Claude also found time to play golf, swim, and indulge in his

interest in photography, although some postings were probably quite lonely.

From Abercorn, Claude was posted to Chiengi, Kawambwa, Mporokoso, Lundazi, Chinsali, Serenje, Ndola and finally Mkushi in 1931-32, after which he returned to England. Each posting is brilliantly described and the beauty of the country wonderfully conveyed.

Interspersed with Claude's life is the history of the country and the men involved in that history. The chapters on the First World War are fascinating. I'm ashamed to say I had no idea how fierce the fighting was in German East Africa. So many nationalities involved and, living on our small island, we have no conception of the distances involved, with many dying from disease during the long treks into battle.

There is so much I have to leave out in this review, but please, do read the whole book. You will not be disappointed.

As for Claude, so much history he lived through, joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve during the Second World War. If only one could meet him, what tales he could tell.

Carolyn Taylor

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Our County Councillor, Rufus Gilbert, confirmed Gigaclear have changed their approach to the project to install Fibre To The Premises in selected parts of the County.

They have currently diverted their efforts away from installing fibre in Communities and instead concentrating on installing the main data supply cables from the National Network; in our case, the cables from Plymouth. I'm sure you've all been held up by the works on the A379.

Overall, this will lead to faster installation as Communities can be connected to the Network as soon as they are completed. As we are close to the main cables, it is hoped we will still be completed earlier rather than later, but no dates will be published until April 2019.

Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1st March 2019. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@thamead.co.uk

Numbers Quiz

Example: 26 L of the A = 26 Letters of the Alphabet

1. A T W in 80 D
2. 7 S on a F P P
3. 24 H from T
4. 4 H of the A
5. 168 H in a W
6. 1 M and H D
7. 21 S on a D
8. 192 D E
9. 15 R B on a S T
10. 42 T M O L T U A E
11. 11 P P
12. 11 P in a C T
13. 12 D of J of N
14. 1 W on a U
15. 50 W to L Y L
16. 1 of A = A F D
17. 50 Y M = G W A
18. 7 B for 7 B
19. 12 S on the E F
20. 9 M B in B

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter

1. Three men in a boat, 2. Angels with dirty faces, 3. Sons and lovers, 4. The King and I, 5. Murder on the Orient Express, 6. Around the world in 80 days, 7. The wooden horse, 8. A passage to India, 9. Death of a salesman, 10. Cat on a hot tin roof, 11. A room with a view, 12. Diary of a nobody, 13. Twelve angry men, 14. A clockwork orange, 15. The Mousetrap, 16. The time travellers wife, 17. A Doll's House, 18. The Lion in Winter, 19. Much ado about nothing, 20. Of mice and men, 21. A farewell to arms, 22. The naked and the dead, 23. The curious incident of the dog in the night-time, 24. Brief Encounter, 25. A man for all seasons

We had 4 all correct entries this time:

Mary Barons, Susan Penwell, Emma Hartley and Mike Barnes.

First out of the hat with our congratulations, and the coveted bottle of wine goes to Mike Barnes.

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Snippets from the Past

by Michael Stephens

As the end of the First World War is in our minds at present and 2018 was the centenary of the Royal Air Force (also connected to WW1) I thought I would do my first little local history piece around those themes.

Standing on Plymouth Hoe and looking down to the left, there is a breakwater with a prominent hill-top tower (dating from around 1652) on the opposite side of the mouth of the Plym, known as the Cattewater. This is Mount Batten breakwater. This was to play an important role in early 1917, when sea planes were first introduced to enable the Royal Navy to repel the German U-boats attacking merchant and naval shipping. Hence the base named 'Royal Naval Air Service Cattewater' came into being.

My grandfather was moved with his steam crane from Devonport Dockyard to Mount Batten in 1917 and drove the crane along the breakwater all day long, lifting the sea planes in and out of the water. Prior to any activity involving the first flying machines, the crane had to be fixed-up, and my grandfather had to walk most of the way from Stoke, Devonport, every morning, in all weathers, before he even got started lighting the fire. The fare to cross the water on the steamboat service was tuppence, so presumably he must have been exempted from that. All of the men worked long hours but there was time for sport as well, and they formed a Rugby team and an Association Football team. A mid-day meal was sometimes obtained simply by placing an explosive in a tin can and chucking it into the sea - the fish practically jumped into the frying pan!



R.N.A.S C (M B)



RAF M B - A D 1918

Photos show the sea planes lined-up along the wall of the breakwater and the rail-mounted steam crane (with my Grandfather inside it). Also, because it is relevant to this time of remembering the end of the war, a photo of the steamboat landing at Mount Batten breakwater on Armistice Day & the personnel of R.A.F. Cattewater, 11th November 1918 – never before published.

“What does any of this have to do with local history?” you may ask. Well, there are two connections. One is a tale told by the late Mr. Bill Hurrell of Hope Cove to Stephen Pedrick who was interviewing elderly South Hams people for his excellent book “A Century Of Memories”. Mr. Hurrell, prompted for any memories from the First World War recalled: “I remember the first seaplane that left Plymouth with some important Navy person on board. It got into difficulties over Hope Cove and landed on Thurlestone beach. They then had to take the man by another seaplane to Portsmouth. Yes, we all went and saw this seaplane at Thurlestone “. Did the rescue plane land and take off from the beach I wonder?

On April 1st 1918, Royal Naval Air Service Station Cattewater merged with the newly-formed Royal Air Force to become R.A.F. Mount Batten. During the last two years of the war this station went from one canvas hanger housing a Short seaplane, to a fully-established R.A.F. Station, complete with rugby & football teams, brass band, concert party, and Wrens! Flying boats, such as the 'Sunderlands' were stationed there between the two world wars.

