



BIGBURY COFFEE MORNING

Memorial Hall St Ann's
Wed 6th Apr & 4th May
10.30 to midday

DEFIBRILLATOR

Training

Tues 19th Apr 6 - 8 pm
Memorial Hall

WILLOW WORKSHOP

Wed 27th Apr 10 - 4 pm
Easton

TURTLE FARM

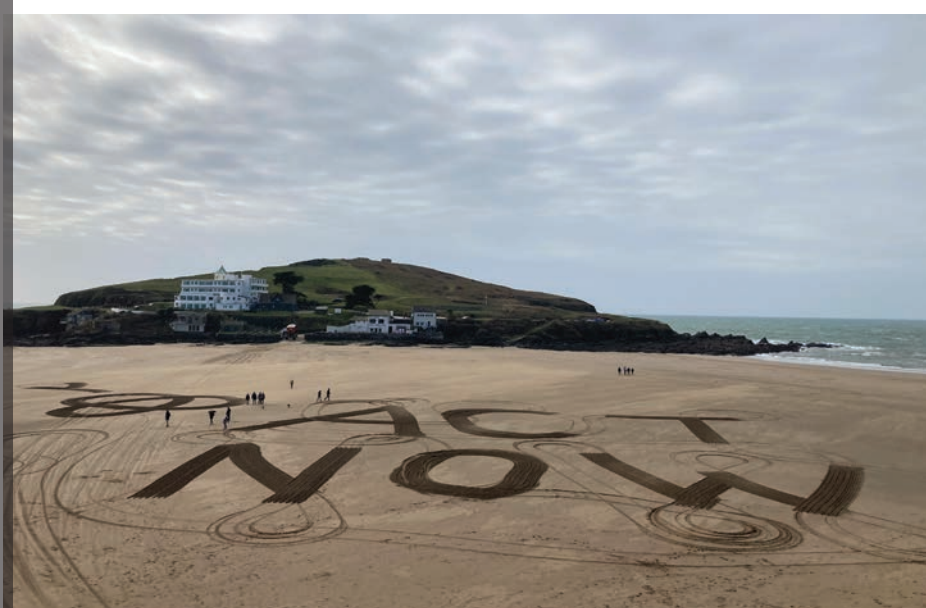
Seed planting workshop
Sat 30th Apr 2 - 4 pm

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Wed 13th Apr & 11th May
7.30 pm
Memorial Hall St Ann's

KINGSMEN

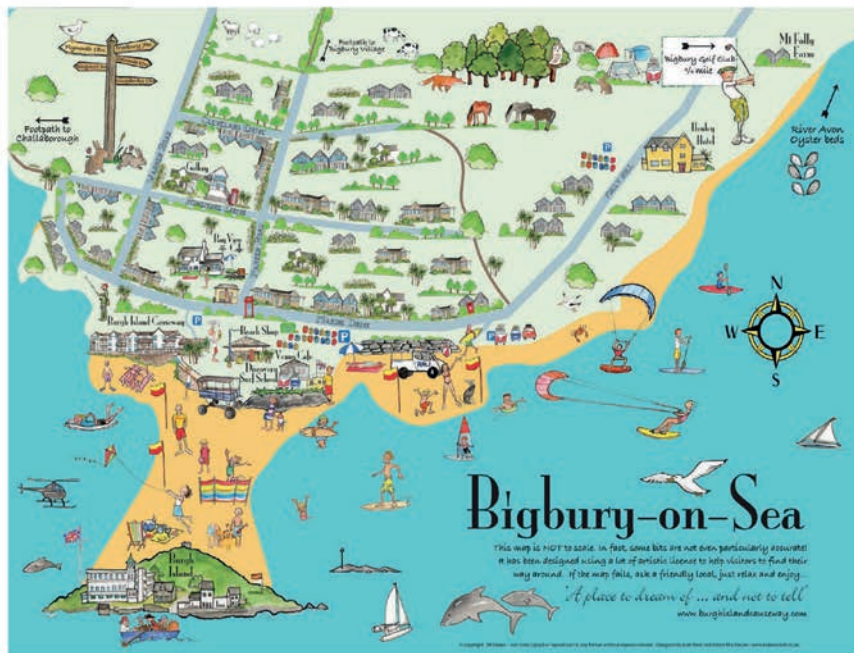
Friday 20th May
7.00 pm
St Lawrence Church



BIGBURY ON SEA HOLIDAYS

Bigburyonsea.co.uk

The site for great holidays in a great community;
now gives the accommodation, holiday activities,
many useful links and maps.



Now features community events and dates.

Send any ideas for the site to

John@BigburyOnSeaHolidays.com



BIGBURY NET ZERO DRUMS

Together we can make a Difference

The old 'Bigbury Drums' email newsletter is now "**Bigbury Net Zero Drums**".

It is run on a volunteer basis by Louise Wainwright, who is now Secretary of Bigbury Net Zero.

It will continue to host posters for local social events, but the main newsletter (before the posters) will be about local nature and climate events, talks, opportunities to volunteer, and provide links to community groups and businesses working in South Hams on climate and nature projects. If you are aware of any relevant events or organisations, please ask them to get in touch.

I have a technical problem with the Mail Chimp platform which I am working on. Your patience would be much appreciated. The programme has deleted some email addresses from the subscribers list without their request and the 'Help Team' have advised I reload everything again. Apologies if you have been left out and I hope to resolve this soon. I will be adding the new subscribers as soon as I can resolve this very annoying problem! Subscribe on line. www.bigburynetzero.org

Louise Wainwright
info@bigburynetzero.org

BIGBURY NEWS 2022

Six issues: **FEB/MAR** (copy date 15 Jan); **APR/MAY** (copy date 15 March); **JUNE/JULY** (copy date 15 May); **AUG/SEPT** (copy date 15 July); **OCT/NOV** (copy date 15 Sept) and **DEC/JAN** (copy date 15 Nov).



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South Devon
Tq7 4ap

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LETTER from the EDITOR



Please send your annual
DONATION
for BIGBURY NEWS
Sort Code: **30-99-12**
Account: **29305568**
Name: **Bigbury News**
Ref: DONATION
Thank you

Dear Readers,

The winter storms did their best to knock us off course but we weathered the storms. The Bigbury Community has shown that it pull together when needed. The **bells of St Lawrence** have finally been removed and sent away for refurbishment, thanks to the massive fund raising efforts locally and in particular the generosity of **Vic and Jill Gubbins** not only in their significant personal donation but also the huge amount of time and emotional energy they have put in over several years to make this happen. It must have been a joyous feeling for them and veteran bell ringer, **Harry Bardens**, to see them on their way at last. (p8). A volunteer team made this project a success.

The **Island Assembly** and the **Golf Assembly** organised by **Bigbury Net**

Zero and supported by **Burgh Island** and the **Bigbury Golf Club**, were a huge success attracting nationwide publicity and achieving much success in the connections which were made between delegates. It is very much hoped that new and meaningful inter-parish partnerships will result from this endeavour.

The war in **Ukraine** has touched our hearts. Large donations have been collected (p2) and offers of accommodation for Ukrainian refugees have been made by the Community of Bigbury. Any local households in Bigbury who want to link up with others in nearby parishes who have offered accommodation to refugees should contact the Editor.

People and connections are more important than ever.

Louise and Henry Wainwright
Editor, Production Manager & Treasurer
Bigbury News



**TURTLE FARM
SEED PLANTING WORKSHOP**
Saturday 30th April
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Meet up at Turtle Farm
and plant our seeds ready for the
BIGBURY PRODUCE SHOW
in September

**free tomato plant for
everyone who comes to workshop**

*Just bring your seeds
and everything else will be provided.*

Need info?

Angie Bond on 01548 811131
Sally Watts on 01548 810373

CONTENTS

Letter from the Editor	1
Community Events	2 - 3
Bomb Squad in Bigbury!	4
Nineteenth Hole	5
Golf Assembly	5
St Lawrence Church	6
St Lawrence Matters	7
Inspired Appeal	8
Friends of St Lawrence	9
Storm Eunice	11
Beach Banter	12 - 13
Bigbury Carbon Footprint	15,17
Sea Tractor Poem	18
Island Assembly	22,23,24

Contributors: *Marlene Johnson (Nineteenth Hole), Vic & Jill Gubbins (St Lawrence Matters & Inspired Appeal), Annika Connolly (Beach Banter), Apple Taylor (Beach banter) Louise Wainwright (various).*

Event Reporters: *Michael Tagent, Jean Wright and Yvonne Klidjian, Photo credits: Louise Wainwright, Marlene Johnson.*

**If you would like to start
a new club and help to bring
people together for
fun things to do then please
get in touch with Bigbury
News.**

BIGBURY WINE SOCIETY?

