# June - July 2023



Once again we witnessed a historical event the majority of us have never seen before, a coronation ceremony dating back 1000 years. To mark the momentous occasion, various groups in the parish laid on 3 days of events to bring the community together in celebration. Congratulations and an enormous thank you must go to all who gave their time to organise the events for our enjoyment and those who volunteered for the Big Help Out. Well done all! Thank you also to everyone who sent in photographs for our front cover, we've never received so many so found it difficult to choose but we think the final selection conveys the joyous and happy memories experienced by those who attended.

Thankfully the weather was dry when it needed to be. Our last edition may have been a bit premature, with its proclamation of spring arriving, as April certainly lived up to its showery reputation. The irony is now our reservoirs are practically full, a hosepipe ban has been imposed! The sun has finally started to shine, which can only mean one thing - everything will start growing madly in our gardens. The trials and tribulations of this can be found within the articles Our Garden, the Accidental Environmentalist and even one about composting. Here's to brighter days ahead.

For inspiration read about two young men of different generations who overcome adversity in their own ways. In Bookshelf there is a review of life as a WW2 prisoner of war. Elsewhere, read about a local lad dealing with a very serious illness in a surprising way, but the moral is the same - never give up.

As we approach half way through the year and the school holidays are on the horizon we wish all our readers a wonderful summer.

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#### June - July 2023

#### 41st Year of Publication

Issue No. 241

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# A Note From Your County Councillor

## **Rufus Gilbert**



Recent times have been very challenging for local authorities and government. I'm supposing that is unlikely to change in the near

future. As I write this note, we are in the final days of local elections and soon to enjoy the King's Coronation.

As regards the local elections you have plenty of candidates to choose from and by the time of reading, you'll have made your choice. Here are a few highlights of recent DCC times.

- The housing of our Ukrainian guests and getting their children in to school, on top of assisting the Afghans and Hongkongers has been difficult and continues to be so for DCC.
- 2) Covid-19. The winter did not see another major outbreak and the flu also seemed not to have been a major problem.
- 3) Scams are still proving a terrible blight and effecting some people horribly, right across Devon and the UK.
- 4) Highways. We had made headway in catching up with potholes and clearing drainage gullies but the winter rains and frosts have set things back. We hope to catch up again over the summer.
- 5) We now have a new Chief Executive and head of Children's services which should prove beneficial for all and not least the DCC budget.
- 6) Devolution deal for Devon to include Plymouth and Torbay at Level 2 has been agreed by the Minister subject to the business case being approved and parliamentary approval. This will assist in providing improved housing, public transport and investment opportunities.
- 7) The Plymouth & South Devon Freeport is now up and running well, with our new CEO and Chairman. Healthy interest is being shown in investing.
- 8) LEP's Local Enterprise Partnerships were dissolved recently by government with the role reverting to upper tier authorities (DCC in Devon's case) the primary reason being to make them more democratically accountable. They generally distribute government funds locally.

I wish you all a very happy and wonderful summer. From your Devon County Councillor of ten years. Take care. Rufus

What's it called when a king and queen have no children? *A receding heirline*.

Which king invented the fireplace? *Alfred the Grate.* 

Why did the king go to the dentist? *To get his teeth crowned.* 

#### **Notes from Parish Council Meetings**

The most recent Parish Council meetings are summarised below. The detailed minutes can be seen online at <u>www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/meeting-information</u>

#### Meeting held on Monday 6th March at Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Jill Munn (Chairman), Sue Crowther, Paul Gunning, Rosa Lewis, Adam Ryan-Carter, Gill Stone, Sian Williams. In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long, and 21 members of the public. Apologies: County Cllr Rufus Gilbert

#### **Open Forum**

Concerns were raised about an agricultural barn near Bantham and the need for a site meeting is to be suggested to South Hams District Council (SHDC). Further discussions were held about the impact of West Buckland planning applications on the lane to Bantham and about the applicant's response regarding proposed plans for the Coronation boathouse and the cliff face nearby.

#### **Clerk's Report**

Quotes have been requested to repair the raised pathway in Thurlestone and proposed sites/dates/times for speed checks have been provided to Devon County Council Highways.

#### **Parish Matters and Councillor Reports**

Coronation celebration plans were discussed.

Cllr Lewis is to represent the parish council in Kingsbridge Town Council plans to further investigate options to serve villages affected by the cessation of weekend bus services.

Cllr Gunning's report for the Police and Crime Commissioners Councillors' advocate scheme included details about a growing number of thefts of bikes and mopeds in the South Hams, numerous reports of dogs worrying livestock and a rise in graffiti plus an increase in drug use and the mysterious uprooting of road signs in the area.

#### **Planning and Tree Matters**

0401/23/HHO, 2 Leonards Close, Thurlestone, proposed landscaping work, including widening pathway to side of property, creation of sunken garden area, construction of replacement retaining walls and raised beds **OBJECT.** 

2605/22/FUL, Coronation Boathouse, Bantham, READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans & additional information) Proposed conversion of first floor into holiday let & cliff stabilisation works (part retrospective) **OBJECT.** A request was made for the planning application to be taken to committee if the planning officer is minded to approve. 2602/22/LBC, Coronation Boathouse, Bantham, READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans & additional information) Listed Building Consent for proposed conversion of first floor into holiday let & cliff stabilisation works **OBJECT.** 

0856/23/FUL, Summerstrand, Eddystone Rd, Alteration to existing garage to form ancillary accommodation (resubmission of 2614/22/FUL) **OBJECT.** 

0816/23/HHO, 12 Court Park, alterations & extension to existing bungalow - Reduced extent of works **SUPPORT.** 

1102/22/TCA, 11-13 Parkfield, Thurlestone, Elm - Coppice due to proximity to footpath & road and Dutch Elm Disease.

2786/20/FUL, Bantham Estate, Erection of new agricultural store. Request by Cllr Stone for councillors to consider if any further response is required to their submission of 15th March.

#### SHDC Planning Decision

0219/23/COM, Old Rectory Cottages, Thurlestone. **Objection, recommended refusal.** 

#### Annual Meeting held on Monday 3rd April at Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Jill Munn (Chairman), Sue Crowther, Paul Gunning, Rosa Lewis, Adam Ryan-Carter, Gill Stone, Sian Williams.

In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Rufus Gilbert, District Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long, and 21 members of the public.

#### **Chair's Report**

Cllr Munn reviewed the past year's events and looked forward to the Coronation celebrations in the parish. She noted that an environment group had been formed with the planting of the first wild meadow and thanked the 'unsung heroes' including the Telephone Box Committee, Parish Hall Group, Mr Paul Martin, the website team and all who look after the website, the graveyard and parish paths and those who are involved with the Village Voice.

#### **Councillor Reports**

Cllr Gilbert spoke of the challenges presented by the housing, schooling and support given to Ukrainians, Afghans and Hongkongers, Avian flu, IT and other 'scams' and how although there had been headway made with Highways repairs the winter rains and frost had set things back. He also commented that it had been the most difficult year setting the County Council budget but hoped that the Devolution deal for Devon would mean improved housing, public transport and investment opportunities. He advised that the Buckland to Bantham road is due to be dressed in the coming year.

Cllr Pearce reported on the District Council schemes that had helped residents who had found themselves financially challenged with the cost of living crisis. She too mentioned the 200 Ukrainians who had come to live with local households in the district council area. Other district council matters she highlighted included conservation, neighbourhood plans, better service delivery, changes to council tax for short-term letting and second homeowners and the building of employment units and the first council houses for two generations.

Cllr Long reported that the new bin service had stabilised with targets being met.

#### Meeting held on Monday 17th April at Thurlestone Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Jill Munn (Chairman), Sue Crowther, Paul Gunning, Rosa Lewis, Adam Ryan-Carter, Gill Stone, Sian Williams. In Attendance: Kathy Harrod (Parish Clerk), District Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long, and 2 members of the public. Apologies: County Cllr Rufus Gilbert

#### Open Forum

A question was raised regarding commenting on open SHDC panning applications and it was confirmed that any comments can be submitted up to the point of determination.

#### **Planning and Tree Matters**

1018/23/CLE, Summer Cottage West Buckland, Certificate of lawfulness for existing implementation of planning permission 1890/19/FUL for the construction of a new dwelling, development works undertaken include the construction of a foundation trench on the southern boundary of new dwelling & trench extends from the eastern boundary of the existing dwelling which will be demolished.

## No Councillors in the room were able to provide factual evidence to support or refute the claim, this information will be submitted to SHDC.

1059/23/HHo,2, North Upton Barns, Bantham, application for a proposed outbuilding (resubmission of 4482/22/HHO) 11/5. **SUPPORT.** 

2643/22/VAR, Thurlestone Hotel, review of additional technical information.

TPC have reviewed the additional technical information but have resolved to stand by their original objection.

0793/23/HHO, The Paddocks, Cross Park, Thurlestone, renovations & extension. 18/5 **SUPPORT.** 

#### SHDC Planning Decision

4393/22/HHO, Članacombe Lodge, West Buckland. **Conditional Approval.** 4405/22/HHO, 24 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, 0412/23/HHO, 21 Mead Lane, Thurlestone. **Conditional Approval.** 

#### **New Parish Council**

In the local elections earlier this month there were 4 nominations for councillors to Thurlestone Parish Council. Since there are 7 positions available there was no need for a vote and all 4 candidates have become councillors - Rosa Lewis, Gill Stone, Adam Ryan-Carter and Eric Palmer. All except Eric were on the council previously and so we asked him to tell us a bit about himself...

I was born and bred in Thurlestone and the third generation to live at Whitley Farm after my Somme veteran grandfather moved here from Wembury in 1933, his oldest daughter Helen married my father Wilfred in 1966, moving from his smaller farm at Blackawton and I took over the farm in 1999 aged 30, when my late father fell ill.



I went to Thurlestone Primary, Kingsbridge Comprehensive and joined the farm by 15 although I completed an HND in agriculture by my late 20s at Seale Hayne college at Newton Abbot whilst still running the 300+ acre farm.

I have a son who is nearly 15 and lives with his mother near Malvern and my partner is also a farmer who manages her 500-acre farm near Norwich... it's a long-distance relationship but we work..and work!

I'm passionate about farming, tractors, music, people and politics! I'm particularly interested in the unique place agriculture sits within our economy and its importance as a primary industry that sometimes is undervalued by the seats of power.

I'm excited to be joining my parish council after years of watching from the side-lines and will strive to be a part of the team actively shaping the future of our village. As a 'local' I'll be bringing a lifetime of local area and village knowledge to compliment the current team and will be more than happy to provide open opinions on current and future topics that affect your parish.

Looking forward to meeting with you all, Eric.

#### THURLESTONE, WEST BUCKLAND & BANTHAM PARISH COUNCIL-NEEDS YOU!



Could this be you?

#### PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Parish Council has 3 Councillor vacancies and would like to co-opt new members as soon as possible, meaning no election is required.

We meet in the evening once a month, generally the first Monday of the month, and hold 11 meetings per year (no meeting in August).

If you are interested in becoming involved in local decision making and helping to shape the future of Thurlestone, West Buckland and Bantham Parish PLEASE consider applying... We would love to speak to you.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2023

Applications must be submitted to the Parish Clerk, Katharine Harrod, at Thurlestone Parish Council at <u>thurlestoneparish@gmail.com</u> and if you have any questions please **contact the Parish Clerk** on - 07704 941150

#### Vacancy for PARISH CLERK / RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

**Thurlestone Parish Council** is also looking for a new Clerk. This is a part-time post, currently 7hrs/week. Starting salary depending on qualifications and experience.

