

VILLAGE VOICE

June - July 2024



Capturing a Dream

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone



We hope that you enjoy this month's front cover which showcases our parish in all its splendour. Matt Bright in his article 'Capturing a Dream' details his trials and tribulations of how to get these stunning images. Why not take the opportunity to visit the Parish Hall and see the full-size pictures that are now on display.

Read about the unusually dull, grey and wet weather we have had this spring in 'Our ever-changing climate', and the impact this has had on the local children's play equipment in Thurlestone School's piece.

As we head into the summer (hopefully the wet weather is behind us) it is time for this year's Open Gardens, where you can enjoy some of the varied gardens around the Parish, or just partake in tea and cake at the Parish Hall. There is also news of the upcoming Bantham Swoosh and the Thurlestone Parish Church Fete.

On 6 June 2024, the UK will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings. Anniversaries such as these are always a time to reflect on how life used to be and people's resilience and resourcefulness. Read about how normal life in the South Hams continued during World War I in 'Snippets from the Past' and Ida Smith details village life in the parish spanning both World Wars.

During World War II, Lord Woolton (the wartime Minister of Food) and his department created the characters Potato Pete and Doctor Carrot, and devised a collection of recipes to promote vegetable eating. Try your hand at a couple of these recipes: Lord Woolton's Pie (as it became known) and Carrot Cookies.

We hope you enjoy this edition and wish all our readers a great summer.

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Photos taken by Matt Bright and on permanent display in the Parish Hall

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Table of Contents

Capturing a Dream
Notes from Parish Council Meetings
South Hams District Council Report
Village News Round-Up
Grey Matter
Ida Smith's Notes on Village Life
Open Gardens Poster
Parish Hall News
School Report
Tried and Tasted
Prawle Point Coastwatch
Bantham Swoosh
Alvington Singers Poster
Arts Society Poster
TRAMP Reports April/May
A Bantham Incident
All Saints' Editorial
All Saints' Diary
Thurlestone Church Fete Poster
Fiction Addiction
Our Garden in May
Our Ever-Changing Climate
Puzzle Page
Snippets from the Past
Your Fete Needs Your Help
Exhibition Poster
Beer & Boules Poster
Thurlestone Bay Birds and Moths
Thurlestone Golf Club
Diary Dates
Contact Information
Parish Information

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Capturing A Dream

Dreams.... Perhaps like the horizon, singular, omnipresent, can be travelled towards but never reached. Perhaps.... Maybe instead, dreams are harbingers of change, ebbing and flowing as a tide rolling in, depositing desire on the strand line. Esoteric flotsam on life's landfall.

Thinking it impossible, my wife (Caro) and I were working hard towards our shared dream of living on the coast, driven by our desire for change. We arrive here in 2022 and within a fragment of time I am commissioned to photograph the three villages that constitute the parish for permanent display within the Parish Hall. The images are also this issue's front cover. The brief, to make the hall more inclusive and welcoming to everyone who lives, works, visits, and loves this amazing community of Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone.

I am no landscape photographer, having a thirty-year photographic career in first news, then music, then sport. A new perspective is required, lessons to learn for sure. It will take time, that much I know. Inspiration comes from the landscape which (to remind you, in case the passage of time and familiarity has taken some of the shine off) is breath-taking, and though we are now in winter, I begin to meander through the landscape looking for views, discovering access paths, angles, compass bearings and lens choices.

"Buckland, we have a problem."

A large amount of scaffolding is erected at the sea end of the village dominating the view. My original desire to capture the villages through the seasons is scuppered, no misty autumnal sunrise image of Buckland now. Time to rethink.

We find ourselves in late spring (Bank Holiday weekend to be precise). The sun is shining, tourists and second homers have returned. At the golf club I unload from the car; camera, tripod and (musing that most people take a towel to the beach) an eight rung step ladder. The ladder enables me to gain height as I shoot from the coast path back towards the rock and crop out some of the buildings in the foreground. The ladder and I begin our journey towards Hope Cove, threading our way through holiday ramblers.

A chance encounter results in access to the garden of a holiday home at the far end of the beach at Thurlestone South, with a great view back towards the village including the rock and the populated beach. The captured image has the nostalgia of a postcard from the 1970s and is a compact metaphor, *Welcome*.

The image of Bantham is straightforward, the bend in the river, the hills, boats, cows. Not without incident though, there is an abortive attempt to capture an image containing swimmers competing in the Swoosh. Rain comes in a downpour, so sudden and fierce, I become drenched as do the competitors changing on the beach. They have wetsuits and towels; I have a lens cloth.

Buckland remains tricky. I hit the internet. Google Earth and Ordnance Survey offer a ray of hope manifested as a footpath from East Buckland to a seemingly random point on the upper road to Thurlestone. What desire placed this path here? A steep climb reveals the view looking west to the sea across the village. Sheep graze on the valley slope and on the far distant horizon the bow of a ship.

Dreams.... If you don't take notice, you may never know.

Footnote: I hope this encourages you to make the parish hall your own, the images described here are on display there now. There is a diverse calendar of events and many opportunities to create your own. A warm welcome awaits everyone!

Matt Bright

Notes from Parish Council Meetings

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

Thurlestone Parish Council Meeting of 4th March 2024

Present: Cllr Rosa Lewis (in the Chair), Cllr Eric Palmer, Cllr Mike Hodges, Cllr Nigel Hadaway, Cllr Adam Ryan Carter, Cllr David Smyth.

In Attendance: Helen Leather (Parish Clerk), DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert, SHDC Cllr Mark Long, Parishioners/guests: 12

Open Forum

Jon Wigg spoke about planning application 0388/24/4 and the development in Bantham beyond the village settlement towards the beach. He wanted to know has SHDC enforcement asked for containers on the dunes to be removed hence this application, and also how can this application be a retrospective change of use if the containers were never legally there, a change of use from what?

Patrick Renault, director of the Surfing Academy spoke about the surf school and all the support they have given to local schools and educational establishments and the lifesaving services they provide alongside the lifeguards on the beach.

District Cllr Rufus Gilbert: The Devolution Deal for Devon has a dedicated website for people to view all the information necessary. This can be found at: <https://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk/>. He spoke about the roads - lots of people, not just in Thurlestone, are concerned about the state of the roads and understandably so. This has been the wettest February on record and it's the wettest winter for 130 years. Devon CC will do their best in the summer to catch up when the conditions are dry, as you cannot repair wet roads. The water table is exceptionally high, it's an impossible situation until the weather dries up.

SHDC Cllr Mark Long: The last Full Council meeting on 15th February approved the Council Plan for 2024-2028 and the delivery plan for the coming year to 2025. The budget and expenditure for 2024/25 was also agreed and this includes an increase in council tax of 2.99%. (On a Band D property Council tax from £185.42 to £190.96, an increase of £5.54 per year or under 11 pence per week). Also reconfirmed and approved was the premium (up to 200% council tax) for second homes, this will come into effect from 1st April 2025.

Clerk's Report: Bantham Swoosh and Bantham Boomerang - 6th July 2024. Bantham Swoosh - start time approx 07:00 - 07:30 - 800 swimmers. Bantham Boomerang - Swim starts approx 18:00 - 500 swimmers. The Golf course has confirmed they have no plans to provide disabled access to the beach.

Cllr Hadaway reported that he had spoken with the 'Friends of Thurlestone School' and asked them to keep a record of any traffic incidents to gain greater insight into the frequency and nature of these.

Cllr Palmer talked about a 25-year update on a film about Thurlestone village. 25 years ago a film was made locally showing the people and the places of the parish.

A lot of local people are keen to help and film, record and edit, so there is a lot of help and enthusiasm for the project.

Planning

0528/24/TPO - Buckland Park, Bantham. Councillors objected to the elder but supported the sycamore.

0388/24/FUL - Land at SX663 436, Bantham, Kingsbridge. Thurlestone Parish Object.

0397/24/HHO - 19 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB. Thurlestone Parish Support.

2786/20/FUL - West Buckland Barn, Bantham, TQ7 3AJ. Thurlestone Parish Object.

2116/23/FUL - Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT. Thurlestone Parish Object.

3940/23/HHO - Little Stretton, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LZ. Approved.

0149/24/FUL - Land At Sx 668 437 Bantham. Under Consideration.

3629/23/HHO – Onnalea, Bantham, TQ7 3AR, Approved.

2116/23/FUL – Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) Within consultation period.

2117/23/LBC - Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT. Under Consideration

Thurlestone Parish Council Meeting of 8th April 2024

Present: Cllr Gill Stone (in the Chair), Cllr Mike Hodges, Cllr Nigel Hadaway, Cllr Adam Ryan Carter, Cllr David Smyth

In Attendance: Helen Leather (Parish Clerk), SHDC Cllr Mark Long, SHDC Cllr Sam Dennis, Parishioners/guests: 12

Open Forum

Brian Barker spoke regarding the flooding of the roads. He had written to MP Anthony Mangnall, and had met with Mr Mangnall and Cllr Eric Palmer a few days ago. Mr Mangnall had stressed that any information about the problem that parishioners could provide would be very helpful. Two members of the public introduced themselves as parents of children at Thurlestone School. The playground equipment is old and unfit for purpose, and they wondered if the parish council could help with the purchasing of replacement equipment.

Cllr Mark Long: Cllr Dennis and Cllr Long have done a lot of work on the new Enforcement Plan which is being finalised and will be sent out to Council. It will be available on the Council website, giving people greater detail of the time scales and the actions with enforcement. With reference to the Devolution proposals, the District Council have submitted their own comments regarding the consultation.

Clerk's Report: Bantham Swoosh. There is now a dedicated website for the Swoosh, with all the latest news and traffic information. This can be found at: <https://www.levelwater.org/banthamplans>.

Cllr Stone gave an update on Councillors' areas of responsibilities. Paul Gunning, the parish paths co-ordinator, has stepped down from the role due to other commitments. Cllr David Smyth has agreed to become the new co-ordinator, and

Paul will kindly help and advise him as he takes on the new role. Cllr Stone thanked Paul Gunning for his invaluable help and advice.

Cllr Smyth - The first police surgery will take place in Thurlestone Village Hall on 11th April between 10.30 am and 11.30 am.

Planning

0347/24/VAR - 24 Court Park, Thurlestone, TQ7 3LX. Thurlestone Parish Support.
0919/24/CLE - Land At Sx 664 436 Bantham. Thurlestone Parish Support with comments.

0929/24/HHO – Onnalea, Bantham, TQ7 3AR. Thurlestone Parish Object.

0528/24/TPO - Buckland Park, Bantham. Refused

0388/24/FUL - Land at SX663 436, Bantham, Kingsbridge. Under Consideration.

0397/24/HHO - 19 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB. Approved.

2786/20/FUL - West Buckland Barn, Bantham, TQ7 3AJ, READVERTISEMENT Under Consideration.

2116/23/FUL - Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT Under Consideration.

0149/24/FUL - Land At Sx 668 437 Bantham. Approved.

2117/23/LBC - Worthy, Bantham, TQ7 3AA. READVERTISEMENT. Approved.

South Hams District Council Report

By Cllr Samantha Dennis

I've now been in post for a year and I have enjoyed every aspect of the role whether that be returning to the committee of the Chamber of Commerce in my role as District Councillor, or my tour of the South Milton sewage treatment works. Testing out the play parks with my toddler, attending local events and continuing to knock on doors and speak to residents are probably the best parts of the job.



Delivering on my election leaflet promises, I have used my localities fund this year to support an Energy Fair, install new heating at Malbrough Village Hall, new windows and lighting in West Alvington Village Hall, contribute towards the running of local events and the beacon that will be lit in Salcombe on June 6th to mark the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

It is satisfying to see things I started back in May 2023 finally coming to fruition, whether that's the reinstatement of the Royal Mail post box in Malborough or signs at South Milton beach making clear that the designated bathing water does not include any pools or streams on the beach.

I chaired a Task & Finish group on the Enforcement process and am pleased to see the number of open enforcement cases finally decreasing, reflecting an improvement in performance.

