Parish Magazine
Ashprington Cornworthy Dittisham
July 2020

My Memories of the Second World War

by Ian Campbell

A conflict remembered in cameos

I was born on September 19th 1939, 16 days after the Second World War had started, in what was then Bromley, Kent, and is now The London Borough of Bromley. Whatever its postal address our house sat slap bang in the middle of the shortest route between Northern France and London, which meant I spent the five and a half years the war lasted trying to dodge the very determined attempts of some German maniac to kill me. Luckily I survived but on occasions it was a close run thing! My recollections of the war are of a series of cameos rather than a coherent sequential narrative, but they are nonetheless vivid and lasting.

Living as I did some 5 miles from the end of the main runway at R.A.F. Biggin Hill I was handily placed, some 12 months later, to watch The Battle of Britain unfold in the sky above me. Although I have no recollection of this, my mother assured me that I was an avid watcher of the Battle while lying in my pram in the back garden of my grandmother's house, where we spent the war. However, I do remember, some years later, picking up some shrapnel in that self same back garden and pondering as to the wisdom of my mother's choice of a safe spot for my morning constitutional.

If this was the first "dice with death" recorded in my war diary, then the second followed closely in early 1941 at the height of the Blitz, when one of the large metal containers which each held about 50 small incendiary bombs, crashed through the roof of a house three doors down from our's, while its deadly load (jettisoned some thousands of feet above) weaved harmless pretty patterns in the concrete pavements below. No one was killed in the incident though many were shaken. The neat perfectly spaced 4 inch holes were still there at the end of the war

"Dice" number two safely negotiated! Number three was to prove the hairiest yet and the one where my guardian angel really must have worked over-time to keep me safe. June 1944, when I was nearly 5 years old, was a very busy month. Hitler chose that moment to launch his new terror weapon, the V1 or Doodlebug as we called it, and I can remember standing on a chair, looking out of our kitchen window, watching one chugging towards us while we waited, begging its engine to keep going. If it stopped before it reached you then you could be in trouble because it would glide in gradually losing speed and height before crashing and exploding. Average distance between engine cut out and explosion was reckoned to be about 5 miles. All you could do was wait and hope that it kept going and glided over you. Thankfully this one did, crashing in Sydenham some 10 miles behind us, but while this V1 missed its target, there were plenty more that didn't. It rained Doodlebugs that summer in North Kent and South London which must have been a very scary place to be if you were an adult. Luckily, as a 5 year old, ignorance was bliss!

Later that same month my mother and I were on

The Ashprington School House Morrison Shelter / hen house / log store

holiday in Porlock, North Devon, and I vividly remember standing at the bottom of some stairs in the reception area of the Boarding House we were staying at, while my mother took a call from my aunt in Bromley. Hitler was at it again and he was getting closer! A Doodlebug had landed on the house opposite our's destroying it completely, killing 3 people. Our house was badly damaged, windows blown out, front door blown upstairs and ceilings down. My grandmother, who was the only person in the house when the bomb fell, escaped serious injury or worse because she was sleeping in the Morrison Shelter in the lounge at the time, which undoubtedly saved her bacon. When we got back to Bromley we had to move in with my aunt while our house was repaired.

The V1 (Doodlebug) menace only lasted for 3 months from June to September 1944, but it wreaked havoc and spread terror while it lasted, terror which was heightened when the Doodlebugs' big brother, the V2, was added to the mix. The V1 flew low and slow like a Cruise Missile while the V2 was the first ever Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile; it could travel long distances at high speed and packed a massive explosive punch. It arrived silently and left death and destruction in its wake and we had no defence whatsoever against it. Fortunately British Forces advancing from the Normandy beaches overran the launch sites of both the V1 and V2 by September and put an end to their threat.

While all this mayhem was going on around me I don't recall feeling any fear at all. Perhaps because I was too young to understand what was happening, perhaps because what was happening was my norm; I knew no other reality so I accepted it without question or fear. Which was probably a blessing in disguise!

Looking back on the five and a half years of war as a whole I can remember being pushed under the stairs at my grandmother's house while the bombs rained down on London. This was quite early in the war before we received our air raid shelters from the government. The Anderson Shelter came first but was for outside use only and needed to be dug into the ground, half in half out. It was cold, damp, uncomfortable and unpopular. The Morrison came next. It was for indoor use and was a 6' x 4' x 3' iron cage, big enough for adults to sleep in, and designed to withstand the house collapsing around it while protecting those inside. I can remember sleeping in it many times and it was fun, you had to kneel down in order to crawl into it, it was like a secret den ideal to stir the imagination of a 5 year old, which it did. I remember it well and with affection. It saved my Nan's life and I loved my Nan!

I remember that every time the anti-aircraft battery at the end of our road fired its gun the shock-wave shook the house to its foundations. The local joke was that it never hit anything and was more a danger to us than to the Luftwaffe. We felt better for having it there though and by war's end the women who operated it had become respected and well-liked members of our little community. I remember Uncle Bill delivering milk with his horse-drawn milk cart (milkman was an exempt occupation). So while Uncle Bill fought his war on the suburban streets of Bromley, Uncle Fred fought his with the Desert Rats in North Africa, driving 10 ton trucks full of high explosives to the front line. Luck of the draw in war, eh? Though I suppose you could say they were both in the delivery business. Boom Boom! Both survived the war!

Two noises I remember from the war which still give me the heebie-jeebies 75 years later, are the air raid warning siren with its creepy undulating tone presaging approaching doom, and the apocalyptic menace that the Doodlebug engine noise carried with it, especially, paradoxically, when it cut out. I can remember buying my first record which was Henry Hall's version of The Teddy Bears' Picnic. I still have the record, though I can't play it any more 'cos I haven't got a record player that will play 78s. I was evacuated twice, each time with my aunt to friends of her's in the country. The first time, to get away from the Blitz, was to Paignton, and the second time to avoid the Doodlebugs was to Bala in North Wales. Little did I know then that 75 years later I would meet a young woman from Paignton and set up home with her in Ashprington!

The final image I will leave you with is of a little boy looking forlornly out of a window at a scene of great celebration in the street outside. People are singing and dancing and generally having fun. Trestle tables, which have been set up in the street, are groaning with all kind of goodies that haven't been available for years. It is May 8th 1944, Victory in Europe Day, and this is the Street Party to celebrate that great victory. The little boy has Scarlet Fever and must isolate himself while he is infectious so he can't go to the party but can only look on from afar. I can still feel the sense of raw injustice that I felt that day at the hand Fate had dealt me. It wasn't fair then and still isn't now.

Anderson Shelter

Thank you to Ian for his contribution, a timely reminder of another global catastrophe and community strength. In the coming months further contributions are very welcome. The Editors will cheerfully help with the writing or the technology of sending if needed.

About the Magazine

If you would like to receive the Parish Magazine please contact the distribution organiser for your village:

Ashprington: Mr. G Gillespie 01803 731071
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If you would like to contribute any article, announcement, anounce an event or sell household articles please contact the editors:

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August Magazine:

Please try to have all copy to the production editors by the 20th of July for the August magazine. Thank you.

