

# VILLAGE VOICE

February - March 2020



**I wonder if we'll have a hosepipe ban this year?**

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone*



We have welcomed in the new year and, at the same time, stepped into a new decade with a new local member of parliament who serves with the new government. There is a growing new relationship with Europe and, soon, a new opposition leader.

There's plenty to anticipate and, as we look ahead, we're urged to treat planet earth with renewed respect. Various problems of light pollution are explained in this issue. Light at night is bad for wild life and there's good reason to keep our skies dark for the health of nature and ourselves. You'll see still more in Village News Round-Up of the care that is being given to the environment, locally.

Many local people live long lives and this is surely due, in part, to the very healthy environment. Congratulations to Nina Hurrell. We're pleased to share some reminiscences as you celebrate your 100th birthday.

Thank you, Anthony Mangnall, for telling us how, in your office as our new local MP, you hope to create opportunity and promote our wonderful region.

Our thanks go to Mike Hodges for submitting the picture on our cover. During a wet spell in mid-January, few people braved the beach. The Ley reached an unusually high level and the soft low cliff along the way to Beach Cottage slumped onto the beach in places. Read Weather Wag to find out more.

We, the Village Voice team, wish all our readers well through the coming year. May hopes be realised for those who lead with vision – 20 20 vision.

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**Front Cover**

Cover photo by  
Mike Hodges

**Deadline for articles for next issue - 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

## **February - March 2020**

**38th Year of Publication**

**Issue No. 221**

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# A Letter From Your New MP, Anthony Mangnall



My first days of Westminster now seem like a distant memory. It has after all been a month and four days (at time of writing) and as we all know even a week is a long time in politics.

Looking back on my first month as your MP, it is remarkably difficult to comprehend where exactly the time has gone. I want to use my first piece for Village Voice to explain where I have come from, what I have been doing and what I hope to achieve over the coming months and years.

My foray into politics was predominantly driven by my time and work for William Hague on the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative and helping to close the UK's domestic trade of ivory (which we achieved last year). Working on these two issues allowed me to see how to influence events in Westminster and how Britain makes its mark abroad. Believing that I might be able to do some good on two major issues such as combating rape in conflict and closing the UK's domestic trade in ivory has, perhaps arrogantly, made me think that I can do some good as your MP. Coupled with my experience in shipping in Singapore, London and Nigeria I hope to use my experience for the benefit of you, my constituents.

Election campaigns are gruelling at the best time and a winter election was not something to look forward to. However, I take some solace in the fact that regardless of the season, I did not have to put up with the challenge that the candidate for Hull, one William Wilberforce, did in the 1796 election. His opposition candidate spread a rumour that he had died and, for the entire duration of the election, William Wilberforce had to traverse his constituency persuading his constituents that he really was alive. It only goes to show that levels of fake news permeate every election and generation!

That said, after 141 days I was delighted to be elected as your MP and now I look ahead to the challenges that we face together. My first days in Westminster passed by with a strangely similar experience to that of starting university. Induction courses, lessons from seniors, introductory meetings, starter packs and all the rest were heaped on us newbies as we tried to figure out the procedure and process of our extraordinary parliament. Of course, there is only one thing you *actually* want to do when first elected and that is sit on those green benches. The worn leather with its accompanying scent where the subtle indentation of past great parliamentarians remains. It was a big moment for me and, as I sat for the first time, my first thought was to how I can best honour my commitments to you and my constituency. How I can deliver on the manifesto of my party and drive forward my own localised agenda to help create opportunity and promote our wonderful region.

My list and plan, while ever growing and ever evolving, all orientates around South Devon and the South West. Pushing forward our growth projects, calling for an improved slice of the Shared Prosperity Fund and Stronger Towns Fund as well as an increase in spending on connectivity (both digital and transport). These are issues that I hope to be able to represent and deliver upon. As the unofficial secretary to the Devon MPs group I hope to be able to drive forward an agenda that will ensure we are never left behind, and the Prime Minister keeps his word to support the South West.

Now with an office up and running, a brilliant team in place, I am holding regular surgeries across the constituency. If you would like to attend one to discuss an issue then please email: [Anthony.mangnall.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Anthony.mangnall.mp@parliament.uk) I am here to work for you and I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and hearing your views.

# THURLESTONE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



The Neighbourhood Plan continues to have an important role in planning decisions. In 2019, around 22 planning applications were made in the parish, of which 17 were approved by SHDC. They covered a wide range of development including the redevelopment of a dwelling, numerous extensions and alterations to dwellings, an agricultural store, a replacement garage, two summer houses/sheds, and change of use of an existing store room/garage to a holiday unit. The parish council supported 17 of the applications approved, all of which complied with the Neighbourhood Plan.

There were two planning applications last year of particular local importance. In August, permission was granted for two wooden buildings for **boat storage** (much in demand in the parish), repairs and maintenance. This is where the latest Bantham Boat (the 46<sup>th</sup>) is now nearing completion, having first been introduced to the Coronation Boathouse on Bantham Quay in 1976. The Neighbourhood Plan supports new marine-related workshops which require specialist skills that already exist in the community and this dedicated space will help secure this local tradition.

The second planning application concerned the **Bantham Garage** in Thurlestone. This was an application for the demolition of the building and construction of four houses. In this case, the planning application was refused, as the garage is one of the parish's few sources of employment and is protected by a policy requiring the applicant to market the premises at a reasonable market price for employment use for a minimum of 12 months.

There were another four planning applications that met resistance and were withdrawn, principally on grounds of scale and dominant impact. A further two planning applications for new open market dwellings remain outstanding, pending Section 106 Agreements to secure the principal residence requirement. This means the dwellings must be occupied as a main residence, or the owner will be liable to a court injunction.

In terms of projects, the **DAAT night landing site** became operational in November. Located at the entrance to Thurlestone village, the site was particularly challenging being a field, unlike many sites that are using playing fields with existing lighting that can be adapted. The parish is indebted to Geoffrey Stidston, who donated the field, and Toby Russell of DAAT, as well as all those in the community who made it possible.

The **Community-led Housing Initiative** is proving more of a challenge. Community-led Housing is discounted housing made possible by grant funding from central government. Helping local families get on the property ladder is an important way of ensuring the future sustainability of the parish and securing our services and facilities. However, the previously favoured West Buckland and Buckland Park Farm sites are no longer on the table and finding a suitable alternative site is not straightforward. It would therefore be very helpful if any landowners who have a suitable site that they would be willing to sell to make this initiative possible, could contact the parish clerk at [thurlestoneparish@gmail.com](mailto:thurlestoneparish@gmail.com). Local people interested in being considered for this housing should contact Jessica Wellens at [jessicabow@hotmail.com](mailto:jessicabow@hotmail.com).

Finally, I would like to thank members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee for their hard work over the last year in helping to monitor and implement the Neighbourhood Plan. Please check the parish website for further details.

**Cllr Sue Crowther, Thurlestone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Committee**

# VILLAGE NEWS ROUND-UP

## **Maurice Blight**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Maurice Blight on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Maurice arrived in Thurlestone around 1964 and bought the local garage, then known as Bantham Garage, from Mr Dent of Bantham.

It became Blight Engineering and continued as a garage until 2018 even though Maurice had retired some years earlier as a result of ill health.

Sadly, his sister and a brother both died within 3 weeks of his passing. A triple funeral for them will be held in South Milton in early February. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Dennis for his family losses.

## **Avon Estuary "clean up"**

The Aune Conservation Association organised a productive clean up around the Tidal Road and upper Avon Estuary on 12th January; this was one of the very few days over the past month graced with a few hours of cheering sunshine. The booty consisted of the usual mixture of pieces of paper, fishing line/net, bits of rope, car number plates and discarded car tyres.

Conveniently, Low Water was around 1.00 pm which meant we could start at the civilised hour of 11.30 am and finish just in time for a lunchtime drink at the Fisherman's Rest. Rain subsequently ensued!

As usual one group started from Timbers car park at AG to work downstream towards the stakes at Milburn Orchard and another started from the Milburn Orchard car park, working back to AG. There was a good and highly sociable turn out, largely comprised of parishioners from AG and Bigbury.

Our thanks go to all those who helped to make the morning an enjoyable and environmentally worthwhile experience, including the rubbish collection staff at SHDC.

(Article provided by Stuart Watts)

## **Cornelius Fund**

The Cornelius Fund is a Kingsbridge based charity which aims to help local people with housing needs.

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## **Coastal beach rubbish!**

When you go down to the beach for a walk, do please take a small bag with you to fill with rubbish if possible. The beaches are so much cleaner than they used to be but there are numerous small bits of plastic and rope which could so easily be swallowed by fish. At some of the beaches you might even find a bin at the top of the path where you can leave your bag!

## **Eating Out - Good news at No 27**

In our April/May 2019 edition there was an article on 'No 27' in Mill Street, Kingsbridge. At present there are offers galore !

If you place your meal order before 7 pm from the 'locals' menu, your 3 course meal will cost you £20 instead of £30 after 7 pm. AND better still, if you are a pensioner and visit this great restaurant on a Wednesday evening, before 7pm,

you will get your meal for £10 only. This offer runs to the end of February.

Just ring to check so that you are not disappointed.

### **Price increase**

For over a decade, the price to buy a copy of our amazing Village Voice community magazine has been just £1. Because it is free to all those on the Electoral Register, all the cost increases on paper, ink and consumables have, up to now, been carried by Village Voice and its advertisers.

Sadly, these increases can no longer be fully absorbed and, as from February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, the price will be £1.50. It will, of course, continue to be free for those on the Electoral Register.

The editorial team believes that this is still excellent value for such a diverse magazine covering all aspects of our parish and local issues.

Please continue to enjoy the magazine which can be bought at both the Thurlestone and Bantham village stores.

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## **Trouble with computers?**



As we seniors know, sometimes we have trouble with our computers.

I had a problem yesterday, so I called Eric, the 11 year old from next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control and asked him to come over.

Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. As he was walking away, I called after him, 'So, what was wrong?'

He replied, 'It was an ID ten T error.' I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An, ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.'

Eric grinned ... 'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?' 'No,' I replied.

'Write it down,' he said, 'and I think you'll figure it out.'