There's still lots to learn and lots more to do, but I am enjoying every moment. Feel free to get in touch with me either by email on cldr.samantha.dennis@southhams.gov.uk or by calling or messaging me on my mobile, which is 07720 863626.



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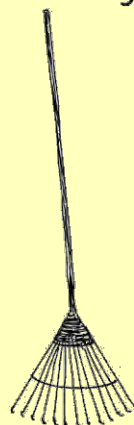
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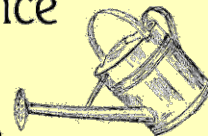
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VILLAGE NEWS ROUND-UP

Weather Wag

Jan Turner has decided to hang up her umbrella after 29 years as the Village Voice weather correspondent. Jan's first article appeared in the June/July 1995 edition when she explained weather has always been an absorbing subject for her and she put this down to her childhood on the family farm where they battled constantly with the elements. Once she retired from teaching, she promised herself to take a more detailed and serious interest in the weather, which she did from her cottage by the beach. We have all been fortunate to read about this in her always informative column 'Weather Wag' which we've been treated to over the years. We would like to say a huge thank you for her contribution over this long period of time and wish her well in her second retirement which she thoroughly deserves. The Village Voice team has presented her with a token of our appreciation.

Pat Crawford

We were sad to hear that Pat Crawford formerly of Thurlestone passed away peacefully in February. A Memorial Service was held at All Saints Church on 17th May. Pat took an active role within the Village and was responsible for organising Jumble Sales to raise funds for the NSPCC. Our condolences to all her family and friends.

Sir Simon Day

Sir Simon who was our County Councillor for many years, died in January. A Memorial Service celebrating his life took place on Tuesday 28th May in Exeter Cathedral.

All Saints School Play Area

The play equipment at the school has been condemned and they are looking for funding to replace it. They are applying to the lottery fund but are also looking for more support in their fundraising efforts. It would be brilliant if the community would complete their online survey regarding play equipment in support of their grant bids on the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/Fnqkiqbaf>. They would also be very grateful for offers of advice and support on fundraising. Please direct emails to thurlestone@lapsw.org or call 01548 560494.

Jack Rhymes

We are sure that you'd like to join us in wishing Jack a full and speedy recovery after his recent accident and hope he is managing to keep himself occupied during the often slow progress it takes to get back to normality. Get well soon Jack.

Village Fete Bottle Tombola Stall

Readers of the Village Voice and visitors to the Fete would seriously miss the BOTTLE TOMBOLA if it was not in its usual place on the lawn! To make their task easier and make lots of money they need BOTTLES. These can be wine, champagne, cans of beer, soft drinks or spirits. All contributions will be gratefully received. You can deliver your gifts to: George Lacon at 3B Landpath and David Horne at 'Stickledown' Eddystone Rd, or to the Church Meeting Room on any Wednesday morning between 9pm and 12noon. They are happy to receive your gifts at any time from now onwards. If necessary, please contact George on 01548 562579. Here's hoping for a fine sunny day!

Adders Beware

There has been a sighting of an adder on the golf course. They are Britain's only venomous snake although rarely a threat as most attacks happen when they are accidentally trodden on, picked up, disturbed by a human or dog. If you come across an adder, keep a safe distance and leave it alone. The adder is a greyish snake, with a dark and very distinct zig-zag pattern down its back and a red eye. Males tend to be more silvery-grey in colour, while females are more light or reddish-brown. (See photograph in the Golf Club article.)

D-Day Commemorations

Commemorations for the 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6th June are taking place at various events in Salcombe and Dartmouth. A wartime exhibition "Six weeks to go" is showing throughout the season at the Cookworthy Museum in Kingsbridge and depicts life in the South Hams during World War II when American troops evacuated whole villages (including Slapton and Blackawton) to enable them to partake in D-Day preparations.

Malcolm Le Grice Exhibition

Former long standing local resident Malcolm Le Grice will be holding an exhibition at the 'Velarde' galley at the top of Fore street in Kingsbridge. It will run for 4 weeks from the 10th September and further details will be given nearer the time.

Thank You Day

Sunday 7th July is designated as the day to celebrate and give thanks to those who go above and beyond. People and communities are encouraged to say thank you to unsung heroes. More information on their website. www.thankyouday.org.uk.

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 2024. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk

THINK OF A NUMBER.....

Match the numbers to facts or phrases using the initials as guides

Eg 18 H on a GC..... 18 Holes on a Golf Course

1. 366 D in a LY.....
2. 13 in a BD.....
3. 10 GBH on the W.....
4. 6 P on a ST.....
5. 24 BB in a P.....
6. 101 D.....
7. 3 L on a T.....
8. 8 F in a M.....
9. 6 S on a G.....
10. 4 Q in a P of C.....
11. 60 S in a M.....
12. 1 W on a U.....
13. 10 E in a D.....
14. 3 M in a B.....
15. 4 S on a MB.....
16. 20 in a S.....
17. 3 G in a HT.....
18. 12 M in a Y.....
19. 5 V in the A.....
20. 225 S on a SB.....
21. 11 P on a CT.....
22. 36 I in a Y.....
23. 2 P in a P.....
24. 7 W of the AW.....
25. 12 S of the Z.....

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter:

1. Floss 2. Car 3. Brush 4. Fish 5. Boot 6. School 7. Frame 8. Lane 9. Tree 10. Up 11. Box 12. House 13. Horse
14. Mail 15. Paper 16. Track 17. Block 18. Jar 19. Fox 20. Wire 21. Fire 22. Post 23. Wheel 24. Ache

There were 20 entries last month, of which 10 were all correct . First out of the hat, and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Sian Hodges. Commiserations to Brian Barker, Linda Cant, Graham Clack, Viv Gibby, Dave Hayward, Rikki Marks, Alex Newman, David Stevens and Trisha Wilson.

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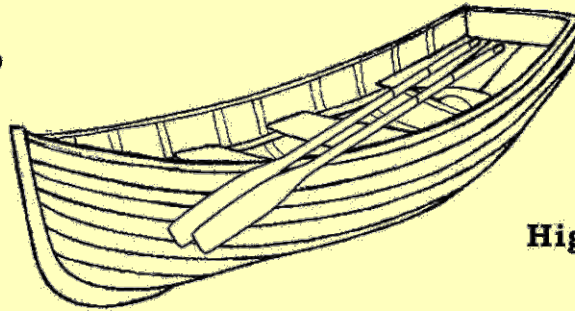
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Ida Smith's Notes on Village Life

Ida Smith's obituary was noted in the October-November 1998 edition of Village Voice and said that she was born here in Thurlestone 89 years ago. She worked in her early years at the Thurlestone Hotel and was married and had a daughter. She went to school in the parish and 'was a fund of lively information for local historians which she was always pleased to impart'. She made a valuable input into 'Devon Within Living Memory', a book published by the Devon WI in 1993, and the film 'The Village People' which was shown recently in the Parish Hall.

Our village blacksmith was a wonderful man - could mend anything, kettles, shoe horses. Used to say he was the hardest working man in the parish, "Men bring me their tools when they leave work and then want them ready for next morning." He used to make dolls out of pieces of wood, made its face by burning holes for eyes and mouth. He once repaired a man's wooden leg and I've seen him pull a tooth for someone who couldn't get to the dentist.

After the first world war a room was built as a sports centre for chaps returning from the war. A rifle range was made for them. Later on a football team was started and two MP's gave a cup each to be played for, so of a Saturday afternoon the village was dead, everybody who could get away went in coaches, bike or motor-bike to the football match wherever it was held.



In hay harvest times, when the women took the drinkings to the field, the men would run after them with a bundle of hay in their hand and rub their face to say they had "Sweet-hayed" whoever it was. The roads were very muddy and a man was employed to work on them. He would come with his broom and shovel, scrape the mud into a heap, clean the gutters, clear the buddleholes, really tidy the place up.

(Buddleholes are the drainage holes, at road surface level into/through which water from the fields drains on to the road.)

Cottages were small. The kitchen had wooden beams, no cupboards, and lit by lamps. Food would be put in baskets and hung on the beams to keep the rats away. The bedrooms had a ceiling with a thatch roof over and at nights we could hear rats running around and say they were playing football. The houses were very cold and draughty with dark little windows. The toilet was usually a little shed in the garden with a bucket and a little wooden frame over the top. Sometimes it was quite a long way from the house. Most men had a large vegetable garden and often rented a piece more ground which they would call the allotment. All working-class families used a lot of vegetables. Most men worked on farms. Very few married women went out to work. A few took in a bit of washing. If a man wanted his hair cut another neighbour would do it

in the garden with a pair of sheep shears. Women used to wash on their doorstep in a wooden tray, then boil it on a black stove we called the Lidstone Stove - they were made in Kingsbridge at the Lidstone Foundry (where the Post Office used to be opposite the Anchor Centre).

A working man always had a nice Sunday dinner, the only day he was home. Tea usually was apple tart or teddy cakes, hot, both real Devonshire dishes. The women did lovely needlework all by the light of a candle. The men went to work with a keg of rough cyder - a keg was a very small barrel. The cyder was usually made in the village pound and children would help pick up the apples in the orchard for pounding into cyder. The corn was cut with a machine called a self-binder drawn by horses. As the corn was cut the rabbits would run out and the children and grown-ups would run to catch them.

When a school of fish came near Burgh Island, old Fanny Barnes used to put out a white sheet to let the Bantham fishermen know. Good Friday was always a day off for the workmen, which if the tide was right could be a day to go to Bantham to pick cockles up the river and in the afternoon plant seed potatoes. If the tide was out in the morning, they would plant potatoes in the morning and pick cockles in the afternoon.

On May Day the children used to wear white clothes and dance the maypole in a lady's garden who used to give a tea.

If there should be a funeral only certain roads was a corpse allowed over, if it had to pass a house the blinds had to be drawn.

We knew little about the first world war as we had no newspapers. There was a bit of rationing but not much. All the tradesmen used to come around to the doors with a horse and covered van. (Two butchers and two bakers lived in the parish). There were about 3 grocers and several oil men. There were only oil lamps or candles, no electric. By World War 2, a few people had electric and a bus service had started. Early in the war the Royal Marines were stationed here, which made a quiet village lively. When the evacuees came, every empty space was taken to fill them.

Sand was drawn from the beaches in horse-drawn wagons for building, and seaweed for garden fertiliser.

Some workmen would keep a pig in the garden. When it was killed it would be days of hard work. The pig was cut up and salted in brine made of saltpetre. After this it was hung up to the beams to cure.

In the first world war, two ladies used to walk miles with a box on wheels to collect vegetables for the sailors. The children would pick blackberries. There were always plenty of apples. The teacher would make jam for the troops. At Christmas every child took something to school to make Christmas puddings for the troops, and of course all the girls used to knit socks, gloves, etc. for the troops.

A carrier used to call round about twice a week and collect what you needed in the town - he charged a penny an item. If anyone wanted to visit the doctor sometimes they rode with him.

There were no school buses and some children had a very long way to walk with a little bit of cocoa and sugar in a little paper bag and a drop of milk in a bottle. Teacher would boil the kettle on an old stove. It would be smokey but the children thought it was lovely with their

sandwiches. A bit of money would be raised with concerts so that slippers could be bought for the children to use when they came with wet feet. Teacher dried the children's wet shoes and socks around the fire.

When there was a Sunday School outing the farmers would lend a horse and cart. When we came to a steep hill we would get out and walk up. The children only went for a few miles then had a picnic somewhere but they thought it was wonderful.

The men would go to the beach with horses and carts to draw up seaweed for manure for the gardens. In the parish where willow plants grew, - a damp place - the fishermen from other parishes would come in winter to cut the willows to make crab pots.

When the Prince of Wales (later Duke of Windsor) was at Dartmouth College, he used to come to Thurlestone to play golf on Sundays and then go into the Thurlestone Hotel for tea afterwards. The chimney sweep came about twice a year. That was a real job, the walls were usually covered in pictures which all had to be taken down and cleaned.