Please fill out the A5 sheet inserted with this magazine and return it to your distributor. During the last few months many readers have expressed a preference for an online copy which we would be happy to provide in the coming months.

Clergy Letter

So here's just a virus thought:

Someone asked me the other day if God has sent the virus to punish us for our evil and uncaring ways, and that got me thinking!

Of course that would certainly have been the explanation the Israelites of the Old Testament would have given to our present plague. And it is surprising how that idea lingered on through the generations and into the primitive church. So yes, feelings of guilt can still bring thoughts of divine punishment.

Some years ago a young Anglican hospital chaplain told of visiting a patient who had given birth to a deformed baby and was consumed with guilt asking what sin had she committed to be punished in this way. A little later on he visited a man dying with cancer. 'Why is this happening to me?' the man cried. 'What have I done to deserve this'?

The chaplain's ministry was in the days of the Book of Common Prayer which plainly says that the young chaplain should have told the poor man that his cancer was 'sent by God and that he must repent and render humble thanks for his Fatherly visitation…'. But the young priest told how he had no stomach for such teaching. He rightly thought that only a malignant God would terrorise the world by sending such agonies to anyone at any time rendering them helpless. Thankfully we have moved on a bit since those days

But for generations Christians have been taught to look upwards to the place of power and authority to find answers and meanings to life's questions. However, deep thinkers with inquisitive minds like Copernicus, Galileo and Isaac Newton turned their gaze to this world below and gave birth to what we call science.

As knowledge increased over the years we know that God doesn't punish us by sending pandemics or earthquakes or floods or fire but for many different reasons they have natural causes.

This corona virus has turned scientists into the new gurus consulted every day for answers and guidance. But for the believer this change from looking up to the world above to looking down to the world below is for many very confusing, For it would seem that the more we look to science to find truth, the less we need to look to God.

It is quite remarkable how religion has survived in an ever changing society. Perhaps it is because thoughts of God and about God satisfy our inner being in a way that secular life does not. We need the fellowship of other people, we need to love and be loved and we need courage and strength to live life. We need to know there is One who is greater than our own frailty and littleness and you can't get these human needs met on a doctor's prescription. So we must see our life as an unbroken whole and avoid dividing our lives into the spiritual and the unspiritual - in other words, dear friends, we must keep taking the tablets and at the same time lift up our hearts and minds to God to refresh our souls. *Revd. Cliff Berdinner (retd.)*

The Institution Service
by Bishop Robert for Rev'd Jim Barlow as Totnes Team Rector will be on Wednesday July 8th at 7pm.
The link to the online service on YouTube simultaneous to the institution on Zoom is https://youtu.be/fHHJqAPpRfQ

Please pray for Jim and Harriet and indeed our Totnes Team of Churches as we all begin together a new era in our ministry.

Letter from Julian and Jane Ould

Dear Totnes Team,
The lockdown prevented Jane and me looking for something suitable to buy with your very generous cheque as our leaving present. However, we have now bought two things, firstly a lovely bench, and secondly a greenhouse. The greenhouse is on order with a seven week delivery time. We are having this built for us when it arrives. The days of self assembly of such things are behind me now. Both the bench and the green house will bring much pleasure to our outdoor pursuits, especially when relaxing with a glass to fortify the spirits. Please thank everyone.

Thankfully we are both well and settled in our new home. There are obvious frustrations, but Jane has continued to work as normal and in fact been very busy. I set about my writing project which my daughters had requested. They asked me to write about my memories of the '60s and '70s. I was a little unsure about this and concerned that I wouldn't have much to say. Then 40,000 words later I clearly had, so no change there! I did, of course, do some research, but this just jogged my memory as to when things happened.

Now I am starting to work at the Cathedral, predominantly with Zoom meetings, but also Chaplaincy duties as the Cathedral is open for private prayer. I have also recorded a Prayer Book Eucharist in the Lady Chapel, with Jane as my congregation and will be doing a live streaming service this coming Sunday at 10.00 a.m., so little by little things are starting to happen.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the future and indeed welcoming you to our home.

I trust you are all well and safe. With our love, *Julian and Jane*

The Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Advisory Panel of Exeter Cathedral recently shared their experiences since lockdown in their online document Roots and Shoots. Each person on the panel wrote about what has helped them to cope and what they have learned along the way. The following are two extracts from that document. If you would like to read the entire selection please let the Editors know and we will email the document to you.

Anthea Carter-Savigear - Director of People and Safeguarding

"The emphasis should be on emerging better, being stronger and being better connected while enlarging and protecting God's Kingdom. The pandemic has forced us all to slow down. It has given us a great chance to get to know ourselves better, to know our gifts and talents, to understand our fears and wounds. I have learned that all real healing, transformation and evolution happens not out in the world, but deep in the wilderness of silence, solitude and stillness. What has helped me enormously is John Mark Comer's *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry.* For me is has definitely achieved what it says on its cover and has helped me to stay emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos."

Bishop Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton

"There is a prayer written by Richard Rohr that I have prayed each day over the last couple of months. It includes these words: *'in these uncertain times, help us to know what is ours to do.'*

I pray that, as these uncertainties will continue to be with us for some time and may indeed increase as lockdown is lifted, we will trust in God for each day, and know what is ours to do."

Teacher spends lockdown hard at work printing lifesaving kit

by Ginny Ware

A selfless teacher has dedicated his lockdown time to designing, making and distributing vital protection visors to frontline NHS and care workers, in a bid to keep them safe from COVID-19.

David Irish, head of design and techology at King Edward VI Community College in Totnes, has made more than 1,100 personal protection visors which have been donated to GP surgeries, care homes, ambulance teams, and pharmacies across the South Hams.

Some have also gone to Totnes Hospital, Devon Doctors and hot clinics throughout the district.

David began making the personal protective masks at his home, using some of the school's 3D printers, to adress the shortage of critical safety items for frontline workers.

He soon realised he needed more and thanks to a £4,500 donation from Totnes Rotary and £1,000 from Totnes Hospital League of Friends, was able to buy another three printers and more materials to make the personal protection equipment.

The KEVICC Foundation Trust also chipped in to fund another laser cutter in support of David's humanitarian cause.

David also drafted in several former students who helped make visors using their own 3D printers, and the team have pledged to continue making the visors for as long as they are needed.

David said: "There is no greater honour than to be able to help people in the local community at such a critical time.

"We already know that the equipment we have produced has protected health workers and their patients.

"Providing free equipment where it was needed was a central principle, giving protection to all."

David and his team have donated visors to GP surgeries in Dartmouth, South Brent and Totnes; Totnes-based Puddavine Court and other care homes; Robin's Respite Centre in Dartington plus other organisations that support disabled and vulnerable people with independent living.

He continued: "The project has illustrated that coordinated projects involving a number of local organisations have a unified strength that can, at its most extreme, save lives.