So I wrote down: ID10T

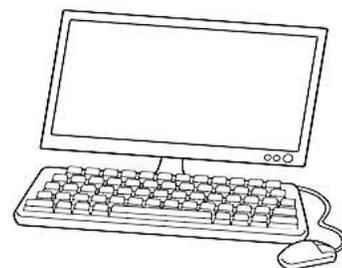
I used to like Eric !!

### **....and from Reader's Digest....**

Whoever said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results has obviously never had to reboot a computer.

Did you hear about the monkeys who shared an Amazon account? They were Prime mates.

Don't use "beef stew" as a computer password. It's not stroganoff.



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# NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

## Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

**# OPEN FORUM** A question was asked about potential conflict of interests and how this works for the District Councillors in situations when they disagree with a Parish Council in their Ward.

A question was asked about the email correspondence between Rob Ellis, SHDC (Community Housing Officer) and the Parish Council.

Councillor Rhymes agreed to look into the situation regarding the lights on the path by Homefield which has not yet been resolved.

**# COMMUNITY HOUSING** Councillor Williams gave an update about the land in Bantham recently suggested by the Estate for 6 community houses.

Councillors expressed frustration and disappointment that since the last PC meeting, the PC had not been consulted or involved by SHDC in any of the discussions about the land at Bantham or indeed any progress on the community housing initiative. Councillor Pearce reiterated her position that the Buckland Park Farm site did not comply with planning policy.

The Landscape Officer had visited the land at Bantham but a report had not yet been produced.

It was confirmed that representatives of the Bantham Estate had told the informal residents' meeting that the West Buckland site was still on offer, but that the land at Bantham would be preferable.

**# BYEWAYS, WARREN ROAD, THURLESTONE** extension and refurbishment of dwelling – SUPPORTED.

**# MIDDLE GABLES, BANTHAM** proposed new garden shed – SUPPORTED.

**# PLOT 29, HIGHFIELD, EDDYSTONE ROAD, THURLESTONE** approval of reserved matters following outline approval – OBJECTION.

**# THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB** installation of new water tank on upper part of golf course – SUPPORTED.

**# DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** Councillor Pearce gave an update about the replacement of the dog waste bin by the war memorial in Thurlestone. Ordinary waste bins are cheaper than dog bins which is why it has been difficult to get a replacement for the bin by the war memorial and in West Buckland. Councillor Pearce has requested that new dog litter bins be ordered for those sites and she will pay the difference in cost between the ordinary and the dog litter bins. She explained that legislation now allows ordinary litter bins to be used for dog litter so SHDC is not under an obligation to supply them. A request was made for a bin in Bantham but this is unlikely at present.

**# BANTHAM SPEEDING** 10 signs will be placed in the village after consultation with residents about suitable locations. The DCC Highways Officer for the Parish has confirmed that a 30mph speed limit is in place for Bantham and that there should be repeater signs through the village, which he is investigating. Councillor Williams has

joined the Community Speedwatch initiative which would allow residents to take speed readings and relay the information to DVLA.

### **# PARISH MATTERS**

Councillors discussed the Dark Skies policy, and its context in the Neighbourhood Plan. The NP Policy only applies to properties that have been built since the NP was adopted and which are subject to a dark skies planning condition. Councillor Crowther suggested that residents make a complaint to SHDC Environmental Health if lights from properties are causing a nuisance. Individual approaches have been made to some houses but without success so far.

### **Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**# OPEN FORUM** the Parishioner who raised the question of conflicts of interest at the December meeting has written subsequently to the District Councillor, copied to the Parish Council, as he does not feel that his concerns have yet been addressed. Potholes continue to be a problem around the Parish and it was agreed to raise the issue again with the County Councillor.

There is still some flooding along the Bantham Lane and damage has been caused to vehicles. At the bottom of Grove Corner by the bridge and Brook Cottage there has been severe flooding and DCC will be asked to look at this with a view to reminding landowners of their responsibilities.

The recycling process has changed and a question was asked about how effective it is particularly in regard to glass recycling. The new contractors have asked for glass of different colours to be mixed. The new recycling regime will start later in the year when a wider range of items will be able to be recycled.

**# DEFIBRILLATORS** Councillor Marshall gave an update about the Parish defibrillators, two of which are held at present in The Sloop and the Thurlestone Hotel. Just before Christmas the contract for servicing and maintaining them ended and the cost of renewing this is estimated to be in the region of £4,000 for a 3-year contract. Councillor Marshall has informed the 2 host sites and there is now concern about whether or not these can continue at that cost. Councillors were advised that the Sailing Club also holds a defibrillator and a member of the club carries out the checks herself. The Parish Clerk was asked to find out more about what is required in terms of servicing and maintenance.

**# OAK WOOD HOUSE, BUCKLAND PARK** application to fell three trees subject to Preservation Orders, due to condition and proximity to hazards - SUPPORTED, provided the Tree Officer has visited the site at the appropriate time of year with regard to the Ash Trees to determine whether or not felling should take place.

**# BOLT VIEW, GLEBE FIELD, THURLESTONE** Householder application for extension to dwelling and replacement garage – SUPPORTED, subject to comments which are available to view on the South Hams District Council website.

**# PLOT 29, HIGHFIELD, EDDYSTONE ROAD, THURLESTONE** application for approval of reserved matters following outline consent - OBJECTION.

**# COMMUNITY LED HOUSING** a reply has been received from Rob Ellis, SHDC in which he offered to attend a Parish Council meeting. He also set out the steps that had been taken to date towards securing a site for the housing. He confirmed that the

Bantham Estate has now withdrawn the West Buckland site. Councillor Crowther has replied to this email, drawing attention to the steps taken by the Parish Council to consult with the community about the sites.

The Parish Clerk was asked to request a meeting between councillors and the following SHDC Officers - Rob Ellis (Community Housing), Pat Whymer (Head of Planning) and Wendy Ormsby (Planning Officer). District Councillor Long asked if he and District Councillor Pearce could also be included in the meeting. It was agreed that Councillor Crowther would attend for the Parish Council and another councillor would be nominated.

**# DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** Councillor Long reported that the issues with litter and dog bins over the Christmas period was due to a misunderstanding about the volume of visitors to the Parish over that period, which has now been noted.

Councillor Pearce spoke about a new SHDC initiative to incentivise owners of long-term empty homes to encourage them to let their properties and to prevent homes from lying empty when there are people locally in need of accommodation.

**# COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** Councillor Gilbert congratulated Thurlestone School on receiving a good inspection report.

He confirmed that rumble strips to slow down traffic cannot be renewed in Bantham as they should not have been installed in the first place. DCC could install 30mph roundels (which are put within the tarmac). Councillors discussed this and were concerned that the signs would (a) encourage people to drive at 30mph instead of more slowly and (b) not be in keeping with the village. This will be discussed at a future meeting and DCC will be informed about whether or not to install them.

The pothole at Whitley Cross has been reported but DCC has a backlog of repair. It is also not possible to repair a pothole which is flooded so it will be repaired as soon as possible. Councillor Gilbert acknowledged that the hole was in a dangerous location and agreed to ask for the repair to be moved up the list. (Now repaired).

### **# PARISH MATTERS**

It was agreed to invite the Environment Agency representative to attend a meeting to discuss the various issues around surface water flooding in the Parish.

Councillors noted the reports about the Avon Estuary ferry. Councillors considered that the ferry is a private enterprise and that they would not wish to contribute financially. In terms of the patrol, they agreed that this was a valuable service and felt that anything to do with preserving the estuary merits full support.

It was agreed that the requirement for and cost of a Parish Lengthsman would be discussed at the budget meeting. The Parish Clerk was asked to find out about what levels of funding are available from DCC.

It was noted that Beers Solicitors have been instructed to undertake the transfer of the Thurlestone public toilets from SHDC.

*For more detailed information, see the full Minutes on the Parish Website at <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/meeting-minutes-archive.html>*

# kingsbridgefoodbank



Poverty in Kingsbridge? Surely not.

Surprisingly the answer is 'Yes'.

The causes of this poverty are many and we get people 'signposted' to us from many organisations including church groups, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), Community Voluntary Services (CVS) and social landlords. Some just turn up hopefully at 'Horizons' in Fore Street on a Saturday morning between 10 am and noon.

It is not our role to judge but simply to put out the 'arm of hope' to those in need. Basic foods, sanitary products and household goods are provided as required.

We also counsel, help with electricity and gas and signpost to other charities who may be in a position to resolve an individual's problems.

So how can you help? ..... Well, that is the easy part.

We are pleased to receive donations of cash, cheques or even standing-orders. Or maybe just the odd £10 note when you can.

Kingsbridge Area Food Bank (KAFB) also welcomes donations of food. You will see KAFB boxes to receive food on your way out of both Tesco and Morrisons. (There is often a list of goods that are currently needed). There is also a box at the rear of Thurlestone Church, under the font, which is emptied every Wednesday.

Over the Christmas period we had the most amazing response from local communities whose increasing generosity and support continues to grow year on year. As a result, the charity was able to deliver 48 personally selected hampers and in addition we served over 60 people during the festive period. We also received many generous financial donations which enable KAFB to expand and serve the wider rural communities.

The charity is in the process of applying to change its status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and at a Public Meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, we received approval to make our application to the Charity Commission. The charity will still remain an independent Foodbank with Trustees being committed to providing a highly personalised service to those in need.

Please help if you are able.

Mike Stickland – a member of the VV team and a Charity trustee – 01548 560763

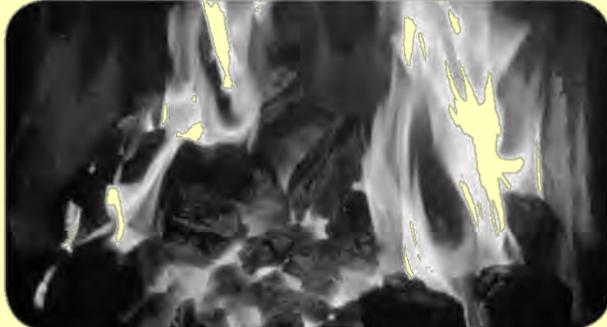


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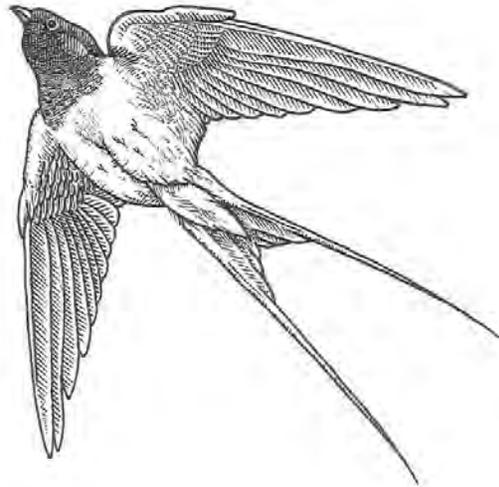
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# Thurlestone Bay Birds

## South Milton Ley

This Reserve owned by Devon Birds was acquired in 1976, additional adjacent land has been purchased over the years to provide buffer zones. It is a 16 Hectare wildlife refuge that was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1984. The second largest freshwater reed-bed in Devon, it is a site of importance to both breeding and migrating birds - over 200 species have been recorded.