At harvest time farmers wives would take drinkings to the harvest field in a big kettle with big pieces of homemade cake. Everyone sat around to have drinkings.

Farmhouses and often cottages had an opening beside the kitchen range which was like a hole in the wall, but no stove, which was called the chimley corner. Black sooty old place. An iron bar went across with hooks hanging down to smoke the hams. On the floor a piece of flat iron that the loaf was put on with an iron crock over covered in duce (the hurst from the corn when threshing). This was caught on fire and the bread cooked. Big loaves, about 8lbs. A small one was 4lbs. The farmer's wife would cook big joints of meat for supper at the end of harvest. It would be eaten cold with everything that went with it. After this the men would sing and have a jolly evening - plenty of cider.

When anyone was ill the doctor would come on horseback. But for things like nose-bleed put a key down back. Burns put flour, olive oil, butter on. Some people used to say a prayer to stop the burn blistering. For a cold rub camphor on the chest and bottoms of feet. For a sore throat tie the left foot stocking around with the bottom of the foot against your throat. For a bee or wasp sting rub a piece of washing soda or dab with the blue bag (used to keep the clothes white on washing day). For earache, warm a small onion and put in the ear.

Once a year there would be a fair in Kingsbridge, and for weeks before children would save their pennies to go. On the morning of fair day mothers, some with babies in prams and push chairs and children walking, would start to walk miles to the fair. They would take food and about half way there everyone sat in the hedge by the side of the road and had something to eat. In the country people made their own fun - had little dances and little parties. The first apple pasty of the year was always meant to be made to eat on the way to the fair.

There was no water indoors, there was one tap in the village and people used to fetch a bucketful.

Photo from the Parish of Thurlestone (POTS) collection

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We are grateful to all the householders who have kindly allowed access to their gardens.

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Parish Hall News

by Alison Daily



You will have seen the wonderful photographs on the front cover of the magazine taken by local photographer **Matt Bright**. This was an assignment given to him as part of the project to make the Parish Hall more welcoming in response to the questionnaire completed a couple of years ago when comments were made regarding the starkness of the main area. As the space has to be multi-functional there were limited options available to us to come up with something that would not be easily damaged and would reflect the community we serve. We felt the three villages should be celebrated and the most appropriate way of achieving this was to have a view taken of each one and mounted on the large back wall. We hope you agree that the results are spectacular and please pop in to have a look at them for yourselves and let us know what you think. A big thank you to Matt for taking this on for us and making such a difference to the overall appearance of the hall, we are extremely grateful. The official unveiling of the photos took place at the AGM held on 21st May.

It was **Disco** time on Saturday 27th April when **Robbie Cooke** arrived from Oxfordshire with his vast collection of vinyl records to entertain a select group who thoroughly enjoyed themselves, who knew there is a hidden disco champion in our midst who really dressed the part and was a sight to behold and really made the evening. Again, this event was in response to requests for something for the younger generation but more support will be needed if they are to continue. Thank you to Alan, Brian & Matt for all their help on the day.

There are two forthcoming events, the first of which is **Open Gardens on Sunday 9th June**, this is always a popular event as it gives the green fingered in our community the opportunity to showcase their marvellous varied gardens to us all. As usual there will be a plant sale at Sue Dwyer's' beautiful garden which you won't want to miss. Expert advice will also be on hand at a couple of the gardens if you have any questions regarding your own plot. Tickets and maps will be available at each of the gardens as well as at the hall which will also be serving refreshments. Special thanks to all those who are so generously opening up their gardens and to Sue, Anna, Caro and Karen for all their work in bringing this together. We hope you will come along to enjoy the afternoon and keep everything crossed the weather will be kind on the day.

Instead of the usual pub night and because it's supposed to be summer, we thought an outside event would be appreciated! Therefore, join us **for Beer and Boules on Saturday 6th July** when you can partake in a game or two or just come along for a chat with your friends. There will be other drink options available including Pimm's and wine. We will also be offering food which is currently being decided upon, but will be featured on the posters around the village as well as social media. In the event of inclement weather, the action will move inside for kurling and skittles. I do hope you'll come along.

Wishing you all a happy, sunny summer!

SCHOOL REPORT

Fundraising Caps On!

Green gingham summer dresses abound in the playground, as the summer term has arrived at last!

The improvement in the weather has meant that our Eco Team have been able to continue giving their horticultural help in the churchyard, planting mulberry bushes in recognition of the King's Coronation. These slow-growing bushes will be something the children can visit later in life, to see how much they've grown!

And with the new term and sunshine, the children would normally be climbing and sliding, swinging and clambering all over their much-loved play equipment. But unfortunately, time and a good deal of wet weather has finally taken its toll on these playground favourites. They have rotted, been declared unsafe, and now stand quietly roped off amidst the lunchtime hubbub.

And so, the time has come to put on our fundraising caps and begin raising the money needed to put this right and provide replacements. We are at the very beginning of this process and are still contacting play companies, but rough estimates put the cost at £20-25,000 based on a similar project at Salcombe primary school.

Our wonderful and dedicated fundraisers at the Friends of Thurlestone School parent group have kindly offered a large donation towards this, and other possible sources are currently being investigated, including the National Lottery, the Parish Council (our playground is a community asset and open to all outside of school hours including holiday time), and others.

There will also be lots of fun events coming up, organised by the FTS, that will be contributing to the funds needed for this equipment. So please keep an eye out for information here, and in the village shop, if you are interested in joining in to help us reach our target.

We have asked the children to get involved giving them the opportunity to draw a design for the new play equipment. We are expecting some wonderful and wildly imaginative ideas!

Finally, we'd also like to say thanks to our church community whom we have had the pleasure of welcoming more regularly in to school to deliver our collective worship.

If you would like more information about the fundraising plans for our new play equipment, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

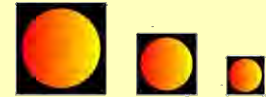
Please contact either Friends of Thurlestone School via Victoria Rendle on **07734 446659** or email victoriarendle@icloud.com, or headteacher Miss Coombe at the school on **01548 560494** or email thurlestone@lapsw.org



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Tried and Tasted

With the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings imminent we thought we would dig into the archives and find some recipes from that era. We hope you enjoy them!

Lord Woolton's Pie

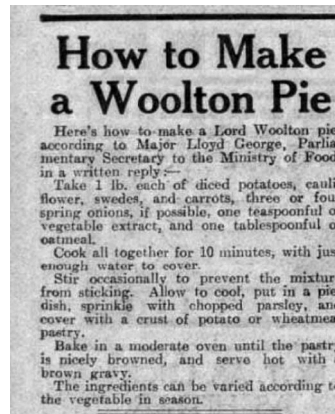
Ingredients

For the filling:

- 1lb/453g seasonal vegetables such as potato, swede, cauliflower and carrot
- 3–4 spring onions
- 1 teaspoon vegetable extract
- 1 tablespoon oatmeal
- Chopped parsley

For the pastry:

- 8oz/227g wheatmeal flour
- 1 level teaspoon baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of powdered sage (optional)
- 1 pint/569ml cold milk, or milk and water



Method

Dice the vegetables and spring onions. Cook together with the vegetable extract and oatmeal for 10 minutes with just enough water to cover. Stir occasionally to prevent the mixture from sticking. Allow to cool.

To make the pastry, mix all the dry ingredients together then stir in the milk and water, and roll out the mixture.

Finally, put the filling in a pie dish and sprinkle with chopped parsley, then cover with the pastry. Bake in a moderate oven (200°C) until the pastry is nicely brown and serve hot with brown gravy.

Corned Beef Rissoles

Cooking time 20 minutes

Quantity 2 - 3 helpings

Ingredients

- 115g corned beef
- 225g potato (mashed)
- 225g mixed vegetables (cooked)
- 115g wheatmeal breadcrumbs
- 4 tablespoons brown sauce or vegetable water
- 1 pinch mixed herbs seasoning (plus salt and pepper)



Method

- Flake the corned beef and mix with the potatoes, vegetables and breadcrumbs.
- Season and add the mixed herbs.
- Bind the mixture with the brown sauce or vegetable water and form into desired shapes.
- Bake in the oven for 20 minutes at 200°C

Carrot Cookies

Cooking time 20 minutes

Quantity 12 - 15 cookies

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon margarine
- 2 tablespoons sugar and a little extra for sprinkling on the top
- A few drops of vanilla, almond or orange flavouring
- 4 tablespoons grated raw carrot
- 6 tablespoons self raising flour or plain flour and ½ teaspoon baking powder

Method

- Cream the margarine and sugar together until light and fluffy.
- Beat in the flavouring and grated carrot.
- Fold in the flour, or flour mixed with baking powder.
- Drop spoonfuls of the mixture into small greased patty pans.
- Sprinkle the tops with the extra sugar and bake at 200°C for about 20 minutes.

PRAWLE POINT COASTWATCH

On 26th April our lookout flags could be seen flying at half-mast on the day of the funeral of Andy Thomson, our previous station manager, who passed away on April 8th. Andy was a well-respected leader, kind and gentle, but a stickler for detail. He helped put in place many of the systems still in operation today. Twelve of our watchkeepers in full uniform provided a guard of honour to accompany his coffin into the crematorium. Our thoughts are with his family.

Meanwhile, up at the lookout things are getting busier. On 29th April we spotted and reported a RIB chasing and harassing a pod of dolphins. These incidents are reported to Salcombe Harbour Master because harassing and potentially injuring these intelligent and playful creatures is not only a sad way to get your fun but it is also illegal. The HM has the authority to take action against you and your vessel for this kind of activity. Dolphins love to come and play around moving boats, but your propellers can seriously harm them, so please just be honoured that they have come to say "hello" but keep your distance!

A few days later there was some seriously energetic activity in the area when two new water tanks were installed at the lookout. We have no mains water up there so we collect rainwater for washing our all-important windows. Our decades-old galvanised tanks were shot (one had a big hole in it) so thanks to a local farmer and his tractor, along with a team of watchkeepers, our shiny new tanks were installed and our windows will now be cleaner than ever.

On May 2nd our watchkeepers were keeping an eye on a yacht with concerns about its somewhat erratic behaviour. They were then contacted by HMCG Falmouth and Salcombe RNLi who informed them that the vessel had lost power. They requested that we remained on watch to maintain observation while the lifeboat was launched to recover the vessel. The watch was closed once the casualty was safely under tow.

The lookout is manned every day from 9am and we are now open until 8pm during the summer.

Our website is www.nci-prawlepoint.org.uk. We broadcast the local conditions every two hours from 09.45am on VHF Channel 65 during daylight hours. Call us on Channel 65 for AIS and radio checks. Lookout telephone 01548 511259.

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Bantham Swoosh

On 6 July 2024 it will be the third year that the charity, Level Water, has run the Bantham Swoosh, a 6km swim that takes swimmers from Aveton Gifford down to Bantham Beach. As the river narrows, it swooshes you along to the finish line, giving the event its name. This year, due to the tides, it means an early start, with swimmers getting in the water from approximately 7am.

When most of the swimmers have emerged triumphant at Bantham Beach, it's time for the children's river adventure. The Mini-Swoosh is a short, 1km swim that's open to children from 8 - 15 years old. Each year children with disabilities who learn to swim with Level Water are invited to take part. A wild swim in the stunning surroundings of South Devon is a dream that wouldn't have been possible without equal access to swimming. Level Water works with pools all over the UK to provide 1:1 lessons for children with physical disabilities and hearing/visual impairments.

None of this would be possible without the support of the local communities at Aveton Gifford and Thurlestone. We are working hard to ensure that our events cause as little disruption as possible for you, the local residents. This year, we are implementing the same traffic management plan as 2023, managed by the same Traffic Management team - thank you for all the positive and constructive feedback given last year, which has been taken into account for this year. For more traffic information, we have built a webpage specifically for residents here: www.levelwater.org/banthamplans. Printouts of this website information will also be dropped at local shops and cafes from May. We thank all the local residents and Parish Councils for feeding into our traffic management planning and for your patience on the day. Local people are welcome to come and hand out drinks and help swimmers out of the water. If you're interested in volunteering at a Level Water event, you can register at www.levelwater.org/volunteer, or email katie@levelwater.org for more information.

