

# VILLAGE VOICE

June - July 2020



**ONCE MORE UNTO THE BEACH DEAR FRIENDS**

*The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone*



## Staying Alert

Much has changed in the last couple of months as we adjust to the “new normal” Tens of thousands have prematurely lost their lives to the dreadful COVID19, our thoughts go out to their loved ones at this sad time. The financial and mental implications are also of concern and time will tell how long it takes to recover from this pandemic. Here in our community there is tremendous spirit and support for each other which is helping us all to get through this, as well as making us more appreciative of family and friends. We are also very fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the country and now we can go onto our stunning beaches, albeit having to exercise caution by only meeting up with one other person outside our household, it is a step forward. There are new national heroes from all walks of life, rather than celebrities, these include NHS staff, social carers, shopkeepers, postal workers, refuse collectors and Captain Sir Tom Moore to name just a few. Our appreciation for all of them is shown by a coming together to clap on Thursday evenings.

Working practices have changed even on Village Voice which is usually a very sociable affair with the team meetings over a glass of wine and lunch after collating. Now meetings are conducted via Zoom and restricted to just the editorial and compiling team. Printing and collating are carried out by couples on a rota with much disinfecting as they go. Needless to say, we miss the rest of our wonderful team.

Many events have been cancelled, one such was the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration of VE day from which parallels can be drawn with the current situation as mentioned in Maureen Lywood’s reminiscences about WW2.

Some positives always seem to emerge out of a crisis and this is no exception with pollution diminishing and the abundance of wildlife and nature around. Many have taken to bird watching and, judging by Mike Passman’s Thurlestone Bay Birds article, there are plenty to spot.

We cannot provide solutions to the world’s troubles but we can bring you a few hours of diversion, so why don’t you make yourself comfortable while you read and hopefully enjoy this edition of the magazine. Stay safe, well and alert.

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### **Front Cover**

Cover photo  
by Mike Hodges

**Deadline for articles for next issue - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

## June-July 2020

**38th Year of Publication**

**Issue No. 223**

**Archived copies of Village Voice can be found on the Parish website at [www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/village-voice](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/village-voice)**

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# NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

## Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

This meeting was cancelled, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

## Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May, held online

### # OPEN FORUM

Planning application 0735/20/HHO The Chase, Warren Rd, Thurlestone: neighbours questioned the scale of the proposals.

A number of questions were asked about Community Housing:

- Does the Parish Council believe that progressing the Community Housing Project whilst no "proper" public consultation is permissible due to Covid-19, is acceptable?
- Can the PC confirm that it will be progressing the Community Housing scheme via tonight's Zoom meeting and an email vote?
- Can you confirm that everyone who filled in their email addresses at the original Community Housing Meeting held at Thurlestone Parish Hall were made aware of tonight's agenda?
- If there are two other potential options why are they not being presented to the community?

The Chairman explained that the PC would ideally like to have a full public meeting as soon as possible. Those people who gave their email addresses before would be contacted. The item on tonight's meeting agenda was an update and to inform councillors. No decisions will be made.

SHDC was yet to write to the PC to confirm why the other two sites were not acceptable.

Councillors discussed whether or not it would be possible to hold a public consultation online and decided that they needed more information. They were anxious not to miss out on the funding available for housing projects but didn't want to rush it through in the wrong way. They were also conscious that there are families who need housing and they are strongly committed to delivering the project.

Councillors agreed to submit an article to Village Voice which would outline the different sites and allow residents to comment either online or by handing in their comments via the villages shops.

The Bantham Estate had been approached to ask if the allotments site was available and it is not.

### # PLANNING

The following planning applications were discussed in outline and a decision and final comments will be made at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

#### # OLD CHAPEL, WEST BUCKLAND

# THE CHASE, WARREN ROAD, THURLESTONE Further information requested.

#### # 5 MEAD LANE, THURLESTONE

#### # 20 COURT PARK THURLESTONE TQ7 3LX

# THE YARD, LAND AT SX 699 454 AUNEMOUTH CROSS TO BANTHAM CROSS BANTHAM DEVON. Comment only as this is in Churchstow Parish

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

The reports were noted.

### **# PARISH MATTERS**

The road between West Buckland and Bantham is due to be swept and cleaned.

A request has also been made for Highways to check the area at the bottom of Brook Hill in West Buckland where there has been flooding.

The road in Thurlestone down from the war memorial has been swept.

A request has been made for hedge trimming along the path between Court Park and the garage site in Thurlestone.

The footpath at Coronation Slipway has been closed by DCC until 20<sup>th</sup> May for urgent repairs.

The damage to the coastal path between Bantham and Yarmer has been reported to DCC.

The increase in cyclists along the coastal path has been reported to DCC.

The edging stones on the road in Thurlestone passed the war memorial have come loose and need fixing.

The Parish Helpline has been running well and a huge 'thank you' was given to all the helpers. It will continue for as long as necessary.

To note that the Thurlestone public toilets, which are now within the remit of the Parish Council, have been closed until further notice.

***For more detailed information, see the full Minutes on the Parish Website.***

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## **A NOTE FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR RUFUS GILBERT**

Well, as I write this newsletter we are all in week 6 of lockdown and I'm suffering from being over Zoom'd! I'm rather hoping that, by the time you read this, we'll all be free again and enjoying summer with friends and family. Covid-19 has occupied most of my County Council role recently. It has been awful to listen to the many stories concerning people's lives and livelihoods.



Just a few matters this time relevant to Thurlestone Parish:

1. I am pleased to say, that I believe I have managed to find the funding to finish re surfacing the road through the village which I hope will be done this year, although maybe next year due to any Covid-19 delays. At last I hear you say!
2. General pothole repairs throughout April have progressed well due to the dry weather. The network suffered badly over the winter due to the appalling wet weather.
3. Broadband fibre procurement for Devon and Somerset is on time and budget with a lot of interest from contractors to tender.

The collapse of FlyBe happened prior to Covid-19 and was a portent of things to come. I know for many this is bad news regarding business and visiting family and friends up country. It's unlikely a similar service will resume any time soon.

I wish you all a happy and sunny summer

**Rufus**



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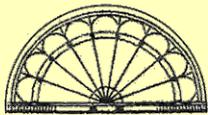
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# SCHOOL REPORT



**ALL SAINTS'  
THURLESTONE**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

## Education in Isolation

Like so many other organisations and businesses, it's been a challenging time for the education system over the last few months and Thurlestone All Saints' Primary has been no exception. The school closed on 20th March and measures were put in place to support parents, carers and children, providing the resources needed for home schooling. Initially and somewhat fortunately, the Easter holidays gave some breathing space for us to understand what this might look like and to create some kind of structure at home after the Easter break. For almost every parent I have spoken to, this has been extremely challenging, sometimes stressful and at times overwhelming. Thurlestone school (and I have to say Kingsbridge School) has pulled out all the stops to try and make this transition as painless as possible. One of the main issues was how to help the children of key workers. For our local primary, this meant co-ordinating with the other sister schools in the Academy and creating one Hub at West Alvington school with teachers working to a rota to support child care there. Meanwhile a mass of learning resources and advice has been made available on line with weekly letters from the school with different online lessons, videos, quizzes, art and science projects. Teachers have also been phoning every week to chat to each child to make sure they are coping. The emphasis has been very much to not worry too much about running your home like a mini school every day and just doing what is comfortable for you and your child. Certainly, activities like baking, gardening, walking, playing music and going to the beach have been encouraged. (I have done a lot of all the above!) It's too early to say when children will return to school and although the 1st July date is out there, it will be down to the School itself to decide how they might achieve that, whether it be staggered classes or certain year groups attending on different days. Many thanks to the teachers and leaders at the School for keeping things going in this difficult time, please 'hang in there' to my fellow mums, dads and other carers.

**Sian Williams**

## Village News Round-Up

### Life on Neptune

During Lockdown some people have gone the extra mile such as Mike and Shirley Barnes' Great Grandson Olly aged 12. The following was written to his Granny Elaine (Mike & Shirley's daughter) and Grandad. It has been left as written, spelling mistakes and all.

"Dear Granny and Grandad,

I know I haven't got to you in a while and that's because I've been travelling to Neptune for 12 years! It is ice cold here (-235°C) to be precise, I'm glad I packed my wooly gloves! I'm writing this whilst being 4.4 billion km away from you. Days are a lot shorter here on Neptune, 8 hours shorter in fact. It takes 165 years for Neptune to orbit around the sun. The climate here is extremely stormy, it's dark, cold and has supersonic winds. Unlike Earth, Neptune has 14 moons and the surface is not solid. I've just got to do a bit more reasearch and then I'll be back. See you soon. Love Olly" x

### **Bantham Swoosh**

The decision has been made to cancel the 2020 events on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The organisers are hoping to roll over entries and bookings to the new 2021 dates of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July. Further details can be found on the following website:

<https://us15.campaignarchive.com/?u=245f3cdf374e8fd3d7927275a&id=9b78433634>

### **Richard Sherrington**

Sad news, Richard Sherrington, late of Mead Drive passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 5th May. No doubt he'll be on his way to the 19th hole by now to meet up with some old friends.

### **Thomas Hedley Nicholson**

11<sup>th</sup> August 1925 – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020. After a long, happy and fulfilled life, and a short illness, Tom died peacefully at home on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

In the current circumstances, Tom's cremation service will be private. However, when the rules allow, the family intends to hold a memorial service for him at All Saints Church in Thurlestone to celebrate his life with his many friends from the 25 happy years that he lived in Thurlestone.

### **Midge Elliot**

We have also just learnt that Midge Elliott, another Mead resident, died in March. We have no further details.

## *POSTBAG*



### **Dear Village Voice Team**

Thank you so much to everyone on the team for managing to publish and deliver our last copy of Village Voice. We are sure we are not alone in appreciating the efforts of everyone involved, for working under such difficult conditions and yet respecting each and everyone's safety.

These are indeed strange times but so many in the village and beyond have worked hard to make sure that each and every one of us is being taken care of and ensuring that we have what we need. The Thursday night "clap and banging of kitchen utensils" should include you all.

Many thanks

### **Sally and Howard Martin**

### **Dear Editors - The Village Stores.**

During our enforced time at home, due either to Government or self-imposed 'lock-down', we have had to find various ways of obtaining all the food and everyday needs which we have hitherto taken for granted.

We have been given many telephone numbers for organisations prepared to deliver cooked meals to our homes – and they have been very useful.

However, I want to sing the praises of Sarah and her staff at the Village Store and Post office.

Whilst we failed to get both well-known stores in Kingsbridge to find us a 'delivery slot', we have received nothing but help, advice and prompt deliveries from our own village shop.

Well done Sarah for all that you and your colleagues have done to keep us alive and sane during this difficult time.

Regards,

### **Mike Stickland**

Dear Editors,

## Community-Led Housing

We understand public meetings cannot currently take place due to CoVid-19 but important Parish decisions are being taken, it seems, without ensuring the community is properly informed. We are concerned that the Parish Council is trying to progress with a decision on a site for Community-Led Housing by pushing forward without 'proper' public consultation. At the beginning of this process, well over 100 parishioners regularly attended the Community Housing Meetings at Thurlestone Parish Hall.

History tells us that these decisions often set a precedent which then allows further development to follow - it shouldn't happen... but it does.

Currently, the preferred site of the Parish Council appears to be in Bantham opposite the shop, one of the most visible & prominent positions in the Parish and the first glimpse of Bantham when driving down into the village. Taking into account the protections on this land, which are supported in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council should have dismissed, not pursued, this site when proposed. Choosing a site should not be at the cost of our environment or landscape.

The Parish Council is apparently showing bias towards this site – why, we don't know. They pushed it heavily at the first virtual Parish Council Meeting on 11th May, saying it was the only site on the table. That is not a good reason to pursue it. There have been other sites on the table which have been dismissed by SHDC because of "their impact on AONB and their visual impact". Surely on that basis this most prominent site in Bantham should have been the first to be rejected? Just 5 years ago 12,000 people, including most residents of the parish and the wider community, supported a petition against development in this field. If it was wrong then, surely it must still be wrong now?

