

VILLAGE VOICE

June - July 2021



Did it fall, or was it pushed ?

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



As the pandemic restrictions gradually reduce, perhaps our topic of conversation will return to a previous favourite, the weather. Both have much in common being unpredictable and forever changing from day to day, making it difficult to make plans. There has been plenty to talk about in the last couple of months, with chill winds in April and days of rain in May restricting us even further and proving a bit of a washout for all those poor establishments who took measures to entice us into their outdoor spaces for refreshment. You'll discover it's a recurring theme throughout the magazine in articles such as Weather Wag, Our Garden and Farming Diary, which give us an insight into the problems they encountered. As summer approaches one can only wonder where was spring 2021! We must remain optimistic and look forward to a much brighter future, hopefully just in time for all the visitors to our beautiful shores in search of much anticipated and longed for holidays.

Another result of adverse weather is coastal erosion and over the past decade there has been a marked change in the appearance of Leasfoot beach, with the loss of the road 7 years ago and more recently, you may have noticed, something missing on the headland above the beach? The pill box that was once nestled amongst the undergrowth before becoming more exposed and precarious is no more. The remains now lie disconsolately at the base of the cliff, as shown on the front cover. Does anyone have any memories or stories about the pill box as we would love to hear about them?

In addition, you can read about some very innovative youngsters who are trying to help combat plastic pollution and improve sustainability, so look out for The Buckland Box and Young Enterprise articles to find out how they are trying to achieve this. They are being very successful and an inspiration to us all, we wish them luck in their future endeavours.

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June - July 2021

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A NOTE FROM YOUR DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

As I begin to write this note, just twenty four hours after being elected on May 8th I find myself beside a log fire at home on a very wet and windy day.

I start by saying how proud I am to have been given such a clear third term of four years to serve you and the Division of Salcombe. The geographical area stretches from the Salcombe Estuary to the River Erme and more or less up to Harbertonford, covering sixteen parishes and towns.



The past fourteen months have been dominated by Covid-19 which has proved challenging for all of us. DCC and SHDC have played their parts in trying to ameliorate the situation and to keep you informed. We are now seemingly on course to getting somewhere near a more normal life, greatly aided by the vaccination programme. I have sent, throughout this time, weekly updates to your Parish council.

Perhaps the single most important DCC achievement for Thurlestone this year has been to complete the resurfacing of Main Street through the village. I'm sorry it took so long to complete.

When summer does finally begin, we will all feel somewhat crowded by the numbers of visitors and all the associated stresses that will follow. I will do all I can to minimise any effects whenever possible.

Well I must now knuckle down again and get on with doing what I enjoy mostserving the community.

Have a good summer and thank you.

Rufus

DCC Salcombe Division



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

Due to current restrictions we cannot meet in our usual venue The Methodist Church, Kingsbridge, but all is not lost, our meetings will go ahead at a different time via ZOOM. (Wednesdays 2pm)

If you wish to enjoy our programme and are not a member, don't worry, you can try as a visitor for £8 or join for £50 per year (10 lectures plus visits & a Christmas special lecture).
call Jocelyn on 01548 531295

Take a break in July & August - we will be back with a great programme in September. We hope to be able to return to the Methodist Church, for live sessions, on Wednesday at 2.30pm in addition still Zoom for those who prefer to stay at home.

June 23rd at 2pm
Lawrence of Arabia
Excavating a Legend
Via Zoom by Neil Faulkner

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School Report: Wind, Waves and Happy Days



Summer is officially here, although you wouldn't know it with the amount of rain we had in May, but that hasn't stopped our young people throwing themselves into all the great outdoor activities our area has to offer with great gusto! Many thanks to everyone involved with the Friends of Thurlestone School who have put together and organised various activities as part of the 'Adventure Club' (thank you Sarah, you know you who are!) including Canoeing, Coasteering, Surf Club with the Bantham Surf Academy and Sailing lessons with Salcombe Dinghy Sailing as part of the Wind Project.

It's been amazing to see the children finally be able to get out and enjoy the sea, play with friends and interact with others after such a long time. Despite some inclement conditions, we've seen all the boys and girls don their wetsuits and outdoor gear and really get stuck into which ever activity they chose, sometimes in driving winds and the tipping rain. Not sure the parents were so enthusiastic though!

The number of PE sessions has also been increased with many classes now enjoying PE lessons three times a week so plenty of rounders and athletics happening on the playing field with an additional after school multi-sports club for the Key Stage 2 children so they should be getting plenty of Vitamin D. Mrs Hatch and Butter Cove class have also been working very hard tidying up the school garden which is now looking ready for some serious veg growing to be harvested later in the summer.

It's always an interesting time as we see the Year 6 pupils get ready to leave their primary school. It's been an unusual academic year and not one we ever would've imagined but they've dealt with things admirably and have been an amazing group as we've watched them grow up over the years. Plans are once again afoot for an end of year play and various fun activities, trips and hopefully a party of some kind to celebrate their time at All Saints. Although some regulations remain in place, such as masks and social distancing, things do seem to be getting back to a new 'normal' and fingers crossed for an enjoyable last part of the summer term. Thanks as ever to our wonderful crew in the FTS and all our teaching and school staff.

Sian Williams

Giggle Time

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day - but I couldn't find any.

A man walks into a bar with a roll of tarmac under his arm and says: "Pint please, and one for the road."

My friend drowned - in a bowl of muesli - a strong currant pulled him in.

Man goes to the doctor with a strawberry growing out of his head. The doctor examines him and says, 'I'll give you some cream to put on that.'

Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, and the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

Farming Diary

Drip, drip, drop little April showers..... those of us who like a Disney movie will more than likely remember this little song from Bambi. Growing up in a town, I just took April showers to be somewhat of an inconvenience. Easter holidays were often wet and just having rain in general was disliked.

Funny how things change! Living in the beautiful area that we do and being lucky enough to work on a farm, I am seeing rain in a whole different way. Not only have I worked in all types of rain showers which, as it turns out, isn't nearly as bad as it sounds since it usually produces something to laugh about but it is far from being an inconvenience; it is an essential part of the farming life, especially those April showers.

It is April 2021, things are starting to look up, virus cases are going down, lockdown targets for easing are being met, Terawhiti strawberries are on the horizon..... however, like a mirage in the desert, those strawberries aren't quite there (although thankfully a few have grown enough to be purchased) Why? Because it is too cold, making for slower growth than you would expect.

Then there are the cold, drying winds turning the fields to dust. April Showers suddenly seem like a myth and the worrying news is that there isn't any rain forecast for May. However, you never know.....

Spring at Terawhiti is the time when they are drilling their corn, the planter gets dusted off in order to plant the vegetables and the cows are let out into what you expect to be green pastures of luscious grass. The grass, that is intended for silage, should be growing ready to be cut for the first time that year, whilst it is full of goodness and you want to do another 2 or 3 more cuts in order to feed the cattle through the winter.

The corn is sitting in a dust bowl with hardly any growth in it. This corn is also used to feed the cattle in the winter, as well as providing straw for their bedding. If Terawhiti is unable to use its own crops to feed the 120 cattle then a lot of thought has to go into what action would be needed. A shortage of corn from the growers who sell and from those who don't have enough for their own use, would drive the demand in the market up, which means increased prices as many other farmers would be in a similar situation. It is worrying when you see that the UK isn't the only country to be experiencing adverse weather. It makes you really think about the environment and what more can be done to help and it shows how important those showers are.

Our first two plantings have been put in the ground (one of my favourite jobs on the farm) but the poor modules haven't seen any rain yet. We have to hope that they will still be able to grow and flourish.

I find planting good for the soul. You have to concentrate so it is good for mindfulness, it feels special to be at the start of the vegetables' journey at Terawhiti and, best of all, you get to ride on the planter. For some reason though, it is always cold when sitting on it, no matter what the weather. It



was only on this planting that I realised it must be from holding the cold wet compost before you place the modules in the cups, as they have to be watered before they go in.

Our first planting in April will hopefully be ready to harvest in the middle of July. The plants are seeded by Fentongellon, near Truro, and then delivered to us by special bins of 10000 plants. One bin is classed as a short stint of planting but it still seems like a lot of plants (and a lot of cold wet compost). We are planting Broccoli, tenderstem, white cabbage, hispi cabbage and red cabbage.



Each planting is planned every 10 days to create a staggered harvest. When planting, as straightforward as it is, there is always tweaking to be done and sometimes the unexpected can happen. The tweaking can involve lowering or raising the planter so that the plants go in at the right depth. Then there is measuring the distance between the plants, which will be different for some plants, as it depends on how much room they need to grow. You have plants for the Beds which take up a lot of room on the ground or grow higher up. Then you have the Path, which are smaller plants, as they go in between the tractor wheels as it drives through the crops in order for them to be cut and packed. The trays of plants are placed on the planter and changed depending on what needs to be planted. They are also noted down so the farmer knows what row contains what variety.

The first planting was going very smoothly until we hit a large stone. This made contact with one of the discs which makes up a pair used to collect the top of the plant from the machine. The roots then drop down into the ground and the soil is pushed over them. Unfortunately the disc snapped off and a new one had to be put on. An unexpected situation that makes you stop, but it also reminds me of how much farmers have to know and how practical they are. Never hesitating or wondering how to fix it, just knuckling down and getting the job done.

Our second planting went in but with the problem of plants going too far under, so more adjusting was required. All was sorted out by those following the planter. Two successful plantings, but we are still hoping for that rain to come along.

May 2021

I always say be careful what you wish for but, when making my wish, I always forget to be specific. The April Showers may not have appeared but it seems May is the new April. It was less showers and more constant pouring down. May, which is usually so warm and sunny, is cold and wet. Great for the plants, crops and grass of course, so not a complaint, although it could be warmer rain.

The rain has interfered with the timing of the third planting, being pushed back towards the fourth because the soil needs to be dry when the planting is done. As always Mother Nature dictates when things on the farm can be done. There is always plenty to be getting on with though.

The Veg. Boxes have now come to an end as the crop finishes and the fields are being ploughed ready for what comes next.

2021 is continuing to be an interesting year, despite 2020 being a hard act to follow. I wonder what June will bring us? Hopefully some warmth and more normal weather for the time of year.... oh and Strawberries of course.

Natasha Baldwin

NOTES FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The three most recent Parish Council meetings are summarised below. The detailed minutes can be seen online at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk

Meeting held on Monday 12th April 2021 (on Zoom)

Present: Cllrs Jack Rhymes, Jill Munn, Sue Crowther, Kit Marshall, Sian Williams, Nigel Hurrell and Charlie Mitchelmore. In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Rufus Gilbert, District Cllrs Judy Pearce and Mark Long, 9 members of the public

Open Forum

A rep from Tribal Clash attended the meeting. This year's event in Bantham on 3-4 July will be managed under Covid guidelines and with measures to reduce traffic problems. Residents raised the following matters: Bantham Estate Office planning application; developments in the Parish which are outside the NP settlement boundaries.

Matters Arising

A plan has been approved to tidy the area by the Thurlestone phone box and add some pollinator-friendly plants; two residents have kindly offered to help out with odd jobs around the Parish; spoil along the lane in West Buckland, blocking a drain, needs to be dealt with and it was agreed to contact Highways and the Bantham Estate; it was agreed to look into registration of ownership of the Memorial Green in Thurlestone – the land was gifted to the Parish in 1918 by the Evans Estate.

