

# VILLAGE VOICE

February - March 2021



**Thurlestone's Light Entertainment**

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone*



This issue is packed with articles on aspects of life in our villages. The cover shows some of the illuminations that brightened our streets through the festive season. Funds were raised for the school in this delightful way.

Now, with signs of spring on the way, we are delighted to welcome Sue Dwyer on board with the story of how her garden developed. It was disappointing that the Open Garden event was cancelled last year. Perhaps, with Sue's tips and her eye for colour, seasonal flowers, and an understanding of this coastal strip, more residents can develop pleasing gardens for that event in 2021.

And, still out of doors, Natasha Baldwin tells us about things happening at Terawhiti Farm, from her Farming Diary. You get a fascinating look at this local source of fresh produce in this, her first account of life on the farm... oh those icy fingers for fresh cut kale!

While thinking of what to eat, try the fish dish on the Tried and Tasted page. With so much thought for food, here's some food for thought – it seems that wearing a mask inside your home is now recommended. Not so much to prevent Covid-19, but to stop eating!

Many adjustments have been made and we hear how Life in Lockdown has been for 8 year old Matilda Popham whose parents are front line workers. Thank you for writing about it, Matilda.

Some things don't change. This AONB remains the same. No change to the lovely place that it is. Whether alone, or with one other, or for your dog, walking is a basic winner for healthy living. TRAMP have a sterling list of walks planned for the year and are set to go when the situation allows them to be out as a group again.

And Graham and Frith Chadwick's trip to Spain is a wonderful reminder of sunnier things than Covid-19.

Please keep safe and well.

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## February - March 2021

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# A Letter From Your MP, Anthony Mangnall



It is tricky to try and quantify my first year in Parliament. So many of the hopes and ambitions have had to be put on hold due to the current circumstances. The interactions that one would normally have had with Ministers and their Departments have been confined to dreaded video conferencing calls. Leading to daily schedules of being stuck behind a computer screen bouncing between Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and some other new piece of technology designed to enhance and infuriate 'the meeting experience'!

Reflecting on the twelve months past I am pleased to say that it has not been all doom and gloom. I can, and will, make the case that over this period a great deal has been achieved that will benefit our corner of the country and there are a great many reasons for which to be optimistic.

But first, some observations. If politicians were paid by speeches the world would be a poorer place. Politicians should be incentivised to be more concise! A pay-per-short-speech might well be the answer, after all, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was only 272 words and Churchill's speech on the eve of the Second World War was only four minutes. There is eloquence and impact in brevity!

Second, a speech given does not mean a problem solved. So often, I have seen colleagues pontificate and ruminate (often at length) on some worthy cause in the Chamber of the House of Commons and then sit down believing that the problem they have raised will now have been resolved. Sadly, this is not the case and while a speech can raise awareness and understanding it should be viewed as the beginning of a campaign, a signal of intent and determination.

Third, understanding the department is key. Jim Hacker's triumphs over Sir Humphrey occurred only when he had a clear vision of the Ministry's thinking on a given issue. If you can understand a Department's structure, outlook, and ambition then you stand a better chance of being able to capture the castle. My campaign to lower VAT to 5% for the tourism and hospitality sectors was based on that premise and the campaign to have it extended is operating on the same model.

The former US Ambassador to the Court of St James, John Gilbert Winant, famously remarked the way to succeed was by "doing the day's work day by day, doing a little, adding a little, broadening our bases wanting not only for ourselves but for others also, a fairer chance for all people everywhere." It is that *modus operandi* that I have adopted. Each day taking on new campaigns and projects, building on what came before and broadening the base to be able to build momentum and deliver on those commitments made.

Looking ahead, we must embrace the change that has occurred in recent months. As new families escape city life and move to our corner of the world, we must double down on our commitment to improving road, rail and digital connectivity. Only by improving these links can we hope to see new generations revive our high streets, bolster our schools and help reignite our local economy.

Thankfully, progress is being made. Thousands (7,084 to be precise) more premises will be granted access to gigabit-capable broadband. Bringing us in line with the rest of the country and perhaps, more importantly, allowing us to attract new businesses and investment to the area. Old railway stations are being reviewed for reopening and bus links are looking for new ways to incentivise cars off the road and on to their services.

The tourism and hospitality sectors are likely to see a second bumper year. As life returns to normal, but international travel remains restricted it is a fair bet that the Great British Staycation will be bigger than ever. Having learnt the lessons of last year we are more than

prepared to welcome new visitors to our area safely and in doing so our local economy will benefit in kind.

Our farmers and fishermen both have huge opportunities outside the Common Agriculture Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy. But we must be bold in supporting their efforts. From creating new fishing schools to developing harbours, to encouraging sustainable land management techniques we can help improve profitability by lowering costs and enhancing "at gate and quayside prices". A buy local campaign in both these sectors would see domestic demand increase and a better understanding of the richness and quality produced within our shores.

Having learnt from those dreadful moments during lockdown, and from a year in Westminster, I believe that South Devon can look ahead with positivity and enthusiasm as we face each day and broaden our bases to the benefit of all.

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## Thurlestone Illuminations

Firstly, Friends of Thurlestone School (FTS) would like to say a huge thank you for the support that we received for 'Thurlestone Illuminations'. From the enthusiasm and creativity of those who took part, to the kind words from those who visited the event, we were overwhelmed with support.

Not being able to hold our usual Christmas fundraising events, FTS put our thinking caps on and came up with some alternative, 'safe' ways to raise funds to support the school. 2020 was an exceptionally challenging year for everyone, especially for those who'd been separated from their families and had spent much of the year in isolation, so we really wanted to add some Christmas sparkle and brighten those long, dark winter evenings. Our intention was to do something that could bring together the local community and create some festive cheer, without compromising anyone's safety. Thus 'Thurlestone Illuminations' was created, with wonderful support from village residents, the Parish Council, local businesses and organisations.

When the second lockdown in November was announced, we really had to think about whether the event was still a possibility but decided it was something positive for people to look forward to, and hopefully a way to end the year on a high note. So, (a rather wet and windy) December arrived, and fabulous creations began to pop up throughout the village... the excitement really started to mount!

Brilliant local artist Amy Freeman created a wonderful map featuring the 35 illumination locations, which was kindly sold at The Village Shop and Hotel. Each household was allocated a letter to display in either a window or the garden, once deciphered it spelt out a Christmas phrase. It was so lovely to see so many friendly faces strolling round the village every evening. The Phone Box welcomed a life-sized Father Christmas, as well as beautifully decorated tree displays created by some of the school children. The Church had a beautiful nativity scene. There were majestic Reindeer amongst the trees near Mallards. The Mead was fantastically transformed into a magical winter wonderland! The Parish Hall looked like it was ready to host the most festive of Christmas parties – let's hope that it won't be too long until we can dance the night away in there!! We had beautifully lit window displays, giant candy canes, projections and even a spot to stop and enjoy a Christmas carol or two.

It was an absolute joy to have the whole community involved in the event and we hope that 'Thurlestone Illuminations' will return, possibly bigger and better, and that next time, we can all gather and enjoy a mince pie and mulled wine or two!

We raised a total of £368.66 and the Christmas phrase was 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas'.

**Hollie Harman**  
**Friends of Thurlestone School**

# NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The two most recent Parish Council meetings are summarised below. The detailed minutes can be seen online at [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk)

## Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (on Zoom)

*Cllrs Rhymes, Munn, Crowther, Marshall and Williams, Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Gilbert, District Cllrs Pearce and Long and 10 members of the public attended.*

### Open Forum

Three residents commented on the Whimbrels Edge planning application. They realized the plots would be developed, but were concerned about the size and siting of the properties, and the proposed building materials which had an 'industrial feel' that was not in keeping with the area and other houses.

A community Facebook page has been set up called 'Thurlestone Things' for parishioners to raise concerns, post information and exchange goods and services. The Parish Hall remains closed for the time being.

### Matters Arising

Two emails were read out responding to questions raised at the November meeting. It was explained that the Bantham Estate Office and West Buckland Barn planning applications were very different and not all the points raised apply equally to both (*see SHDC website for details*). Another email explained how Councillors make decisions on planning applications.

Bantham phone box - BT had informed the PC that as the box is on land owned by Bantham Estate, the door will only be replaced if the Estate agrees to adopt the box or provides written permission for the PC to adopt the kiosk.

Cobbled road - Councillors had met on site to discuss its repair and are obtaining quotes for the work.

### Planning Applications

4 Furzey Close, Thurlestone - Extension to existing balcony. Supported.

Plots 1 & 2 Whimbrels Edge, Thurlestone – Revised plans for approval of reserved matters for erection of two detached dwellings with associated driveways and landscaping. Objection.

Cob Cottage, West Buckland - Construction of boundary wall. Supported.

### Community Led Housing

Cllrs Crowther and Williams had met SHDC community housing officers and project engineers on the Bantham site. The infrastructure costs were being recalculated as there is no grant funding available towards the scheme at the present time. This will reflect on the price of the housing, which must be affordable to people with a local connection.

### Aune Conservation Association

The Association is seeking views about having a Code of Conduct for the use of the estuary to reflect the increased usage. The next Bantham Swoosh has been cancelled due to the Covid situation.

### County Councillor's Report & District Councillors' Reports

The main street in Thurlestone will be resurfaced on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and the road will be closed. There is a big push on helping vulnerable people to avoid being scammed. Grants are available from SHDC to help businesses. To date, £1,122,380 has been paid out during the November lockdown. A Discretionary Hardship Grants fund is also now available and DCC's free school meals scheme is being rolled out over the holidays.

### Parish Matters

Benches - A list of benches is being prepared to assess how many are damaged and whether they should be repaired or replaced.

Traffic - Cllr Williams has been talking to residents about traffic issues. The main concern is

speeding motorists and the desperate need for speed limits and traffic calming measures. Suggestions included: a one-way system (perhaps temporary), enlarging existing passing bays and creating passing bays in West Buckland.

### **Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (on Zoom)**

*Cllrs Rhymes, Munn, Crowther, Marshall, Mitchelmore and Williams, Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Gilbert, District Cllrs Pearce and Long and 8 members of the public attended.*

### **Open Forum**

One resident commented on the West Buckland Barn application, to which he had objected, and against the proposed fencing at Leasfoot Beach, which he considered may look out of place and not withstand storms. Another resident objected to the Tidley Cot application which he considered would be disruptive for local residents, particularly as there is no parking for the property. He also objected to the amount of glass/potential light pollution and emphasized that the applicants had not discussed their plans with neighbours.

### **Matters Arising**

Cobbled road - Cllr Rhymes explained that the cobbled road continues to need repairing due to damage caused by heavy vehicles and poor weather. He has approached 10 different firms to get quotes for resurfacing but only one has responded, so it was agreed to use this quote as the basis on which to make a decision at the Budget Meeting.

Bantham phone box – BT has been sent proof of land ownership for the land on which the box is sited and it is now for the Bantham Estate to adopt it and pass it to the PC to take responsibility for repair and maintenance.

### **Planning Applications**

Leasfoot beach, Thurlestone Golf Club - Installation of fencing. Supported.

Old Farm (Tidley Cot), West Buckland - Revised plans for proposed reinstatement of thatch roof, alterations and a rear extension. Objection.

5, Meadcombe Road, Thurlestone - Application for alterations and extension. Supported.

West Buckland Barn, Bantham - Erection of new agricultural/estate store (Revised plans and amended development description). Objection. Reasons included: the scale and extent of the premises; availability of alternative premises that were underutilised or could be refurbished, before encroaching on this greenfield site; that the proposed consolidation of the storage of Estate vehicles and machinery in this location would put unacceptable pressure on local amenities and infrastructure; and the proposal would not conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, interrupting some of its protected views.

7 Old Rectory Road, Thurlestone - Proposed alterations and extension. Supported.

### **County Councillor's Report & District Councillors' Reports**

Businesses and residents should continue to look at the SHDC and DCC websites for grants and support. Over Christmas, Covid Compliance Officers had made 133 visits to businesses, dealt with 2 serious issues and taken action against 2 businesses. There will be an SHDC Emergency Fund for short-term needs to which residents can apply.

### **Parish Matters**

Thurlestone Hotel - Cllr Rhymes thanked the hotel for taking prompt action to make the damaged wall safe and get the road reopened.

Island View - Part of the fencing needs to be repaired.

Footpath to Bantham Quay - This will remain closed for another 21 days.

Parish Helpline - This is up and running. Tel (07955) 607873.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 at 7.30pm.

### **Thurlestone Parish Council**

# VILLAGE NEWS ROUND-UP

## Nina Hurrell

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Nina Hurrell of West Buckland, who died shortly after celebrating her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. You may recall in our February/March edition last year we featured a lovely piece about her life written by her son Nigel. Nina's love of ballroom dancing led to her meeting her future husband and, after they married, she came to live in West Buckland where she remained. She worked hard throughout her life including helping on the flower farm as well as raising her two sons. Nina learnt 'silver service' and will be remembered for her superb Sunday roasts which were always served on a properly laid table. Our sympathies go out to all her family and friends at this sad time.

## Heartfelt Thanks

What started as a chat over coffee between three regulars turned into an avalanche of appreciation and good will, as the extended community of Bantham expressed their real gratitude to Kelly Seymour and Linda Williams for all they have done for the village, and further afield, in maintaining the local Shop and, perhaps more importantly, keeping the Estuary Café open this year. This has provided so many with a safe haven and an area where all the horrors of a pandemic, that no one expected or wishes to be repeated, could not just be discussed but more importantly forgotten!