Just over a decade after WW1, T.E. Lawrence - known at that time as Aircraftman Shaw, and to posterity as 'Lawrence of Arabia' - was stationed at R.A.F. Mount Batten for a while. He had friends at Thurlestone at the time, and the two photos shown are of him in front of the 'pink' house on the way down to the wooden footbridge from the 'Links' car park (currently it is named 'Savernake'). He was testing motor launches for the Royal Navy at the time, and was friends with a Major Nathan, who I understand owned the house in the 1930s. Lawrence ('Shaw') & Nathan flew out of



T.E. S (L) - T 1930



T.E. S (L) - T 1930

R.A.F. Mount Batten in a 'Moth' sea plane. I wonder whether they ever flew out over Bigbury Bay to see Nathan's house from the air? Not being war time, officers would presumably have had some leeway for some jolly jaunts! Lawrence's friends, by the way, were Wing Commander Smith, seen with Lawrence in the first photo, and Mrs. Smith is seen on the right of the second photo taken in the porch of the house which is instantly recognisable as 'Savernake'.

So - two connections with Thurlestone which tie in with the Royal Air Force. If I've managed even a spark of interest or imparted anything new to any readers, then my life has not been in vain!!

Sources:

Pedrick, Stephen, 2009: "A Century Of Memories", Kingsbridge, Pedrick [p.18].

The copies of the T.E. Lawrence photos were given to me by Mr. Gerald D. Wasley of West Molesey, Surrey, who wrote several history books about Plymouth, including a book on the (mostly) later history of the flying boats at R.A.F. Mount Batten.



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Weather Wag

I usually use this issue of Village Voice to tell you about the year's weather. It has been a pretty topsy-turvy year, but - what's new! Seven named storms, severe snows in March, wet April, very dry June, very wet July and August, average September and October, then very wet November and December dry except for 15th when Storm Deidre struck and dumped 45mm rain in 24hrs on us. (That's nearly 2 inches!) In total there was 862.3mm (34.5ins) which is pretty average, so despite a wet summer the year's total was not out of the ordinary. The last measurable rain was on December 23rd/24th = 18mm, just over 0.5ins.

Anticyclonic Gloom has dominated our weather across the country, more or less. A large bloc of warmer air hangs at about 300 m from the ground effectively creating a blanket of air which traps the lower band from moving very much at all. As there is little air movement in the form of wind to shift the clouds, the cloud layer blocks out the sun for most of the time. This ball of fire is positioned so low in the sky it doesn't have the power to penetrate and warm the air effectively. Having said this, we have had a few lovely days. The Christmas days were OK, the wet 24th became a dull but dry 25th and the 26th saw some very welcome sunshine ALL DAY! The following days were unseasonably warm. The beach was crowded with folks enjoying the calm and warm weather. Most days saw some swimmers enjoying(!) a dip, still too cold for me. It was just no coat walking weather. Still no rain. By January 5th '19 the clearer nights saw a frost on the grass lower down by the Ley. And so it continues, more dull, calm days and not too cold.

Jan 14th still the same anticyclonic gloom but no frost, so the ground is pretty friable for an initial turn over for gardeners and I suppose, lawn cutting. 20 years ago this would not have been countenanced, the winters do seem to be getting less cold. I certainly cut the lawn a couple of times last year during the winter months, but not as early as this. Sunday 13th January is St. Hilary's day which, traditionally, is regarded as the coldest day of the year! Not this year, but in 1086 there was a hard, long frost. Then in 1205 an even more severe frost led to the time when the River Thames froze over enough to hold markets and fairs, even ale and wine froze and was sold by weight instead of the usual liquid measures. Inevitably the food crops were badly affected and food prices soared, mostly out of reach of the general population and famine ensued. So far this year St. Hilary's day has not lived up to its reputation of being the coldest day of winter, as we experience a very mild and unusual winter season. St. Hilary still lives on in the annals of history as the name of the Spring term in the legal year for the law courts of England and Wales, as well as for Oxford University and Trinity College Dublin. (Thanks to Paul Simon for info)

Fortunately, during much of this calm weather the horizon of the sea has remained mostly clear. Sunsets have been few and far between, but stunning when the clouds have parted a little. A constant along our bit of horizon is the Eddystone Lighthouse. Gaps of 9 seconds and then 3 seconds mark the flashes which are as regular as can be. Bell Rock of Scotland was built by Robert Stevenson, Chief Engineer of the Northern Lights. 1790-1940 saw the family of Stevensons construct 97 lighthouses around 62,000 miles of coastline around Scotland, they became known as the works of the "Lighthouse Stevensons". Thomas Stevenson invented a way to measure wave height and the "Stevenson Screen" is well known to meteorologists and of a design that has never been bettered. One of Thomas' sons was Robert Louis Stevenson who wrote, "Whenever I smell saltwater, I know that I am not far from the works of one of my ancestors".

Enjoy your weather watching. **Jan Turner**

Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club

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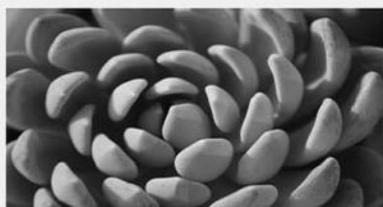
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Thurlestone Golf Club



Captain's Newsletter

As a local lad I am delighted and honoured to have taken up the Office of Club Captain at Thurlestone Golf Club. I look forward to a wonderful year ahead representing the Club locally and around the County. I would like to offer the Club's sincere thanks to Club Captain Harry Cattell for his leadership throughout last year, ably assisted by Heather Spencer the Ladies Captain.