The Clerk organises and attends our monthly meetings held in the evening, on the first Monday in each month at 7.30pm where possible (11 meetings a year as no meeting in August), produces the agendas and minutes, acts on the Council's decisions and handles all correspondence. This requires excellent communication, administration and IT skills. In addition, the Clerk manages the budget, financial accounts, and prepares the accounts & governance statement for audit. Prior relevant experience an advantage.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 16th JUNE 2023

#### For further information and/or a job description please contact Katharine Harrod on 07740 941150

If you are interested in applying for this position, please provide a cover letter and CV to Katharine Harrod – thurlestoneparish@gmail.com

# **Puzzle Page**

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: <u>cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk</u>

14	15	16 F	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1		11	21	5	1		16	17	21	14	1	26
18		26		22		12		21		21		21
11	17	4	6	1		1	3	18	21	17		8
26		5		10		7		5		1		2
21	11	1	17	1	24	24		22	21	2	1	
2		1				21		21				6
21	2	9	21	6	21	<u></u>	1	16	16 F	1	5	1
13 H			0.4	1	0.1	13	1	10	10	22	5	26
	19	1	24	5		22	21	24	5	4	26	11
19							-		-	8		
19		24	Ŭ	26		26		6	- '	$  \vee$	<u>'</u>	4
19		21	6	4	1	18		1	21	15	1	24
10	21	17	8	20 8	23	25	21	26	5	4		2

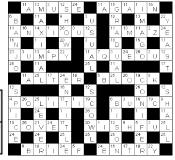
#### CODEWORD

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

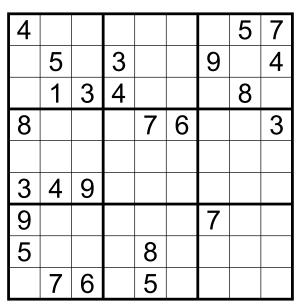
Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

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

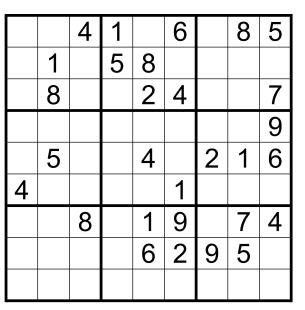
Answer to last puzzle.



#### Sudoku - hard



#### Sudoku - medium



There were 8 all correct entries last month.First out of the hat and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Dave Hayward. Commiserations to Dave Gibby, David and Mary Horne, Pauline Lonsdale, Neill Irwin, Vera Pailthorpe, Susan Penwell and Lindy Price.



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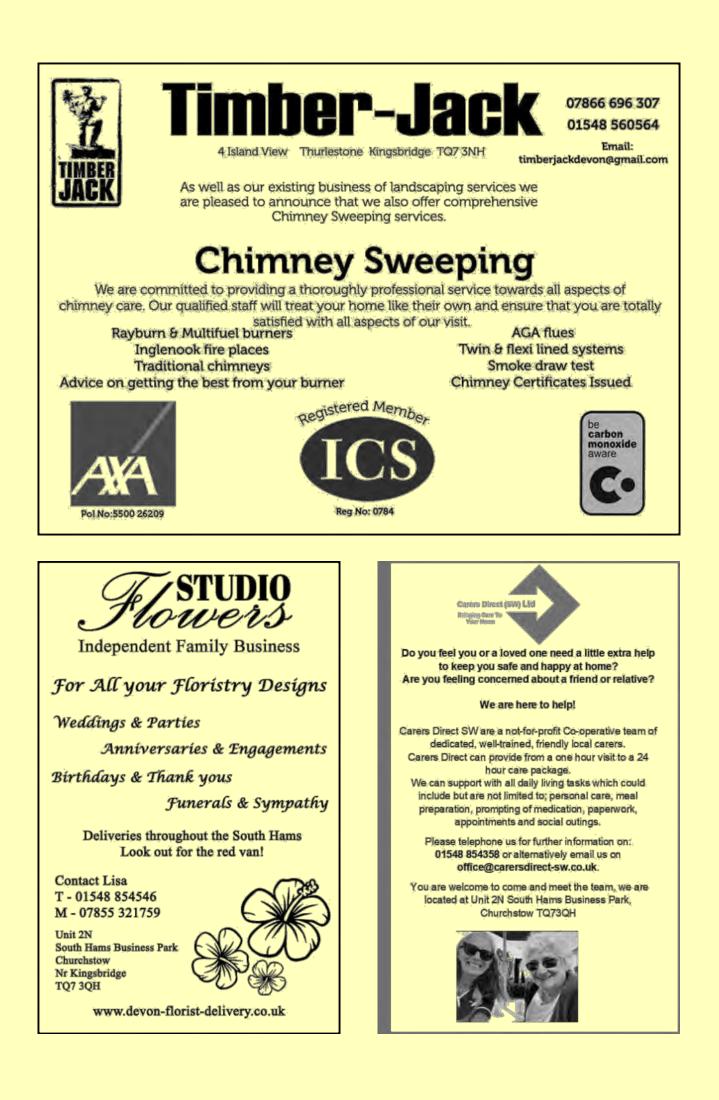
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# **Parish Hall News**

by Alison Daily



It has been a busy couple of months for the hall, with our new chairman and booking clerk settling in and the continuation of our quest to try out a variety of different events. The planters at the front of the building have now been planted courtesy of Sue Dwyer and Anna Burhouse and look wonderful. We shall watch with interest as they bloom throughout the year. Thank you both.

**31st March** saw our first **Games Night** with darts, skittles, pool and cards to name just a few, there was also a bar serving draught beer and wine. A good number turned up for friendly competition drink and a chat, creating a great social atmosphere. The evening was such a success it's being repeated on 24th June, so come along and join in.

**22nd April** the RTA film '**The Land of the Five Beaches**' was shown and was a lovely convivial evening with some of those featured (as well as descendants) in the film in the audience, which made for a very special and nostalgic evening. Again, there will be another film night as we still have the 'Village People' (no, not the group) filmed in the 1960s to show. So look out for this in the coming months.

6th May brought the big event of the year, King Charles' Coronation. Our aim was to provide a venue for parishioners to come together to enjoy this historic and momentous occasion and create memories of the day. We started with tea, coffee and a superb variety of delicious cakes kindly baked by committee members and parishioners, including one decorated as the Union Jack using berries and another a feat of engineering (as can be seen on the front cover). During the 1000 year old ceremony the audience sat in such rapt attention you could have heard a pin drop. Once the formalities were over, we held our own crowning performed by Paul Martin to a great cheer from the crowd. It was then time to celebrate with food and wine aplenty. Once again, many kind villagers made various guiches, including the official Coronation quiche (yes Gill does it again) which vanished within minutes. There were delicious pates, cheese, ham- the list could go on. All in all, our aim was achieved and everyone went home happy. Huge thanks to all those who made a contribution, the committee for their hard work in setting up the event and those who helped tidy away afterwards. Special thanks must go to Diane and Paul who decorated the hall so beautifully and Diane for the lovely flowers, it really set the scene, those who served as wine waiters and ensured all had a good time, Karen Barker and Gill Stone who both worked tirelessly throughout the day, I thank and salute you all.

We hardly had time to draw breath before the **Big Help Out** arrived on **8th May**, in spite of the miserable weather Caro and Matt bravely managed to weed all around the front of the building, there's dedication for you. Lovely Julia and Jo cleaned and tidied the kitchen so it looked very smart and then there was a large group who cleared, washed and sorted out the storage cupboard at the back of the hall. Thank you to all of you, we are very grateful for your time and effort.

A **Eurovision Party** was planned, but whilst not scoring "nul points" in interest it wasn't far off, therefore the difficult decision was made to cancel the event. You can't win them all. It was worth a try but onwards and upwards hopefully.

On to future events, on **30th May** our annual lively **Family Fun** evening takes place where, we are pleased to say, Aune Valley on the Road will be bringing their trailer along to tempt you with their delicious fayre. There will be a bar and lots of games for you to participate in with all the family. As this event is held outside, as well as in, we are keeping everything crossed for the weather but fear not there will be a contingency plan just in case.

As stated previously, **24th June** sees another games night, rebranded this time as a **Pub Night**, with more games to enjoy with all your friends. We hope to repeat the success of the last one with hopefully more of you joining us.

On **22nd July** we will be pleased to welcome the '**All Hands-on-Deck' sea shanty group** who are coming along to sing and entertain with songs of the sea, as well as tall tales and plenty of audience participation. It's a bring your own food and drink evening so all can relax, join in and have fun. There will be a bucket collection to raise funds for the **RNLI**, I'm sure you will all show your generosity. We look forward to your joining us so don't forget to book a table.

As you have read, we continue in our endeavour to bring a variety of entertainment to cover all tastes. In the next edition our autumn programme will be revealed and will hopefully feature a classical evening. Wishing you a good summer, let's hope the sun starts to shine.

Day	<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>	Contact for Price and Availability		
Monday	10:30 – 12:30	Stitch & Bitch	Sally – 01548 561356 Diane – 01548 560070		
	14:15 – 15:15	Yoga-Wise Warrior's	Saffron - 07840 788511		
	17:00 – 18:00	Yoga-Fitness	Suzi – 07557 334802		
Tuesday	09:00 – 10:00	Yoga	Sarah – 07879 627939		
	14:00 – 15:00	Power Hour	Suzi – 07557 334802		
Sept.to March	11:00 – 13:00	Art Class	Marianne – 01548 531413		
Wednesday	09:30 – 10:30	Pilates	Sharron – 07818 410017		
	14:00 – 15:15	Line Dancing	Sue – 01548 550348		
	18:15 – 22:00	Bridge	Lisa – 01548 560505		
Thursday	09:15 - 10:15	Yoga	Sarah – 07879 627939		
	13:30 - 14:30	French Lessons	Angela – 07749 493931		
	14:00 - 15:00	Pilates	Lara – 07765 423906		
	18:00 - 19:00	Yoga	Suzi – 07557 334802		
	19:30 - 21:00	Table Tennis	Paul – 07866 802800		
Friday Restarting in September	16:00 – 17:00	Badminton	Sian – 07784 893405		

#### Weekly Groups at the Parish Hall (June/July 2023)



Gail Critchlow 07889 628514

Liz Baker-James 07388 673228



# THURLESTONE HOTEL

#### **Twilight Spa at Thurlestone Hotel**

Relax and unwind in the evening with a wonderful Twilight Spa package.

Enjoy two hours usage of the Voyage Spa facilities and then indulge in a delicious dinner in either our Village Inn pub or the Trevilder restaurant.

Available Sunday to Thursday.

Twilight spa and the Village Inn £40 per person (includes a two-course dinner)

Twilight spa and the Trevilder £60 per person (Includes amuse bouche, three-course daily changing menu, petit fours and a glass of fizz)

To book please call 01548 560382 or email reception@thurlestone.co.uk Not available during school holidays and bank holiday weekends

#### **Sunday Lunch**

28th May and 25th June

Come and indulge in a delicious three course Sunday lunch in our award winning restaurant and enjoy stunning views of Thurlestone Bay.

£40 per person to include coffee.

To book please call 01548 560382 or email reception@thurlestone.co.uk

WWW.THURLESTONE.CO.UK 01548 560382

# VILLAGE NEWS ROUND-UP

#### Situation Vacant – Thurlestone

Thurlestone shop and post office is looking for additional staff to work in the shop. The position can be either full or part time with any number of hours, it will include weekend working and post office work. Please contact Sarah Tyers on 01548 561917.