BIGBURY RAMBLERS?

**BIGBURY
TRANSCENDENTAL
MEDITATION?**

For the latest coronavirus advice in Devon:
devon.cc/covid-19

STAY ALERT | CONTROL THE VIRUS | SAVE LIVES

Agendas, Minutes and Notices for all **Bigbury Parish Council** meetings and The **Bigbury Neighbourhood Planning Committee** will be published on line at the Bigbury Community website **www.bigburycommunity.co.uk**
Agendas, Minutes and Notices of all Parish Council meetings can be viewed in the three parish **Notice Boards** at **Holywell Stores, Unwind Salon** in Bigbury and the **bus shelter Bigbury-on-Sea.**

DISCLAIMER

Bigbury News and Editor cannot be held responsible for any loss or inconvenience caused by any inaccurate information contained within this magazine. Please contact the relevant party directly to confirm the details of any information or event. Inclusion of a business advertisement does not imply a recommendation by Bigbury News or the Editor. Please take up references of previous clients or customers before enlisting the services or products advertised herein.

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Advertising *Henry Wainwright*



BIGBURY MEMORIAL HALL

Bringing the
Community Together

In February we held the first event of the New Year, which was our annual **New Year Quiz Night**. This had been postponed from its usual slot in early January due to the covid situation. We were a little apprehensive as to how many people would turn up but the attendance of over 40 was gratifying. Congratulations to the winning team (as usual, from Ringmore !) and thanks to our Quiz Inquisitor **Geoff Ross**.

A highly enjoyable and successful evening was held in early March when the renowned poet **Matt Harvey** returned to Bigbury Memorial Hall to perform his amusing and touching poetry – with shades of darkness ! Many of the poems were inspired and accompanied by intriguing drawings by Claudia Schmid, shown as slides. As in his visit in 2016, Matt drew out the poets within us all with a group composition about the Sea Tractor.

The 47 people in attendance each wrote a single line about our unique mode of transport, with all speedily arranged into a poem performed by Matt towards the end of the night. The turnout numbered almost exactly the same as in 2016, although the vast majority were a new audience to Matt, with some coming from Modbury and Dartington. See p 3 for Sea Tractor poem by the audience.

Charles Harrington

Chair Memorial Hall Committee
charles_harri@yahoo.co.uk
01548 810023

SOCIAL GROUPS

BIGBURY BOOKWORMS

Hazel Osborne (temporary contact)
hazel.osborne6@btinternet.com

BIGBURY LADIES

Pam Trundle 01548 810719

HISTORY SOCIETY

Charles Harrington 01548 810023

BIGBURY DIPPERS

Steve Williams 07769 713700
steve@weightsandmeasures.org.uk

CHARTERLANDS WALKING FOOTBALL

Steve Comely 07871 310987.
steve888804@outlook.com

BIGBURY COOKING CLUB

Farhana Yamin
farhanayamin@gmail.com

BIGBURY COMMUNITY EVENTS



UKRAINE APPEAL

Bigbury Tea Garden manager, Charlie Murray-Coronis raised £5,585 for Ukraine crisis which will be sent to the **Disasters Emergency Committee** of the government to be doubled before sending on to Ukraine.

Some tempting prizes offered by local folk and a big effort made by the organisers raised this amount in a short space of time. Well done to all involved.

Beth Huntley



**If you would like to start
a new club and help to bring
people together for
fun things to do then please get
in touch with Bigbury News.**



BIGBURY COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday 2nd March we raised £300 for Children's Hospice S.W. Many thanks to everybody who braved the weather and gave so generously. It was lovely to see Maggy and Michael and Maggy told us how the Hospices functioned during the lockdown and the importance of fund raising.

On Wednesday 6th April we are supporting Hope Cove Lifeboat and we look forward to seeing you between 10.30 and noon in the Memorial Hall.

On Wednesday 4th May we are fund raising for the South Hams Society and on Wednesday 1st June we are supporting Modbury Caring.

Keep safe and healthy.

Jean and Yvonne.

yvonneklidjian@btinternet.com
01548 810029

BIGBURY MEMORIAL HALL

Calendar of Events for April 2022

<u>Day & Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Organiser</u>	<u>Contact no.</u>
Mon. 9.30 – 10.30	Pilates	Jill Gubbins	810651
10.50 -11.30	Strong & Steady (plus tea and chat)	Jill Gubbins	810651
15.45 – 17.00	Table tennis	Angie Bond	811131
		Janie Grace	811122
17.30 – 18.30	Creative-X	Kate Webb	714712
	Children's Workshops		
Wed. 10.30 – 12.00	Community	Jean Wright	810029
(1 st Wed. of month)	Coffee morning	Yvonne Klidjian	810971
(2 nd Wed. of month)	Parish Council	Ian Bramble	855712
19.30		(clerk)	
Thurs. 9.00 – 10.30	Creative-X	Kate Webb	714712
(3 rd Thurs. of month)	South Hams	Gilbert Snook	810017
	Filling Station		
4.30 – 5.30	Line Dancing	Sue Trendwell	550348
Sun. Mornings	Yoga	Becky Hickman	

www.beckyhickmanyoga.co.uk/bigburyclasses

FREE SEEDS
for this year's Produce Show!

In this month's issue of the Bigbury News you will find 2 free packs of seeds which have been generously donated by **Turtle Farm**. This is to encourage everyone to grow for this year's Produce Show, which will be held on **Sunday September 4th** at Bigbury Memorial Hall.

If any second homeowners would like to participate, please let us know as we will probably have some spare seeds.

We hope to see you at the Workshop (see poster) For more information, please contact

Angie Bond on 01548 811131
Sally Watts on 01548 810373.



**TURTLE FARM
SEED PLANTING WORKSHOP**
Saturday 30th April
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Meet up at Turtle Farm
and plant our seeds ready for the
BIGBURY PRODUCE SHOW
in September

**free tomato plant for
everyone who comes to workshop**

*Just bring your seeds
and everything else will be provided.
Need info?*

Angie Bond on 01548 811131
Sally Watts on 01548 810373



**BIGBURY CELEBRATES
THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022**



Bigbury Memorial Hall

Thursday 2nd June 2022

Starts 5.30pm

FREE HOG ROAST

MUSIC & FANFARE

BYOB & PICNIC

For more details, please contact Stuart Watts on 01548 810373

FRIENDS NEEDED!

Historical St Lawrence's Church relies on the ongoing support
of the community to ensure it's here for future generations.

By joining **Friends of St Lawrence's Church (FOSL)**, you will help
maintain this priceless building and its remarkable contents.

Please get in touch:
Contact FOSL Secretary,
Gill Cook, on 01548 810 156

Or Visit:
www.FOSLBigbury.co.uk



**Get yourself
'FIT TO GO'
with JILL's local classes**

at Bigbury Memorial Hall:
Mondays: PILATES 9.30 - 10.30
STRONG & STEADY 10.50 - 11.30 + tea

at MARS Pavilion, Modbury:
Thursdays: STRONG & STEADY 11.30 - 12.15 + tea

Equipment provided. New or not to exercise, all
welcome in friendly, mixed, pay-as-you-go classes!
Experienced & qualified instructor.

Stretch out, strengthen muscles, maintain balance
- especially if you have been isolating or poorly,
build up your fitness again!

For more information, please call JILL on 01548
810651 or email gubbinsjill@gmail.com

FITNESS SO CLOSE TO HOME!

PLEASE NOTE: NO CLASSES AT ALL DURING ALL OF APRIL.
SOME SPACES AVAILABLE IN BOTH ACTIVITIES FROM MAY.

PLEASE CONTACT JILL BEFORE ATTENDING IF INTERESTED IN
JOINING ANY SESSIONS. THANK YOU!



BIGBURY WATCH

Eamonn & Linda Brynes
01548 811104
07790 485102

To receive crime alerts emailed directly to your in-box from the POLICE- subscribe to **Devon & Cornwall ALERT.**
<https://alerts.dc.police.uk>
Decide what topics you need to know about (marine crime, householder issues, fraud etc.)