I was born in 1950 and raised and schooled in Kingsbridge. Following on, I took up an apprenticeship in Telecommunications, working for Plessey, STC and GEC to name but a few. Following a change of direction, I worked abroad before returning to England to have my own businesses in the licence trade. I have now retired but help occasionally down at Bantham car park.

My association with Thurlestone and the surrounding villages goes back many years. My Grandparents lived in Bantham and many hours of my school holidays were spent caddying at the Club. I have many untold stories of those yearly days – I remember once, at the age of 11, caddying for a gentleman member whose temper was less than even. After several attempts to clear some gorse he took the club over his knee and threw it towards the gorse. I offered my services to retrieve it but they were passionately declined. Following the game, I snuck back on the course to retrieve it; this eventually became my first golf club. There are

many exploits of collecting golf balls for pocket money from the old pro Jock Foale who served for 30 years from 1950 to 1980.

I joined Bigbury in my early twenties then The Manor at Bovey Castle and Royal North Devon a little later, before returning to Kingsbridge with my wife Cerez, 20 years ago.

The Golf Club of 60 years ago is a far cry from the Club it is today. Our membership is as diverse as the community it sits in. It is a happy, informal place, where the emphasis is on inclusion and participation. During my year I am keen to promote this community spirit by hosting more events similar to that of our successful Bonfire night which saw over 400 members and villagers attend.

Those who have walked Leasfoot Beach recently, would have seen at first hand the relentless erosion from human activity that is taking place along the beach. The Club is considering, in the medium to long-term, some fairly extensive beach defenses; however in the shorter term we would look to do some interim works. We would like to establish another formal entrance to the beach and some robust fencing to deter the ad hoc entrances that are appearing along the back of the beach. We need to liaise with other stakeholders to carry out this work but hopefully by the time the next Village Voice goes to print I will have further news.

Locals feeling unhappy about no longer being able to park for free to access the

beach, due to the Club's car parking scheme, might consider Social Membership. It equates to 20p per day and affords you free yearly car parking and access to the Clubhouse and its facilities.

We are pleased to announce that the Lady Captain and I have nominated the Kingsbridge & Saltstone Caring as our chosen Club charity. This local registered charity's aim is to promote the independence, physical and mental well being of older, isolated or vulnerable people living in Kingsbridge, Salcombe and the surrounding area. The Charity got off to a good start when our Joint Drive In on New Year's Day raised £245.

Well that wraps up my first report, but I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mike Doyle

Lady Captain's Newsletter

I started playing golf at Dartmouth Naval College before joining Dartmouth Golf and Country Club in 1993 where I became lady captain.

I was on the Devon County Ladies' Committee from 2000, also serving as County Competitions Secretary for two years. I became Thurlestone Lady Captain in 2011 so this is my second time as captain. I have joined up with Mike Doyle in the choice of charity for 2019, which is Kingsbridge Saltstone Caring, providing care for the elderly.

The highlight of January is always the Captains' Drive In on New Year's Day and the weather was perfect for a winter day. The members enjoyed free bacon baps, tea and coffee before they all assembled on the first tee. They had all bought squares to guess the place

where the captains' balls finished and the money raised will go to our charity.

We have some social events coming up. On Thursday 14th February there is a Valentines Night. Bookings are now being taken by our catering team. Sunday lunches continue to be popular and do get fully booked quite quickly. The Fish & Chip nights are every other Friday, so February 8th and 22nd.

I wish the new Club Captain Mike Doyle a great year, also the Seniors' Captain Tom Burnett who starts his second year, and Juniors' Captain Sammy Ingham. Good luck in all their matches.

Lesley Safin

Junior Section Newsletter

The Junior Captain this year is Sammy Ingham who plays of five and is a pupil in Year 11 at Stover School. His vice-captain is Ollie Griffiths in Year 11 at Kingsbridge College and plays of nine.

We are entering teams in the West Devon League, Basil Steer Devon Knockout, and Tamar Cup. We have a Junior Open and Order of Merit competition planned for Saturday 22nd June and any juniors with a handicap of 54 and below can enter on the Devon golf website.

Friday club night activities start from 19th April and continue to the end of September. Thurlestone has joined the Golf Access which will run on the normal Juniors competition day.

This year Sammy Ingham and Toby White are in the U16 Devon County Elite Squad and Noah Mulligan is playing for the U14s, so we wish them good luck.

Liz Line

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December Meeting

The December meeting always takes the form of our Christmas lunch at the Golf Club, and, as usual, it was a very festive occasion with delicious food, and entertainment with some amusing readings by Joan Booth, Wendy Neukirchen and Jo Odams. Jean Yeoman was presented with a plant for winning "Bloom of the Month" most frequently.

January Meeting

A new member, Jackie Green, was welcomed at our January meeting. Jo Parkin reminded us of a number of forthcoming events that need applying for: the Annual Meeting in Bournemouth on 5th June; the Devon WI Quiz on 16th February; Food, Crafts and Skills Tai Chi Taster at Frogmore; and the Rotary Club Quiz in Thurlestone Parish Hall on 7th February.

Philip Worth, whom many will know as the leader of the Kingsbridge Folk Dance group, gave a talk about the Hope Cove Coastguard and Lifeboats. Philip was born in Cornwall, but lived in Hope Cove most of his life and has been part of the Coastguard team. He also helped to build up the Hope Cove Archive that can be seen in the Reading Room at the Hope Cove Weekend at the end of August.