#### **Bantham Swoosh**

This is an advance warning that the Bantham Swoosh will be taking place on Saturday 8th July, which means there will be an increase in traffic on the roads in and around the village. An experienced traffic management company has been employed to oversee any changes, road closures and disruptions in preparation for the event.

#### Missing Cat

Leeu the beautiful ginger coloured cat is still missing unfortunately, please keep a lookout. If you come across him please call Henry on 07899996737, which is also on the posters around the village, or the number on Leeu's collar.

#### 20 Years Service

March marked the anniversary of the Thurlestone Hotel's in-house florist, Linsay Johns, who has worked for the family and company for 20 years. Linsay doesn't just work in one department she also covers the kids' club, housekeeping, events and is responsible for the magical Christmas decorations they have every year. Congratulations Linsay.





AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

'Conserving the Devonshire Avon, from source to sea'

#### POLLUTION OF THE AVON BY SEWAGE WORSENS IN 2022

The discharge of sewage from 6 main treatment works into the Avon during 2021 and 2022 is tabulated as shown below. The situation is getting worse overall although South Brent WTW showed marked improvement in both a reduced frequency and shorter duration of discharges, whilst Aveton Gifford STW had no overflows during 2022. On the other hand, Diptford STW and Moreleigh STW were particularly bad with 43% and 96% increases in the frequency of overflows, and 212% and 113% increases in the duration of discharges, respectively.

## SOME COMBINED STORM OVERFLOW DISCHARGES INTO DEVON AVON \* (RIVERS TRUST DATA)

Site	2021 Frequency	2022 Frequency	% change	2021 Total hours	2022 Total hours	<u>% change</u>
Brent Mill CSO	26	24	-8	53	93	75
South Brent WTW	61	38	-38	1122	690	-39
Diptford STW	83	119	43	98	306	212
Moreleigh STW (Torr brook)	45	88	96	352	750	113
Loddiswell WTW	60	78	30	72	89	24
Aveton Gifford STW	7	0	-100	11	0	-100
Totals	282	347	23	1708	1928	13

\* Does not include many other minor inputs and Event Data Monitoring may be <90% accurate due to communications failure/issues

Clearly, SWW have some way to go before achieving the 'Waterfit' target quoted in their Water Resources Management Plan consultation of 2022 which states their goals as follows:

- 1. To nurture healthy rivers and seas.
- 2. To reduce our impact of rivers by one third by 2025
- 3. Put forward plans to target zero harm by 2030
- 4. To reduce spills from storm overflows to an average of 20 per year by 2025
- 5. To target zero serious pollution by 2025
- 6. To continue a year-on-year reduction in all pollution

#### **Stuart Watts May 2023**

The King wanted to go fishing and asked the royal weather forecaster the forecast for the next few hours. The palace meteorologist assured him that there was no chance of rain. So the King and Queen went fishing and on the way met a man with a fishing pole riding on a donkey. The King asked if the fish were biting. The fisherman replied 'Your majesty, you should return to the palace because soon I expect a huge rain storm'. The King replied 'I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard, he is educated and experienced and I pay him very high wages'. He told me that it was going to be dry and I trust him. The King continued on his way, however in a short time a torrential rain storm came and the King and Queen were totally soaked.

Furious, the King returned to the palace and gave the order to fire the meteorologist. Then he summoned the fisherman and offered him the job of royal forecaster. The fisherman said 'Your majesty I know nothing about forecasting, I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see my donkey's ears dropping, it means with certainty that it will rain'.

So the King hired the donkey. And thus began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions of government.





NEED HELP WITH YOUR DOG?

### Tails of Thurlestone

A dog walking service in Thurlestone, Bantham and South Milton



Tied up with school or work? Let me take care of your dog when you are busy. They will be happy and well looked after. I have lots of experience, am insured and DBS checked. I can provide dog walking or house visits.

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# Our Garden May 2023 by Sue Dwyer

Sitting here looking at the garden on May 3<sup>rd</sup> I feel in despair seeing my plants being battered in this strong NE gale. Nothing in either the borders or in the sheltered kitchen garden can escape. However I have just looked up my article from a year ago to find on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 my opening text complained about the strong east wind. So, there is hope as the garden survived last year's onslaught. Thankfully, yesterday I spent the day supporting vulnerable perennials by staking them with my system of using stock wire and link stakes which I talked about a year ago. Yesterday I also found large numbers of snails which have been duly removed and placed in the compost heap where hopefully they will break down the compost creating a fine mix for use in 18 months' time. Walking on the cliff each morning there are hundreds of snails and some large black slugs on the path. I do try and not step on them but I am amazed how the snails manage to climb up on several blades of grass so appear suspended as their heads bend down onto vegetation to feed. Walking along the path the colour of the flora is now changing from yellow to pink because thrift is starting to bloom on the cliffs.

I have great excitement walking around the beds each morning to see what has sprouted and hence survived the winter. Yesterday I saw a small green shoot arising from a Galtonia as well as shoots from Gillenia trifoliata. Inevitably some plants have died during the winter. We had two bouts of very cold weather before and after Xmas and despite having a good layer of compost for protection the few days of really low temperatures and night frosts caused their demise. I certainly have lost several salvias bought last year including the shrubby red Newbury Hall, a cerise Elmers Wish and a late flowering Phyllis Fancy are all now dead wood. However all have had cuttings taken and healthy plants from these are being hardened off in the kitchen garden as replacements.

As usual I collected seed last year from various plants to sow early in my propagator. I bought 3 Galtonia candicans plants last year having seen these elegant specimens at the RHS garden Rosemoor last July. They were in flower when they arrived. They are a perennial bulb, commonly known as the summer hyacinth, with narrow lance-shaped grevish-green leaves and slightly fragrant conical racemes, bell-shaped white flowers up to 5cm in length in late summer. The Galtonia plants were planted in the middle of the main border as they grow to about 1.2 m in height. Each flower produced a seed pod so I dried them and sowed them in the propagator in January and some weeks later small green shoots appeared. These seedlings are now 10cms tall and need to be potted on in the next few days and should flower in about 4/5 years. I have several bearded iris and agapanthus in my kitchen garden raised bed which I have grown from seed. They all flowered in about 3 years and I really should have planted them in the main garden by now. This is a must do job when they finish flowering.



**Galtonia Candicans** 

Like so many of our plants Galtonia originate in South Africa and Lesotho, both places I have visited. One rather unusually cold day just after Xmas I was taken to the Drakensberg Mountains in South Africa up the Sani Pass into Lesotho where there had been snow during the night. This added to the excitement of the 4x4 jeep ride but at the top, emerging through the snow were lovely flowers of all colours. I was warmly wrapped up but the locals were wearing underpants, welly boots and wrapped themselves in just a blanket. The villagers were distressed as one of their main sources of income is wool from their Angora sheep. The unexpected cold spell with snow had caused a significant number of the lambs to die. My guide's father negotiated the sale of their wool in South Africa and so knew the villagers well. The Drakensberg is a wonderful place to go walking especially from November to February and see plants we love in their native setting. Certainly, I have seen crinums, eucomis,

amaryllis, Red-hot pokers, osteospermums and many more growing in South Africa. They are now common in the UK.

On the RHS website pondering through spring flowers about Xmas time I saw a bulb named Cardiocrinum or Himalayan Iily which shoots a flower spike up to 3m in height. However, one bulb cost £20 so I resisted the urge to buy. However, in February there was a sale and the same bulb was £9.99 so I cannot resist a bargain and bought one. When the bulb arrived I have never seen such a specimen. It looked like a woody fir cone, about 12cm in diameter and 20cms in height. This was planted in the small woodland area at the bottom of the garden and about 2 weeks later a green shoot emerged which is now 50cms tall with lovely fresh green large oval rounded leaves. This specimen came with a note that this should flower this year but no guarantee. After that I have read that having flowered it will not flower again for another 7 years by which time, I will be ancient but here's hoping.

I am so pleased to see the Gillenia trifoliata again, it never fails. Gillenia are a really delicate herbaceous shrubby perennial which disappears from sight during the winter and then emerges as small reddish shoots in the spring. I have to mark where it is so that I inadvertently do not remove it tidying up during the winter. The plant grows to about 75cms as a small greenish bush with red stems and is covered in summer with small white star shaped flowers. As autumn approaches the leaves turn to red giving lovely autumn colour. To thrive this plant needs to be in a sheltered position in partial shade. I do have many varieties of perennial geraniums which vary from small ground cover plants to those which climb through surrounding plants. I have bought several Geranium phaeum varieties this year. I find the flowers are slightly different to others I have as the flowers are flat not cupped as others are. The set of the several geranium should be the several geranium of the several geranium phaeum varieties the several geranium phaeum to others I have as the flowers are flat not cupped as others are.



Gillenia Trifoliata

others I have as the flowers are flat not cupped as others are. The stamens are more prominent and the flowers stand more upright nodding in the breeze.

Last November we planted a new bed of Hybrid Tea roses, 'Silver Jubilee', 16 in all as bare rooted specimens. These were to replace the ones that had been there over 30 years and were removed 2 years ago. They thrived until about a month ago but now look pathetic, losing their foliage, with stems turning brown. We plan to remove all the dead material and hope they recover. So disappointing when everything seemed to be going so well.

Looking at the garden the late camellias are still in flower, and the pink rhododendron looks very colourful at the bottom along with the white flowered Mexican orange, Choisya, which is giving off a lovely perfume. I do have another small yellow rhododendron I bought at Stourhead 18 years ago but this remains small but does have nice perfume when in flower. However, I have read on the Burncoose website that the perfumed rhododendrons are short lived and very tender. Mine has survived but not thrived as I have to look for the plant each year. Bearded lilies are breaking their buds, more each day along the whole length of the west side of the garden, mostly in blue combinations. I have just purchased another for the east side called Iris 'Supreme Sultan', this should have yellow top petals and the fall petals should be mahogany, however the first flower has just opened and all petals are bright yellow! I will wait and see if the colour changes and how the other plants in the group flower. They are certainly not as strong as the well-established blue varieties in height or flower size, but it is their first year. Funnily at the weekend in the Times there was an article by Jo Swift from TV's Gardeners' World recommending various types of Iris and 'Supreme Sultan' was mentioned. The whole iris border has to be dug up and the rhizomes divided this year as this was done 3/4 years ago and to have vigorous plants this is essential. The best flowering plants at present are the early thalictrums, these never fail.

In the small greenhouse recently planted tomato plants are growing away. I have a mass of annuals I use to fill holes in the borders such as cleome, lavatera and gazanias hardening off but so far, the weather has been adverse to planting out. I just hope the weather improves so I can get up to date with weeding and planting out. Looking at all the buds on the dianthus, roses and clematis there will be a burst of colour in the next couple of weeks, the rugosa roses on my bottom hedge already has a few dark pink flowers but these are blown away with the strong winds. Happy Gardening.

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#### Sustaining Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone

#### **Composting Questionnaire**

A big thank you to everyone that filled out the composting (recycling green waste) questionnaire in the last Village Voice. We really appreciated it.

Of the 35 responses, 91% of people compost always or most of the time, which is great to hear, thank you! The two most popular ways of composting were at home in your garden composter, hotbox or wormery and via the council green waste bin scheme. Many people told us they regularly flex between home composting, the council green waste bin scheme and the local recycling centre.