The water level in the Reserve depends on the height of the sandbank at the mouth of the Ley. Wave action can build up the sandbank resulting in the Ley flooding up to half a mile inland - floods usually occur in Winter and subside. A high tide or a storm breaches the sandbanks.

In 2019 the restriction of access only to members of Devon Birds was lifted, although dogs are not allowed. A board-walk was built around five years ago to provide an access across the Reserve. This is about half a mile inland from the footbridge. Sources of water draining into the Ley are several springs, one of which leads in to a stream that flows through South Milton Village, storm water run-off from farm fields and treated waste from Sewage Works which is discharged through a reed-bed filter system after completion of the effluent treatment.

In addition to an important site for Birds it is also home to Otters, Harvest Mice and diverse species of Butterflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies.

For many years Bob Burrige undertook ringing of birds in the Reserve, the result of which is an historical record of the importance of the site for both breeding and birds on migration. Forty seven species of birds are known to have bred on the Reserve, notably **WATER RAIL, CETTIS WARBLER, CHIFFCHAFF, BLACKCAP, GARDEN WARBLER, REED WARBLER, SEDGE WARBLER, GRASSHOPPER WARBLER and REED BUNTING.**

The reed-bed provides a valuable staging and feeding area for a variety of birds on migration, principally **WARBLERS** - it was one of the top sites for globally threatened **AQUATIC WARBLER** in the United Kingdom.

The reed-beds are used as roosting sites in Autumn by flocks of **PIED** and **YELLOW WAGTAIL**, large numbers of **SWALLOWS (up to 10.000)** including both **HOUSE MARTIN** and **SAND MARTIN**. In Winter it is used by increasing numbers of **CHIFFCHAFF** including up to **3 SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF**. Murmuration of **STARLING** up to 100.000 birds was once quite a sight as they flew in to roost in December/January - unfortunately over the last five years these numbers have reduced significantly.

In the last 10 years the rarest migrants recorded were **AQUATIC WARBLER, MARSH WARBLER** and **LITTLE BUNTING**. An interpretation board installed in 2011 adjacent to the South West Coast Path footbridge gives an indication of birds using the site.

Some of the more interesting ringing records for this site:-

- **SEDGE WARBLER** ringed on 14th August 2008 was controlled in Senegal on 26th January 2009 - 166 days later and a distance of 4,135 Km.
- **SEDGE WARBLER** ringed on 8th December 1991 in Senegal was controlled at South Milton on 10th August 1995.
- **SEDGE WARBLER** ringed on 5th August 2010 controlled in Mauritania on 30th December 2010 - 148 days later and a distance of 3,931Km.

There are numerous records of birds being controlled on the Western Coast of France, Portugal, Spain and Morocco. In 2019 a total of 1,343 birds of 32 species were ringed compared with 1,960 birds of 38 species in 2018.

One of the most interesting records concerns a **REED WARBLER**, ringed as a nestling and controlled the following Spring, having completed a round trip to winter south of the Sahara and returned to breed - some achievement for a bird only 6 inches long, weighing less than 15 grams and without any SATNAV! Such is the magic of nature!

**Mike Passman**

[thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk](http://thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk)



## BOOKSHELF



### **‘Thirteen Moons’ by Charles Frazier, first published 2006**

This elegiac western, by the acclaimed author of ‘Cold Mountain’, entwines the history of the final removal of the Cherokee from their ancestral lands with the life of “bound” white boy, Will; the tribe’s chief adopts him, and the child grows to fight for their rights. Through his long life is embroidered a passionate affair with the enigmatic beauty, Claire.

This is Romantic literature: Frazier’s superb ability evokes the Southern Appalachians, a profound love of languages and literature and a heart-breaking farewell to the culture of Native Americans, the destruction of their environment and the animals they hunted. The violent onslaught of westering Americans brings racism, Civil War, annihilation of buffalo and deer, smallpox, electricity, logging and trains.

We follow Will’s journey through life’s desperate hardships and joys always in the company of mountains, seemingly impenetrable forest, wild horses, rivers and women. Along the way, Frazier takes us on voyages down the Mississippi, across young America to Washington, Charleston, through Tennessee swamps and from brothels and saloons to meetings with President Jackson and Davy Crocket. Two powerful father-figures, Bear and Featherstone, guide him, each in their unorthodox way.

The author’s love of storytelling allows a variety of narrative voices and wisdoms to be heard, and we are never allowed to drown in despair before being rescued by an underlying thread of dark humour. Primarily, if you love an author’s ability to place you firmly in another time and landscape, to introduce you to fascinating characters and some ghastly truths (whilst laughing in between) then read this.

**Fiona Drye**



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# Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk)

8	18	19	9	4	5		9	10	2	22	18	17
4		25		22		19		26		10		5
1	21	14	14	4	17	25		2	18	15	19	25
24		18		17		15		4		7		4
7	21	7	19	25		26	4	15	9	4	1	24 <sup>K</sup>
4				10		25				15		
5	18	16	4	26	7		4	9	9	25	9	9
		21				1		18				21
11	26	21	20	20	25	26		14	4	11	25	14
12		14		10		10		18		18		6
21	6	21	18	7		22	4	1 <sup>C</sup>	4	23	10	25
17		19		19		2		21		10		15
21	13	3 <sup>Y</sup>	19	25	15		18	15	6	25	9	17

## CODEWORD

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26.

Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.

1 <sup>C</sup>	2	3 <sup>Y</sup>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24 <sup>K</sup>	25	26

## Sudoku - Fiendish

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

## Sudoku - Hard

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

There were 3 correct answers last month so we drew the winner of the coveted bottle of wine from a hat. Congratulations to Neill Irwin!

# DARK SKIES



Those of us old enough to remember the darkness of the countryside before ubiquitous street lighting or the inevitable sky glow from nearby towns, will also remember how spectacular the night sky used to be. On a clear night, it literally felt like you were staring into the universe. As children we were taught to locate the Pole Star, and then some of the simpler constellations such as the Plough, the Great Bear and the long splash of the Milky Way. Today, because of light pollution, it's often hard to see any but the brightest stars and not at all easy to get that sweeping view of the Milky Way, though we are luckier than most since there is no street lighting in the parish. Modern housing designs with large expanses of glass are great to live in, but often send more light out into our gardens and surrounding areas than necessary. Outdoor lighting means we can sit in our gardens in the summer until late in the evening.

Over the last decade or so though, people have begun to realise that all this light at night is not at all a good thing for much of the natural environment around us. About 30% of vertebrates and 60% of invertebrates are nocturnal. Artificial light disturbs their food gathering and feeding habits, their mating, reproductive and migration behaviour and their social behaviour. They all evolved in an environment of uninterrupted darkness at night and find it difficult to adapt to artificial light. Keeping our immediate surroundings as dark as possible is therefore important for the conservation of biodiversity.

We have a particular obligation to conserve dark skies in the parish because we live in such a sensitive landscape area. This is recognised by the overarching key policy TP1 in the Neighbourhood Plan, where it is at paragraph 4. It is also a key paragraph of the second Development Management policy, DEV2, in the new Joint Local Plan, which aims to 'limit the impact of light pollution on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation'. The planners are homing in on large areas of glass more and more especially in areas overlooking sensitive nature reserves, SSSIs and the like, but even in the more built up areas of the parish, diffused light through translucent blinds can put off foraging bats along nearby hedgerows. A condition will usually be imposed on outdoor lighting on new planning applications to ensure minimum disturbance. When it gets dark, draw your curtains and preferably have them interlined or use blackout lining. Use as little outdoor lighting as possible and then on a PIR sensor so that you are only lighting for the required period in the areas you need to use. Get used to enjoying moonlight and natural skyglow (and even stargazing) when you sit out in the garden late on summer evenings.

Much can be done to mitigate outdoor light pollution by using only as much light as is required through only down-casting sources. This saves energy by focusing the light only where it is needed and preserves the environment by reducing excess overspill.

Finally, when you walk around at night, wear a high-vis vest or light-coloured clothing and keep your torch charged up. Let's keep our skies dark, and ourselves and nature safe.

**Judy Pearce**

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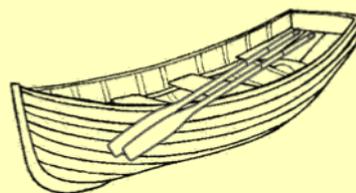
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*All  
Saints*

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**LAY READER:** Peter Gornall

## *Desert Time in Devon?*



We had an "English" Christmas in Amsterdam with our daughter, her husband and family. She is one of the now quarter-of-a-billion people living in a country other than the one in which they were born. Some, like her, have created a new home and family life; some have retired to a warm and less wet climate; a tiny number, no doubt, escaped from troublesome tax rules. Thousands, or millions, fled for their lives or to escape abject poverty.

How many, whether abroad or not, spent the New Year in fear and loss and definitely not at home? The numbers fleeing the Australian bushfires command our sympathy but are small compared with the 235,000 who have been displaced from Idlib in Syria by the fighting. Thousands too live daily in fear of rocket mortars or drones. If you want ordinary numbers, eleven Christians in Northern Nigeria were murdered during their Christmas Day worship; and their families are now bereaved refugees since the murderous militants stole their farms.

It is difficult for us in our safe and stable society to imagine the fear and loss of thousands whose lives are upside down from birth onwards; who have never known real dignity and a fair share of the essentials for living on this planet. Jesus himself lived in an occupied zone, and military men could compel labour or migration; and could exhibit crucified rebels as warnings against trouble-making.