The first pictures shown were of the building of the breakwater in 1925, now nearly 100 years old and in urgent need of rebuilding. Due to the high number of wrecks around the Bolt Tail coastline, the Freemasons endowed money for a Lifeboat Station. There were originally four lifeboats, each 35 feet long and crewed by ten fishermen, wearing heavy cork lifejackets. When the boats had to be launched, everyone from the village, including children had to help push the heavy trolleys. In 1930, the RNLI took over and decided to motorise all the feet of boats they had, most of the old ones being then surplus to requirement. The Hope Cove Lifeboat is now funded entirely by charity donations.

Over the years, there have been many wrecks the lifeboats have been called to. Fog, compounded by swell, was the cause of many. Often the wrecks were so close to shore the lifeboats could not get near to them, so the "breeches buoy" was called into use, saving many lives.

Coastguards were originally Revenue men, set up by the government, who had to prevent smuggling. It eventually stopped as taxes on imported goods were reduced making it uneconomically viable to continue. It was only later they were tasked to help rescue people. There was a lookout post on the end of Bolt Tail, and a line of Coastguard cottages built in Inner Hope.

After the talk, we were asked to consider the WI Resolutions for 2019, and vote on them. The six Resolutions were: 1. Improving plant biosecurity in the UK; 2. Improving the natural landscape with trees; 3. Pelvic floor education; 4. Menstrual Health; 5. Calling to halt the decline in local bus services; 6. Don't fear the cervical smear.

The February meeting will have a demonstration of willow weaving with some hands-on practical work, followed in March by a talk by Brenda Loosemore entitled "Ladies of Laughter". Should be fun!

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FISH & AVOCADO BAKE

(Serves 2)



This is a great dish for a dinner party as everything can be prepared beforehand and it only takes 15 (to 20) minutes to cook. It is quite rich so we prefer the mash option!

Ingredients

Olive Oil

Sea salt and ground pepper

2 x 8 oz cod fillets skinned and boned, thick. (Pacific cod is usually thicker than Atlantic cod)

1 peeled avocado – sliced

5.5 oz good peeled prawns (cooked or uncooked or frozen) Uncooked best.

5 fl oz double cream

5.5 oz strong, mature Cheddar Cheese (Davidstow best!)

Large ovenproof dish.

Process (15 minutes)

- Thaw prawns(if using frozen) under cold tap and dry off
- Rub roasting dish with olive oil
- Season cod with salt and pepper on both sides and put in dish
- Sprinkle fillets with prawns and avocado slices
- Drizzle on the cream and grate over the cheese
- Cook in preheated oven at 210 degrees for fan and 220 for conventional
- Oven cook for 15/20 mins until golden brown and bubbling. Check fish after 15 minutes

Serve with green salad and new potatoes or mashed potatoes and peas.

Notes:

1. You can make the mash the day before and reheat.
2. Make sure that you cover the avocado with the grated cheese to stop it going brown.
3. You can make this dish in the morning, cover with cling film, keep in the 'fridge and just pop in the oven when your guests arrive. It's ready when you've had your pre-dinner drinks!

Mike Stickland

.....

Crime.....what crime?

The recent illegal dumping of at least 50 old car tyres into a pretty river in Cornwall prompted a very concerned lady to contact the Environment Agency. The Western Morning News, later reporting on the problem, said that the lady ".....was given an *indecent* number for further contact....."(!)

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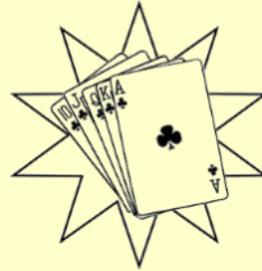
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TRAMP ACTIVITIES

WINTER 2018

Visitors are welcome to join us on our walks. Weekly details are posted in the window at the Post Office up to a week in advance. New members are welcome — contact Mike Stickland on stix@talktalk.net for more information or ring 01548 560763.

November 6th and a change of route. Bickleigh Bridge walk with Rolf & Viv Burnie. 6 miles.

Five intrepid Trampers, plus dog, ventured forth untroubled and untrammelled by any travail over the threatened turbulence and tempest ahead (or at least a distinctly wet and windy forecast) and headed towards Dartmoor and our scheduled walk. En route and with the cloud-base already touching the tops, we turned aside to the tranquillity and tempo of the Plym Valley instead. With the autumn colours at their very best and even the sun popping in to have a look occasionally, we enjoyed a delightfully beautiful walk in the shelter of the trees up beside the river to Bickleigh Bridge.

At Bickleigh Bridge we headed back down the old railway line, again under the canopy of the beech trees, their gold coloured leaves fluttering to the ground around us like snow. A short diversion took us to Cann Quarry and the weir there before returning alongside the old canal to where we'd left the car at Plym Bridge.

The Harvester in Plympton beckoned and over lunch it began to rain: perfect timing! And before our return to Thurlestone a regular autumn gale was winding itself up to assault us. A great walk and a real joy to see the trees in their full fall beauty before the wind could strip them bare in preparation for winter.

November 14th. Noss Mayo coastal walk. George and Catherine Delaf eld. 6 miles.

On a rather overcast morning, we started out from Court Park with a recent record of seventeen walkers and three dogs including an otherwise well-behaved

guest dog who was rather partial to chasing — never catching — chickens. The village was full of builders as usual and for the first time in recent years we had to squeeze our cars into the lane adjacent to the tennis court car park. So much for choosing a date without a half term in it! The route in Noss Mayo was (also as usual) rather narrow and we had to wait for some stragglers who preferred another route! After having a resounding no-show for the clockwise walk in July we stuck to the anti-clockwise Stoke Point route (as promised in this report last year) and were rewarded with nice views and a slippery descent. The local Tramp was able to guide us when we discovered that new fencing threatened to divert us from our path.