The people who rarely or never compost were very honest and explained that this was because they were busy, were out of the habit or didn't feel confident about how to do this well. This was very helpful information and chimed with a wider interest to have an event to demonstrate how to compost easily and effectively. Other topics of interest for future events included meetings to think about the feasibility of setting up a local parish community compost site, gardening sustainably for insects and wildlife and making your home more energy efficient.

There was also general support from 20 people to explore the possibility of a local community composting site, with a further 8 people who might be interested in using it if it got off the ground. On the back of this interest, we will start to have conversations with other parishes in Devon that have taken this approach and will give feedback on any information we find out.

As a result of the survey results, the sustainability group have decided that their next step will be to set up an event on how to compost well. We look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

#### Wildflower Meadow Update

The sustainability group has been working hard to plant our first small area of wildflower meadow just outside the church walls. We are pleased to let you know that the seed has been sown and is showing signs of germination. The mix we have chosen was recommended by a local ecologist and is a mix of perennial and annual flowers and plants suited to our soil and local insect life. It will take time to get established, but these are the plants to look out for:

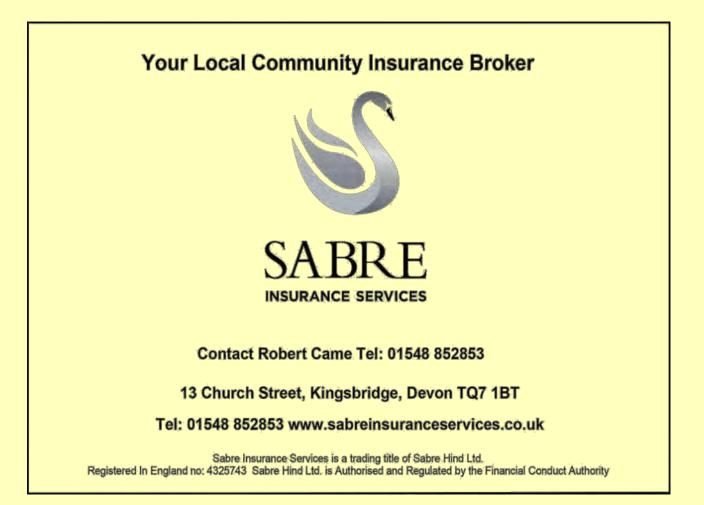
- Yarrow
- Common Knapweed
- Crosswort
- Wild Carrot
- Lady's Bedstraw
- Meadow Cranesbill
- Field Scabious
- Meadow Vetchling
- Oxeye Daisy
- Birdsfoot Trefoil
- Musk Mallow
- Black Medick

- Ribwort Plantain
- Cowslip
- Meadow Buttercup
- Yellow Rattle
- Common Sorrel
- Bladder Campion
- Corncockle
- Cornflower
- Corn Chamomile
- Corn Marigold
- Common Poppy

If you are interested in joining our sustainability group or have any ideas of what you think we should do next, then do contact Mike Hodges on <a href="mailto:mike2.hodges@btinternet.com">mike2.hodges@btinternet.com</a>.

Thanks so much.

#### The Sustaining Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone Group





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# **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> July 2023. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane,
 Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

#### A MEMORY TEST

Here are the initials from the beginning of some of those nursery rhymes that you (used to) know so well. Can you recall them?

Eg HDSOAW......Humpty Dumpty Sat on a Wall

1.	PPTKO
2.	LMMSOHT
3.	RACHTBC
4.	ОМН
5.	DDBPITW
6.	IRIPTOMS
7.	TTTPS
8.	HDDTCATF
9.	GPPAP
10.	WWWRTTT
11.	OKCWAMOS
12.	MMQC
13.	DFWTG
14.	SASOS
15.	JSWENF
16.	PACPACBM
17.	LBDDLG
18.	LJHSITC
19.	BBBS
20.	TWACM
21.	LBBCBYH
22.	TQOHSMST
23.	WKCR?
24.	PCPCWHYB?
25.	JAJWUTH
26.	HDDTMRUTC
27.	DDDMSJ
<u> </u>	

#### Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Tuna 2. Hot chocolate 3. Pears 4. Mussels 5. Brownie(s) 6. Sandwich 7. Chips 8. Swiss Roll 9. Goulash 10. Stuffing 11. Figs 12. Frozen Peas 13. Olive Oil 14. Sausages 15. Coronation Chicken 16. Porridge 17. Caesar Salad 18. Hot Pot 19. Cheese 20. Trifle 21. Salsa 22. Cold Turkey 23. Edam 24. Peking Duck 25. Smoothies 26. Parfait 27. Waffle.

There were 8 all correct entries last month. First out of the hat, and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Jo May. Commiserations to Mary Barons, Howard Dingley, Nigel Green, Katherine Harrod, Dave Hayward, Emma Hartley and David and Mary Horne.



#### FICTION ADDICTION - THURLESTONE'S NEW BOOK CLUB

In the December/January issue of Village Voice Alison Daily put forward the idea that we should have a new book club in the parish. Six people contacted her, an inaugural meeting was held and the important task of getting to know each other over a glass of wine and choosing a name ensued. Jane had discovered that Devon Libraries offer a book club service, for a reasonable annual fee. We had to put in an order for 24 books, chosen from their extensive list, for the year ahead so we were each tasked with choosing four and to our great surprise there was hardly any duplication. We are now provided with copies of a book from our order, all carefully coordinated with our meeting dates, but we do not know until they arrive which one it will be which somehow increases the anticipation.

Our first book was **The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid**. I had read it some years ago when my sister lent it to me and I had chosen it because I had found it an interesting, thought provoking read that I hoped would lead to a good discussion. I had been somewhat taken aback when I discovered our first book was going to be one I had chosen but I am glad to report that the group found the book worth the read and we did indeed have a lively discussion as I had hoped. It was short listed for the Booker Prize in 2007 and there are all sorts of articles, some academic, to be found if you go online but please don't let that put you off reading it. They are however an interesting "add on" after reading the book.

The book is short and takes the form of a conversation between Changez and an unknown American one evening in a cafe in Lahore but you only hear what Changez says. He is a Pakistani Muslim but he went to Princeton and then worked in the United States as a financial analyst. He talks about his life, the effect of 9/11 and why he is back in Pakistan. It is a thought provoking book about differences between cultures and how people change through their individual experiences. It can also be seen as an allegory of the relationship between the United States and Pakistan. As I said, the articles online are an interesting add on. To tell you more would spoil the read as it is a journey of discovery.

Our next book is very different, a psychological thriller, **My Lovely Wife by Samantha Downing** and the cover asks "How well do you really know the one you love the most?" We shall let you know what we think in the next issue.

#### Sally Martin

#### One Man's War by Bryan Evers

The introduction is written by Bryan's niece Jane Stanley.

Bryan Evers, a solicitor from Stourbridge, was deployed to France in early 1940 in the Anti-Tank Regiment Royal Artillery. In May, after coming under mortar fire, he was effectively given up for dead and his family notified he was killed in action. Obviously his recollection of this time is a bit hazy but he explains how he managed to get treatment and ended up being put into the first of many POW camps where he kept a diary on which this book is based. The reader is given an insight into the daily routines, the many moves from camp to camp, the varying conditions and how new skills were learnt. Bryan even managed to teach law to a couple of his fellow internees with great success. They occupied a great deal of their time planning escapes and carrying them out (unsuccessfully unfortunately) but they never gave up and this must have sustained them throughout their internment. I wonder if their captors knew about what they were up to but choose to ignore the planning and preparation because it kept the men occupied.

Although at times it makes for uneasy reading, it is a treasured record for his family of his 5 years of imprisonment. Many, including my own, do not have this privilege. If you have a love of history with a personal touch you will enjoy this book where the POWs' resourcefulness, courage and resilience shines through.

#### Alison Daily



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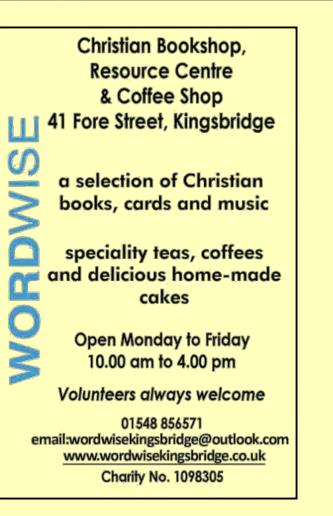
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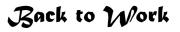
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In May we witnessed the marvellous celebration of the King's Coronation. It was a celebration on many different levels. An event that will be long remembered. When the Coronation weekend had come to a close, Charles and Camilla enjoyed a short break. A time to rest and recuperate. But after this break it was "back to work". Not only back to work for the King and Queen, but back to work for other members of the Royal Family. Duties and engagements were to be undertaken. Day to day life carries on.

This "back to work" moment isn't confined to the Royal Family. In many ways it is present for all of us. High days and holy days (and Coronations!) come and go. They provide an opportunity to recharge, to reflect, to search for the best in humanity. But when they are over, it's back to work and back to life.

In the Coronation Service much was made of Charles' calling, by God, to a life of service. God calls King Charles to a particular life, a calling that is unique. In time Princes William and George will be called to be King, but none of them will be called to be King Charles III. There is something unique about the calling of the man who is our new monarch because there is something unique about the calling of each of us. We are called, by God, to fulfil the potential that God has given to us. How we do this will depend on the circumstances and situations of our individual lives. The work that we undertake is the outward manifestation of this fulfilment. Who we are is constituted, in part by what we do. We cannot fulfil our calling to be human without actions that manifest the values that shape this calling.

It is tempting to define our lives by the "special moments", the high days and holy days, the celebrations of one sort or another. As important as these things are, they are no substitute for the living of one's life to the fullness of what God calls us to be. The day-to-day "work" of our lives provides the true opportunity for us to be who we are supposed to be. In this regard we are the same as our new King. His life is fulfilled not in the wearing of a crown, but in the many actions that embody what this crown means. After the celebrations are over, the real work begins. The real work for Kings, for Queens and for all of us who are called by God to be unique individuals in the service of his Kingdom.

Daniel Hartier



**Thank you** to everyone who has already contributed during this year's Christian Aid Week, whether by envelope or online. You can still donate in the Aune Valley Benefice e-envelope at

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#### Church Services

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	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)		
JUNE 11 <sup>™</sup> & 25 <sup>™</sup> ; JULY 9 <sup>™</sup> & 23 <sup>™</sup>	11.10am Morning Worship		
JULY <b>30</b> <sup>TH</sup>	9.00am Benefice Communion (said) (CW)		
	11.00am Benefice Pet Service at Churchstow		
Weekdays			
THURSDAY JUNE 8 <sup>TH</sup> , JULY 6 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>10.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham		
EVERY WEDNESDAY	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)		
BCP = Book of Com	nmon Prayer CW = Common Worship		

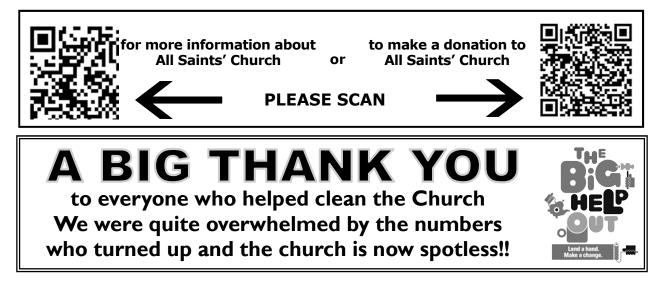
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Sundays



# **Thurlestone Golf Club**



With the retirement of our longstanding Course Manager Vic Dyer, we have recruited three new ground staff, a Course Manager, Russell Abernethy, who joined us from Coombe Hill Golf Club near Kingston-upon-Thames, a Deputy Course Manager, Dan Rosevear, previously from Hankley Common in Surrey and a full-time mechanic, Ben Elson, who worked previously for Princess Yachts.