At the start of his ministry, Jesus deliberately took desert-time out; among other things to work out what kind of movement could change the world without going for any political power or domination. When a couple of the disciples had (inevitably) got the wrong end of the stick and were jostling for the best places in a new kingdom, Jesus had his answer ready; with a concept so important that all four Gospels are clear about it. Citizens in Jesus' kingdom are to be the ones who serve, not the masters.

This Lent perhaps we too could take time to imagine and then to push ideas onwards on how our first world stability and affluence really can be harnessed to serve security and justice for those with a meagre and undignified existence. There may be some in the villages with the insights to know, for instance, how investments may change the world towards more selflessness and less violence. Most of us must begin in small and local ways. Sorting out some aspects of poverty in these islands makes a good start, such as supporting food banks and charities helping the homeless. That's real Kingdom work.

***Every blessing!***

*Peter*



## **2020 Photographic Competition**

**Don't forget to enter photos of the Thurlestone Area for a 2021 Calendar**

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

**The photographs will be displayed at a Photographic Exhibition**

in the Church Meeting Room **MAY 23<sup>rd</sup> - MAY 27<sup>th</sup>**



# 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. 2<sup>ND</sup>, 16<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>, 29<sup>TH</sup>** 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (*Fairtrade Feb 2/March 1*)
- FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>** 11.10am Morning Worship
- 4.30pm Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Woodleigh
- FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>** 5.30pm Prayer & Praise in the Church Meeting Room
- FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>** 9.30am Breakfast Church in the Church Meeting Room
- FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>** 11.10am Matins (BCP)
- MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>** 11.10am Mothering Sunday Family Service

### Weekdays

- THURSDAY FEB 6<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>** 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham
- ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>** 10.00am Benefice Communion (CW) with hymns
- EVERY WEDNESDAY** (except Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>) 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)
- MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY** 8.30am Morning Prayer (said) (8.15am on Wed.)  
(except February 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>)

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><b>Coffee-Time</b></p> <p><b>WEDNESDAYS</b> 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.</p>  <p>Donations in aid of monthly charity</p>	<p><b>Films for All TUESDAYS 2.30 p.m.</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="511 1533 812 1770"> <p><b>FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup></b></p> <p><b>Collette</b></p> <p><i>Keira Knightley, Dominic West, Eleanor Tomlinson, Fiona Shaw, Robert Pugh</i></p> </td> <td data-bbox="812 1533 1136 1770"> <p><b>MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup></b></p> <p><b>Yesterday</b></p> <p><i>Himesh Patel, Lily James, Ed Sheeran, Joel Fry, Kate McKinnon</i></p> </td> <td data-bbox="1136 1533 1427 1770"> <p><b>MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup></b></p> <p><b>Downton Abbey</b></p> <p><i>Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith, Jim Carter, Michelle Dockery</i></p> </td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Information leaflets in Church, Shop &amp; Meeting Room</b></p>		<p><b>FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup></b></p> <p><b>Collette</b></p> <p><i>Keira Knightley, Dominic West, Eleanor Tomlinson, Fiona Shaw, Robert Pugh</i></p>	<p><b>MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup></b></p> <p><b>Yesterday</b></p> <p><i>Himesh Patel, Lily James, Ed Sheeran, Joel Fry, Kate McKinnon</i></p>	<p><b>MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup></b></p> <p><b>Downton Abbey</b></p> <p><i>Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith, Jim Carter, Michelle Dockery</i></p>
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<p><b>Somemade Soup only £5 followed by tea/coffee &amp; cake</b></p> <p><b>FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> &amp; MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup></b> 12.30 p.m. <i>in aid of Church Funds</i></p> 					
<p>Disabled access - Wheelchair available - Lift available for all activities, contact Liz Webb</p> <p>More information on <a href="https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-events-diary.html">https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-events-diary.html</a></p>					

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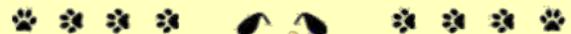
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# SCHOOL REPORT

## A great start to 2020

Happy New Year to all our friends and neighbours in the parish and may we start by saying a massive thank you to everyone who attended the carol singing event around the war memorial in December. The school was blown away by the donations received during the evening. An extremely generous amount of just over £200 was thrown into buckets which has been given to the Friends of Thurlestone trust to be spent on new kitchen equipment. Children are being taught some rudimentary cooking skills and hope to produce their own cook book this year. Thank you to everyone who donated, it is much appreciated.

On another positive note, the school had its first official Ofsted inspection since becoming an Academy in 2017 and is pleased to announce it received a 'good' rating. This involved meetings with staff, teachers, curriculum leaders and members of the governing body. Inspectors also chatted with children, visiting classrooms as well as talking to the boys and girls about their work. The school is delighted with the result and in particular some of the highlights; 'Pupils thrive in this friendly and welcoming school. The school's values are the bedrock of life at Thurlestone. Love, honesty, respect, forgiveness, service and thankfulness sum up what it is like to be a pupil at this school. Staff instil these values into pupils as soon as they start their learning journey. This prepares pupils well both socially and academically.' Inspectors also praised the excellent behaviour of pupils and their positive attitude to learning. Well done to all the children, staff and teachers (and parents!) and here's to a great year ahead.

**Sian Williams**



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- Parish hall activities & meeting minutes
- Village Voice archive

**[www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk)**

# THURLESTONE THEN

Continuing the memoirs of Monica Coope  
Chapter 4, Part 2 of 2

On one such stormy night Father had gone over to Hope by the cliffs to take a Lenten service at Galmpton church. The storm came up and broke after he had left home and though we knew that he would have the whitened coastguard stones to guide his steps along the cliff path, that he would be careful, and that he had his lantern with him, yet we were sad and anxious as the time went by and still he had not come home. I lay in my bed in the night nursery, with the branches of the banksia rose tap-tapping against the pane in urgent messages and I shook with an ague of suspense as I listened and listened until I began to feel sick with fear. To call out for comfort and reassurance was impossible because, even at that tender age, I realized that no one could give it to me with any certainty. So it was a shaken and unhappy child who lay there while the storm raged outside.

Then suddenly I had a good idea, and made up a prayer all my own. I thought I was rather presumptuous with God and Jesus so busy on a night like this, but I remembered about the sparrow, and Father was much more important than a sparrow. So I asked Jesus to please walk home with Father.

Then front door opened, and then it shut. Father's voice sounded downstairs, and I do not remember anymore because I was asleep.

We had implicit faith in guardian angels and I used to imagine mine taking up his stand behind my bed, arranging his nice white wings around me to keep off the draught. My angel was very superior and larger in stature than my sister's, the reason being, I suppose, that I was stuck up enough to believe that I deserved it. I certainly had nothing to be stuck up about, for I was a plain child with rats-tail hair, protruding teeth and legs like matchsticks, but I had a secret conviction, much as I loved my parents, that I was in fact a daughter of the King, who for his own reasons preferred to keep me at a distance and have me brought up with the lesser fry of the Coope family. I did not speak of this inner knowledge of my royal birth and was very surprised to find many years later that several of my sisters shared this knowledge, not about me, but about themselves.

*“Which brings me to another sound - the first motor-car to come down the village”*

Which brings me to another sound - the first motor-car to come down the village. Afar off we heard this chuff-chuff-rattle-rattle, and as it was coming nearer all the time we hung out over the gate bars to see what the noise meant. The chariot hove in view, leaving swirls and clouds of dust in its wake, and came charging down the village hell for leather, at about fifteen miles an hour. If this was not enough, another thrill was sitting in the back, someone we had never expected or hoped to see in Thurlestone. There he was, neat in his Dartmouth uniform, his golden head shining, his white teeth gleaming as he laughed with his friends, and all too soon it was over and he had gone. But we had seen him, our own Edward, Prince of Wales, come to Thurlestone for a game of golf and tea at the hotel. He often came again, and sometimes brought "young Bertie" with him, and we always festooned the garden gate as the dust cloud

approached and he with it. It became a solemn point of honour that whoever heard the car first should rush around the garden shouting "Motor Car", and not go up the drive until everyone had been summoned but there was usually plenty of time to do this because the car made such a devil of a row that we heard it at least a mile off.

We also accorded royal honours to Dr. Webb when he invested in a smart high-seated affair, with its bonnet almost on the ground, and with a very long nosed appearance. After all, it might be Edward, Prince of Wales, but if it wasn't we loved Dr. Webb too, although not so romantically. You can't open your mouth, put out your tongue, say Ah, and love romantically, although he did cut a handsome figure in the days when he used to do his rounds on his chestnut cob, dressed in well-cut breeches, check waistcoat, short black coat, and a brown bowler hat, with his little black bag containing the babies perched up on the saddle in front of him.

When Joan fell down the barn stairs and cut her forehead open on the cobbles, Father drove her into Kingsbridge in the pony cart with her head tied up in a clean table napkin. Dr. Webb stitched it up for her, giving her as a reward for bravery a lovely roll of blue surgical gauze to dress her dolls with. His son Will came over to Thurlestone a day or so later to dress the wound, but Joan sat on the nursery table and pushed him away firmly. "No, I don't want you", she said, and when questioned as to whom she did want, she replied "I want the Old One". Will laughed, and the next day the Old One arrived, very gratified.

When the wind was in the east we would hear the train between Loddiswell and Kingsbridge, and felt very near to London. The sound of that puffing engine recalls vividly the journey from Brent to Kingsbridge, and no one who has made that trip can have failed to enjoy it; indeed I doubt if I have ever sat down for long on that last lap. From Paddington to Exeter is just England, placid and gentle and much the same, but the fun begins when the Exe runs into the sea and the train runs into the tunnel, out again, in again, out again, all the time with tantalizing glimpses of golden sands and red cliffs, and never enough at a time. Then the last and longest tunnel curves inland from Teignmouth along the banks of the Teign to Newton Abbot, with a tedious stretch through Totnes to South Brent, where at last you get a breath of moorland air. You can't wait to sniff it up for long, because the little engine on the side line is fussing to be off, panting with repressed energy and a real Devon porter shouting cheerful greetings makes you realise that soon you will be home again. Puffing and creaking the tiny train pulls out and you hang out of window, regardless of smuts, and wait for the Avon to join in the game, a game it is, this touch-last between train and river, all the way from Avonwick to Loddiswell. The moor land stream is eluding and seemingly escaping you, disappearing round a hillock, then being caught again on a bend, triumphantly crossed on a single track bridge, off again, and away out of sight, but never far off, and the train always catches up, even if you do have to wait on the double track at Gara Bridge to let the up-train through. The train speeds over the rails and the river flashes over the stones and under the hanging willows; the engine puffs and snorts and emits little screams, while the river burbles and chuckles and flirts its lacy petticoats, eluding, beckoning and teasing.