After the initial climb out of Noss Mayo, we followed the wide and well-trodden coastal path once used as a carriage drive. It is quite easy overall and there was plenty of time to admire the sea views and chat over the news of those recovering from illness or of on holiday. There were a few squelchy sections after the recent rain and that last descent to the 'fish on a bicycle' sculpture needed extra concentration (particularly to keep the chickens safe). There was a stop for a photo and all too soon the walk was over for another year. It is a lovely walk with views of the sea and everyone was happy to stretch their legs. Afterwards, some of our number chose the picturesque Ship Inn for lunch.

Hembury Woods, November 23rd. Jenny Webb. 4 miles.

On a pleasant late Autumn day, twelve walkers and two dogs, Ben and Heidi, set off for a short circular walk through Hembury Woods on the southern edge of Dartmoor.

Parking in the National Trust car park, we took the lovely looping route along the banks of the River Dart and through the ancient woodland. Following recent rainfall, the river was flowing fast and the wet leaves underfoot made the walking slippery — but the scenery was magical.

Turning our backs on the river we climbed the track leading up into the forest and followed the path that eventually took us to the entrance of

“Hembury Castle” – a hilltop area where the remains of a medieval castle hide within the embrace of an Iron Age Fort. We stopped for a while for refreshments and to take in the panoramic views across the Dart Valley and east Dartmoor.

Leaving the site, we headed south and followed the path down, threading through more woodland - oak, silver birch, holly and hazel – back to the car park. An enjoyable walk which ended with lunch at the Grange café at Buckfast Abbey.

November 26th, Ringmore. Jenny Webb. 4.5 miles.

Annie Lukehurst had agreed to lead today's walk as Peter and Liz Coates were both recovering for surgery! In the event, only two intrepid walkers turned up and Annie, who was planning to lead today's walk was feeling “under the weather” so Jenny and Diane organised their own coastal walk from Ringmore !!

So we set off with our dogs and walked through Ringmore Village taking the path down to Aymer Cove. We sat on the rocks in the sunshine and enjoyed our coffee and biscuits whilst the dogs played on the sand and in the sea. Refreshed and energised we took a deep breath and headed up the steep path to Toby's Point. It was worth the climb for the magnificent views of Bigbury Bay. With the beautiful scenic coastline all the way, we continued along the path into Challaborough and on to Bigbury-on-Sea. The tide was out so we had a leisurely walk over to Burgh Island. We checked out the menu at the Pilchard Inn but decided to walk back to the Venus café where we enjoyed a bacon bap in the sunshine! We returned to Ringmore the way we came. A great walk of 4.5 miles on a warm beautiful, spring-like day – very difficult to believe it was the end of November!

December 14th. Our Christmas walk with drinks & mince pies followed by lunch at the California Inn.

The Annual Christmas Walk brought 21 Tramps out of hibernation for this special annual event led by Mike Stickland. We

met at the usual time of 9.30 and proceeded up to Andrew's Wood for a 10 a.m. start. The weather was fine and bright and the breeze soon disappears as one descends into the wood.

‘Descending into the wood’ is an apt descriptor as when in the wood the way forward, and more importantly, the way to get out is far from clear. The way-marks are all faded and assume that you are travelling anticlockwise. Well, we were travelling clockwise and many more degrees than planned!! The leader eventually extracted the weary walkers from the wood and they were more than happy to see Vivien with hot mulled wine and warm mince pies to raise their spirits (and their temperatures).

We did not have time to do the second half of the planned walk and so descended on the Cali Inn for lunch. After drinks in the bar, we moved into the restaurant for a splendid Christmas feast and enjoyed all the camaraderie of our organisation.

January 7th, Kingsbridge Town walk. Linda Scott. 2 miles.

The Trampers who had missed the previous town tour three years ago, as well as those who had been on it, asked for a rerun (or walk) so, on 7th January, sixteen Trampers met on the quay to explore the history of Kingsbridge! We looked towards the town to identify the two Medieval towns of Kingsbridge to the left and Dodbrooke to the right. The Abbot of Buckfast was Lord of the Manor of the former and the patronage of the monks who ran corn mills in the town enabled Kingsbridge to grow and prosper.

We then looked at copies of several photographs which showed that the estuary used to flow right up to the far edge of the bus station. We compared the existing buildings to those in the photos - which people found really interesting. We stopped to look at the large house on the Embankment which used to house the vets' surgery and many of us remembered that this was the only place in Kingsbridge where an x-ray could be taken – South Hams hospital had no x-ray machine! We then

moved further along, noting how the extensive grounds of Dodbrooke Manor had been built on over the years. The large stone gate pillars are still there and the Trampers who had always wondered why they were there now knew! We looked across to the lime kiln and to where the sawmills had been. Looking at the old photographs of the extensive mills proved most interesting. We also discussed ropemaking on that side of the estuary and it became evident why the road is called Ropewalk.

We then walked to the shelter at the end of the quay to find out more about shipbuilding on the estuary. We looked at photographs of the ship building quays and learned that in the 1850's, Date's Shipbuilders, who built schooners, barges and fruit clippers, was the biggest employer in Kingsbridge with shipwrights, carpenters, riggers, rope makers and sail makers along with the allied tradesmen at Lidstone's foundry. Indeed, one Trumper's family had been involved in the building of these ships and he was able to tell us more about it. This industry declined with the advent of the paddle steamers which were then built on New Quay or Bond's Quay.