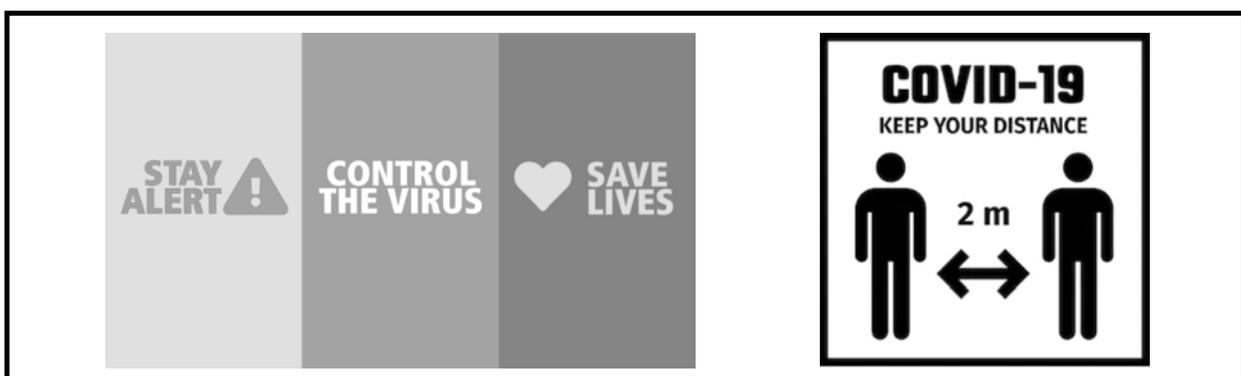
It feels that this important decision is being rushed through by the PC. At the meeting on 11th May it was implied that the result of this vote will decide the site the PC will move forward with, and form an important part of their mandate to proceed quickly, formally dropping any other sites.

There is no obligation for us to choose from the current options unless we feel one site is absolutely right. If we feel none are right, or we need more information, we must say so. The least we should have is a full presentation of the proposals for each site put forward, like-for-like, as was done before. We know there are more sites available. This decision must not be rushed through based on scant information. It is critical we get this right. If we feel a site is wrong, we should say 'NO' and look to the Parish Council to present all sites that have been put forward for Community Housing with criteria compared on a like-for-like basis to find the right site for the Parish.

Say YES to Community-Led housing but in the RIGHT place!

Yours sincerely,

**David Stone, Jon Wigg, Gill Stone, Sally Wigg, Jonathan Mather**



# THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY LED HOUSING UPDATE



The Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in July 2018 and supported by 92.67% of the votes cast in the Parish Referendum. One of its main objectives is to redress our present age imbalance and to achieve this the parish needs to have a variety of housing that younger people can afford. We already have a high proportion of affordable rental properties in Thurlestone village, but the cost of open market housing is well beyond the reach of most young local people. Helping these people get on the property ladder is an important way of ensuring the future sustainability of the parish and securing our school, shops and bus services, as this housing will remain affordable in perpetuity.

We are looking to provide six homes for people who meet the parish local connection criteria and are registered with Help to Buy South West. Since the entire parish is located within the South Devon AONB and all the housing will be affordable, it is dependent on government funding as there is no open market housing to cross-subsidise the development.

## Possible sites

Since 2016, when the Plan was in the course of preparation, we have been talking to local landowners about whether they would be willing to provide land for affordable housing. This culminated in an Open Forum/Workshop in January 2019 but the two sites originally offered were subsequently withdrawn. There are now two alternative sites on offer and they are both located adjoining an existing settlement on land that would not otherwise be released for housing. In terms of their location, they both meet the requirements of the Joint Local Plan. There was a third site on offer but that has recently been withdrawn. The question we now would like to put to parishioners is which of the two sites best meets the requirements of our Neighbourhood Plan:

*Where will the housing best enhance or maintain the vitality of a village community and the parish as a whole?*

The enclosed leaflet contains a location map of the two sites. Please note that further details of each site will be available on the parish website or by contacting Cllr Sian Williams or Cllr Sue Crowther who will arrange hard copies. Their contact details are on the back page of this issue.

Sites will be subject to environmental, topographical, ecological and highways surveys to assess their suitability and likely development costs and these factors will be taken into consideration by Councillors as well as residents' views when deciding which site to promote since the housing must be affordable.

## How do I have my say?

Please complete the leaflet and leave it in one of the boxes provided at the Thurlestone or Bantham shops **by 21 June**. If you are self-isolating, then please telephone one of the councillors referred to above or arrange with a friend or neighbour to deliver the leaflet to one of the boxes on your behalf. This will enable Councillors to take your views into account when deciding which site to promote for Community Led Housing.

Thank you for your assistance with this important decision.

**Jack Rhymes, Chairman of Thurlestone Parish Council**

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*All  
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In the Bible (Matthew, chapter 6) Jesus tells us not to worry about the future. The final verse of that chapter reads:

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

I have been reflecting on this passage of scripture during the past week. In the midst of the current crisis our thoughts naturally turn to the future. What will the world look like? What will change? What will stay the same? There is no shortage of pundits, commentators and writers to help us in our deliberations. The problem is that the pronouncements of each person tend to reflect their own preconceptions. People are falling over themselves to proclaim that the world will be forever changed. The socialist proclaims that we will need more state ownership and taxation. The environmentalist proclaims that we will need a new "green deal". Free marketeers proclaim that we will need less regulation and lower taxation. The reality is that we simply don't know what the future will look like. The future is not written with the pen or the keyboard, it is written out of the present. In other words it is what we do now that will shape the future that we will inherit. In the words of the Gospel "today's trouble is enough for today".

Those who are on the front line of the fight against COVID-19 do not have time to speculate about the future because they have "troubles enough for today". Doctors, nurses, health workers, care workers, emergency services, retail staff, teachers, drivers (the list goes on...), as well as all those business owners who have suffered a dramatic loss of demand for their services and products - they are writing our tomorrow through their valiant efforts today. Sitting around speculating about the future is easy. Making the future out of the present, that is much harder!

Playing our part in the fight against COVID-19 means playing our part now. For some this is a daily and immediate task, but for others it is not. Yet each one of us can help and we can help in the here and now. We can support businesses, both locally and further afield. We can give to foodbanks and other charities. For many of us, particularly in this area, we have a weapon of choice in this fight - our money! Each pound that we spend (even if we spend it on ourselves) supports the continuation of a business. The future that we want will only happen if people can thrive in the present. Without work, without business, without industry, people suffer.

So we may all have our opinions about how the future should be written, but let us focus our efforts on the present. Let us ensure that our local and national economies thrive as we "spend to support" - supporting businesses and charities alike. Today's trouble is enough for today, but if we meet this trouble then we will be better prepared for the troubles of tomorrow!

*Daniel Hartley*

As the coronavirus spread across the world, love rose up in response.



Christian Aid is reaching out to protect our neighbours around the world by providing water and soap in places like Sierra Leone and in refugee camps, such as those in Bangladesh.

It costs just £100 to set up a new clean water point which will provide clean safe drinking and handwashing for many families.

Thank you to all of you who contributed on-line during this year's Christian Aid Week, your donation will help people around the world stay safe.

It is not too late to donate on

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>.



# All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

## Closed but still here...

### NEED TO TALK?

It doesn't matter if you normally attend church or not, we are here for you. If you would like to speak to someone about how you are feeling, or if you need help, please contact the Rector on: [danielhartley.aunevalley@gm ail.com](mailto:danielhartley.aunevalley@gm ail.com) or telephone: 01548 562727.

During the national lock down your church is still here. While we cannot meet together physically, thanks to modern technology we can talk on the phone, send each other emails and messages and meet virtually on-line.

### SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

Our services are cancelled until further notice due to social distancing but each Sunday you can listen to the Rector, Revd. Daniel Hartley, and sing hymns on:

[www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html](http://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html)



### THE ROCK - CHURCH MAGAZINE

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

### ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETINGS

We continue to meet, but on-line using the ZOOM virtual meeting software on a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Download the software free from <https://zoom.us>. For help or more detail on these meetings, please contact Mike Hodges on: [mike2.hodges@btinternet.com](mailto:mike2.hodges@btinternet.com) or 01548 561124.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### OTHER RESOURCES

#### DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE

For those without access to the internet Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line (0800 804 8044), particularly for those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions. Just phone the number and then you will be given various options. These include Prayer updated daily, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

#### TELEVISION WORSHIP RESOURCES

BBC 1 on Sundays: Morning Service (times vary) and Songs of Praise at 1.15 p.m.

#### RADIO WORSHIP RESOURCES

BBC Radio Devon Sunday Service (8.00 a.m. Sunday) and daily Pause for Thought (6.35 a.m. weekdays, 7.35 a.m. weekends)

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As the Church Fête is unlikely to take place, the draw will take place in  
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We thank our **SPONSORS** for their generosity in supplying this year's prizes

# SPRING NOTES - AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



Aune Conservation Association

Life in the Devon Avon continues much as normal although recreational activity in the estuary has been severely curtailed during 'Lockdown'. Unfortunately, our social gathering in the form of the Tidal Road clean-up planned for the end of April was another casualty of the coronavirus pandemic and advice on social distancing, etc. Our Spring AGM will probably suffer the same fate.

As for normality, this is the time of year when as salmon begin to mature, they adapt for life in salt water in an intermediary stage known as smolts. This process marks the beginning of their first migration from their home river to the ocean. Anadromous fish, like salmon, that move from fresh to salt water and back again over the course of their lives, must be able to change their physiology - the way their bodies work. In a process called smoltification, salmon adapt to the changes salt water causes to their bodies. In fresh water, the salmon's body is saltier than the water in which it swims. To work properly, the body needs salt so it tries to keep the salt in. Some escapes, but the salmon gets enough from the food it eats to make up for the loss. In the ocean, the water is saltier than the salmon's body needs to be, so it must try to keep the salt out and the water in. When salmon swim in the ocean, the salt water draws water out of the fish's cells. Salmon adapt by drinking seawater to replace the water their cells lose. They excrete the excess salt through their gills and urine. As the smolts prepare for ocean life, their appearance also changes, from the dark colours of the fry to the silvery colour of adult salmon. This helps them hide in the light conditions of the surface waters of the open ocean, where there is no dark shade from overhanging trees. While approximately 30 fry from a redd of 2000 to 2500 eggs grow into smolts, less than four survive to become adults.

We are now approximately midway through the smolt migration season, locally, but a big problem in the Devon Avon (Aune) is the potential shortage of water to enable these migrations to occur. The Aune is a spate river meaning that it is rain-fed, short and fast flowing so the run-off time is quicker; water levels rise and fall relatively quickly, especially upstream. The water level recorded at the gauging station near Didworthy usually ranges between 0-1.40m; early on 3rd May it was 0.37m. In contrast, downstream at Loddiswell (usual range from 0.25m -1.80m); the level was 0.26m and falling. The Avon dam exacerbates the problem of seasonal water shortages although, as part of the original agreement when the dam was built in the 1950s, an ecological 'bank' or 'freshet' of water should be released in times of drought. Some years ago, we managed to negotiate with the Environment Agency (EA) and Southwest Water (SWW) to make sure these water releases actually happened - for the first time since the dam was built. Unfortunately, owing to retirements and headcount reductions in both organisations, the agreement details seemed to become 'forgotten' despite my best attempts to familiarise replacement staff with the arrangements. Happily, following yet more staff reassignments and the appointment of a new, better informed, EA fisheries officer to cover our region, I have just been notified that because April was a very dry month - although it is raining as I write - the overflow from the dam has been very small of late. Therefore, a 'freshet' of water will be arranged with SWW. Hopefully, more smolts will make their way to the sea as a result and will eventually come back to our river as adult fish.