Planning Matters

Gleneagles, 15 Crosslands Thurlestone TQ7 3TF - Householder application for replacement of all windows and doors, single storey rear extension and glass balustrade to existing terrace. Supported

A promised update from SHDC about Community Housing was long overdue and it was agreed to write formally to them to request an update about the project. It was agreed that the NP Review would start in September and that the NP Committee would now end, with planning going direct to PC.

Parish Matters

The repairs to the hotel garage wall are now complete and Highways was asked to get that section of road resurfaced. The new village traffic signs designed by the school have been installed and Cllr Williams was thanked for facilitating this. Further plans are ongoing for seasonal signs asking people to slow down in the lanes.

Thurlestone public toilets are open and being cleaned and the grass and hedge cutting is in place.

Island View Play Area fence repairs will be carried out and the legal work is progressing.

It was agreed to have some seasonal signs for the beaches to encourage people to take more care and not leave litter. Paul Martin had repaired three parish benches this month and he was thanked for the work he does.

County and District Councillor's Reports

Cllrs asked DCC for help with clearing the passing bays along the Bantham Lane to improve traffic at peak times. It was acknowledged that this is more problematic because of ownership issues and that Highways cannot trespass on land which they do not own.

The South Hams has officially moved into high season and the extra Localities Officers and Covid Compliance Officers are out and about. Non-compliance will incur a fine but the approach is still to educate and explain. Another tranche of grants for businesses is expected in the summer and this should help out those who have not previously been supported, such as market traders.

Follaton House is now being used as a Vaccination Centre.

The broken dog bin on the Memorial Green had been reported.

There is a new Climate Change Fund for members to allow them to support local projects that meet SHDC's Climate Change agenda.

Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May

The Annual Public Meeting of the Parish was held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

Twelve members of the Parish attended and the meeting was chaired by Cllr Jack Rhymes. Matters raised included concerns about the Bantham Estate Office application.

Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th May

Cllrs were elected to the following positions: Chairman – Cllr Jack Rhymes; Deputy Chair – Cllr Jill Munn; PC rep on Friends of Thurlestone Church and Friends of Thurlestone School – Cllr Sian Williams; Parish Tree Warden – Cllr Charlie Mitchelmore; PC rep on Thurlestone Phone Box Cttee – Cllr Kit Marshall; and Lead Cllr for Planning – Cllr Crowther.

Open Forum

A resident had written to the PC about crop spraying on farming land adjacent to his garden, expressing concerns about the detrimental effect of the spraying on wildlife and on human health. The new Climate and Biodiversity Group agreed to help investigate this.

It was clarified that the old blue and white recycling bags could not now be used for general waste.

Revised plans have been submitted for Plots 1 & 2 Whimbrels Edge, Thurlestone.

Matters Arising

Cllrs requested that the garden plans for the area around the Thurlestone phone box be revised to reduce the amount of paving. A resident asked if the verges around the area could become a wildflower garden and the Chair asked her to email the Clerk with more details.

Bantham phone box is now in the ownership of the Bantham Estate and has a new door.

Two minor amendments to the NP were approved.

The drain along the WB land has now been uncovered but Cllrs have concerns about the pile of spoil.

Planning Matters

Cllrs objected to The Thatches Thurlestone TQ7 3NJ - Replacement detached garage/store. Cllrs supported the following applications:

Edgecombe House West Buckland TQ7 3AQ - application for installation of porch over front door

7 Meadcombe Road Thurlestone TQ7 3TB - minor amendment for external cladding

9 Meadcombe Road Thurlestone TQ7 3TB - application for cladding & extension of balcony

18 Meadcombe Road Thurlestone TQ7 3TB - application for extension & alterations

Bolt View Glebe Field Thurlestone TQ7 3NA - application for cladding

Parish Matters

Parking outside the school continues to be a problem and Cllr Williams will contact the Head about this. Cllrs like the beach litter signs that Malborough PC is using and agreed to ask them for some information; waste and recycling in Lower Aunemouth continues to be a problem and residents are asked to report problems directly to Cllr Judy Pearce; Cllr Crowther will check the status of the recent application for the building plot on Eddystone Road because it was reported that the garage is in use as accommodation; a date has not yet been received for starting work on the repairs to the cobbled road and the Clerk was asked to chase this up, requesting a date after 1st September.

County and District Councillor Reports

Residents are asked to report online any problems with the new recycling service.

Locality officers are working seven days a week and extra crews are emptying bins and generally keeping the street scene clean. Again, any problems should be reported online. SHDC has £100k available for parishes as an 'opening up' offer, particularly for tourist areas. More details soon.

Our next meeting is on Monday 5th July and will be back in the Parish Hall.

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Thurlestone Phonebox Library.....Ring Ring

“Open Sesame”, and the portals were opened wide to reveal a treasure trove of tantalizing titles. The crowds, eager for learning and fulfilment, assembled and enjoyed.



Yes, your fabulous Phonebox library has reopened, with a plethora of new tomes adorning the shelves. COVID rules still being observed, patrons respectfully invited to don a mask and purify hands with the exquisitely scented sanitiser provided.

All returned books taken out to be quarantined, the recent flurry of political leaflets, pamphlets and tracts permanently! In fact, there has been such footfall around the area that it has become a bit of a mud-bath so there are plans afoot to lay some stone slabs around the Phonebox and the well-polished seat to keep dainty shoes from getting splashed.

Always in need of children's books please.

Although the Phonebox was shut through lock-down, the Phonebox Committee has tried to keep spirits up over the period with witty ditties by Alan and appropriate bunting and decorations to celebrate high-days and holidays. Thanks to all concerned.

Summer nearly with us (SDQ*). Keep smiling and enjoy our new won freedom.

Kit Marshall

*Revealed in the Phonebox

Kingsbridge Area Foodbank

The Kingsbridge foodbank has been extremely busy with an increase in demand for the essential service of providing food and fuel top-ups. They are seeing more people needing help who are homeowners, professionals and employed. People are finding themselves in financial difficulty much more readily as a result of the pandemic.

Over the Easter school holidays they took part in the Devon County Council Healthy Activities and Food Programme and provided extra school meals for those in need which meant that every child they support had a hot meal once a day. The need for this was underestimated and over 1000 hot lunches were provided to children over the holidays. They are now trying to plan how to provide support over the summer holidays as this will be a bigger challenge. They are always grateful for all the help and support they receive to help the most vulnerable in our community.

Parish Hall News



WELCOME BACK!

It seems strange writing the news this time around as it has been well over a year since the hall had to close and all we could tell you about were the quite major upgrades going on behind its closed doors. This made it read like a maintenance report for the most part, but we have all certainly learned a few things regarding technical issues along the way. Then there were all the false starts (will we or won't we be able to open once again?) which made it difficult to get too hopeful and excited about reopening BUT I am delighted to announce that the hall did open again on 17th May in accordance with government guidelines at the time, although there had been a practice session when the Council elections were held on 6th May which thankfully seemed to go well. It's so uplifting to have something positive to write for a change.

After the hall was given a bit of a freshen up, we were pleased to welcome back some of our usual classes including Pilates, Yoga, Badminton and Table Tennis, as well as new Pilates classes on Monday afternoons and a fortnightly Pilates Club on Thursday mornings. Resuming in June will be Line Dancing as well as a new Yoga Fitness class on Monday evenings and a HITT (high intensity tactical training) class on Wednesday mornings, which sounds very energetic! We've also had enquiries for different types of activities which we hope will come to fruition. Information regarding classes and clubs can be found on the hall page of the parish website. Other groups plan to make a staggered return throughout the remainder of the year as and when they feel able to. I imagine some of you will be raring to go whilst others, understandably, will feel a little trepidation in returning to normality and wish to take it more slowly. Hopefully, in the fullness of time, things will return to a more worry-free existence and the enjoyment of meeting up with friends and taking part in group activities once again. The past year has probably emphasised to us all the importance of social interaction and activity to our physical and mental well-being.

If the government roadmap and vaccination programme go according to plan, we propose to fully open the hall on or around either the 21st June or whenever full restrictions come to an end, keep your fingers crossed. When it does eventually happen, we would please ask that if you feel unwell in any way you do not visit the hall, in order to protect other users. Once lockdown restrictions cease, the possibility of holding some events will be looked at in the hope of staging something later in the year.

Looking to the future, one of our main aims is to attract some younger groups and activities especially now more families are moving into our villages. Therefore, if you have any ideas or would be happy to help us achieve this, we would be most grateful.

Lastly, we are really looking forward to welcoming you back, so we hope you will be able to come along and have some much needed and deserved fun.

Alison Daily (Secretary)



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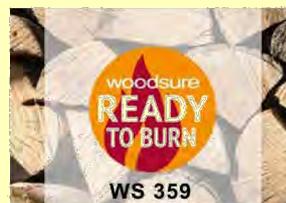
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Our Garden

by Sue Dwyer

Waking up this morning, May 6th, I was very happy to see rain with no wind. Today I heard on The World at One this April has been the coldest since 1922 although very sunny and dry, all due to the position of the jet stream being further south than usual and causing a predominant high pressure system to be over the UK which meant arctic air bombarding us from the north. Due to the dry conditions I have had to water newly planted plants. I find the established perennials manage very well not being watered as their roots have grown deeply into the soil. The drought has meant that there has been very little weeding to do as the mulching that is done yearly controls them and snails do not seem to be about, presumably they are still hibernating. A major task is to stake the taller perennials which has been done and certainly is required. This continues as a succession of plants grow.

I have delayed planting out anything but the toughest of plants and the greenhouses are full of seedlings and cuttings I have grown. Most of the cuttings were taken last autumn and have been potted individually ready for planting. Beside those in the greenhouse I have large trays of plants I have grown in cells which are in the relative shelter of the vegetable garden. The cane pyramids have been erected and filled with various varieties of homegrown sweet peas, Hi Scent is a favourite of mine as it is so perfumed, along with Heaven Scent for its showy flowers and Twilight for the lovely blue and light purple flowers. I have tried Mumsie a pink variety this year so await to see how this develops. It is supposed to be highly scented.

There are two new beds this year, one alongside a new high 8ft fence which will screen us from a newly built terrace to the west. Here we have transplanted two evergreen winter flowering clematis, both white/cream, Wisley Cream and Jingle Bells as well as a Montana. They are all shooting new growth which is encouraging. Alongside there are three climbing roses from David Austin called James Galway. This rose is very vigorous and is covered with pink flowers all summer as well as being nicely perfumed. This will grow to 12 ft and will cover the fence in about 2 years. In the same bed there are 10 Desdemona shrub roses, an old fashioned repeat flowering white rose which should grow to about 3 ft plus some Asiatic lilies. In addition I have five Cobaea Scandens seedlings to place in the bed potted up in the greenhouse when the weather is a little warmer. This is known as the cup and saucer plant which grows to 10 ft and clings to walls and fences so needs no staking. Cobaea should survive the winter in mild areas. I am hoping there will be colour all season. All of this so Declan can see them through his side of house office window!

The other new feature is a prairie bed on the roadside of the house to replace the rose bed which had been there for about 30 years. The roses were full of disease. This will be there for at least 2 years, however if it is a success it may stay. I have tried three types of grasses, Eragrostis Totnes Burgundy, I could not resist this due to the local name, Calamagrostis Karl Foerster and Molinia Caerulea. The flowering plants used are Salvia Nemorosa Amethyst, Verbena Bonariensis, Agastache Black Adder, a few sunflowers plus a lovely yellow daisy like plant which grows to about 4 ft and flowers in Aug/September. Again in the cold greenhouse are Mongolian Peonies Rudbeckia plants grown from seed awaiting to be planted.