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December Kelly and Linda were presented with a substantial **THANK YOU**, in the form of a Spa Day, for all they had achieved and given to the community, particularly over the past ten months. This was so succinctly summed up by Jill Gilbert in her fitting tribute - *"Thank you for everything you have done for us throughout the year by keeping the shop open and us safe and sane and the coffee shop going for our hearts and souls. What was amazing was that when the idea got known the thanks just kept on coming and coming and coming. You have been exceptional"* In response Kelly thanked everyone for their support which had kept them both going!



Photograph shows Kelly Seymour (left) and Linda Williams (right)

## Carol singing round the village

On two evenings before Christmas, 6 members (in accordance with Covid rules) of the Thurlestone Singing Group led by Alastair Durden met to sing carols and spread some Christmas cheer. They went around the Mead the first evening and on a rainy second evening visited Island View and Seaview Terrace. In the absence of the Church's traditional carol service and live music in general, they felt that singing carols outdoors would bring a little light in a dark time and give folk the chance to join in, or just listen to, some favourite carols – especially with such meaningful words. It was certainly much appreciated, as folk stood on their front doorsteps to listen, with big smiles on their faces! It also gave the group an opportunity to see people they had not seen for some time, as well as seeing some of the fabulous Christmas illuminations around the village.

## **Census 2021**

This unique survey happens every 10 years and will take place this year on Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>. The information collected is vitally important in the planning and funding of services as well as shaping our communities over the next 10 years. Information provided will be used by many different organisations. You are required by law to take part and it can be completed online or on a paper copy. For more information and data safety go to the Census website: - [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk)

## **Facebook**

A community Facebook page has been set up called Thurlestone Things and it is for members of the Parish to raise concerns, post information and exchange goods and services. All are welcome to join and it is linked with other very local groups.

## **Bantham Swoosh**

The Bantham Swoosh has been cancelled this year in response to concerns over the Covid situation and because the organisers cannot be sure if the event would be able to go ahead.

## **Free on-line courses**

There are more than 100 free on-line courses available from Devon County Council. They cover a wide range of things, from courses for Employability to ones that deal with Physical, Mental and Social Wellbeing such as Mindfulness, not to mention Digital skills!



# WI NEWS



At this time of year we would usually be reporting on our Christmas festivities but like everyone else we had to abandon them - almost. The Committee decided that the WI members needed something to lift their spirits so we produced a "Christmas Meeting in a Bag". Each and every one of us received a red paper party bag containing various goodies and things to do. Firstly, we had missed several big birthdays in the Autumn so we provided a mini bottle of wine so we could each toast them at home. Secondly, we could not have our usual Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club so we provided mince pies made by our own inimitable Joan Booth, for whom 80 mince pies is apparently nothing. We added a chocolate orange and a satsuma simply because it was Christmas. We always have a quiz on our Christmas Lunch tables and Vivienne Day came up trumps with two quizzes this year. The answers have been recently distributed by email. We could not have our usual special Christmas Raffle so everyone won and was given a tube of hand cream, so necessary with all this hand washing. Finally, we wanted our members to look forward and they were each given a packet of sunflower seeds and we plan to have a competition later in 2021.

In January each year each individual WI member is asked to consider and vote on the Resolutions put forward for the year and the winning resolution goes to the National Annual Meeting to be adopted as the next National Campaign. Usually, we have several meetings in the county where we can debate these resolutions and there can be a lively exchange of views. Some memorable campaigns have resulted from this process, in 1943 'Equal Pay for Equal Work' and in 1954 'Keep Britain Tidy'.

We are obviously still not allowed to hold meetings but there are other things going on in the background. The Committee is putting together a detailed telephone questionnaire to find out exactly what our members would like us to do going forward. Hopefully, between us, we can maintain the wellbeing of our members through the next few months and look forward with optimism.

## **Sally Martin, President**

Please note my correct telephone number is 01548 561356



## THURLESTONE HOTEL

Even though the hotel is closed we are continuing to try serve the parish in what limited way we can until we can open our doors once again.

Please see the Village Inn advert printed in this issue regarding details for

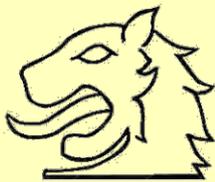
Take Away Meals available.

The Voyage Spa might be closed; we are still taking bookings for March onwards. So why not give yourself something to look forward to and book one of our relaxing beauty treatments.

To book online or view the full price list please visit [www.thurlestone.co.uk](http://www.thurlestone.co.uk)

We thank you for your continued support.

Take care and Keep Safe



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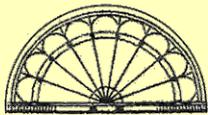
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# Farming Diary

We are delighted to introduce a new regular article about life on Teriwhiti farm, in South Milton, through the eyes of one of their helpers.

Terawhiti Farm approached December not knowing whether they would be able to start selling Christmas trees, or not. With Lockdown 2 happening in England the rules stated that they would only be able to sell them if they grew on the farm. With the uncertainty of a lockdown extension this was a concern. Luckily come the end of November, the guidance changed and they were able to open their polytunnel doors. Due to social distancing the trees had to spill out into the cattle sheds. Picking a tree with the cows looking on was a new experience but a wonderful one. It really felt, and smelt, like you were shopping at a farm. With beautiful homemade wreaths, local handmade candles and Christmas cards on sale it was a nice calm place to shop, with plenty of fresh country air to go with it.

The first weekend of the 28th November was incredibly busy. It seems, after the hard year everyone had had, they wanted a real tree to cheer them up. Trees from 5ft – 18ft were flying out the door, and people were so keen to put them up early, that the tree tunnel was able to close its doors earlier than in previous years. Which, in hindsight, turned out to be a bit of luck, as then we were ready for our next venture – the veg boxes.

The Christmas veg boxes were started in 2013 with only a handful of boxes being prepared in the boot room. They went up each year, until the boot room became far too small and the polytunnel became more fitting. This year was a record though with over 300 boxes. A combination of the power of Facebook, people's need to buy local and buy well, made this number increase from the previous year. In preparation for this, I was booked to help Anita and her daughter prepare the boxes, making it very much all hands-on deck.

So, the 21st December was the start of a few very busy days on the run up to Christmas. Anita and I were only one side of the whole operation, the other is the normal farm side – the cutting of the veg. On the first day Martin and his team were there to fulfil local orders and to keep Anita supplied with the veg she needed for the boxes.

Back to the veg boxes and the reports of France's borders being closed. What did this mean for Terawhiti? Well! Martin's phone, which hardly stops ringing usually, is suddenly off the hook. Trago, who we supply regularly and had already had a huge order the previous day, suddenly couldn't have enough. Their customers were grabbing armfuls of veg as people started panicking that they would run out of food. Picking up as many cauliflowers and sacks of potatoes that they could carry. Suddenly the team's work more than doubled.



The weather was not on their side that day either, it was pouring with rain and the shortest day of the year, so a gloomy day soon became a dark night. They were cutting and picking and working hard to supply the veg boxes and the extra orders. They had to carry on in the dark but through a lot of mud, sweat and raindrops they managed it.

Day two was the same, although the day was a lot drier. The demand from the wholesalers was slowing down the veg box production so when we had a lull, we jumped over to the other side to bunch kale and chard, to wash celeriac and to help how we could. Miss Berryman boxed up all the smaller orders, which when you have a huge amount to do is incredibly helpful. Eventually though, the orders were fulfilled and the veg boxes started to be completed. The hardest part for us comes at the end when we are feeling tired and that is checking each and every one has all that's needed in them, especially those that have been altered slightly. After turning in another 12 hour shift, the 306 veg boxes were completed.

The 23rd December was veg box collection day. It was a dry morning, but the heavens opened in the afternoon to torrents of rain. With over three hundred cars pouring into the farm that day, we had inadvertently created a "Veg Box Drive Thru"! Finally, they were all gone and veg boxes were over for another season..... or so we thought!

Between Christmas and New Year is usually quiet with veg picking up for New Year's Eve, but this was 2020, so on 30th December when it was announced that we were to move into Tier 3 and hospitality venues were closed, the orders dropped.

### January 2021

New Year! New Rules! Another National Lockdown! Last year it hit as the farm was coming out of its veg season so no one knew how hard a hit it could be. The second lockdown, there was a difference but it wasn't too bad, as steady orders came in, although reduced amounts. Westcountry, one of the main customers, kept going as normally as they could in the previous lockdowns had to make changes this time round. They have 3 centres, the main one in Falmouth and the smaller ones in St Austell and Newton Abbot. They have had to temporarily close the smaller depots, meaning they are now buying from their suppliers closer to the remaining one. The other wholesalers were only asking for limited amounts so the farm had to readjust its thinking. I know many people had asked over the years about whether they would do veg boxes all year round. It may not be a permanent change, but the decision was made to start supplying veg boxes for people to collect. Teaming up with Bell and Loxton for their Rapeseed Oil and Warcombe Produce (C Lidstone) for their potatoes, the Lockdown veg boxes were born. The response has been wonderful as people are embracing the locally grown produce.

Another job in January is starting to sort out the strawberry tunnels. This involves trimming the plants to prepare for the new season. This produces a lot of foliage to dispose of. Some of the strawberry plants will have come to the end of their life, so they have to be removed, bag and all, then new bags of peat are carried in and a new planting starts.

Throughout the winter months from October to March the 130 head of beef cattle are kept indoors for the winter. They need feeding and bedding every day. They are fed corn, which has to be ground milled (so that the cattle can digest it efficiently) and silage, which is grass that has been cut, baled and wrapped in order for it to ferment. To bed them a large machine is driven past, spraying straw all over them. If the wind is right you may hear that in Thurlestone before the lights in the cow shed go out. Throughout the winter, the cattle are cleaned out regularly. Their muck is the best fertilizer available and so it is spread back on the land to restore nutrients and is perfect for growing vegetables.

The beginning of January was a very cold one, picking kale in those temperatures feels like you are picking frozen vegetables, and as they are picking for local deliveries, they start early in the morning. On those frosty and sometimes icy days it always feels a little more challenging and somewhat painful on the fingers but it is all part of the farming life. The weather plays the biggest part in how the season goes, in fact, for something that is hard to predict, one thing you can be sure of, it will always throw you a curveball. The weather last year was the perfect combination for good growth - warm yet wet. The frost in December caused a lot of damage to some crops and a short hail shower almost wiped out the chard. The cold start to January slowed down the growth. Usually, on a normal year, you wouldn't want that, as it results in the next variety catching up with the one that slowed down. This can lead to waste as the supply can outstrip demand.

### Footnote:

January 2021 was a hard month as it marked the year anniversary of the passing of Myrtle Berryman. Myrtle was a big part of Terawhiti, her sense of humour infectious, her wit so sharp that everyone around her looked soft and the tales of her life were both fascinating and inspiring. I would like to dedicate this piece to her. Myrtle, always remembered.

**Natasha Baldwin**

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## Thurlestone Phonebox.....Ring Ring

Over Christmas, though devoid of books, your library became the home of Tom, our resident mannequin, who took on the role of Santa Claus. Now back home, nesting between a rusty BBQ and an outboard motor he has been reflecting on his sojourn in the Phonebox, suitably sparkling for the festive season. He really enjoyed the joyous squeals and laughter of the kids riding in the sleigh drawn by two red-nosed reindeer and especially the visit from pupils from our excellent school who brought fabulous home-made baubles and decorations to hang on the trees round the Phonebox.



They were suitably rewarded with plentiful sweets and we are sure it's not true that a large number found their way into the teachers' pockets! Tom was very proud to be part of the amazing Illuminations organised by the FTS. Can't wait for next year.

By the by, if anyone has any outdoor battery Christmas lights surplus to requirements, please think of the Phonebox.

What next? No books until lockdown permits, but we are determined to use the Phonebox to give you a smile so keep an eye open. On which subject, maybe an Arts and Crafts exhibition later on, so with that in mind if you have some quirky items you think might be suitable, please get in touch.

Thanks, Happy New Year and Keep Safe.

**Kit Marshall**  
thurlestonephonebox@gmail.com

## The Thurlestone Parish Lockdown Support Hotline

**079556 07873**

The Support Hotline is still performing an essential role and we would encourage anyone who needs help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog-walking or whatever not to hesitate in calling. The Helpline will be answered by Milla who will do her best to give you a helping hand, put you in touch with one of our fantastic volunteers or just have a friendly chat over the phone.

If you, or anyone you know, need some assistance for anything other than medical matters then this is the number to call.

**079556 07873**

## Rotary Club of Kingsbridge - End Polio Now Initiative



We cannot hold our usual Quiz Night in 2021. We hope that the generous readers of Village Voice will compete this time using the quiz printed here. **Please send us a donation** towards the still-essential eradication of polio (139 paralytic cases in 2020).

The prize (a bottle of claret) will go to the first correct entrant (or the best, even if incomplete, entry by 1<sup>st</sup> March) with a verified donation. (Entry to the Quiz Night was £7.50 pp in 2020, plus cost of drinks, raffle etc!).