**Stuart Watts**

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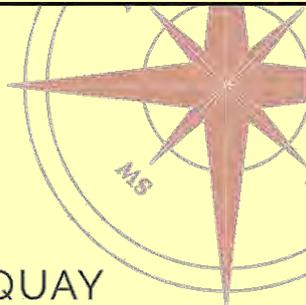
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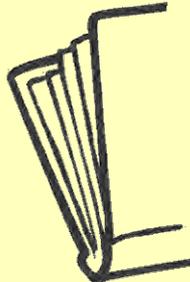
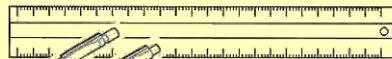
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# Another Furry Tale

## Archie the Cat

I read with interest the report in the last issue about Heidi the dog. I too have a tail (tale) to tell:

I arrived at my new Thurlestone home about a year ago after spending the first few months of my life in a refuge for my fellow unwanted felines in Cornwall. My mother had stepped out of line and got herself pregnant with some local tom - I definitely was not planned. Such irresponsibility! I, of course, have already taken measures to prevent such foolish unplanned parenthood or should I say I was forcibly frogmarched to the local chop shop.



While it was exciting for me to step into such luxurious surroundings after the shelter, I can't say the same thing for my new furry friend Heidi the Labrador - the incumbent fawned over animal. She just ignored me especially when she found out my secret weapon: my claws. They work like a dream at keeping this huge monster at bay.

My charms, such as my purr music (a new genre for this household) and body rubbing are totally wasted on this animal (although not with my owners) - so I resort to rough housing with Heidi but alas again she walks away from all forms of combat. She must be expecting some sort of medal (or luxurious treat) for this pathetic wimpish performance.

I have had a happy and safe first year in spite of climbing 30 foot trees and barely getting down again, eating half a rabbit and getting lost in a garden in Court Park overnight and being rescued by a lovely fair haired beauty whose house it was who called my owner to come and get me.

I have one of my owners wrapped around my middle claw as he takes me into his room sometimes for a lovely long undisturbed sleep, unlike my usual vagrant night time prowls. He even keeps a menagerie of fake mice for me to chase after.

I am still trying to understand why my lovely owners turn their noses up at the offerings I bring them (usually uneaten unless that stupid dog has got to them first). I have presented them with such rare titbits as mouse and vole (tartar), birds (admittedly unplucked but when I try to remove the feathers it makes such a mess everywhere) and one rabbit (head removed for easy eating - that was a supreme effort).

In any case, I look forward to many more years of irritating the dog, playing my owners for fools but still continuing to offer them my many commendable menu items in return for their luxury lodging.

**Rosemary and Neil Mackay**

# 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 2020. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: [cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk)

## WORD BUILDER.

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one letter

- |    |       |                            |
|----|-------|----------------------------|
| 1. | ----  | Unhappy                    |
| 2. | ----- | Uttered                    |
| 3. | ----- | Sudden invasions           |
| 4. | ----- | Empties of water           |
| 5. | ----- | Mends (eg socks)           |
| 6. | ----- | S. African currency        |
| 7. | ----- | Judo grading               |
|    |       |                            |
| 1. | ----  | Clique                     |
| 2. | ----- | Relax                      |
| 3. | ----- | Garden plant               |
| 4. | ----- | Apprehend                  |
| 5. | ----- | Lachrymal fluid            |
| 6. | ----- | Astral body                |
| 7. | ----- | Used a chair               |
|    |       |                            |
| 1. | ----  | Tame animal                |
| 2. | ----- | Cheeky, saucy              |
| 3. | ----- | Drinker                    |
| 4. | ----- | Loud bang                  |
| 5. | ----- | Imitating a former fashion |
| 6. | ----- | Ripped                     |
| 7. | ----- | Decay                      |
|    |       |                            |
| 1. | ----  | Normal                     |
| 2. | ----- | Harvest                    |
| 3. | ----- | Left over                  |
| 4. | ----- | Meal                       |
| 5. | ----- | Grazing land               |
| 6. | ----- | Most Chaste                |
| 7. | ----- | Sudden burst of speed      |
| 8. | ----- | Seen on old iron           |
| 9. | ----- | Tedious routine            |



**Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:** 1. Custard Pie 2. Edam 3. Dover Sole 4. Trifle 5. Pork Pie 6. Tapas 7. Sauerkraut 8. Mince Pies 9. Croque Monsieur 10. Stargazy Pie 11. Paella 12. Olive Oil 13. Ice Cream 14. Russian Salad 15. Lobster Bisque 16. Currant Bun 17. Chow Mein 18. Ewe's Cream 19. Bakewell Tart 20. French Onion Soup 21. Shepherd's Pie 22. Pavlova 23. Goose 24. Sunday Roast 25. Burrito 26. Pickled Herring 27. Scotch Broth 28. Cauliflower 29. Pine Nuts 30. Bangers and Mash

*Last month's winners of the coveted bottle of wine are David and Mary Horne.*

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# THURLESTONE THEN

Continuing the memoirs of Monica Coope

## Chapter 6

The Glebe Cottage, set in the Rectory Wall, was in a sad state of disrepair so Father had it pulled down and built a new one, a pretty gabled dwelling with a good living room and airy bedrooms. Here came the Ellises to live and work for us with their children Albert, Harold, and Rosalind. Harold was a young tearaway then and we used to follow his devilries with bated and admiring breath. He grew up into a fine young fellow and lost his life in World War One. Albert survived and became a signalman on the then Great Western Railway but he too was fated to a sudden death, being killed by an express train on the main line at Cornwood just as he was handing over the Right of Way Key to an engine driver in the up line. Rosalind, in due time, became our maid at the Rectory and has remained one of our dearest friends through all the years that have passed. She was always wide open to laugh at my silly clowning and show-off jokes. I thought myself no end of a wag and one day, outside the pantry, I heard our Roslin' laughing so I went in to share the fun. Lo. . . .she was alone! "I heard you comin' along Miss, so I started to laugh, knowing I'd have to!" What a compliment. The clown still survives and sometimes surfaces to the astonishment of my elderly friends.

Laughter - oh what a release from tension and worry - singled out my Father from among his fellows. He had such an appreciation for the ridiculous; such a savour for an amusing anecdote, and joie de vivre at all times. Mother only had to say "One of you children run up the village and tell Father dinner is ready," and up you went to the village pump and stood and listened. Where you heard laughter, there would be Father; so right to the hilarious cottage you sped to find Dad, comfortably settled in the kitchen, chortling and chuckling as the quick Devonian repartee kept everyone in fits.

Those who still remember him used to delight in his own special brand of chuckle, starting off with a Hm,Hm,Hm, broadening and widening and extending so that you had to join in for the sheer infection. Brother John inherited it and I am glad; in his palmy days in Fleet Street John Coope's laughter and warm approach brought many a recalcitrant shop steward back to reasoned co-operation. Actually, when he was Deputy Chairman of the Daily Mirror, the Union (Printer's —very touchy) refused to turn up to print the Coronation Copy except for Treble Time. John said, "Take that back, I'll come and print it with you, and after we've put it to bed, we'll have a party to end all parties". So, they did, and John telephoned me over in Ireland to hop on a plane and take over his official seat while he took off his jacket. That was the first and only time I have done a Kangaroo leap from Waterford to Dublin Airport, and just made it.

But this is irrelevant to Thurlestone and I am bucking about myself again. Now that Thurlestone is a "Millionaires' Paradise" with luxury hotels, a landing Pad for a helicopter and vast holiday mansions stretching down to the cliffs, none of us "Children" venture to go back. There were I believe only two people left in this life who, if I arrived, would gather me up in their arms with a "Miss Monica, my darlin!" "But we had the best of it didn't we?"

Father had a fund of "Clergy Stories" which he would recount to visiting "Guinea Pigs" (so called because locum tenens would get a guinea a service). One we loved and knew by heart was about the Bishop staying in the Rectory after taking a Confirmation Service. We then had a Boot-Boy .... (first thing before school) and he was chosen to take up the Bishop's hot water can and shaving mug to the spare room. He was told to knock on the door, and when the Bishop called "Come in", to go in quietly, say "Good-Mornin' My Lord"; then put the can in the basin and cover it with

the felt muff, and retire. BUT, when he knocked and waited outside, the Bishop called out "Who is it? Alfie lost his head entirely, and replied in clarion tones, "IT'S THE LORD, MY BOY". Of course, this went the round of the whole of the Diocese of Exeter, and many upright parish priests have since claimed it as their own.

Winter at Thurlestone had for us one compensation; it was all ours, as there were no visitors. The links and the cliffs, the beaches and coves, they were ours again, our very own. Apart from an occasional nasty east wind it was never really cold, and until I went away to school, I had never seen snow falling. Snowdrops were out by the second or third week in January, and we never failed to pick a bunch surrounded with small ivy leaves, and take them up to old Mrs. Ilbert for her birthday on January 16th. Once Mr. Frank Hewitt, our local artist, did skate gingerly up and down the Lea Pond but that was an event not repeated in our time. And the only plants Father ever protected with sacking were the arum lilies outside the drawing room window. These arums flourished exceedingly and were a lovely sight in flower at Easter time, but everything did well in our garden, untidy though it was, and Father always welcomed people in for a stroll around. A friend once gave me some assorted seeds from the Canary Islands, which he brought on in the frame, and few of them were any different from our own established plants. But one grew apace and had a leaf like a laburnum; he potted it and it outgrew the pot; then he gave it a good wide space in the bed outside the drawing room, and away it went, up and up, like Jack's beanstalk, throwing out branches and growing a proper trunk on its main stem. Still it looked like a laburnum but that summer it did not flower, and we could give no name to it, and got rather bored with it. But the next Christmas we weren't bored, for suddenly the whole tree became covered with lovely tresses of white flowers like snow, and ever after that it flowered in profusion at Christmas, growing higher and higher, until when we left it came up to the bedroom windows. Father's successor cut it down . . . . I can only believe he did not wait to see it in flower, for its beauty then was breathtaking.

Another tree we loved and used to climb was an ordinary common red fuchsia, and like our snow tree it had found the spot which suited it and repaid us by growing to a great height with a trunk quite twelve inches thick. One could straddle a branch for many happy hours popping buds, or at any rate until Father caught you at it. Our May trees alongside the orchard were a sight not to be rivalled, white, red and double pink, and the scent would pervade the house when they were in bloom and the sun was on them.

But I started to talk about the winter, and one of our favourite walks was down to the shore to see what the tide had brought in, and bring home, if not treasure trove, at least some fine pieces of wood for the nursery fire, and corks to float in our bath. When there had been a wreck, and wrecks there were around our rocky coasts; then planks and doors, boxes, ropes and foodstuffs came in with the tide, but we had to be careful what we took, for it was impressed upon us that this was the property of the King, and only the coastguards might take it away. When the *Jebba* with her cargo from the Congo, piled up on the rocks off Bolt Tail, we all rushed over to Hope to see the negroes and the monkeys and the cases of fruit. Not so nice was the olive oil in semi-solid form, which became mingled with the sand and ruined our clothes before we knew we had sat on it. That stretch of cliff Bolt Tail has a queer tradition, for so many ships, small and large, have met their doom there, and not always in bad weather. The locals say that there is magnetic force there which upsets the ships' instruments, but this theory, although reborn every time there is another wreck, always seems to be pooh-poohed by the experts. The *Herzogin Cecilie*, Finnish sailing ship carrying grain, was the last victim, and she might have been salvaged had not the water got into the holds and swelled the grain so that the whole lovely ship burst asunder.