"It has highlighted the importance and application of what our students learn every day in design and technology classes, and we are committed to supporting our community for as long as we can over the coming months.

"The demand for PPE has not diminished and those requiring such equipment has diversified as people evaluate how they will live and work after lockdown."

Anyone interested in receiving some of the visors should email David at Dirish@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk

Rotary president George Rourke said: "David Irish has worked tirelessly over the past two months and should be congratulated, we are immensely proud to be able to support him and his team."

He added: "David has enough materials for the next couple of weeks but with continuous use many of the visors will need to be replaced in the short term.

"Totnes Rotary is continuing to support this essential project and trying to ensure that there is enough raw material to keep up with orders.

"The public have been enthusiastically backing the scheme with more than £700 already donated via our website at www.totnesrotary.co.uk

"Any donation will be most welcome and we guarantee that any contribution will go directly to the purchase of further materials."

Contributed

David Irish making 3D masks to donate to frontline workers

Update on the article in the May magazine when PPE was in short supply and the Rotarians helped in this response.

From Totnes Caring:

I have changed over the collection tins at the village shop this morning and there is a wonderful amount of money in them. Thank you so much for your hard work – lovely cakes and face masks, many villagers have certainly appreciated your efforts.

Together you have raised a marvellous £154.72 for Totnes Caring from your home made items on sale in Emily's Pop-Up Shop.

Totnes Caring is a local charity which receives no direct funding, so relies on local fundraisers to ensure that its elderly and vulnerable clients are supported to maintain their independence and continue living at home. This is so important, especially during these troubling times – currently Totnes Caring is supporting 476 clients with hot lunch deliveries, prescription collections, transport to medical appointments, a Home Help and Hospital discharge service – the list goes on.

Thank you Kathi and Jill for your amazing support!

Helen Roberts , Totnes Caring Transport Co-ordinator

Facemasks:

As the pandemic rattles on and Emily's Pop-Up Shop comes to a close cloth handmade facemasks will still be available by order from Kathi Green kcgreen67@gmail.com by donation to Totnes Caring (£2-£5). A range of fabric and size is possible - 69 creations were sold over one month and still counting.

From Totnes Rotarians:

We would like to thank the local community for their support of the Club's involvement in the Visor project.

The club has now identified another opportunity associated with Covid 19 support now that restrictions are being eased a little.

There is a need for many students in the Totnes area to have laptops to assist their education from home. Not all parents are able to afford replacement computers when they wear out and so some students are also not in a position to access the support that is provided remotely. A need has been identified to assist such families if at all possible .

The Rotary club is therefore researching exactly what is required, which will take a couple more weeks, but in the meantime would like to hear from anyone, or any commercial concern, which might be able to help with providing redundant but reasonably modern laptops.

We are also currently making enquiries regarding the most cost effective options for clearing of any data and refurbishment of second hand computers so they can be re-used. If anyone feels they might be able to help with this very worthwhile cause please let us know .

You can find out more by contacting the Rotary Youth Services Chair who lives in Ashprington - Ian Bentlett: Email ianben7070@gmail.com or phone 07434412731

We look forward to hearing from you.

Church News

At long last, St David's is open!
10:am - 6:00 pm daily

Actually the whole church isn't open but a large area has been reserved for those wishing to enter the building. You can now do so for private prayer or merely a moment or two of quiet contemplation in a very cool and tranquil environment. The remainder of the inside has been roped off to facilitate ease of cleaning and all other necessary health requirements. Everything is clearly signposted and sanitisers, etc. are provided. A huge thank you goes to the small team of volunteers (3 in number) who organised the movement of furniture, signage and cleaning.

By the time you read this you will have noticed a scaffolding has been erected on the south face of the church tower. This allows Cumbria Clocks to get working on the longed-for repairs to the clock. An essential feature of the village should soon therefore be in working order.

Finally it is hoped that services can soon be restarted possibly later in this month (JULY) and maybe to coincide with the arrival of the Reverend Jim Barlow, the new Team Rector. We all very much look forward to welcoming him as he embarks on a new challenge in his ministry. *Simon*

Our lovely ancient church is now open daily 9am - 5pm with all the safety precautions in place. Nothing too complicated and we look forward to welcoming you. Thank you to all those kind and generous people who have donated flowers and Linda Maby for her talent. We are happy for anyone in the village to contribute a floral arrangement to celebrate! Please check with Paula on 732828 just in case she has already organised something.

We have now extended our burial ground to the top of the hill where Murray Church, Pat Hillier and Dorothy Waye rest in peace. This is fenced off from the sheep and is easily accessed via the top gate off the road around the corner from the church. Thank you to Paul for organising this. We hope to have a hard standing and rail leading up to the gate in place this year. The sheep have been doing a great job of keeping the grass down but with all this rain the grass in the rest of the churchyard is growing a trifle too fast for our groundsman!

A big thank you to all those who enabled the swift opening of St Peter's and also for their generous donations.

May we be true to our traditions but a blessing to all others.

(Buckfastleigh Chaplaincy Conference 2018)

Please continue to take care and be safe. *Caroline*

St George's Church
Dittisham

June 15th was a bright sunny morning and as I walked into St. George's with my sanitiser and J-cloth in hand, wiping handles as I went, I could feel the smile widening on my face - today was the day for the re-opening of the church for private prayer.

A team had worked during the previous week at cleaning the church and setting aside areas for people to sit, which would then be cleaned each evening. Even with the barrier tape that we had to use, and the removal of all books and kneelers, the church still felt welcoming - Bee Smyth had kindly put a beautiful vase of flowers in place which added a smile to the church. We decided to keep the Lady Chapel open so that visitors can light a candle if they want to - at 4 pm each day, everything that might have been touched is carefully wiped ready for the following day.

On Thursdays , our organist, Robin, is visiting the church to play both the piano and the organ - it is so wonderful to hear music echoing through our ancient church again.

As I write this we have been in lockdown for 13 weeks, and in fact, many parishioners have been shielding for longer than this. We are gradually starting to see a slight easing of the lockdown guidelines and for some this throws up new areas for concern. We have adapted well in the village to the unusual situation that we suddenly found ourselves in, but the thought now of venturing further afield and maybe facing crowds might be causing considerable worry to some. We must continue to be vigilant and to be aware of neighbours ,who may still not want to leave the village as the anticipated influx of staycationers begins.

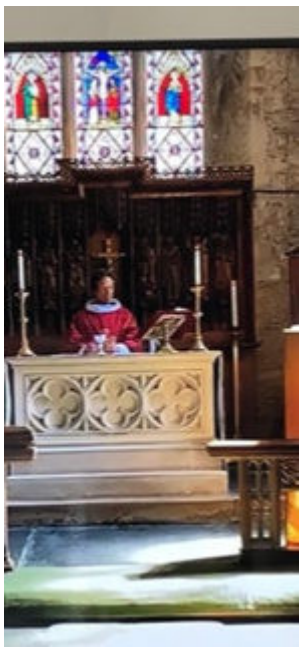
So let's carry on doing bits of shopping for each other, supporting Penny and Brigitte in the Red Lion as they have supported us throughout this pandemic,

stopping for a chat over the garden wall, just as we have always done , giving a quick call to a neighbour we may not have seen for a couple of days - let's ease back into the "new normal" - but maybe not too quickly!