Due to cold nights with frost sometimes, the Mongolian peonies have delayed flowering. The blooms did not come until the 4th week of April rather than the first. They were decimated last Monday by the westerly gale, however looking out of the window I see another bloom has opened, but expect this to disappear with the southerly gale forecast for Saturday. The pinks have flowered for the last couple of

months. The pale blue irises have finished but a darker one is just blooming. Pulmonarias have been in flower for weeks and have been splendid this year. The clumps are now so large they must be divided and will produce new variegated leaves which are attractive all summer.

On the west side of the garden by the fuschia hedge are over one hundred and twenty bearded irises which have large buds which should open in about a week. I know they only last for about four weeks but do look magnificent when in full flower. Most were divided last year so I was not expecting them to flower this year, but luck seems to be on my side.

Due to the frost and also the wind the camellias have tended to have disappointing brown flowers this year, not the lovely colours they usually have, so I await next year. The azaleas and rhododendrons are out and I have one that is perfumed. It was bought on a visit to Wilton House near Salisbury.

However walking around the garden today I am surprised just how much is in bloom rose buds are just opening on the climber Compassion, along with the small Harlow Carr which I grow in pots. This is a good repeat flowering rose, but do beware of the prickles. The Rugosa hedge is starting to bloom and seems to thrive despite the wind. A few tulips are dotted around, plus Knautia, Solomons Seal and lily of the valley. Alliums are almost in flower, I have several varieties but Allium Schubertii is the most spectacular with flower heads over 12 inches in diameter. When dried they make spectacular Christmas decorations. Three osteospermums have survived the winter in the main herbaceous border and are showing a large mass of various colours, along with alstromerias, aquilegias and tall antirrhinums just coming into flower. Lupins have been badly wind burnt despite being staked but although the leaves look sorry for themselves the flower heads are standing proud and will open soon. I have a single red tree peony which seems to catch the wind every year and the leaves and flowers are very scorched. Many of the perennial geraniums are also flowering. This year I have bought a Geranium Maculatum Espresso which likes shade and has dusky brown foliage with pink flowers, this flowers later than the others so I await with interest. Taller thalictrums are just showing their powder puff flowers against decorative leaves.

I enjoy growing new plants for the garden, some succeed and others fail. During the next eight weeks the borders should come alive with colour. I cannot wait.

Village News Round-Up

Village Voice is sad to hear that Trish Wilson will no longer be able to deliver magazines for us as she has recently moved to Kingsbridge. Trish has been a stalwart of the delivery team for some years and will be greatly missed. Best wishes Trish from the whole team and a huge THANK YOU for all your hard work and efficiency.

Volunteers Needed for The Totnes Vaccination Centre

Volunteers are required at Follaton House in for all aspects of the vaccination programme now they have moved to the new larger site and are administering second and first doses, which means they need to increase their volunteer bank.

Roles are varied, from giving vaccinations, booking people in for appointments, assisting with car parking and marshalling, to administration at the centre. If you would like to help, please email: d-ccg.southdartmoorandtotnespcn@nhs.net If you have already volunteered through the national programme and would like to help, then please let them know via this email too.

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In June 2017 our WI members were invited, along with other persons over the age of 60 living locally and in Plymouth, to take part in a research project led by Liz Candy, a member of our WI. The research project aimed to investigate if a group of people over the age of 60 would enjoy and/or benefit from undertaking a functional fitness MOT (<https://www.laterlifetraining.co.uk/courses/fully-functional-mot/functional-fitness-mot/>). For this project these MOTs were run in Plymouth, and Kingsbridge. They were supported by AgeUK (Plymouth), Age Concern (Kingsbridge) and the University of Plymouth. University of Plymouth Physiotherapy students undertook the assessments. All the volunteers who completed the MOT, were provided with both a handout, which gave them an idea of their individual functional fitness, and advice on both maintaining and improving their functional fitness. The results, from those who took part in this research project, have been analysed and are now published (<https://doi.org/10.12968/ijtr.2019.0050>). In the academic world it is a huge achievement getting your work published and Liz quite rightly deserves our congratulations.

As the next stage of the Government's roadmap has brought with it the freedom for our members to engage with family and friends in a manner approaching normality we have found that the number of members participating in WI phone calls and Zoom chats has dwindled quite naturally. Consequently both initiatives have now come to an end. We are all hoping that 21 June will bring even greater freedoms and we will be able to have our Annual Meeting for members in the Parish Hall in July and our Summer Garden Lunch in August. We hope members are nurturing their young sunflowers for entry into our competition to be judged in late August. Prizes will awarded at our September meeting.

Our full programme for the Autumn and next Spring will be published in the summer.

Sally Martin

President

The Thurlestone Parish Lockdown Support Hotline

079556 07873

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

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Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct - if you don't have all the answers, send in your entry anyway - you never know!) drawn on 1st July 2021. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

LEADERS

Find a Prime Minister / President who shares a name with the answer to these clues.
e.g. Clue: Leafy plant in park or garden - Answer: BUSH (George W)

1. Beatles lead guitarist
2. Financial support, once enjoyed by university students
3. Popular cleaner of carpets
4. Dog who gives insurance advice
5. Outer covering of many fruits
6. Former England cricketer and Arsenal footballer
7. Big burger chain
8. Army rank
9. Place of worship
10. Powerful card in whist
11. Tennis equipment brand
12. The very first garden?
13. Glamorous blonde film star from 50s/60s
14. Cartoon cat
15. Killer singer
16. Greetings card retailer
17. David... the magician that was
18. Remember Lance who wrote and sang topical calypsos?
19. One of Dudley Moore's starring roles
20. Once well known for providing Wimbledon players with refreshment
21. There are many shades of this
22. Soccer team nicknamed 'The Imps'
23. Spring hedgerow flower
24. Famous sports and music arena in New York
25. Shallow place where streams can be crossed
26. A method of preserving food
27. This blossom heralds warmer weather
28. Top cyclist from the Isle of Man
29. A compass direction
30. Area of open land in Hampstead

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter: 1. Operation 2. Old Maid 3. Hide and Seek 4. Mousetrap 5. Monopoly 6. British Bulldog 7. Cluedo 8. Leapfrog 9. Hopscotch 10. Ring a ring a roses 11. Pall Mall 12. Fleet Street 13. Kings Cross 14. The Strand 15. Oxford Street 16. Whitechapel 17. Mayfair 18. Coventry Street 19. Super Tax 20. Jail 21. Conservatory 22. Colonel Mustard 23. Ballroom 24. Spanner 25. Dr Black 26. Candlestick 27. Mrs Peacock 28. Rope 29. Miss Scarlet 30. Lead Pipe.

There were 2 all correct answers last month. First out of the hat and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Joan Johns. Commiserations to Jeanette Hodges.

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All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

Sunday Services

Booking: Due to social distancing, it is currently necessary to operate a booking system. To book, please contact Liz Webb by the previous Friday on 01548 560090/ thurlallsaints@btinternet.com. This and the following restrictions are likely to be in place until at least June 21st:

- A face covering must be worn in church service;
- Communion is in one kind only with no sharing of the common cup;
- Unfortunately singing is still not permitted.
- When entering and exiting the church, please use the hand sanitiser provided.
- Observe social distancing at all times and the safety guidance given.

SUNDAYS JUNE 6TH & 20TH, JULY 4TH & 18TH 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

SUNDAYS JUNE 13TH & 27TH, JULY 1ST & 25TH 11.10am Morning Worship

For variations and more information please see the Church Notice Boards and www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services

The Church has open again during the day
since May 17th

When entering and exiting the church, please ensure that you use the hand sanitiser provided, observe social distancing at all times and the safety guidance given.

SUNDAY SERVICES ON YOUTUBE:

Although we are once again worshipping together on Sundays, the YouTube service continues on:

www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html

CHURCH
ONLINE

THE ROCK - CHURCH MAGAZINE

can be found on www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church.html

LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

While you may not feel able to come to church, the following may help:

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

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

DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE offers music, prayers and reflections and worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line (0800 804 8044).

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).

INTERNET SERVICES: Exeter Diocese: Sunday services and a daily Pause & Pray on <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/worship/sunday-services-to-watch-online/>

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

All Saints

RECTOR:

Revd. Daniel Hartley 562727

LAY READER: Peter Gornall



THE CORNERSTONE FOR BUILD-BACK-BETTER

What a difference a year makes! The summer of 2020 brought much anxiety that staycation holiday-makers would bring Covid19 to the South Hams. It never happened. This year, in contrast, it is announced that our "high season" began in April. The vaccination programme is advancing very well; and there are few overseas destinations available without a return quarantine. So thousands are surely coming to our villages.

What a privilege to have so much to offer: a whole world of therapy for the mind tortured by months of toil in a small room with a laptop, and the brain-fog resulting from a dearth of human contact. We have so much to be thankful for that electronics kept work, learning, fellowship, worship and prayer on the go when Covid19 prevented us from meeting. Now, though, is the time for us to share our superb coast and countryside with many who need to recharge before returning to help build a post-Covid future in their own home setting.

The challenges of a post-Covid rebuild are not going to be any less here. The foodbank statistics give cause for prayerful insight into the plight of those whose lives, employment, schooling and housing plans have been savaged by the pandemic. The most recent trends in population movements suggest an exodus from the big cities with consequences for house prices in attractive countryside areas like ours. In such situations there are likely to be local people whose hopes will be confounded.

In the first century, only weeks after the first Pentecost and the birth of the Church, the stunning characteristic of the new movement was the sharing of possessions, talents and skills, and the pastoral oversight of all the needy. Those days were the first build of a new kind of society, and from that build our welfare state, NHS and child-care schemes are derivatives. As we "build back better" after the UK part of the pandemic recedes, it will not be mere economics indicating the worth of what we do. The care we take to deliver fairness and compassion to those most in need will show a build with Jesus, rejected by conventional powers-that-be, as the chief cornerstone. Now that meeting for work, learning, fellowship, worship and prayer as well as singing will be reinstated, so many God-given opportunities for that kind of caring will be presented to us too.

Every Blessing!



Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Christian Aid Week either online or using the envelope that was delivered to you.