The walk to Hope is a treat in itself, and in winter when the Milton Lea stream is running full, it makes a deep gorge across Thurlestone sands and you have to run round by the footbridge. One winter's afternoon we were over by the lea stream which had broken its banks and brought down it a mass of red soil, which made the water a most sinister blood red colour, and the gulls, scavengers ever, were taken in by this and were screaming and diving and searching for what was not there. Hilda was riding Belle that afternoon and came down to the sands for a canter. We watched her speeding towards us, and suddenly realised that she intended to ford the lea stream, now running in torrents through its newly broken banks. We hollered and waved but she just waved back, and over she went into the stream, while we rushed down the sides in confusion. But Belle was quite equal to the occasion and was swimming powerfully to the opposite bank with Hilda, looking rather surprised and scared still in the saddle with her habit trailing in the blood red water. She went home after that, and so did we.

Wins and I started on the road to ruin one Christmas holidays when we had cash in hand, and knew how we wanted to spend it. We drove the pony cart into Kingsbridge and rather furtively entered the local men's hairdressers. There we asked what were suitable cigarettes "to give a brother", and he naturally sold to us the most potent and the most expensive. Abdulla No.11, which we took home, and having stabled the pony, sped down to Broad Sands with our purchase and a box of matches. Broad Sands was indicated because there stands a high bluff of rock, which extends out into the sea, and which can be reached at all tides by a hole at the top just big enough for one person to squeeze through. Wins and I squeezed through and found a niche where none could spy from land or sea, and then began our orgy. We were not sick, we did not even feel sick, although no one smoked in our house and we had never tried even a whiff before then, and so we continued to smoke down on Broad Sands whenever we felt the urge, and strange to say were never found out or even suspected.

Because I was a chattering little jackanapes and could talk the hind leg off a donkey, (Arthur would quote *The Brook* in despairing tones... "But she goes on for ever".) I used to be "told off" to take visiting clergy for a walk and show them the cliffs and our beauty spots, and I wonder now what some of them thought when I showed them our secret rock and dragged them through the hole at the top. It was a great honour of course, but they might not have thought so. I had to fetch one of them at Kingsbridge every week in Lent, and the first time I did so the train was over an hour late and he arrived cold and hungry, saying hopefully that the sooner he got to Thurlestone the better he would be pleased. I felt just the same, but so did Belle, and when we got to the top of West Alvington Hill she took the bit between her teeth and galloped. Fortunately, the kicking strap was on, because she was fair legging it, and my guest was hanging on to the sides while I hung on to the reins. We went round the corners on one wheel in that two wheeled governess cart, and got home in record time, just as he had wished.

The rest of Lent, Belle behaved herself and I became devoted to this particular friend, who gave me a leather-bound copy of *Kim* as a memento of Happy Days in Thurlestone, and I still have it.

I really do not know how Mother managed to keep us all dry-shod in winter, for we never picked our way, and used to come in with mud up to our knees. Jackman used to put our boots under the pump before he blacked them, and then stuff them with paper and put them in rows by the kitchen grate. There was a whole room next to the pantry given up to our boots, with rows and rows of shelves, and on one shelf reposed a pair of boots someone had given to us, and which were waiting for me to grow into. They were horrible, really horrible boots, and I watched them with disgust and foreboding dreading the day that must surely come. They were lace up boots, black, with the fronts some inches higher than the backs, and wavy tops. The toes

were creased and turned up, and there was nothing about them to inspire anything in anyone but distaste and dislike.

The day did come when Mother said, you can wear those boots now I think, and something went pop inside me and I sat down on the floor and howled like a dog. Father came out of the study and found me bawling and Mother expostulating, but he wasted no words except to order me to stop that noise and do what your Mother tells you AT ONCE. I did. They were very comfortable indeed, and apart from the labour of lacing them up almost to my knees, they served me very well. I suppose no modern child would have been forced to wear those boots, and no modern child would receive what I recognised at once as Father's just rebuke. I knew that one generation is always ready to sit in judgement on another, but I do often wonder whether the appeasement of children nowadays is going to fit them to take the rough with the smooth when they are grown up and obliged to find their level on their merits. The first pretty shoes I had were bronze kid sandals for dancing, with a golden star on each; I would sit and look at them and stroke the soft leather, and imagine that they had high heels and that I was a grown-up lady at a ball, with lots of partners. This was because I had seen Katherine dressed up for her first party — a dance at the hotel and I longed for my time to come and for such a pretty dress as hers, which was cream silk with a boned bodice and puffy sleeves, and little garlands of flowers all round the neck.

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## Parish Hall News

By **Alison Daily** (Secretary)



What a strange couple of months it has been, even though in Lockdown we probably saw more villagers than usual whilst going for our daily constitucionals, simply because they were at home rather than out and about.

It is surreal seeing the Parish Hall carpark completely empty but that doesn't mean nothing has been happening. Maintenance work continues, you may have noticed the new fence panels as you walk by, these replaced the ones damaged previously. Inside, new LED lights have been installed into the existing wall lights which are brighter, change colour and can be controlled remotely. Well done Chris.

I am pleased to say we received an application for the position of Caretaker mentioned in the last edition. I would like to welcome Jane and Andrew Woodward to the fold, their duties will commence towards the end of the year and I am sure they will be an asset to the hall. Thank you to Frith Chadwick for her work in the meantime.

As things stand, we cannot see social distancing being eased for a long time yet and as our events take place indoors it would not be viable for us to hold any as numbers would be cut dramatically, plus everyone will understandably be wary. Therefore we don't foresee the possibility of holding events this year. You can be assured that, once the situation allows, we will be back with gusto.

As for clubs and fitness classes, only time will tell if they will recommence.

Best wishes to you all, stay safe and well.



## THURLESTONE HOTEL

All of the team at Thurlestone Hotel are thinking of everyone and we hope you are all keeping safe and well.

We would like to remind you that we are continuing to serve the parish as best we can by serving fresh, delicious meals from the Village Inn.

We thank you for your support.

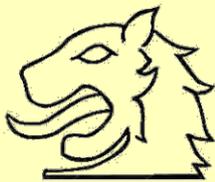
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# Lily the Airedale

## Not so much a waggy tale but a shaggy dog tale

Lily bounced into our lives aged 9 and a half months, just 3 months after Kiera (Airedale Mark 1) died, aged 15 and a 1/2. We were NOT going to replace Kiera (aka Voldemort)... or at least not yet - and not with another Airedale. Why not? Well, Kiera, although brilliant with people and much loved by us, was a liability with other dogs, so much so that until she reached her dotage we muzzled her to walk her.

But the day Kiera died, something made me call Airedale Rescue (run by a lovely lady called Lynda in Wales) really because I wanted to talk about my beloved dog.

Some weeks later Lynda called, while I was in Waitrose. She wondered whether we would consider adopting ..... I hurriedly cut her short, explaining that it wouldn't be possible, that my other half REALLY didn't want another dog at this stage. Lynda: 'Well, you could at least ask him'. So in considerable trepidation, expecting a flat refusal, I brought the subject up. To my amazement he didn't just say 'No'. He wasn't exactly enthusiastic but still ... so we went. I did make sure beforehand that he understood the implications of such a visit. He did.

Lily had been kept by her breeder, because it was hoped that she could be shown. She had been born with a kinky left ear, caused by misaligned cartilage.

Sometimes this can be cured by copydexing the ear into the right position for a few weeks to allow it to grow straight. It was our good fortune that this didn't work.

Kinky ear or not, she was absolutely gorgeous, still sporting her puppy coat, so alert, just perfect. Except Lily was basically untrained: she had lived in a semi- domestic



situation with 5 other Airedales. We had been led to believe she was housetrained. Some hope. The puddles were like small ponds. She had never come across a carpet (perfect for pooping on) or a Hoover or a television and she howled in the car.

1. House training took about 10 days. But it all came right. The fates determined that we deserved the perfect pet, given that we had devoted 15 years to a 'difficult' dog.

2. She soon came to love watching television, on the lookout for anything 4 legged or part thereof,

cartoon or real. In fact I have several series of 'Paul O'Grady for the love of Dogs' recorded for her, so that she can get her intellectual stimulus on those days, when her daily walks have had to be curtailed. These may prove useful in the coming 'difficult' weeks.

3. Once we had employed a dog behaviour therapist, she came to the realisation that 'car' = 'walk'. Even if it doesn't. No further problems.

4. Because she had only been walked on a lead to heel in her previous life, she didn't and doesn't pull. Nothing we've done: it just seems to come naturally to her.

5. To top it all, there isn't a mean bone in her body. If anything she errs on the side of caution, where other dogs are concerned. And she is unerringly gentle with bipeds of all sizes.

Lily's near death experience: (I was on the golf course, phone switched off, completely unaware of the unfolding drama) Graeme had taken Lily for a walk on local common land which is grazed by cattle. They are corralled within an electric fence. Lily went up to investigate and her nose got burned. She jumped 4 foot into

the air and ran for dear life. Graeme spent the next 3 hours searching for her, asking everyone he met. He reckons he covered about 12 miles. No-one could have called him because *my* mobile number and our home phone were on Lily's dog tag. Then he remembered he could access our home phone from his mobile to check for messages - and there was one. Someone had found her running alongside the A3 (partly dual carriageway). He had stopped, got her into his car and, as he was on his way to Portsmouth, deposited her at the local pet shop. Graeme found her completely at home, being petted and treated by the girls in the shop, not a care in the world. We are lucky that there was a good ending to this tale.

Lily is 5 now and we hope to share our lives with her for many years to come. P. S. She is not THAT perfect. She would chase cats if she could and we don't take any chances with sheep. Understandably she is petrified of cattle !

**Sheila Fairley**

## The Thurlestone Parish Lockdown Support Hotline

**07955 607873**

Although most people have now managed to settle down into a Lockdown routine and established "buddies" to give them essential help, the Hotline very much remains open to offer assistance and care to anyone in the Parish who might need it.

Over the past weeks our fantastic **volunteers** have undertaken many different missions from putting out bins to delivering news-papers, posting mail, walking dogs but mainly essential shopping and especially picking up medicines. Very importantly just keeping in touch with vulnerable and needy people.

So, if you, or anyone you know, need help for anything other than medical matters please do not hesitate to call the Hotline and speak to a very caring person who will do their best to look after you. We would also still welcome more **volunteers** so that we can spread the load.

Talking of **volunteers**, a huge thank you to everyone who has been working on the Hotline scheme which has certainly lessened the stresses for many people. It has not all been plain sailing and our helpers have certainly had difficult moments to test their diplomacy. Their selfless generosity is hugely appreciated as witnessed by the messages of gratitude from many who have received help.

So please take note of the number and pass it on to anyone you feel might be in need of some sympathetic help.

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# BOOKSHELF



MUDLARKING – lost & found on the River Thames

By Lara Maiklem

Having enjoyed episodes of the television series about River Thames ‘mudlarks’, it was good to come across Lara Maiklem’s recent book on the subject. ‘Mudlarking’, or scavenging in the residues of Thames foreshores, can produce on each tide some fascinating and evocative items. Things dropped or washed into the river by accident or design, perhaps hundreds of years ago or more recently, all found on or near the surface.

Starting at the tidal head at Teddington, then working along through Hammersmith and central London down to Tilbury and out to the estuary, the author writes about her Thames finds over the years. She describes what she has salvaged for her personal collection and those items she has donated to the British Museum, Museum of London and similar bodies, explaining where they were found and why they are so interesting.

This book is also a wonderful record of life on the Thames riverside, past and present, full of enjoyable diversions and highly readable.

**Pat Macdonald**

CUTTING FOR STONE by Abraham Verghese

This is a long book: over 500 pages with small print, but well worth the effort.

It tells the story of slightly conjoined twins, born in 1954. Their mother, Sister Mary Joseph Praise, an Indian nun and nurse, has followed Dr Thomas Stone, a brilliant surgeon but social misfit, to Missing Hospital in Addis Ababa. Working alongside each other they develop an intense relationship and Mary’s pregnancy ensues. Tragically Mary dies in childbirth and, brokenhearted, and racked with guilt, Thomas flees.