This year, we will also be running the Bantham Boomerang, which begins at approximately 6:00pm on the 6 July. Swimmers will enter the water at Bantham beach at 7:30pm, swimming up-river until the tide turns. Then they'll be boomeranged back to where they started. What's lovely about this swim is that it's for all abilities. Strong swimmers will have further to swim and return. Newbies can take their time going out and again, on the return, swim a shorter distance.

Bantham Beach will be open to the public as normal on this day and we have taken this into account within our traffic management planning. The wonderful Gastrobus and Boskobus will be offering the usual treats, as well as a few additional food offerings for the day. Everyone is welcome to come and support the swimmers making their triumphant return to dry land.

Children with physical and sensory disabilities aren't able to join group lessons, and swimming teachers need special skills to understand how to support them. Strengthening their muscles and improving flexibility in the pool improves their lives outside of the pool too. That's why Level Water trains teachers themselves, working with pools and governing bodies all over the UK to provide 1:1 lessons.

All profits and funds raised from these events go to Level Water, who make it possible for children with disabilities to have swimming lessons all across the UK. In 2023 the Swoosh alone raised £170,000 to give these kids the greatest gift: the power of swimming.

Geri Beyer
Level Water



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TRAMP Reports

April/May



Monday 8th April. Belle Cross Road, Kingsbridge. Annie Lukehurst.

The weeks of rain seemed to be easing, and the massive muddy puddle on our chosen route was slowly diminishing. However, to err on the side of caution, we planned a route which followed mainly quiet lanes with less than half wandering off across fields and farmland.

Meeting near the Primary School in Belle Cross Road, we headed east, heading up and over towards Bearscombe, where we picked up the aforementioned muddy track leading along to Malston Mill. The track overlooks the ponds in the valley, a beautiful circular formal garden and on reaching the delightful holiday complex at Malston Mill, another lake and a channeled stream tumbling down past the outdoor swimming pool. A lovely location! From here the footpath climbs steeply north across pastoral land towards St Peter's Church at Buckland-Tout-Saints, skirting the boundary of the former hotel of the same name. Harry and I reacquainted ourselves with this route back in 2020 and the first Covid lockdown, when all walks had to be done from our front doors, and when we spent many hours identifying wild flowers and recording everything on camera. It was in this field where we found our first cuckoo flower. Sadly, many of the discoveries have since been forgotten.

We stopped in the church to shelter from a chilly breeze and to enjoy a welcome coffee and some of Harry's tasty oaty ginger cake. We continued north keeping to the edge of two arable fields before turning sharply left onto a farm track leading down into the village of Goveton ... less than two miles from Kingsbridge and yet in deepest countryside. Another steep climb and descent found us in Ledstone, where a talented resident has adorned his house and garden walls with exquisite mosaics of colourful birds and butterflies. Another climb brought us up onto the Totnes Road by the Salcombe Brewery, from where a strong smell of hops was wafting. We crossed over onto the little-used lane which heads down to the Hen

House and the fishing ponds at Combe Farm, reaching the top of Kingsbridge at Stentiford Hill. The perilously steep Piggy Lane led us back towards the site of the former "Lower School", now converted into a residential area, and across to where the cars had been parked ... back just in time before the heavens opened once again. A fairly strenuous six miles!

Thursday 9th May. Shaugh Bridge to Cadover Bridge. Alastair & Gill Durden.

Six of us and a dog met at the National Trust car park at Shaugh Bridge on a beautiful spring day, which turned out to be one of the hottest days so far this year! The small car park was almost full when we arrived, including two school groups of young children who were spending the day "canyoning" down a section of the river Plym and rock scrambling higher up the side of the valley.

There is a lot of history attached to this part of Dartmoor, and to begin with we saw evidence of the china clay industry, where the china clay extracted from quarries near Cadover Bridge was mixed with water and piped to settling tanks near Shaugh Bridge. This went on from 1880 to around 1960. Our path took us gradually uphill to West Down with good 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. Our path was following the aforementioned pipeline which carried the china clay, some parts were broken and sometimes buried. A gate led us into North Wood, where we were greeted with an amazing sight - amongst the trees a carpet of bluebells as far as the eye could see! This merited lots of photographs, and a further treat was in store when one of our group spotted a heron perched on a rock in the river below. Soon, the path was close to the river, so we found a spot for coffee on the river bank.

We eventually reached a flat, grassy area near Cadover Bridge, popular with picnickers with the inevitable ice cream van! We crossed the river via Cadover Bridge, then made our way across Wigford Down, stopping to admire the tall granite cross, a survivor from medieval times, which marked the track from Plympton Priory to lands held by the monks on the western side of Dartmoor. About a mile of walking across open moorland led us to Dewerstone Hill - a fairly significant outcrop of rock which I think worthy of being called a "tor". There are fabulous views from here over to the north and west of Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor in the distance, and southwards to Plymouth Sound. Here, we noticed a number of names carved upon the rocks, one of which reads "... Carrington" and gives the date of his death - 1830. He was a Dartmoor poet - Nicholas Carrington - who used to gain inspiration by sitting here and enjoying the views. We enjoyed the views too, whilst having our picnic lunch!

After lunch we encountered further history attached to this area - namely, the quarrying of granite. Just below Dewerstone Hill, we followed a track going past granite quarries, from where granite blocks would be placed into trucks drawn along a tramway by horses as far as the top of an inclined plane. Here, the loaded trucks would be lowered down the incline by cables and winding gear. The ruins of the house which contained the winding gear were still in evidence. 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. We descended the inclined plane, zigzagging downwards to arrive eventually at a wooden footbridge across the river Plym, which took us back to our car park. All in all, a very enjoyable, varied, and interesting walk!

A Bantham Incident

This year, 2024, will mark exactly 100 years since an incident occurred in Bantham which involved Cotham School in Bristol and the Anderson family.

The incident occurred during a Cotham school trip at the end of the summer term. A number of pupils and 2 staff were on a camping trip and after travelling across Dartmoor, they arrived at Bantham. Having set up camp on the Tuesday afternoon, most of the boys went for a swim in the river the next morning (30th July), but some got into difficulties. Sadly, a couple of those who went to try to help them were also dragged out by the tide. 4 boys including Frederick Thomas Anderson and a schoolmaster, Mr Tincknell, lost their lives that day.

One of the boys who tried to save his struggling colleagues was Frederick Thomas Anderson, who was 16 years old and known as Tom. Mr Phillips (the surviving master) said: "Undoubtedly, Mr. Tincknell and Tom Anderson lost their lives in trying to save other people."

At Bantham, the Salmon House was used as a temporary mortuary. The bodies of Mr. Tincknell and one of the boys were washed ashore later that day and an Inquest was held the next day at the Sloop Inn. Tom's body was found some 6 days later.

I am John Anderson - the (self-appointed) Family Historian for our family. I and some of the family are planning to visit the scene at 12 o'clock on 30th July (the time of the incident 100 years ago) to commemorate our cousin's efforts.

Anyone who would like to take part in the gathering is welcome to join us.

John Anderson

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Where is Heaven really?

Over the last 7 years our congregation has had God-given opportunities to redirect our thinking away from first world concerns into confronting serious deprivation, frequent deaths of mothers in childbirth, civil war refugees, and a whole tribe evicted from their original home. We have had four meetings (one by Zoom) with Dr Nicci Maxwell who was a specialist in care of the new-born in Plymouth. We are one of Nicci's partner Churches within the Church Missionary Society.

Nicci answered a call to work in Kisoro in the far south west of Uganda and uncomfortably close to civil war-torn Congo. She pioneered a specialist new-born unit and trained local nurses and paramedics. In addition to the local Ugandan babies she cared for Congolese refugee children, and those of the Batwa, a Pygmy tribe displaced from their jungle home to make way for gorilla conservation and money-spinning first-world visitors.


Nicci has now completed "with distinction" the Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at Liverpool. On a recent return visit to Kisoro, she reconnected with a Batwa mother who is HIV positive, and whom she had counselled about the lengthy and hard-work treatment during and after pregnancy in order to prevent the baby being positive also. The daughter had arrived and indeed is HIV negative. Nicci told the Batwa mother how proud she was of her; at which the lady burst into tears because, she said, no one had ever before told her that they were proud of her.

You might think Devon is a heavenly place; but there is now a sizeable slice of real Heaven in the heart of a displaced Batwa lady.

And we at All Saints' are mighty proud of Dr Nicci Maxwell for all the samples of Heaven she nurtured in Kisoro. Her next posting, she tells us, is to be Juba, South Sudan.


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All Saints' Diary

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Church Services

Sundays

JUNE 9, 23; JULY 14*, 28*	8/8.30am Holy Communion (said) (CW 2nd & BCP 4th)
JUNE 2, 16; JULY 7, 21*	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)
JUNE 9, 23; JULY 14, 28	11.10am Morning Worship
JUNE 30	10.30am Benefice Pet Service at Churchstow

Weekdays

THURSDAY JUNE 6, JULY 4	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham
WED JUNE 12, 26; JULY 3, 17	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) (said)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

** to be confirmed - dependent on clergy cover*

See Church Notice Boards or www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services
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Fiction Addiction

The Book Club



Any Human Heart by William Boyd

Long-listed for the Booker prize and written in diary form it follows the fictional Logan Mountstuart as he navigates his way through significant events in the 20th Century. Starting during his last year at school it continues through his Oxford days, a blossoming writing career and working at a friend's art gallery in New York and culminating in his final days in France.

He meets many influential and famous people along the way including Hemingway and Virginia Woolf. Recruited by Ian Fleming as a spy in WW11 he encounters the Duke and Duchess of Windsor and gives an entertaining insight into their lives in the Bahamas, before another assignment finds him being betrayed. As many artists and their work are mentioned throughout, a knowledge or interest in art is advantageous in the enjoyment of this book which can be a bit hard going if you're not. Logan documents the debauchery of his life and mixed fortunes detailing the drastic measures taken to feed himself during a period of extreme poverty, money management is not his forte, as he prefers to trust to luck and fate. There are moments of deep sorrow which affect him badly but he always picks himself up, aided by copious amounts of alcohol before finding contentment in France where he re-evaluates his existence and reflects on what he has loved and lost and realising he was a less than perfect son, husband, friend and lover.

This is a real Marmite book some loved it but others hated it, in fact only 4 in the group completed the whole book. Those who enjoyed it found it well written with some humorous moments covering cross sections of his life with some parts easier to read whilst others make you shake your head in disbelief. Those who discontinued reading didn't like the format with the constant name dropping or Logan, finding him self obsessed and lacking in any good qualities. I wonder which camp you would be in?

Rating ★★☆☆☆ (from those who finished book), ★★☆☆☆ (group as a whole)

The Dry by Jane Harper

Kiewarra is suffering from a two-year drought (which is so vividly brought to life by the author you can almost feel the heat from the pages) when Aaron Falk returns after 20 years to the town for his former best friend Luke Hadler's funeral, who is suspected of killing his wife and 6-year-old son before committing suicide. Luke's father has unanswered questions and asks Aaron to investigate, which he does reluctantly. Assisted in his quest by the newly arrived Sgt. Raco who has no preconceived ideas about Falk in contrast to the hostility from the townspeople bringing back uncomfortable memories from his childhood of an earlier tragedy that forced him to leave. Delving deeper into what really happened he stays longer in his determination to uncover the many secrets smouldering under the surface. The plot fluctuates between past and present and is a real page turner as secrets start to unravel one by one.

Featuring many well-rounded characters including aggressive Grant Dow and his uncle Mal, who have undue influence within the town causes tension and misconceptions. This tale of bullying, fear and the great lengths people take to protect themselves together with the rising temperature makes Kiewarra a tinderbox of distrust meaning it's difficult for the past to be forgotten.