**Either:** visit [www.kingsbridge.rotary1175.org](http://www.kingsbridge.rotary1175.org); copy the quiz; email your answer to [peter@thegornalls.com](mailto:peter@thegornalls.com). Please donate to 'Rotary Club of Kingsbridge Trust Fund' by BACS: Sort code 30-94-72 A/c 00351292.

**Or:** fill in this page (or a photocopy) and post it with your donation cheque (made out to the same Fund above) to Peter Gornall, Furzey Orchard, Thurlestone, TQ7 3NS.

Please attach your name and contact details!

GOOD LUCK!

### 'EAR THIS!'

All the clues given below relate to words or phrases in which the letters EAR appear in that order, either as a word or part of a word which stands alone or in a phrase.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. You have one at each side  | 20. Beloved                                     |
| 2. Shakespearean king   | 21. To obtain by work                           |
| 3. The most ancient title of nobility of the peerage                        | 22. There may be listeners!                     |
| 4. Splendidly costumed costermonger   | 23. Tired                                       |
| 5. You need to get these on the moor  | 24. One of the senses                           |
| 6. Ursa major   | 25. Prevents electrical shocks                  |
| 7. Makes no permanent impression  | 26. Listen attentively                          |
| 8. A species of tit   | 27. In good time                                |
| 9. Home of fox  | 28. Semi-precious stone                         |
| 10. Viscous, bitter body excretion  | 29. Pots of clay                                |
| 11. An old cruel sport  | 30. To rip                                      |
| 12. Worm catcher  | 31. A letter to end a relationship              |
| 13. To carry  | 32. A body of divine rulers                     |
| 14. The first vehicle in a funeral cortege                                  | 33. 'Go away!'                                  |
| 15. Between the saddle and the bit to make horse arch its neck              | 34. They reduce friction                        |
| 16. Sauce of egg yolk, butter, shallots, tarragon, chervil and wine vinegar | 35. First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic |
| 17. The third planet from the sun   | 36. Pointed weapon                              |
| 18. To cauterise  | 37. An upsetting horse movement                 |
| 19. Innocent  | 38. Coffin carrier                              |
|   | 39. Scarcity                                    |
|   | 40. Erudite                                     |

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# Devon Coast to Coast Footpath (Part 3)

By Anna Martin

## **Section 9 - Witheridge to Knowstone 12.9.20**

We had an excellent breakfast and started walking out of Witheridge down a green lane then across fields to the valley of the Little Dart river. We walked along its side until we came to a tarmacked lane, eventually reaching an old Toll house where we entered a green lane leading through a lovely wood to Knowstone moor. Next we made our way along the banks of the Sturcombe river. The route took us under the very noisy A361 to Knowstone Inner moor and across fields to reach the 12th century church at Knowstone. It happened to be Devon historic church day and we went inside to admire its very simple design and its plastered wagon roof with carved bosses.

We had walked 8.3 miles and had seen 3 people.

## **Section 10 - Knowstone to Tarr Steps 13.9.20**

From the church at Knowstone we walked down a lane to Owlaborough and across Owlaborough Moor until we met the B3227, on which we briefly walked, before going over a stile, across fields to join a lane which went downhill and through Yeo Mill. By this time, we had the bit between our teeth to finish the Coast to Coast and had checked that the weather at the end of the week was going to be good so had tried various websites unsuccessfully to find accommodation. Then, in Yeo Mill, we saw the sign of Partridge Arms Farm, formerly a coaching inn, advertising Bed and Breakfast. We knocked on the door and met the lady of the house who went by the name of Banger. Yes, she could accommodate us for 3 nights at the end of the week. We walked up the lane, feeling very happy, then followed the route over fields down to West Ansty and climbed up to Badlake Moor cross which is on the southern boundary of Exmoor. Here there was another memorial stone to Joe Turner as well as a large half stone sculpture by Peter Randall Page. We walked across open moorland, down to Slade Bridge and up to Hawkridge. We walked over fields to reach the long, bendy drive of Parsonage Farm which took us down through the farm yard, over fields and down a lane to Tarr Steps, a 58 metre long clapper bridge over the River Barle with 17 spans. Its age is not known but it is thought to be between 400 to 600 years old and it has featured on two Royal Mail stamps. It was a beautiful day and there were lots of people enjoying the sunshine by paddling and picnicking. Luckily there was a woman selling hot and cold drinks from a converted horse box so we had a very welcome cup of tea.

We had walked 9.1 miles and had seen 2 people on the route but saw lots at Tarr Steps.

## **Section 11 - Tarr Steps to Simonsbath 17.9.20**

The first part of the walk was alongside the beautiful River Barle, sometimes very close to the water and sometimes high above. The route was mainly wooded until we were getting close to Withypool where we left the river and continued on over fields then on up to open moorland. We gradually descended towards the River Barle and

had a good view of the five arched bridge at Landacre far below. Once back down by the river, we passed Cow Castle, an ancient fortified site, and a smaller mound called the Calf. Soon after this we saw some people looking up to a high ridge on the other side of the river where there were 7 or 8 deer standing nobly on the top of the ridge. This is obviously a favourite area for walkers and riders as they can park at Simonsbath and easily walk to experience the dramatic landscape.

We had walked 10.8 miles and had seen lots of people near Simonsbath, including six horseriders. At Yeo Mill, where we were staying, we were about 5 miles from Dulverton, another attractive town with independent shops (which, of course, we did not have time to visit) and lots of places to eat. On the first night we ate at Woods where we had a superb meal. On the second night we ate at the Bridge Inn which served excellent pub food.

### **Section 12 - Simonsbath to Lynmouth 18.9.20**

From the car park, we walked up to a narrow path that ran along Ashcombe plantation. We walked across rough ground and through a gate on to Great Ashcomb then on to cross the Simonsbath to Lynmouth road at Prayway Head. The directions in our book said "follow the bridleway in a westerly direction to Exehead". Even with our compass, the directions were just too vague as there was no obvious foot path. This area is called the Chains and is one of the highest and remotest parts of Exmoor and, to add to our discomfort, the sky was full of dark clouds. We eventually found a wall and a signpost to Exehead, the source of the River Exe, which disappointingly was just a muddy puddle with a steady small stream of water going in to it. The Barle and the West Lyn also have their sources here.

We passed through a gate, signed to Hoar Oak, descended a long and rocky path in the dramatic Chains valley and got to a foot bridge, where we crossed the Hoar Oak water to the Hoar Oak which marks the boundary of the Royal Forest. We continued on that side of the river and climbed up to the lovely Cheriton Ridge. The sun had come out and we walked about 2 miles to Cheriton village but immediately turned on to a steep track that took us to Coombe Park, which is semi-natural woodland owned by the National Trust. At the lodge of Combe Park, we crossed the A39 and joined a footpath which took us along the Cleaves-Myrtleberry and Lyn. We were very high up and had wonderful views to the sea and down to the East Lyn River, 800ft below. We started to descend and thought that we were on our way down to Lynmouth, but no, we had to do another steep zigzag ascent then a very steep descent in to Lynmouth, arriving opposite the church of St John the Baptist. The official end of the Coast to Coast is at the Pavilion on the Esplanade.

Lynmouth was a fishing village that became a popular tourist resort in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when most of the visitors arrived by sea. In 1828, a road was built connecting Lynmouth with Lynton, on the cliff top. A cliff railway opened in 1890, connecting the 2 settlements, and it is still one of the town's biggest attractions. In 1952 a 40ft wall of water surged down the East Lyn valley, after 9 inches of rain had fallen in the previous 24hrs, and 54 people were killed.

We had walked 10.7 miles and seen 7 walkers.

For us, this was a great way to spend part of the Covid summer. It was so good for us to get away from home and explore parts of Devon that we had not visited before.

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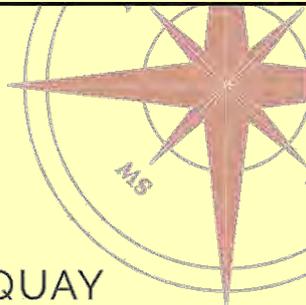
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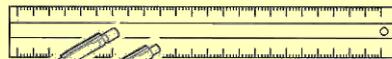
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# Life in Lockdown

This story was written by Matilda Popham, aged 8, who is the Granddaughter of one of our readers and advertisers, Judith Bentley. It is based on how Matilda saw the pandemic and how it affected her and her family. She has enhanced some of the detail to make a good story!

\*\*\*\*\*

Life has always been crazy. Mum and Dad have always worked opposite shifts. I am used to that. Nothing prepared me, however, for what lockdown brought to our lives in 2020.

My Mum and Dad joined the NHS when I was little because we needed more money and that was the best way to get it, but the hard times started when a sickness, a bit like the flu, hit countries all around the world. But this was something more serious. This was Covid-19, it wasn't in our country yet, but then it spread like the plague. I almost had a panic attack, especially when I found out I was in the key worker group in school. Basically, the key worker group is when your parents need to work in lockdown, and you need somewhere to go and it's pretty fun. Of course, you still have to do your work, but you get to watch Disney+ at lunch!

After such long hours, Mum and Dad would always come home late and I would say to them, "can't you come home earlier?" and they would always say, "Maybe another day!" This just kept going on and on. I just wished that one day they would be there for me, but little did I know they were doing it for my safety. It wasn't until after the pandemic that I found this out. I thought how lucky I was to have parents like them.

It was getting way worse and when I say worse, I mean WORSE!! There were now people in New York that had Covid-19. This is when I cried my eyes out, I was so scared I was going to get it, but I knew deep down I had such a low chance of getting it. On the bright side, I did have my friends to keep me company at school but I did have to stay 2 metres, well sort of 2 metres, and at lunch we got to watch Moana that was the BEST DAY EVER!

After weeks had passed, I started to not worry at all, it started to go away slowly, yay! My family got me a Fenix fox to keep me company and I named it Lucky because it was my lucky pet, to say it was all going to be ok. I took lucky on a walk in the woods in Central Park because there was nothing else to do.

One day when my parents came home from work, they had the greatest news of my life – social distancing had changed to 1 metre and when I thought it couldn't get any better it did – you can now go into friends' houses. It was such fabulous news.

The last few months have been hard, but it made my time with Mum and Dad even more precious. I am so proud of how much they've risked their life for other people, and I feel even more positive that the virus will be completely gone very soon.

## A Lockdown Poem by Sheila Fairley Back to Square One

Lockdown 3 -  
What does it mean?  
Few friends to meet,  
Except on screen  
And that we'll do,  
You may be sure.  
No golf to play,

Clubs stowed away:  
We'll walk the dog  
And walk some more  
But only go out once a day  
Otherwise we break the law.  
There's online bridge  
To keep minds sharp,

Books to read, films to watch,  
Occasional forays to the shops  
To keep us busy  
Until Covid stops.  
An Oxford job is all it takes,  
For which I simply have to wait...  
Roll on 2022!



# AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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

Our group activities this year have been even more sparse than of late, thanks to COVID-19, but behind the scenes we continue to maintain the contacts that are essential for conserving our wonderful estuary.

Early in 2020, I wrote that the estuary waters had been quiet but I did not foresee the explosion of interest in outdoor, water-based activities that the various Lockdowns would bring with them. A similar pattern has been observed throughout the SW – partly driven by the powerful influence of social media. Locally, the problems start with the poor availability of parking space for visitors' vehicles, in particular at Aveton Gifford and along the Tidal Road, but they extend onto the water where access is unrestricted except for the by-laws covering use of the water-ski zone. Whilst it is good to see the estuary being enjoyed and appreciated by more of the public, the unusual intensity of the recreational traffic has highlighted the need for Codes of Conduct because the waters are becoming increasingly crowded with users of varying degrees of experience; some users are complete novices and may pose a nuisance or even a danger to themselves, to others and to the environment. I have received reports about grossly overloaded boats full of passengers without life jackets; unmarked and nearly invisible swimmers in dark wetsuits; stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) carrying various mixtures of adults, children and pet dogs; picnic parties snacking on private foreshore - to name but a few examples of bad practice. In contrast, the better organised or commercial user groups tend to have their own codes of behaviour and compliance: if agreed, this could become a standard requirement for commercial use of the estuary. Safety issues are paramount, of course, but biosecurity is also an ever-present concern with the threat of introduction of invasive species from other waterways by contaminated craft or wetsuits. As a first step, I have suggested some suitable Codes of Conduct on our website at <http://auneconservation.org.uk>, incorporating the South Devon AONB Unit's Biosecurity Code.

The increased popularity in outdoor swimming and in the use of readily available SUPs, canoes and kayaks was a source of detailed consideration at November's Avon Estuary Forum (AEF), which took place via Zoom. Nobody expects any diminution of these recreational activities during 2021. To date, no universal solution has been agreed to the overcrowding problem but I have started to take some action, as above, and to discuss other options (e.g., for extra buoys and/or signage around the water ski zone) in consultation with other AEF attendees. It has been generally agreed that we need to use social media outlets and various local influencers (e.g., water-based clubs and businesses) to get our message across to the relevant publics. So far, the Outdoor Swimming Society has been very helpful. If you have any novel ideas in this respect or can help, please let me know!