Loddiswell marks the end of the race, for here the little river says "I must run along now; I have to meet the tide at Aveton Gifford and go with it to Bantham and the sea".

However, there is another adventure awaiting to compensate for the loss of the river, as we have the Kingsbridge tunnel now, puffing into it with a warning shriek from the engine. In our day there were no lights in the carriages and careful ladies would produce the stump of a candle and light it with some ceremony, only blowing it out when we emerged safely into daylight again.

With the pony trap waiting for us at Kingsbridge, we would climb the long hill to West Alvington, and leaving the wide Salcombe road on our left, turn into the narrow lane that leads to Thurlestone. Trit-trot goes the pony, chitter-chatter go our busy tongues. "Out you get," says Father as we come to Clay Hill, and out we get to ease the burden on our spoilt fat Belle. Then down the hill by Oxenham Plantation, and now it is not far, for we are passing Whitley Farm, which means that we are in Thurlestone parish. We kneel up on the cushioned seat and peer eagerly out into the twilight; we are too soon though, for we shan't see it until we round the corner by Kerse Lane, and then we shall see it all the way until we drop into the village itself.

There it is.....Blink-Blink-Blink. Pause now, then Blinkblinkblink. Yes, Eddystone is alight to welcome us home; Eddystone lighthouse far out to sea, shining out the same, night after night, year after year, and yet always with a special greeting to the children in the shabby governess cart, with the brake squeaking as we slow up for the last hill into Thurlestone village. Eddystone fades from our thoughts as the cottage lights glow out warmly, and now we turn into our own garden gate with the heavenly scrunch of gravel under our wheels. The light streams out from the quickly opened door, and shines on Mother's face.

---

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&

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**The art & music of the Tudor century by Mark Cottle**

**Hogarth - Wednesday February 26th - 7 for 7.30pm**  
**Thursday February 27th - 10 for 10.30am**

**Tudor music - Wednesday March 25th - 7 for 7.30pm**  
**Thursday March 26th - 10 for 10.30am**

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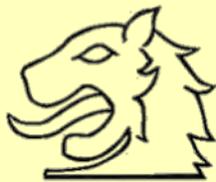
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# PARISH HALL NEWS

by Alison Daily  
(Secretary)



I will start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year as we look forward to what 2020 will bring for us all. The Hall has been redecorated inside over the Christmas break and is looking clean, fresh and ready for the new decade. LED bulbs for the wall lights in the main hall have also been purchased and once operational will be much more energy efficient. Outside, a mirror is to be installed at the entrance to the car park to assist drivers on exit as there is a bit of a blind spot. New gravel will be laid once time and weather conditions allow.

The committee is very proud of our hall which is light and bright and well maintained, but this comes at a cost and we are always aware that at some point the boiler or the roof will need replacing. Everyone who visits comments on what a lovely place it is and we are very fortunate that the hall is well used by local groups and the community for a diverse range of activities and classes during the week, in fact there are only a couple of evenings when there is nothing on.

The biggest problem we face is finding events that appeal to the ever-changing demographic in the parish. There are also the rising costs of live performances which require maximum support for these to be successful. Also we struggle, as do so many other rural communities, in finding volunteers to help with all aspects of running the hall. We realise not everyone has the time or wants to sit on a committee but we are starting to have difficulties with practical issues as well, such as setting up the hall which involves lifting equipment, or extra help when an event demands. Therefore, I appeal to anyone who wouldn't mind being called upon now and again to help with these tasks to come forward and contribute in any small way they can. We are not alone in this as, according to a national survey by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) **'England's 10,000 village halls rely on more than 12 million hours of volunteering each year. But more than half of the halls who responded to the survey said they were struggling to find new recruits to help manage the buildings - with people saying they were too busy, too old or simply not interested'**.

Below you will find a list of the events that have been decided upon to date, so please put them in your diaries and we shall look forward to welcoming you all over the coming year. We hope to have more for you once they have been decided.



- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> March | AGM          |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> May   | Family Fun   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> June  | Open Gardens |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept  | Autumn Fair  |

# Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct - if you don't have all the answers, send in your entry anyway - you never know!) drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk)

## EVENTS OF THE DECADE

Test your recall of significant events that hit the headlines during the last 10 years.

e.g. 2010 A R first I P    Answer: Apple release first I Pad

1. 2010 E of I V
2. 2010 GBBO on TV for FT
3. 2011 W of PW and KM
4. 2011 OBL is K
5. 2012 O G H in L
6. 2012 QE's DJ
7. 2013 AM W W
8. 2013 B of PG
9. 2013 MT D
10. 2014 D of SRA aged N
11. 2014 NS elected L of SNP
12. 2015 C P wins UK GE
13. 2015 GB wins DC for F T since 1936
14. 2016 E U R H in UK
15. 2016 L di C W H F O
16. 2016 D of DB
17. 2017 DT B P of USA
18. 2017 H M the Q C H N B
19. 2017 B in M A at AG C
20. 2018 W of PH and MM
21. 2018 SS and his D P by N in S
22. 2018 B from the E H GB
23. 2019 B PM TM announces her R
24. 2019 D of S G B to a S (A)
25. 2019 E W C WC for F T

**Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:** 1. The Wizard of Oz 2. Spiderman 3. Top Gun 4. Goldfinger 5. Saturday Night Fever 6. Inspector Gadget 7. Trading Places 8. Romancing the Stone 9. Chariots of Fire 10. American Graffiti 11. Murder on the Orient Express 12. Moonraker 13. All About Eve 14. Octopussy 15. Abominable 16. Sleepless in Seattle 17. Lion King 18. A Clockwork Orange 19. Kingsman 20. Star Wars 21. Braveheart 22. Pans Labyrinth 23. Die Hard 24. Vertigo 25. Titanic 26. Fight Club 27. The Graduate 28. Gone with the Wind 29. Pulp Fiction 30. Casablanca

*There were no perfect entries last month. Best score with 29/30 to win our congratulations and the coveted bottle of wine is David & Mary Horne!*



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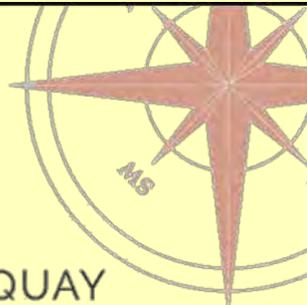
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# ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN THE LIFE OF NINA HURRELL

Born three days before Christmas in 1919, Nina Hickman spent her early years in Modbury, attending Modbury School. On leaving school she worked in a restaurant at Bigbury-on-Sea where she learnt the complicated art of 'silver service'. As a result, even to this day, Nina insists on a fully-laid dinner service for meals at table.....although it's not silver of course!

As a teenager Nina loved ballroom dancing and it was at a local dance that she met her husband-to-be, Alf Hurrell. Married at age twenty, she went to live in West Buckland where Alf's employer, Maitland Tribe of Buckland Flower Farm, had recently built a worker's cottage and Nina and Alf became its first and only residents. Alf was later to become the owner of the farm in partnership with his brother Ernest.

During the years of WW2 and those that followed, life was difficult on a farm worker's wage but somehow Nina always managed to put a hot meal on the table every day. She recalls a number of memorable events from those years – hiding in a cupboard under the stairs as German bombers flew overhead on their way to blitz Plymouth; tins of food and cases of soap washed up on Bantham beach and 'rescued' by local people; husband Alf attending the Home Guard in Thurlestone and returning home with a bottle of cider to accompany the Sunday lunch – always a 'roast'. Nina's 'roasts' were superb – many would say better than cordon bleu!

Alf and Nina's first son was born in 1941. It was another six years before their second son arrived, born in the hardest winter on record 1946/47. Cut off by the snows of that winter and expecting to give birth in early February, it was feared that the midwife would have difficulty attending a home birth. The farm tractor and trailer, bearing a make-shift bed, was made ready for a dash to Kingsbridge Hospital. Fortunately, the weather relented and the 'horticultural ambulance' was not required so the home birth took place as planned.

As her two boys grew up, Nina worked tirelessly to ensure their every need was met. She supplemented the family income by working on the farm whenever possible, picking daffodils in the spring and bunching and packing in the store during the evenings ready to dispatch to markets in Leeds and Covent Garden etc. whilst always ensuring that an evening meal was on the table. In summer she would help with the bulb harvest. For a time, she took in bed-and-breakfast guests, also in the summer months, and looked after some holiday homes. She worked so very hard and never complained.

Nina and her family had to vacate their home in 1953 when the house caught fire and burnt down. They all moved a few hundred yards down the road and rented Hubert Snowdon's cottage at Clannacombe. Rebuilding began immediately and within months the family were back home. Nina was disgusted by the attitude of the insurance brokers who questioned why she owned two coats!

Following his retirement Alf did not enjoy the best of health. A heart problem was followed by a rare bone cancer which meant he needed nursing, at first by Nina at home and subsequently at St Thomas' Hospital in London where Nina was constantly at his bedside. Since widowhood Nina has remained strong and independent despite missing Alf so very much. Always a family person she has spent numerous hours minding grandchildren and great-grandchildren over the years whilst keeping open house to family and friends alike.

Having been such an independent and confident person all her life, the last few years of poor health have dealt quite a blow to Nina. Dealing with hearing and mobility loss has meant she now needs care herself, yet if a move into a care home is suggested her retort is "I've lived in this house for eighty years and I don't intend to leave now". So, Nina continues to occupy her beloved family home where she is always accompanied by a wealth of wonderful memories. She is a person dearly loved by all who know her.

God bless her!

**Nigel Hurrell**

# Thurlestone Phonebox.....Ring Ring

Christmas has been and gone. The Phonebox Carols were a resounding success with over 180 carollers plus children and sundry quadrupeds. Once again our primary school pupils excelled themselves and delighted us with their dramatic candlelit arrival and enchanting singing. Over £200 was raised which will go towards equipment for the school's new cooking programme so who knows what culinary delights we will be enjoying in the future? Joannie's mince pies disappeared in no time flat and the mulled wine didn't last much longer. Big thanks to sponsors Village Inn and Toad Hall Cottages not to mention the weather man.