Despite having the most ironic title, (we read this during what seemed to be 2 years of rain) the book was enjoyed immensely by the whole group, the author skilfully leads you through the clues before revealing the unexpected conclusion. Some felt part of the ending was a little rushed but everyone is looking forward to reading more of Jane's books.

Rating ★★★★★



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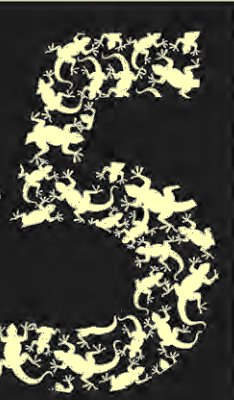
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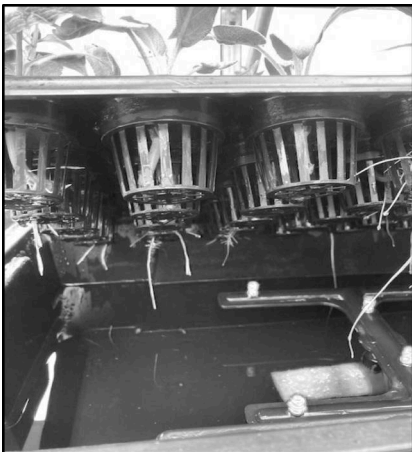
Our Garden in May

by Sue Dwyer

I started writing this article about 2 weeks ago when we had windy, cool, wet weather which seems to have plagued us for months. Oh didn't I appreciate the odd sunny warm day. For the last week spring has arrived and suddenly the grass is growing as though it has been given steroids and plants have shot up showing flower heads that will soon open. I have a clump of yellow single Mongolian peonies which have always flowered at the beginning of April but this year the buds did not open until 24th of April. I took a photo plus another showing a large bumble bee taking the nectar from the open flower. This is the time of year where I have to be patient and allow the green leaves of the daffodils and other bulbs to die back, before removing the leaves, and in the last few days this is beginning to happen, Hooray! Hence, the garden looks rather untidy at present but the deep blue irises offer some colour and the late Camellias are still producing nice colourful blooms. The early *Thalictrums*, mostly the *aquilega* types, are flowering with their powderpuff flowers. The flowers are like this because they use wind pollination to reproduce. The flowers are not petals but a mass of stamens. I have written about *Thalictrums* before but there are varieties which flower from April until late September. Hence by having various varieties there is always one in flower during the long season.

At this time of year I get a buzz when the plants which disappear completely during the winter start to emerge. Sometimes something appears and I have to rack my brain to remember what this is. I had such a plant at the back of my main border which appeared with delicate reddish leaves. This did not ring a bell to me. I do not have a plan of the garden, it is just in my memory. Then further up the border three other such plants emerged and the penny eventually dropped. They are *Gillenia*, a small shrub which has a mass of star shaped flowers in June. They usually self seed a few plants which I pot up and give away but no such luck this year, probably due to the amount of rain we have had. In the autumn the leaves turn to a wonderful red colour.

The Hydropod



The Hydropod is back in action after a few weeks rest. Each time I use this I make some small but time saving adjustment. When I moved it into my craft room for winter use, with LED lights on a timer to make up the ideal 16 hours of sunlight, I made use of a large laminated piece of graph paper as a chart. This enabled me to use a permanent pen so I could alter the plan of plants. A further fine tuning is that now each row of 5 cuttings is from one source. The result is much less writing and within the row I can change the position of the cutting without have to amend my plan. The cuttings that are at the end of the row sometimes do not thrive as well as those in the middle so I move them around from time to time. In March I did put dahlia cuttings into the Hydropod but at the same time Jeff, my gardener, took others which were put into compost in the large propagator. Much to my surprise the compost cuttings were definitely more robust than the Hydropod ones. A few did well in the Hydropod but most formed small pearl like roots which did not grow. However when transferred to compost they caught up with their compost companions so all was not lost. Now back in the greenhouse with no LED lights I have several rows of semi-ripe cuttings from various *Camellias* taken yesterday so I await to see the results in a few weeks time. I have said before and say again I have had great fun propagating using this device.

My greenhouses are chock-a-block with rooted cuttings as well as many seedlings. Most of these have been pricked out and I have passed on most of the extras to family and friends. The cuttings I took from my array of Salvias last August are now large healthy plants all needing re-potting in preparation for the plant sale during Open Gardens on June 9th. Although I have tried very hard to label correctly I do find plants which are wrongly labelled. I am usually alerted when the leaf does not look quite correct for the name. It fascinates me that each variety has not only a different colour flower and shape of flower but also a different leaf. When a flower appears, along with the leaf I can re-label with the correct name.

I have just come in from the greenhouse and this year the grapevine has caught me unawares. Little green shoots appeared so I thought "Oh I will just leave that to develop a little more" as everything has been so slow with the overcast weather, even though the temperatures have not been too low. Then a few days later a mass of foliage appeared because I did not act quickly enough. Now a jungle has developed from the vine which has enjoyed the recent warm sunny weather. Possibly years ago when I was younger this never happened, even though I worked full time and was able to spend far less time in the garden. To get good grapes you have to be very strict with pruning and restrict the number of bunches left on the vine.

I do love lilies and a few years ago I bought a collection of Oriental Lilies. These have been very reliable over the years, flowering every year with the stems increasing in number, to give a lovely display. Last year one group developed Lily disease which I recognised from looking on the RHS website. These were removed and disposed of as instructed. This year another group has been affected so again the group have been removed. However further reading informs me this occurs especially from wet conditions which we have certainly experienced this autumn and winter. It is caused by a fungal disease called Botrytis which affects the stems and leaves and in extreme cases the flowers and buds. This fungus affects many other plants. The disease is spread by spores which attach to the underside of leaves and the spores live in garden debris. I always pride myself that I remove any garden debris and I put down my trusty layer of compost every winter, usually in December. The spores are spread by wind, water splashing onto the ground and hail. We have had all of this in abundance this year. The fungus only affects the growth above ground but in time the bulbs get affected, but not early on. It advises to remove the top growth and try again next year. Before I knew this we disposed of the most wonderful large lily bulbs which were a picture of health. Motto "You live and learn" !! However you must spray the soil with an anti-fungal chemical and sometimes the disease recurs.

I am always looking for new plants and sometimes things are not what they seem. I bought a new perennial "Rodgersia Chocolate Wing" with height and spread 3-4 ft having dark coloured leaves and the label saying sprays of white flowers. Ideal, I thought, for my dark corner at the bottom of the garden. It does indeed have sprays of flowers but they are pinky red. I looked online and this variety does have red flowers not white!! Mis-labelling at the Nursery. I also saw a lovely dark leaved shrub with small tubular flowers outside in the garden centre, thinking that will be lovely in the border. As it was in the open I thought this was an outside plant and the label said winter hardy. I looked up the name when I got home "Strobilanthes anisophyllu Brunetthy" to find that this plant is not winter hardy and should be brought inside during the winter. So two recent purchases of new plants had misleading information on the labels. So beware.

A couple of days ago walking around the garden early I saw my first red Lily beetle which was quickly disposed of. This was on a fritillaria. Yesterday, I found another, this time on an emerging lily. So keep your eyes looking for them as they cause such damage to the plants.

So finally I can start removing the yellowing spring bulb leaves and start to stake the tall perennials to prevent wind damage. Alliums, peonies and alstroemerias are about to burst into colour and hopefully will still be in bloom for Open Gardens on the 9th June. If you are free please support the Parish Hall by coming and viewing the lovely gardens which are open in the Parish. Also there will be plants for sale at Yarmer, mostly perennials so do come along and have tea and cake in the Parish Hall afterwards. Happy gardening.

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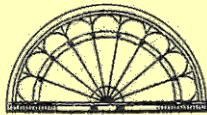
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Our Ever-Changing Climate

by
Mike Hodges

As I write my notes on the local weather it's Saturday 11th May, the sun is shining and the air temperature has been up to 21° centigrade today, while the sea surface temperature is up to 12.5° centigrade as reported for Plymouth (more about Sea Surface Temperatures later). All so welcome as it's so far from the conditions in March and April.

What was really striking about March and April was how dull and grey it was compared to what one expects in the South Hams at that time of the year. And, when you look at the data from the Met Office local weather stations it really shows up. We had only 80% of the 30-year average sunshine in March, and just 60% of the 30-year average sunshine in April. This also showed up for those who have solar panels, my generation was down 15% (note, solar panels do work when its cloudy just not as productive). And yes, we continued to have far more rain than normal over 70% more than the 30-year average in March but only 50% more in April when we had a lot of misty days (still dull). All in all, our weather is more like drippy Seattle North West Coast USA where they only get 60 sunny days a year, the Devon Riviera!

Hopefully the weather has now turned a corner and we can look forward to a good summer.

So, now the sun is back out and people are thinking about going for a swim, what about the sea temperature? As you may have heard in the news 2023/2024 has seen global average sea surface temperatures breaking records every day since 4th May 2023. A big contributor to this has been the El Nino weather phenomenon where warmer waters come to the surface of the Pacific Ocean of South America. However, the North Atlantic has also shown record average sea surface temperatures since April 2023, ranging 1-2 degree centigrade above 30-year averages, more likely the impact of Climate Change. The area of the North Atlantic of the southern UK is currently about 2 degrees centigrade higher than the 30-year average.

But what about the sea surface temperature in Bigbury Bay you ask! Well, the nearest data from the same NOAA* satellite is for Plymouth. Here too, the monthly average temperature is 1 degree centigrade above the 10-year average and the average of 10.3° centigrade seen in March was the highest in the last 15 years. However, 10.3° centigrade is still 4 degrees centigrade cooler than the monthly average sea temperatures of 16.2° and 17.2° centigrade seen in August and September last year. So, for the cold-water swimmers the sea is slightly (10%) warmer this year but for those who find our waters a tad chilly, best to wait till August and September and an incoming tide in the afternoon over a hot sandy beach to get the highest sea temperature. If you want to find out more about sea temperatures around the world head to www.seatemperature.org.

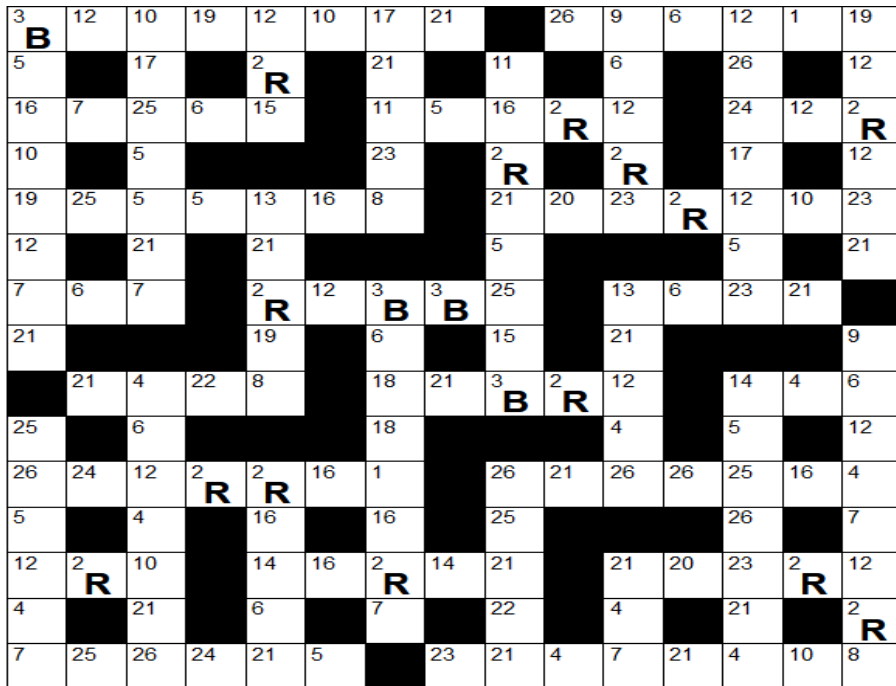
*NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is a US government agency. Their website www.noaa.gov contains a wealth of information and whilst the weather is largely focused on the USA the climate related information covers the world. They operate 17 satellites which provide some fascinating and often stunning images and videos of weather events across the world including any hurricanes heading our way, views of a solar eclipse, the Northern Lights, wildfires and the changing landscape. There is so much information on their website that it's very easy to get lost but it's well worth a browse!