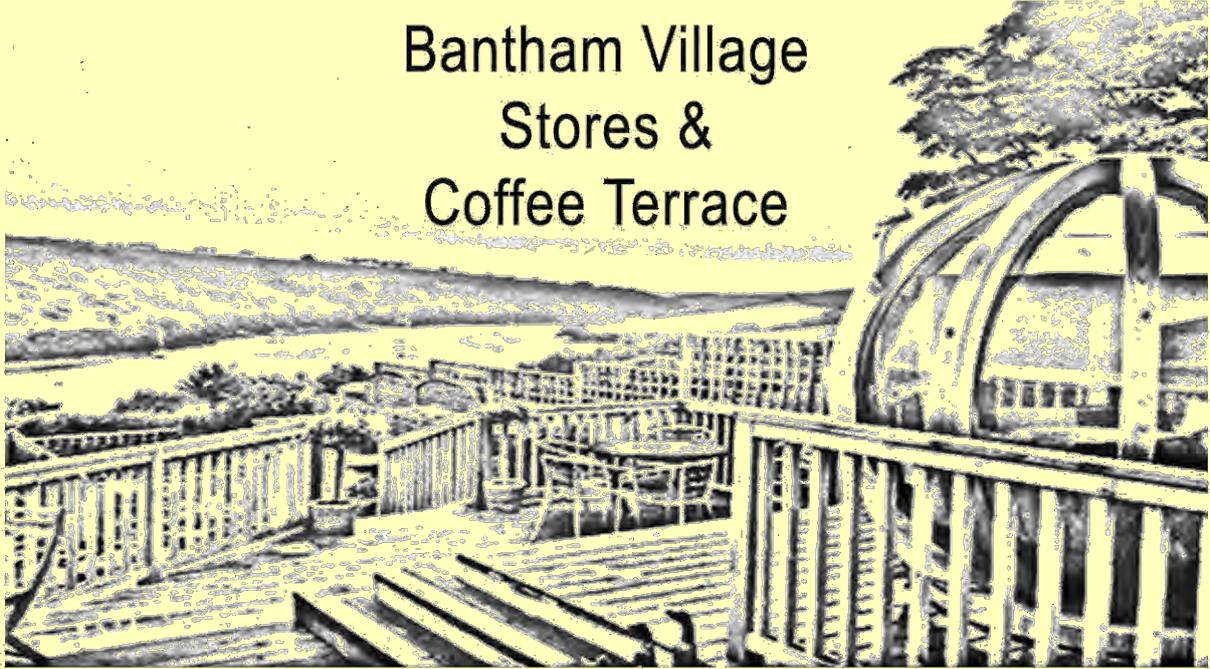
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Salmon Tray-bake

Ingredients (serves 2)

250g baby potatoes, thickly sliced
2 tbsp olive oil
1 leek, halved, washed and sliced
1 garlic clove, crushed
70ml double cream
1 tbsp capers, plus extra to serve
1 tbsp chives, plus extra to serve
2 skinless salmon fillets
mixed rocket salad, to serve (optional)



Method

STEP 1

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Bring a medium pan of water to the boil. Add the potatoes and cook for 8 mins. Drain and leave to steam-dry in a colander for a few minutes. Toss the potatoes with $\frac{1}{2}$ of the oil and plenty of seasoning in a baking tray. Put in the oven for 20 mins, tossing halfway through the cooking time.

STEP 2

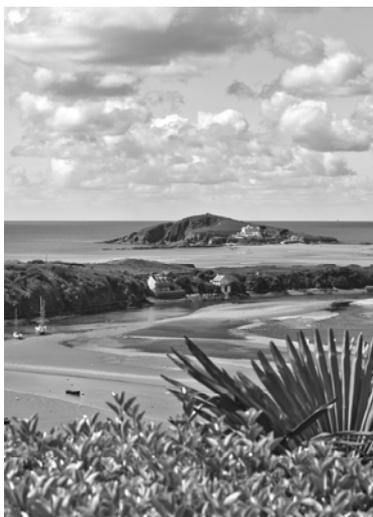
Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the leek and fry for 5 mins, or until beginning to soften. Stir through the garlic for 1 min, then add the cream, capers and 75ml hot water, then bring to the boil. Stir through the chives.

STEP 3

Heat the grill to high. Pour the creamy leek mixture over the potatoes, then sit the salmon fillets on top. Grill for 7-8 mins, or until just cooked through. Serve topped with extra chives and capers and a salad on the side, if you like.

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THURLESTONE THEN

Continuing the memoirs of Monica Coope
Chapter 8 Part 3

There on the solitary bluff, low down by the water was Salcombe Castle. I know all about that because Father had told me, "The Olde Bulwarks utterly ruined and decayed." That was what Prince Maurice had called it when he wrote to Sir John Fortescue and asked him to fortify it and fight for King Charles I against the rebels. Yes, and he wrote the very letter from Whitley Farm at Thurlestone, and he had remembered to date it too, "this 9th of December 1643". Mr. Snell the Rector of Thurlestone had joined the garrison as chaplain and though Sir John Fairfax beat them in the end, it was the very last garrison in Devon to hold out for the King.

Prince Maurice at Whitley Farm. Did he notice the white violets blooming every January under the Wall at Clannacombe Head? Or smell the foxes in the brake over Buckland? Or see the peregrine falcons flying in and out of Oxonham Plantation?

"There is the Ashley Froude's house," said Rosie and I looked across at the Knowle with its green lawns and the cedars flanking the long white house. I knew all about Prince Maurice but precious little of the Ashley Froudes except that she had a smashing fine Victoria drawn by two spanking horses and her coachman was a superb creature in green livery with a cockade on his hat. In fact, the coachman interested me more than Mrs. Froude, smart as she was, sitting in her carriage shaded by a lacy parasol and bowing right and left as she sped past. And now I was more concerned to peer around and see if Bolt Head was in sight yet, but no; first we had to draw in to the Jetty at Salcombe and the people get off before we turned round again to complete our own journey to the other side, for Gara Rock was to be our destination. I was glad to continue my seafaring life for a little longer so that I could see the curling ripples of Tennyson harbour bar and feast my eyes on the purple, green and grey of Bolt Head. There on its crest was the winding path flanked by white coastguard stones and I wondered whether those stones were as prolific in ants' eggs as those on the cliffs at Thurlestone. Our goldfish never lacked for food, and indeed I believe the shortness of their lives was really due to over-eating; all except Little Red Dressing Gown, who survived all his brothers and sisters and reminded us of John's dressing gown because of his spots, but he was handsomer and much cleaner.

"You're very quiet, child", said Rosie reproachfully, and I roused myself for a polite apology feeling I had fallen from grace. So, I remarked that we were nearly there now, which was obvious, and soon we tied up at Gara Rock and started to climb the wet steps to the road. The tide was ebbing fast, and the green and brown fronds of the seaweed growing on the steps made our climb a perilous one. As I piloted Rosie carefully up I prayed inwardly that my own feet might be kept from falling. They were, as we reached dry land with dry shoes and made our way along the road to Sunny Sands.

And were they sunny? Oh, how hot it was; not a particle of shade anywhere, but of course this was just Indian Rosie's cup of tea, so off we journeyed again to Dona and Simla and Delhi, parties, receptions, dances at the club and what you would. To the accompaniment of her confidantes, we settled ourselves against a nearby rock and unpacked our lunch, only to find that the sun had melted the too-fat ham, and the more I ate of it, the more definitely sick I felt with heat and rich food. I waxed more than ever silent and longed for Rosie to come back to the present and move to the shade of a higher rock where the tufty heather crept down to the sea, away from the shimmering dancing gold of the baking sands. Refusing yet another roll and ham I attacked the congress tarts, which I would not have passed by however sick I might feel. The ginger pop sizzled down my throat, and the peaches dribbled their sweet juices out of the corners of my mouth.

Rosie still basked and purred, with occasional doubtful glances at the puzzling child who sat so silently and refused second helpings? I knew she was disappointed in me and I felt ashamed, knowing full well how eagerly she had planned this special treat for me, spending more money than she could afford and apparently meeting with so little response.

Some years later I remember well that I made this gaffe again, but then my hostess was not so forbearing and I caught it hot and strong. We had got out of the car near a bridge high above a mountain stream in Southern Germany and there, perched on the topmost crag of the fir-covered gorge stood a fairy castle, straight out of Grimm's, towers, turrets, slit windows, mystery, romance. Hundreds of feet below, the swirling rushing river bubbled and foamed around the rocks and stones and set across from bank to bank were wide smooth stepping stones. Then I saw her — sudden magic — the girl with the yellow plaits, gay cotton skirt and tight fitting bodice over the wide sleeved blouse, as she picked her way carefully along the stones with bare white feet, perching on her head a great bundle of washing tied up in a sheet. She looked anxiously ahead of her and a concentrated frown puckered her lovely rosy face as the load on her head threatened at any moment to topple off and fall into the water. What would happen then? Such scolding, and beratings up at the Schloss. And the Old Grafins' wrath to face when it came to her ears.

Ah! She slipped on the very last stone, and with a cry pitched forward towards the bank. Then. . . someone darted out from the sheltering trees and seized her firmly by the arm before it was too late. The bundle pitched forward on to dry land, and all was well.

Shyly she stood upright and looked at her rescuer — a stranger. Who was he, so handsome, so young, and so gallant? Then he took her hand, and picking up the heavy bundle as if it was a feather, he started to walk with her up the side of the ravine, along the twisting path, while they shyly stole glances at one another, and each glance became a little bolder. Now they had reached the castle itself and the girl made as to go round to the kitchen door, but the young man held her back, and still grasping her soft hand led her to the great western gate. She drew back in alarm and would have fled, but his shout brought the flunkeys to the door, and a great baying of hounds in greeting heralded their arrival. The flunkeys bowed low, staring in amazement at the humble girl with their young master — such magic.

"Was machst du dear Monica" stormed an angry voice. "To bring you all this way and you say not one word. You stare at the river, as dumb, while above stands the most hoheitsvoll, wundervoll....."

I quickly murmured an abject apology, but my outraged hostess turned her head upon me and continued to inveigh to her companions upon the unworthiness of the stupid Englander. I suppose, nicht wahr, that in England are so many castles that you have no eyes for a common one? We do not bring you again to waste your time upon the great spectacles of the Vaterland."

No, they did not bring me again, but I wonder if now, any one of them could shut her eyes and see again the Castle-glorious in every detail, as I can, with Gretchen picking her way across the stepping-stones to romance.

So, dear Rosie Imray, every moment of that summer's day with you at Salcombe and Gara Rock stand out still in clear relief and I hope you understand now what was in the heart of that unusually silent little girl. Just magic!

The steamer took us back on the rising tide. Belle did us the honour of a drive home in record time and Mother simply would not believe that her young monkey had hardly uttered one word all day long.



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YOU THIS MONTH**

We're finally back to it! Whether it's getting out in the garden, to the golf course, the tennis court or stressing about the amount of visitors you've got booked in to look after.

We want to make sure those little niggles and aches don't hold you back!

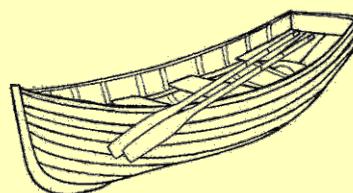
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Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st July 2021.
Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email:
cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

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

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.

Sudoku - Hard

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

Sudoku - Easy

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

There were 7 correct entries last month. First out of the hat to win the coveted bottle of wine is Neill Irwin. Commiserations to Pip Ainsworth, Dave Gibby, Judith Le Grice, Pauline Lonsdale, Vera Pailthorpe and Steven Wallis.

Eating Out Locally

The Crabshell Inn Kingsbridge

When restaurants were able to open for business again The Crabshell Inn, beautifully positioned on the bank of the ria in Kingsbridge, extended its alfresco dining area into the car park. From there, just as from all of their usual tables along the bank, the view is of moored boats with Kingsbridge homes beyond. From the tables, they're seen against the backdrop of hills that rise behind them. It's a wonderful scene for alfresco dining and, on a mild evening in May, we made a spontaneous decision to go there for supper.



We chose a table under cover where bunting and strings of lighting soften the practical plastic marquee. The slatted wooden tables were well spaced and gave no sense of crowding in spite of the hum of conversation from young adults and seniors seated at nearby tables with glasses of golden lager, cider, beer and wine. We were delighted to find friends enjoying a celebration dinner and we felt that eating out again after the limitations that had been brought about by the pandemic, was something to celebrate. So new was the experience that we opened the menu with some of the curiosity you might feel if stepping from that wardrobe into Narnia.