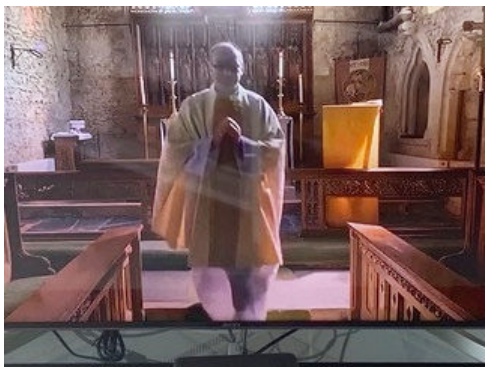
June 28th was Father Will's last service - we will miss Will, Sophie, Theo and Esther but we wish them every happiness in their new life and our prayers will be with them all, especially Father Will as he takes up his challenging new role as Bishop of Lewes.

The Hazlewood family will be around for a few more weeks but they have many boxes to pack and Father Will is taking a hugely well earned break too. They have promised that they will return either later this year, or early next year to say a proper goodbye.

We have now heard the great news that we can start attending services again, but we have not received official guidance as to what form these services can take. We will work closely with Father Bob and Father Andrew to ensure that we can meet for our regular services safely. We will not be rushing into starting up church services until we are happy that all guidelines can be adhered to - this is another step on the journey to the new normal. *Charlotte*



Fr.Will's last online service (left) and Fr Andrew's first online service (below).



That Stunning Little Rocking Horse

by Alice Goldsmith, Cornworthy

That stunning little rocking horse
Swaying side to side
Waiting for a jockey
To have a little ride

That stunning little rocking horse
A bit too lonely
Attached to a metal plate
That rocking little pony

That stunning little rocking horse
Never to be seen
Locked away carefully
That's how it's always been

That stunning little rocking horse
With reins made out of leather
Some dust here and there
Will never be touched ever

That stunning little rocking horse
Has a life of its own
Rocking and rocking
Until it can go home

Ashprington, Cornworthy and Dittisham 2020 Online Horticultural Show

This will be a one-off virtual horticultural show. Its success will depend upon as many people as possible sending in photographs of their gardens and garden produce. Photographs may be taken in any form - camera, phone, ipad - and sent to the Parish Magazine using the email address kcgreen67@gmail.com Pictures should be taken any time during 2020 and fall under one of the following four categories:

A view of the garden or a particular area of the garden
A very fine bloom - any flower or group of flowers from your garden
An excellent fruit or vegetable from your garden or picture of your veg garden
An area of your garden in which you are re-wilding or providing for wildlife.

You may enter any one or all of the categories, but only one picture per category. From now until the 20th of August please send your picture as a JPEG as indicated above. Judges for these four categories will be: Sally Vincent, Marina Pusey, Pam Mallalieu and Mike Pearey. Outstanding entries will be in the September magazine.

We are looking forward to seeing some great pictures from gardeners from all three parishes.

Our Countryside Correspondent:

Welcome to the Dog Days, that is the forty days from July 3rd to August 11th named for the dog star Sirius which rises at dawn in this period. To track this bright star to its lair let your eye travel down Orion's belt. July is regarded as the chief month of summer; it is a busy month for saints of whom there are confusingly two St. James. He who is called the Great may be buried in Santiago and is patron saint of Spain, usually portrayed with a scallop shell. James the Less, said to have been a small man, was the first bishop of Jerusalem and was killed there around 62AD.

That dog is quite happy for lockdown to continue and so is her owner, even though deprived of the not very enjoyable breakfast occupation of counting the vapour trails! The air is cleaner and clearer and the countryside seems brighter – have we been unfairly blaming all those cows who continue to chew their cud?

Ash die-back has been greatly exercising this household. Some while back the ash tree nearer the yurt was clearly fairly dead and was culled. This is a disease for which, even if it could be applied, there is no chemical control. Now the much larger ash tree nearer to the lane has parts of it which have not come into leaf. Currently I do not know whether the culprit is honey fungus or windblown spores of Hymenoscyphus Fraxineus aka ash die back; either way there is nothing useful to be done. In the end we shall just cut it down and burn it. If anyone has a proved incidence of ash die back locally this column would like to hear of it – through the editor naturally.

So be of good cheer, our farmers are carrying on regardless! Post Brexit, see this column in last month's magazine, life is going to be very different for the farming community. A new range of Countryside Stewardship is being unrolled – this is a great moment for farmers to show just how well they are connected to the management of the environment as well as producing affordable, safe and wholesome food. Instead of being calculated on the number of hectares you farm it will be dependent on good practice and results. Many of us are, sensibly, not keen to return to what was once considered normal. The normal which the writer of this column recalls included a huge vegetable patch, pigs, cows in the yard and an inexhaustible supply of rabbits. So, to follow the theme of other times, do not forget if growing basil: "it is good to crop it oft with your fingers and not with any iron thing. ....It growth fairer and higher, if it be sowen with curses..." Most of us with allotments should be able to do this!!

Our Motoring (sometimes on foot) Correspondent: Lockdown Lessons

Despite over 31 years in Cornworthy at the same postcode, my wife and I have experienced 5 different walks from home that we have never been on before. This all since mid-March. What does this tell you? Well, we have all been too busy to take in our wonderful neighbourhood until now. The exercise has been beneficial. The overhead cacophony of larks and other birds has also been truly awesome. Always there but until now, never heard. Watching the daily changes to the banks and hedgerows just spectacular. The fabulous Spring weather certainly helped but there really are few places better to have been locked down in than our very own parish.

Thinking carefully about what is required on the shopping list before venturing out has made a significant travelling saving we never even thought about before.

Not sentiments you might expect from a motoring correspondent but the benefits are there for all to see. Taking the odd vehicle off the road even just for a month saves road tax and who cannot fail to have observed the reduction in fuel prices? I have noticed a sense of guilt when driving and getting those questioning stares from pedestrians only to

give them back when I am out walking.

`What will we take from all this when Covid-19 is behind us? Who knows, but walking a mile or so each way to see neighbours is now not the unthinkable journey is might have been in the past.

Dartmouth A3122 Oil Spill Resolution?

This sorry saga dates from August 2016 when a foreign registered, Dartmouth bound, 38 tonne HGV endured a fractured fuel tank and spilled around 50 gallons of diesel onto the roadway over a distance of some 400 yards. This was after the Sportsman's Arms and before Norton Park. It resulted in a lane closure for over two months with contra-flow lights and no apparent works. Locals disapproved and lobbed the signage into the hedges. Eventually half the road width was resurfaced and all was well. Except, I wanted to know how much this cost and who was paying for it. Devon Highways were very tight lipped over the whole affair but eventually said they had no redress to the driver since the police could not provide details of the vehicle. Devon and Cornwall Police advised that as no 3rd party injury had taken place, they were not required to pass over the driver details. Utterly ridiculous.