Puzzle Page

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st July 2024.

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

cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk



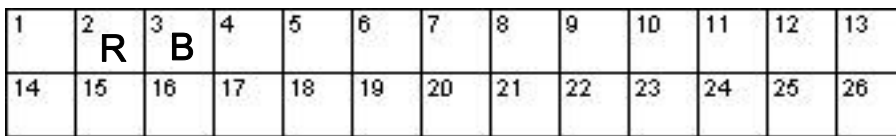
CODEWORD

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

Can you crack the code and solve the crossword?

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

Answer to last puzzle.



Sudoku - hard

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

Sudoku - medium

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

There were 7 entries last month, of which 5 were all correct. First out of the hat and winner of the coveted bottle of wine is Donna Timmis. Commiserations to Dave Gibby, Neill Irwin, Susan Penwell and Pauline Lonsdale.

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Snippets from the Past

WOODLEIGH DEANERY IN 1916

By **Michael Stephens**

Back in 1916 there were 25 parishes in the Woodleigh Deanery. I have extracted some snippets from the 1916 April Woodleigh Deanery Magazine (combined with the Church Missionary Society Quarterly), which I hope will be of general interest. Obviously, much of the magazine is taken up with church service announcements and religious tracts, but there are also more wide-ranging aspects pertinent to the day. Each parish lists the baptisms, marriages and burials of the previous month, with the melancholy monthly toll of servicemen killed or wounded from many of the parishes. Normal life with its problems continued of course alongside the war narrative and at Loddiswell there was an outbreak of scarlet fever requiring, at this period, isolation of patients.

The Great Western Railway timetable was given prominence at the beginning of the magazine. There were six trains each way between Kingsbridge and [South] Brent. It does not appear that there was a reduced service and indeed out-going goods such as grains & cereals, stone, timber and livestock were vital to be transported. Hundreds of horses were sent off from local farms to the front as well. The railway was still the most important transport link.

In Thurlestone, Mr. John Snowdon had died aged 58 following a period of illness after thirty years in the choir, the foreman of the bell ringers, and latterly the church sexton. The sexton was a parish officer and he had responsibilities for the fabric of the church building and churchyard, also grave-digging, although duties varied somewhat from parish to parish. Mr. Ellis (see below) deputised as sexton until a new one was found.

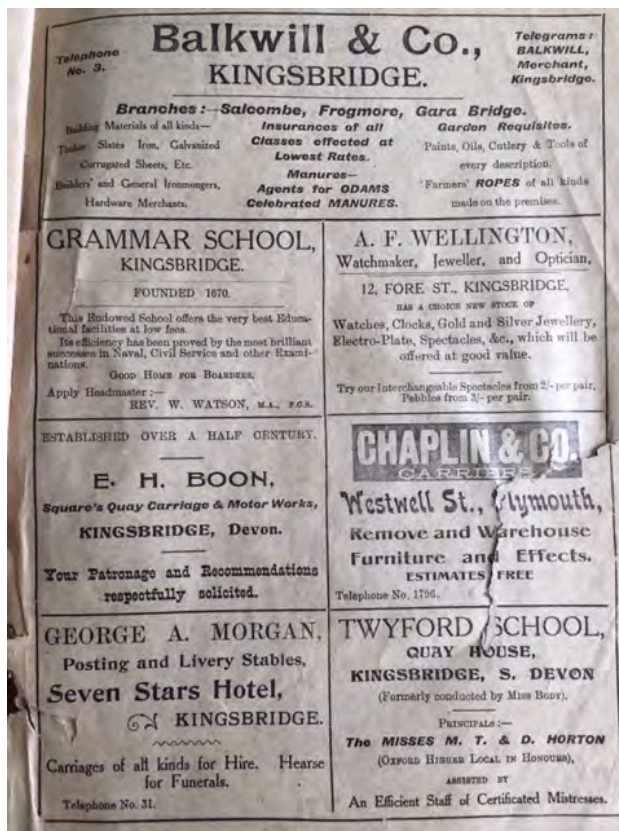
Mr. Richard Moore was also buried the previous month aged 82. He had lived in the old Glebe Cottage which was set into the wall of what is now "The Old Rectory". This was in a state of disrepair and probably the reason why old Mr. Moore was moved into the Church House, (now three adjoining cottages) sometime prior to 1911. Glebe Cottage was subsequently pulled down and rebuilt as the cottage now known as "Old Rectory Cottage" by Revd. Frank Coope. It was then leased to the Ellis family one of whose sons Harold Ellis was killed in battle in 1918, and brother Albert who survived and returned to Devon as a signalman on the Great Western Railway, but was later killed by a train at Cornwood. Further details of the Ellis brothers war-time careers may be found in the book painstakingly researched and written by the late Robin Macdonald, detailing the lives and careers of all Thurlestone servicemen in both world wars. Acknowledgement is at the end of this article with the details of this book. I am however in possession of the basic facts due to being related to the Ellis family from way back. As the magazine I am working from relates to the First World War, I feel it appropriate to mention (with no bias intended), that there are copies available in the village shop.

At this time South Milton was a separate parish with its own vicar and the parish was looking to raise funds towards providing a new vicarage. The previous vicar had lived in what had been "The Old Manor", next to the school and his successor probably in the cottage adjacent to the school. The Easter offering (collection taken in church on Easter Sunday), was traditionally given to the vicar or rector of a parish at this time (and indeed until fairly recently) – an annual kind of gauge of 'here's what we think of you' donation which formed part of the salary of the incumbent! On this occasion it was to be allocated to the vicarage fund. "All offerings given to the vicar for this purpose will be met by grants so that they will be multiplied

many times over. After this year, South Milton will no longer be eligible to receive grants so it is now or never for the Vicarage Fund”.

Elsewhere in the South Hams, raising money for the troops and the war effort took on many forms. At Ringmore, “Miss Giles and the school children – only 20 in number – are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts for this fund in the Children’s Collection Week” – the fund being ‘The National Egg Collection’. In Kingsbridge pleas for oranges and other fruit & veg for the fleet were augmented by the schoolchildren who “brought in a fine consignment of oranges and apples...”. Fund-raising for the war had the effect of diverting efforts and money away from local needs, which otherwise would have called upon the time and charity of the local population, such as the local cottage hospital which prior to its current site in Kingsbridge stood from 1898 to 1928 in Duncombe Street. There was also a convalescent hospital at a house at Collapit Creek, and the West Alvington section of the magazine has this plea: “Three people are giving small contributions weekly or monthly towards the upkeep

of Collapit Creek Hospital and these are much appreciated. Government allows 2s. [shillings] a day for each man [...] but this is hardly sufficient for their keep, and the whole maintenance of the hospital [...] has to be met by voluntary contributions in money and kind, and includes firing etc. man’s wages, salaries of nursing sister, orderly and servant, as well as feeding of the entire staff...”.



A Page of Adverts from the 1916 Magazine

Much effort was given to providing comforts for the troops at the front and West Alvington folk contributed the following items via the ‘Devon & Exeter Linen League’: “Twelve pair socks, 6 night shirts, 6 vests, 6 pants, 12 pillow cases, and 48 bandages”. Additionally, £1 9s. 2d. was raised through a children’s concert and a parcel was sent in containing 3 woollen scarves, 5 pairs socks and 4 pairs mittens for our deep-sea fishermen.

Jumble sales until recent times were a regular feature of fund-raising in various organisations. Halls up and down the country were a mainstay of social occasion and money-raising during both world wars.

At Churchstow & Kingsbridge (co-joined parishes at this point), the rather flowery language (by the vicar presumably) announcing one in St. Edmund’s Hall - on this occasion for repairs – read “Will all housekeepers carefully reserve their jumbles for us and all economical souls in search of bargains come and buy on this occasion”. Nowadays, we dispose of our ‘jumbles’ on-line, at car boot sales, or in charity shops, and the once-familiar buzz, the tea urns, the smell of slightly-musty piles of old furs and hats and bric-a-brac have all-but gone without us noticing. At Slapton a jumble sale with no fixed date or purpose was announced in the following way (a case of cart before the horse!):

“Come good people, do not grumble, / We are going to have a jumble, / So out with motley, vest or sock, / Discarded fur and crumpled frock, / The coat now dusty in the hall, / The gown forsaken on the wall, / The pumps that cannot waltz once more, / The carpet threadbare on

the floor, / The pans superfluous and the broom, / For furniture galore there's room, / All, all will be of vast avail, / So send them to our jumble sale". !!

The Second World War conjures up images of the 'land girls' on the farms, but it was no different during the first war with women filling the positions vacated by servicemen in factories and fields. There is a lengthy article in this magazine entitled "Women's Work And Women's Opportunities In The New Era", by Mrs. Arthur Philip founder & Hon. Vice-President of the National Union Of Women Workers. Amongst many probing questions and observations still pertinent today she says "...one cannot imagine the army of trained women workers - trained by having with extraordinary tact and zeal actually having done the work - one cannot imagine them returning meekly from the freer life of economic independence, semi-publicity, and freedom from household restraints, to one of dependence and quiet domesticity" ... which of course the vast majority did do, and again after the Second World War. On a slightly different tack, the vicar of Strete, Revd. I. Bonsall, had this to say about the wartime labour shortage: "We venture a suggestion to those in authority [...] by one who has had management of schools in town and country. Let the boys of 12 years go on the farms. The times are not ordinary. Leave the decision principally to parents, farmers, and managers. Relax the education regulation".

From the Church Missionary Society quarterly, which forms part of this magazine, I have chosen the following snippet written by Dr. Catherine Ironside "while on enforced furlough". Speaking of the C.M.S. hospital at Ispahan in Persia (Isfahan in modern Iran), she writes "We had six little girls there at one time lately, each one about 10-12 years of age, each one with a leg in a splint, each one needing a daily, rather painful dressing - plucky little souls who laughed at each other and at themselves - when the dressing was over". She ends with "Those wards are empty now" [...] "Orders from the British Legation could not be set aside, and when, for political reasons, all British, Russian and French subjects left Ispahan during the week October 7-14, we had to close our work and go too".

Completing this round-up of news from April 1916, we return to Thurlestone and Revd. Frank Coope, who we may thank for gathering a great deal of the history of the parish from the older residents at the beginning of the twentieth century. He was also concerned with more pressing worries of the day:

"As the zeppelins are now able to travel further afield than they could at first, the Church and the Rectory have been insured against air raids. It is expensive, but it would cost us much more, if some airship returning from an attempt upon Plymouth were to unload some of its spare bombs upon our unoffending village. Will worshipers kindly remember this additional expense of insuring the church when contributing to Church expenses? The insurance of the Rectory comes of course out of the Rector's pocket". Multiply those fears across the nation, and insurance companies must have had a field day! It's an ill wind....

Zeppelin raids had alarmed the population following an attack on London as early as Christmas 1914, but it was the east of England especially the coastal resorts which were the targets most easily reached from German air bases during the First World War. Reverend Coope had considerable foresight though as in the Second World War, not only did enemy bombers drop 'spare' bombs on civilian targets and small coastal villages before re-crossing the Channel to the airfields of occupied France, but targeted the unoffending village of Aveton Gifford destroying the church and other properties there; but that is another story.

Acknowledgements:

A History Of South Milton, Collyer, G., Kingsbridge Books, South Milton, 202, p.15

Thurlestone At War, Macdonald, R, 2018, pp. 35-36

Woodleigh Deanery Magazine, Vol 17, No. 4, April 1916

YOUR FETE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

As reported in the last issue of the Village Voice there will be a FETE this summer 2024 in Thurlestone. Preparations are now well underway, and our thanks to those who have joined the committee and agreed to run stalls. Raffle ticket sales have started. Have you got your raffle tickets yet? There is a fantastic set of prizes to be won.