We first scanned the à la carte menu for fish dishes. It seemed fitting for that alfresco mood at the water's edge. We found mussels, shrimps, prawns, scallops, scampi, salmon, cod, buttered clams, and more listed for both starters and mains. There were vegetarian dishes and choices for meat-only eaters, and something from the variety of pizzas is a good choice at The Crabshell.

Classic favourites such as bouillabaisse and chowder brought familiar fish flavours to our bowls in a way that is tricky to match at home.

Shellfish like whole king prawns became finger foods with the risk of juices running to our wrists. Sauces, some with frisky flavours, like chili, garlic, and one that is both sweet and tangy, stimulated our tastebuds once again. The service was helpful and charming and added to the good feeling we had about our decision to eat there.

Desserts seem to have taken a back seat but it's as well to know that, if you plan on not being too well satisfied by the above, you can choose from sticky toffee pudding, Harrow mess, hot chocolate fondant or ice cream.

And then there's coffee. Good coffee.

We cannot predict how this ria scene will be next time we come. Further into summer, as holiday makers arrive, we may see a greater number of boats on the water... if indeed there is water. Its level changes as the tide rises or falls to expose or conceal the muddy floor.

Long summer evenings add to the experience and, if you miss a Crabshell parking spot, as we did, it's a pleasant walk from nearby roadside parking.

At the time of writing, The Crabshell Inn is open for outdoor eating and takeaways on Monday to Sunday from 9.30am – 9.00pm and there's a roast lunch on Sundays. Times for pizza takeaways are Monday to Sunday from 1pm – 9pm.

With restrictions easing, it can be expected that these details will change. For more information, call 01548 852 345 or contact: enquiries@thecrabshellinn.com

Vivien Stickland



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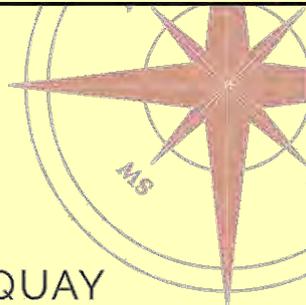


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THURLESTONE BAY BIRDS

APRIL 2021

With the arrival of the summer visitors (birds that is, not people) and passage of birds making their long journeys to Northern Europe to breed, April is always one of the months to look forward to - and this year was even better than we could have hoped for. A total of 148 species was recorded which included 31 new for this year and 2 new species for South Huish Marsh.

Outstanding birds of the month were a *GREY HEADED WAGTAIL* on 29th with a *BLUE HEADED WAGTAIL* on 26th. Both of these are continental sub-species of *YELLOW WAGTAIL* which we regularly find in the last 2 weeks of the month.

GREY HEADED WAGTAIL winters in North and East Africa, India and South East Asia - they breed in Fennoscandia and Russia. This is only the 10th record for Devon (first was recorded in 1970).



The other new species for South Huish Marsh was a male *RING OUZEL* found in the evening of 13th April - this is a bird which breeds on the moorlands of Great Britain - there are probably less than 10 pairs left on Dartmoor and Exmoor.

In April, if the right weather conditions (easterly/south easterly strong winds) the passage of *BAR TAILED GODWIT* making for their Northern European/Greenland breeding grounds can be spectacular. Between 27th April and 7th May 1990 a total of 1,743 birds was recorded - this year new records were set. First arrivals were 16 on 7th April. However, with strong winds on the 22nd, the first flocks were logged at 08.05 - 50 birds. During the next 11 hours a total of 34 flocks were watched coming in from the west and flying straight up South Milton Valley - several of these contained in excess of 100 birds with largest at 16.45 being at least 435 birds (counted from a sequence of photographs). By 18.30 the day total was 2,200, with a total for the month of 2,492.



These birds winter on the West Coast of Africa before making their way north to breed. Due to the strong winds they have difficulty in continuing the journey eastwards up the Channel and take the overland route to the Dorset Coast.

WHIMBREL also can be seen arriving in flocks of up to 50, this year the highest daily total was 185 on 24th with the months total of 1,120 birds.

During the month, a total of 20 different species of Waders was recorded including 3 *LITTLE RINGED PLOVER* - these winter in Africa and breed along rocky shores of rivers and reservoirs in parts of England, (a very rare breeding bird in Devon).



These records give you some idea of how important the Bay and Marshlands are to migrating birds.

This Spring, time spent sea watching has produced some very interesting records of Divers. There are 3 species that occur off our shores -

RED THROATED DIVER - In March they were recorded on 22 days with a total of 145 logged, a new daily record of 18 on 8th and 17 on 25th. In April, 52 were logged with a maximum of 14 on 5th.

BLACK THROATED DIVER - Rarely do we see more than 10 in a year. In March, a total of 10 with 3 together on 28th. In April, 11 were recorded with a maximum of 3 on 5th. Particularly outstanding were those on the sea off Yarmer Beach looking stunning in their full summer plumage.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER - the largest of the 3 species. In March, 32 were recorded with a maximum of 5 on 5th. In April, a total of 14 was recorded with a maximum of 5 on 26th.

Over a period of 2 months a total of 264 birds was recorded in the Bay - again emphasising how important the area is for over wintering of seabirds. They are now making their way to the far north of Europe for breeding.

Mike Passman

THURLESTONE MOTHS

The unusual spring weather during April resulting in cold nights and dawn frosts, is not conducive to enticing moths to emerge.

During April, a total of 466 macro moths of 39 different species was trapped.

Moths have a range of times when they will be in flight. This can range from a few weeks to several months with most of the more interesting species not emerging until early May or even June.

Some of the larger more interesting moths trapped in April were - *BRINDLED BEAUTY*, *SHOULDER STRIPE*, *NUT TREE TUSSOCK*, *WAVED UMBER*, *MAR-BLED CORONET*, *KNOT GRASS*.

Even in April we get the occasional immigrant moth having flown over from Northern France - this year, several *DARK SWORD-GRASS* were trapped - they have one of the longest flight periods from early March to the end of November. Another immigrant is *SILVER Y* which spreads north each year to breed with offspring returning to warmer parts of Europe with a flight period from early April to end of November - first this year trapped on 22nd April.

The first week in May has seen the continuity of cold nights with dawn frosts. By the 8th May only 74 moths had been trapped representing 19 species. The first morning without a frost was 5th with 25 moths trapped including 2 which were new for the year - a superb *CREAM SPOT TIGER* - In flight during May and June and only found in coastal counties along the south coast. The other was a *SWALLOW PROMINENT*.

Hopefully when the weather warms up, particularly overnight, the number of moths and species trapped will increase. Particularly looking forward to the large *HAWK* moths arriving.

There are photographs of the moths I have referred to on my Web Site: thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk - the *CREAM SPOT TIGER* is superb.

Mike Passman



Cream Spot Tiger Moth



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The Buckland Box Recycling update.

Jed and Leo would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has dropped off their used crisp packets and empty printer ink cartridges at the Buckland Box. Since they started their campaign in December just under 1000 crisp packets have been collected and 57 ink cartridges. Not only does that mean the Parish has kept those items out of landfill but in doing so they have also raised over £50 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust because 'RECYCLE 4 CHARITY' pay an average of £1 for each ink cartridge they receive. Although we can now recycle ink cartridges as part of the new kerbside recycling scheme, the Buckland Box would still be grateful if people would still consider dropping them off at the box instead please.

The initial plan of sending the crisp packets off to a charity that made them into bivvy bags for the homeless had to be shelved because during the covid epidemic they no longer accepted donations. Instead, the last batch of crisp packets was dropped off in Blackawton at their Terracycle collection point. If we as a community are able to commit to collecting 1600 crisp packets in 6 months, we will be able to set up our own terracycle collection point in the parish. Your help is crucial in making this possible.

So keep collecting your crisp packets please. However Terracycle DO NOT accept popcorn bags, biscuit or chocolate wrappers. We had to remove all of these items before we sent them off. Just empty, flat, clean foil crisp packets from now on. Please don't fold them into triangles.

Many thanks for helping us create a greener parish.



Beams of sunlight pulsate me.
Thicker than wind, they crawl through my fleece,
buffeting me with uncomfortable heat.

But look at my knees, my shins, my feet,
cheerful crowds of grass are waving at me,
vividly green,
surreal as can be,
tickling teams,
that reach for the seams,
of my boots, not waterproof.

Jobie and dog,
we're trekking through countryside vistas,
up and down hills,
through jungles and marsh,
we're winding our way along serpentine paths,
that puncture these overgrown carpets of grass.

She heartily gasps, with a ball in her mouth,
drinking the fragrances, with her snout.
Eyes bulging wide, with laughter and light,
she's panting out clouds of delight,
but no patience.

Galloping through life is her only vocation.

Jobie Sheppard



Thurlestone Church



2pm

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CAST OFF COVID-19 – WE FINALLY MADE IT!

By the time that you read this article we should be free of many Covid constraints and the pubs will also be open for eating indoors and/or outdoors as you choose.

The revised programme for 2021 now shows only 2 weeks without walks. Will those whose walks have been cancelled (because of Covid-19) please volunteer to fill the gaps.

West Alvington Woods – Vivien and Mike Stickland

This is still one of our favourite local walks.

We visited the woods again last week and the air of relaxed solitude still pervades in the place. We were again there on our own with just the birds singing in the sunshine. The season had moved on since our last visit and we were welcomed by the amazing blue carpets of bluebells with the extremities tinged with the white flowers of wild garlic.

We'll be going again whatever the season – always a visit not to be missed.

Thurlestone to Bantham Circular walk. Friday, 23rd April. Liz and Peter Coates.

At last we were tramping again post lockdown – the first walk since January. Since we were still under some Covid-19 restrictions re- car sharing etc we decided to have a local walk from Thurlestone to Bantham with snack lunch at the Bantham stores to celebrate getting

together again. A repeat of our Christmas walk in fact.

13 happy trampers set off from Court Park in socially distanced groups walking out by the golf course to join the coastal path to Bantham. The sun was shining but there was a bitter easterly wind blowing so the headgear ranged from sun hats to woolly hats! The tide was out so we were able to cross the beach at Bantham where two other trampers, one recovering from injury, joined us for the walk up to the Bantham Stores. Here we sat outside sheltered from the wind and enjoyed our pre-ordered delicious lunches – pasties, soup, chilli etc. We then walked down to the newly resurfaced footpath by the Sloop and then back up the hill to Thurlestone. It was good to be back walking and chatting with our tramping friends again.

Stokenham to Beesands circular. Thursday, May 6th. Priscille and John Braithwaite.

“A stunning walk with amazing bluebells and wonderful views”

“Fab walk... fab company...fab lunch”

“A lovely, lovely walk we'd never done before”

The above aptly sum up the general feel-good atmosphere, under unexpectedly favourable weather conditions, during yesterday's walk.

This circular ramble of approximately 9km first took us from the Church House Inn at Stokenham up through the Bluebell Woods (a sight to behold at the moment) towards the wonderful Widdicombe Estate (the house said to have been once owned by Captain Cook). Even though the attribution of Capability Brown to the landscaping of the park would appear to be unfounded, but this in no way detracted from our enjoyment of the majestic trees and careful planting. General Eisenhower is also said to have used the House as his Combined Services Headquarters before the D-day landings.

The next stretch led us past Higher Beeson Farm and on beyond Huckham Barn Cross to the permissive footpath alongside the newly planted fields towards the sea, then dropping down through patches lined with dazzling gorse, more bluebells interspersed with primroses, onto the Coastal path. A welcome coffee stop rested our 18 pairs of legs (and Heidi's 4) at Beesands.