So what will 2020 bring? A bargain year as we have the extra day of the 29<sup>th</sup> February. Tradition being that on that day girls may propose to boys, what more romantic spot than doing so in the Phonebox .... be quick, time-slots are going fast! Watch out boys!



Later in the year will be the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower voyage. Ideas on how to celebrate gratefully received.

So, all best wishes for lots of good things for 2020 and we hope the Phonebox will add a little to your fun and enjoyment.

**Kit Marshall**

## STANBOROUGH CHORUS

Musical Director - Christopher Fletcher

**Saturday 28th March**

**7.30 p.m.**

**St. George's Church, Modbury**

**Joseph Haydn - Nelson Mass**

**Benjamin Britten - St. Nicolas**

Divertimento Orchestra

Torquay Girls' Grammar School Chamber Choir: Conductor Helen Haviland

Soprano - Catherine Hamilton, Tenor - Neil Jenkins

Alto - Helen Haviland, Bass - Julian Rippon

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# *Snippets from the Past*

## *The Poor Of The Parish*

### PART 1: THE CHURCH HOUSE AT THURLESTONE

My last article was about Sir Philip Pilditch who had retired to Thurlestone in the 1920s after a distinguished career as an architect. I mentioned an ancient document in Latin with the signature of a Pilditch which had surfaced once upon a time in the parish chest. I found my copy of that, and also a part-translation which was done by Sir Philip and two of his grandsons. Obviously, the family as a whole was interested in delving deeply into their family history; perhaps that's why Sir Philip retired here - or was it the golf that lured him?

Sir Philip had been instrumental in saving the Barbican area of Plymouth from demolition, and it transpires that he had similar goals for Thurlestone. In April 1938, in his own words "Interested as I was in the maintenance of the old village street of Thurlestone in as nearly as possible to its original state, I had taken part in a proposal to raise sufficient money to repair the Old Church House occupying 66 feet of it, and keep it for the purpose for which it has been used for generations, i.e. as homes for old and indigent people".

The trustees for this project were shown the document I referred to which was a deed stating that the Rector (as in 1536) leased land for the building of what was to become the Church House. Payment was to be one pair of gloves for the Rector placed on the altar annually (the significance of gloves I know not) and this tradition carried on until the Revd. Ilbert's time (most of the Victorian period), then lapsed because he was unaware of the tradition, only to be reinstated by Revd. Coope who was a champion of recording local history and tradition.

The full 1536 deed as translated and published in *Devon Notes & Queries* (1907), may be found on-line; *Devon Notes & Queries, No.180, JAN 1907 / Vol IV / part 5*.

In mediaeval times the church building had been used during high days & holidays not only for services, but also for eating, drinking, and making-merry! People came from all over the parish to church on a Sunday (and it would have been the whole population unless prevented from doing so), so refreshments were provided for those who had walked some distance. Some parishes covered vast areas, like Lydford, which was the parish church for the whole of Dartmoor until Widecombe-In-The-Moor built its own. Even in Thurlestone, the population was not all centred on the village; there were many more scattered farms than exist now, often self-contained communities where labourers lived-in.

Change came in the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> centuries with some parishes providing a separate building for entertainment, refreshment, and sometimes accommodation. These were known as Church Houses and it is against this backdrop that the one in Thurlestone was built. Many of these buildings still exist in various guises; the Church House at Widecombe is the old building to the left of the churchyard gate, now housing the gift shop etc., and how many villages do you know which have a 'Church House Inn'? Churchstow and Stokenham are two local examples. That was the normal evolution for many of these establishments.



Church House Cottages

Thurlestone Church House was built on foundations of rock, and the walls are of great thickness (note that the first cottage next to "The Old Rectory" didn't exist until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century). It was used for festivities, meetings etc. as was the custom, until 1778. In addition, part of it had been used to accommodate poor widows of the parish at a nominal rent, which paid for repairs (not actually alms-houses but in the same tradition). After 1778 the building was let to the Overseers of The Poor and it became the parish Poor House.

The final reference I have is again from Sir Philip Pilditch, describing it in 1938: "...the interior has been cut up into 3 separate dwellings and still further sub-divided, and its arrangements are, no doubt defective from the point of view of health, the rooms being small, low, with insufficient lighting arrangements, and in addition there has, it appears, from time to time, been overcrowding".

The concern was that it might be condemned by the local authority, and demolished to make way for modern housing. Those with an interest in its preservation included the two churchwardens together with Mr. Charles Marshall, and Mr. W. Grose. The cost of refurbishment and restoration of the building was estimated at around £750, with the intention that local trustees would oversee the building in future, together with The Charity Commissioners.

Presumably the building was later sold by the church - perhaps at the same time as it divested itself of the ['Old'] Rectory. The records would be at Diocesan House so I have no knowledge of its more recent history.

## PART 2: OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

From the sixteenth century it was illegal to wander the country begging if you fell on hard times. The Poor Laws were designed to help those in need on a parish basis and so most parishes had its Poor House or House of Work. The Parish Overseers were a kind of committee made up of local yeomen, tradesmen and maybe a representative of the Lord of The Manor. Town & country varied somewhat, so in areas such as ours, many farmers took their turn – and at various times it was a legal requirement to do so. So, the people responsible for the poor, sick, and needy usually knew most of those who came under their jurisdiction. As always, some were kindly disposed, others indifferent. The poor were provided for out of the local Poor Rate payable by the same classes of men as had responsibility of administering it so a clash of interests existed – the duty to the poor, and being answerable to the rate-payers (themselves included!). There was what was known as 'outdoor relief' where bread and basic necessities were given to people in their cottages, especially in cases of temporary incapacity – a carpenter who broke his arm perhaps, or in winter when farm work was scarce. Then there was 'indoor relief', which meant in the Poor House (sometimes called workhouse), for longer-term cases and elderly people with no means of support. Additionally, local benefactors often left a legacy to pay for alms-houses - for elderly widows for example - and it would be the local Overseers who decided on the qualifying cases.

The Overseers usually met in the church vestry to discuss and assess needy cases. There were usually two churchwardens in a parish, and one of them at least would be on the board, a duty of the office. Where churchwarden's accounts have survived from earlier centuries, there are often fascinating entries which give a glimpse into how the parish system operated. A pair of boots to someone who could not afford a new pair, replacing broken tools for a labourer, a few pence allowance for their own members if they had to travel to town on parish business (e.g. to give evidence in court) and often payments to midwives assisting at a birth. Their remit was varied, but they knew the people they were charged with looking after.

This was the state of affairs throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (allowing for some variance in the law), which ended abruptly in 1834, when the bubble burst...  
[to be continued in the next issue].

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# ***Eating Out Locally*** **at** **The First & Last** **Bistro and Wine Lounge**

There's something very warming about a visit to The First & Last in Ermington. This wine bar and bistro's long-standing success continues in the hands of the present owners. The restaurant's conversion, from a pair of sixteenth century cottages, has an elegance that's complemented by white table linen and orchids.

Old ceiling beams and the glow of a gas fire in the lovely stone hearth, are central to the scene. Simple wall lighting brings pleasant warmth to the ambiance along with decorative art. Oil on canvas by Nichola Allen and other artists, was displayed in view of our table. It's a welcoming setting for dinner.

I began with beautifully presented and absolutely delicious garlic-infused mushrooms. King prawns, in a sweet chilli tomato-based sauce, was another starter at our table and it more than satisfied the palate. After such robust beginnings how would what followed match up?

The lamb rump didn't disappoint. It was all that was written on the menu card: 'A tender, medium rare roasted rump of lamb served with gratin potatoes, mint and thyme jus and a trio of fresh vegetables'. This chef can cook. And the presentation of each dish impressed us enough to remark on it. Without being intrusive, the friendly service included offers of 'more vegetables?' 'extra gravy?' as we enjoyed the food.



The Tarragon Chicken, Creedy Carver Duck, Goujons of Fish, Wild Sea Bream, Nut and Vegetable Roast, Vegetable Stack and Fillet of Beef, were all written explicitly for diners to know what would be on the plate. There was a good selection even for vegetarians. The chef is known to come out of the kitchen to say hello to diners. Chardonnay and a full-bodied merlot sat well with our dinner. And there was a variety of local beers, ciders and spirits.

Along with lime mousse, raspberry roulade and other popular desserts, were old favourites that have stood the test of time, such as Spotted Dick and Syrup Pudding.

Low music had the sound of a Greek Isle for a while, then jazz and, as the tables became occupied, it was in occasional lulls that the strains of music came through the hum of conversation. Was it an accordion that we heard in a lull? We couldn't be sure but our companion said it was definitely music or his tinnitus was getting worse!

The way out of the restaurant took us through a sunken lounge - the cosy casual space of the wine bar.

New and fragrant, attractively-styled toilets are near the exit for the ample car park. There is also an outside patio area, ideal for a pre-dinner drink. I am thinking ahead to our next visit. Sunday lunch. I anticipate that it will be excellent.

This Devon country cottage restaurant is good reason for eating out locally. Their number is 01548 830 671.

**Vivien Stickland**



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## December and January Meeting Reports.

Our Christmas meeting was held at Thurlestone Golf Club where we enjoyed a wonderful lunch along with a quiz and a short business meeting.

The January meeting was held as usual in Thurlestone Parish Hall, and Karen Wolestenholme gave an interesting and stimulating talk about her life as a career diplomat. Karen began her career after leaving school in 1980 in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and eventually became British Ambassador to North Korea in 2010. She began her service by undergoing a three year training programme in trade and export going on to learn Russian and her first posting was to Moscow in 1984. She, unusually for the time was able to continue her career as a diplomat with postings overseas despite marrying in 1986 and having a family. While based in the UK she worked in many areas including the Japan and China Department at the start of the negotiations on Hong Kong and working in the Antarctic and South Atlantic department. She had several postings in Africa and indeed her first child was born while she was based in Harare.

Both she and her husband were posted to Wellington New Zealand and from there she worked on many of the South Pacific Islands. While working on Pitcairn she was a crucial part of the team, which exposed and successfully prosecuted those involved in the systematic child abuse, which had been taking part on the island. She had several postings in Europe including Brussels and The Hague where she was the deputy UK representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. As the Ambassador to North Korea she was one of only two female European diplomats.

Sadly her husband died in 2011 and she retired from her Ambassadors post in 2012 but she continues to work with the Foreign Office for part of the year on various projects.