Many hands make light work and the success of the fete depends on lots of people getting involved to make it a really enjoyable community event. It's a great way to get to know people from across the village, enjoy working together, and there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved and support this year's fete in any (or all!??) of the following ways:

- Selling raffle tickets ahead of the fete
- Putting up posters etc.
- Setting up beforehand (Friday 19th July evening or Saturday 20th July morning)
- Helping out during the fete itself
- Running a stall or a game
- Clearing up afterwards (Late afternoon/early evening Saturday 20th July)

To offer help please contact Peter Hirst, email peter.hirst909@btinternet.com or Phone 01548 560544. If there is a particular stall you would like to run or help with, do say. New ideas for games and stalls always welcome.

We also need donations of:

- **Plants / cuttings for the Plant Stall**, so when you are sowing flower or vegetable seeds sow a few extra in pots or trays to bring to the fete.
- **Good condition Toys**
- **Handmade items for the craft stall**
- **Bottles for the bottle tombola**
- **Baked goods for the cake stall**
- **Good quality second hand items**
- **Bric-a-brac**
- **Beautiful Accessories**
(Scarfs, Jewellery, Bags, etc.)

Non-perishable items can be dropped in to Peter Hirst at 17 Court Park, or the Church Meeting Room (10am-12 noon on a Wednesday). Hilary Rustad will be heading up the cake stall so please email her at hilaryrustad@gmail.com if you are able to provide a cake to sell on the stall.

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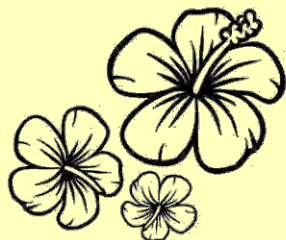
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Thurlestone Bay Birds and Moths

Mid March - Mid May 2024

Birds

After a cool and wet April, spring arrived at the beginning of May. Most of our expected summer visitors were late arriving, undoubtedly due to poor weather conditions in Southern Europe.

Traditionally *SAND MARTINS* are the first of the summer visitors, this year over a week late arriving on 16th March only a day before the first *SWALLOW*. *HOUSE MARTINS* were over two weeks late with the first sighting on 14th April. The local breeding flock at the flats by South Huish Marsh were not in evidence until the first week in May. *SWIFTS* usually arrive in some numbers around the end of April but this year only 2 have been reported - first on 20th April and the only other one on 23rd April.

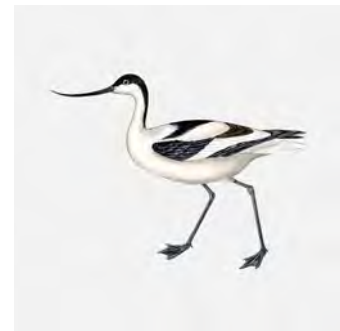
The spring wader passage can be very good given south easterly winds - unfortunately the conditions were very unfavourable this year. Flocks of *WHIMBREL* rarely exceeded 50. *BAR TAILED GODWIT* flocks of 25/30 were watched flying in off the sea and after a brief rest on the rocks continued up the valley taking the overland route to Dorset before continuing their journey to their breeding grounds in Scandinavia.

This year was exceptional for a small group of four waders that spent a week from 13th April feeding on the marsh - 3 *WOOD SANDPIPER* and a *RUFF*. Spring records for *WOOD SANDPIPER* show usually only single birds. They have only been recorded in 5 of the last 20 years. On 14th April a visiting birder photographed 4 *PURPLE SANDPIPER* on the rocks at high tide near Yarmer Beach - another wader which no longer winters around the Bay.

Only 1 record of a *LITTLE RINGED PLOVER* on the Marsh on 20th April - these small waders winter in Africa. There are scattered records of birds breeding at disused quarries in the Midlands and Northern parts of England. Numbers of the more common waders have also been low this year. *DUNLIN*, a maximum of less than 20, just a single *SANDERLING* and *RINGED PLOVER* a maximum of 10.

OYSTERCATCHER numbers have been relatively stable with up to 30 on the rocks or feeding on the marsh at high tide. *TURNSTONE* flocks are limited to the rocks around the Bay and can reach 20.

Finally, the best migrant wader of the spring has to be the *AVOCET*, which arrived on the Marsh on the 5th May and was still present on 10th May. There are large wintering flocks on both the Exe and Tamar estuaries but we only see them on passage - this is the first May record.



Avocet

Spring passage of ducks is significantly below previous years - *COMMON SCOTER* making their way to breed in Northern Europe have not exceeded 20 in a day, previous years we would be looking at daily counts of 150 plus. *GARGANEY* which winters on the lakes of Southern Africa and migrates to Europe to breed have previously arrived in March, this year only 1 pair has been recorded on 9th May.

Offshore, small numbers of *TERNS* have been seen, again considerably lower than previous years for *SANDWICH* and *COMMON TERN*. Only 1 *LITTLE TERN* was seen fishing in the Bay on 16th April.

Flocks of *MANX SHEARWATER* have been recorded in the Bay - up to several hundred,

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mostly in April. These are birds which winter off the coasts of Brazil and return to our coasts to breed on offshore islands.

RAPTORS have been recorded arriving off the sea and continuing their passage to their breeding grounds. 2 sightings of *OSPREY*, 1 of *RED KITE*, 1 of a *HOBBY* all in April.

Unusual sightings of migrant *HERONS* were a *PURPLE HERON* on the Marsh on 22nd April and a *BITTERN* on 1st May. These species have not been recorded here for some time. Finally, the passage migrant of the year for me was found in trees along South Milton Ley - seen from the footbridge at 12.00 on Sunday 14th April. It was a superb male *GOLDEN ORIOLE* - vivid yellow body and black wings and black tail. This was a first sighting for me in the UK, my only previous ones have been on our visits to Cyprus.

Best garden sighting for me was a *SPOTTED FLYCATCHER* in a small copse at the back of our garden on 1st May.

Hopefully our skies will soon be echoing to the screams of *SWIFTS* and the regular breeding sites for *SWALLOW* and *HOUSE MARTINS* will once again be occupied.

Moths

A week of beautiful spring warm and sunny weather resulted in the best moth totals of the year. Before I provide a more detailed account of my week's activities here is a review of the period since my last report.

On 9th April I caught a *BRINDLED OCHRE* - this is the first ever spring record in South Devon. Usually it's a moth that I see in October and November - only 3 records in each of the last 2 years. Next day a *CHAMOMILE SHARK* was found in a trap and another surprisingly turned up on 27th April, a very scarce Devon moth. Another unusual visitor was a *RADFORD'S FLAME SHOULDER* on 11th April - a first spring record for South Devon, a migrant from France.

From 3rd May arriving home after a week away in the Midlands, traps lit up each evening at around 21.30. I attended them until midnight at the latest and then switched them off first thing next morning. Over the period up to 11th May I recorded 576 moths of 83 species. The best was 11th itself with the highest total of the year so far of 117 moths and 45 different species. Highlights were:-

- Friday 3rd May - *PINE BEAUTY, SPECTACLE, PEPPERED, BUFF ERMINE.*
- Saturday 4th May - *TREBLE LINES, WHITE ERMINE, CHINESE CHARACTER* and a large caterpillar of an *OAK EGGAR* over 2 inches long.
- Sunday 5th May - 66 moths of 31 species with 10 new for the year (NFY) - *LYCHNIS, LEAST BLACK ARCHES, PALE MOTTLED WILLOW, BUFF TIP, PURPLE BAR, CLOUDED BORDER.*
- Monday 6th May - 69 moths of 31 species with a new one for my garden - *NETTED PUG* - only 1 record in South Devon in 2023, 2 in 2022 and 1 in 2021- superb looking moth.
- 11 *MUSLIN* moths all arrived after midnight along with *PURPLE BAR* and *PEBBLE PROMINENT.*
- Tuesday 7th May - the first *HAWKMOTH* of the year arrived, a *POPLAR* along with a *PUSS MOTH* and a *SANDY CARPET.*
- Wednesday 8th May - 65 moths of 31 species were seen with notable arrivals of 2 *JERSEY MOCHA* (the 100th specie of 2024) *PALE TUSSOCK, COMMON MARBLED CARPET, 2 YELLOW-BARRED BRINDLE.*
- Thursday 9th May - 90 moths of 37 species were recorded including 2 *CHOCOLATE TIP, CYPRESS CARPET, ORANGE FOOTMAN, OAK TREE PUG* and *MULLEIN WAVE.*
- Other notable records - 22 *TREBLE LINES, 4 PEPPERED, 2 WAVED UMBER, 1 FLAME, 3 PEBBLE PROMINENT, 1 SWALLOW PROMINENT, 2 MARBLED CORONET.*

- Friday 10th May – Traps were unattended but still had 35 moths of 16 species with 2 *POPLAR HAWKMOTH*, an *ORANGE FOOTMAN*, 2 *CLOUDED BORDER*, 3 *MARBLED CORONET*.
- Saturday 11th May - Fantastic total of 117 moths of 45 species including *RUDDY CARPET* (a first record for my garden) *CLOUDED SILVER*, *VINE'S RUSTIC*, *SNOUT*, *SCALLOPED HAZEL*, *BEE MOTH*, *KNOT GRASS*, *SANDY CARPET*, 3 *POPLAR HAWKMOTH*, *SPECTACLE*, *PALE TUSSOCK*, 2 *PUSS MOTH*, *LESSER SWALLOW PROMINENT*.

It looks as though the spell of warm settled weather is likely to break up from Sunday 12th May, if nighttime temperatures can remain above 10 degrees there will still be moths flying.

If you want to look at photos of most of the moths I have mentioned they can be found on my website Thurlestone Bay Birds - look for the heading Moths photos from 6th May.

Mike Passman
thurlestonebaybirds.co.uk

Thurlestone Marsh

by Judy Pearce

We have all complained about the wet winter, variously arguing over whether it was only four, five or six days since new year without rain by the end of April. Farmers unable to get their crops planted, roads in and out of the village seemingly permanently flooded and it was impossible to do anything to our gardens, the list goes on and on.

One area of the parish however has relished this weather and profited from every drop of rain. Thurlestone Marsh has become once more what it should always be, a really wild and wonderful place. The two stream beds, and the ditches, although regularly maintained, have been unable to carry away all the water, and the water table has risen to either just below or just above ground level, depending on the day. Some days there are pools all over the open area, sometimes just dark patches, but everywhere the place has sprung back to life. Down where I live on Whimbrels Edge, we have the huge privilege of overlooking the marsh, and during this very wet winter and spring, I have really grown to love and connect with it in a way I never have previously.

The birds are spectacular, many better able than me, notably Mike Passman, could give you a full account, but seeing a pair of herons, and egrets many times has been a treat. The mallards have had the comedy slot, scooting across the pools until they ran out of water and then turning round and scooting back. The Canada geese have been bossy for an hour or so a day and then moved on, whilst a whole flock of pheasant have been pecking their way round all through the winter. Other more occasional visitors have come and gone.

The deer have been down several mornings, once there were four of them, but they usually come in pairs and slope off to the cover of the rushes on the far side as soon as anything disturbs them. The rabbits bound about by day knowing they are probably safe there.