As most local people appreciate, the estuary is a priceless environmental asset. It is both a County Wildlife Site and Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) with its shallow waters, extensive mudflats, and salt marshes. All of these features are of exceptional ecological value to important populations of fish, invertebrates, migratory birds and waterfowl. It is vital these habitats remain undisturbed. The education of new estuary users is an essential step in managing these areas for the benefit of all. Historically, the Avon Estuary has always been highly valued as a place for quiet contemplation and reflection on natural beauty. We would ask all users of the estuary to respect these values: in these difficult times, they are more priceless than ever.

Lastly, a gentle reminder and shameless seasonal request for help. To make a difference in 2021 you can donate to the ACA via SHDC's SeaMoor Lotto: visit [www.seamoorlotto.co.uk](http://www.seamoorlotto.co.uk) and search for: Aune Conservation. Your contribution could help with the running costs of the Avon Estuary Patrol, for example, to make our estuary a safer place.

**Stuart Watts, ACA Chairman**

All  
Saints

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Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

**LAY READER:** Peter Gornall



Well, here we are again! Lockdown (part iii). Once the news of a more virulent strain of Covid-19 was announced it came as no surprise to most that we would re-enter a lockdown. This time around though, churches were allowed to make their own decisions as to whether or not to stay open for public worship. With a heavy heart we decided that we would close All Saints', Thurlestone for public worship and move things online. Although we, like other churches, had done everything that we could to make our worship "Covid-secure" we simply had no way of assessing what impact this new strain would have. The Church remains open for private prayer on a Wednesday afternoon.

One piece of good news is that we have embraced a much fuller programme of online worship. There is now a weekly service posted on YouTube and also a weekly "Zoom" Service that takes place at 11 o'clock each Sunday morning. As I write this article we are preparing for the first of our Zoom Services. (See All Saints' Diary)

These acts of worship do allow us to reach into people's homes and to offer some words of hope and comfort at this difficult time and we should celebrate this fact. However it remains important to stress that we will want to go back to worshipping "in person" as soon as it is safe to do so. Online worship will continue to be an important ministry to those who are house-bound or who will have to shield in the future. In other words the things that we are learning now will not go to waste. But I need to reassure people that we are not quite ready to vacate the public spaces. There is something vitally important about gathering together in a public place (the church) to meet and worship. We can have fellowship and corporate worship in all sorts of ways (including online) but we can only have public worship if we meet together: the Lord's people gathered on the Lord's Day around the Lord's table.

Until that day we will continue to support one another where we can. We will continue to look to the future with hope, despite our recent experiences. The day will surely come when we can gather again with voices raised in songs of praise and thanksgiving. In the meantime – happy Zooming!

*Daniel Hartley*

**We're here if you need prayerful or practical support ...  
Please contact the Rector on  
danielhartley.aunevalley@gmail.com or 01548 562727**

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing  
can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*



# All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

Sadly, during the new lockdown, this church is closed once again for **Public Worship**. However it is open for **Individual Prayer** on **Wednesdays 2.00 - 4.00pm**.

If restrictions are eased and the church re-opens, please see <https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services.html> for service information.

## CHURCH ONLINE

While there is no Service in church on Sundays each week, you can join us online. Each week there will be:

### A RECORDED SERVICE ON YOUTUBE

led by Revd. Daniel Hartley with contributions by members of the Aune Valley Benefice and recorded hymns, which can be found on: [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html)



### SUNDAY ZOOM SERVICE

At 11:00am led by the Readers in the Aune Valley Benefice. Please contact Mike Hodges on [mike2.hodges@btinternet.com](mailto:mike2.hodges@btinternet.com).

### THE ROCK - CHURCH MAGAZINE

can be found on [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church.html](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church.html)

### OTHER ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETINGS

For help or more detail on these meetings, please contact Mike Hodges on: [mike2.hodges@btinternet.com](mailto:mike2.hodges@btinternet.com) or 01548 561124.

### VIRTUAL HOME GROUP: Monday 7.15pm for 7.30 - 9.00pm

See and hear each other, read and study the Bible together, meditate, praise God in song and bring our needs to God in prayer.

### VIRTUAL PRAYER MEETING: Wednesday 8.30 - 9.15am

A chance to pray together in a relaxed session starting with the Bible reading and Prayer for the day, followed by open prayer for the God's world, our country and our local community.

### VIRTUAL GATHERING: Wednesday 10:30 - 11:30am

All are welcome to on-line **Coffee-Time**. Catch up with your friends, share a joke, bring your own coffee and cake! Our Rector, Daniel Hartley, joins us to share a reflection.

## OTHER RESOURCES

### ON-LINE SUNDAY SERVICES

**Exeter Diocese:** A **Sunday Service** and other resources can be found on <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/worship/sunday-services-to-watch-online/> There is also a **10 minute weekly online reflection each Sunday** on <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>, featuring one of the senior clergy in the Diocese which will follow the Lectionary Bible readings for that Sunday.

**National Church of England:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

**BBC Radio Devon** Sunday Service at 8.00 a.m. Sunday and then on BBC Sounds at: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc\\_radio\\_devon](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_devon).

### FREE PHONE LINE

The Daily Hope phone line is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**. It is run by the Church of England and includes daily hymns, reflections and prayers as well as a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service at the end of a telephone line.

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# Waggy Tails - Lara

by Sue Dwyer

I have owned dogs for years and never had many health problems with them until the end of their lives. 10 years ago I happened to buy two dogs Lara and Rosie, of different breeds, that turned out to have two very expensive genetic faults.

Lara is a Tibetan Terrier who was purchased from a very reputable source. Until she was 4 years old she lived an active life in our large garden and had many walks along the coastal footpath. One morning in 2012 I came down to give her breakfast and she would not eat, she had been a little off colour the previous evening but nothing specific so I decided to wait and see how she progressed. Later that morning I realised there was something wrong and saw her right eye was cloudy so phoned the vet. I thought she had glaucoma. I was seen as an emergency, the pressure in the eye was measured and was very high confirming the diagnosis. The reason was that the lens in her eye had dislocated. She was referred to the specialist vet at Tavistock who commenced treatment with eye drops and I had to return there in 1 week. He confirmed there was no sight in the eye so it was removed. The pressure in the eye had been elevated for too long and the retina was destroyed. He also told me that he thought the problem had been bred out of Tibetans as he had not seen a case in the breed for over 10 years. He warned me that it was only a matter of time before the other lens would dislocate.

6 months later whilst she was in kennels the lens dislocated in her left eye, prompt referral to Tavistock immediately meant this time the lens was successfully removed. However removing the lens still allows the pressure in the eyeball to rise and she had to have twice daily eye drops. I was told that, despite treatment, her eyesight would disappear in 2 years as the pressure in her eye would increase further. She could not see close objects but her distance vision was excellent. She was closely monitored at the vets and the dosage and type of eye drops were increased over time to control the pressure. Her eyesight deteriorated until there was minimal sight and after two and a half years the pressure could no longer be controlled so the eye was removed. How would she cope with no eyes?

She still leads an active life. She does bump into things but gets around the house and garden with ease. Her love is her daily walk on the coastal footpath off the lead. She knows the path and keeps to this with no difficulty. Another pleasure is a run on Yarmer beach when it is quiet. She senses a strange dog at 20 yards. She barks at the big ones but seems to accept the small. She seems to find any badger poo within half a mile! She enjoys a dip in the sea. On the beach I watch her and if I see her running towards a rock I whistle, she stops and returns to be near me before running again. She has been known to walk under a stationary van or straight in to a post but she has developed a "soft touch" with her head which prevents painful collisions. She knows her way around the house and garden but gets disorientated if we move any furniture around. All in all she seems to have learnt to cope and has memorised the regular landmarks in her life. We worried needlessly she would not be able to locate her water but she has two bowls, one in the kitchen and one in the garden and knows where both are. The constant comment out walking from people who do not realise she has no eyes is "how can your dog see with all that fur over her eyes?" I usually ignore this.

Lara has adapted well and displays a confidence that makes it difficult for a stranger to know she is blind. Her sense of smell is amazing, she loves fresh peas, eating the pods as well, so if I am shelling peas in the kitchen where ever she is in the house or garden she rushes into the kitchen, wags her tail, pricks up her ears and waits for her treat.

Rosie's story will be revealed in a future edition.

# 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 2021. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk)

## DEVON TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Use the cryptic clues to find the names of towns and villages in our county

1. Barbie's friend
2. They flock here to have fleeces cleaned
3. Churchmen swear expertly
4. A place to come after a game of cards
5. Sounds like a trendy little '60s fruit
6. Perhaps 007 creator came from a Potteries town?
7. Is this the scariest ever river crossing?
8. William and Harry should live here
9. A beach for a busy insect
10. Continue to apply coat of emulsion
11. Clothes for royalty?
12. Keeping heavy weight at low temperature
13. Flint can do this to start a fire
14. A means of fixing a farm building?
15. A thoroughfare, we hear
16. Used to be a facial orifice
17. Very poor quality building material
18. What an excellent pretence!
19. Where pet rodents stay while their owners are away
20. Adhere to the French track
21. Entrance for a popular fruit by the sound of it
22. A bulge in a burial chest
23. Almost a London borough from the Monopoly board!
24. A forest full of wheat perhaps
25. Give York's cathedral the chop

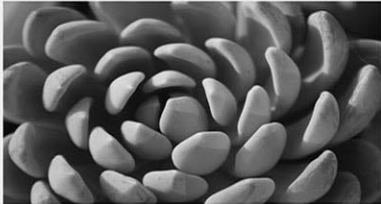
### Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Sparkling wine
2. Party hats
3. Quality street
4. Christmas cake
5. Decorated tree
6. Carol singing
7. Roast turkey
8. Opening presents
9. Cranberry sauce
10. A little nap
11. Charades
12. A drop of sherry
13. Christmas pud
14. Pigs in blankets
15. Roast potatoes
16. Cracking nuts
17. TV specials
18. Selection box
19. Roaring fires
20. Overindulgence
21. Hanging stockings
22. Advent calendar
23. Santa's sleigh
24. Brussels sprouts
25. The Queen's speech
26. Santa Claus
27. Kissing under the mistletoe
28. Christmas crackers
29. Midnight Mass
30. Doing Grey Matter

*There were 7 all correct answers last month. First out of the hat and winners of the coveted bottle of wine are David and Mary Horner. Commiserations to Mary Barons, Emma Hartley, Jeanette Hodges, Susan Penwell, Linda Scott and Jo Sparrow.*

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# THURLESTONE THEN

Continuing the memoirs of Monica Coope  
Chapter 8, Part 1

Turn to the left at the top of Thurlestone Village, past Rockhill then through the fieldgate to the footpath that crosses the crest of the hill and falls steeply to Bantham Lea. Here you have a superb view of the western side of Bigbury Bay, with Burgh Island at the mouth of the river Avon and, on a fine day, the long and the short of Eddystone Lighthouse, the short being of course the stump of the old lighthouse. The upper part stands on Plymouth Hoe now but don't ask me how it got there.

We cross the lane and climb again up a narrow path that can be the hottest spot in the wide world on a windless day, and so we come to the Sloop Inn and Bantham hamlet. Thatched whitewashed cottages run in an unbroken line from the Sloop to the last cottage at the gate to the Ham, which is a ham-shaped grassy headland ending in a knuckle at Jenkin's boathouse where the river runs into the sea under the opposite high cliffs of Bigbury. The little river is wide and tidal here with a narrow, strong current which will get you into difficulties if you try to scull across it without knowing that you must go hard upstream if you want to land opposite where you started.

Bantham Sands, way across the Ham, are a paradise for anyone, with rocks, pools and sheltered rocks, along with a protecting power which jealously guards its amenities and limits the number of campers. Beware of leaving litter or broken bottles about or someone will be after you and next time you won't find it so easy to get through the gate for your day's pleasure. Up the river about a mile is Stiddicombe Creek, nice for picnics, and the copse has the biggest crop of primroses ever picked. Sometimes, in the old days, you saw a small procession of boats proceeding up river to the strawberry gardens, and in those boats were the Ilberts, the Ritchies, the Harcourts and the Coopes, all with large baskets and large appetites. We picked our strawberries ourselves and had them weighed when we had got enough, having also been wisely allowed to eat as many as we could cram in while we picked. The fall of the tide determined our time to turn for home and, having disembarked again at Bantham, we would start the climb to Thurlestone, taking it in turn to carry the baskets but not eating so many now.

While we are still down at Bantham Father will say, "Look, he's a Bantham man all right," and those in the know realise that he has spied a large, worn patch on the Bantham man's trousers. The explanation is so simple, for the Sloop Inn boasts wooden benches for its customers and the Thurlestone Inn none at all, so a Bantham man wears his trousers out in a good cause. Near the Sloop Inn we passed Harry, the good-for-nothing, who has a story all of his own.

Go back fifty years or so and find him comfortably leaning against the bank overlooking the sea and the sands. Harry smokes his shag tobacco and thinks of nothing in particular. It is a hot, sleepy afternoon and he lazily watches the holidaymakers below paddling and bathing, shrimping in the rocky pools, or, just like him, doing naught. It suits Harry to be known as a lazy, good-for-nothing, because that is all he ever wants to be, so long as Mother is there to make a home for him, and his brother Fred will let him earn a bit when he feels inclined by driving the bakery van to deliver the fresh loaves, the Devon tough-cakes, and the halfpenny buns rich in currants and smelling of good yeast.