Crucial to the story are the Missing family: Hema and Ghosh who act as surrogate and very loving parents to the twins, Shiva and Marion; Matron Hirst, a stalwart British nun, who runs the hospital; Rosina, an Eritrean domestic help, and, most importantly, her daughter Genet, a little younger than the twins and Marion’s soulmate.

Both boys are bright and their medical careers are predetermined. Shiva stays at Missing, whilst Marion is forced by Genet’s actions to flee Ethiopia for New York.

There are 3 elements to the novel:

Firstly, the symbiotic relationship of Shiva and Marion. Shiva’s betrayal of Marion with Genet; their ultimate reconciliation and Shiva’s sacrifice.

Secondly, Marion’s relationship (or lack of) with his father Thomas Stone. By chance their paths cross in America and ultimately, they are reconciled.

Thirdly, there is political undercurrent. The reader absorbs Ethiopian history through the regime of Haile Selassie, an attempted coup, Ethiopia under Mengistu and the liberation of Eritrea. Equally Verghese portrays the 2 sides of America through two hospitals and healthcare systems; one in the Bronx and the other in Boston.

I found the book almost unputdownable. At times there was perhaps a bit too much medical detail.... a small price to pay for a cracking story.

**Sheila Fairley**

# WAR TIME RECOLLECTIONS OF SALCOMBE

There is no doubt that the ghastly Global Pandemic that we are living through has brought out the very best in human beings when it comes to caring for each other as much as we can and ensuring others have essential help where they need it even though this may not always be easy due to the restrictions now imposed on us all.

Has anyone else, who grew up as I did through the second world war, noticed some similarities in what we are experiencing now with the way things were from 1939 to 1945, especially perhaps in the lovely little towns and villages of our beautiful South Hams?

I grew up in Salcombe from the age of 5 when, in September 1939, I was evacuated there with my mother and brother to my grandparents' home. They had retired there in the early 1930's and my father decided to move us down from our home in Surrey on the edge of London when he enlisted in the RAF (lucky me! I have never moved out of this lovely area since).

Maybe my memories of those war years are clearer than you might expect from a 5 – 12 year old but I think this is simply because so many things that were happening around us were so unusual and affected our daily lives.

I believe a small contingent of our Royal Navy were the first Forces to arrive in Salcombe and the RAF Air Sea Rescue boys, but as I have no real knowledge of the historical sequence of events I have probably got much of it wrong. I believe the officers were in one of the larger hotels, perhaps the Marine.

When the US forces descended on us in 1943, they requisitioned the Salcombe Hotel (now flats). In between times and also after they arrived, a great many of the larger houses in the town were requisitioned for various uses. I believe that the St. Elmo Hotel became the US Forces hospital.

The RAF Air Sea Rescue section took over Rockside, a large house at the water's edge a little seaward of the Marine Hotel. They moored several (4 craft from memory) large fast rescue launches just down the middle of the estuary and opposite their HQ. I believe they rescued a good many pilots from the Channel who had suffered damage in "dog fights" and also aided those in trouble who were trying to land on the air strip on the Bolt Head re-fuelling station. These RAF lads' dormitory, and possibly also eating quarters, were just up the hill behind the Marine Hotel in the small 11 bedroomed Carbury Hotel on Newton Road (which when de-requisitioned in 1946 was taken over as a hotel again and run by my parents for 25 – 30 years after my father was demobbed from the RAF. ( Carbury has since been demolished and replaced by town houses).

The people of Salcombe meanwhile were doing their bit, helping elderly neighbours etc and taking in evacuees from places in danger from the increased Nazi bombing. Some I believe were from Dagenham in Essex and later, when bombs continued to fall on Plymouth, I believe that some were from there. I went to the local "Infants

School” in Courtenay Street and remember how the classroom soon filled up with little ones who seemed to have very little in the way of clothes. The local WVS was very active, receiving and sorting bales of children’s clothes, some of which came from the US. They were all delivered to an old artists’ studio at Shaw’s Corner and I can remember my mother “dragging” me there to help sort it into ages sizes etc (I was only 7 or 8).

The folk in the road where the Infant School was were asked to shelter us little ones when the air raid siren sounded. We were by then being bombed presumably to try and destroy the Naval, RAF and later the Landing Craft moored in the estuary.

We were each allocated a house to run to (usually in 2’s and 3’s) and I remember being sent (with 2 of the naughtiest boys) to Mrs Osborne’s grocery shop on the corner. We had to go straight to the cupboard under the stairs until the “all clear” sounded.

The United States, having “joined” our war, was now involved in planning the D-Day landings along with our Forces. Salcombe was just one of the harbours chosen on our South Coast to train the troops and assemble the landing craft and support craft so accommodation had to be contracted for the Forces who would arrive, this happened at the top of the hill, largely on the Rugby pitch and nearby ground. The US Navy took over the Salcombe Hotel (now flats) and built a huge recreation hall in the gardens. The noisiest construction was the landing craft repair base on Millbay beach. I believe our Navy had begun the work but the RN left when the “Yanks” arrived and they proceeded to build enormous concrete slipways on the left side of our largest beach and installed huge cranes and other equipment in readiness. This beach was almost opposite my grandparents’ house at the top of Herbert Road and I remember the noise and the lights (we were all in blackout of course) going on into the night, especially later when damaged craft would return to the harbour.

Once the Americans were established in their new huts waiting for the planned departure for D-Day, they must have been home-sick being dumped in our little town. Quite a few of the local older ladies would accost them in the local shops and ask if they would like to “come to tea”. I remember my Grandma befriending a lad called Chester and he came quite regularly, sometimes turning up with tins of peaches or spam (the Yanks always seemed to have loads of food) and we were suffering from rationing. Once Chester turned up with some empty ammunition boxes for my Granddad to grow his tomatoes in. Granddad was a great gardener and supplied us with lots of vegetables through the war years.

The town by this time had established many ideas to keep an eye on the older folk and make sure they were not starving etc. I remember 2 sisters coming around the streets with a pony and cart selling produce from their small holding and of course in those days, some farmers would bring milk in churns and Grandma would go out with her jug.

The Americans were still with us for Christmas 1943 and they threw a wonderful party for the local children in their recreation hall in the Salcombe Hotel gardens. We all received a present sent over from the States so not things we had seen before. By the end of the next year, things had quietened down and the town had emptied out (D-Day having been on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944).

Now I realise that this has developed into a history lesson but I still feel that there are similarities in the way we are all dealing with this crisis simply in the way folks go out of their way to make sure others are coping. I know in my case that I have lovely neighbours who “keep an eye” and our local WI committee members check on us older ones regularly to make sure we are OK and we know that they can be called on should we need help.

We were not exactly in “lockdown” during the war but limits were placed on where we could go, for example some beaches were off limits and quite a few cliff top areas were dangerous for various reasons.

I just hope that all of us in our lovely village come through unscathed and that normality returns before too much longer

**Maureen Lywood**



### A Poem by Pam Ayres

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.  
You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.  
They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.  
We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!  
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.  
Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?  
We didn't mind the change of pace

Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!  
So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!  
It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no flaming flour!  
Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.  
At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!  
So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this awful virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.  
We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!



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# Eating Out but In, Locally

Feeling in need of a break from cooking and missing the opportunity to eat out, we decided the occasion of 6 years since moving to Thurlestone was reason enough to order a takeaway. We chose the two course Dinner menu from Twenty-seven as it was on our list of places to try. I spoke to a very helpful, pleasant young lady and ordered celeriac soup with truffle oil and chives and beef salad with Jersey new potatoes to start. Our mains consisted of the fish and chip special (£10 supplement) this was half a Lobster with hazelnut dressing with Dirty Millionaire fries (chunky chips with black garlic, Truffle and parmesan, very tasty) plus the Start Point hake with chowder sauce and a side order of tenderstem broccoli. It was all delicious and a real treat. We ensured the evening was special by dressing for a normal evening out, decorating the table and playing background music. We enjoyed the experience so much and in the interest of a complete picture ordered the Sunday lunch. We enjoyed carrot, cumin and coconut soup followed by roast beef with roast potatoes, carrot and swede mash, red cabbage, tenderstem broccoli and little Yorkshire puddings with an additional side of smoked cauliflower cheese. The portions once plated were very generous. The thick slices of beef were tender and everything was very flavoursome. Food arrives ready to eat but can be popped in the microwave or oven to keep hot. We look forward to sampling it in the restaurant when the situation allows.

Dinner is 2 courses for £15, 3 for £20 and Sunday Lunch is £12 for 2 courses and 3 for £17, additional side orders are £3 as is delivery. 01548 288847.

## **Alison Daily**

..... and a selection of other places giving similar services in our area.

## **Cottage Hotel**

Dinner is delivered hot on china plates before dinner time. No effort, no waste just good food, ready to eat, on their dinner-ware. Place your order by phone 01548 561555. Wine can be ordered at the same time. Some grocery items are available and we enjoyed their fresh fish. To find out more, use their website.

## **Sloop**

Whilst it was delivered a bit late, it was freshly cooked and delicious as if plated in their restaurant. Remember to have your plates warm to serve food from the biodegradable boxes as they arrive. Place your order the same day after 5.30. 01548 560489

## **Village Inn**

See their menu on line. Fish-and-chips was delivered in light-weight portable containers - fish & chips that you might eat on the beach, or your patio? Place your order for this and other delicious meals with a call after 5.30 to 01548 563525

## **HelloFresh**

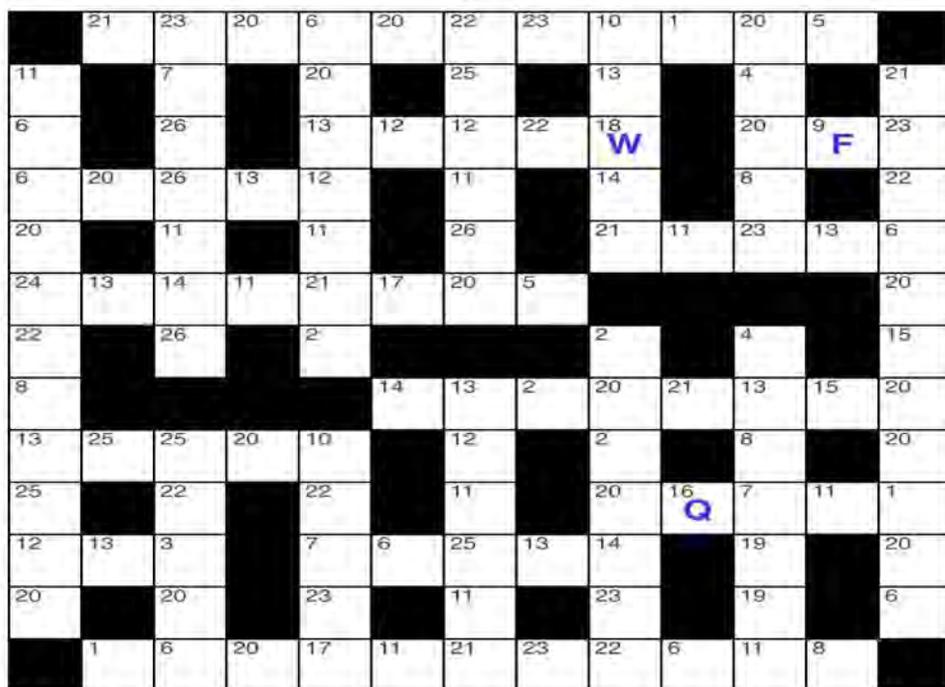
This service is ideal for home-cooked meals in 'lockdown'. There is a weekly delivery of the measured ingredients needed for flavoursome set meals. The meals are easily put together by you in 20 – 40 minutes in your own kitchen using their well-illustrated cooking instructions. The produce is measured and packed to a fine standard along with the clear instructions. Place your order by email at [hello@hellofresh.co.uk](mailto:hello@hellofresh.co.uk) two weeks in advance.