Before non-conformists were free to worship, they held secret meetings at Tacket Wood – formerly called Ticket Wood as tickets were issued for attendees - and on the Saltstone at low tide because it was outside any parish boundary. We passed what was Wills garage (now a block of flats) and went into the park. We all enjoyed reading the information boards and lamented the disappearance of the palm tree walk. I was able to share family photos of the park as my father was born and brought up in the cottage there. The photograph of The Western National bus depot (next to what is now South Moor Vets) brought back memories of the small green buses for many of us. We were impressed by Dodbrooke Lodge and thought it was almost too grand a coach house for Dodbrooke Manor. We saw the malt houses in Ebrington Street and were surprised that there were 11 maltsters in Kingsbridge in 1823. We walked up to the site of Dodbrooke market and saw, from the photographs what market day would have looked like. (The cattle market on Ropewalk, built in 1922 and

now a car park, replaced this ancient market site). The Market House, now Sabre, is an imposing building. We also saw the site of Wray's – yet another garage, now houses.

We saw where bombs had been dropped in WW2 and compared photos of Duke Street today and before the war. We identified the site of the town mill, went up Squeezebelly Lane and followed the leat along Western Backway. Many people had not been here before and were delighted by the numerous pathways linking the leat-path to Fore Street and all the cottages along the routes. There were several pretty gardens too.

We entered Fore Street at White Hart Passage. If you stand here and look up, you can see the upper floors of the White Hart – now flats. People were surprised to discover how many coaching hotels Kingsbridge had after the formation of the Turnpike Trust in 1823 – The Seven Stars, The Albion, The White Hart, The Exeter Inn, The Red Lion and The Kings Arms. In fact, there were 20 inns and taverns by 1850.

We were amused by this inscription at St Edmund's Church – "Here lie I at the chancel door. Here lie I because I'm poor. The further in the more you pay. Here lie I as warm as they." We also looked out over the workhouse and learned more about life for the poor in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As a result of the 1834 Poor Law Act, the Kingsbridge Union was formed to build and run a workhouse. The road is still called Union Road. The Shambles, the butchers' stalls of the Middle Ages, was moved from the middle to the side of the road in the eighteenth century to make room for the larger carriages now coming in to the town.

We looked up at the Grammar School, now the museum and saw the site of the Turnpike Gate. We went down Kings Arms Passage, passed loads of small cottages and gardens to Duncombe Park. We followed the Eastern Backway, twisting and turning until we were back in Church Street. We rounded off a most pleasant morning with a coffee stop at The Pantry!

T W P 2019

Walk No.	2019 Date	Day	Leader	Length	Suggested route (if any)	Lunch
1	Jan 7th	Mon	Linda Scott	2 miles	Kingsbridge Town walk	
2	Jan 17th	Thur	Trisha Wilson	5 miles	Around Dartington	
3	Jan 25th	Fri	Mike & Vivien Stickland	2 miles +	Totnes Town Trail	In Town
4	Jan 28th					
5	Feb 4th	Mon	Annie Lukehurst	7 miles	Bowcombe Bridge	
6	Feb 13th	Wed	Wendy and Peter Gornall	4 miles	Staverton - snowdrop walk	Sea Trout Inn
7	Feb 19th	Tues	Vanessa Barton	TBA	TBA	
8	Feb 25th	Mon	Viv & Rolf Burnie	TBA	TBA	
9	March 6th	Wed	Trisha Wilson	5 miles	Ugborough and environs	Ship Inn
10	March 11th	Mon	Rachel Wayth	TBA	TBA	
11	March 19th	Tues	Mike & Vivien Stickland	5 miles	Yealmpton and environs	Rose & Crown
12	March 26th	Tues	Alistair & Gill Durden	5 miles	Stoke Fleming to Strete	Green Dragon
13	April 3rd	Wed	Wendy & Peter Gornall	5 miles	Dittisham - Little Mill Cove	Ferry Boat Inn
14	April 8th	Mon	Sue Dwyer	5 miles	Down Thomas	
15	April 17th	Wed	June & John Richardson	5 miles	Prawle	Pig's Nose
16	April 24th	Wed	Sheila & Graham Fairley	5 miles	Avon Mill to Topsham Bridge	
17	May 2nd	Thur	Rachel Wayth	5 miles	Dartmouth Jubilee walk	
18	May 9th	Thur	Alistair & Gill Durden	5.5 miles	Shaugh Bridge to Cadover Bridge	White Thorn
19	May 14th	Tues	Jenny Webb	6 miles	East Soar, Sharpitor, Bolt Head	
20	May 20th	Mon	Liz & Peter Coates	5 miles	Bolberry - Hope Cove	Oceans Rest't
21	May 27th	Mon	Richard Swan	7 miles	Haytor	
22	June 5th	Wed	Trisha & Jenny	6.5 miles	Dartmeet and Brimpts Wood	
23	June 12th	Wed	Anna & David Martin	7 miles	Both sides of Avon Estuary including ferry	
24	June 17th	Mon	Lisa White - Summer eve walk	TBA	To Bantham via South Huish ??	Sloop Inn
25	June 25th	Tues	Alastair & Gill Durden	5.5 miles	Burrator & Sheepstor	Royal Oak
26	July 1st	Mon	Gareth Scott	7 miles	Plymouth waterfront	
27	July 9th	Tues	Catherine & George Delafield	5 miles	Noss Mayo coastal	Ship Inn
28	July 17th	Wed	Christine Wilson	6 miles	Mounbatten to Bovisand circular	The Bridge
29	July 24th	Wed	Mike & Vivien Stickland	6 miles	Holne Moor, Dartmoor	Picnic
30	July 29th					
31	Aug 5th	Mon	Vanessa Barton	TBA	TBA	
32	Aug 12th	Mon	Liz & Peter Coates	6 miles	Start Point to East Prawle	Pig's Nose
33	Aug 23rd	Fri	Alastair & Gill Durden	5.5 miles	Vennford Reservoir to Dartmeet	Picnic
34	Aug 26th					
35	Sept 2nd	Mon	Sue Dwyer	6 miles	Wembury & Yealm Estuary	
36	Sept 11th	Wed	Wendy & Peter Gornall	7 miles	Merrivale , Dartmoor	Merrivale Inn
37	Sept 16th	Mon	Linda Scott	5 miles	Yealmpton	Rose & Crown
38	Sept 24th	Tues	Jenny Webb	6 miles	Gara Rock	Gara Rock
39	Sept 30th	Mon	Eric & Liz Candy	TBA	TBA	
40	Oct 9th	Wed	Anna & David Martin	4 miles	Snapes Point	
41	Oct 17th	Thur	Sheila & Graham Fairley	6 miles	South Milton NT car park - Bolberry	
42	Oct 23rd	Wed	Richard Swan	5 miles	Lustleigh	
43	Oct 30th	Wed	June & John Richardson	5 miles	Dartmoor, Hexworthy circular	
44	Nov 4th	Mon	Viv & Rolf Burnie	TBA	TBA	
45	Nov 14th	Thur	Catherine & George Delafield	5 miles	Noss Mayo - Stoke	Ship Inn
46	Nov 18th					
47	Nov 25th	Mon	Annie Lukehurst	5 miles	Blackawton	
48	Dec 2nd					
49	Dec 12th	Thur	Alastair & Gill Durden	TBA	Xmas walk with mince pies + mulled wine	TBA