There is no doubt that Mother indulges her darling and that her darling takes full advantage of it, although Fred is the one who deserves the praise. He is short, wiry and dark, tireless, honest, a good friend and a good neighbour. Our red-haired Harry is tall, big-boned, ruddy-skinned and with something of grace about him that one must recognize as breeding! Harry's interests are divided solely between cider and love-making, the Sloop bar and a pretty maid making up his heaven on earth. The very moment we happen upon him behind the bank on the Ham he is waiting for Gertie, whose afternoon off it is. Gertie is very willing for a bit of sweet-hearting while she is down here for the summer holidays, dull enough otherwise for a nursemaid in a furnished house. Harry is never true in love - here today and gone tomorrow, but while it lasts it is the real thing, and he is a persuasive lover.

So he waits patiently for Gertie and puffs at his pipe while the gulls scream and swirl overhead and the happy cries of the children on the sands below are wafted up the cliffs to the bank where the green clumps of sea drift would diffuse a delicious heady scent from their pink tufts of flowers (were it not for Harry's shag.)

A murmur of approaching voices reaches him and he peeps cautiously over the bank. Two young girls are coming down the Ham path, strangers to Harry, but he eyes them appreciatively as they pause and look up at the notice above the lifebelt and rope which have been there as long as he can remember. They read the notice and one of them laughs, although what there is to laugh about Harry cannot understand. "If you bathe to the right of this notice, you will probably be drowned." Nothing funny there surely, but maids be silly toads, and where is that Gertie all this while? Harry shifts to a more comfortable position and allows the torpor invading his sun soaked limbs to engulf him completely. Harry sleeps.

He wakes again to the cries of the children on the sands, but to something more than that. There is terror, horror, anguish in those cries and, mingled with them are the shouts of the men and desperate screams of women. Harry somehow becomes transformed as he leaps to his feet and jumps the bank in almost a single movement, to see below him a sight which momentarily freezes him with shock. There are five - six - seven - no, eight people struggling against the deadly current to the left of the notice board, and they are being swept around the rocks towards the point and the open sea. On the fringe of the water stand the agonized on-lookers, the demented children shrieking and some of the women covering their faces with their hands, but Harry waits no longer as he seizes the coil of rope and sets off down the sand dunes faster than he has ever run before.

"Follow me, sir.... Follow me, sir," he shouts as he races to the far corner of the sands, and the men folk follow his lead as he climbs over rocks, across gullies, running, leaping, scrambling, to get to the point before it is too late. Harry becomes a God, inspired, uplifted. He gives orders, throws out the rope as he girds one end round his waist and then he leaps into the sea. The human chain he has formed behind him plays out the rope as he swims strongly and steadily towards the death trap, his eyes ever intent on that group of struggling, sinking, exhausted human souls.

So, at last, he reaches the first and hauls up the half drowned girl whom one of them is supporting (where has he seen her before?) and then, in firm, ringing, confident tones he cries out "You'm all right, don't worry, no one; hold on to the rope, and hold on tight. We'll pull ye in, all the lot of ye."

One by one he hauls to the firm tautness of the guiding rope, diving for one, clipping another on the chin as he avoids the clutch of despair that means the end for both of them. One by one he shepherds them on to that rope and, all the time, over there on the rocks, the human chain pulls steadily, surely and the children cease to scream and stand mutely watching, while the women begin to thank God with fearful hope. Now they are safely brought in, half-drowned, choked and spent, but alive, every one of them. Harry can no longer see or stand or even breathe. He is the last to be pulled in and collapses there on the rocks, retching, gasping and sobbing, his saturated clothing clinging to his great frame, with garlands of seaweed streaming from the wet disorder of his tangled hair. Harry cuts an unheroic figure, but a hero lies there.

Later on the father of the girl who has laughed at the notice board (and to save whom seven gallant men, a woman and good-for-nothing Harry, had nearly gone to their deaths) thanks them very nicely, and presents Harry with a cigar and a golden ten-shilling piece. But Harry is not all that grateful because it transpires that Gertie was fair game put out to find him gone, and will have none of him when he tries to explain.

Other heads were put together and one day a fine watch and chain, with inscription, are handed to Harry, together with a goodly sum of money invested under the care of a local worthy, who, while sharing the general view that Harry is a grand chap, none better, also agrees that it would be a pity for that tidy bit of cash to dissipate down Hany's throat in the form of fermented apple juice. So the money is to be held in trust, but everyone knows that Harry will treasure the watch and chain even above the love of a woman.

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# SCHOOL REPORT

## Lessons in Lockdown



It's been nothing short of a Herculean effort for the school to suddenly shift from classroom to remote learning after being given very short notice from the government to put everything in place. Inevitably it's not all been plain sailing and there have been a few technical hitches as is inevitable with technology but for the most part, home learning systems are up and running. Teaching staff usually start the day with a 'google meet' to go through what's in store for the day and then upload activities and tasks for the children to try and complete by 3.30pm. The nursery school is open as usual though and children of key workers are attending classes. This makes it challenging for those teachers trying to deliver online lessons as well as having youngsters in the classroom but, again thanks to their heroic efforts, they are doing a fantastic job. Parents and carers are once again being encouraged not to stress too much in their roles as 'temporary teachers' and to make sure children are getting out for plenty of fresh air, walks and exercise. Some classes are creating a 'remote learning gallery' with pictures of the children undertaking their home learning as well as out in the countryside and on the beach to make sure they still feel connected to the school. There are also plenty of 'live-meets' and 'google hang-outs' where children and their teachers all get to see each other on screen and chat. Generally speaking, there are daily 'read sessions' followed by Maths and English tasks in the mornings and then other subjects such as Geography, History, Science and Art in the afternoons aided by plenty of online teaching resources.

It's been a very challenging time for staff and families but, as with previous lockdowns, we are being told that our mental health is also incredibly important and sometimes, just putting the books down and going out for a bike ride or jumping in the sea is completely OK! Thank you to our Executive Head, Ms Garside and all the teaching staff and team who are working incredibly hard to look after our children's education and for all the support and advice along the way.

Sian Williams

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## Beware Covid-19 Related Scams

Please be aware that there are many cases of the public being sent text messages which claim to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for coronavirus vaccinations. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases, the online form looks very similar to the real NHS website. Do not click on the link. This is a scam. The NHS will never:

- ask for your bank account or card details
- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

In the UK, coronavirus vaccinations will only be available via the NHS. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a local GP surgery or pharmacy, to receive your vaccination. Remember, the vaccinations are free of charge and you will not be asked for a payment.

Please be wary of other scams related to COVID-19 which include:

- Fake links claiming to take you to a Government website for a COVID-19 related payment
- Offers of health supplements that will prevent you from becoming infected
- Financial support offers that appear to be from your bank
- Fines suggesting you have breached lockdown

If you become aware of any of these scams please report it to **Action Fraud** on **0300 123 2040** or go to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

# BOOKSHELF

## **Surfing Files: The Stories of South Devon by Alex Williams**

(Available in Thurlestone Village Shop)

The iconic break of Bantham has long been the jewel in the crown of the south coast and an epicentre of British surfing since the '60s. It's an amazing place that has been thankfully protected from much development with fantastic waves which, when the swell and sand align, rival the best in the UK. Local photographer, surfer and Bantham local, Alex Williams has just launched his first book which celebrates these waves and the characters who have ridden them over the last 50 years or so. It features over 140 black and white portraits of locals, ex-locals, those who grew up surfing here and those that still ride the hallowed waves of Bantham as well as stunning photographs of the area.

Each portrait tells the tale behind the face, their passion, what surfing means to them and how it has moulded their lives. There are joyful recollections of days gone by, of youngsters being thrown into the water on wooden belly boards back in the '60s to being bitten by the surfing bug and never looking back. Although the book concentrates on Bantham and South Devon, there is mention of other waves over the border to Cornwall and beyond documented by the featured contributors.

Alex says; "What is remarkable is the sheer toughness of the early surfers who often didn't have a wetsuit let alone gloves and boots, they would either wear cut-off jeans, t-shirts and their mother's marigolds from the kitchen or if they were lucky, an old beaver style diving suit and they still went out in the winter! There were no surf forecasting sites to direct them to where it was breaking, they just had to use local forecasts, weather charts and ingenuity to figure it out.

This is a tribute to them, the early pioneers and inventors who made surfing what it is today. Keep riding everyone but just let the old boys have a wave every now and then!"

**Sian Williams**

## **The Second Sleep by Robert Harris**

This book is set in a future 1468, thousands of years after what we think of as 1468. I do not usually read 'in the future' novels, but Robert Harris is a good author so I gave it a go. I read it way back during the first lock down and although I cannot go into all the details for fear of spoiling the revelations that come, I can say that while immersed in the book I got rather reluctant to watch or listen to any news.

It begins with a young priest riding on horseback to a remote village on Exmoor to officiate at the funeral of an elderly priest. He has to reach there by nightfall before the curfew. It is now a strict religious society and it is obvious that something catastrophic happened thousands of year ago that destroyed civilisation. It is heresy to try and find out exactly what happened and what society was like in those far off days and strict punishments are given.

Some days after he settles in at the old priest's house, he becomes curious about the priest's death – was he murdered in fact? Sometime later he finds himself in the old priest's room and discovers that the old priest had been very interested indeed in the past.

I will say no more! The novel may strain your credulity at times, but it is a good read. It was published in 2017 I should add.

**Carolyn Taylor**

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# PARISH HALL NEWS

by Alison Daily  
(Secretary)



Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Healthy New Year. It hasn't exactly started as we'd wished, after the good news of approved vaccines the new variant dashed hopes for the lessening of restrictions. Sadly therefore, I am unable to bring you news of any future events for 2021 but perhaps next time. The committee will still continue to meet virtually and the annual AGM will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm via Zoom. If you would like to join in, please let me know so I can issue an invitation.

Something we were very pleased to be involved in was the inaugural Thurlestone Illuminations event held in the village during the festive period. Our intrepid team festooned the outside of the hall with lights and installed the decorated Christmas tree, together with candles made by Diane Martin, in the entrance lobby. It also gave us the perfect opportunity to test the new lights recently installed in the main hall. These lights were operated by setting up an event which enabled them to turn on and off automatically. The LED lights have a feature which gives them the ability to change colour and thus provided us all with a very colourful display. It proved to be a very useful exercise and the maintenance team were very pleased with how they performed. Once again, the hall was part of the provision of entertainment in the community.

Best wishes for the next couple of months, stay safe and perhaps things will be a bit more positive next time.



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**We are still here and determined to  
Keep Calm and Carry On.....**

Due to current restrictions we cannot meet in our usual venue The Methodist Church, Kingsbridge, but all is not lost, our meetings will go ahead at a different time via Zoom. If you wish to enjoy our programme and are not Zoom ready, don't worry, we will attempt to pair you up with a member who is. Info: 01752 830579  
Please note there will be just one talk on a Wednesday at 2pm

**The last  
Wednesday in  
each month at 2pm.  
February 24th via Zoom**

**Wonderful Things**  
The Treasures of Tutankhamun  
Eileen Goulding

**How Napier became the  
Art Deco capital of the world**  
24th/3/21 - Martin Lloyd

**Fiction Fallacy and Fake news**  
28th/4/21 - Geri Parlby

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## **Avian influenza (bird flu): Latest situation**

New housing measures came into force in England, Scotland and Wales on 14 December 2020. You can read the full details on the government website at: [www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-national-prevention-zone-declared](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-national-prevention-zone-declared)

Whether you keep just a few birds as pets, or thousands, you are legally required to keep your birds indoors, or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

Poultry and captive bird keepers are advised to be vigilant for any signs of disease in their birds and any wild birds, and seek prompt advice from their vet if they have any concerns. They can help prevent avian flu by maintaining good biosecurity on their premises, including:

1. housing or netting all poultry and captive birds
2. cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
3. reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective vermin control
4. thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting housing at the end of a production cycle
5. keeping fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all points where people should use it, such as farm entrances and before entering poultry and captive bird housing or enclosures
6. minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds

All keepers are encouraged to register their birds so that they can be contacted if there is a disease outbreak in their area and they need to take action. If you have more than 50 birds, you are legally required to register your flock within one month of their arrival at your premises. If you have less than 50 birds, including pet birds, you are still strongly encouraged to register. You can find out how to register your birds at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms)

Poultry and captive bird keepers and members of the public should report dead wild birds to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77 (option 7), and keepers should report suspicion of disease to APHA on 03000 200 301. Keepers should familiarise themselves with the Government's avian flu advice at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu)

Public Health England advise the risk to public health from the H5N8 and H5N2 strains of bird flu is very low.

The Food Standards Agency has said that on the basis of the current scientific evidence, avian influenza poses a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

Richard Jackson

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# Our Garden

## by Sue Dwyer

I have been asked to write about gardening. I am not a trained gardener but am very keen and have lived in the South Hams since I was 18 months of age and, in Thurlestone for over 40 years. Next year we will have been 40 years in this house. I thought I would write about the garden, how it was when we arrived and how it has been developed over the years. As I write I am looking out my window and will mention at the end what I can see, the various flowers and shrubs out now. I am still learning and trying new plants and methods, helped along by my horticulturally trained gardener, Jeff who has been here for just over 4 years

We bought the house from someone who had owned a nursery growing cut flowers for Covent Garden, specialising in carnations, who'd only lived in the house for 2 years. The greenhouse was then full of carnations. I knew very little about gardening but was determined to keep the garden neat and tidy. As I worked full time I realised I needed help and asked Derrick Yeoman, who agreed to provide expert local information. Derrick stayed for 25 years until health issues forced him to retire in 2006. He taught me so much and we slowly developed the garden. When we arrived on Oct 1st 1982 there was just the wall at the bottom of the garden abutting the golf course, everyone walking past would stare at me working. A couple of years later Derrick planted Rugosa roses which are still there. They green up in April and flower from May, then the hips come, the wind strips the leaves in Oct/Nov but they create a very good screen without hiding the view and never need pruning.