Bon Appetit !

## **Vivien Stickland**

# Puzzle Page

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



## CODEWORD

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

Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

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

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

## Sudoku - Easy

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

## Sudoku - Hard

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

There were 5 correct entries last month. First out of the hat to win the coveted bottle of wine is Steven Wallis. Commiserations to David and Mary Horne, Pauline Lonsdale, Neill Irwin and Dave Gibby.

Richard Jackson

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# Thurlestone Parish Villages Website

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



We think its been a whole year since we have given you any updates on the development, changes and additions to our Parish Website. Very remiss really!.....but the Village Voice is rarely short of good articles and we are always fighting for space. Nevertheless, in the background we are constantly tweaking its look and content to keep it up to date. So it's time to tell you about some new changes and additions that may interest you.

## **Help during the Coronavirus pandemic**

Covid 19 is affecting us all. The Phonebox committee and the parish council initiated an emergency helpline for our residents offering personal help, so it made sense to put this vital information on the Home page. There is also a dedicated Virus Info page with links to advice from SHDC and DCC and other useful information, particularly businesses offering home delivery, which all helps to reduce our movements, maintain social distancing and keep us safe!

**(See Coronavirus large yellow banner on the Home page for the Helpline information and the Virus Info tab for other useful information).**

## **Church Service additions**

Again, Covid 19 has unfortunately stopped all church services. Here again the website has stepped in giving Revd. Daniel Hartley a platform to give comforting, weekly addresses (as sound files) and related hymns (via YouTube links) to our community.

**(See the sound file links on the Home page notice board and the Recorded Services page under the Church -> Church Services menu).**

## **Neighbourhood Plan moves to Parish Council Section**

As the Neighbourhood Plan is a completed parish document it will now reside (with its supporting documents) on its own page under the tab for the Parish Council as it will be predominantly referenced against planning activities. The Community-led Housing page will also move under the Parish Council tab.

**(See Neighbourhood Plan and Community-led Housing under the Parish Council tab).**

## **Parish Council meetings and a new approach.....for now!**

Covid 19 has stopped all face to face meetings of both the committee and the public....for now.

They are going to continue remotely in the virtual world of video conferencing.

**(Members of the public are welcome to attend virtually and a link to the meeting will be displayed on the agenda and on the Parish website in the week before the meeting).**

## **Picture Gallery changes**

The move of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Parish Council section has enabled the picture gallery to replace that tab position and has enabled the Galleries to be more user friendly, with the pictures now in categories for easier viewing. If you have good pictures of our area that you are proud of please submit them to our community website for all to see and enjoy!

**(See Galleries tab with new sub-menus in its new position).**

## **Social Events**

You will notice there are no social events on the website. Again Covid 19 has stopped all social activities due to social distancing and we can only hope they will return as soon as it is humanly possible. We will publicise new events as soon as they are announced but until then we will have to wait patiently!

Please have a look at the website and tell us what you think – we can only keep improving it if you help us. We always want your input. Any content ideas or revisions please contact:-

**Mike Bone – Tel: 288436, Email: [mikebone18@hotmail.com](mailto:mikebone18@hotmail.com)**

**Paul Martin – Tel: 560070, Email: [pmover60@gmail.com](mailto:pmover60@gmail.com)**

# Thurlestone Phonebox.....Ring Ring

Despite media gloom and doom, the Thurlestone Phonebox has continued with its mission to raise spirits and smiles in our wonderful Parish. Besides its seminal role in organising the Parish emergency hotline, since Lock-down our Easter bunnies have come out to play. Our Happy Birthday to E I R inspired one young toddler to demand of her Mum that they make a Birthday Cake to send to Buck House (hope it arrived in one piece). Then our huge Thank-you, with a big capital T, to NHS Staff, was joined by another Birthday, the centenary of Captain, now Colonel, Tom Moore...a true inspiration. As I write we are preparing for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory Europe Day, which was a pause to rejoice amongst so much sadness.

Alan, the Phonebox Poet Laureate, has been inspired to write these uplifting couplets, which every week are being posted on our notice board:

Let's give this virus one big shove  
So we can see the ones we love.

Begone, foul bug  
So we can give our friends a hug.

When the isolation shrinks  
We'll buy you all a round of drinks.

This bug is really such a pain  
I want to see my kids again.

If you think you're under stress  
Give a clap for NHS

Should the bug give you a miss  
Give your family one big kiss.

*And hopefully soon...*

At last the bug is on the skids  
So we can visit with our kids.

Stay safe and of course We'll meet again one sunny day, and we know the sun always shines in Thurlestone. Now if that's not being optimistic....and who knows we might even have books back in your favourite library.



**Kit Marshall**

## Thurlestone Post Office and Stores Opening hours

The shop opening hours are continuing to change, to keep pace with events, so keep an eye on the Parish website, which will give you the latest available information.

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

## Mead Estate Road Resurfacing

Road resurfacing work will be taking place on sections of the Mead Estate, including the area around the cattle grid, during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June. Exact timings are not known at this time, but at least you are now aware, if you will be venturing in that direction.

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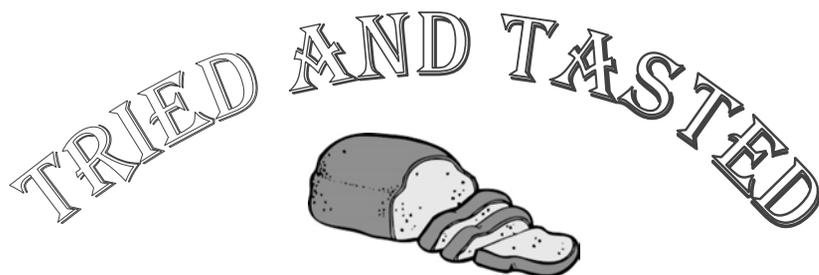
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Two very different recipes for you this month. The first assumes that you are still “locked down” and have plenty of time to make yourself a luscious loaf and time to enjoy it too. The second perhaps assumes that you are again having supper parties with your families and friends and want to knock-up the most delicious desert in 60 seconds flat!

Whatever the situation – just enjoy.....

### **Banana Loaf**

#### Ingredients (Makes 1 large loaf)

225g SR Flour	25g Chopped mixed nuts
½ level tsp salt	100g Glace cherries
100g Butter	2 large eggs
175g Caster sugar	450g Ripe bananas
100g Sultanas or seedless raisins	

#### Method

1. Sift flour and salt into large bowl add the butter and rub into the dry ingredients until the mixture is crumbly and the fat evenly distributed.
  2. Add the sugar, sultanas/raisins, nuts and cherries . (Rinse the cherries under warm water to remove the sugar coating, pat dry and cut in half)
  3. Mix the above ingredients together and then make a hollow in the middle.
  4. Crack the eggs into the hollow, peel and mash the bananas with a fork, and add to the eggs. Using a wooden spoon, beat all the ingredients thoroughly to a soft consistency. No extra liquid will be needed.
  5. Line a buttered 23x13x5cm loaf tin with baking paper. Pour in the mixture and spread evenly.
  6. Place in the centre of a moderate oven (180°C, 160 °C Fan, 350°F or Gas No 4), and bake for about 1.5 hrs depending on your oven. Check regularly with a skewer until it comes out dry.
- NB This bread keeps well for a day or two, freezes and also tastes good spread with a little butter!

### **Yoghurt Delight**

For 4 servings of probably the quickest most delicious sweet ever, you will need:

2 cartons fresh raspberries (sliced fresh mango is equally good)  
½ pint double cream  
500ml Greek Yoghurt  
Demerara sugar

#### Method

Fill soufflé dish with fruit  
Whip double cream  
Add Yogurt – quick whisk  
Cover fruit and then cover every available space with Demerara sugar.  
Chill overnight in the fridge and the result is a perfect brulee.

This is the year that the Devon Federation should be celebrating their centenary, having been inaugurated on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 1920. They were to have a celebratory cream tea at Blundells School in Tiverton on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July to which all WIs in the Devon Federation were invited. They were hoping to make it a world record for the number of people attending a cream tea. Sadly all Federation events have been cancelled up to the end of July. Hopefully, we shall be able to get back to some kind of normality by September. Thurlestone and West Buckland WI were also hoping to put on their own cream tea celebration in June to which all the residents of Thurlestone, West Buckland and Bantham would be invited.

Not only is the Devon Federation celebrating their centenary this year, but Jean Yeoman is celebrating being a member of Thurlestone and West Buckland WI for 70 years. What an achievement – many congratulations, Jean.

Needless to say, our WI meetings in Thurlestone have been cancelled until September. In June, Marilyn Bishop should have been talking about the Music Halls. She is a most entertaining speaker on a variety of topics and so I have no doubt that she will be back with us next year. Tom Sharples should have been discussing Sustainable Gardening at the July meeting. Again, we hope to have him back next year.

The WI committee have been supporting their members during the lockdown by telephoning each member on a rota basis each week. It is amazing just how upbeat everyone is although I am sure that the wonderful weather must have played its part

*“If you are not a member of the WI, why not come and join us in September”*

in our isolation. We have to thank all those delivery people who have looked after us all over the past few weeks whether it be meat from Aune Valley, vegetables from Alans Apple, a multitude of items from The Pantry, our very own Village Shop in Thurlestone, milk and other items from Dartmouth Dairy, supermarket deliveries (when you can get a delivery slot), take away meals from a variety of local restaurants, all delivered with a smile.

If you are not a member of the WI, why not come and join us in September. We will of course adhere to whatever the Government and WI guidelines are at that time.

Stay safe and healthy

**Lisa White**

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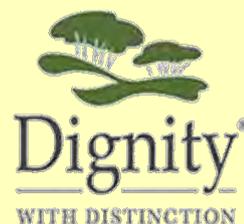
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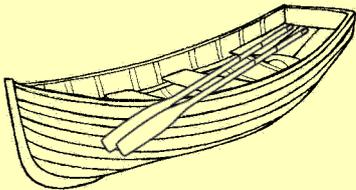
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# Thurlestone GC in Lockdown



A long winter we suffered, windy and wet  
The anticipation of spring, we were all set  
Members, visitors and guests due to reappear from the gloom  
The course and club energised, ready to bloom

But unfortunately, as you all know  
We suffered a bit of a blow  
Somebody called Corona came to town  
Calling Boris to lock us all down

The course was closed, clubhouse shutters pulled down  
Members and staff left for home, faces in frown  
“How long will this last?” No one could answer  
The new kid in town proving a tough taskmaster

We needed people to get us out of the mess  
So up stepped the heroes we call the NHS  
In appreciation, their flag we flew  
Indebted to them all, we offer a huge Thank You

Six weeks in we're waiting for news  
Until permitted, guidelines must not be abused  
Lifting of restrictions, we wait for a green light  
None of us certain of what is in sight

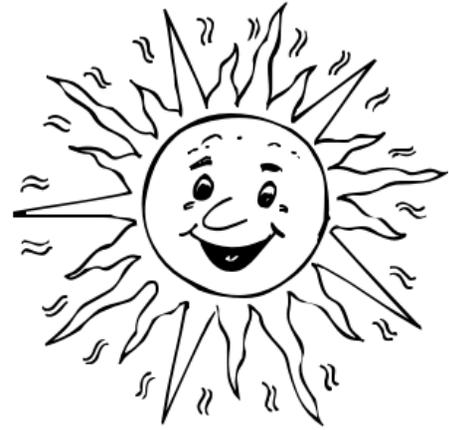
We look forward to opening our doors  
Having our club back in the way we adore  
The course is all set for the eager players  
Kept in great condition with mowers and sprayers

Meanwhile we continue to stay safe and abstain  
Until Thurlestone GC can function again  
“We'll Meet Again” famed by Vera Lynn  
We so look forward to welcoming you back in.