The last section involved walking along the coast, past Widdicombe Ley and ascending back up to Widdicombe House and then down to our well-earned rest at the Church House pub where a socially distanced outside lunch felt richly deserved!

Shaugh Bridge to Cadover Bridge. **May 10th. Gill and Alastair Durden.**

A group of 16 walkers and 2 dogs met at the National Trust car park at Shaugh Bridge on the River Plym for this lovely circular walk following the river upstream to Cadover Bridge and back across open moor to Dewerstone Hill, descending past granite quarries back to Shaugh Bridge. Rain and wind were threatened but, in the event, we only had the wind!

The walk started with a steepish climb, but we were soon rewarded with splendid views across the river valley to the three great buttresses of the Dewerstone which stand sheer above the river well over 100 feet high and are popular with rock-climbers. We then went through a lovely wooded area, with bluebells just starting to show. All the time we were following an old clay pipeline constructed to bring china clay mixed with water from the clay pits near Cadover Bridge to some processing works at Shaugh Bridge, the ruins of which are still there. This went on from 1880 until around 1960. Now the pipeline is disused – indeed broken in many places – but still lies beneath the path to be caught sight of every now and then. We stopped in a lovely spot by the river, sitting on rocks and having our coffee. Then on into the open where there is a car park at Cadover bridge - popular with picnickers.

We crossed the river via Cadover Bridge, and made our way across Wigford Down. Out in the open, we were faced with a strong wind but no rain, thankfully. The views over to the west of Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor in the distance and ahead of us to Plymouth Sound were rather obscured by the hazy conditions however. We reached Dewerstone Hill - a fairly significant outcrop of rock which I think worthy of being called a "tor". From here we descended to the river, going past granite quarries and stopping for a welcome picnic lunch out of the wind. We passed the ruins of a winding house which housed machinery operating trucks carrying granite down the slope on a pulley system. The inclined plain here carried two parallel lines of rails on which the trucks loaded with dressed granite would be attached to a cable which was wound round one of the two drums of the winding gear. The other drum also had a cable which was extended down the inclined plane and attached to the empty trucks waiting below. At a given signal the loaded trucks would be started off down the incline, the drum turning as the cable paid out. As this happened, the other cable wound on to its drum and the empty trucks were drawn up by the weight of the laden ones going down. The laden trucks eventually found their way along a system of tracks which connected with the South Devon Railway near Goodameavy, about half a mile away. The Dewerstone quarries went out of business well over 100 years ago, but it was interesting to be reminded of the industrial nature of the area, and to imagine all the activity there in former times. Our 5½ mile excursion ended by crossing the river once again back to the car park.



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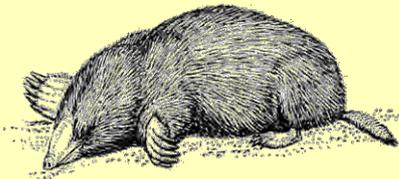
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Weather Wag



So far this month the weather has been a bit of a Fascinating for those of us who watch it on a regular basis, but really spring seems to have given us a miss this year.

We have had frosts, severe at that, gales from both east and west and heavy rainfall. All most un-spring like! Despite all this adverse wind, temperature and rainfall the garden is surviving—just.

As far as weather watching goes, there has been much to note. My diary is full of comments about it not being nice weather, with comments like “I had to put up the shutters today May 3rd, winds of F10 from the west so needed to protect the glass.” The wind gauge registered 75mph which is quite a blow for May.

Today 13th May, has seen 35mm rain in the gauge. Roads are flooded especially the dip by the Golf Club, despite their care in clearing the drain earlier on. The drain on our little road to the steps at Thurlestone Sands is blocked and the torrent has carved out a deep path alongside the steps and washed away the sand from under the steps. It is a salutary lesson on the power of water even in our little neck of the woods.

Fortunately the winds have been light and the seas have not reached up to the steps or the base of the near cliff face. The Ley has breached overnight and is now running contentedly through the sand bar and into the sea, making a large brown area of water out into the bay before it mixed with the salt water and disappeared.

Have you ever thought about how the sea levels are measured, as of course they are. When I was a child I spent many holidays with my Grandparents in Marazion, near Penzance. It was here that my Grandad told me about Newlyn and its importance for sea level measurement. On every OS map (1-25000) which has a coastline, there are two blue lines labelled MLW = Mean Low Water, and MHW= Mean High Water. This line has been determined by the Observatory situated at the end of the pier at Newlyn harbour. The housing is rather shabby and looks a bit like a mini lighthouse. However, it is in fact the recording station for sea levels. It is a very important site and was concealed for years under the Official Secrets Act. It marks a 100years of recordings and is now the ‘benchmark’ of ZERO ELEVATION against which all the heights of all the hills, mountains and buildings and much more are determined. Recordings were first made by OS in 1915, levels were read every hour, it was one of three in the country. Subsequently only Newlyn was retained. It is such a stable place, built on granite rock and alongside deep waters of the Atlantic. It recorded in 1941 a small tsunami that was caused by a large earthquake off Portugal. In more recent times storms have battered the observatory, but still the equipment continued to function. However now GPS is used to record these measurements but the 100yrs or so of records are vital evidence of climate change, which has accelerated over the last 25yrs.

So when anyone scoffs at the notion of climate change, there is a mountain of evidence in many scientific and meteorological studies that uphold the theory.

Good weather watching, coastal erosion is showing its hand on Leasfoot beach. Have a look at the old pill box that was!

Jan Turner

Waggy Tales

FAREWELL TO BEN – A TRUE TRAMPER

Ben came into my life shortly after I moved from London to Thurlestone in November 2007. I always intended to get a dog, once retired. Ben was a lively black and white Springer Spaniel puppy who was to become my devoted companion for the next 13 years.



On arrival he made quite an impact. Everyone loved him but he had rather a wilful nature. Puppy training classes were a testing time. The many other canine students were too much of a distraction for Ben to obey orders!

As well as our daily walks together, Ben also became a regular with the Tramps Walking Group which he loved. As well as leading at the front of the group, he would keep running back to check the rest of the pack (including me) were still altogether. He was not, however, the most well behaved of dogs. He blotted his copybook many times with episodes of chasing chicken, pheasants and sheep. He was not averse to seeking out and rolling in other animals' excrement-the smellier the better!

Ben loved being on the beach and swimming in the sea. Other people's picnics were too much temptation for him and one time he ran with someones' jacket (wallet in pocket) into the sea! Unfortunately, he also liked to play with stones and pick up pebbles. There were 4 separate occasions when he had to have emergency surgery to remove a swallowed pebble stuck in his intestine - he never learned! Very worrying times but he always pulled through. Over the years, he has cost me a fortune in vet bills!

He loved to have visitors and knew his special friends who carried treats in their pockets. You needed to keep an eye on your belongings, children's soft toys, gloves, socks and the odd shoe would go missing. Ben would be found sitting on the lawn with said item hanging from his mouth, his eyes saying "Come and get me" and a game of chase then pursued around the garden. When finally retrieved the chewed and soggy remains were only good for the bin!

At dinner parties, he would lay under the table and you were the favoured one if he chose to lay on your feet. Everyone had to be alert to having their napkin pinched!

Ben rarely barked except when he found a hedgehog in the garden - he seemed to sniff them out. Rolled up in a ball, Ben would just bark at it. Before being able to rescue the hedgehog, he would pick it up (very carefully) and run around the garden with it. Fortunately the hedgehogs never seemed to come to any harm.

He enjoyed visiting Thurlestone Retirement Home. Here he behaved himself impeccably and the elderly residents enjoyed cuddles and stroking him.

Ben was a great character with many endearing ways. He has travelled all over the country with me. We have walked miles together along the coastal paths and many hours trekking over the moors.

Sadly cancer meant Ben's days were numbered and he left us earlier this year. The happy, friendly dog who brought so much joy into my life is now greatly missed. We had the most lovely times together and I will always treasure those precious moments and memories.

Jenny Webb



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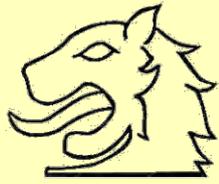
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SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

THE OTHER GREAT RAILWAY ROBBERY: Part 2

Part 1 told the story of John Freer from Broadhempston, nr. Totnes, who went to London (as did three of his brothers), and took part in a major robbery at Camden goods yard. He and his accomplices got away with £700 worth of goods (about £55,000 today) - hats, bonnets, luxury fabrics & silks, books, pharmaceuticals - and despite selling some of it, he and his brother Samuel got lumbered with quickly disposing of the rest. An employee of the firm they'd robbed recognised some of the goods on a cart in N. London. John Freer and the rest were all arrested. Their trial took place on 10th May 1847.

The full story of the robbery which emerged at the trial, and the detailed trial proceedings are on the website: 'The proceedings of The Old Bailey' which may be found easily, and the reference number for this trial is: t18470510-1263.

There was no question of their guilt. Samuel Freer got a year in prison with hard labour, considered lenient, on the grounds that he was protecting his brother rather than profiting from the robbery. He was again recorded as a 'beer retailer' in 1851 but from then on, only labourer and saw sharpener.

John Freer and five others of the gang were sentenced to be transported for seven years to New South Wales, one of Britain's first convict colonies.

John spent two months in Millbank gaol which was by then used specifically as a holding depot for convicts awaiting transportation. Prisoners at this time had to spend the first half of their sentence in solitary confinement and in silence, the 'Separate System'. The labyrinth of passages in this prison however, made it easy for the prisoners to communicate, as the corridors echoed and were not easy to patrol. At this very time, a new model prison, Pentonville, was constructed, with this system in mind, wings of cell blocks radiating out from a central hub (plenty more detail on-line - my space is limited!).

The Millbank diet was frugal and repetitive, though adequate; indeed, John weighed 10½ stone when he was moved two months later to the new Pentonville Prison. Many a Devon farm labourer would have loved to have been given the quantities given the prisoners, sparse though it was.

Known only by his cell number (on a copper badge pinned to his prison uniform), and forbidden to speak for another sixteen months. John had to wear a 'scotch bonnet' cap, the brow pulled down over the face to mask identity, and just peep holes for the eyes. His clothing was a light brown suit and grey over-jacket, all adorned with red stripes to denote 'prisoner', his only permitted belongings a bible and a hymn book. All contact between prisoners was banned as it was believed that this system would be a deterrent and also prevent further criminal associations being made. A visit was permitted after six months if behaviour was exemplary, but John had to bear the loss of his seven-year-old son William alone in gaol. His wife Hannah meanwhile worked as a washerwoman to keep herself and their three children out of the workhouse.

Rehabilitation was part of the plan, prisoners learning trades such as weaving or shoe making; a small proportion of what they earned by their labours was kept aside to be handed over upon arrival in New South Wales.

In December of 1848 John (and others sentenced for the Camden robbery) were taken to Tilbury chained together in irons, and put on board the convict ship 'Hashemy'. Departure was delayed as cholera broke out on board and the ship moved to the 'quarantine grounds'. The ship also had to pick up convicts from Portsmouth, languishing there for a further six weeks in quarantine. John (and the other three Camden convicts) contracted cholera at Christmas but fortunately John recovered within a week. Joseph Martin, the fifth gang member had already died en route to Portsmouth and was buried at sea.