The main border on the west side comprised alternate clumps of yellow achillea and white daisies at the back and dahlias in the rest of the border. Many of these were the large dinner plate variety. A long asparagus bed had recently been planted on the east side of the front lawn and a few hydrangeas were in another bed near the bottom. The far corner had a compost area and incinerator. The compost area is divided into two and the compost is made over a 2 year cycle. Derrick stressed that making your own compost was gold dust and would improve the soil. Jeff, my present gardener, says he's never worked in a garden that has such good soil. Every year the main border was covered with the compost until recently. I now buy in soil improver in large Dumpy bags which is used as a mulch about 3 inches deep suggested by Jeff which we now alternate with our own compost on the various beds. Over the last 4 years annual weeds are a thing of the past and although the soil improver is expensive, I calculate in the long run money is saved and I spend many less hours weeding.



Pineapple Lilies

Derrick suggested we aim to plant plants which would create colour to the garden all year around and, over the years, this has been achieved. For the first year we waited to see what came up and the main border yielded a lovely display of Apeldoorn red tulips with pale blue irises in April. Most tulips in my experience do not flower year after year but disappear after about 5 years, this variety comes up year after year as good as ever. I have only replaced them once. There were a few specimen tulips elsewhere. In June the dahlias started shooting and some red-hot pokers. Of more interest were the *Eucomis Autumnalis* commonly known as Pineapple lilies. I still have these which have been divided into clumps.

In the first spring I decided to grow plants from seed, a hobby I found I enjoyed, especially pricking out seedlings and growing them on. I still grow a lot from seed although I do cheat with geraniums and petunias now and buy plug plants. By growing from seed there are more varieties available. I tend to grow perennials rather than annuals apart from sweet peas.

In the second winter two beds, either side of the gate onto the golf club, were created so, looking down the garden from the house, we would see colour rather than just wall. On the west side we chose camellias, most of the original ones came from Lower Coombe Royal in

Kingsbridge. This small nursery no longer exists. When you went to buy a plant there you walked in the nursery bed, chose your plant, the owner came and dug the bush up and you took it home with you. On the east side I wanted roses which Derrick thought might not survive so near the sea. We chose Hybrid T roses. They thrived and some are still in situ. Over the next few years more roses were planted in various places and have done well. On the patio two climbers, called Compassion, put there about 35 years ago, are sheltered and were cut down in early September due to house painting - always a problem with climbers on walls when re-decoration is required. However, the leaves returned in October and flowers appeared in abundance in November. Today, in early January they are still in bloom. These days I would never plant Hybrid-T roses due to blackspot which has become a big problem due to global warming. The newer English shrub roses bred by David Austin are so much better. I have two beds of Hyde Hall hedging roses which flower all summer and I rarely need to spray them. They are so disease resistant.

I do love camellias and on the roadside of the house planted a camellia hedge about 12 years ago. I was recommended Camellia Kramers Supreme which has the odd flower out now but in March will be covered with double red blooms. This hedge looked sorry for itself earlier this year having had its roots disturbed when we had a new fence erected. It meant taking out the old one plus masses of concrete left from previous fences over the years. After a very wet February, there was then a drought for about 6 weeks. I tested the ph of the soil to find it was 7 which is too alkaline. As the hedge had previously thrived, I treated the soil with sequestrum, as usual, and then gave an iron and seaweed mixture. Each plant had a 10 litre drink fortnightly, for 3 months. I also put a simple watering system in place. The pH is now 6 and the hedge looks happier with plenty of buds. A problem with the hedge is that aphids love the new growth. If I do not spray with an insecticide the leaves become deformed and unsightly. Other camellias in the garden do not have this problem.

My experience tells me that some camellias do not like too much wind, the leaves get burnt. This happens to the hedge, but camellias in more sheltered places do not have this problem. Camellia japonicas have smaller oval leaves which do not tolerate wind as the leaf scorch but the Williamsii, a cross between Japonica and Saluensis have larger glossy leaves and are more resistant. I planted another mixed variety of camellia hedge 2 years ago along with Rugosa roses on the eastern side to replace a dead escallonia hedge but the camellias have not thrived, I am sure partly due to the wind as the pH is fine.

And now for the view from my window - I have the first snowdrops in the bottom beds, along with Hellebores. The white H Niger are almost finished but the pink rimmed "H x hybridus Harvington picotee" and purple "H x hybridus Harvington Shades of the Night" are coming into full flower with a Bergenia. A large clump of these were here when I arrived but last year I decided they needed to be replaced by something more interesting so my niece now has them. I replaced them with thalictiums of different types. Time will tell in the spring how these are doing. Small cyclamen are on the wall beside the house and buds of early daffodils are almost opening. Beside the roses there are flowers on a day lily, kaffir lily, antirrhinum, dianthus and knautia. About half the different types of camellia in the garden are in flower. The autumn flowering Camellia Susanqua, with its simple perfumed single white rimmed with pink flower, is now finishing. In the shelter of next door on the west side I have two Clematis Cirrhosa bought from the RHS, Wisley Cream which is in full bloom and Advent Bells also full of flowers but due to the pink/purple colour not as eye catching. On the roadside I planted 2 Cirrhosa Jingle Bells to cover the new fence which are no way as spectacular due to wind damage. The Cirrhosa Clematis is a Group 1, evergreen and they flower November to March. I did have another variety, Freckles, again excellent but at 25 years, this died last year. They need little attention and grow to about 3.5 meters.



Next time, I will tell about how the large herbaceous borders have been created/enlarged and how new more interesting plants have been added.

# Thurlestone Bay Birds

## Bird Race Day

A new year and most certainly more severe Coronavirus lockdown restrictions which are going to impact everyone. Thankfully, 1st January arrived and our restrictions were those in Tier 3 which enabled visits to be made to local Devon Birdwatching sites.

All keen birdwatchers look forward to the 1st January with anticipation of what the year will bring and in particular starting their 2021 list of species seen. Having not had any visitors over the festive period for the first time in 55 years there were no reasons for not having an early start - this year the objective was to see how many species could be recorded on the day in the South Hams area.

A cold and frosty morning found me on the balcony at 08.00 for a 30 minute watch - this produced 21 species including: CHIFFCHAFF, GREEN WOODPECKER, KESTREL, GREENFINCH, as well as the more common garden birds.

A quick visit to the Sewage Works area at South Milton Ley added WREN, PIED WAGTAIL, WATER RAIL, GOLDCREST, JAY, SPARROWHAWK, SNIPE and GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER.

Driving through the lanes to South Huish Marsh added COLLARED DOVE, STARLING, YELLOWHAMMER and BUZZARD.

On the Marsh were large flocks of WIGEON, TEAL, MALLARD and CANADA GEESE, 4 SHOVELER, LITTLE GREBE, a MUTE SWAN (only survivor of last year's cygnets), SKYLARK, SONG THRUSH and a female BLACK REDSTART.

On the rocks TURNSTONE and ROCK PIPIT were seen, whilst offshore, in addition to the GULLS, were 9 RED THROATED DIVER, 2 GREAT NORTHERN DIVER, KITTIWAKE, GANNET, SHAG and CORMORANT.

Our next visit was to the Kingsbridge Estuary whilst the tide was out. On the mudflats we found: 70 BRENT GEESE, SHELDUCK, RED BREASTED MERGANSER, LITTLE EGRET, HERON, REDSHANK, GREENSHANK, DUNLIN and CURLEW.

Next visit was to Slapton Ley which traditionally in winter holds up to 1,000 water birds - probably over 500 COOT, 200 TUFTED DUCK, a pair of RING NECKED DUCK (a rare visitor from North America), GOLDENEYE, GADWALL, POCHARD, COMMON GULL and MEDITERRANEAN GULL.

A short stop at Gara Bridge LONG TAILED TIT, MARSH TIT and JAY were spotted.

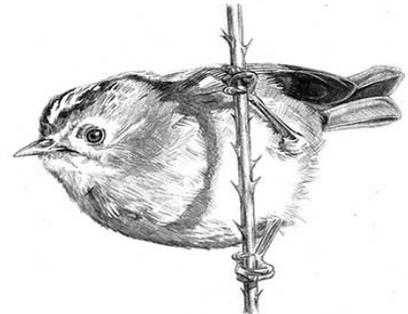
Finally, in fading light, we finished at Dartington Hall where a flock of 150 CHAFFINCH, MISTLE THRUSH and GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER brought our day trip to a satisfactory conclusion.

The total number of species we recorded was 78, a very enjoyable day with Anne to celebrate our 55th Wedding Anniversary.

Writing this on the 8th January, the total species recorded has increased to 107 which gives you some indication of the varied bird life we have on our doorstep. Looks as though the next few months my visits are going to be restricted to the nearby coast, but there are always birds to be watched and heard.

Keep safe, keep healthy and enjoy your local surroundings.

**Mike Passman**      [thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk](http://thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk)



Goldcrest - our smallest British bird

# Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email:

[cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk)

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 8  |    | 17 |    | 15 |    | 22 |    | 9  |    | 12 |    | 6  |    |    |
| 22 | 21 | 22 | 2  | 10 | 6  | 21 |    | 5  | Q  | 21 | 16 | 7  | 26 |    |
| 23 |    | 21 |    | 23 |    | 12 |    | 21 |    | 18 |    |    | 9  |    |
| 1  | 23 | 17 | 9  | 11 |    | 25 | P  | 20 | 9  | 10 | 9  | 15 | 10 |    |
|    |    | 24 |    |    |    | 1  |    | 6  |    |    |    |    | 7  |    |
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|    | 13 | 20 | 2  | 11 | 11 |    | 14 | 16 | 8  | 17 | 16 |    |    | 11 |

## CODEWORD

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

Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

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

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

## Sudoku - Fiendish

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

## Sudoku - Fiendish

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

*There were 6 correct entries last month. First out of the hat to win the coveted bottle of wine is Lindy Price. Commiserations to Dave Gibby, Neill Irwin, Pauline Lonsdale, Mick Nixon and Susan Penwell.*

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# **Thurlestone Golf Club**

## **Flowers in the rough - Increasing biodiversity at Thurlestone Golf Course**



'Golf is a day spent in a round of strenuous idleness'; William Wordsworth is reputed to have said. Whilst he is, perhaps, better known for wandering through the Lake District than across golf courses, his expression of joy at encountering that famous 'host of golden daffodils' has helped define a picture which is quintessentially British. Flower-rich, diverse landscapes not only fill 'the heart with pleasure', as Wordsworth reflects, they sustain our pollinator insects and create important habitat for a wider range of wildlife.

Thurlestone Golf Club has recognised the two-fold value of enhancing biodiversity on the course; looking to improve both the wildlife value of some of the 'rough' as well as adding to the enjoyment of players and walkers. To that end, they are investing in some professional input from experienced local ecologist, Fiona van Es, who, as part of her broad portfolio, has been advising golf course owners on conservation management through her consultancy work for David Bellamy over the last twenty years.

Whilst a host of golden daffodils or some other colourful ornamental flowers could be planted to brighten up the golf course, these wouldn't necessarily bring the greatest wildlife benefits nor be the most sustainable option in such an exposed spot. Coastal grassland is, in fact, one of our most important habitats, supporting specialised plant, insect and other invertebrate communities as well as providing habitat for ground nesting bird species. All these aspects must be considered within the recreational context of the site. Historically, coastal areas like this would have been managed by grazing; resulting in a mosaic of micro-habitats, but this is not a practical option for a busy golf course!

The approach being taken at Thurlestone is to let nature inform the process. In the first instance, two test scrapes have been created, removing a small area of vegetation and top layer of soil, exposing bare earth and, hopefully, a dormant seed bank. This will be monitored over 2021 to see what has survived under the thick layer of increasingly coarse grasses. These findings will inform the next stage; potentially introducing additional wildflower seed, ideally from local sources. Hand in hand with this work, we will be exploring ways in which links can be made with other organisations with related interests. Buglife, a national charity championing invertebrate conservation, is very interested in the project and how it can help support some of our rarest native bees. Likewise, South Devon AONB and the National Trust have related projects where joined-up thinking has the potential to benefit all parties.

So, if you are walking the golf course over the spring and wonder why some of the roughs look a little threadbare, take heart. You are witnessing the beginning of an investment which will hopefully return 'wealth' which would not only gladden the heart of a poet but enrich the experience of a round of 'strenuous idleness' and, vitally, support some of our most threatened wildlife.

**Thurlestone Golf Club**

# Eating Out Locally



## The Village Inn, Thurlestone

It's appreciating all the little things that somehow helps us get through the big things. During lockdown, it's been against the rules to eat out anywhere but, if a meal prepared in another kitchen eases the obligation to stay at home, there are meals to take away from local restaurant kitchens that bring welcome variety to your plate. And you only have to go as far as The Village Inn to get it.