This investment shows a commitment to improve the condition of the Course which was first laid out in the late 1890s by Charles Gibson. Gibson who was principally known as an excellent Clubmaker was not a great player, nor did he teach much, preferring instead to concentrate on experimenting with innovative designs for wooden clubs and putters. The famous late Queen's doll's house at Winsor Castle contains some miniature clubs which he originally presented to Queen Mary. Gibson would have been considered the foremost authority on golf in Devon in the 1890s.

The two major redesigns of the course in 1911 and 1928 were undertaken by two renowned gentlemen in golfing history. J H Taylor, a one-time apprentice of Charles Gibson, was retained by the club in June 1911 to propose a layout extending the course to a full eighteen holes. A native of Devon and already holder of three Open Championship titles, he was the logical choice for the job. At the time of the commission he held the position of Professional at Royal Mid Surrey.

A few short years later in 1928, when the Club required yet a further expansion and remodelling of the course to incorporate the newly acquired land, they turned to Harry Shapland Colt who was the first of the career architects. Colt had been one of the finest amateur golfers of his day, playing for Cambridge University during his time there and winner of the Jubilee Vase at St Andrews in 1891 and 1893. After a short period as a solicitor in Hastings he was asked to undertake the design of Rye, being the only golfer of merit known in the immediate area. Golf was soon to attract him as a career and he secured the appointment as first secretary at Sunningdale. During his ten years there he developed his interest in course design first by substantially changing the Old Course.

Harry S Colt established a good working relationship with another course architect Dr Alistair Mackenzie who went on to design Augusta National and more locally Teignmouth. By the time Colt was retained by Thurlestone their work together had concluded. Colt went on to make his mark domestically on courses such as Wentworth, Formby, Ganton, Royal St Georges, Swinley Forest and, again more locally, Churston. H S Colt remains one of the most renowned and prolific golf course architects there has ever been.

Continual improvement in both condition and design of the course are vital for the long-term sustainability of the Club. Therefore, it is not surprising that after 95 years the Club will wish to consider retaining the services of the modern-day J H Taylors and H S Colts of this world to ensure its relevance for the next 100 years.

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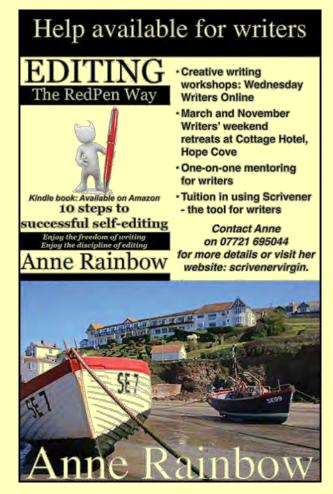
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### Jack's Journey – An Introduction



This is a story about a young man named Jack. A story about someone who, until 2019, lived an ordinary life. Someone, who's world was turned upside down, but who has never given up. A story of someone truly remarkable...

Jack was born in the South Hams and has lived in the village of Thurlestone for the last 10 years. He was a keen rugby player and was like any other teenager but then Jack was diagnosed with cancer, a brain tumour, well, an incredibly rare brain tumour to be precise. It is called glioblastoma multiforme IDH wildtype. The statistics being that it has a 99% mortality rate with a life expectancy from diagnosis of 12-18 months. Jack was diagnosed back in 2020, when he was just 19, after he started suffering seizures from epilepsy. These seizures led to an MRI scan. This led to many tests, including a biopsy, described as a necessary evil by the GP, and finally the diagnosis. But the cancer hasn't been the only thing that Jack has had to fight.

Before the cancer diagnosis, when Jack had the biopsy, he had a brain bleed, as a side effect of the procedure and ended up in ICU. He got through that, although at one point he did think that he could fall asleep and never wake up. He was moved onto the ward and it was whilst recovering here that Jack learnt he could not move the right hand side of his body from his neck down. He had hemiplegia. Hemiplegia is a condition, which is caused by a brain injury. It results in a varying degree of weakness, stiffness and lack of control in one side of the body. The definition comes from the Greek 'hemi', which means half. This was the news that floored him. Jack loves rugby, he was active, he had his future to live. The idea that he had lost all things dear to him and that others may view him differently, as damaged, really affected him.

Despite this news being devastating, Jack doesn't let it bring him down. He overhears that he may not walk again and he thinks to himself "Yes I will!" Three days out of theatre and he already had 3 women trying to help him to walk.

How he came back from feeling as he did, when he first knew he may not walk, to how he became when he was moved to Mount Gould is incredible. This new hospital gave him hope and after about 6-8 weeks, Jack was free to leave the hospital and fend for himself. I feel like I need to repeat that, to let it sink in. They thought that Jack would never walk again, yet he left hospital 6-8 weeks later, able to do so. This is testament, of course, to the incredible work of the people around him, but most of all it is testament to Jack and the power of his mind, his determination. I asked him if he ever felt like giving up and he said "everyday" Everyday! Yet he didn't and look at what he had achieved.

One battle fought, then in November Jack and his mum were called into hospital and told the horrific news that he had cancer. It wasn't glioma, as had been first

suspected. Glioma's can be non-cancerous. Instead it was glioblastoma multiforme IDH wildtype. They both had an idea it may be cancer, but it was still a shock. They did not know the statistics or much about it at this point, but the news was still scary.

Following this diagnosis and the fact the surgeon refused to cut it out, Jack had to have intense radiotherapy, followed by intense chemotherapy. He had to go to hospital every day. He was then able to take chemotherapy in tablet form. He had that as well as his epilepsy medication and steroids so at one point, was taking about 30 pills a day.

With a mixture of lockdown, being on steroids and not much to do but eat, Jack ballooned from 11/12 stone to 15/16 stone. Rather than wallow in this, of course, because as you are already learning, Jack does not do wallowing, he got himself a recumbent bike and cycled, sometimes for 3 hours and gradually got himself back down to 11 stone.

After getting his hunger for fitness back, he decided he wanted to do more. All of his MRI scans were showing as stable so he decided to join WillPower Fitness and do Will Wood's crossfit classes. Will has had a huge impact on Jack's life. Will has had some experience with cancer and so was able to understand some of what Jack was going through. Both the fitness classes and the support saw Jack grow stronger and stronger. It was this that has inspired Jack to want to join the GB Triathlon Team and he hopes to compete for GB at the Paralympics in the future.

Jack now also has another coach, Ben, at Pantheon, so he can train somewhere that is closer to his university.

I mentioned why I wanted to do this interview, so I could help tell Jack's story, to let people know what a worthy young man he is because, of course, every donation helps. To compete seriously, you need money for equipment, cost of maintenance, to help keep injury free, to keep fit and healthy, to travel to events (which are mostly in the Midlands or South Wales; not the easiest to get to from South Devon) and training. Then there is the cost of his leg brace, the new one being £3000. This brace isn't even fitting properly so he has to travel to get it adjusted, more costs, as well as taking him a whole day to travel there and back.

Jack is currently part of the GB Triathlon team. He has a couple more events to compete in on the British Circuit, and is hoping to be fully accepted into the Squad Academy in September. He has already won a silver medal in a Duathlon, which is incredible.

Wouldn't it be amazing to have a young man from Thurlestone, competing at the Paralympics? To be able to watch him and say "I know him" or "I helped get him there". But most of all to know and understand what his back story is and to know that he is an inspiring young man, who is battling a horrible illness, but is still determined to be the best he can. To live his life, despite its difficulties.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, wouldn't it be great if, as a village, we could help make him realise his dream?

If you would like to donate, please visit <u>www.gofundme.com/f/help-jack-compete-at-the-paralympics.</u> Here you can read more about the beginning of his journey is his own words.

You can also check out Jack's instagram page www.instagram.com/jackrehab /

To be continued.....

### Natasha Baldwin



Mob: 07791 650595

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# Tried and Tasted

Firstly, we must start with an apology. The amount of Bulgur Wheat required for the **Mediterranean Tray Bake** recipe in our last edition was 200g and not 40g as printed.

Now, in the anticipation of another long and glorious summer ahead of us, here are some delicious cold recipes. Bon Appetit!

### Easy - Peasy Fish Pâté

Whizz together two drained cans of sardine/tuna/salmon with a carton of Philadelphia cream cheese, black pepper and lemon juice to taste and serve with toast or as canapés on little savoury biscuits.

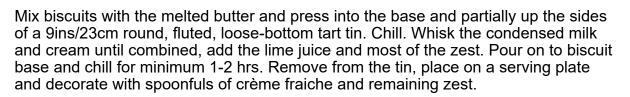
### Curried Chicken Salad (similar to Coronation Chicken)

1 level tbsp Madras curry paste
2lbs cooked chicken
3oz/75g whole blanched almonds
5 fl oz/150ml mayonnaise
3 fl oz/75ml natural yogurt
2 tbsp mango chutney
3oz/75g raisins
3oz/75g dried ready-to-eat dried apricots, quartered
1 bunch spring onions, sliced thinly, including the green parts
1 x 120g bag baby leaf salad
1 tbsp fresh coriander leaves, to garnish
Salt and pepper

Spread the almonds evenly on a baking sheet and toast for approx 8 minutes, gas 4/350F/180C/160C fan oven. Cool, then roughly chop. Mix the mayonnaise, yogurt, curry paste and mango chutney and pour over the chicken. Add raisins, apricots,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the spring onions and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the almonds. Season to taste. Chill until needed. Arrange on top of the salad leaves, scatter over the remaining spring onions and almonds.

### Key Lime Pie

9oz/250g digestive or gingernut biscuits, crushed 3oz/85g melted butter 397g Carnation Condensed Milk Finely grated rind and juice of 5 large limes or 4 lemons 300ml dbl cream 85g ½ fat crème fraiche







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## **The Accidental Environmentalist**

### **Saving the Planet One Glow Worm at a Time** By Adam Ryan-Carter Environmental Parish Councillor

As I appreciate many of you will have been on the edge of your seats desperate to find out the winners of the 'battle of the birdbox', I won't keep you in suspense any longer, I can proudly announce Mr and Mrs Great Tit have moved in and we eagerly await the arrival of their brood. They have been spotted making many round trips to the "Muppy Fluff dispenser" (I have video footage to prove it) with beaks stuffed so full of fluff it is a wonder they could see where they were flying. It has also been a huge hit with the local goldfinch. A family of sparrows seem to have nestled into our sparrow terrace and most surprisingly we have observed some wren nest building activity in the seagrass roosting pockets we hid in our bushes in winter to provide shelter during the coldest and wettest periods. We were a bit confused at first as Mr Wren seemed to be going between 2 sites. Then a friend told me that he builds 2 or 3 alternative nests and then Jenny Wren gets to choose her favourite! I looked it up and this would appear to be true. Although between you and me, I think he's a bit of a slacker, as the roosting pocket was technically already built and all he's done is fill it with a bit of moss and dog fluff. Before she knows it, she'll have 8 new mouths to feed and he'll be off down the pub.