Stop press, Boris says we can play  
Thursday was members D-Day  
Instruction to keep our social distance  
Golfers have reason for existence

Clubhouse remains closed – we do pine  
We will have to wait for beer and wine  
You understand this is not out of choice  
Hope for better news by the next Village Voice

# Weather Wag



It has been a very weird spring this year without doubt. In more ways than one, things have not been the normal we have known in the past. I speak of course about the weather but other aspects of life have also had an effect on our usual lifestyles. I am writing this on the first day of relative freedom, May 14<sup>th</sup>, the weather is sunny and warm in sheltered spots out of a fierce-some east wind. Thurlestone Sands is one such place and today there are many people, families with children of all ages (schools are still closed) all enjoying some respite from weeks of being constrained indoors because of the dreaded Covid19 pandemic. Maybe the end is in sight even if afar off.

The statistics for this part of our year make rather sad reading, temperatures very low at night, frost in northern areas along with snow on high land across the northern hills. -6°C registered in Ireland overnight, who would have thought it? However, I do remember snow in May (a freak event) in the early 70's when I lived in No 1, New Buildings. Great excitement among the children but it didn't last long, neither the excitement nor the snow!

Back to the here and now, the sun continues to shine and sadly the east winds continue to dominate the airstream direction. This is thanks to the high-pressure system which has dominated the weather for some time now.

Rainfall has been sparse over these last months. March = 40.7mm, April = 38.8mm and so far in May 32mm. Out of a possible 75 days there have been 19 rain days, and of these 5 days saw 56 mm in the rain gauge. May 5<sup>th</sup> = 20mm. The main story is of cloudless blue skies by day and cold clear night times. Paul Simons comments; the global lockdown has one bright spot, Solar generation is booming in these conditions as air pollution is almost non-existent. On April 20<sup>th</sup> the UK's solar output

*“When it rains, odds on it will not know when to stop!”*

record was broken when generation peaked at 9.69 gigawatts, = to 30% of the UK's electricity demand. Although the gardeners and farmers are looking anxiously at the skies it has been a bit of a godsend for us all who have had to remain in Lockdown until yesterday. In India there is also a lack of air pollution,

so much so that from northern India the normally invisible Himalayas have been visible to many who may have never seen this mighty mountain range. He concludes his column with these words, “Above all, toxic air pollution causes a host of serious health problems, and hopefully the clear skies will encourage measures to clamp down on dirty air permanently.” I wonder if the world Health Organisation will have any similar thoughts that could possibly influence the powers that be to entertain such a thought, and to bring some sort of global result to help the world, its population, land, air and sea environments to become more ‘user friendly!’

Keep safe, garden while the sun shines. When it rains, odds on it will not know when to stop!

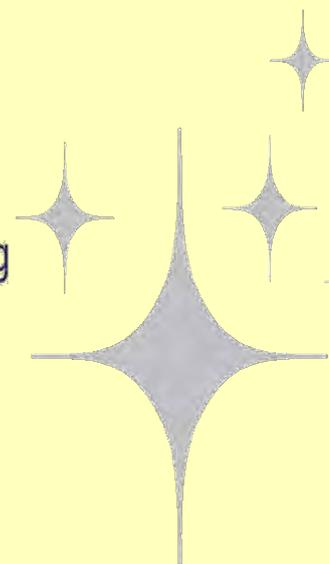
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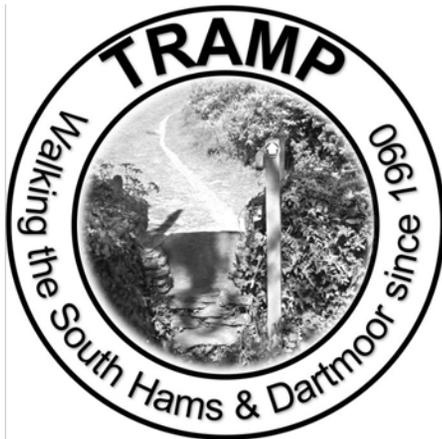
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**June/July 2020.**

I am getting reports from our Tramp group that lock-down is in no way preventing plenty of walking activity. Regrettably it just means that the social aspect of our walking group is “on hold” for the time being. Some are finding new walks locally to their homes and we may all enjoy these later in the year or even in 2021.

We are inevitably short of walk reports – we abandoned our 2020 programme after the March 12<sup>th</sup> walk. In musing through my files, I came across one of my old favourite walks and have included it this month for “old times sake”.

**Nostalgia – a Dartmoor walk on January 26th 2011 – revisited**

This walk was unique in so far as it gave the opportunity to visit both the sources of the river Yealm and the river Erme in one morning! However, please note that the car parking area at New Waste was closed to the public some years ago when the new owner decided he didn't want tramps on his land

\*\*\*\*\*

Was this a record? For once, the men outnumbered the ladies even with the inclusion of Corrie the lady labrador !! Seven of us set off from Thurlestone at 9.30am heading for New Waste car park (SX626612) to the north and east of Cornwood. The weather at New Waste was fine and cold with a chilly north east wind blowing all morning.

The moor was pleasantly dry after ten days of dry weather – it is always worth

going on the moor in winter as it is a different experience. We set off in a northerly direction (NNE) through an area scattered with the remains of settlements keeping the River Yealm to our west and made good progress up to the Yealm Steps. There are a number of small waterfalls about one mile south of the head of the Yealm. This was a suitable stop for a coffee break as it was also out of the wind !! (From here, there is a choice of continuing north to the source of the Yealm and then easterly to the source of the Erme.)

We chose the shorter route and went in an easterly direction and passed through a fairly large settlement just above the Falls. The next mile or so was across tufted grassy clumps with no pathways. Progress was slow but most of us kept our feet dry. We headed for a location marked as a ‘cairn’ but in fact it turned out to be a burial ‘cist’ or ‘cyst’ which was in excellent condition but without its top stone. The going then got easier as we descended into the Erme valley.

After half a mile we came to the SW Waterboard sluice gates across the river. As this is a trout river, there is a fish ladder to the side of the gates. From this point, the walk became a lot easier as there is a track all the way down to the Water Treatment Works at New Waste. This part of the walk was exposed to the NE wind but fortunately it was behind us. We found a rare copse of really old oak trees, called Piles Copse, to the east of the river. Can anyone age them for me ?

The views across to the clay pits at Lee Moor, the power station at Plymton and Plymouth Sound were just fantastic. The sun came out for us at noon and was even reflecting off the water of the Sound. We arrived back at the cars in just over 3 hours after a six mile walk in amazing surroundings. Do join me on my next moor walk in August.

We were made very welcome for lunch at the Cornwood Inn with lots of homemade grub and good local ale !!

**Mike Stickland**

P.S. .... and now the Cornwood Inn has closed, but will re-open shortly under new management.

**March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020. Rolf & Viv Burnie.**  
**Puffing Billy Line and Ugborough Beacon.**

Originally scheduled for 24th February, the forecast for that day was 50mph winds, heavy rain, and cold too, so a quick swap with Sheila Fairley resulted in her leading us up the sheltered and pleasant walk alongside the Avon she'd planned for the 19th, a walk that got us back just before the heavens opened and we'd have been drowned: much better than the survival medals we'd have earned up on Dartmoor.

Monday 16th March by contrast dawned sunny and calm: Hurray! After weeks and weeks of near endless rain and wind it was just perfect for the moor and consequently a whole crowd, it seemed, of Trampers met up in Thurlestone to arrange lifts.

The walk itself started at the top of the small lane just west of Bittaford and took us gently up the Puffing Billy Line path onto the open moorland. This 8 mile long, 3ft gauge railway was built to bring china clay down off the moor, clay that was then lowered from the bottom terminus down an incline to the Great Western railway below. Built in 1911 the railway lasted for 21 years before being abandoned, although apparently one loco still remains somewhere.

With the sunshine and light wind, it was a day for a lazy walk, so as we ascended we stopped frequently to admire the views both westwards over the moor or southwards over the South Hams to the sea in the distance. Then about two miles up the hill, the track levels out briefly and here we turned southwards towards Ugborough Beacon where again we stopped to enjoy the views.

This was our highest point and, now headed westwards, we continued to enjoy the warm sunshine and yet more fine views as we meandered southwest downhill to our cars and a pub lunch at the Horse and Groom in Bittaford. Perfect.

And for statistics lovers, the total distance was about five miles, with a height gain of about 200 metres (600 ft).



**Marching Song. From Welcome Mouth to Morwenstow (and back)**

Two and a half miles  
It said on the map.  
An hour or two  
With no mishap.  
But ups and downs  
And stones and scree  
Made it far too hard for me.  
The occasional flat bit  
At the top -  
I really have to stop and flop  
But my walking companions  
Want to go on  
And I'm way behind before too long.  
Even the dog regards me with scorn.  
I'm beginning to wish I'd never been born,  
For I've long not walked such rough terrain  
I hope I won't have to do it again.

**And - a favourite coastal walk which never disappoints.**

Trampers are still out, walking alone, or with partners. We're on local walks rather than exploring the usual trails which are at greater distances than the present restrictions allow.

There's a popular walk along Thurlestone's cliff path which skirts the golf course. It's pretty level so usually an easy walk. The path is a mere 25cms wide in places and the red Devon soil is

fringed on either side with grass, like a pony's mane. When conditions are wet, we rely on the tread of our heavy walking shoes to grip the ground on that path which winds along the cliff top.

There are kestrels to be seen. One that we spotted flew where the usual sheer drop from cliff top to shore is a more gradual slope. The grass there is tufty and conceals the small creatures which are kestrels' prey. We propped ourselves against posts to watch.

The kestrel did not falter. It hovered above the coast-line in spite of the wind.

In the sky beyond, we spotted kite-surfers' kites. Below them, the kite-surfers were in only a few inches of water while a lone board surfer, waiting for decent waves, appeared grounded. High above, in sky that glowed silvery blue, the kites were lifted by the wind. Mike's hat flew off but was not lost, thanks to the clip on his collar which secured it in place; and still the kestrel hovered unhindered by the south-westerly wind. Eventually, ravens approached and warned it away from their territory. The kestrel put up no fight. It retreated.

It was a warm day and the sun shone silver in the cloudless sky. We turned and continued along the narrow path with our eyes down to avoid slipping where clay soil hadn't taken up the recent rain.

We reached a west facing bench and sat for a moment to view the scene. Burgh Island is its backdrop. The Burgh Hotel tractor, with four-wheel drive, crossed the strip of sand that's seen when the tide is out. We left the bench and continued along the path that trailed like a ribbon laid out before us.

Further on, we sat again and appreciated someone, unknown to us, in whose memory the seat was placed. From there we viewed the sea – silver, like crumpled kitchen foil under the late afternoon sun. Two gulls were silhouetted black against this sky along with two stray kites. The kites didn't show up their colours of red and yellow, but hovered like black bananas in dusk's watery blue sky.

A young walker disappeared between shrubs at the cliff edge further along. We tried her path, but found it too steep and

slithery for two OAPs. An easier path took us down to where sea-weed was washed up. It seemed unusual for Thurlestone's beach, and there are other unusual things to be found there too. On some days foam, washed in by breakers, flies from where it lies on the sand to become plastered against a cliff face. We were amazed by what we saw and know that when we go again, there'll be a different picture to be seen.

And we'll listen to the sky larks whose spring song adds to the scene. Their calls, and the sounds of the sea are sometimes all that can be heard, on lockdown.



### **And finally – for the fit ones ..... from Mike Hodges**

We have been doing walks to Hope Cove and Bolt Tail during 'lockdown'. Basically you can do a large loop which goes out via the cliffs to Bolt Tail and up to Bolberry Down and the back via an inland route through; Bolberry (bottom of the valley), North Bolberry, Galmpton, South Huish, The Thurlestone Ley Nature Reserve and back into the base of Court Park. There is a lovely Stone Cross on the junction to South Huish Farm.

Route: Long, but multiple ways to shorten.