Modbury Health Centre
Poundwell Meadow
Modbury PL21 0QL
01548 830666
www.modburyhealthcentre.co.uk



Photo:
Suspicious objects found on
Wonwell Beach

Modbury Pharmacy
5 Broad St, Modbury, PL21 0PS
01548 830215
www.modburypharmacy.co.uk

BOMB SQUAD IN BIGBURY

Bigbury Watch were the first people local residents called when they had second thoughts about some curious objects that had been collected from Wonwell Beach during a beach clean.

The large, heavy metal objects had been left in the garage for recycling when a visitor raised concerns that one of them looked like a world war grenade!

Lynda advised that Kingsbridge police should be contacted on line as a 'non-emergency'. When the photos were shared with the police it triggered the deployment of two police cars who cordoned off the garage and stood guard as per **Code Red** procedure whilst the **Bomb Squad** was sent from Plymouth.

The item (left in photo) was thought to resemble a grenade and was x-rayed by an officer in full bomb suit. When it had been properly investigated it was also dissected using a robotic equipment. The item was then designated 'safe' and the alert was over. The police and bomb squad had responded very quickly to the potential emergency and we are grateful for their fast action and professional service.

Police advised that it was unwise to pick up anything suspicious from the beach as there have been a number of dangerous war relics found on various beaches in South Hams over the years.

Louise Wainwright



IN HARMONY WITH THE KINGSMEN

FRIDAY 20th MAY 2022

7 for 7.30 p.m. at
ST. LAWRENCE,
BIGBURY, TQ7 4AP

TICKETS £10
(INC DRINK & NIBBLES)
FROM JILL ON 01548 810651
GUBBINSJILL@GMAIL.COM

OR ON THE DOOR
FOR THE TOWER & BELLS RESTORATION FUND

WWW.KINGSMEN.ORG.UK

Willow Course

Learn a new skill with the Master Basketmaker
Linda Lemieux



MAKE A GARDEN OBELISK

Ideal for sweet peas, beans or clematis with help from two tutors
This will be the first of a series of basket making workshops in 2022

DATE: APRIL 27TH 10AM-4PM

VENUE: LONG EASTON, in a beautiful walled garden

COST: £60 plus cost of the willow wands

LEARN A NEW SKILL, meet new people and have fun

Limited to a group of 10

Tools, Teas, Coffees & snacks provided, bring your own lunch

Contact Lynda Kelly for more details:
Lynda.kelly2@btinternet.com TEL: 07976 587702

Tues 9th April 6 to 8 pm



Defibrillator Awareness Session

Bigbury Memorial Hall

Tuesday 19th April. 6-8 pm



Contact
01548 810971

Free attendance
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

NINETEENTH HOLE

The named storms experienced over the past couple of months caused some disruption for the Bigbury Golfers. But, many of the competitions have been able to be played on a golf course which is in good condition and continues to be playing well. Many of these competitions were played in very difficult conditions, with strong winds and heavy rain.

Nonetheless some very determined golfers have defied the weather and took to the course, and there has been good scoring! Both the Ladies and Gents competitions took place in the tail end of **Storm Corrie**. Unfortunately the Ladies competition due to take place on the weekend of **Storm Eunice** couldn't happen, but on the Sunday the conditions were not quite so awful and the Gents managed to play their fun 3 ball team **Cha Cha Cha** competition. There has been exceptional scoring by two players. **Sean Massingham** was a convincing winner with a score of 43 points, and **Eddie Inch** won with a score of 42 points. With such excellent scores they have both had their handicaps cut - a very good start to their golfing year.

The **Ladies Winter League** tournament has now been completed and the two finalists were **Sarah West** (our 2022 Lady Captain) and **Vanda Irish**. Whilst

being very competitive, the match was played in good sporting spirit. The match could have gone either way but the winner, on the 18th hole, was Sarah. Sarah congratulated Vanda on her play throughout the game, and says she was so very pleased to win this tournament in her Lady Captain's Year.

The 2021 Ladies and Gents Captains, **Dot Kenneth** and **Dave Moulding**, were very pleased with their fund raising efforts for their chosen Charity, the **British Heart Foundation**. 2021 was a difficult year for fund raising with events not being able to take place but the total amount raised was £1,321.20. Dot and Dave thank everyone who helped and contributed throughout their year and recently they were able to present the cheque to the British Heart Foundation (see photograph).

Our new Club Professional, **Sam Edwards**, has enjoyed his first months at Bigbury. He has now given some lessons and is finding it rewarding to hear of the progress people have made in their games. If any golfer is looking to sharpen their game, Sam will be delighted to hear from you. Similarly, if there are any budding golfers considering taking up our sport, again Sam will be pleased to hear from you. And in April, once the weather has warmed up,

he will be running junior group coaching aimed at giving juniors a chance to enjoy the game and improve their skills. Sam can be contacted on 01548 810557, or golfshop@bigburygolfclub.co.uk.

Marlene Johnson

Photograph:
Dot Kenneth and **Dave Moulding** with the £1,320.20 cheque



The **Board of Bigbury Golf Club** is fully committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its operations. **Jason Pheasant** welcomed delegates to the first **Golf Assembly** which aimed to bring like-minded people together to bridge the gap between aspiration and action. Jason welcomed the close support and collaboration with Bigbury Net Zero which is a partnership with the potential to deliver on the ambitions of the Board.

Board member, **David Hall**, described the wide-ranging action which the golf club had already taken to protect nature on the golf course and reduce water consumption. The Board continues to proactively investigate ways in which the club as a business and members as individuals can reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

Phil Gorman, who was at the Golf Assembly said that a year ago they ditched the second car and bought an e-scooter. Since then they've saved 600 miles worth of CO₂ emissions based on scooter use alone. Phil always rides to golf on the e-scooter. Based on quick Google research (small car, ave 50 mph) that equates to c137 kilos of carbon dioxide (roughly

the size of one giant male panda). The Artisan EV2000R costs £2636 (includes OLEV PIMG Grant) but they paid a little more as they included 2 batteries to ensure a swifter turnaround between the first and second battery.

Farhana Yamin, Chair of Bigbury Net Zero, reminded delegates of the chilling fact that climate change was already having life threatening impacts across the world. Unless we all work together more quickly to help reduce our carbon footprints and our negative impact on wildlife, it will become increasingly difficult to prevent the continued loss of life. Farhana told delegates that the UK's High Level Climate Champion, **Nigel Topping**, has sent a personal message to people in the South Hams through Bigbury Net Zero - to begin working together to develop ambitious projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Farhana said that although she had been working hard at the intergovernmental level for more than two decades, she too recognised the important role of community groups and local government in supporting and developing projects which reduce our parish and district carbon footprints.

GOLF ASSEMBLY

Peter Brown of community-owned **Yealm Community Energy** explained how, when neighbouring parishes connect over ambitious energy projects - big things can happen. With the determined and proactive support of the parish councils in **Newton Ferrers** and **Noss Mayo, Holbeton, Yealmpton, Brixton and Wembury** - the planning permissions were granted to set up two very large ground based solar farms within the South Devon AONB. Profits are retained within the community, funding a project worth £20,000 over the last 3 years. **Sir Gary Streeter**, local MP said on a recent visit to **Creacombe Solar Farm** "Creacombe is a bold and pioneering project that can lead the way for a real step-change in the UK.

Lynne Kenderdine, of **Devon Wildlife Trust**, showcased the **Avon Valley Project** and called out for more landowners and farmers in the Avon Valley to join in their work to create a continuous wildlife corridor in the valley and rebuild nature. Lynne read out, **Harry Barton's** Letter to the Earth (CEO DWT) (see page 24).