The wife and I are feeling pretty smug about how quickly we have improved our environmental credentials since the "Gardening for Wildlife" Booklet was distributed in the Village Voice a few months ago. We have ticked off several more boxes from the tick list although admittedly some are works in progress. The wildflower seeds are sewn in our top garden and many of them have germinated. Lord knows what they are at this stage as all the seedlings look the same and I daresay there are a few weeds in there but I shall report back and will endeavour to learn the difference between a dandelion and an ox-eye daisy before the next issue. We have also been getting a 'green' workout; we took delivery of 4 mature



silver birch and then had to hump them on the count of 'one, two, three, heave...' up all 30 of our garden stairs. Then of course the digging of the deep holes commenced and the following day a hosepipe ban was announced. So now we have to carry buckets of water up 30 stairs as well. This was before we dug out our new wildlife pond and I admit I had to rope in some help for this in the shape of Jack Parker Swift. It would be fair to say my joints and tendons have taken some punishment and so has my bank balance as I now need to see a sports masseur once a week in order to be able to walk.

Apparently doing the right thing for the environment shouldn't cost the earth (see what I did there?) but someone forgot to tell my wife that. Ours has to be one of the most expensive wildlife gardens known to man. However, it's reassuring to know we are doing our bit to support the local economy by keeping Avon Mill, Otter nurseries, Noyce's and Ashby's afloat at the same time as creating a wildlife paradise. Mind you, I worry I have started to take my role as the Parish's environmental councillor a bit too seriously, I woke up this

morning and my bedside light had turned into a moth! That's definitely the last time I ever buy a larvae lamp!...Okay apologies for the Dad joke but I was trying to find a seamless segue into the next paragraph about the under rated moth.

I used to play 5 a-side with one of the country's authorities on moths (no not Mike Passman the Village Voice's moth expert) a bloke called Ben Smart who has written several volumes of 'Micro-moth field tips.' I sent him a copy of my last village voice article and he sent me this sound advice to pass on to readers interested in helping our moth population.

"Remember, the thing we see flying i.e. the moth or butterfly, is only a short part of its life. Most of its time is spent as a caterpillar and a chrysalis. Some species may live as a caterpillar for a few years, constantly eating as they grow. Therefore, for them to thrive it isn't enough to only think about nectar-rich plants such as Buddleia that will attract the adults, but to ensure there are plenty of foodplants for the caterpillars too, which is why untidy gardens, fields, parks, verges etc, will have far more insect life. This doesn't only apply to moths, but to butterflies, bees, beetles and many other insects."

This advice prompted me to revisit pg.15 of the 'Gardening for Wildlife booklet' and check the list of plants that are most beneficial to a moth's diet and breeding habits. This list includes; privet, lilac, ivy, apple/crab apple trees, willow herb, lavenders, verbenas and night-scented plants like honeysuckle, nicotiana, stocks and evening primrose. One of our reasons for planting our silver birch, besides their stunning bark and elegant silhouette was because they support a range of moth caterpillars that we are hoping will provide a food source for our gold and green finches and not be totally decimated by caterpillars in the first year. However, we do have another local mammal who loves a juicy moth and that is the humble bat. Anyone who takes an evening walk around the loop near Buckland Mill, will be familiar with the sensation of a passing bat narrowly missing their head. There is also a very vocal population of tawny owls in the same locality and bats will form part of their diet if mice and voles are scarce. And so, the food web goes; birch trees - caterpillars - moths - bats - owls. If there isn't enough food in any part of the chain the whole thing collapses and numbers of a species drop rapidly. Similarly, every time we cut down a tree, clear a large patch of vegetation, leave our porch or decorative lights on all night or spray insecticides, we don't help the situation. And let's face it we all do at least one of the above on a regular basis. No one's a saint. Especially not me. But as I learn more in my role as environmental parish councillor, I'm just more mindful of my actions going forward and I hope raising awareness is all that is needed to increase a collective mindfulness across our beautiful Parish.

I have a very vivid memory of when we first moved here nearly 10 years ago. It was a very dark summer evening in July when I was walking back home from the Sloop with some land-locked surfing mates, who were visiting from Leeds. We didn't have torches with us and our eyes had become accustomed to the dark. We stumbled upon what at first appeared to be a scene from a Disney movie as the hedgerows twinkled in the night as if festooned with fairy lights. At first, we thought we'd had too much to drink and were imagining it but then as we investigated more closely, we could see the luminescent green glowing segments of a female beetle's tail end, that she was waggling gently in order to attract a flying male. I now know despite being beetles, these insects are known as **glow worms** and are a breath-taking site when first spotted. The larvae seem to love our hedgerows and especially the snails that lurk within them; hitching a ride on their backs before paralysing them and sucking them empty. However, adults only live for 14-21 days and don't feed during this time. Once, she has mated, the female turns out her light, lays her eggs and dies. When the larvae hatch, they can then survive for a further 2 summers before turning into adults. A bit like the aforementioned moth, much longer is spent as a juvenile than an adult.

Last year, I only saw 2 glow worms which made me sad and slightly shocked at their decline in numbers. This of course maybe for a variety of reasons, probably because I don't really drink much anymore so don't walk back from the pub at night so I'm scouring a shorter area of hedgerow but also perhaps because the year-round population of West Buckland has increased, meaning there is far more light pollution and human disturbance. Male glow worms are particularly attracted by strong porch or patio lighting instead of their female counterparts. It's great for the Parish that we now have a sustainable population to support our shops and the pubs and have a growing community of families with younger children to populate the school, but we must ask ourselves why it is we moved here (and most of us are outsiders). I moved here because it is breathtakingly beautiful. I'd really like it to stay that way. Will you help me by supporting the Parish's 'Dark skies policy" to allow wildlife to thrive?



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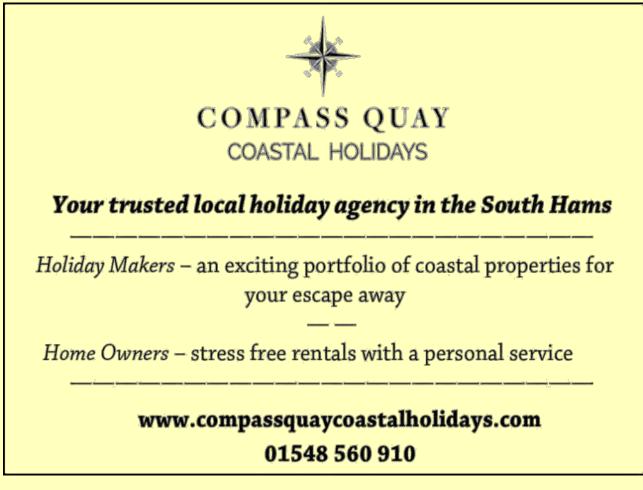
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## **Thurlestone Phone Box**

What a fabulous celebration for the Coronation of King Charles! It was lovely to see the whole community coming together for this special occasion.

I have so many people to thank for their help in decorating the Phone Box! Paul Martin's amazing willingness to tackle any job, Diane's wonderful decoration of the crown, Caro's fantastic wreath making and flower arrangements with very kind donations of foliage from Margaret's lovely garden. Matt's beautiful photography. Kit, Gillian, Lesley and David for tidying up the area, planting flowers and helping to set everything up! A great team effort!



Thank you to the children of All Saints who have made special Coronation bookmarks for

the Phone Box, you'll find them inside the books very soon. Also we are very grateful to the residents of Thurlestone, who kindly donated pots of flowers for our decoration.

As so many people have enjoyed the display we'll leave it up for a while and hopefully the flowers will continue to flourish throughout the summer!

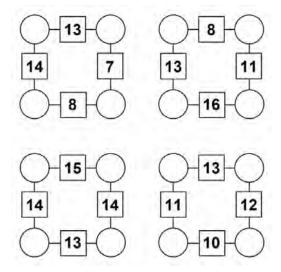
Mary Horne



# **Extra Puzzle Page**

## WORDSEARCH

## SQUARE ARITHMAGONS



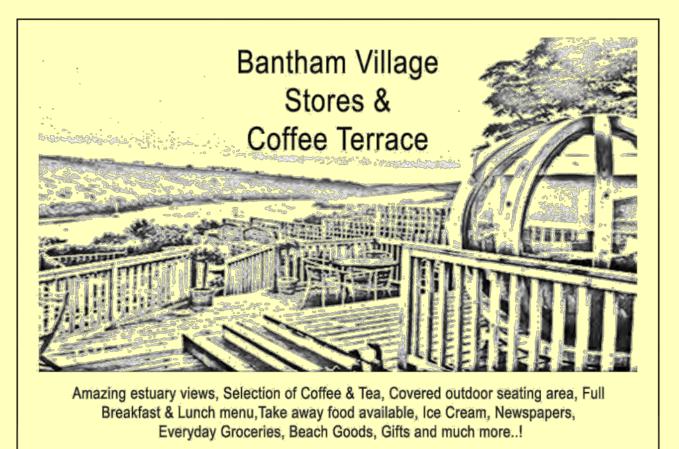
The aim of an arithmagon is to work out which numbers go in the empty circles. The numbers in the square boxes are made by adding together the numbers in the circles either side.

## **MISSING LETTERS**

- 1) appr\*imate 6) b\*zebub
- 2) mead\*ark 7) ver\*im
- 3) bil\*aire 8) si\*ure
- 4) af\*oon 9) mi\*ave
- 5) bene\*nt 10) cont\*e

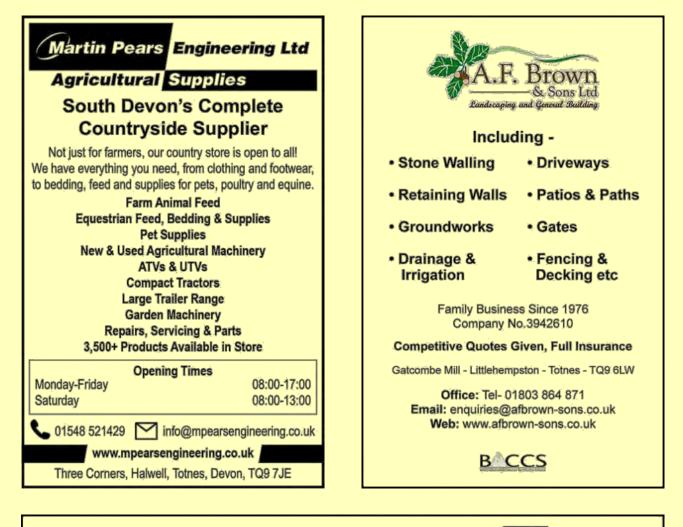
Replace the Asterisks with Animals to make the words

Example -\*orker = COWorker



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## Thurlestone Bay Birds March - May

With spring passage almost complete and most of the summer migrants having arrived, the total of species for 2023 on the 8th May was 157, coincidentally, the same as in 2022.

The first of the summer visitors arrived on 14th March with a SAND MARTIN over the Marsh, quickly followed later that afternoon with a HOUSE MARTIN at Aveton Gifford and the first WHEATEAR by South Milton flats on 17th March.

An interesting winter migrant returning north was an adult *ICELAND GULL* watched flying across the bay on 15th March.

Spring passage of *SKUAS* was very poor this year, the first was an *ARCTIC SKUA* in the bay on 23rd March.

In late March, a favourable south easterly wind can produce an influx of *GARGANEY* - a duck which winters on the lakes of Central Africa and migrates to breed in Northern Europe. On 3rd April, a flock of 5 was on South Huish Marsh which by early evening had grown to 22 birds. As in previous years they moved on their way by the following morning. Only one other record this year was a male on the Marsh on 4th May.

Adding a new species to the history of South Huish Marsh is a rare occurrence. On 7th April a *GULL BILLED TERN* was found and this remained until 13th April - again a bird that winters in Africa. There are small breeding flocks in Holland and Scandinavia. This example was enjoyed by a large number of visiting birders as it was one of only four recorded in the UK this spring.

