



BIGBURY & RINGMORE NEWS

APRIL / MAY 2024

Issue 483

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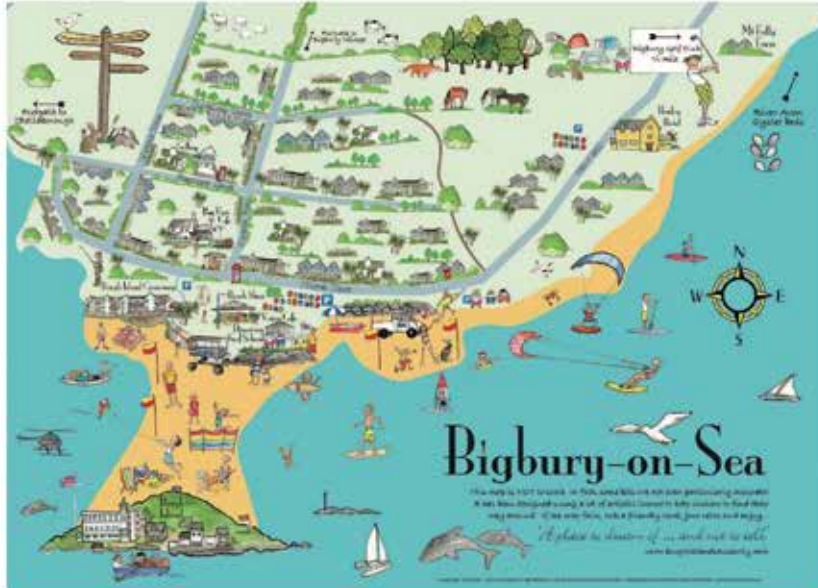
THE 19th HOLE



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 & RINGMORE NEWS

COPY DEADLINES

15 January for the February / March Issue
15 March for the April / May issue
15 May for the June / July issue
15 July for the August / September issue
15 Sept. for the October / November issue
15 Nov. for the December / January Issue

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Front Page Photo credits

Top: Mike Wynne-Powell

Middle: A visitor

Bottom: Mike Wynne-Powell



BIGBURY NET ZERO DRUMS
Together we can make a Difference

SIGN UP

to a weekly Mail Chimp newsletter about local events and alerts, via email. Please complete the on-line form at www.bigburynews.com or contact the BNZD editor: henry.wainwright52@gmail.com

ADVERTISE LOCAL EVENTS

Send your event posters to the BNZD editor. Events in the South Hams are also promoted.

BIGBURY TV

WHAT?

A Youtube channel to share the talents of local people in the Bigbury Parish

WHY? To keep us upbeat and entertained (not just during lockdown, but beyond!) and celebrate the fabulous and wide-ranging talent amongst us.

TUNE IN! just visit the channel whenever you fancy! <https://bit.ly/BigburyTV>

All the videos are there for you to watch 'on demand'.

On Charterlands Chatter, we will let you know when new videos have been uploaded.



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Distribution Manager: Dane Vanstone

Thank you to all of our volunteer distributors in Bigbury and Ringmore.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers,

Is it April already? Some of us still have a box of Christmas decorations waiting to go back into the loft!

I hope you aren't too bashed and beaten by all of the recent storms. I know some gardens took a battering and so did the sea tractor (see page 14). Many thanks to those of you who have answered the call to send things in. There's now a gallery of gorgeous local photos on page 19.

There has been a lot of bustle and excitement recently in Bigbury as the bells of St Lawrence's Church have finally come home again. The bell ringers tried them out and their first peal was heard with great pleasure by many of us.

I expect most of us have completed the first cut of our lawns by now and some of us might be dreading the weekly task throughout the summer but you can take a month off! Join 'No Mow May' and see what comes up in your lawn - you might be pleasantly surprised to see the wildflowers that have been lurking there! You might even leave some of it throughout June and July, just mowing some paths through. We'd love to publish any photos of wildflowers flourishing in your lawn.

Village Kitchen has a seasonal recipe for you with all ingredients locally available. Thanks to Fiona Stace for being our 'resident chef'!

Don't forget to send me your posters and event dates in time for publication - we'd hate to miss out!

Best wishes to you all,

Jan Davies

bigburynewseditor@gmail.com

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valeriescott@bigbury.net

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BIGBURY HISTORY SOCIETY

Charles Harrington 01548 810023

BIGBURY COFFEE MORNING

Jean Wright 01548 810029

Yvonne Klidjian

yvonneklidjian@btinternet.com

BIGBURY COMMUNITY CHOIR

Apple Taylor

appletaylor72@gmail.com

If you are running a social group that you'd like to be included, please contact the editor at bigburynewseditor@gmail.com

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MODBURY HEALTH CENTRE

Poundwell Meadow

Modbury PL21 0QI

01548 830666

www.modburyhealthcentre.co.uk

MODBURY PHARMACY

5 Broad St

Modbury PL21 0PS

01548 830215

www.modburypharmacy.co.uk



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Could you spare a few hours for the Modbury Caring Befriending Service?