Conditions on board were of course dreadful, but there was regulation regarding diet and health, monitored by a doctor on the passage to New South Wales. After all, a ship load of sick, feeble convicts was no good to anyone in the colony, aside from any humanitarian concerns which might or might not have been a consideration. Lime juice was, of course part of the ration to prevent scurvy, but porridge and fowl ship's biscuit were the mainstay of their diet. The ship called en route at Cape Town and beef and fresh vegetables were loaded (though presumably not for the prisoners) and mouldy ship's biscuit was removed.

New South Wales had ceased to be a colony receiving convicts in 1840 but prison numbers in England had grown to crisis point causing the Government to once again send prisoners to N.S.W. Settlers in the developing colony by then were from various backgrounds, not just convicts any more, and the convict ship was not welcome; the reception was one of protest by thousands of people at the docks, despite pouring rain. As it transpired, the Hashemy was the last-but-one to bring convicts to N.S.W.

The 212 exiled prisoners were assigned to a Master for a probational period. John was given a 'ticket of leave' and employed for a three-year term. His freedom after that was conditional on him not absconding and good behaviour. He was paid £13 a year, out of which he had to pay back £15 for his passage after the three years. He may in fact not have had to wait that long as the convict system was rapidly disbanded in New South Wales, giving John the chance to set up on his own. That was not as simple as that one short statement implies – years of struggle lay ahead but John, with others, headed for the undeveloped hinterland and began to build his life again, free from the restrictions of his class back in England. Of course, there were laws being made as the new territory grew more civilised and, like in the United States, the land grab was hastened by the gold rush of 1850, with ever more settlers pouring in.

Eventually Hannah Freer was allowed to join her husband, the passage for her and their three children paid for under a Government scheme. The 'Java' was notorious and unpleasant and a passenger who kept a diary recorded in detail the sea sickness, the continual bad weather and the disease - which took the lives of 52 children & young mothers (out of a passenger list of 483). The captain restricted their food in order to save money, and upon arrival refused to land the sick and complaining passengers to avoid being fined for their bad conditions. Thus, they were two months late arriving in Sydney Harbour, but John's family did survive the ordeal.

After their re-union John & Hannah had a further four children, who had a tough up-bringing in the developing outback. Families owned a few basic pots, and lighting came from tin can 'candles' filled with tallow (animal fat) - it was that basic. As time went on, John acquired a parcel of land and with other groups of settlers gradually spread inland to develop the untamed territory, untouched as yet by the woodcutters and ranchers.

John had about forty acres from a kindly landlord who allowed tenants to live rent free on condition that they cleared and cultivated the land. These settlers had to be completely and utterly self-reliant, living in basic hut-like structures. They grew wheat, barley, potatoes and pumpkins. A nice detail is that the landlord gave many of his tenants lemon and peach trees and apparently the area was known for its peach pies – an unknown treat for many of John's siblings back in Devon.

There is no evidence of the family being involved in any of the gold mining in NSW in the second half of the 19th century and the area they lived in was remote and completely undeveloped bush and scrub, so although they fared well in the end it was only after decades of hard toil and struggle. Dairy farming became profitable in the 1860s as the land was gradually adapted.

Some of the problems they encountered were bush fires, frequent floods which meant evacuation of their homes periodically, and the other extreme - drought, in one instance accompanied by a plague of rabbits, and in another instance wiping out the cattle stock and making the farmers depend totally on their wheat crop. All of which could mean the difference between a good harvest or near starvation.

In 1870 John purchased some land on Kangaroo Mountain and was able to sign his name to a contract which bound him to pay off the interest free land loan to the Government (worth £150) for a deposit of only £10 (a good deal of money then). He had four years to make good and pay the loan or forfeit the land.

Forays inland to Cullinga in the Cootamundra district revealed rich soil and favourable farming conditions. Settlers from the coast moved inland on horseback and with wagons (in similar fashion to the settlers in the United States) and John & Hannah Freer with their growing family made the arduous trip over the mountains and settled there. By 1885 land tax records show John as owning 367 acres, 10 horses and 30 cattle.

Here they built a mud brick house which sported a corrugated iron roof, two brick chimney stacks, and a verandah on three sides of the house, described by a passing journalist as "a prettily-placed little homestead".

John lived to the age of 77, described as robust in health, but dying suddenly of a heart attack in 1893. The once-illiterate John did learn to read & write at some point, which could have been in Pentonville or perhaps on the long voyage to New South Wales. Apparently, he was not averse to writing a verse or two, earning himself the sobriquet "The Tennyson of Cootamundra". Hannah lived to the age of 99, though by a miscalculation of hers, or somebody's, she'd managed to celebrate her 100th birthday fifteen months early!

I am only able to record the bare bones of this saga here, but I should acknowledge the research of Tim Freer in Australia, a direct descendant of John and who wrote-up the family's history in detail (including subsequent generations who do not concern us here). We are both descended from John's parents and previous generations and swapped notes extensively on earlier generations in Devon and the other brothers who went to London.

So, did crime pay in this case? Well, not really considering what John and his family had to go through - the poverty of his wife and children during five years of separation, and John's incarceration, then the dreaded convict hulks, the perilous journey to Australia. In the end, he did prosper and have opportunities which a farm boy from the South Hams would never have had - but at what cost?

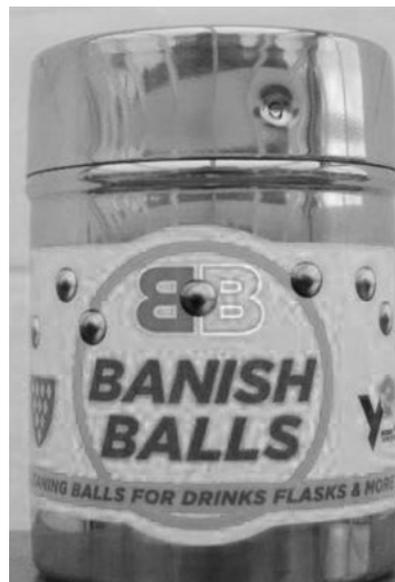


The first photo shows Hannah Freer in her late 90s.; she was blind by then. The second photo is believed to be John. The thick beard suggests the 1860s-70s when he would have been a few years either side of fifty.



Michael Stephens

BALLS TO THURLESTONE ?



Now did that get your attention? You may well have already heard about this year's enterprising students from Kingsbridge Community College (from Johnny Rutherford's recent interview on BBC Spotlight or the two recent articles in The Gazette?) and their innovative new product which is ideal for cleaning those re-usable drinking flasks – they now need to get these Banish Balls to you in Thurlestone!

The Banish Balls (BBs) use no chemicals, hot water or the electricity in your dishwasher – *they simply rely on your elbow power!* Each set of BBs contains 500 balls, 3mm in diameter and are made from food grade, anti-corrosive stainless steel. They are contained in an ingeniously re-purposed stainless steel coffee shaker which has a removable mesh to help drain the dirty water from your newly cleaned mug, flask or other container (*one customer has reported that they are also brilliant for cleaning glass flower vases!*).

These Banish Balls really work (*we used to have a similar product for cleaning our decanters and the balls are made from the same material so will not scratch or damage your glass/steel/plastic containers*) and there is a whole new generation of adults out there much more concerned about sustainability than perhaps we were at the same age. The BBs are wholly made from sustainable products and, if looked after, will last you a life-time and will allow the many adults (*young and old*) who have a favourite drinking flask and wish to regularly remove unwanted fruit, coffee, tea stains and odours or the sediments from their protein shakes in a “Planet Friendly” way.

KCC won the last round of the Young Enterprise finals and were awarded the prestigious JP Morgan prize for Most Innovative Product; they are now in the SW Regional finals and have also entered the YE European finals for the teams with the Most Innovative Product!

If you want to find out more please take a couple of minutes to look at the website which the KCC students built from scratch and also, *if you are inclined*, the social media sites which are linked: www.banishballs.co.uk

At the time of writing, the students have sold 104 sets of BBs and would love Thurlestone's help in selling their remaining stock. They will make ideal presents for those children and grandchildren who will appreciate them and your effort to Save the Planet! You can buy BBs for only £7.99 from Sarah at Thurlestone Post Office or Kelly and Linda at Bantham Stores. Thanks for your support.

Graham Gilbert & Neil Girling (Business Advisors to the KCC Young Enterprise Team)



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ZAN ADVENTURES Part 2

Sailing around the French Polynesian islands with its COVID constraints

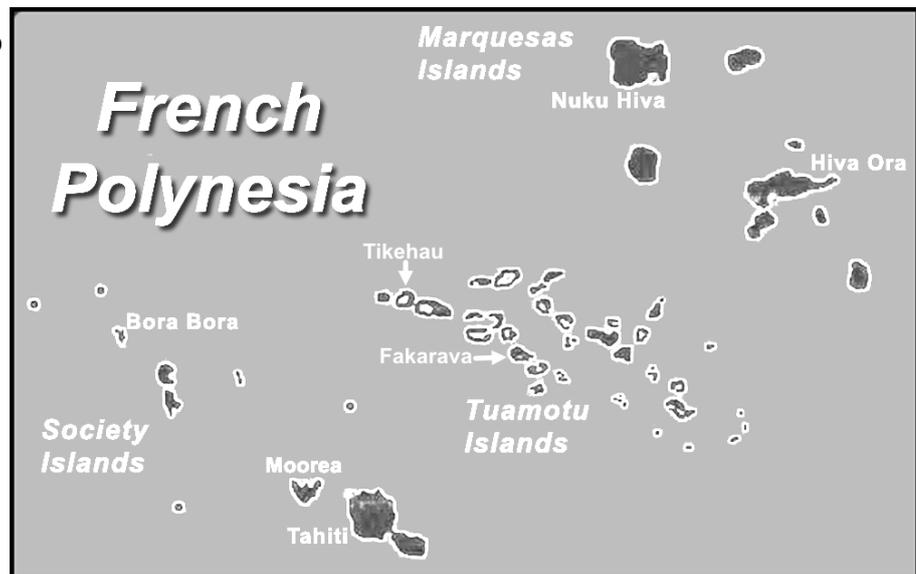
Tim and Peter who had helped us across the Pacific Ocean to Tahiti sadly had to fly home.

Cheryll and I were instructed to anchor opposite the airport runway, just on the inside of the reef where there were approximately 40 yachts of varying sizes and nationalities.

We were only allowed ashore to shop for provisions and to walk no more than a kilometre.

We were forbidden to 'play' on the water although snorkelling and cleaning the hull became a daily routine. On the 27th April there was some relaxation and beaches opened, playing and driving was permitted, and restaurants opened. It was our chance to explore the island of Tahiti, which we did. We really enjoyed our new found sense of freedom and we hiked and explored there.

At the beginning of May we were allowed to move within 'Island Groups'. For us this meant we could move WNW to Moorea. It is an absolutely spectacular island. We found a wonderful anchoring spot to the west of Oponohu Bay, tucked behind the reef, in a wonderful pool of slightly deeper water. We had it to ourselves for a few days until some friends came to join us. To our west, along a marked dinghy channel used by



fisherman and taxi boats at high speed and sadly Jet Ski tours, is an Intercontinental Hotel. This was of course closed. It soon dawned on us that for a few weeks at least, we would share these Islands with our fellow cruisers and the local population, but with no other tourists, and therefore no crowds.

Moorea was a joy for us but, during the lockdown, a number of yachts had congregated in front of a public beach at the top of the spectacular Cooks Bay. The combination of a larger than usual number of yachts, because no one had been allowed to move on, and a locked down population with the economic woes of fisherman and taxi boats without hotel guests to move around, had created some friction.