From mid-April waders start passing through the bay and the Marsh to their breeding grounds in Northern Europe. This year, the first birds to arrive were *WHIMBREL* with 4 on 14th April.

A sight to behold is the arrival of flocks of waders which will have left Northern France at first light - in strong southerly/south easterly winds they have difficulty in continuing their journey along the Channel and come into the bay before flying overland coming out along the Dorset coast.

On the 19th April a total of 19 flocks of *BAR TAILED GODWIT* was recorded adding up to 560 birds with the largest flock containing 55 birds. On the same date 8 flocks of *WHIMBREL* totalled 180 birds.



2 *LITTLE RINGED PLOVER* were seen on the Marsh on 18th April - another bird which winters in Africa before returning to their breeding grounds in England and Northern Europe.

One of the rarest waders we find in spring is *WOOD SANDPIPER* - one was on the Marsh for 3 days from 29th April - only the fourth spring record since 2011.

### Wood Sandpiper

South Milton Ley had a very good spring with warblers being recorded singing in the reed beds; *WILLOW WARBLER* from 9th April, *SEDGE WARBLER* on the same morning, *GRASSHOPPER WARBLER* on 24th April, *REED WARBLER* on 27th. *FLYCATCHERS* on spring passage have become scarce. On 21st a female *PIED* 

*FLYCATCHER* was found at South Milton Ley, only the second spring record on the 21st April. On the 30th April a *SPOTTED FLYCATCHER* appeared in the small copse at South Milton Ley.

The first *SWIFT* was recorded over the Marsh on the evening of 19th April - an early record as normally they don't arrive until the last week of April.

Offshore on the 26th to 28th April, rafts of *GUILLEMOT* were found on the sea, the largest total I have ever seen here with a maximum count of 1200.

Finally the last good Seawatch occurred on 4th May, a *LITTLE TERN* was watched feeding in the bay whilst over 90 minutes early evening, 6 ARCTIC TERNS, 14 MANX SHEARWATER, 1 BALEARIC SHEARWATER, 67 GANNET and 6 COMMON SCOTER all flew southeast with the only GREAT SKUA of the year.

Each year the spring passage of birds is different - this year has got to be one of the best in recent years for the different species recorded.

A quieter time of the year is now before us until birds start their return passage to winter in Southern Europe and Africa - not too long to wait.

### Mike Passman

thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk

## **Thurlestone Bay Moths**

Poor spring weather has resulted in a paucity of moths. Only 68 different species were recorded by the 7th May.

There were 2 traps in February, 3 in March, 10 in April and 4 in May.

First moth of the year was a *SILVER* Y on 18th February, surprising, because this is an immigrant from France.

On 18th March, a *PEARLY UNDERWING was* recorded - another immigrant moth - last year I did not find one until 27th May.

During a mild spell of weather in April I recorded 84 moths of 18 species on 15th this included a *PINE BEAUTY*, a first for my garden. The following night the total was 91 moths of 25 species which included 2 *MUSLIN* moths, a *BRINDLED BEAUTY*, *SHOULDER STRIPE* and a *NUT TREE TUSSOCK*. On 17th April, 78 moths of 23 species included another first for the garden, a *LUNAR MARBLED BROWN*. Other immigrant moths recorded in April were *DARK SWORD GRASS* on 17th, *RUSTY DOT PEARL* on 18th and *TURNIP MOTH* on 19th. On 30th, the final trap of the month produced a *PUSS MOTH*, a beautiful moth found sat on the patio.

May has been disappointing with cold nights, strong winds and heavy showers. Highlights of the month so far have been a *GREAT PROMINENT* on 2nd and a *LIME HAWK* moth on 6th - last year only a single record and that was on 29th.

Finally, a new micro moth added to the garden records on 7th May, *TACHYSTOLA ACROXANTHA* - a moth that was introduced into Devon in 1908 from Australia.

Hopefully the weather will improve with some mild, dry and calm nights and I can get the head torch out of storage.

### Mike Passman



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# SCHOOL REPORT

## Away Days for All

As we approach Midsummer (already?!) the All Saints' gardening club is as popular as ever. Spring has seen plenty of activity in our little vegetable patch. Every Wednesday lunchtime, under the guiding eye of one of our parents, it is bursting with keen little



green fingers. We're all really looking forward to the harvest, but most of all, we're thrilled that so many have caught the gardening bug!

It's lovely to be able to enjoy the outside space at school – at last! The weather in May was iffy to say the least, and our Coronation Picnic was hastily relocated to the hall after a deluge. The children entertained us all beautifully and unwaveringly as they sang in celebration, and the rain poured down around them. Then it was a quick dash inside for plenty of tea and cakes to help warm and dry us all! Thanks to all those who donated the delicious treats to mark this special occasion.

We're hosting a careers week in June, to help the children think about the things they enjoy, and which careers they might like to do when they are old enough. I'm sure there will be some interesting choices!

We're hoping that the summer weather will be kind for the remainder of the term, as we have lots of educational outings planned. Along with the building excitement for the Year 4 residential, there are two fantastic city trips to look forward to. The younger ones will be visiting Exeter and have a host of interesting stops on their trip around the city, while the older ones are heading to the bright lights of Bristol! As well as the interesting places they'll visit, each group will be invited to notice the differences between city life and their own, much more rural, existence.

A little closer to home, we're also taking half the school to Dartmoor Zoo. It's an excellent opportunity for them to meet some incredible, exotic species, and learn a little about the pressures they face in their wild environments. It's also a great place to get close to the meerkats – and who doesn't love that?

With summer term rolling to a close at the end of July, we'll be asking the weather elves to oblige us with some sunshine to enjoy our annual sports day and picnic lunch. All our families are invited to cheer the athletes on 6<sup>th</sup> July, and gather on the playing fields for an outdoor feast afterwards.

We hope you all have a great summer!

### **Emma Richards**





Dear Editors, Just a thought...

As I read about the great works that the Parish of B.B.T Sustainability Group is doing to increase the biodiversity in our parish, I can't help but notice on my walks, which often take me through Thurlestone, the large swathes of pristine manicured lawns, no doubt adding up to several acres. What a grand gesture it would be to our ever-troubled natural environment if all concerned dug a small area to replant with wild flowers and grasses, creating a corridor which would greatly help in increasing biodiversity in our parish, help the decreasing populations of butterflies, bees and bugs and maybe even help the fast disappearing glowworms which have not only been devastated by manicurism but also by light pollution. Linda Chilcott

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## Tramp Reports March to May

### <u>Stokenham Slapton Ley Torcross Walk.</u> 22nd March. Jill Miller

A group of eight walkers started on the uphill road behind the Church Inn following the lane until we reached Deer Bridge and then through the nature reserve, bursting with new spring growth. A cake and coffee stop overlooking the wildlife area was very peaceful and replenished our energy levels for the long walk back on the straight pathway between the lake (Devon's largest freshwater) and Slapton Sands, eventually going through the very quiet caravan park. The pathway that used to run alongside the road is now closed and so it is necessary to go uphill and through the churchyard filled with lots of flowers and tributes as it had been not long been Mothers Day, to finish back at our starting point

### Parke, near Bovey Tracy. 30th March. Peter and Wendy Gornall

After two days of miserable rain in Thurlestone, just a few square inches of blue sky were welcome. With showers forecast, an undaunted eight of us plus Heidi set out in the lovely wooded National Trust estate of Parke, just west of Bovey Tracey. It is a favourite dog-walking spot and in summer, when the River Bovey is lazy, dog swimming is safe (not so in March after heavy rain). The whole woodland way was lined with primroses and celandine, with catkins overhead.

Our route took us over the hump-back bridge to the east bank. There is a woodcraft centre which advertises for stag and hen parties (for hardier folk). Upstream the path rises to the level of the abandoned railway and we emerged from Parke at its northern point. A very quiet road led uphill past lambing meadows to Hatherleigh; a stony bridleway took us down to the Lustleigh road at Knowle. Walking south, we passed elegant houses with brilliant camellias and one huge magnolia magnificently in flower.

Back to the disused railway and woodland, we saluted another walking group at their picnic lunch and took our path to the river



and the wooden footbridge on stone-built stepped pillars. The climb up the steep western bank is on wood-frame boxes of gravel made into steps. Half way up the hillside is an easy level walk back, and the single roe deer in the meadow below didn't seem to notice us.

Almost all this time we had been in sun or light cloud: the worst had been a misty 2minute slight dampening. A few drops came during lunch outside the excellent Home Farm Café. The downpour saved itself until we were back on the A38 driving home. Fortune favours the brave.

### West Alvington. 11th April. Harry Forrester

The Easter Holiday may have been a factor as may also have been the uncertain and discouraging weather forecast. Nevertheless an intrepid band of three assembled at the appointed hour in the sleepy hamlet of West Alvington to follow a route up hill and down dale admiring the primroses, blue dog violets, ransomes (wild garlic) and alexanders while listening to an abundance of skylarks all the while putting the world to rights and catching up on the events of the Easter Holiday. We returned safely to the start just as the rain began to fall, a thoroughly enjoyable morning walking in good company.

### Stokenham Beesands Circular, 5 miles. 21st April. Liz Coates

The Famous Five (4 Trampers plus Benji) set off from The Church House Inn at Stokenham heading up the lane opposite to the stile leading through the Widewell Plantation. There the primroses were in full bloom and the bluebells had just come into flower – a wonderful sight causing a stop for photos. Then we crossed the fields with great views over the valley and down past the back of Widdecombe House. The house was said to have been once owned by Captain Cook and was where Gen. Eisenhower stayed during the war.

A green lane took us down to Lower Beeson Farm and Beeson where we headed up the road to Higher Beeson House and Huckham Barn Cross, passing some beautifully planted gardens and having a chat with the owner of one of the houses. We carried on taking the permissive footpath across the meadows towards the sea with the cliffs covered in primroses and glorious views along the coast towards Torcross. After dropping down onto the coastal path to Beesands where we had a well earned coffee break, we set off again along the sea shore past Widdcombe Ley and up across the fields passing the other side of Widdecombe House. The footpath took us through the beautiful grounds said to have been designed by Capability Brown. Sadly the camellias had taken a bashing after the storms and easterly winds but the summer shrubs and trees were all coming into life.

On returning down the lane to Stokenham we all agreed that we were lucky to have had such good weather so we could enjoy all the spring flowers and the views in this lovely part of Devon. A great morning's walk with good company – what more could you want?

### Shaugh Bridge to Cadover Bridge. 2nd May. Alastair and Gill Durden

On May 2nd, seven of us and one dog met up at Shaugh Bridge on the fringe of Dartmoor for this delightful and varied circular walk following the River Plym to Cadover Bridge and back across the open moor. We set off up a steepish climb but were soon rewarded with gorgeous views across the Plym valley with the three great buttresses of the Dewerstone Rock - a favourite place for rock-climbers - a prominent feature on the other side. All the time we were following an old clay pipe which used to carry china clay mixed with water from the clay pits near Cadover Bridge to a processing plant at Shaugh Bridge, the ruins of which are still there. This went on from 1880 until around 1960. Now the pipeline is disused – indeed broken in many places – but still lies beneath the path to be caught sight of every now and then.

The path entered North Wood – a beautiful stretch of woodland – with the rushing river not far below and the bluebells just starting to show. We stopped at a lovely spot on the riverbank for our coffee, where Heidi the dog had a lovely swim in the river! We continued to follow the river upstream to Cadover Bridge where we were treated to a lovely

spectacle of three girls riding ponies into the river and generally having a fun time, getting rather wet in the process!