**citizens advice** South Hams

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Citizens Advice South Hams is helping local residents to make significant savings on their energy bills. Over the past year clients have typically made energy cost savings of £200-£500 a year. This is vital work, as shocking new statistics from National Energy Action reveal that one in five private rented households in the UK are in fuel poverty.

Nick White, from Citizens Advice South Hams says, "Our trained Energy Advisers can help people who are struggling to pay their energy bills or who are worried about heating their homes during the winter months.

"We have a home visiting service to advise on homes with expensive heating systems, draught, damp and mould. Recently we helped a householder whose storage radiator was not wired properly. The landlord has fixed the problem and reimbursed the tenant by £700. In another case we helped a client who could not understand why he was paying over £2,000 a year in energy bills. We liaised with the energy company, identified an error and facilitated reimbursement totalling £985."

**If you would like to talk to Citizens Advice South Hams energy efficiency team, call 01803-659733 or email [energy.advice@southhamscab.org.uk](mailto:energy.advice@southhamscab.org.uk)**



**Thurlestone and West  
Buckland WI**  
invite you to give them a try



**We meet in the Parish Hall on the second Thursday afternoon  
of each month at 2pm for a 2.30pm start**

We also organise extra activities and our latest trip was to the MADS Pantomime, Sinbad the Sailor. We belong to the Devon Federation which organises county events and on offer at the moment are "An Historical Walk around Ashburton" and a day's workshop on "Kicking the Plastic Habit". This year they are going for a record breaking attempt for the largest number having a Cream Tea as part of their centenary celebrations.

**2020 Programme of Speakers**

February 13th	History of the Kingsbridge Workhouse	Liz Hext
March 12th	Queen Elizabeth's Jewels	Meg de Blank
April 9th	Fire Safety in the Home	Richard Morris
May 14th	Blooming Inspiration - anything is possible in later years - blossom out!	Anita Nowinska
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	The National WI annual meeting will be held in the Royal Albert Hall	
June 11th	Music Halls - with audience participation	Marilyn Bishop
July 9th	Sustainable Gardening	Tom Sharples
September 10th	Interviewing Prostitutes to Prime Ministers	Margaret Parker
October 8th	An Antarctic Adventure	Alice Henderson
November 12th	Simple Flowers at Christmas	Jacqui Case
December 11th	Christmas Lunch	

If you would like any further information about our WI please contact Sally Martin on 561356.

**Just a thought...**

Don't worry if you're making waves simply by being yourself, the moon does it all the time.

Integrity means doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

Sometimes the thoughts in my head go out for a stroll through my mouth. This is rarely a good thing.

*Lyn Oggelsby*

Tel: 01548 854242

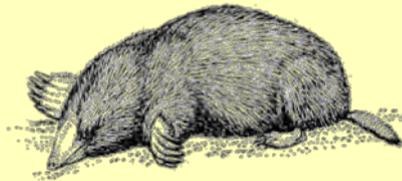
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# Thurlestone Golf Club



I am sure there will be many articles in this edition of the Village Voice which will reference the weather – mine will be no different. I write these words with the rain lashing against the window and the wind whistling past the Clubhouse with no let up in sight. Dry, calm days have been few and far between, rounds have been reduced to 11 or 9 holes and the wind seems to have been blowing at nearly gale force constantly. Therefore the playing of golf has been restricted and, when played, extremely challenging.

If you consider the weather makes playing golf difficult, please spare a thought for our intrepid Greens Staff who, day in day out, battle the outdoor conditions to ensure the course is cut and prepared to the best possible condition. Mother Nature deals a cruel hand sometimes. With possible Fusarium just around the corner and leather jackets just under the soil waiting to gorge on the roots of anything they pass by, our staff have to be vigilant all the time. This, plus copious amounts of sand deposited on our first green and fairway which have to be brushed off by hand and returned whence they came only for the next storm to return them with interest! You wait, in a minute the wind will turn and come from the east and we will have a month or more of easterly winds which will dry the ground to a crisp and prevent any early spring growth! Who would be a Green Keeper!

Despite the poor weather conditions the Clubhouse remains busier than ever. Prior to Christmas the Club hosted a number of Christmas parties which were well received by all those that attended. Our Christmas Draw Night with Carols was well supported and enjoyed by everyone. What the singing lacked in quality was certainly made up for in enthusiasm and gusto. The revellers at our New Year's Eve celebrations certainly knew how to enjoy themselves, seeing in the New Year in style. The Tuesday Village Quiz continues to thrive and be a very popular evening with as many as 70 taking part.

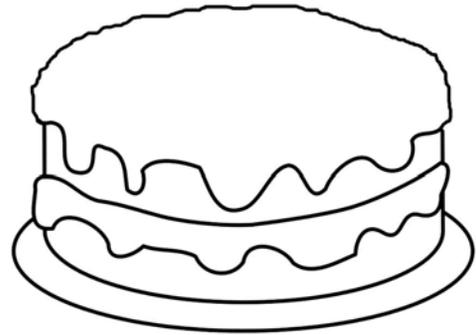
If you have not experienced one of our Sunday Lunches, you have missed a treat. The cost of our 3 course meal is exceptional value at £16.50 or £14.00 for 2 courses. Sunday lunches are by booking only so please ring our catering team on 01548 560405 option 4 to secure your place.

I would like to thank everyone who responded for our plea for Christmas Trees. We have gathered well over 200. It's great to think these single use trees will have another opportunity to help our local environment. They will be used in the refurbishment of the dune complex above Leasfoot Beach. Contractors Landmarc will plant the trees in such a way that they will at least help stabilise or better still increase the dune complex.

Finally we wish you a healthy and happy 2020 from everyone at Thurlestone Golf Club.

**Simon Bawden**  
General Manager

# TRIED AND TASTED



## PARSNIP CAKE

This is just as good as carrot cake and no-one ever seems to guess that it contains parsnips Why not give it a try?

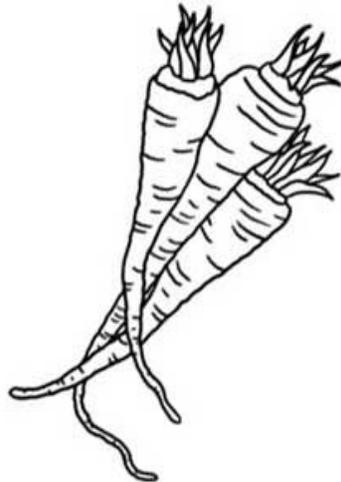
### INGREDIENTS

For the cake:

275ml/half pint sunflower oil  
350g/12oz caster sugar  
3 eggs  
175g/6oz plain flour  
1 level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
1 level teaspoon baking powder  
1 level teaspoon ground cinnamon  
Half level teaspoon salt  
225g/8oz peeled and grated raw parsnip

For the filling:

175g/6oz cream cheese  
175g/6oz butter  
225g/8oz icing sugar  
1 tsp vanilla essence



### TO MAKE THE FILLING

Beat butter and cream cheese together.  
Sieve in icing sugar spoonful by spoonful, beating well and finally adding vanilla.  
Beat until you have a smooth butter cream (use a food processor if preferred).

### TO MAKE THE CAKE

Heat oven to 180 degrees.  
Put oil into a large bowl. Add caster sugar and whisk thoroughly.  
Add eggs one at a time and whisk well.  
Stir in flour, bicarb, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and lastly the parsnips.  
Put the mixture into a lined 20cm/8inch cake tin and bake for 45/50 mins.  
Test with a skewer and, if needed, return it to oven for a few more minutes.  
Turn onto a wire rack to cool.  
When cold, slice through the middle. Use the filling to sandwich the two halves together and cover the top and sides.

**NOTE** This cake is better if made 3-4 days in advance and kept in an airtight tin.  
It can be frozen unfilled.

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# Tramp Walks

## November - January

Bad weather stopped play for a number of walks over the winter period.

Normal service will be resumed as soon as practical !!

### Monday, 4th November 2019: Dartmoor. Viv and Rolf Burnie

Inclement weather threatened this walk but nonetheless eight Trampers set off in their cars to meet up on the moor in the car park just north of Sharpitor. Heavy rain greeted our arrival but, as soon as it stopped, we donned our coats and boots and headed east to the Devonport Leat to find it in full flow, leaping and tumbling joyfully down the hillside from the higher moor above.

Puffing our way up we then followed it, now flowing smoothly, on across the moor until eventually we could join the well-defined path northwards past South Hessary Tor to Princetown where two of our party needed to catch the bus back to their car.

By now a light but persistent rain had set in, driven by a distinct breeze, and the remaining six were glad of lunch in the Fox Tor cafe. This is an excellent stop for hikers and, fortified by food and hot drinks, we were soon ready for the return to our cars along the old Yelverton to Princetown railway line. Despite the wind and drizzle we enjoyed the views and one another's company and arrived at the sanctuary of our waiting chariots just as the heavens opened again. Perfect timing!

This is an intriguing walk as although it is all on open moorland it is mostly easy going on fairly level ground with just the one short rough section up beside the leat as it drops swiftly down the hillside. Well worth repeating at some point.

### Monday 25th November 2019. Blackawton . Annie & Harry

Despite a forecast of showery and blustery weather, a good crowd met outside the George in Blackawton for this new route encompassing the farmland surrounding the village. We set off around the churchyard and up towards the primary school and off into the fields.

A steep descent into the valley was followed by an even steeper climb up through the woods towards Bowden. The going was rather slippery. Here, we picked up a farm track which we followed round to Grimpstone, dropping once again to cross the stream, where the path was carpeted in oak leaves and where, only a week earlier when Harry and I had checked the route, we foraged for chestnuts and mushrooms. Next followed a series of soggy meadows alongside the stream and through to Woodford. We took a slight diversion in the route and encountered two frisky Dartmoor ponies, excited to discover visitors in their field.

At this point, a heavy drizzle set in and I was all for cutting the route short, taking the road up into the village as swiftly as possible. But, as quickly as it had started, the dampness eased and the vote was to continue along the valley, still very wet underfoot, and then a final ascent back into the village where, luckily, the pub was still serving drinks. The walk was almost exactly 5 miles in length and was enjoyed by everyone.

### December 12th , 2019. Christmas walk and lunch. Alastair & Gill Durden.

Our Christmas walk was held on Thursday, December 12th and was followed by a superb two-course Christmas lunch, complete with crackers, at the Venus Café at Blackpool Sands. Twenty-seven attended the lunch, of which fifteen joined in the walk beforehand.