Or perhaps you feel that you, yourself would benefit from a few hours a week from a Befriender?

Find out more from the Befriending Coordinator, **Sheila Harrison**
Tel: 07554 997140
modburycaring@gmail.com

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Stuart Watts

cllrswatts.bigburypc@gmail.com
01548 810373 or 07802 732368

Vice Chair: Henry Wainwright

cllrhwainwright.bigburypc@gmail.com
01548 810991

Councillors:

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Parish Clerk:

Ian Bramble
clerk.bigburypc@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be viewed in the three parish Notice Boards at:

- Holywell Stores, Bigbury
- Unwind Salon, Bigbury
- Bus Shelter, Bigbury-on-Sea

They are also on the Bigbury Community website:
www.bigburycommunity.co.uk

RINGMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Mary Swan

swan779@btinternet.com
01548 810592

Vice Chair: Michael Campbell

07796 268851

Councillors:

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kingandi41@gmail.com

John Reynolds 01548 811218
jpreynoldssr@gmail.com

Mike Wood 07483 353887
mikewood81@hotmail.co.uk

Helen Kent
hells1510@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Clerk:

Ian Bramble
ringmorepc@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of all Parish Council meetings can be viewed in the parish Notice Boards at:

- the bus stop in Ringmore
- below the Nisa shop .

They are also on the Ringmore Parish Council website:
www.ringmoreparishcouncil.gov.uk

BIGBURY MEMORIAL HALL Bringing the Community Together

We have two events coming up. First is the latest in our regular Film & Food Nights, on Thursday April 18th at 7.00 p.m.. The film this time is the recently released *The Great Escaper*, starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson, both appearing in their last film. Entry is completely free, just bring a plate to share and drinks. So if you missed this great film or just want to see it again, we look forward to seeing you. See poster for details.

The other event, on Thursday April 25th, is a return visit from Paul Naylor, who will be reprising his recent very successful talk on the marine life of Bigbury Bay. This was hugely popular, so much so that we've asked Paul to give another talk, but this time aimed more at the younger audience and families. It starts at 6.00 p.m., thus hopefully allowing time for kids to get home from school and eat. It's great value at £2 for adults and £1 for children. Also, there's no need to book, just roll up on the evening. Again, see poster.

Charles Harrington.

Tel. 810023.

Email charles_harri@yahoo.co.uk

BIGBURY WATCH



Eamonn & Linda Byrnes
811104 or 07790 485102

Not sure whether to call the police about something? Have a chat with our friendly Bigbury Watch Team and perhaps they can give you some advice. Eamonn and Linda are retired police officers and live locally.

TEARFUND

A huge thank you to all who came and supported Tearfund, come rain or shine, through the winter months and enjoyed warming soups and crumble and the friendly cafe atmosphere.

Tearfund works in many ways around the world including aiming to end extreme poverty and supporting in disasters and emergencies.

We are very grateful that we have raised £1,163.96 over the winter months to help with this work.

Alison Wynne-Powell

BIGBURY COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday 6th March we raised £336 for Modbury Caring. It was lovely to have Sheila Harrison present who told us about the work of Modbury Caring and the need for more volunteers to befriend and car drivers. Many thanks to everyone who came and supported us so generously.

On Wednesday 3rd April we will be supporting Hope Cove Lifeboat and on Wednesday 1st May Children's Hospice S.W. We look forward to seeing you between 10.30 and noon in the Memorial Hall.

Best wishes

Jean, Yvonne and the team.

MEMORIAL HALL CALENDAR

Day	Activity	Organiser
Mondays		
15.45 - 17.00	Table Tennis	Angie Bond 811131 Janie Grace 811122
1st Wed. of the month		
10.30 - 12.00	Community Coffee morning	Jean Wright 810029 Yvonne Klidjian 810971
2nd Wed. of the month		
19.30	Parish Council	Ian Bramble 855712
19.00	Community Choir	Apple Taylor Appletaylor72@gmail.com
Thursdays		
9.30 - 10.30	Pilates	Jill Gubbins 810651
10.50 - 11.30	Strong & Steady (plus tea & chat)	Jill Gubbins 810651



The work of your parish council and councillors is not always recognised. This is especially relevant considering that parish councillors' time is spent in an entirely voluntary capacity. Therefore, Bigbury Parish Council (BPC) has decided to adopt a logo and go some way to create a brand as an easy and direct means of communicating the work of the council.

The key elements of any logo are that it should be simple, relevant, memorable, timeless and versatile. Not only does the logo represent the council's identity but also how local people perceive the place in which they live, work and play – countryside, beach and sea. BPC would like to thank Karen Lawrence and Joni Hawkes for their time and generosity in collaborating with us in designing our new logo, which we believe captures these essential characteristics.

The logo will be used to identify the activities that the parish council undertakes. This might mean on signs, in any communications from the council (e.g. notices, publications, minutes, agendas, letters and emails) and on the community's website to name but a few examples.