From the bridge, we made our way past a granite Dartmoor Cross which is one of several marking the ancient track across the Moor used by monks from Plympton Priory, and then over Wigford Down, the high ground here affording marvellous views over to the tors on the western fringe of Dartmoor and to Bodmin Moor in the distance and ahead of us to Plymouth Sound. We reached Dewerstone Hill which is a notable outcrop of rock, almost worthy of being called a Tor (!) and a nice place to stop for a picnic.

From here, we descended to the river past granite quarries and the ruins of a winding house which housed machinery operating trucks carrying granite down the slope on a pulley system. The Dewerstone quarries went out of business well over 100 years ago but it was interesting to be reminded of the industrial nature of the area and to imagine all the activity there in former times. Our  $51/_2$  mile excursion ended by crossing the river once again back to the car park.

### Ringmore (Circular) taking in Noddon Mill-Okenbury Plantation-Kingston-South Langton-Marwell. 10th May. Linda Chilcott

12 of us set off from Ringmore plus 3 well behaved dogs with a prospect of a dry walk, following the previous day of torrential rain. We passed the All Hallows' church, venturing across several lush paddocks with beautiful views out to sea. The way was steep down into the valley and Noddon Mill, where there was a sprinkling of wild flowers. Heading up through Okenbury Plantation the whole area was tinged with blue. The blue bells were spectacular, what a wonderful sight.

On then to Kingston where we had our coffee break by the Dolphin Inn. After plenty of chatter and catching up with friends we walked through the village of Kingston passing lots of chocolate box cottages. After a mile or two of green lanes we were rather scuppered as we approached a large puddle with no way around. There was no escape and we all got wet feet. Well, this is what it's all about. Not long after we arrived back at Ringmore. Most of us walked down to the pub, enjoying a good lunch and sharing lots of laughter.

This walk was 5 miles and took approx 2.5 hrs.



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# Weather Wag

So far, this spring has been quiet overall and generally just wet enough to be pleasing to our gardeners, there has also been plenty of sunshine. I am sure that my 'lawn' is laughing at me as it grows ever faster. Whenever I think that now is the time to cut it, something else takes precedence. So I am sitting writing this



instead of sitting on my tractor mowing the lawn. Kerra my dog did insist on a walk on the beach - it was superb, but I'm late sitting at my computer writing this.

We have had quite a mixture of weather, but not up to the standard of East Devon and Dorset (thank goodness). The large temporary puddle at the Golf Club is about as far as we get to a non-passable flood. April's rainfall was a meagre 24mm and May so far is 21mm. Certainly not as bad as other parts of the country.

In my go-to weather reference book,  $12^{th}$  May begins 'Heavy Rain today' the side heading is 'The Great Famine'. This was 1315 and it heralded the worst spell of weather in the Middle Ages. The newly sown seed was washed out of the ground, cut hay was under water and sheep perished on land exposed to the floods. The Great Famine lasted from 1315 to 1318. During that time 10 - 15% of the population died from starvation or disease and the monarchy of the time suffered just as much. Check out your history books.

Thankfully this situation is not apparent now in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. All around our near countryside the fields of grass have been harvested for silage. They are now growing a new crop which may well be harvested later as a late crop. More sunshine means better content, so let's hope that is the case for our farmers. The patterns left by the forager are pleasing to look at and knowing that the fodder will be stored for the cattle to use in the winter makes it even better.

This Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May is Rogation Sunday. We think particularly about those who work the land. In times past, services were held outdoors or in a barn or farmyard, where the real thing we were thinking about was very evident. It might be that we return to such services but we never the less consider the farming fraternity as important contributors to our health and wellbeing and that of the land. This is not just in our country but worldwide, where in many places the land is 100% top of the environments 'look after' list.

Enough of my pontificating, but I hope that you will appreciate the concern and value I put on these aspects of our weather pattern and all that follows.

Watch out for any unusual weather phenomena, it is a good time of the year to do so. Careful weather watching.

### Jan Turner

### And finally.....

Why is the sun so smart?	Because it has over 5000 degrees!
What's the best day to go to the beach?	Sun-day, of course!
When is a boat just like snow?	When it's adrift!
When are your eyes not eyes?	.When the cold wind makes them water!

## **DIARY DATES**

June		
Saturday	3	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
-		Alvington Singers in concert at St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge 7.30pm.
<b>.</b>	~ 4	Tickets available from choir members or on the door (card machine available)
Saturday	3-4	
Monday	5	Devon Schools restart
		TRAMP - Dartmouth - Neil Mackay and Jenny Webb Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Monday	5-6	Salcombe Players present Dead at the Deep End - a Murder Mystery
menday	00	Entertainment by Jillian Rowe at Cliff House, Salcombe 7pm. Tickets
		£12.50 (adults) £6 (under 12s)
Saturday	10	Alvington Singers in concert at Buckfast Abbey 7.30pm. Tickets available from
Curradian (	44	the Abbey
Sunday Thursday	11 15	Salcombe Estuary Rowing Club Regatta from Mill Bay TRAMP - Tuckenhay - 6 miles - Jill Miller
Saturday	17	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Sunday	18	Stanborough Chorus present a Cream Tea Concert at 3pm in Malborough
<b>,</b>		Village Hall Tickets £10 - see advert in the magazine
Monday	19	TRAMP - Beesands - 4.5 miles - Neil Mackay and Jenny Webb
Thursday	22-23	Kingsbridge Craft Market at Kingsbridge Market Hall
Friday	23	Kingsbridge Estuary U3A - Monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am to
Saturday	24	12noon - Ron Howell - a diver of historic wrecks for over 50 years. Plymouth Armed Services Day on Plymouth Hoe
Saturday	24	Pub Night in Thurlestone Parish Hall 6pm - 10pm. Bar available
Wednesda	ay 28	Kingsbridge Arts Society, Methodist Hall, Kingsbridge 2pm for 2.30pm (and on
	<b>,</b>	Zoom - 01548 532850 for a link) - The Two Gustavs: Mahler and Klimt with
		Gavin Plumley.
Friday	30	London Male Voice Choir in concert at Holy Trinity Church, Salcombe in
		support of Salcombe RNLI
July		
Saturday	1	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
<b>,</b>		London Male Voice Choir in concert at The Barn, South Milton in support of
	_	Salcombe RNLI
Monday	3	Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	4	TRAMP - Cross Furze, Buckfast to Avon Reservoir 6 miles - Alastair Durden
Saturday Monday	8 10	Bantham Swoosh and Mini Swoosh (swimming starts at 11am) TRAMP - South Dartmoor Circular - 5 miles - Mike and Sian Hodges
Saturday	15	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Saturday	15-22	Kingsbridge Fair Week
Tuesday	18-22	Dartmouth Shakespeare Week -The Inn Theatre Company presents "The
-		Merchant of Venice" at 7.30pm each evening at Dartmouth Castle
Wednesda		TRAMP - Aveton Gifford - Chantry - under 4 miles - Annie Lukehurst
Thursday		Kingsbridge Craft Market at Kingsbridge Market Hall
Saturday	22	A Special Evening of Sea Shanties with All Hands on Deck in Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm. Bring your own food and drink. Tickets £5
Monday	24	TRAMP - Bere Ferrers - Robin Hart (to be confirmed)
Tuesday	25	Devon School Term ends
Saturday	29	Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm
Saturday	29-31	Salcombe Town Regatta
August		

### August

Tuesday 1-5 Salcombe Town Regatta continued

Car Boot Sales every Sunday until 11 September (excluding 16 and 23 July) Kingsbridge Quay Car Park 9am - 12noon - in aid of various local charities

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





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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **CLUBS & GROUPS**

ALVINGTON SINGERS (Wednesday 7pm - 9pm)		Liz Coates	714849
ART CLASS (Tuesday 11am - 1pm)		Marianne Smith	531413
AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	Chairman	Stuart Watts	810373
BADMINTON CLUB (Friday 4pm - 5pm)		Sian Hodges	07784 893405
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary	Nikki Smith	560275
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB		Clubhouse	560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wednesday 6.15pm)		Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX		Anna Martin	560796
FITNESS YOGA with SUZI (Monday 5pm - 6pm)		Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
FRENCH CONVERSATION (Thurday1.30-3.30pm)		Angela Luckhurst	521595
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH		Phil Millard	560843
HEALTHY MOVEMENT (Monday 2.15pm - 3.15pm)		Saffron Craig	07840 788511
LINE DANCING (Wednesday 2pm - 3pm)		Sue Bain	07989817898
PILATES with LARA (Thursday 2pm - 3pm)		Lara Christopher	07765 423906
POWER HOURwith SUZI (Tuesday 2pm - 3pm)		Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
SEA BEYOND PILATES (Wednesday 9.30am-10.30a	ım)	Sharron05@btinternet.c	
SMASH HIIT with SUZI (Thursday 6pm - 7pm)		Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
STITCH and BITCH (Monday 10.30am - 12.30pm)		Sally Martin	561356
TABLE TENNIS(Thursday 7.30pm - 9pm)		Paul Ferguson	07866802800
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB		ce & General Enquiries	560405
TENNIS SECTION (at Golf Club)	Boo	ok via Pro Shop	560715
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX		Mary Horne	561853
THURLESTONE SINGING GROUP		Alastair Durden	560509
<b>TRAMP</b> (Thurlestone Ramblers)		Linda Scott	560298
WALKING FOOTBALL (Monday 6.15pm - 7.15pm		Martin Sterne	07557 149603
YOGA with Sarah (Tuesday and Thursday 9.15am)		Sarah Scott	07879 627939
HEALTH CENTRES			
Nerten Breek Medicel Centre, Coolewarthy Deed King	050554		

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
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Mon - Fri 9.00am to 4.30pm, Sat - Sun 10.00am to 4.30pm (1st April - Soth 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 Open Monday, Friday 9am - 6pm Tuesday, Wednesday 9am -5pm, Thursday closed Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall Car Park Wednesdays 28<sup>th</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> July - 10.30 to 11.00am

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## PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH COUNCIL	Meetings take place on 1st Monday of every month except August and Bank Holidays				
Chairman Vice-chairman Parish Clerk Members	Kathy Harrod Rosa Lewis Eric Palmer Adam Ryan-Carter Gillian Stone	thurlestoneparish@gmail.com 07463 856156 07966 192902 562708 (Tree Warden) 07967 666719			
District Councillors	Samantha Dennis Mark Long	07720 863626 843828			
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659			
<ul> <li>PARISH HALL (see Thurlestone Parish Website for more details) Telephone (payphone in foyer) 562189</li> <li>Chairman: Malcolm Breton</li> <li>Bookings: Ingrid French email: via Parish Website or directly on tphbookings@gmail.com or telephone 07727 449018 Mon to Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm</li> </ul>					
PARISH WEBSITE (ww	ww.thurlestoneparish.co.uk) N	like Bone 288436 Paul Martin 560070			
ALL SAINTS' CHURCHSee All Saints' Diary pages earlier in magazineChurch Meeting RoomTelephone 561246					
	Y SCHOOL Executive Head T OFFICE & STORES Cont rs Mon, Tues, Thu, Fri Wednesday Saturday Sunday and Bank Ho	act Sarah Tyers 561917 8.00am - 5.00pm 8.00am - 2.00pm 8.00am - 4.00pm			
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PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS					
Thurlestone Parish	Hall • Bantham Qu	ay <b>extern</b>			
Thurlestone Hotel (	Garage) • Buckland Pr	ione Box			
Golf Club (Tennis P					
Sloop Inn Bantham (Lobby)					