So, I pressed our then MP, Sarah Wollaston for action. She eventually enabled contact between DCC and myself. This revealed a cost to DCC of £134000 in repairs, signage and other costs. Great, I said. How much did you get back from the insurance company?

' We are not at liberty to answer' I was told. 'Not acceptable' was my response. And, so it went on. I eventually got the happy news that a settlement had been made to DCC. 'Fantastic' I said. You can guess the next question!

We are not at liberty to answer' I was told. 'Not acceptable' was my response. Finally, I was told that due to client confidentiality, the settlement could not be revealed. So I went for a Freedom of Information declaration which would let us all know how much we, the DCC taxpayers got back. On the grounds of it being a confidential settlement, I was refused the answer. I will therefore have to draw my own conclusions here. The settlement was derisory,an insignificant sum(?), and due to a weak and ineffectual leadership of DCC, our coffers have been depleted with the actual amount concealed from us, using the pretext of Freedom of Information Confidentiality. As if this would compromise future claims. It actually will embolden future defence of any claims.

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Mrs S Nutt witnessed by Mr G Nutt and
Mrs R O'Brien

1st Mr & Mrs Henderson
2nd Miss C Munro
3rd Mr D Geatches

"Roger Soper" would like to thank all his customers for their patience and understanding while he was recovering from surgery. All is mended now and he is raring to go; firing on all four cylinders again !

Sally Vincent's new babies

Outrage at Widecombe. Famous Statue Defaced.

Article from The Daily Excess:

Yesterday morning the residents of Widecombe woke to a terrible sight. The famous wooden image of eight men on a horse on the village green had been defaced. The horse, an old grey mare, remained on its pedestal shorn of its eight riders by a chainsaw. The missing men were reported to the police as: Brewer,B; Stewer,J; Gurney,P; Davey,P; Whiddon,D; Hawke,H; Cobley, (Uncle)T; and Other,A.N.

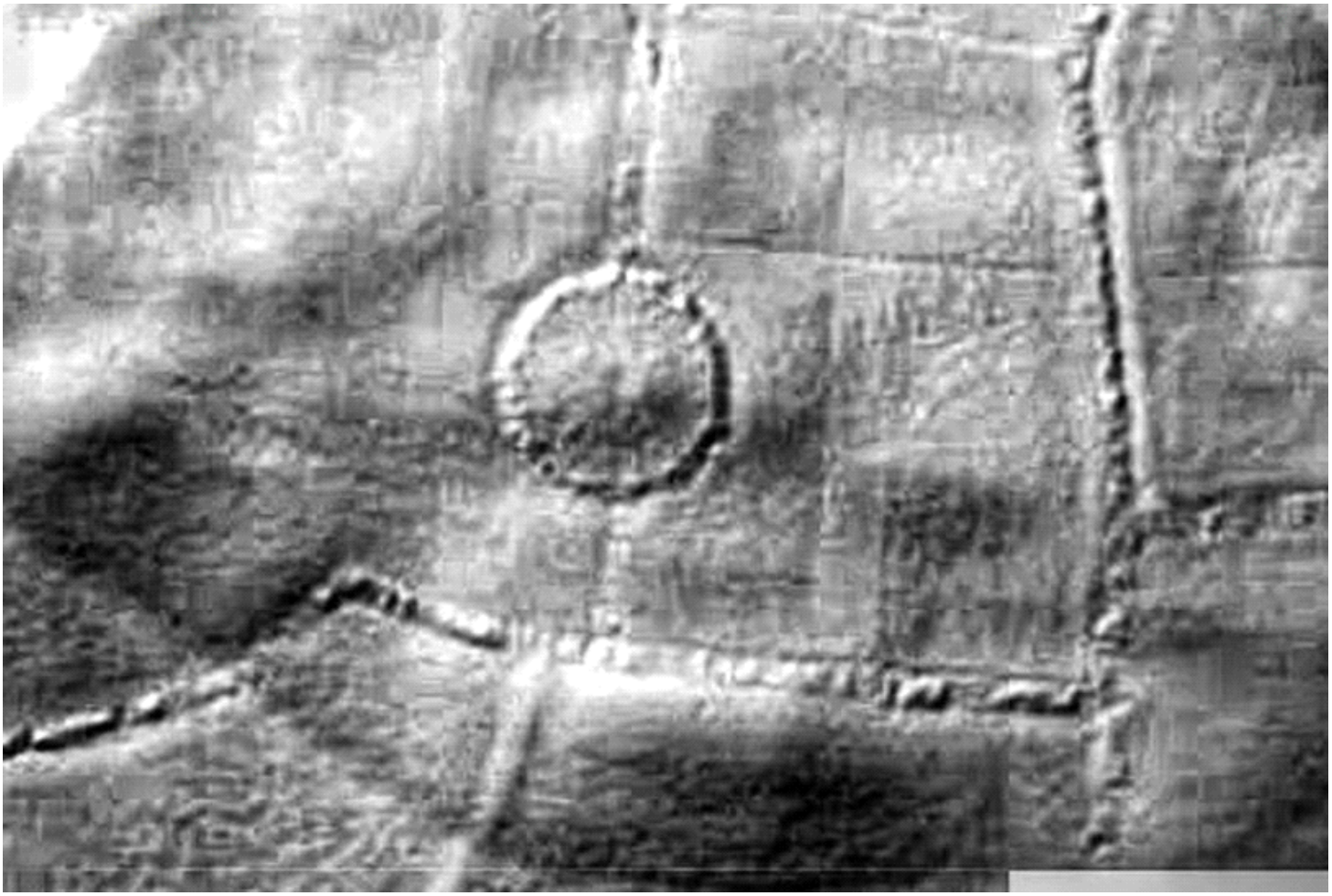
Later in the day signs were found of the eight men having been dragged over the moor to Dartmeet where they were thrown into the East Dart. The bodies were later recovered at Huccaby.

Police interviewed Mr Thomas Cobley at his home in Spreyton. In a statement to the police he said: "I didn't do it! My great-great grandfather had insurance for the loss of his horse and did very well out of it. I have no reason to destroy the statue. It's all ancient history and us'll let 'n be."

This morning a statement came from an organisation claiming responsibility. It describes itself as OGMPS, or Old Grey Mare Protection Society. We have no idea who is behind this organisation and have paid for the services of a private detective agency, Holmes and Watson, of Baker St., London, to travel down and solve the case. In the meantime the villagers of Widecombe sleep uneasily in their beds for fear of future depredations. There are rumours of a huge hound roaming the tors as well as the ghost of the grey mare struggling up Widecombe Hill. Where will all this outrage end?