First, make a call to 01548 563525, talk to friendly people and place an order. The meal you choose will be ready for collection when you pop over there, at an agreed time.

Oh, before you go out, have your table ready. Warm the dinner plates and, yes, why not light a candle. Once you've picked up your meal, you can drive home and serve it within minutes. It will be hot, tasty and the portions generous enough for you to feel satisfied, whatever your age. You may even find there's enough to serve for lunch the following day.

A pizza from the Village Inn is well worth trying. Choose from the list on their well thought out menu. I know, it's a hard choice! Mine was their vegetarian one – moist and flavoursome. The thin based pizza was topped lavishly with a selection of, mostly, Mediterranean vegetables and a mild goat's cheese. The best I've had for a long time.

Take-home Fish and Chips is a winner when well done and The Village Inn does it well. That means battered fresh fish, with crisp skin-on chips that are gold in colour. As for peas, fresh, frozen, or mushy are all good, but The Village Inn does frozen - plump, bright green peas. Fresh lemon and tartar sauce complete the fish'n'chip dinner that you don't have to do a thing towards making.

There's more for you discover for yourselves. Take a look at their website or just make a call about other hot dishes that make perfect carry-home dinners. Burger lovers won't be disappointed. Takeaways are available on Fridays and Saturdays 5.30pm to 8.30pm and, for roast Sunday lunch from 12.00pm to 2.00pm. To place your order, call 01548 563525. View [www.thurlestone.co.uk/dining/the-village-inn](http://www.thurlestone.co.uk/dining/the-village-inn)

## Wild Artichoke, Kingsbridge

"Staying in is the new going out" says the Wild Artichoke, "well, for the time being." There's a little further to go for this take-away but, only as far as Kingsbridge. Take a look at which curries are to be had on the following Friday - each comes with rice and all else that truly belongs on a plate with curry. In the Wild Artichoke kitchen there's no cutting of corners.

If Saturday is your preferred night for eating out (at home), for deliciously well-balanced dinners and legendary desserts, WA's Saturday menus have so much of interest.

Wild Artichoke's Sunday roast dinner would keep you task-tied for hours if you were to make it yourself. Instead, get your order in by midnight on Friday for them to do it and, while you're on your call, agree on a time that you'll pick it up on Sunday.

Call mobile 07976 814530 or view [www.wildartichokes.co.uk/takeaway-wa](http://www.wildartichokes.co.uk/takeaway-wa)

**Vivien Stickland**

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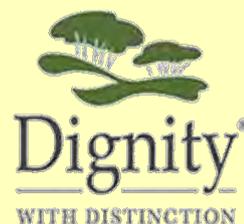
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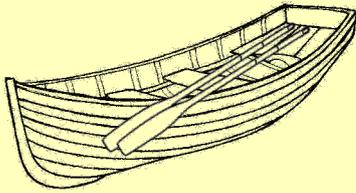
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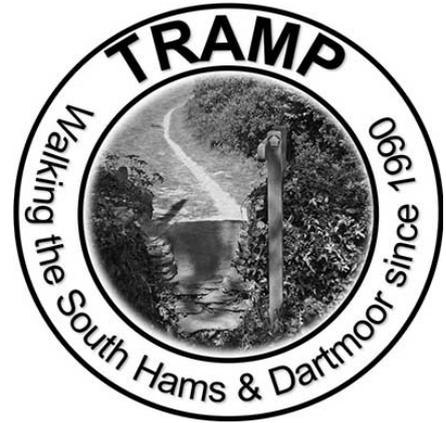
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# TRAMP Report

Dec 20 - Jan 21



## TRAMP - under significant restraints

Well, what a bumpy ride we are having (or should it be rough walk!)

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> last year I had to advise all our members that the balance of the programme for 2020 was cancelled. This was such a disappointment after the huge demand for limited walking places in October.

However, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, Alastair offered to organise a local Christmas Walk and lunch. This proved very popular and his report is included below.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, I optimistically distributed the 2021 programme to all members. This was to start on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Somewhat short-lived, on January 5<sup>th</sup>, I was obliged to postpone the 2021 programme until further notice as we were plunged into Tier 3 COVID-19 restrictions.

As I write this article on January 11<sup>th</sup>, I cannot see the restrictions on our walking group changing in the near future. Maybe when the days are warmer and spring has arrived we may be allowed to meet again.

In the meantime, our actions are clear – keep well, keep walking locally, keep fit and keep smiling about the reality that we live in such a wonderful part of the world.

The planned walks for 2021 are included on the next page. Complete your diary entries with optimism!

## TRAMP CHRISTMAS WALK - December 16<sup>th</sup>

Yes, we DID have a walk before Christmas and although it was not as we would have done normally, we managed to enjoy ourselves within the Tier 2 COVID-19 restrictions.

We had to make it local.... so 18 of us set off in groups of six from Court Park and walked past the church to join the coastal path to Bantham, then across the beach as the tide was out. We wanted to stop on the beach for our usual mulled wine and mince pies, but time prevented us as we were due at the Bantham Village Store at 12.30 where they had ready our pre-ordered food.

We arrived at the Store and were seated on tables of six outside but under cover which was amazing and we were all in great spirits by this time.... some had brought thermoses of mulled wine and others ordered the generous glasses of mulled wine provided by the Store. The food was great, ranging from homemade pasties to chilli with rice.... and we all were soon in the Christmas spirit of good cheer and goodwill!! We then walked back up the hill to Thurlestone and went our separate ways after wishing each other a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

**Alastair and Gill Durden**

# TRAMP 2021 Planning Calendar

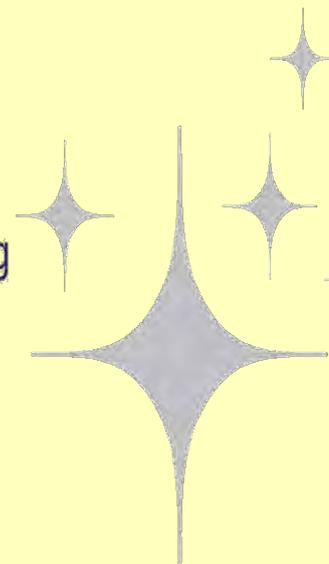
| Date      | Day   | Leader                      | Miles | Suggested route                              | Lunch          |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|--|----------------|
| Jan 4th   |       |                             |       |  |                |
| Jan 14th  | Thurs | Annie & Harry               | 5     | Belle Cross Rd, Kingsbridge & circular       | Dodbrooke Inn  |
| Jan 19th  | Tues  | Trisha Wilson               | 5     | Malborough and Salcombe                      |                |
| Jan 25th  |       |                             |       |  |                |
| Feb 1st   | Mon   | Tony Burn                   |       | East Prawle                                  |                |
| Feb 8th   |       |                             |       |  |                |
| Feb 15th  | Mon   | Wendy & Peter Gornall       |       | Snowdrop walk, Staverton                     | Sea Trout ?    |
| Feb 22nd  | Mon   | Vanessa Barton              | 5     | Aveton Gifford/Loddiswell circular           |                |
| Mar 2nd   | Tues  | Alastair & Gill Durden      | 5     | Dartington Estate circular walk              | Green Table    |
| Mar 8th   | Mon   | Rolf & Viv Burnie           | 5     | Gidley Bridge and Avon Dam                   |                |
| Mar 15th  | Mon   | Sheila & Graeme Fairley     | 5     | Diamond Jubilee walk from Little Dartmouth   |                |
| Mar 24th  | Wed   | Annie & Harry               | 4     | Malsters Arms, Tuckenhay circular            | Malsters Arms  |
| Mar 30th  | Tues  | Trisha Wilson               |       | Avon Mill via Reads Farm                     |                |
| Apr 8th   | Thurs | Mike & Sian Hodges          |       | TBA - local walk                             |                |
| Apr 12th  |       |                             |       |  |                |
| Apr 21st  | Wed   | Jill Miller                 |       | Noss Mayo and 9 mile drive - anticlockwise   | Ship Inn       |
| Apr 26th  | Mon   | Liz & Peter Coates          |       | W.Buckland - Avon estuary                    | Sloop          |
| May 3rd   | Mon   | John & Priscille Braithw'te |       | Stokenham to Beesands and return             |                |
| May 10th  | Mon   | Alastair & Gill Durden      | 5     | Shaugh Bridge to Cadover Bridge              | Picnic ??      |
| May 17th  | Mon   | Sue Dwyer                   | 6     | Down Thomas & Wembury                        | Mussel Inn     |
| May 24th  | Mon   | Neil Mackay                 |       | East Soar and Bolthead                       |                |
| June 1st  | Tues  | ???????????                 |       | Summer evening pub walk                      | TBA            |
| June 7th  | Mon   | Wendy & Peter Gornall       |       | Dittisham                                    | Ferry Boat Inn |
| June 15th | Tues  | Vanessa Barton              | 6     | South Brent / Corydon Ball circular          |                |
| June 21st | Mon   | Richard Swann               | 5.5   | Haytor, Houndtor & Saddle Tor                | Picnic         |
| June 28th | Mon   | John & Priscille Braithw'te |       | Tuckenhay. Malsters Arms circular            | Pub            |
| July 5th  | Mon   | Gareth Scott                | 7     | Plymouth Waterfront                          | Picnic ??      |
| July 15th | Thurs | Alastair & Gill Durden      | 6     | From Cross Furzes & past Avon Reservoir      | Picnic ??      |
| July 23rd | Fri   | Liz & Peter Coates          |       | Bolberry Down/Hope Cove (western circular)   | Oceans Rest't  |
| July 30th | Fri   | Mike & Sian Hodges          |       | "Letter box" walk on Dartmoor                |                |
| Aug 3rd   | Tues  | Claudette Uff               | 6/7   | Meet at Chillington Village Hall at 10.30    | Picnic         |
| Aug 11th  | Wed   | Christine Wilson            |       | Mountbatten circular                         | Café           |
| Aug 16th  | Mon   | Neil Mackay                 |       | Wistmans Wood and Dartmoor                   |                |
| Aug 23rd  |       |                             |       |  |                |
| Aug 30th  | Mon   | Richard Swann               | 6     | Lustleigh Cleeve                             | Picnic         |
| Sept 6th  | Mon   | Declan Dwyer                | 6     | Wembury to the Warren                        | Odd Wheel      |
| Sept 13th | Mon   | Eric and Liz Candy          | 4.5   | Noss Mayo and 9 mile drive - clockwise       | Ship Inn       |
| Sept 20th | Mon   | Linda Scott                 | 7     | Hope Cove, South Milton Ley                  | Picnic ??      |
| Sept 27th | Mon   | Rolf & Viv Burnie           |       | TBA  |                |
| Oct 7th   | Thurs | Jill Miller                 |       | TBA  |                |
| Oct 11th  | Mon   | Eric and Liz Candy          |       | Cremyll Ferry and Mount Edgecombe            |                |
| Oct 22nd  | Fri   | Alastair & Gill Durden      |       | Strete to Dartmouth                          | Food festival  |
| Oct 25th  | Mon   | Jenny Webb                  |       | Hembury Woods, Dartmoor                      |                |
| Nov 1st   | Mon   | Tony Burn                   |       | Kingston and Ringmore                        |                |
| Nov 8th   | Mon   | Sheila & Graeme Fairley     |       | TBA  |                |
| Nov 17th  | Wed   | Annie & Harry               |       | Bolberry Down - eastern circular             | Oceans Rest't  |
| Nov 24th  | Wed   | Anna & David Martin         | 5     | West Buckland and Avon Estuary               | Sloop          |
| Nov 29th  | Mon   | Jeremy Tucker               |       | Soar to Overbecks circular                   |                |
| Dec 6th   |       |                             |       |  |                |
| Dec 16th  | Thurs | Mike Stickland              |       | Christmas Walk. Xmas Lunch at Cottage Hotel. | Cottage Hotel  |

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# TRIED AND TASTED

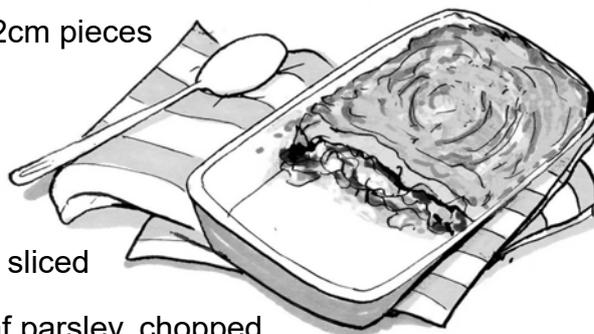
## Seafood Gratin with Caramelised Apples

From Rick Stein's Secret France

A wonderful, easy to make variation on the good old Fish Pie. Serves 6.