Start at base of Court Park (680 430)  
Walk down Mead Lane and follow footpath through to back of hotel and on to the church. (673 429)

Follow footpath out to coast through the Yarmer estate.

Once at cliffs follow cliff path south to the Golf Club.

From Golf Club follow cliff path to Thurlestone Sands. You can go along the Thurlestone Sands Beach or via the wooden bridge over the lay. Lots of birds on the Ley and behind Thurlestone Sands beach.

At the south end of Thurlestone Sands take the road towards South Huish, but turn right up the road to the cliff at the first left hand bend.

Follow the cliff into Hope Cove, lots of good view towards Bolt Tail (southwest), Eddystone lighthouse (on the western horizon in good visibility) Plymouth (north west) Thurlestone (north). You can get refreshments in Hope Cove, even in the lock down. Ice cream and coffee are available through the window at the village shop.

Follow the coast path out of Hope Cove and west to Bolt Tail, where there are remains of Stone Age forts, and hut depressions.

Now follow coast path southeast until you get to Bolberry Down, good views of the Ham Stone of Soar Mill Cove.

Take the road over the cattle grid (689 387) and follow down to the bottom of the hill where there is a "T" junction, turn left towards Hope Cove.

Shortly after take a right turn to take you further down into the base of the valley (mill cottage is on the right at the base of the valley).

Follow the road uphill until a green road is on your left as the made-up road turns right (692 396). Take the green road, which used to be called Lovers Lane, now called Sweethearts Lane.

At "T" junction with macadamed road turn left (There is a barn conversion straight ahead). This is North Bolberry.

Follow track towards "Higher Barton", turning off right up a foot path where signed.

Cross two fields to bring you to the ridge, where you will have good view to Bolberry Down, Hope Cove, Galmpton etc.

Continue north towards Galmpton and follow track down hill to footpath on your left.

Follow the foot path into Galmpton and what was the council estate.

Turn left onto road and then right up track which becomes a footpath.

When you reach the main road through Galmpton, just opposite what was the old chapel, turn right and look out for a footpath on your left.

Cross the field, joining the road turn left and look out for footpath on your right.

Follow the path across fields, onto an old county road and into South Huish opposite South Huish Farm. There is a lovely Stone Cross under an Ash tree at the junction. Continue North on the minor 'no through road'.

After passing a house with dove'cots on your left continue up track and across fields, and a stream with an old rock stile, to Holwell.

A little way up the road out of Holwell take the footpath on your left which will take you across fields join another county road. Interesting view down to Thurlestone Sands.

Turn left onto the county road, and look out for footpath on your right.

Follow footpath across field and down the side of Horswell House grounds. When you get to the road turn left and follow road until footpath on your right after the entrances to Horswell House.

Follow foot path down to the Thurlestone Ley, nature reserve. Cross the reserve and follow path up side of sewage farm to bring you out at Whitlocksworthy Farm.

Go down track to farm and turn right when the track turns left and join footpath to take you to base of valley.

Cross the stream and follow foot path up through fields to Court Park.





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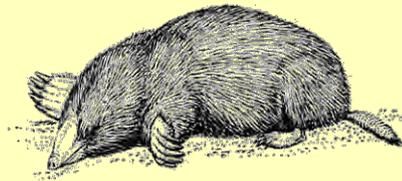


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# BIRD WATCHING FROM THE BALCONY



Our lives have certainly changed since Lockdown on the 24th March. Fortunately, the birds are completely unaware of our circumstances - all the summer migrants mentioned in my last article duly arrived some later than expected but nevertheless welcome.

With severe restrictions on our movements the Balcony became my home for birdwatching. Since Lockdown commenced my log shows I have spent over 82 hours on watch spread over 34 days - I was absent from 30th April to 4th May having my aortic valve replaced in Derriford.

Total number of different species that I have recorded is a remarkable 88 - I am very lucky because the balcony gives me a view across the 1st Fairway of the Golf Course with a restricted view of the sea which I watch through my telescope. The highest daily total achieved is 44 species on 12th April with over 40 on 7 other dates.

Some of the interesting observations in date order were: -

- 24th March In 2 hours a total of 45 **BUZZARDS** flew south in kettles of up to 7.
- 25th March A **WILLOW WARBLER** singing in the copse.
- 29th March 2 **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** flew South East.
- 31st March A Male **WHEATEAR** on the fairway.
- 2nd April Big flocks of **GULLS** in the field opposite during ploughing included 300 **HERRING GULL**, 20 **BLACK HEADED GULL**, and 10 **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** - the latter looking superb in full summer plumage.
- 5th April First **SWALLOW** flew North.
- 6th April 3 **SANDWICH TERN**, 4 **SHELDUCK**, 2 **OYSTERCATCHER**, 2 **JAY** and 4 Male **BLACKCAP**.
- 7th April 4 **TUFTED DUCK** flew east. Nice male **BULLFINCH** in the Garden.
- 9th April A male **YELLOWHAMMER** flew over - only my second garden record in 12 years.
- 11th April A Standout day - at 17.00 sat having a cup of tea in the afternoon sunshine, noticed some **ROOKS** and **JACKDAWS** diving at a bird on the ground in the field opposite - quick dash to the Balcony and through the Telescope I found myself looking at a **STONE CURLEW**. A bird on migration from its North African wintering quarters to Berkshire/Dorset where a few pairs breed. This was the first record for this patch.
- 14th April Highest total of **GANNET** - 170 this morning, also 8 **WHIMBREL** and 20 **BAR TAILED GODWIT**.
- 16th April 94 **COMMON SCOTER** flew east as well as a **RED THROATED DIVER**.
- 17th April An adult **YELLOW LEGGED GULL** on Thurlestone Marsh a **LITTLE TERN** in the Bay at Leasfoot Beach and 3 **GREY PLOVER** flew over.
- 18th April Big **SWALLOW** passage today - a total 306 logged, first 2 **SWIFTS** seen and 2 **MUTE SWAN** flew up the Valley.

- 19th April A **RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE** in the field.  
 25th April 2 **ARCTIC TERN** flew east, 3 Male **WHEATEAR**, 2 **REED WARBLER** singing on the Marsh.  
 26th April A **GARDEN WARBLER** singing in the Copse.  
 29th April 2 **SPOONBILL** flew in off the sea at 14.05 and flew up the Valley - first record for a few years.  
 4th May Plenty of Warblers in song - **BLACKCAP, CHIFFCHAFF, SEDGE WARBLER, WHITE THROAT.**  
 6th May 48 **WHIMBREL** and a single **BAR TAILED GODWIT.**

Finally, I must mention another red-letter day for the patch - 9th March, I found an adult **ROSS'S GULL** at South Huish Marsh stayed for 3 hours. Another first for the Patch and only the 6th record for Devon. Photographs and an article appeared in the April issue of Birdwatch Magazine and I was asked to submit photos to 2 Dutch Birdwatching Magazines.

The birds are there - we just have to find them. Stay safe, healthy and sane during these difficult times.

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



### Lock-Down Aviary

Not using the car has meant the need to charge the battery a couple of times, but that hasn't been the only excitement. We were standing in the drive-way when Gillian spotted a rather flustered Robin telling us off in no mean fashion. It then made a bee-line through the grille of the car and we realized that there was a nest inside. On lifting the bonnet, a small chick jumped down and scampered off. Undeterred the nimble and fearless Gillian picked it up and returned it to its home. We watched the parents diving in and out for a couple of days but they were too quick for us to photo. Yesterday, with no more toing and froing we took the plunge and made another inspection. The birds had flown. We managed to extract a huge amount of nesting material, and the remains of one egg. So, we wonder if the little chick has flown back to re-visit the Phonebox where it had been taken on several occasions inside the car engine.

If that's not enough excitement we have a pheasant living in the garden called Percy. He appears every evening for Gillian to feed. He comes to within a couple of feet and talks non-stop. He's very handsome but has a broken tail-feather. Whatever next.

**Kit Marshall**

### Passing it on...

Just be careful because people are going crazy from lockdown! Actually, I've been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee, and we all agree that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine, as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not the fridge, as he is getting cold and distant. In the end, the iron straightened me out, as she said "everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing". The vacuum was very unsympathetic, told me to "just suck it up", but the fan was more optimistic, and hoped it would soon blow over! The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion, and didn't say anything, but the door knob told me "to get a grip". The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me...yes, you guessed it, to pull myself together!

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<b>FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH</b>	Contact	Phil Millard	560843
<b>HORTICULTURAL SHOW</b> (annual)	Contact	Tom Gilkes	560973
<b>LINE DANCING</b> (Wed 2pm)	Contact	Sue Bain	07989817898
<b>NIA WITH NOLA FITNESS</b> (Mon 10.15am)	Contact	Nola Baylis	842877
<b>PILATES</b> (Mon 2.15pm Wed 9am)	Contact	Franny Morris	07590506027
<b>PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOC (POTS)</b>	Chairman	Chris White	560505
<b>TABLE TENNIS</b> (Thurs 7.30pm)	Contact	Paul Ferguson	07866802800
<b>TAI CHI/CHUAN</b> (Wed 10.30am)	Contact	Vida Hodder	561182
<b>THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB</b>	Office & General Enquiries		560405
<b>TENNIS SECTION</b> (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop		560715
<b>THURLESTONE PHONE BOX</b>	Contact	Kit Marshall	560214
<b>TRAMP</b> (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Mike Stickland	560763
<b>WI</b> (2nd Thurs in month 2.30pm not Aug or Dec)	Contact	Sally Martin	561356
<b>YOGA</b> (Tues 9am)	Contact	Sarah Scott	07879627939

## HEALTH CENTRES

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

## POLICE

Emergency 999      Non-emergency 101

## RUBBISH COLLECTION - Mondays:

- Brown Bin (garden & food waste) alternate Mondays from 1<sup>st</sup> June
- Blue & Clear sacks (recyclables) with the Brown Bin collection
- Black/Grey Bin (non-recyclable landfill) alternate Mondays from 8<sup>th</sup> June

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

Opening Hours:

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

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

## TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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

## LIBRARIES

Kingsbridge - Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1EB T: 852315 (closed all day Thur, Sun & Sat pm)

Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall car park Wednesdays June 17<sup>th</sup> & July 15<sup>th</sup> 3.10pm - 4.10pm

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

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

For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see [www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable](http://www.tallyhocoaches.co.uk/162-timetable)

For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233 (7.00am - 10.00pm)

Taxi Companies - Taxi-Mike (07714 512516), Connect Cabs (07443 518087) - see adverts in this magazine

## **PARISH INFORMATION**

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

Chairman	Andrew Rhymes	560564
Vice-chairman	Jill Munn	560732
Parish Clerk	Helen Nathanson	07813 689717
Members	Sue Crowther	560098
	Nigel Hurrell	560691
	Kit Marshall	560214
	Charlie Mitchelmore	560602 (and Tree Warden)
	Sian Williams	560339
District Councillors	Mark Long	843828
	Judy Pearce	561370
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659

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

Telephone (Payphone in foyer) 562189

Chairman: Vacant

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

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

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH** See All Saints' Diary pages earlier in magazine  
Church Meeting Room Telephone 561246

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

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

<b>Shop Opening Hours</b>	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	8.00am - 5.30pm
Subject to change,	Wed	8.00am - 1.00pm
see article inside	Sat	8.00am - 1.00pm
	Sun	8.30am - 1.00pm

Hours extended to 2pm on Wed & 4pm on Sat in summer, and to 4pm on Sun in school summer hols

<b>Post Office Hours</b>	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.00am - 5.30pm
Subject to change,	Wed, Sat	9.00am - 1.00pm
see article inside	Sun	Closed

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

**BANTHAM VILLAGE STORES & COFFEE SHOP** Contact Kelly Seymour 560645

**Opening Hours** Every day in Summer 9.00am - 5.00pm

Hours may be extended to 7pm on Friday and Saturday but opening hours subject to change

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

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

### **PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS**

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