If you think this article is a load of Uncle Tom Cobblers you're absolutely right. *Laurence Green*

Remember last month's article about finding ancient trackways in Berry Pomeroy? The article below was sent in by an Ashprington reader from The Herald Express.



The 100ft wide circle on a hilltop above Berry Pomeroy

Amateur archaeologist and photographer Darren Murray believes he has discovered two hidden ancient monuments during lockdown by using his local knowledge and a new type of laser light technology.

The county archaeologist is now looking into the find. Darren, a well -known local photographer from Brixham, says there are two previously undiscovered Bronze Age hilltop forts on the outskirts of Paignton. He used a LIDAR computer programme wh ich has traced lost Mayan pyramids in the jungles of South America. It works by revealing in 3D the shape of the ground beneath the trees.

Darren also used photography filters which made previously hard to spot details leap out. His photographs reveal in detail the exciting 100ft wide structures. He believes they are clear pictures of uni-vellate single ring fortresses, possibly built by the Dumnonii tribe which inhabited Devon and Cornwall.

Both the South Devon hill sites - one near Paignton and one at Berry Pomeroy - are crowned with distinctive tree clumps and the lost forts are buried beneath, Darren says. He believes that over the last millennium farmers were not able to plough the land because of the rocky remains of the forts below.

Gardening for Wildlife

With lockdown easing, the total peace is slowly disappearing; But.... the noise of traffic, builders at work and farmers out in their fields still cannot compete with the birds and bees.
With so much competition for food among birds and their hungry fledglings, there is a cacophony of sound with the bees buzzing as they fly from plant to plant collecting pollen and birds chattering, fighting and arguing as they search for food. If you have bird feeders, then it is important to keep them topped up at this time of year.

Although most birds have had their families by now, there are still some who have a second brood eg. blackbirds, robins and chaffinches. Whilst this is quite rare, they sometimes try again if a previous nest has failed. However the second brood is always smaller as the availability of worms and caterpillars decreases.

Some birds like goldfinches and greenfinches are late nesters because they mainly feed their young on regurgitated seed, and seed is widespread in late summer. So if you feel the need to trim hedges – check them first as they may be occupied and if possible avoid trimming your hedge until after they have left. (Thanks to 'Green Feathers 2019' for bird info.)

Our lawns are teeming with wildlife now, with frogs and newts leaving ponds to find a damp, shady place to shelter, so try to take care when mowing the lawn. Growing plants on the edges of a pond or just leaving areas of long grass will offer some protection.

Wildflowers, like daisies and clover, are a great source of nectar for the bees so, if you can, leave the lawn for a little longer before you get out the lawnmower. Once your lawn has been mowed you can put the grass cuttings on your borders to conserve moisture and keep them weed free (ref. Monty Don).
It is best to put the first layer down very thinly, leave it for two weeks; then put down another layer and leave for another two weeks; then a third and final layer. Keep the layers thin, so the grass dries out and doesn't become a soggy, slimy mess! If you've already got a pile of DRY cuttings you could put on a thicker, single layer. (ref.gardeningknowhow.com)

Baby hedgehogs will be leaving their nest for the first time now to forage for food on their own, so continuing to leave a bowl of cat food out for them will help to fatten them up before going into hibernation later in the year. Tinned or biscuits for kittens, or a mixture of both is ideal (chicken flavour is their favourite – allegedly!
If you are concerned about attracting cats, or rodents then you could make a hedgehog feeding station.
Here are two designs that have been made by Habitat Group members:

Custom made box above.
On the right:
This is an old ridge tile - I know it works as my trail camera showed a hedgehog visiting it under the cover over of darkness.

If you see a hedgehog out during the day it does mean that it is in trouble, so put it in a box in the shade and give it food and water. If it does not rally, then the Hedgehog rescue place in Stoke Fleming (Prickles in a Pickle 07891 657104) will take it in and hopefully nurse it back to health.
The little hog (below right) was rescued by John Nightingale. It was found at the edge of the road in Capton and didn't even curl up when approached. After a long drink and a rest in the shade he was released into John's field and, after a quick dip in the pond, scuttled off into the long grass.

The young hedgehog below was one of a pair seen on the bridle path early one evening. Out early – foraging!

If you are lucky enough to have a vegetable patch, then panic will be setting in at the arrival of butterflies and the damage they do to your plants.
If you net your plot, then keep the netting taut to avoid birds getting caught.
Leave a few plants uncovered - the caterpillars should feast on them and leave the rest to grow unspoiled!

Caterpillars and associated butterflies and moths are considered an important part of garden wildlife. So, please would you tolerate them? .. encourage them, even!
The caterpillar on the right will become a lackey moth. Yes, the caterpillars might cause a bit of defoliation of some of your deciduous trees (this one was found on some willow) but it should not affect the long term health or vigour of host plants. (info. from RHS)

Orange tip butterfly

Right
The small copper lays its eggs on docks which the caterpillars then eat. A few docks in a wild bit of garden would be much appreciated by this beauty!
Photos by Ros

Lunar marbled brown moth
Photo by Sarah

Recent research has shown that moths play a very important part in the pollination of plants and they are a food supply for bats and birds.
The pollen collects on their hairy bodies when they sit on flowers while feeding. 'I think it's vital to raise the profile of moths to help the public at large see the important part they play in our ecology' (Dr Walton. Lead author of the new study) 'Helping the moths will require the use of less use of pesticides and encouraging a wide diversity of plants in the landscape'
We can help by

- NOT using pesticides
- Nurturing caterpillars
- Ensuring there are night scented, night flowering and white flowers, in the garden to attract night flying insects

And so to slugs.....they are not all bad!
Photo by Ros

Unlike most of the slugs that live in the garden the Leopard Slug is a gardener's friend.

They don't damage healthy, living plants, but they do eat other slugs, including those that can damage garden plants and vegetables.
By eating dead and rotting plants, as well as fungi, Leopard slugs recycle nutrients, fertilize and enrich the soil. Keep a look out for them and rejoice in their presence in your garden!

The lacewing is another 'gardener's friend' and there are more than 1,000 species! Whilst some feed on pollen and nectar, they mainly feed on insects. It is the larvae however that eats the most aphids and can get through up to 200 a day, a real incentive to
encourage them into your garden

Now is the time when insects are at their most abundant and once your vegetables are safe, your borders are mulched then you can put your feet up and enjoy seeing how many different species of moths, dragonflies, butterflies, beetles and bees you can identify. Over 270 species of bees have been recorded in Great Britain (Friends of the Earth) with the honey bee the best known.

Happy Gardening and don't forget to sit back and enjoy all the wonderful visitors (who don't have to socially distance!)

Dittisham Parish Council

Information, updates and resources about COVID-19 are posted on www.dittishamparish.co.uk, www.facebook.com/dittishamparishcouncil, and emailed to the Information email group (please email the clerk to be added).