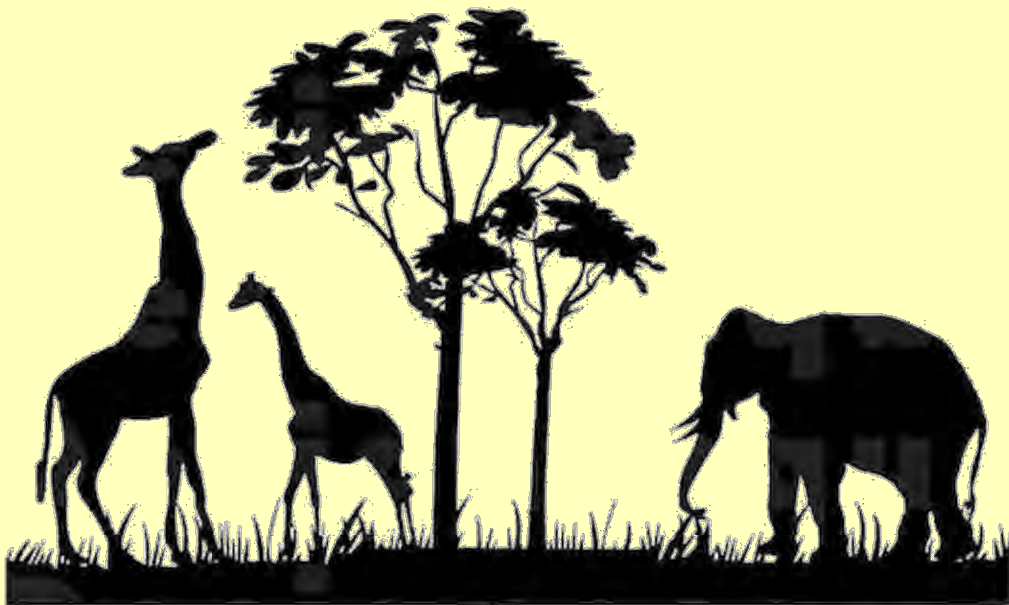
The vegetation has reverted to wild. The grass has died under the pools of water and is only just starting to come back, but the flag irises have appeared in huge swathes for the first time in years and are beginning to flower. There is about to be a explosion of yellow to rival the Hurrell daffodil field in Bantham. The reeds have restarted their colonisation of the grassy areas and the usual wild vegetation along the stream bed nearest us has gone mad and is starting to flower.

Here is one area which has really appreciated the very wet winter. If you look on Google Earth you would hardly know there was a marsh there. It must be one of the best kept secrets in the parish.

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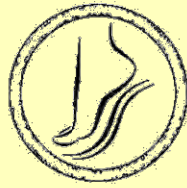


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Thurlestone Golf Club



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new General Manager at the golf club. I took over from Simon Bawden in April of this year and have been offered the warmest of welcomes. Being very community orientated I would be very interested to hear back on how I personally, or the club in general, can integrate within the local parish.

One of the key duties of care which I have is safeguarding the environment for our fauna and flora, and how best to enhance the bio-diversity around the golf course. I was delighted when the picture (right) was sent to me a couple of weeks ago of an adder. This was particularly pleasing as it indicates that the environment is well-balanced and rich with diversity. Knowing the above, please do take great care when out walking alone, or with dogs to avoid any unwelcomed confrontation.



Thankfully, what has been very unfair weather over what seems to have been a very long winter, appears to be behind us. This time of year, it is always very busy at a golf club, as the greenkeepers are working feverishly to transition the golf course and tennis courts from winter to summer. Apart from the golf course looking wonderful we were able to open the tennis courts on the 4th May.



Membership for the tennis section is great value, with great facilities; 10 grass courts, 2 hard courts, a stand alone pavilion with changing rooms and kitchen/meeting area and access to the main clubhouse and car park. If, like myself, one is trying to shed a few pounds why not give tennis a go in a tranquil setting and relaxed group.

We are delighted to welcome back the very popular RockBox in our top field during July, and The Beach Barista on Leas Foot (golf club end) from around June to September. These are two very local 'micro businesses' and hope that you continue to support them so well throughout the season.

Lastly, a polite reminder that if you use our top car park your number plate will be captured electronically on entry and departure – 24 hours a day. If payment is not made at the ticket machine a £100 fine will be issued by the managing agency. As this is managed by an agency the Club have no control or authority over the fines issued for non-payment. Please do keep this in mind and let your family and visiting guests know throughout the summer, as it may prove to be an expensive day out.

Jason Pheasant
General Manager

DIARY DATES

June

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|---|
| Saturday | 1 | Arts, Crafts and Collectables Market at Kingsbridge Market Hall |
| | 1 | Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm |
| | 1-2 | Kingsbridge Food and Music Festival in Town Square continues - (started Friday 31 May) |
| Monday | 3 | Devon Schools Restart |
| | 3 | Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm |
| Thursday | 6 | TRAMP - Marldon/Totnes 5.5 miles - Linda Chilcott |
| | 6 | Salcombe D-Day 80 th Anniversary Celebrations 1pm to 11pm |
| Sunday | 9 | Thurlestone Open Gardens 1pm to 4pm. Tickets £5 (under 14s free). Maps available from Thurlestone Parish Hall on the day |
| Tuesday | 11 | Quay Side Classics, Kingsbridge - a car meet for all classic vehicle owners (2, 3 or 4 wheeled vehicles) from 6.30pm |
| Thursday | 13 | TRAMP - Snapes Point 4 miles - Jill Miller |
| Saturday | 15 | Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm |
| Sunday | 16 | Stanborough Chorus present a Cream Tea Concert at 3pm in Malborough Village Hall |
| Tuesday | 18 | TRAMP - Dartmoor - Sheeps Tor area 6 miles - Alastair Durden |
| Wednesday | 19 | Alvington Singers summer concert at St Edmund's Church, Kingsbridge 7.30pm |
| Thursday | 20-23 | Kingsbridge Nature Festival - a celebration of our local environment |
| Wednesday | 26 | Kingsbridge Arts Society, Methodist Hall, Kingsbridge 2pm for 2.30pm (and on Zoom - 01548 532850 for a link) - "Marathon" with Rupert Willoughby |
| Thursday | 27-28 | Kingsbridge Craft Market at Kingsbridge Market Hall |
| Friday | 28 | Kingsbridge Estuary U3A monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am until noon - "A Schoolgirl's War" with Mary Smith - a Head Teacher of a Secondary School where there was a discovery of some exquisite art work documenting, in paint and pencil, the lives of schoolchildren and their teachers as the war unfolded |
| Saturday | 29 | Arts, Crafts and Collectables Market at Kingsbridge Market Hall |
| | 29 | Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm |
| Sunday | 30-5 | Salcombe Merlin Rocket Week |

July

- | | | |
|----------|-------|---|
| Monday | 1 | TRAMP - Dartmoor - Burrator, Black Tor 6.9 miles - Vanessa Barton |
| | 1 | Parish Council Meeting Thurlestone Parish Hall 7.30pm |
| Saturday | 6 | Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm |
| | 6 | Bantham Swoosh (swimming starts at 7am) followed by Bantham Mini Swoosh and then from 6pm Bantham Boomerang |
| | 6 | Beer and Boules - Thurlestone Parish Hall 6.30pm |
| Sunday | 7 | National Thank You Day |
| Tuesday | 9 | Quay Side Classics, Kingsbridge - a car meet for all classic vehicle owners (2, 3 or 4 wheeled vehicles) from 6.30pm |
| Friday | 12 | TRAMP - Brent Tor/Lydford Gorge 6 - 8 miles - Sian and Mike Hodges |
| | 12-13 | Tunes on the Sand at Blackpool Sands |
| W/C | 15 | TRAMP - Blackawton - Alan Rustad |
| Saturday | 20 | Thurlestone Church Fete - Toyes Orchard - 2pm |
| | 20 | Kingsbridge Farmers Market 9am - 1pm |
| | 20-27 | Kingsbridge Fair Week |
| Thursday | 25-26 | Kingsbridge Craft Market at Kingsbridge Market Hall |
| Friday | 26 | Kingsbridge Estuary U3A monthly talk at Malborough Village Hall 10am until noon - "The Golden Age of Glass Making in the 19 th and 20 th Centuries" with Dr Francis Burroughs |
| | 26 | Devon School Term ends |
| Saturday | 27 | Arts, Crafts and Collectables Market at Kingsbridge Market Hall |
| Monday | 29 | TRAMP - Ivybridge - Harford Circular 9 miles - Linda and Gareth Scott |

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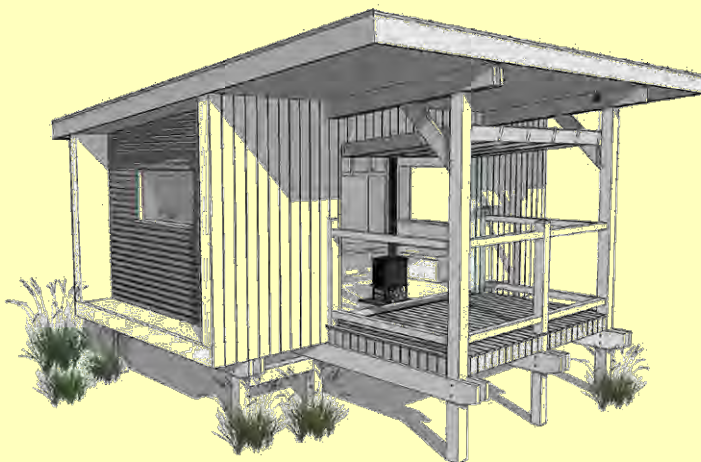
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AVON RIVER CHAMPIONS	Chairman	Louise Wainwright	810991
BADMINTON CLUB (Friday 4pm - 5pm)		Sian Hodges	07784 893405
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Secretary	Nikki Smith	560275
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB		Clubhouse	560447
BRIDGE CLUB (Wednesday 6.15pm)		Lisa White	560505
BUCKLAND PHONE BOX		Anna Martin	560796
CRAFTY MONDAYS (Monday 10.00am - 12.30pm)		Sally Martin	561356
FITNESS YOGA with SUZI (Monday 5pm - 6pm)		Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
FRENCH CONVERSATION (Thursday 12.30pm - 3.30pm)		Angela Luckhurst	521595
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH		Martin Beck	
HEALTHY MOVEMENT (Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm)		Saffron Craig	07840 788511
LINE DANCING (Wednesday 2pm - 3pm)		Sue Bain	07989 817898
PICKLEBALL (Sunday 11.00am - 1.00pm)		Tony Burn	07909 552077
SEA BEYOND PILATES (Wednesday 9.30am-10.30am)		Sharron05@btinternet.com	
SMASH HIIT with SUZI (Thursday 6pm - 7pm)		Suzi Griffiths	07557 334802
TABLE TENNIS (Thursday 7.30pm - 9pm)		Paul Ferguson	07866 802800
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB		Office & General Enquiries	560405
TENNIS SECTION (at Golf Club)		Book via Pro Shop	560715
THURLESTONE PHONE BOX		Mary Horne	561853
THURLESTONE SINGING GROUP		Alastair Durden	560509
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)		Linda Scott	560298
YOGA with Sarah (Tuesday and Thursday 9.15am)		Sarah Scott	07879 627939

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Redfern Health Centre, Shadycombe Road, Salcombe TQ8 8DJ	842284
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Mobile Library Service was discontinued from Thursday 29th February.

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For timetable contact Tally Ho! on 01548 853081 or see www.tallyhoholidays.co.uk/timetable-162
For other Bus, Rail and Coach information contact Traveline South West T: 0871 2002233 7am - 8pm) or visit the website www.travelinesw.com

PARISH INFORMATION

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

Chairman	Rosa Lewis	07463 856156
Parish Clerk	Helen Leather	thurlestoneparish@gmail.com
Members	Nigel Hadaway	07885 518333
	Mike Hodges	561124
	Eric Palmer	07966 192902
	Adam Ryan-Carter	07885 383345
	David Smyth	07768 300358
	Gillian Stone	07967 666719
District Councillors	Samantha Dennis	07720 863626
	Mark Long	843828
County Councillor	Rufus Gilbert	856659

PARISH HALL (see Thurlestone Parish Website for more details)
Telephone (payphone in foyer) 562189

Vice Chair: Alison Daily

Bookings: Ingrid French email: via Parish Website or directly on tphbookings@gmail.com
or telephone 07586 560358 Mon to Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm

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

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH See All Saints' Diary pages earlier in magazine
Church Meeting Room Telephone Liz Webb 560090

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL Head Teacher Miss Katie Coombe 560494

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORES Contact Sarah Tyers 561917

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