Louise Wainwright





LETTER from MINISTER at ST LAWRENCE



Modbury Mission Community

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL AND MAY

	Aveton Gifford 11.00 am	Bigbury 11.00 am	Kingston 9.30 am	Modbury 9.30 am	Ringmore 9.30 am
April 3 rd	Sunday Worship	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion	Sunday Worship
April 10 th Palm Sunday	Communion	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion (BCP) (8 am) ----- All Age Service	Village Service
April 14 th Maundy Thursday	Communion (7 pm)				
April 15 th Good Friday	Procession (10.30 am)			Hour round the Cross (2 pm)	
April 17 th Easter Day	Communion	Communion	Communion	Communion	Communion
April 24 th	Lay Led Service	Evening Prayer (4 pm)	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion
May 1 st	Sunday Worship	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion	Sunday Worship
May 8 th	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion	Communion (BCP) (8 am) ----- May Fair Service	Communion
May 15 th	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion (11 am)	Communion	Sunday Worship
May 22 nd	Sunday Worship	Communion (BCP)	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion
May 29 th				Communion (10.30 am)	

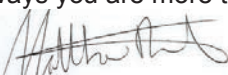
New Life

Every spring a couple of dozen daffodils burst from the ground behind one of the ancient and weathered grave stones in Modbury churchyard. It is as if the grave is being opened up and out of it is bursting new life. It always reminds me of a line from a hymn:

*'There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave He rose again!'*

The Christian conviction is that if Jesus got through death himself, he can get me through. In His resurrection, he is like a needle that goes through a tapestry - he bursts through death and comes out the other side. And we're like the thread. If we are attached to him, we will follow through. The key is to be attached to him. Have a wonderful Easter and as always you are more than welcome to join us for one of our Easter church events.




Matt Rowland
Vicar

Vicar: The Revd Matt Rowland (830260: every day except (normally) Saturday)

Readers: Joyce Howitt (07929 117397), Michael Tagent (810520)

Website: www.modburyteam.org

ST LAWRENCE MATTERS

A major milestone in the restoration project was achieved in February with the removal of the bells for refurbishment at **Nicholson's in Bridport**.

Prior to the work starting the internals of the tower had to be stripped out and scaffolding erected internally to give access to the bells. So it was that eight volunteers wrote themselves into the annals of the church's history by assisting Nicholson's expert **Tim Whitehead** in dismantling the bells and their supporting framework.

A history of the bells by Norman Botton has already been published in the Dec 20/ Jan 21 issue of Bigbury News, suffice to say here that there are six bells, ranging in weight from 187 kg for the treble to 394 kg for the tenor.

The bells were supported in A frames, themselves resting on foundation beams, in two layers, one of four and the other two bells, with the whole arrangement held steady by steel cross struts. The first thing to do was to install steel beams above the bells from which chain blocks could be slung; these were then used to lower firstly the bracing struts, then the bells, followed by the A frames and finally the foundation beams.

The job took two weeks with three or four volunteers plus Tim on site at any one time. The work was demanding, heavy, noisy and dirty but very rewarding. Those of us with engineering backgrounds were able to re-acquaint ourselves with the time-honoured method of removing heavily corroded and recalcitrant nuts – a club hammer and cold chisel.

We were hampered by modern spanners and sockets being made in metric sizes, whereas the 1960s iron work was bolted together with imperial fixings. Luckily **Geoff Ross** was able to unearth a Whitworth socket set which proved invaluable. Tim, the bell expert, was able to 'read' the history of the tower by the holes made in the walls by beams used to support previous bell arrangements, as well as showing us where stone in the walls had been scalloped away to accommodate the swing of the four bells, which had once been installed higher up in the tower than the existing arrangement.

The use of local volunteers to help with the dismantling and re-installation of the bells, apart from demonstrating community spirit, has saved the project some £15,000, for which the PCC is very grateful. Huge thanks go to **Simon Bronstein, Peter Cook,**

Jonathan Fish, Vic Gubbins, Geoff Ross, John Scott, Henry Wainwright and Mike Wynne-Powell. Apart from his impressive agility on the bell frames, Jonathan brought a telehandler which enabled the bells to be loaded onto the trailer for transport to Bridport.

The whole operation was recorded by photographer Mike, who thought his participation would be limited to taking pictures but who soon found himself in the thick of balancing on bell frames and manhandling heavy iron work! Particular thanks to both of them.

The new foundation beams are programmed to be installed w/c 6 June and the bells themselves w/c 20 June. Volunteers will be needed again, so if you would like to get involved in this once in a lifetime experience, please contact me.

Vic Gubbins

01548 810651

vicgubbins@gmail.com

Note from Editor

Bigbury owes a huge debt of gratitude to Vic & Jill Gubbins for the critical personal donation which tipped the balance in favour of the refurbishment actually happening at last! Thank you!



The 'inSPIRED apPEAL'

for the Restoration of the Tower and Bells at St Lawrence!

Two years ago, Mike Wynne-Powell of Ringmore put on Sound & Vision 6.5 which kick started the fundraising drive for the Tower & Bells Restoration. What a lot of activity has happened since, and it seemed fitting that Mike showed the latest Sound & Vision 7.5 slides in the Memorial Hall in mid-March, after formal covid restrictions eased.

Having acted voluntarily as 'official photographer' of the bells removal, Mike kindly incorporated several episodes of footage of the process into the show, again raising funds for the project. It was fascinating to see the bells in their usual home, the state of the tower interior and watch the work involved in descending and moving the bells. A disappointingly small audience came along and enjoyed a range of wonderful photography, but once the bells are re-installed, a further showing of the footage may be arranged – always interesting to know where one's contributions have gone!

Harry Bardens came along to see the six bells lined up outside the church. As bellringer captain in December 1960 when the bells were last restored, it was very touching for Harry to be photographed by the treble bell that both he and his father used to ring. He is looking forward to hearing the bells ring again after re-installation in June!

Sadly, it turned out that the Mission Lent Course clashed with the return of the Pedigree Jazz Band, so the concert had to be cancelled, but hopefully they will be back to St Lawrence in 2023. However, the Kingsmen will be coming to perform their barbershop harmonies on Friday 20th May – see the details on the poster in this News – the group includes some very local faces! The Kingsmen are singing for free in support of the fund, (much appreciated guys!), do please save the date, spread the word and give them a good audience.



Photo: Top - **Bryan Carson** church warden & Geoff Ross Above: **Vic and Jill Gubbins** with **Harry Bardens** (right)

Two other locals are in discussions to hold a musical performance in aid of the church later in the summer, I look forward to bringing you details in due course.

A final date for your diaries with details to come in May: on **Saturday 25th June**, **The Age of Chivalry** will hold an interactive event at St Lawrence from noon to 4 p.m., open to all ages to browse displays and hear short talks on a variety of aspects of medieval life. Did you know the brasses in the Court Chapel present unique styles of medieval headdress? – you do now! It was from this discovery that this event has developed. This will definitely be something not to miss!

Some of you may be saying 'why are we still fundraising for the tower & bells, didn't some grants come in to cover the work?'

The National Churches Trust grants, without which contracts with Barley Manor could not have been signed for December's start of work, basically cover the largest expenditure on the tower/spire work, but not the bells restoration. Smaller grants have helped with these, but the tower interior and vestry are fully replaced, the fund continues for a while.

Please contact Bryan Carson, (810296), Vic or me with queries or offers of help and ideas. Stay safe.

Jill Gubbins 01548 810651
gubbinsjill@gmail.com
www.bigburynews.com/church.

Appeal co-ordinator: Jill Gubbins, (01548 810651 / jill.gubbins@homecall.co.uk / 07745 990270) Please complete the form below, for cheque or bank transfer gifts. Please Gift Aid your donation if possible, (your postcode is necessary). **THANK YOU !**

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Title: **St Lawrence Church Tower & Bells Fund** Sort Code: **30-98-97** Account No. **87437468** or BIC: **LOYDGB21031** or IBAN: **GB89 LOYD 3098 9787 4374 68**

GIFT AID DECLARATION: I should like St Lawrence's Church, Bigbury, to reclaim tax on all donations I make now or at a later date. I understand that I must pay an amount of UK income or capital gains tax equal to the tax reclaimed.

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THANK YOU ! Please return this slip to The Church Treasurer, c/o Jill Gubbins, Sea Cove, 2 Folly Hill, Bigbury on Sea, Kingsbridge, TQ7 4AR. Please tick here for us to acknowledge receipt of gift.

How Canvases are Canvassing Funds for St Lawrence's Church

Local resident, Grant Peet, has taken the initiative to translate his original paintings of Bigbury on Sea onto postcards which are being sold at local shops to raise funds for St Lawrence's Church. Grant and his wife Gill have owned property in Bigbury on Sea for over 20 years and have been permanent residents here for 12 years. Having spent most of his life studying great artists such as Van Gogh as well as admiring the artistic talents of his own great-grandfather and his daughter, Grant decided to occupy his 2020 lockdown time by exploring the skill for himself. So he bought some canvases, 'borrowed' his daughter's art equipment, tuned into YouTube to observe various artists' techniques and took an art course in Kingsbridge where they encouraged him to go further. He started with a range of portraits (including one of his granddaughter), then he began exploring local landscapes featuring Burgh Island. Having sailed for over 30 years, Grant is also very inspired by the sea and creating seascapes using an impressionist style.