Notes from the Monthly Meeting of Dittisham Parish Council held using public Zoom videoconferencing on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Present: Cllrs Tucker (Chair), Anderson (Vice-Chair), Bond, Faulkner, Green, Lloyd, Nightingale, and Quinn were present, as were South Hams District Councillor McKay, Devon County Cllr Hawkins, and A Thom (Clerk). There were six members of the public present.

The pollution and the carbon impact of bonfires were discussed. DPC would like to support alternatives to bonfires. The green waste may be able to be allowed to decompose down, and might provide habitat. A community composting scheme supported with shredding done by SHDC might be possible. Sustainable Dittisham might be able to help develop a long-term solution. If lighting bonfires, parishioners are asked to be considerate of their neighbours.It was agreed that the vacancy for one parish councillor will be re-advertised. DPC decided to support the re-opening of the toilets on The Ham. The Ham Maintenance Working Group's Report on works undertaken and required was noted. Devon Air Ambulance Trust has given notice of a phased reintroduction of services, using aircraft modified to protect from COVID-19. It was agreed to respond to the Salcombe Harbour Master, that replacement of the Dittisham Beach Life Buoy is required. The recent works by South West Water to clean membranes and their impact on The Ham car park were noted. SWW will pay for its use of the car park.South Hams District Councillor McKay reported that he has been working to help local business as best he can. The new discretionary grant is good and positive – filling a gap. The Government is looking at debating the structure of Local Government, with the possible creation of unitary councils. Devon County Council Councillor Hawkins reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has cost DCC 85 million pounds and SHDC 8.5 million pounds. Satellite imaging of local parishes is being discussed with Sustainable Dittisham. Cllr Hawkins suggested it would be more cost effective to image the entire AONB and the share the cost. The Forestry Commission is not prosecuting the removal of trees at Seymour Drive in Dartmouth. South Hams and Devon County have been given money from Central Government to pass onto business to help them over this period. The most recent has been £2.3 million Discretionary Grants to help those businesses that have not been covered by previous grants. South Hams are working with all other Districts to provide a Devon Wide scheme, these are in particularly aimed at Marine businesses and those that have no land based facilities. The Government have also given South Hams £78,000 to help redesign town Centres temporarily to help with social distancing, widening pavements etc. Department of Transport have realised an emergency fund of £250 million for active travel. Devon's share is £338,000.This is for quick wins installing segregated cycle lanes and widening pavements. The Government has confirmed that the allocated £27 million for Devon announced in the Autumn 2019 budget is still available.This will be spent on repairs, resurfacing roads and work to prevent pot holes.Planning Decisions from SHDC: 0586/20/LBC Ferry Boat Inn Manor Street Dittisham TQ6 0EX. Listed Building Consent for installation of 2no. replacement oak lintels in first floor prep room. Conditional Approval.0167/20/LBC Darling Manor Street Dittisham TQ6 0EX. Listed building consent for replacement windows. Conditional Approval.New Planning Applications:1130/20/HHO & 1131/20/LBC Dartside Manor Street Dittisham TQ6 0EX. Replacement of two low-quality extensions and general refurbishment. Support.

Consultations -DCC Reallocation of Roadspace for Active Travel. No comment.-DCC New funding for local bus service support.Cllr Hawkins said Dartmouth Town Council has submitted a bid to improve the bus service to Totnes and Torbay Hospitals. DPC agreed that it would take action to support this bid.

The Financial Report showed a balance of £71,786.23 and reserves of £14,710.76. Forty five thousand pounds will be transferred to DPC's Lloyds account by cheque. The Lloyds account is used to make DPC's payments by electronic funds transfer.

Payments

- Village Hall, Hire Feb-April 2019, £79.20
- SHDC,Business rates The Level car park, £2,694.60
- SHDC, Business rates Ham car park, £2,844.30
- OSS, Refund 2020 Hire, £6,750.00
- Maintenance Contractor, Ham retaining wall and other works as invoiced, £1,481.00

The Review of Risk Assessment and Statement of Internal Controls were approved. DPC agreed to the Village Hall Management Committee's request that the Report be made its 7 October 2020 meeting when the works are finished, instead of now as previously agreed. A one year extension of the maintenance contract was approved, this is an option within the existing contract.The infrastructure improvement works funded by a DCC grant will be added to the parish lengthsman's contract.The meeting was closed to members of the press and the public for a discussion to agree DPC's approach to future Outdoor Swimming Society's Dart 10K event hires of The Ham.

The next ordinary meeting of Dittisham Parish Council will be held on 1 July 2020 at 7:00 pm using Zoom. To join the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87126353172 Meeting ID: 871 2635 3172

Full Minutes, Agendas, and Parish Council contact details are available at http://www.dittishamparish.co.uk and on The Level Parish Council noticeboard. Contact details are also on

Cornworthy Parish Council

Next parish council meeting scheduled for Monday 29th June.

The minutes of this meeting will be available in the August magazine and on the parish council website.

Ashprington Parish Council

Thursday June 4th, 2020 at 7.30 pm held virtually on ZOOM.Present; Cllr Stocks {Chair} Thompson {Vice Chair}, S. Seeley, L. Green, Also present Michael Read, Clerk, District Cllr. J. McKay, County Cllr Hawkins Apologies - Cllr. T. Green, J. Green, Tree Warden. P Macey, P3 Co Ordinator. Due to the additional work resulting from Covid19, the Council resolved to increase the hours paid to the clerk by 2 hours per week initially for two months and to be reviewed at the June meeting. Devon Air Ambulance:All funding is now in place. The planning application for the lighting mast is with SHDC and a decision is due by mid-June. The £200 grant from SHDC is being processed. Casual Parish Councillor Vacancies:The Clerk advised that the process to select two new councillors has had to temporarily aborted due to Covid19 – there are more applicants than places, so a selection process will be set up as soon as practicable.