The walk had to be altered owing to strong winds and rain forecast for that

morning. In the event we chose a fairly sheltered short walk round Slapton Ley, stopping in the shelter of a bird hide for mulled wine and mince pies, then carrying on round the edge of the ley, along the boardwalk and back through the village of Slapton.

We managed to avoid the worst of the weather and were very ready and eager for our lunch at the Venus Café!

**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Kingsbridge to Salcombe on the Old Coach Road. Annie & Harry .... 5 miles.**

The Tramps had been promised a mud-free walk for their first outing of the year ... and they weren't disappointed. Ten walkers and two dogs set off up Tacket Wood hill, soon gaining height to afford extensive views across the estuary to the west and south. We climbed and dropped back to the water's edge several times,

crossing Collapit Creek, followed by Blanksmill and finally Batson.

We paused en route to devour mince pies - Christmas leftovers - in an attempt to lessen the burden on our leaders' waistlines. We were all kitted out for the forecast rain that was due to start around 12.00. It was hoped that we might have reached the coffee stop by then but, alas, a heavy drizzle set in on the dot of twelve, just as we turned into Island Street, and so a hasty decision had to be made as to whether we should continue into Salcombe or stop at the Dairy for a coffee on the terrace, ensuring that we caught the 12.30 bus. All but three opted for the latter and so we parted ways. It was such a lovely sociable walk with tales shared of Christmas travels and family gatherings... and it felt good to be out in the fresh air and walking off those extra pounds!



**KATS** are proud to present  
**WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND**  
by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Steinman

When a group of children discover a delirious, injured stranger hiding in their barn, they apprehensively ask who he is. When he replies "Jesus Christ", the children vow to protect him. Meanwhile the townspeople are determined to track down an escaped convict known to be hiding in their midst...

Set in America's deep South in the late 1950s, this epic musical is based on the novel of the same name by Mary Hayley Bell and the film starring Hayley Mills and Alan Bates.

Described as "Lloyd Webber's best show since *Phantom*", ***Whistle Down the Wind*** delivers superb, uplifting entertainment. The emotive score combines hauntingly beautiful love songs and explosive rock music.

**KATS** production features a multi-talented cast aged from 7 to 70 and is directed by Lynne Deller, who also directed **KATS** award-winning productions of ***Oliver!*** and ***Fiddler on the Roof***. Musical Director Kathy Kenny is well known for her fantastic work with Kingsbridge Community College, the Alvington Singers and The Military Wives choir in Plymouth.

The show is being staged at Marlborough Village Hall from 25 to 28 March. The hall has plenty of parking, raked seating and a licensed bar.

Tickets are priced from £8 to £14 (group discounts available). They are on sale at Kingsbridge Information Centre and [www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsbridge-amateur-theatrical-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsbridge-amateur-theatrical-society)

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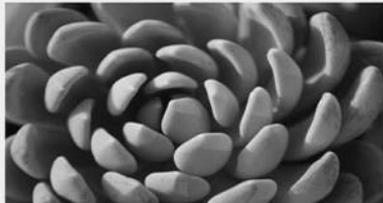
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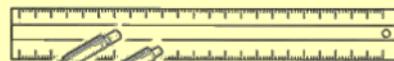
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# Weather Wag by Jan Turner



The next decade has commenced and I wonder what it will bring weather-wise. As for the last decade, well I guess that you have all heard or read about the way it turned out.

Emily Beament of the Press Association wrote in the Western Morning News on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January of the way the weather had turned out over the last decade. She quotes:- The last decade was the warmest on record, with 2019 being among the warmest years ever experienced. Confirmed by the Scientists.

- The last five years were the warmest in the 170yrs series.
- Data from many credible sources says that temperatures were 1.05C above pre-industrial levels; 2019 = 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest year since 1880, apart from 2016 and 2015.
- Each decade from the 1980's has been successively warmer than the decades that came before.
- 2019 concludes the warmest "cardinal" decade, those spanning years ending 0-9, in records that stretch back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Thank you to Emily for these statistics and other comments in her article.

Although I have no temperature figures (the weather station needs renewing) the rainfall figures have been recorded daily for 2019. The total for the year 2019 is 969.09mm. This is higher than both 2018 (862.76mm) and 2017 (749.24mm). As we are facing the Atlantic and in a Temperate Climate region it is not surprising that the temperatures have been so high. Weather conditions affect almost every aspect of our lives even if we are not aware of it. Perhaps the basic ones are:- Forecasts for Construction, Transport, Energy Supplies and Retailers. All of the sectors put particular store by the forecasts available to them. Aspects to be considered across these businesses can be, air frosts, rain (asphalt or pouring concrete can only be done without frost or heavy rain) roads need gritting once the road surfaces reach a certain low temperature, high winds affect tall sided lorries either on the roads or on exposed bridges, energy suppliers need to know when there will likely be a surge in demand for energy for heating and cooking. Retailers need to be aware of demand for certain types of food or other consumer products. Hot weather in summer = BBQ products, cold weather in winter = fire-lighters, soups.

Here is a list I found in one of my books about the Ten Cold Weather Comfort Foods:- Spaghetti Bolognese (cooked twice a week by 6.1 million people) Heinz Tomato Soup, Shepherds Pie, Toast and Marmite, Roast Chicken, Chicken Tikka Masala, Apple Crumble, Bangers and Mash, Beef Stew, and Roast Lamb.

Where do you fit into this list? I guess that most of us will use one or two of these "Comfort Foods" at sometime over the cold months.

Just some observations about these last few days, the Ley has been as high as I have known it, albeit only for a few days. The high tides have been as high up over the dunes as usual, thankfully they have been 'building up tides, rather than destructive destroying ones.' Even so the soft low cliff along the road to Beach Cottage has slumped onto the beach in places. Yesterday Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> the Ley breached during the morning and by lunch time it was empty. Masses of reeds were left stranded across the beach. Along the strand line all this week there has been Portuguese-Man-of-War jelly fish and the skeleton sails of 'By the wind Sailors' jelly fish.

The refuse bin inside my front gate is full, thanks to the efforts of those of you who are beach cleaners.

Good weather and beach cleaning.

# DIARY DATES

## February

Saturday	1	East Soar Outdoor Experience - The Walker's Hut officially reopens
Sunday	2	Wedding Fair - Cliff House, Salcombe 11am - 3pm
Monday	3	Tramp S Thurlestone Circular - Linda & Gareth Scott
Monday	3	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Saturday	8	Kingsbridge Choral Workshop 10am - 5pm Kingsbridge Community College
Monday	10	TRAMP S East Charleton 5 miles - Mike and Sian Hodges
Wed	12 - 14	Salcombe Players Spring Production at Cliff House - "When we are Married"
Thursday	13	WI 2.30pm Thurlestone Parish Hall. Liz Hext discusses "The History of the Kingsbridge Workhouse"
Thursday	20	South Hams NT - "Antiques afternoon with Eric Distin" Kingsbridge Methodist Hall 2.30pm Cost £4
Friday	21	TRAMP TBA
Monday	24	TRAMP TBA
Tuesday	25	South Hams NT - Annual Lunch at Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove
Wednesday	26	Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 7.30pm. Lars Sharp discusses "Harlots, Rakes and Crashing China.....Hogarth and Ceramics"
Thursday	27	Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 10.30am. Lecture as Wednesday
Thursday	27	The Great Thurlestone Quiz Night - Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Saturday	29	Mens Breakfast Club Kingsbridge Methodist Hall 8am - Robyn Newport discusses the "St Luke's Hospice Compassionate Friends Initiative".
Saturday	29	South Hams Society Beach Clean - Soar Mill Cove 11am

## March

Monday	2	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	3	TRAMP Inland from Blackpool Sands 3.5 miles - Alastair and Gill Durden
Saturday	7	South Hams Society - Morning Dairy Farm visit and briefing at Challon's Combe, Aveton Gifford
Monday	9	TRAMP Stover Country Park 5 miles - Peter & Wendy Gornall
Thursday	12	WI 2.30pm Thurlestone Parish Hall. Meg de Blank discusses "Queen Elizabeth's Jewels".
Thursday	12	South Hams NT - "The Salcombe Project" with Emma Reece Area Ranger. 40 <sup>th</sup> AGM to precede the Meeting. Cost £4
Tuesday	17	South Hams NT - Trip to Torre Abbey and Greenway. Cost £25.50
Thursday	19	TRAMP Avon Valley and Woodleigh Woods 6 miles - Sheila Fairley
Wednesday	25	Arts Soc, K'Bridge Methodist Hall 7.30pm. Mark Cottle "From Holbein to Byrd. The art and music of the Tudor Century"
Wed	25 - 28	KATS presents "Whistle Down the Wind" Malborough Village Hall 7.30pm Tickets Weds £10, Thurs-Sat £14 (concessions £10 for under 18's all performances). Matinee Sat pm
Thursday	26	TRAMP East Prawle 5 miles - John & June Richardson
Thursday	26	Arts Soc, K'bridge Methodist Hall 10.30am. Lecture as Wednesday
Saturday	28	Mens Breakfast Club Kingsbridge Methodist hall 8am - Sue Wyeth discusses the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline
Saturday	28	South Sands Ferry starts for the Summer season
Saturday	28	Stanborough Chorus in concert at St George's Church, Modbury 7.30pm - Haydn's Nelson Mass and Britten St Nicolas. Tickets £15 in advance/£17 on the door (Under 18's free entry)
Sunday	29	Daylight Saving Time starts at 1am when clocks go forward one hour

## April

Wednesday 1 TRAMP Holne Woods to Sharrah Pool 6 miles - Jenny Webb.

Kingsbridge Farmers Market 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays in Month 9am - 1pm

TRAMP Walks - Check the walk notice in the Thurlestone shop window.

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# CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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## 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 Feb 26 & Mar 25.10pm - 4.10pm

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

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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	Jill Munn	560732
Parish Clerk	Helen Nathanson	07813 689717
Members	Sue Crowther	560098
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Charlie Mitchelmore	560602 (and Tree Warden)
	Sian Williams	560339

District Councillors	Mark Long	843828
	Judy Pearce	561370

County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659
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**PARISH WEBSITE** ([www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk)) Mike Bone 288436 Paul Martin 560070

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

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