Whenever he finishes a painting, he sends it to his daughter. Impressed by her father's first portrayal of the island, she suggested that he consider turning it into a postcard for charity and she had a few produced so Grant could see just how well they translated. So far, he has painted 5 landscapes of Bigbury on Sea from various angles, 3 of which have been produced into postcards to raise funds for Friends of St Lawrence's Church (FOSL). When asked why he chose FOSL as the beneficiary of his work, Grant said, 'This historical building is always in need of funds to keep it maintained and it's vital that we all do our best to help in the fundraising efforts, whether you're a churchgoer or not. This just happens to be my way of contributing'.

Grant has personally funded the production of the postcards to maximise profits for the cause. Proceeds of 50p per card go directly to FOSL which helps maintain historical St Lawrence's Church and its remarkable contents. The postcards, first available during the summer of 2021, have already generated over £500 and, due to their popularity, it is expected that this figure will top £1000 by the end of 2022.

Shop owners are delighted to be offering such a meaningful souvenir. A customer commented on how special it is to have an image of the island as seen and created by a local resident, another said they plan to frame theirs and a local homeowner enjoys offering complimentary cards to their guests. The postcards are on sale at The Bigbury Beach Shop, Burgh Island Hotel, Bigbury Tea Garden, Unwind Salon, Holywell Stores and The Oyster Shack. Or



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STORM EUNICE

February was a tumultuous month with several storms battering the South Hams and a Red Alert from the Met Office warning people not to travel if they did not need to. Storm Eunice was particularly bad with gusts of over 90 mph in places.

Bigbury Golf Club was badly hit with some roof damage to the main clubhouse and ten trees which came down. Many homes and buildings had minor damage with tiles being blown off. Swimming costumes and clothes on washing lines were taken for a last 'spin' around the parish. Fortunately, the scaffolding on the church tower remained in place but work had to stop on the repair works. Electricity supplies were interrupted in some places but we did not suffer as badly as other counties.

The plastic on the growing tunnels at Turtle Farm and Herb Heaven Devon were completely destroyed. Neighbours and friends rallied round to help get the plastic back onto the herb tunnels and baby sit the herb mother plants whilst the tunnel protection was off.

The **IPPC Report on Climate Change** (Feb '22) warns of a the highly confident prediction that we will suffer more regular weather extreme events if we do not keep temperature increases below 1.5 deg by 2030.

Louise Wainwright



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It's been a good start to the season with plenty of bookings coming in for the summer, as well as lots already going on at the surf school. We've got a large group of keen groms enjoying our first Saturday morning Surf Club Course of the season, and they've scored some great conditions so far. We've got plenty of Surf Club course dates available, with sessions on weekends

and after school coming up throughout the season and there is loads more information about dates etc on our website.

We're available for lessons and equipment hire, with our shop open all day everyday on weekends and throughout the Easter holidays. The water is still chilly this time of year, so we're kitting everyone up with winter wetsuits and all the accessories. There's plenty of opportunities to get involved in Easter with our popular week long Surf Courses, our Fast Track Course as well as private and group lessons everyday as well.

We're so lucky to have an amazing team of instructors and support staff here at

Discovery, and again this year we're offering an ASI Apprenticeship course for those of you who may be eager to train to become a surf coach - please see our website for more details about how to sign up or we're happy to have a chat as well, so you can find our more.

We'll update you with our news and course updates via our social media and newsletter, so please sign up or 'like' us on Facebook/Instagram to keep up to date (@discovery surfschool).

See you at the beach soon!

All the best - Annika, Martin, Jess and the Discovery Team



Bigbury Dippers.

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our Whats App group
and swim with other dippers!

Steve Williams
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Dippers from local villages also welcome!



Photos: Sedgewell (above)
Annika Connolly
Flower photos **Apple Taylor**.



Working alongside Nature at Burgh Island Hotel.

There are many challenges to face as a gardener at Burgh Island Hotel.. Since arriving in 2018, my strategy for the management and maintenance of the grounds has evolved from one of frustration to a curious delight in what the natural environment has to offer.

At first I tried to garden by the book- albeit the coastal gardening book - however, the island had other ideas, not to mention the rabbits ... High winds, rasping sand and salty air; In Summer- sunshine with weeks of no rain . No shelter and no shade ... what a challenge it has been!

Instead of being frustrated at what I could not do as a result of these extreme conditions, I learned to stand back and work alongside and not against the natural environment, gratefully taking essential guidance from the wild and indigenous plants on the island.

I harness the gift of Burgh's wild flowering plants and incorporate them within the planting schemes. Or rather- I allow them to do their thing, to spring up alongside the introduced species, to fill the gaps and provide a free show. I cut and trim some just as I would a cultivated plant and they respond, producing flowers for longer and remaining healthy and green. They cover the ground and their roots stabilise the soil , reducing evaporation and aiding water retention - which in turn is beneficial to introduced plantings.

Many beneficial insects are attracted to the flowers and I feel sure the biodiversity count will have improved since this new working attitude and practice began.

Late Spring and early Summer are the best times to witness the many and varied display of flowering wild species on the island. The intense blue wands of vipers bugloss, mingle with the tall violet wild opium poppies and spires of yellow great mullein. The cliff banks at the Mermaid Pool shine and shimmer with white sea campion, pink oxalis and silver ragwort.

In the grass can be found many miniature gems :purple betony, orange and yellow bird's foot trefoil and the super scarlet pimpernel ... everywhere,

sea mayweed, creating a bounteous daisy scape for months on end.

With all luck, we plan to run some garden walk and talks at Burgh to share all these discoveries and help foster a wider understanding of wild coastal plants and the benefits of allowing them space to grow and come to their natural fruition, encouraging beneficial insects , pollinators and wildlife and supporting a more stable, balanced and vital environment for fauna and flora to exist within this very specialised and precious landscape.

Apple Taylor,
Gardener to Burgh Island Hotel



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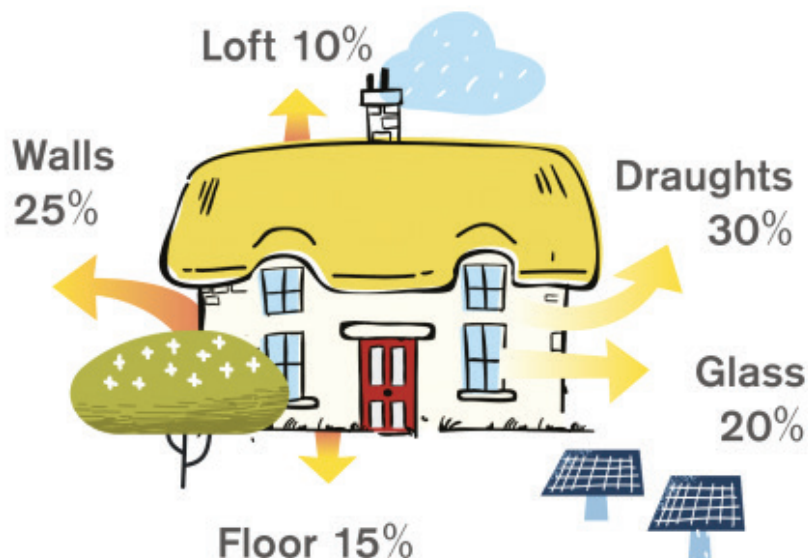
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BIGBURY PARISH CARBON FOOTPRINT

[www. impacttool. org.uk](http://www.impacttool.org.uk)

This report tells you about your community's carbon footprint – both the scale of emissions and the main activities responsible for the emissions. This information comes from Impact – an online region-level carbon emissions estimator:

[https://impacttool. org.uk/](https://impacttool.org.uk/).

The tool was developed by the **Centre for Sustainable Energy** and the **University of Exeter**, initially to make carbon footprinting at parish level possible. Since its inception a number of improvements have been made, including the ability to look at larger geographical areas.

Your report shows both 'consumption based' and 'territorial' emissions, and also shows how your footprint compares with the district average and the national average. It shows your 'territorial' and 'consumption' footprints.

Territorial footprints consider the emissions produced within a geographical boundary – such as from heating buildings, transport, industry, and agriculture – regardless of whether the residents within the community are engaged in or demand those activities. For example, if a factory lies within the boundary of a local authority, then regardless of whether what is produced in the factory is consumed locally or exported to other parts of the country (or world), the factory's emissions would still be counted as part of that local authority's territorial footprint. A territorial footprint is largely created by taking national and local authority datasets and cutting these down to the local geography in as accurate a way as possible.