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Eating Out Locally

Kitley House Restaurant

Kitley House in Yealmpton offers a dining style that you will not find in the high street. Its fascinating historic story begins in Tudor times and has Regency and Jacobean extensions. Now, with a resurgence of attention, the restaurant has been awarded 1 rosette and is aiming for 2 and 3 rosettes in 2019.



We never tire of the A379 drive to Yealmpton. On the western edge of the town, good signage on the left points to an arched gateway for the drive through park-like grounds to Kitley House. Our booking was for Sunday lunch – a meal which is served all day. At Kitley it is true to English tradition with Roast Sirloin, or Loin of Pork, or Breast of Chicken, each with roast vegetables and trimmings. An option of Sea Bass for fish lovers and another option for vegetarians made choice for the main course delightfully difficult.

The starter menu offers five dishes, including soup. There is a Tian of Prawns in Marie Rose with Smoked Salmon; Duck Confit with Caramelised Shallots and Quince; Chicken Liver Parfait with Walnut Bread and Whiskey Marmalade. All are attractively presented and they each make a good beginning to the meal.

For something sweet to follow, the dessert menu includes Strawberry Pavlova; Assiette of Chocolate; Sticky Toffee Pudding. Cheese lovers are catered for too. The desserts are served in Kitley's consistently tasteful way. Pricing for Sunday lunch is currently £17.95 for two courses; £22.95 for three.

To add to your Sunday experience at Kitley, plan to be there between 1 and 3 for live piano music or between 3 and 5 for live jazz. Pleasant music plays in the background at other times. Regency style chairs, linen serviettes, marble pillars, walls lined with book-shelves are all features that add to the experience. By day, long views of the estate's parkland running down to the River Yealm are to be seen from the windows.

The owners are restoring the fabric of the building and some interior decorating is underway. Lounges, which were long shut off, have been opened up. Like all buildings with a history, Kitley has its stories. In the bar, the fire-grate is never used in case the rare bats, that once lived in the chimney, return. Residents of this 4-star hotel share the dining room with non-resident diners. On a cold evening, we noted the attention that was given to improve our comfort as radiators were drawn closer to the table.

We had enjoyed aperitifs by the log fire in the hall. It is a large fireplace and its size seemed to add to the warmth and comfort. We went back to the hall's fireplace sofas after dinner for coffee from pots that seemed bottomless.

Make a call if you would like more information: 01752 881555.

Vivien Stickland

DIARY DATES

February

- Saturday 2 Ivybridge Methodist Church, Jonathan Veira concert in aid of Prison Fellowships
- Sunday 3 Wedding Fair - Clif House, Salcombe 11am
- Monday 4 TRAMP (Long) Bowcombe Bridge
- Monday 4 Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Thursday 7 The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night - Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Saturday 9 Kingsbridge Choral Workshop 2019 10am - 5pm
- Wednesday 13 TRAMP (short) Staverton Snowdrop Walk
- Thursday 14 WI 2.30pm Thurlestone Parish Hall - Willow Weaving with Richard Kenwood (a hands on experience)
- Monday 18 South Hams NT - Ed Welch talks about Spike Milligan: His Part in my Life - Kingsbridge Methodist Church Hall 2.30pm
- Tuesday 19 TRAMP TBA
- Monday 25 TRAMP TBA
- Tuesday 26 South Hams NT - Annual Lunch at Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove
- Wednesday 27 Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 7.30pm The Architecture of the British Raj is remarkable "Lets Celebrate It" with Anthony Peers
- Thursday 28 Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 10.30am Lecture as Wednesday