VE Celebrations:Cllr Stocks reported that despite the restrictions imposed, some events were organised to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Villages were decorated with flags and bunting. Parishioners were encouraged to join in the toast for the Nation and then enjoy a picnic. In Tuckenhay, residents embraced the whole idea even dressing up and with a background of the 1940's songs they ate and drank until late afternoon. Thanks to Stuart Greaves and Gavin Middlewood for organising the broadcasted events in Ashprington and Tuckenhay.Internal Audit:The Clerk reported a successful outcome to the Internal Audit and thanked Bob Tildesley for his work, as Honorary Auditor. The Clerk has given a small thank you gift on behalf of the Parish and a card sent from the Chair.Highways Issues:Traffic orders are likely to be postponed until 2021 – any decision on potential double yellow lines will have to wait until then. A different crop is to be grown in the field adjacent to Coombe Park which it is hoped will prevent water escaping across the highway. New signage for the village near the war memorial should be available soon. Some of the deeper potholes in the parish have been filled but others remain. DCC are to receive £28 million from the Government to assist but in the short term, funds will be allocated for the provision of wider paths and cycleways due to Covid 19 instructions from central government.P3 Report:Pam Macey could not be present but her report indicates that Giant Hogweed is not present in Tuckenhay but rather the smaller, less invasive variety. A grant of £350 has been awarded by DCC for future footpath works. The damaged stepping stones near Bow Bridge have been capped by DCC.Planning:01177/20/TCA J. Van Den Broek. Jasmine Cottage. T1 Pittosporum Shrub- Crown Height reduction. Cherry – Fell and Remove. No objections SHDC.1170/20/FUL Granary Farm, Washbourne. Change of use of land to residential curtilage/garden. Support.DistrictCllr Report:Cllr McKay reported that he was pleased to see the shredder had completed its work at Ash Meadow. A grant has been approved for £100 towards the cost of VE Day celebrations. Some local businesses have been helped in the ward. Second Home owners visiting and staying overnight in their properties remains an issue as the police are struggling to respond to reports due to stretched resources.County Councillor Report:Cllr Hawkins reported that a recovery plan for Dartmouth for the effects of the pandemic, is underway. Grant funds are still available to the parish.Ashprington Village Hall Report:The Chair thanked Cllr McKay for reminding the Village Hall about a grant that was available supported by himself – without him, the hall could have found this year's lack of income difficult to rectify. The Committee met virtually in May to discuss and approve the necessary maintenance of the hall. A new oil tank is to be purchased and to comply with new regulations extra electrical work needs to be done. Quotes to paint the exterior of the hall have been sought and the work will be undertaken shortly. The rotting exit door by the kitchen is to be replaced. Many of the double- glazed windows have "blown" and will need replacing – this is being investigated. Exterior lighting is to be improved and upgraded. A new online booking system is being trialed for future use.

Provisional dates for future events have been identified;Winter Lunch – December 5th, 2020, Summer Lunch 2021 – June 12th, Winter Lunch 2021 – December 4th. Depending on the restrictions, there could be a Quiz Night on November 4th, 2020.Other Business:

Donation of Cycle Rack-The Durant Arms kindly donated their Cycle Rack to the village. Cllr. L Green will install it in Ash Meadow car park.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Next Meeting on Thursday July 2nd,2020 at 7.30pm remotely on ZOOM. Request access code from the Clerk {email address or telephone below}

M.J. Read, Parish Clerk – spooks49@michaelread.plus.com.Tel 01803 732047.

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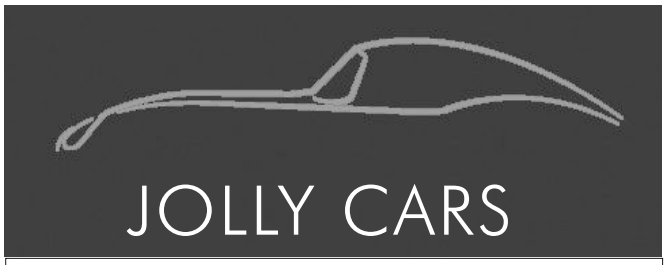

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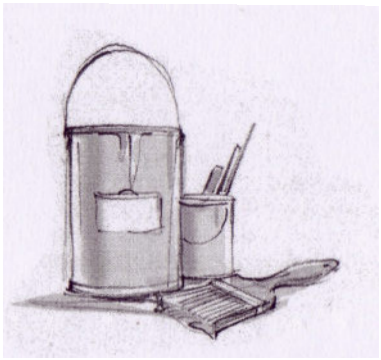

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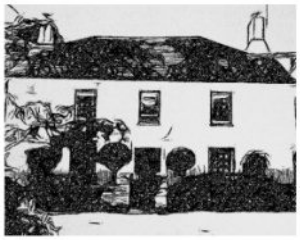

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Directory

Clergy

Team Rector, Totnes Team Ministry

Team Rector : due to arrive July 2020
Rev'd. Deborah Parsons, 01803 840113 debbie@totnesrectory.co.uk
Licensed Reader, Liz Waterson, 849345, liz.waterson29@gmail.com
Licensed Reader, Tony Gregg, 813885 a.gregg29@btinternet.com
Deborah's day off is Friday.

The United Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham
Rev'd. Prebendary William Hazlewood, The Vicarage, 79 Seymour Dr.
Dartmouth TQ69GE Tel 01803 414767
vicar@dartmouthanddittisham.co.uk
Benefice Office: St Saviour's Church, Dartmouth Mon-Thurs 9:30 -5pm
Tel: 835540 Sect. Jill Cawley office@parishofdartmouth.co.uk

St. Peter's Cornworthy

Churchwardens
Tania Jones, The Rectory, Cornworthy 01803 732 692
Caroline Hunt, 4 Green Close, Cornworthy 01803 732 626
Treasurer
Michael Hasler, 15 Priory View, Cornworthy TQ9 7HN
mijh44@gmail.com 01803 732817 .
PCC Secretary
Marilyn Fry 01803722280
frymarilyn@hotmail.com - preferred contact

Methodist Church

Minister for Cornworthy and Ashprington
The Reverend Verity Phillips

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Remember

Clapping

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St. David's Ashprington

Churchwardens:
Richard Soans Cox's Farm, Strete, Dartmouth. 01803 771189.
Simon Boyes Woodleigh, 9 Church Close, Ashprington. 01803 732103.
Treasurer
Kathi Green, 8 Holly Villas, Ashprington. 01803 732437.
PCC Secretary
David Davies
Morlanda , Ashprington. 01803 732109.

St. George's Dittisham

Churchwardens
Jenny Sjoberg, The Killick, Riverside Rd. TQ6 0HS 01803 722358
Peter Smyth, 26 Dittisham Court, TQ6 0HS 01803 722424
Treasurer
John Wells, Lapwing Cottage, Manor Street, 01803 722414
PCC Secretary
Pam Bennett, Broad Reach Riverside Rd, 01803 722307

West Dart Bus (Dittisham-Dartmouth, Totnes, N'ton Ab't)

Friday departs Dittisham 9:20 am from Level car park 9:30 from Church. Return departs Dartmouth 12:00 Fare £2.50 each way. Every last Wed to Newton Abbot 9:30 from bus stop. Return departs N. Abbot 1:30 fare £3.50 each way. Timetable at Bus stop or contact
Tony Hemmings 07776432309

ALL VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

Remember in a suspected cardiac emergency FIRST CALL 999

ASHPRINGTON & TUCKENHAY

Public access (unlocked) defibrillators are situated in the phone kiosk, Ashprington and Maltster's Arms, Tuckenhay.
Call the Volunteer Emergency Telephone System
(VETS) 01803 500535
The VETS volunteer will bring the defibrillator and assist with CPR.

CORNWORTHY

IN YELLOW CABINET ON OUTSIDE WALL of CORNWORTHY VILLAGE HALL

A LIST OF TRAINED PARISHIONERS IS WITH THE DEFIBRILLATOR. FREE TRAINING CONTACT: CLLR. KIRKLAND 732877

DITTISHAM

Public access (unlocked) defibrillators are located outside The Red Lion Inn and The Ferry Boat Inn.

For any maintenance issues with the defibrillators, please contact Cllr. Richard Bond on 07813171773.