A **consumption footprint** captures all the emissions produced as a result of the activities that the area's residents engage in, regardless of where geographically they occur. For example, emissions resulting from the food they eat, the clothes and household items they buy, the leisure activities they engage in, their travel behaviours, and the heating of their homes. The consumption-based footprint is based on household and address-level data, which is then aggregated up to the community level (rather than cutting down from a higher geography as with the territorial approach).

A 'carbon' footprint, includes carbon dioxide as well as other gases which impact the climate. Apples and pears.

Showing both territorial and consumption footprints gives you useful information, but it is important to recognise that the two footprints cannot be directly compared as they look at the question of 'where do our emissions come from' in different ways, using different methods, and with different datasets.

Take your footprint as a guide, not as gospel.

The carbon footprints are modelled, drawing on data from more than 30 datasets (some of which are themselves made up of multiple further datasets!). As with all models, decisions have been taken in terms of what data is used, and how the data is 'cut' and analysed. The Impact footprints have been developed with the intention that they are as

useful as possible, but remember to take them as a guide, not as gospel. If you would like more detail about the method and datasets, please read the Impact methodology paper:

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/static/doc/Impact-methodology-paperv1.7.pdf>.

You can also download the raw data here: <https://impact-tool.org.uk/download>

How does knowing our carbon footprint help us tackle climate change?

Footprint information can guide us to where we should target our efforts to reduce emissions and have the greatest impact.

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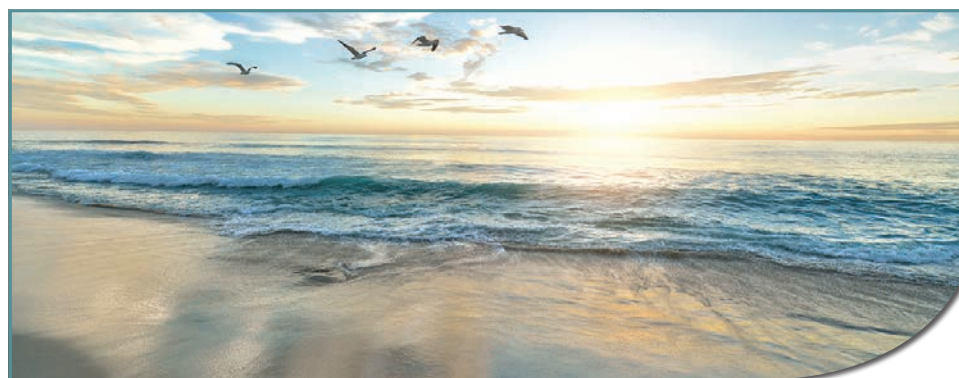
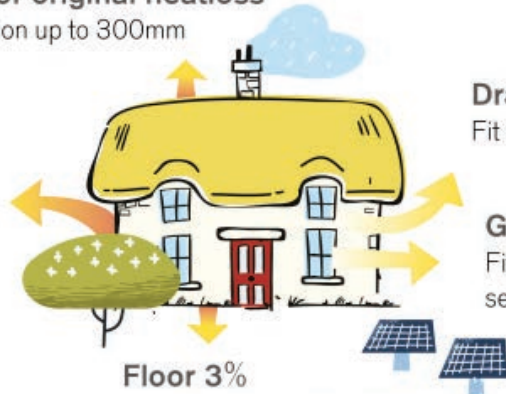
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BIGBURY PARISH FOOTPRINT

cont from p 7

To help you think about what to do next with your footprint information, in each section of this report there are change targets for reaching net zero, and some trigger questions to help you think about possible areas for action.

Note that these footprints are intended to

raise awareness and improve understanding of the types of activities which contribute to emissions in any given area in order to stimulate individual and collective action.

Bigbury residents' use of energy in their homes results in annual carbon emissions per household of **10.3 t CO₂e**. This compares with **5 t CO₂e** at the district level and **3.5 t CO₂e** at the national level.

In the average UK home, 64% of energy is used for space heating, 17% for heating water, 16% for lighting and appliances, and 3% for cooking . As such a large proportion of household energy is used for heating, the type of heating system (i.e. is it low carbon?), and how well the home retains heat, are critical factors shaping the scale of a home's emissions. How well a home retains heat depends on a number of factors, including: when and how it was built; how much insulation has been installed; how draughty the home is; the efficiency of the windows; and the behaviour of the residents.

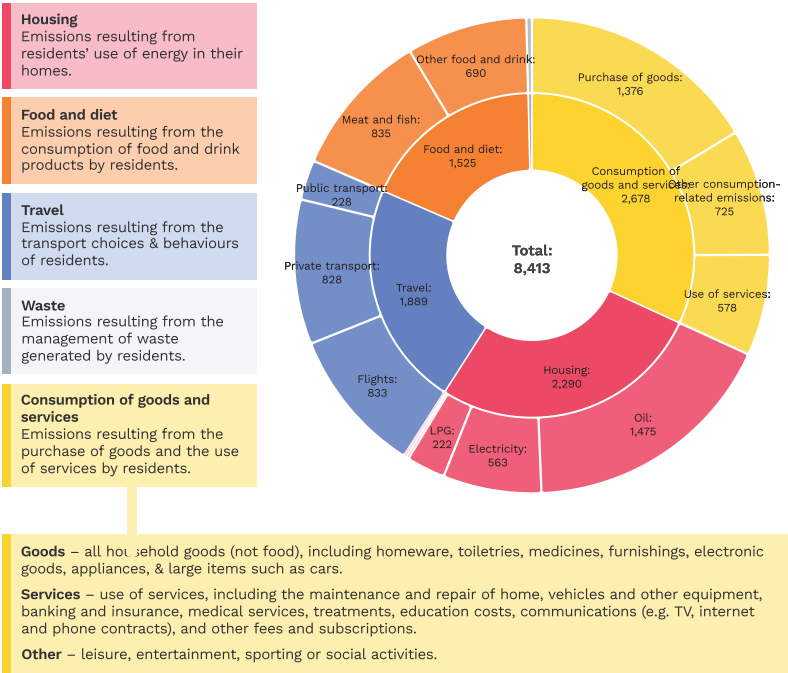
Carbon footprints covering a large geographical area will encompass a range of smaller communities with different housing types and demographics. This will influence the types of activities which are most likely to be successful and have the greatest impact in terms of reducing emissions from housing.

This information is provided to kick start meaningful discussions at many levels:

- individual household
- local business
- community group/club/church
- parish council
- Charterlands Ward

Knowing your parish or household carbon footprint is the best place to start on this journey. The Impact Tool is a reputable, valid and simple guide to the overall situation in the parish. It's a starting point for a **Parish Carbon Plan**.

Louise Wainwright



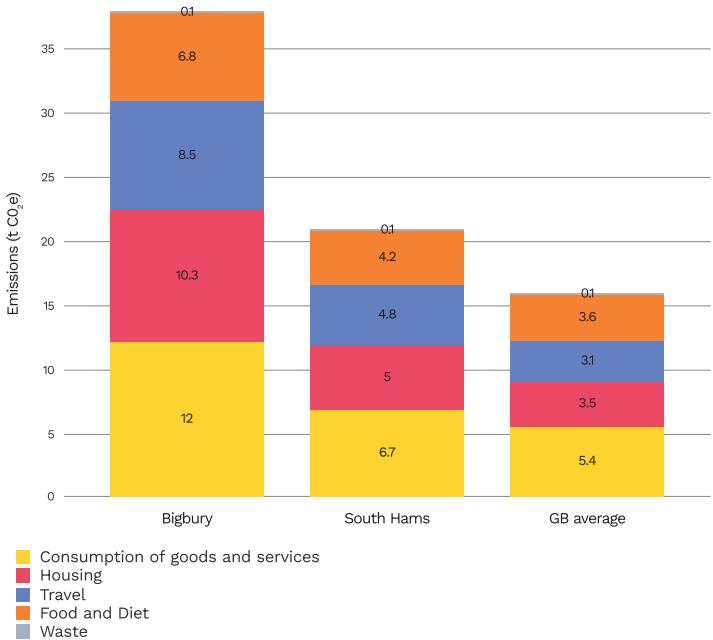
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Impact Report - Bigbury

	Total emissions (t CO ₂ e)	Per-household emissions (t CO ₂ e)	%
Total emissions	8,413	38	100
Consumption of goods and services	2,678	12	32
Housing	2,290	10.3	27
Travel	1,889	8.5	22
Food and diet	1,525	6.8	18
Waste	32	0.1	< 1

How does your area compare?