March

- Saturday 2 Alastair Durden in Concert at Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm in aid of Save the Children Fund
- Monday 4 Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Wednesday 6 TRAMP (short) Ugborough and Environs
- Monday 11 TRAMP TBA
- Monday 11 South Hams NT - Argentinian Patagonia - Land of Violas & Volcanoes - Kingsbridge Methodist Church Hall 2.30pm
- Tuesday 12 Thurlestone Parish Hall AGM 6pm
- Thursday 14 WI 2.30pm Thurlestone Parish Hall - Brenda Loosemore - Ladies of Laughter
- Tuesday 19 TRAMP (short) Yealmpton and Environs
- Friday 22 South Hams NT - Trip to Kelly House, Lifton & Tavistock
- Saturday 23 Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club Race Night in aid of Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Thurlestone Parish Hall 7pm for 7.30pm
- Tuesday 26 TRAMP (short) Stoke Fleming to Strete
- Tuesday 26-30 KATS "Guys & Dolls" at Malborough Village Hall, 7.30pm, Sat Matinee 2.30pm, see www.kats-kingsbridge.co.uk
- Wednesday 27 Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 7.30pm Stories in Stained Glass with Susie Harris
- Thursday 28 Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 10.30am Lecture as Wednesday
- Sunday 31 Daylight Saving Time starts - Clocks go forward 1 hour at 2am

April

- Monday 1 Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
- Thursday 11 WI 2.30pm Thurlestone Parish Hall Hon Alison Haslam - Tales behind the Statues

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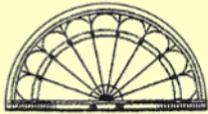
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PARISH INFORMATION

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

Chairman	Andrew Rhymes	560564
Vice-chairman	Charles Mitchelmore	560602 (and Tree Warden)
Parish Clerk	Helen Nathanson	07813 689717
Members	Tony Goddard	562282
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Jill Munn	560732
	Bronwen Zafro	560020
District Councillors	Judy Pearce	561370
	Simon Wright	561033
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659

PARISH HALL (see Thurlestone Parish Website for more details)

Chairman: Vacant

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

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

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

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL Executive Head Susan Rowe-Jones 560494

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES Contact Sarah Tyers 561917

Shop Opening Hours	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	8.00am - 5.30pm
	Wed	8.00am - 2.00pm
	Sat	8.00am - 1pm
	Sun	8.30am - 1.00pm

Hours extended to 4pm on Sat in summer, and to 4.00pm on Sun in school summer holidays

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

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

BANTHAM VILLAGE STORES & COFFEE SHOP Contact Kelly Seymour 560645

Opening Hours	Every day	9.00am - 5.00pm
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PUBS The Village Inn (Thurlestone) - 563525 The Sloop Inn (Bantham) - 560489

MILK DELIVERY R. Bruckner & Son 01803-832801

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

CLUBS & GROUPS

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	Chairman	Stuart Watts	810373
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary	Jo Smith	560347
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wed & Fri 6.30pm)	Contact	Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX	Contact	Anna Martin	560796
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Phil Millard	560843
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact	Tom Gilkes	560973
LINE DANCING (Wed 2pm)	Contact	Sue Bain	07989817898
NIA WITH NOLA FITNESS (Mon 10.15am)	Contact	Nola Baylis	842877
PILATES (Mon 2.15pm Wed 9am)	Contact	Franny Morris	07590506027
PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOC (POTS)	Chairman	Chris White	560505
TABLE TENNIS (Thurs 7.30pm)	Contact	Paul Ferguson	560578
TAI CHI/CHUAN (Wed 10.30am)	Contact	Vida Hodder	561182
TAI CHI/SHIATSU (Thurs from 9.30am)	Contact	Greg Cutler	07816230211
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Of ce & General Enquiries		560405
TENNIS SECTION (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop		560715
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX	Contact	Kit Marshall	560214
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Mike Stickland	560763
WI (2nd Thurs in month 2.30pm not Aug or Dec)	Contact	Jo Parkin	561215
YOGA (Tues 9am)	Contact	Sarah Scott	07879627939

HEALTH CENTRES

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

POLICE

Emergency 999 Non-emergency 101

RUBBISH COLLECTION - Mondays (but Tuesdays in Bank Holiday weeks)

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

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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

LIBRARIES

Kingsbridge - Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1EB T: 852315 (closed all day Thur, Sun and Sat pm)
Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall car park Wednesdays 13th Feb and 13th Mar 3.10 - 4.10pm

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Local Bus Service - Tally Ho! Service No. 162 - Destinations from Thurlestone (Bus stop by Church) are:- Kingsbridge, South Milton, Malborough, Galmpton and Hope Cove.
For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable

For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233 (7.00am - 10.00pm) or see www.travelinesw.com

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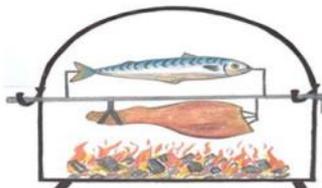


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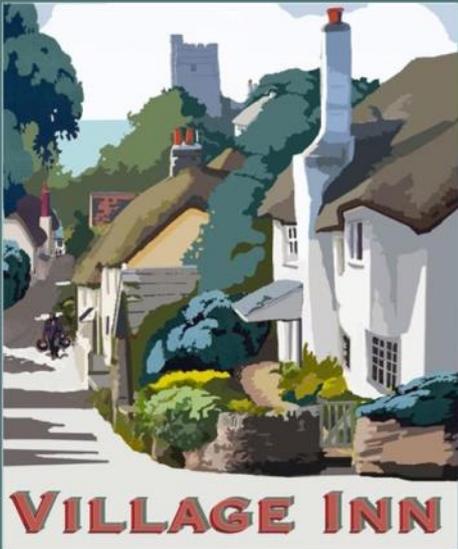
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