### SEAFOOD GRATIN

450ml fish stock  
400g white fish fillets, skinned and cut into 2cm pieces  
200g cleaned scallops  
400g raw prawns, peeled  
50ml white wine  
150ml whole milk  
100ml double cream  
50g butter  
2 leeks, cut in half lengthways, washed and sliced  
50g plain flour  
Salt and black pepper, small handful flat-leaf parsley, chopped  
80g Emmental cheese, grated  
50g Panko breadcrumbs (even Tesco stock them)



### CARAMELISED APPLES

3 or 4 dessert apples  
3 tbsp unsalted butter  
2 tbsp golden caster sugar

1. Bring the stock to a simmer in a pan, then add the fish fillets and poach for one minute. Add the scallops and poach for another minute, then the prawns for a final minute. Remove them all with a slotted spoon and set aside. Add the wine, milk and cream to the stock and bring to the boil.
2. Melt the 50g of butter in another large pan, add the leeks and cook for about 5 minutes until soft. Add the flour and stir well, then add the milk and stock mixture, a ladleful at a time. Keep stirring until all the liquid is incorporated and the sauce is smooth with no lumps. Bring the sauce to the boil, turn down the heat and leave to simmer for about 15 minutes. Preheat the grill.
3. Grease 6 shallow ovenproof gratin dishes or one large dish measuring about 30cm x 25cm. Add the poached fish, scallops and prawns to the pan and season with salt and pepper. Stir in the parsley, then transfer the mixture to the gratin dishes or dish. Mix the cheese with the breadcrumbs and sprinkle over the top. Grill for 10 minutes until golden brown.
4. If you've made the gratin in advance and let it cool, preheat the oven to 200C/ 180C fan and bake for 15-20 minutes until the top is brown and the filling is bubbling.
5. While the gratin is cooking, peel and core the apples and cut them into 2cm chunks. Melt the butter in a nonstick frying pan, then add the caster sugar and stir until the sugar has dissolved.
- 6 Add the apple chunks and stir to coat them in the butter, then cook for about 10 minutes until the apples have softened and are covered in a caramel sauce. Serve the gratin with the caramelised apples on the side and some good bread.

**TIPS** You can also use cooked or frozen seafood, such as prawns, scallops and lobster, if you like. Just add them to the pan with the poached white fish.

If you aren't feeding six, it freezes well.

# Weather Wag

During these last few days, the horizon of the sea in front of Beach Cottage has often been difficult to see. The reason - fog! East wind can often produce a surface mist across the sea and high pressure also assists this situation. So the Eddystone lighthouse has been hard to see, even the flashes at night have been invisible or blurred. Even the fog horn couldn't be heard. However, today 12<sup>th</sup> January, all is well, the sea is lumpy, wind is westerly, the atmosphere is sadly still very misty out at sea. But I should still be able to hear the fog horn if it is operating. All this brings the vital importance of lighthouses, lightships and bells to mind.

We, in this area, all know about Eddystone and its origins but there are many such systems all around the country. The one which is unique, and probably the earliest 'bell' warning system, is found off the north coast of Scotland. In 1804 a fierce gale hurled the 74 gun HMS York on to the Bell Rock with the loss of 600 lives. This incident, awful though it was, started off a line of men who were to change the fortunes of Mariners as a whole. This event was one of hundreds of shipwrecks on the Rock over the years. Most of these were Naval vessels! Parliament was in a frenzy and was furious with the Commissioners of the Northern Lights (they were not doing their job of looking after the shipping in the area). Bell Rock was named after the Bell that was fixed to the rock in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It had been removed by wreckers with dire consequences.



After the York disaster a Lighthouse was finally built in 1811. Robert Stevenson was the engineer responsible and his family were to go on to design and build 97 manned lighthouses between 1790 and 1940. These lighthouses are found along 6,200 miles of Scottish coastline - Muckle Flugga and Cape Wrath are just two.

Thomas Stevenson, another member of the family, was the first person to measure the force of an ocean wave using an invention of his own - 'wave dynamometer'. In winter, he discovered that the force can be 6,000lb per square foot. He also invented the Stevenson Screen, beloved of all weather observers. This slatted box on legs houses two thermometers, one to measure temperature, the other to measure humidity. The latter is the same instrument but has a water reservoir on the bulb at the end. As water evaporates it registers a lower temperature, the difference is the level of humidity.

As a family they worked on a wide variety of instruments including mirrored reflectors, giant lenses, coloured glass and clockwork (for turning their lights). Robert Louis Stevenson, son of Thomas, became a renowned author but he wrote:- 'Whenever I smell salt water I know that I am not far from the works of one of my ancestors'.

Local facts:- Yearly Rainfall in 2020 was 951mm

Yearly Rainfall in 2019 was 942mm

These measures roughly equate to 37inches, this is about average for this area. We are on the south western corner of the mass of Dartmoor and receive a certain amount of relief rainfall.

Hope this info is interesting to most of you. Please contact me if you want further clarification.

**Jan Turner**



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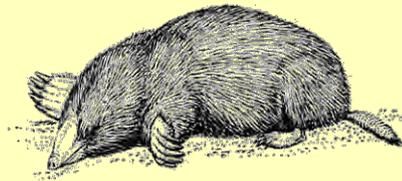


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# What we did on our holidays



I never really got the hang of October. Sure, it would start OK - still mellow with harvest festivals, warmish sea water and apple scrumping but somewhere in the middle they took an hour off your evening, the weather turned miserable and so, according to my wife, did I.

So, for the benefit of all, I started to take occasional trips to Spain for a couple of weeks of residential Spanish lessons, sun, seafood, subjunctive...

Then our youngest left for university and we found ourselves with an empty nest. Now October wasn't just miserable - it was too quiet! So this time we both went. We packed the car, hopped on the ferry and spent two months meandering down through France and the Spanish Mediterranean coast to spend winter exploring beautiful Andalucia. We were hooked!

So - what we did on our holidays this year? Um, we went to Spain.

Arrival in Javea 21st September 2020: air temperature 35, sea temperature 27, sun-cream factor 50, bliss factor 99.

Javea is Thurlestone-in-the-Sun; a lot of Madrileñan (Madrid owners) second homes, residential retired Brits and northern Europeans and, in Summer, a flood of tourists. You can get by without having to use your faltering Spanish although it's always fun to try ('Congratulations sir, you've just ordered a fried telephone book!'). There's great coastal and hill walking, restaurants and tapas bars galore and a local U3A with more sport and social activities than you can poke a stick at. So - what's not to like?

The town is backed by Montgo which, being nearly as high as Table Mountain, makes for wonderful hiking. It also creates a little micro climate, protecting us from cold north winds and making Javea one of the most northerly locations in Europe where wimps like me can wander around in shorts all winter. There are hills all around and to the south are a number of protected bays including Grenadella one of the prettiest in the country. Further south are lovely coastal towns of Moraira, Calpe and Altea.

Javea is divided into three distinct areas, each with its own appeal. There is the historic pueblo built a mile inland on a hill, with narrow cobbled streets leading up to the 14th century Church of San Bartolomé. The Port area is very popular, an active fishing port with little bars and restaurants along the waterfront and the side streets serving wonderfully fresh seafood, including the rare 'Red Prawn of Denia', which is caught in a deep underwater ravine between the mainland and Ibiza. Denia, by the way, is the larger coastal town to the north of Montgo (sometimes referred to as 'The Dark Side'). Then there is the Arenal, a semi circular sandy beach ringed by restaurants; very popular for family holidays and enjoying a lively nightlife. All three areas are connected by roads and bike lanes and are within an easy 10 minute ride of each other.

It's so easy to get around on foot or by bike that the car tends to spend most of it's time sulking down in the garage. Failing to pick up your wife from the airport due to a flat battery is VERY embarrassing!

We do walk and cycle a lot and take part in U3A activities like table tennis and badminton, which is quite fortunate because restaurants present an ever present temptation. Set menus range from 10 - 20 euros, typically including a bottle of wine and a complimentary aperitif. Food is generally cheap in supermarkets and the weekly fresh food market and a good (90+) bottle of wine can be bought from under 3 euros.

We have (of course) joined a quiz team and there's a weekly 'intercambio' cafe evening where British and Spanish people get together to learn each other's language and generally confuse the bejesus out of each other. Oh, that's a point - when you sneeze, Spanish people say 'Jesus!'. No idea why.

We haven't spent any time there in summer but have heard that crowds, tiger mosquitoes (half tiger, half mosquito) and sometimes the heat, can rather spoil the experience. Besides, at that time of year, where in the world is better than Thurlestone?

Our snowbird season has come to an early end this year. We've returned for the birth of our first grandchild - with quarantine and the increasing risk of flight and ferry cancellations, it made sense to leave sooner rather than later.

But next winter, if you find yourself strolling along the Arenal one balmy evening, come and join us for a sun-downer on the terrace!

**Frith and Graham Chadwick**



## DIARY DATES

### February

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Monday    | 1  | Parish Council Meeting, conducted remotely via Zoom 7.30pm   |
| Saturday  | 6  | Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm   |
| Saturday  | 20 | Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm   |
| Wednesday | 24 | Kingsbridge Arts Society 2pm conducted via Zoom - "Wonderful Things - The Treasures of Tutankhamun" with Eileen Goulding |

### March

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Monday    | 1  | Parish Council Meeting, conducted remotely via Zoom 7.30pm  |
| Tuesday   | 2  | TRAMP - Dartington Estate circular walk 5 miles - Alastair and Gill Durden  |
| Saturday  | 6  | Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm  |
| Monday    | 8  | TRAMP - Gidley Bridge and Avon Dam 5 miles - Rolf and Viv Burnie  |
| Tuesday   | 9  | Thurlestone Parish Hall AGM 6pm via Zoom  |
| Monday    | 15 | TRAMP - Diamond Jubilee Walk from Little Dartmouth 5 miles - Sheila and Graeme Fairley                                    |
| Saturday  | 20 | Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm  |
| Sunday    | 21 | CENSUS Day  |
| Wednesday | 24 | TRAMP - Maltsters Arms Tuckenhay Circular 4 miles - Annie and Harry   |
| Wednesday | 24 | Kingsbridge Arts Society 2pm conducted via Zoom - "How Napier became the Art Deco capital of the world" with Martin Lloyd |
| Sunday    | 28 | British Summer starts at 1am when clocks go forward 1 hour  |
| Tuesday   | 30 | TRAMP - Avon Mill via Reads Farm - Trisha Wilson  |

### April

- |          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| Friday   | 2 | Good Friday                            |
| Saturday | 3 | Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm |
| Monday   | 5 | Easter Monday                          |

All Events are subject to change due to the Coronavirus

# CONNECT CABS

## TAXI PRICE OFFERS

### **Thurlestone <==> Totnes Station**

Meter price typically £40 - My set price from £35

### **Thurlestone <==> Exeter Airport**

Meter price typically £110 - My set price from £90

### **Thurlestone <==> Bristol Airport**

Meter price typically £255 - My set price from £160

### **Thurlestone <==> Southampton Docks**

Meter price typically £355 - My set price from £240

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# CONTACT INFORMATION

## CLUBS & GROUPS

|  |                            |                  |             |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION</b>                 | Chairman                   | Stuart Watts     | 810373      |
| <b>BADMINTON CLUB</b>                                | Contact                    | Sian Hodges      | 07784893405 |
| <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>CIRCUIT TRAINING</b>                              | Contact                    | Sue Richards     | 07810751083 |
| <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

Emergency 999      Non-emergency 101

## RUBBISH COLLECTION - Wednesday

- Brown Bin (garden & food waste) alternate Wednesdays from 3<sup>rd</sup> February
- Blue & Clear sacks (recyclables) with the Brown Bin collection
- Black/Grey Bin (non-recyclable landfill) alternate Wednesdays from 10<sup>th</sup> February

## RECYCLING CENTRE - Torr Quarry Site, Totnes Road, Kingsbridge TQ9 7QQ T:0345 1551010

Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm, Sat - Sun 10.00am to 6.00pm (1st April - 30th September)  
Mon - Fri 9.00am to 4.30pm, Sat - Sun 10.00am to 4.30pm (1st October - 31st March)

## TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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

## LIBRARIES

Kingsbridge - Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1EB T: 852315 (closed all day Thur, Sun and Sat pm)  
Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall car park Wednesdays 10<sup>th</sup> Feb & 10<sup>th</sup> Mar 3.10pm - 4.00pm but temporarily suspended due to COVID.

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

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

For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see [www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable](http://www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable)  
For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233 (7.00am - 10.00pm)

Taxi Companies - Taxi-Mike (0771 4512516), Connect Cabs (07443 518087) - see adverts in this magazine

## 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                   |

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

Telephone (Payphone in foyer) 562189

Chairman: Vacant

Bookings: Diane Martin email: via Parish Website or directly on [tphbookings@gmail.com](mailto:tphbookings@gmail.com)  
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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  
Church Meeting Room Telephone 561246

**ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL** Executive Head Miss Lesa Garside 560494

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

|                           |                    |                 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Shop Opening Hours</b> | Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri | 8.00am - 5.00pm |
| Subject to change         | Wed                | 8.00am - 2.00pm |
|                           | Sat                | 8.00am - 2.00pm |
|                           | Sun                | 8.30am - 2.00pm |

|                          |                    |                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Post Office Hours</b> | Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri | 9.00am - 4.00pm  |
| Subject to change        | Wed                | 9.00am - 1.00pm  |
|                          | Sat                | 9.30am - 12.30pm |
|                          | Sun                | Closed           |

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**PUBS** The Village Inn (Thurlestone) - 563525 The Sloop Inn (Bantham) - 560489

**MILK DELIVERY** Dartmouth Dairy (R Bruckner & Son) 01803-832801

### **PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS**

- **Thurlestone Parish Hall**
- **Thurlestone Hotel (Garage)**
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- **Bantham Quay**
- **Buckland Phone Box**