Here is what the average consumption footprint for your area looks like per household, and how this compares with the district average and the national average. Note that these per household footprints are averages. Within a larger (e.g. local authority) area you may have neighbourhoods with very different per household consumption footprints and it will be worth looking at more granular data if you are planning area-specific initiatives or messaging.



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Wave crasher, dog smasher, Burgh Island ferry - take your cash-er
There goes the tractor
First thing in the morning, you will hear a sound
The chug of the tractor in shore bound.
Chug, chug, chug its starts to move
Across the sand, not so smooth.
It's side to side across the beach the furthest I can hope to reach
Gigantic grooves in enormous tyres
An amphibious vehicle – on sand and in sea.
It's tyres are taller than me
Shouts of glee, excitement abounds,
look at their faces, of wonder all around
Humongous wheels turning, churning, crushing sand shells and lost bells
Wild seas caress my wheels whoa baby whoa
Magically gliding across moonlit seas under sparkling stars
Breaking down in the breakers
A miracle of underwater hydraulic technology
Sea tractor manufactured plougher of the waves
Wobbling through the water with a load of hotel guests
Its speed at max is a slow factor
Rolling, rolling, rolling – waves and the wheel rolling
Chug, clunk, splash, steam, surf, drain and drip
Crash go the waves as the tractor totters
Useful and Amphibious – our pride (but we are prejudice)
Tide taming limitless transport
Take a ride at high – don't fall over the side
Watch out for the waves
My benefactor is the sea tractor
With its new orange livery
Well I'm a one off, pretty I am really not
But I have been photoed and painted really quite a lot.
We've had 4 of them, I think of maybe just 3
But who cares, they've all been kings of the sea.
Agatha C loves a good ride.
If you rob on the tractor
You'll be sure to attract 'er
An Agatha Christie
Looking for a character.
When I see the sea tractor I go back to a previous rapture
I am here for you when the tide is the factor
It's the future it goes back 'ter (to)
They shelled a nuclear reactor
But if the dare to come for our sea tractor
Putin, we'll stick the boot in!

Anonymous

39 people joined Matt Harvey, world- renowned poet, at a recital of his poetry in Bigbury.

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

Matt invited the audience to choose a topic and write one line each for a group poem.

Two people then organised the single lines into a series and cellotaped them together for Matt to read out loud.

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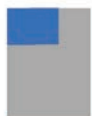

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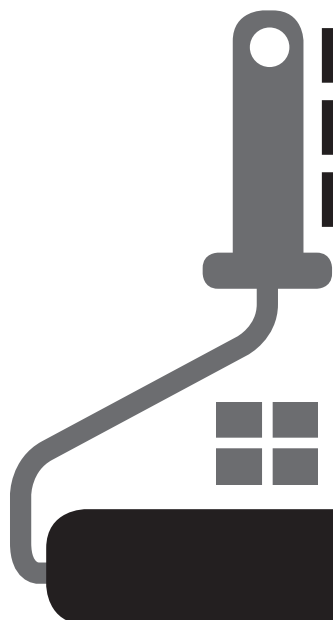


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On 21st February, Storm Eunice roared across Bigbury Bay and the crashing waves smashed against the rocky shores of Burgh Island. The sea conditions at high tide were too dangerous for the iconic sea tractor to carry hotel guests or delegates over to the island before low tide. Sixty invited delegates sheltered in the **Venus Cafe**, which owner, **Micheal Smith** had opened early for this purpose. As the tide gradually retreated from the sandy causeway allowing them to walk across to Burgh Island. The fact that humans had to respect the power of the fierce winds and ferocious sea conditions was a reminder that climate scientists predict that such weather will become more common in years to come - unless we act now to reduce our carbon footprints

It was to be an inspirational gathering, organised by **Bigbury Net Zero** and sponsored by **Giles Fuchs**, owner of the

Burgh Island Hotel - this was the '**Island Assembly**'. The event came together as a result of the inspiration which initiator, **Louise Wainwright**, garnered from her engagement with other Carbon Ambassadors and her attendance at the **Carbon Ambassadors Course** which was run by **Mukti Mitchell** of **Carbon Savvy** last year. "The Carbon Ambassadors Course raised my confidence to talk about the scope and challenges of global climate issues. Being able to listen and question some of the UK's leading experts in a series of live zoom meetings, really helped me to focus my energy" said Louise Wainwright, Secretary of Bigbury Net Zero.

BNZ Committee members, **Lynda Kelly** and **Katie Smith** were the feet on the ground who helped to oil the machinery of the event, together with **Bigbury Watch Team**, **Eamonn** and **Lynda Brynes** who marshaled the passage across the sands.

The Bigbury Net Zero event was opened with the ceremonial **Modbury town crier**, **David Scott**, who had also lunched the successful Beach Assembly in November last year when 500 people from families in the South Hams came together to tell our national government that we needed them to make big commitments at COP26. **Giles Fuchs**, owner of the art deco luxury Burgh Island Hotel welcomed the delegates and both he and the GM of the hotel, **Penny Brown**, played a full part in the day's engagement with local delegates.

At the first of what is hoped to be an annual Assembly in Bigbury, local government councillors from Devon County Council, South Hams District Council and several local parish councils were well represented. Many of the delegates at the Island Assembly were themselves successful businesses and organisations focusing on action and services to reduce the speed of climate change and rebuild nature in the South Hams.

The keynote speakers and cultural icons who supported the Island Assembly, were internationally renowned but have strong links with the South Hams. So, when they were invited by Chair of Bigbury Net Zero, **Farhana Yamin**, they were quick to respond to do what they could to make this event a success so that other 'island assemblies' would follow suit throughout the UK. Farhana is an International climate change lawyer who has represented the small island states of the world at most of the COPs in the last 25 years and has been awarded many accolades as a result of her prominent role at government level in tackling the injustice of climate change. Farhana splits her time between Bigbury-on-Sea and London and wants to spend even more time in the South Hams.

Nigel Topping the UK's High Level Climate Champion, recorded a personal message to delegates, although he would have attended in person if he was not part of the UK delegation to Egypt on the same day. Nigel lives in Totnes.

Dulma Clark head of the **Livebarefoot Fund** of the Vivobarefoot brand and the **Devon Environment Foundation** has a very strong connection with Bantham. Dulma's philanthropic commitment to reversing the loss of nature and restraining climate change stems from her spiritual connection with the natural world that is a strong tenant of her Siberian ancestors. The keynote speakers spoke in unison about the critical importance of community-based initiatives which have the potential to redress the failure of our

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national government to act quickly and decisively to meet their legal obligations under the Paris Agreement. Local MPs, **Sir Gary Streeter** and **Anthony Mangnall** had been invited to the Island Assembly but had parliamentary business in London and declined the invitation.

The tide waits for no man and delegates used the interval between sessions to luncheon and engage with other delegates, ably encouraged by **Ruth Ben-Tovim** who is a professional community facilitator based in Totnes and **Kay Michael** co-founder of **Letters to the Earth**.

During this period, local farmer, **John Tucker**, once more took his tractor to the beach to write the dire warning and plea to us all – ACT NOW. The message was heart felt from an organic vegetable farmer who has seen many changes for the worse in his lifetime. The beach art was recorded for posterity by **Mike Wynne Powell** from Ringmore. **Andrew Kay** from **Bauer Media** and the **ITV news crew** worked hard to record the event and distill from speakers and delegates their key messages.

Mukti Mitchell of Carbon Savvy set the tone for a powerful session on Renewable Energy and Transport which was moderated by **Dr Nina Skorupska CBE** - CEO Assoc. for Renewable Energy and Clean technologies. Nina urged local government and communities to be more ambitious about renewable energy because we needed to make more progress and the technologies were now set to make the impact needed. Mukti outlined the 5 main actions we could take to reduce CO2 by 80% - insulate buildings, share transport, buy seasonal, local, organic food, take ground-level holidays and buy long lasting products.