This was exposed a month later with the tragic accident, between a young British boy swimming and checking the anchor of his family's yacht and a hired highspeed motor boat, which resulted in the boy losing his life. The first local reaction of the Mayor was to introduce a ban to all yachts anchoring in this location. The local sympathy was sadly not with the cruising yachtsman but the driver of the boat. This story made the UK press.

On the 26th May it became possible to move between all the islands, although all borders into French Polynesia remained closed. Our friends who had been just 7 days behind us in Panama were all still stuck there with no ability to set sail and join us. We were very keen to return up wind to the Tuomotus Islands that we had sailed through with a high degree of frustration just a month or so before. The wind angle was more favourable to head north east and our goal was to see and enjoy our first Pacific atoll. I was a little nervous and conservative, wanting to arrive at the passes with slack water and felt Tikehau Island would be a safer option, but we enjoyed a fast sail and by dawn I was happy we could enter the

Avatoru Pass at Rangiroa around midday. We were in a strengthening easterly breeze and it was with a few butterflies tingling in my tummy as I turned towards the gap between the breaking waves. The wind over current at times creates spectacular steep and violent waves. We were in slack water and our entry speed under motor was reduced by some 4 knots against a 5 knots outgoing current, and the rough water was easily avoided.

We then motored down the inside of the northern rim to the anchoring area by the Tiputa Pass opposite an empty hotel with about a dozen over-water bungalows on a beautiful beach. We found a good patch of sand without too many coral heads and no need to float our chain. We were subsequently fortunate to always find space where our chain was not damaging young coral, and thankfully we never fouled, although it often did take an age to find a good spot.

We were immediately waved at and met by a young German family who had been 'locked down' there. We were the first new arrival since lock-down and they were happy to talk us through all that we could ever wish to know about Rangiroa and where to go to enjoy this spectacular atoll.

We discovered that one local dive company had opened up and we were able to dive several times in this wonderful aquarium, absolutely full of life. We witnessed dolphins, on the surface who play in the waves created in the pass. We swam with Napoleon fish the size of a large suitcase. We spotted an enormous eel and by now were relaxed to be in the company of numerous sharks.

We enjoyed just over three weeks here and moved around inside the atoll; it is hard to describe these freaks of geology. Rangiroa is one of the largest atolls in the world with a circumference of 174 miles. The highlight was three nights completely alone on the southern edge called Ai, only possible as the wind had unusually changed direction. Not a soul, not a light, not a sign of human life, anchored a few yards off the sand and palms, in crystal blue water no more than a few feet deep, that develop on the inside atoll edge.

We explored by paddle board through the shallow gaps that then lead you to the sharp and jagged edge where it collides with the ocean. Swimming around Zan with only the black tip sharks for company, in the most pristine water we had ever experienced, with a coral head a few feet away full of fish of diverse colours, shapes and sizes, this was what all the dreams were made of and what I had dreamed of experiencing. A memory to treasure for ever.

Our plan was to move on to another atoll called Fakarava, particularly to dive the two passes that are world renowned. Before heading there, news came that a storm had struck and two yachts had been washed up on the reef by the town. The wind had rapidly altered direction and quickly the water inside the atoll created a large steep wave. The distance from one side of an atoll to the other, in this case some 20 miles, creates a good fetch, and hence short high waves. A number of yachts found that their chains had caught the coral heads as they swung to an opposite direction, shortening the chain dramatically and creating havoc, with sterns to the reef ...for two of the yachts it was game over.

Fakarava and its diving lived up to its reputation and whilst many describe the South Pass as better than the North, I truly felt they were equally outstanding. Words cannot really describe the reality of these remote areas of the ocean where the life is abundant and literally hundreds and hundreds of sharks sit atop the marine life food chain below them.

We spent time in the north until the forecast meant it was wise to shelter in the south east corner, where the wind blew strongly and I was lucky enough to find a floating Kite Surf school from whom I was able to rent some equipment and enjoy some rewarding kite surfing. Flying fast along the shallow turquoise water just inside wonderful pink sand stretching for miles and miles is a rewarding experience.

By now we knew it was going to be highly unlikely that we could enter Tonga to 'haul out' as the country was firmly closed. New Zealand was building barriers to entry, requiring 50,000 dollars of work committed to as well as lots of bureaucratic hoops to jump through. Australia was fine if you were Australian and our options were reducing in equal measure to the increasing pressure to return home. There was wonderful news on the other hand, our daughter was expecting and due in December, as was our daughter-in-law due a second, a week later. Clearly lockdown must have had something to do with it, so continuing next season in the Pacific was beginning to look impossible! **More to follow.**

Martin Beck

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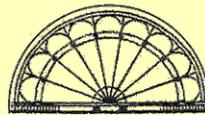
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DIARY DATES

June

- Saturday 5 Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
Monday 7 TRAMP - Dittisham - Wendy and Peter Gornall
Friday 11 Hope Cove Lifeboat Golf Day at Thurlestone Golf Club
Tuesday 15 TRAMP - South Brent/ Corydon Ball Circular 6 miles - Vanessa Barton
Saturday 19 Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am to 1pm
Monday 21 TRAMP - Haytor, Hound Tor and Saddle Tor - 5.5 miles - Richard Swan
Wednesday 23 Kingsbridge Arts Society 2pm conducted via Zoom - "Lawrence of Arabia: Excavating a Legend" with Neil Faulkner.
Saturday 26-27 Dartmouth Art and Craft Weekend in aid of Children's Hospice South West 10am to 4pm daily
Monday 28 TRAMP - Tuckenhay Malsters Arms Circular - John and Priscille Braithwaite

July

- Friday 2-4 Devon County Show
Saturday 3 Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
Sunday 4-9 Salcombe Merlin Week
Monday 5 TRAMP - Plymouth Waterfront 7 miles - Gareth Scott
Monday 5 Parish Council Meeting - Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 10 Bantham Sunrise Swoosh
Thursday 15 TRAMP - From Cross Furzes and past Avon Reservoir 6 miles - Alastair and Gill Durden
Saturday 17 Kingsbridge Farmers' Market 9am to 1pm
Saturday 17 Malborough Summer Fayre at the Village Hall
Monday 19 South Devon AONB - Online Event - 'A Seasonal Guide to Bird Watching in South Devon AONB - Summer'. 7pm to 8pm. Register for your free ticket at www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/events
Friday 23 TRAMP - Bolberry Down / Hope Cove (western circular) - Liz and Peter Coates
Saturday 24 Thurlestone Church Fete - Toyes Orchard 2pm
Tuesday 27-31 Dartmouth Shakespeare Week
Wednesday 28 Yealmpton Show
Friday 30 TRAMP - "Letter Box" walk on Dartmoor - Mike and Sian Hodges

August

- Tuesday 3 TRAMP - Meet at Chillington Village Hall at 10.30am 6/7 miles - Claudette Uff

Car Boot Sales every Sunday from 27 June to 12 September Kingsbridge Quay Car Park 9am - 12noon - in aid of various local charities

All Events are subject to change due to the Coronavirus

Thurlestone Golf Club



It seems the April Showers have missed their slot and have arrived with a vengeance in May. As with many Bar & Catering establishments since 12th April we have been at the vagaries of the weather. Golfing and Tennis members along with our Social members will be pleased to note that as from Monday 17th May we were able to move our Bar & Catering operation inside under the "rule of six". Our fortnightly member's Friday Fish & Chip nights started from Friday 21st May. If you would like to make a reservation, please call 01548 560405 ext 2.

We are pleased to be getting back to some sort of normality and this was highlighted by our Captains' Drive In which took place on Saturday 22nd May. This was an opportunity for the Club to get together and recognise our incoming Captains Mike Allen (Club Captain), Diane Baker (Ladies' Captain), Bill Hutchison (Seniors' Captain) & Toby White (Juniors' Captain). Traditionally members pay to try and guess where the Captains will hit their tee shots, the proceeds of which go to our three chosen charities Devon Air Ambulance Trust, Jeremiah's Journey and Dystonia.

On the same day we were also able to celebrate our immediate Past Captain Rob Eva's long association with Thurlestone Golf Club. Rob first joined as an artisan member in his early teens following in his father footsteps. When the artisans were disbanded in 1978 Rob became a full member and since then has taken an active role in the Club's activities. The Club marked this occasion with a presentation of cut crystal and a bouquet of flowers for Rob's wife Rosemary. We wish both Rob and Rosemary every good fortune as they move from the area to start an exciting new chapter of their lives. For your interest our longest serving member joined the Club in 1946 some 3 years before Rob was born!

'Our longest serving member joined the Club in 1946'

We have always prided ourselves in our efforts to encourage youngsters in to the sports of Golf and Tennis. We have had a rise in the number of youngsters taking tennis lessons, especially during the Easter break. We also host regular Junior Golf Access Events. Junior Golf Access is a fun structured format, designed to encourage youngsters to play golf for the first time, with the opportunity to learn on the golf course, rather than solely on the driving range or practice ground. There are 9 different bands/levels for golfers to work through. Juniors can progress to the next level as soon as they attain the band score or better. Juniors are presented with a coloured wrist band and certificate as recognition of achieving the corresponding level. The scheme is currently open to all juniors at any skill level as it takes them through the process of obtaining their first handicap. It is linked with the Junior Golf Academy run by the PGA Professionals here at Thurlestone, so if you need any more information, please pop in to see any of the team who will gladly help you out.

Simon Bawden



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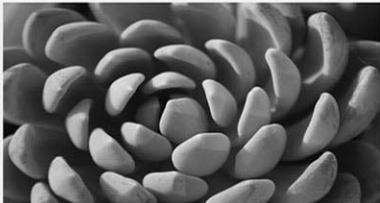
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BADMINTON CLUB	Contact	Sian Hodges	07784893405
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary	Nikki Smith	560275
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wed & Fri 6.30pm)	Contact	Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX	Contact	Anna Martin	560796
CIRCUIT TRAINING	Contact	Sue Richards	07810751083
FRENCH CONVERSATION (Thurs 2pm - 4pm)	Contact	Angela Luckhurst	521595
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Phil Millard	560843
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact	Tom Gilkes	560973
LINE DANCING (Wed 2pm)	Contact	Sue Bain	07989817898
NIA WITH NOLA FITNESS (Mon 10.15am)	Contact	Nola Baylis	842877
PILATES (Mon 2.15pm Wed 9am)	Contact	Franny Morris	07590506027
PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOC (POTS)	Chairman	Chris White	560505
TABLE TENNIS (Thurs 7.30pm)	Contact	Paul Ferguson	07866802800
TAI CHI/CHUAN (Wed 10.30am)	Contact	Vida Hodder	561182
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Office & General Enquiries		560405
TENNIS SECTION (at Golf Club)	Book via Pro Shop		560715
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX	Contact	Kit Marshall	560214
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Mike Stickland	560763
WI (2nd Thurs in month 2.30pm not Aug or Dec)	Contact	Sally Martin	561356
YOGA (Tues 9am)	Contact	Sarah Scott	07879627939

HEALTH CENTRES

Norton Brook Medical Centre, Cookworthy Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1AE	853551
Redfern Health Centre, Shadycombe Road, Salcombe TQ8 8DJ	842284
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LIBRARIES

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

Mobile library visits Thurlestone Parish Hall Car Park Wednesdays 2nd and 30th June and 28th July 3.10pm to 4.00pm

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

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PARISH INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES Contact Sarah Tyers 561917

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