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The power of working together was unequivocally demonstrated by **Peter Brown**, from Yealm Community Energy. This project comprises two large ground-based solar farms in an AONB bordering the River Yealm. Most people are completely unaware of their existence because they cannot be seen from public highways or public footpaths. Five parish councils (**Newton & Noss Mayo, Holberton, Wembury, Yealmpton and Brixton**) collaborated to support the ground-breaking planning application from Yealm Community Energy which is incorporated as a Community Benefit Company. Local community projects benefit from donations of £20,000 per year from the profits generated for the sale of energy from this green energy project.

Als Vowles, from the **Devon Energy Collective** revealed a new project to be launched in April 2022 in collaboration with **Regen**, funded by **Devon County Council**. This project will work with Devon's communities to identify new renewable energy projects in their parishes.

All town councils and parish councils will be asked to identify at least 5 acres where a ground-based solar farm could be sited and 1 to 3 on shore wind turbines.

The ambition is that the very best of these sites can then be developed and built as community-owned renewable energy. As a parting challenge, Als addressed 'the people of Devon' and stated that collectively we have the money to invest in the renewable projects we desperately need now. The population of Devon has around £10billion of capital in ISAs earning minimal returns. These could be reinvested in local clean energy and the benefits retained in Devon. This struck a chord with the VIP Listener for this session, **Cllr Julian Brazil**, who felt that South Hams District Council could decarbonise its Reserve Funds by adopting this strategy as its investment policy due to the Emergency of the climate issue.

Co-Cars, founder and MD, **Mark Hodgson**, illustrated the need for car-sharing and the convenience of hiring electric cars and bikes by the hour through a well-planned network. Investments in family owned cars did not make a good return as most cars are only used for less than 15% of the time. Rural communities in Devon are particularly poorly served by public transport which is why our parish carbon footprints are so high. Car sharing can make a huge impact on our carbon emissions.

Ruth Saunders, the nature mentor for **Sustainable South Hams** led the session on Farming and Nature. She urged new community groups in all the parishes in

South Hams to come forward and join the umbrella network offered by SSH.

Landowners and farmers came to hear how **Jonathon Smith's Farm Carbon Toolkit** could help them to understand what impact their farming business was having on climate change and whether there were opportunities to reduce emissions. Before the end of the day, he was invited to speak to four farmer groups about the insights to be gained from using the Farm Carbon Toolkit and how products produced from low carbon production systems can even be labeled with information about how much carbon the consumer is saving if they buy that product.

Lynne Kenderdine from **Devon Wildlife Trust**, showcased the **Avon Valley Project** which had re-established wildlife corridors down the Avon Valley from Dartmoor to Bigbury Bay. She shared her dream that the same could be achieved in all river valleys in South Devon if communities came together to support this. Delegate farmers representing 1,000 acres of new farmland, not yet in the Avon Valley project, had requested her support before they left the island.

Guy Parker, Director of **Wychwood Biodiversity**, lives in Aveton Gifford and when he is not consulting internationally, he is working with renewable energy projects in Devon to ensure they enhance local nature resilience. Species-rich meadows support insect populations and provide excellent fodder for winter conservation grazing by sheep. The **VIP Listener** for this session, **Cllr Rufus Gilbert**, himself has a farming background and he reinforced the messages of speakers and the commitment of **Devon County Council**.

As the end of the Assembly drew to a close, **Kay Michael** invited delegates to read their **Letters to the Earth** out loud. It was a powerfully emotive moment in the day when people with the courage to expose their inner feelings read out their heartfelt messages to the Earth and showed their raw commitment to Act Now. As emotions and engagement were palpable in the room, **Sam Lee**, with an international following of millions, sang without accompaniment, to the jasmine sea as delegates gazed into Bigbury Bay. Delegates joined him in his lament for the Nightingale as they sang for the nightingale which will soon be extinct in the UK.

Delegates left with a mission to Act Now.

Louise Wainwright
Secretary of Bigbury Net Zero
www.bigburynetzero.org
info@bigburynetzero.org

LETTERS to the EARTH www.letterstotheearth.com

The Letters to the Earth team are an inspirational example of how people can come together to dream up a new way of communicating about the climate and nature chaos which is upon us - and make a plan to ACT NOW, using their skills and network. I hope that their example will inspire people in South Hams to have the courage to 'self-appoint' themselves as a champion for nature in their home, street, parish and county to do as much as can be done in time. Here is their story...

In the early spring of 2019 a small group of women came together around a kitchen table to talk. They'd not even met before. But they had been profoundly shaken by the increasingly dire news of climate and ecological collapse, and inspired to bring that news to the forefront of the public conversation. In their working lives, they are theatre-makers and writers and felt strongly that they wanted to find a way to facilitate a creative response to these times of emergency. You can read their full story on their website and the thousands of letters that have been written from ordinary and extraordinary people from all over the world.

Golf Assembly

Lynne Kenderdine, from the **Avon Valley Project**, read out the personal Letter to the Earth for delegates at the Golf Assembly from the **Chief Executive of Devon Wildlife Trust**, **Harry Barton**.

Dear Earth

You are everything to us. The wildlife that lives in every corner of your immense form, in all its colour and variety, is the single greatest gift to humanity.

Here in Devon, with its rippling green hills, brooding purple-brown moorland and wind whipped sea, with its ever-changing lights and colours, we are as fortunate as anyone, anywhere, in how we benefit from this.

Watching a starling murmuration swirl, disintegrate and reform in the sky while the setting sun catches the spray ripped off waves as they curl around Burgh Island is to experience just a tiny part of your unfathomable and complex personality.

We rely on you for all we have, but we are still growing up. We have assumed great power, but we have yet to learn how to use it with wisdom and foresight. We are taking much more than we are giving, and we don't understand the consequences of what we do, or worse, deny those consequences when it suits us. And that is why we're inflicting so much pain on you –

pain that we all too often don't see, hear or pay heed to.

Technology has taken us to new places. We can watch a multi-coloured insect we've never heard of clambering amongst the stamens of a tropical flower high up a tree we can never climb in a remnant of forest that we'll never visit. We can wonder at an image of you taken from the outer solar system and be reminded of how small you are in the vast ocean of cold, hostile nothingness, and how incomprehensibly fortunate we are to have this comfortable living space we call home.

But we can also disappear into an imaginary universe of computer games, spreadsheets and social media, warping our perspective and blinding us to reality. Or slash and gouge at your skin in our quest towards a misguided ideal of progress.

How to reconcile our needs and desires with yours is the single biggest challenge we now face. Our vision is limited to what we can perceive, and our understanding will only ever be partial, but we can be better than this. We want to be better than this. But to do so means being a lot braver and a lot more honest with ourselves, and with you.

Perhaps the best way to start a new beginning is to make some resolutions. So here are our four promises to you.

- We promise to do everything we can to put back some of what has been lost, and to help others do the same. We will do this in our towns and cities, in our gardens and farmland, in the uplands, the valleys, in rivers and lakes, and in the seas around us.
- We promise to help and encourage as many people as we can to experience, enjoy and understand the wonders of nature that inhabits every part of you, and to value and cherish it.
- We promise to give more and take less. We will stop polluting the air, the soil and the waters you provide, and do what we can to make good the damage we've done.
- And we promise to do everything in our power to understand more, presume less and to see you from a perspective other than just our own. We will stop viewing you as a resource, and instead as something we love and respect as a member of our own immediate family.

Thank you for giving us yet another chance

Harry Barton
Chief Executive, Devon Wildlife Trust



The latest book compiling many of the **Letters to the Earth** is available now from the **Green & Wild** store in Kingsbridge.

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Rachel was a delegate at the **Island Assembly**. She was so passionate about the need to join up with other people who want to make a difference that she closed the shop for the day and joined us at Burgh Island.

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Rachel explains how **Green & Wild** came about and how she is joining up with local community groups working to reduce carbon emissions and pollution.

"I am representing **Kingsbridge Climate Action**, a community focussed group committed to tackling the climate and nature crisis in positive ways, such as through change promoting events. We have held community cycles and a stand up paddle board event, and have lots more planned for the year ahead!

I set up **Green & Wild**, the Zero Waste shop on Kingsbridge high street, in 2019 with my partner. We opened during the pandemic, but did not let that deter us from our mission of providing people with the opportunity to reduce their consumption of single use plastic! In addition we sell organic produce, as we believe organic is better for our health and for the environment; and we source products locally to reduce the carbon footprint of our shop, and to support local businesses.

I am also a **Parish Councillor for West Alvington**, through which I have recently joined SMASH (Malborough and South Huish climate group).





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