Stuart Watts
BPC Chairman

RINGMORE CALENDAR 2025



DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE THE LOCATION AND NAME OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER WITH YOUR PHOTOS.

Please submit photos that you have taken in and around the parish, depicting the beautiful place in which we live. The closing date is the 20th April 2024.

Please email any photos for consideration (maximum of three per person) in JPEG format to: ringmoreparishroom@gmail.com

WINE QUIZ



Friday 8th March saw Henry Wainwright present a highly enjoyable and unusual evening, combining a wine themed quiz with a tasting of six wines (champagne, white and red). Small teams had to agree on answers to six rounds, based on champagne, geography and general knowledge, and films, pictures and music with wine connections. They also had to choose from a long list which grape varieties were tasted during the evening – surprisingly hard even for those thinking themselves pretty knowledgeable! Nibbles provided by the Hall committee members accompanied the tasting. Team Merlot narrowly beat team Riesling at the final count. Henry had researched and prepared a really interesting and fun event, thank you very much Henry!

Charles Harrington



Conserve the Verge

As many of you will have noticed, some of the green verges in our parish are suffering from heavy vehicles ploughing over them.

Bigbury-on-Sea's verges are particularly vulnerable owing to the narrow roads and high volume of contractors' vehicles in that location. The parish council is calling on all property owners to impress upon their contractors the importance of taking extra care when navigating large vehicles up and down our narrow roads. It is illegal to use the green verges for parking. Alternative parking arrangements should be made either on site or in car parks. The use of vehicles that can negotiate the tight turns will stop indiscriminate damage to the verges. We also ask that known obvious damage be made good as soon as possible to demonstrate a positive example to others. Builders should be made aware of this obligation to repair damage as part of a project's Construction Environmental Management Plan.

With everyone's help, we can stop further harm and give our lovely green areas the chance to recover.

RINGMORE MUSIC

Eight of us met up on Monday and four couldn't make it this time. It is always good to know if you are/are not coming (for cake making)! So there is an interest in the community. An amazing collection of instruments were produced including a conch shell, a broken violin (now mended) a lot of drums, a psaltery and a mountain dulcimer!



This is your Group – please have a say in how to develop it and what direction to take – from mighty oaks little acorns grow. Maybe classical music could be incorporated and piano recitals in aid of charity.

Going forwards we would like to encourage anyone to try and the more able will be able to help the less able to gain in confidence and play together. Please see our poster on the noticeboard page. Thank you.

Diddie Sims

RINGMORE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On a very wet February afternoon Ringmore Women's Institute members were talked through the process of printing on to fabric using hand-carved blocks by Esther Witherall, who runs a surface pattern and printed textiles business in Yealmbridge Mill (<https://www.estheronthefarm.com/>)

Under the guidance of Esther we were shown how to mix the fabric ink and apply it to fabric using the blocks and dabbers.

We had creative freedom to experiment with blocks and colour to create truly unique prints on to our tea towels, pillow cases, aprons and fabric swatches.

All members thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and some want to continue exploring block printing.

Tracy Hyde



GILL MIDDLETON



Gill and friends at her 85th birthday last year.

The news of Gill Middleton's death on Monday 29th January, after breaking her hip in a fall in her garage at the start of the month and then contracting pneumonia and covid, greatly distressed her many friends in the parish.

Gill was a very well-known face in the community, who lived in a property built by her father and welcomed many holidaymakers there over the years, a repository of much Bigbury social history, and as the packed church at her funeral heard in the eulogy, an amazingly well travelled and enterprising lady during her 85 years. She was a woman of deep faith, ever generous in spirit and caring towards others, preferring to help behind the scenes at community events, and very proud of Bigbury.

There have been lovely tributes paid to her in Jan Davies' book 'Bigbury Women in History' and on social media. With Gill's death, Vic and I personally have lost a long-standing and great friend to my parents and us, her memory will stay in our hearts as this era of Bigbury-on-Sea has come to an end.

Jill Gubbins

BIGBURY LADIES

Hazel kindly invited us to her home to start our get-together on Thursday 15th February. Eleven of us met there for coffee/tea and biscuits at 11am. From there, nine of us went to Bigbury Golf Club where Helen served us with our liquid choices and Dayle cooked us our edible choices. Sadly, Val and Ann could not join us for that part of our get-together.

On 21st March we are going to The House of Marbles at Bovey Tracey. This is a repeat visit as we went there in 2023 and had all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Pam Trundle

PRINTING BLOCKS AWAY...

It was printing blocks away at the recent block printing workshop in Bigbury Memorial Hall, hosted by Grace Coombes of Linnet Workshops.

There was a real buzz in the air, creative juices were in full flow and a surge of talent unleashed resulting in truly amazing designs.



Everyone went away with a sense of achievement and hopefully inspired to do more. Thank you to Grace at Linnet for such an inspirational, creative and immersive session.

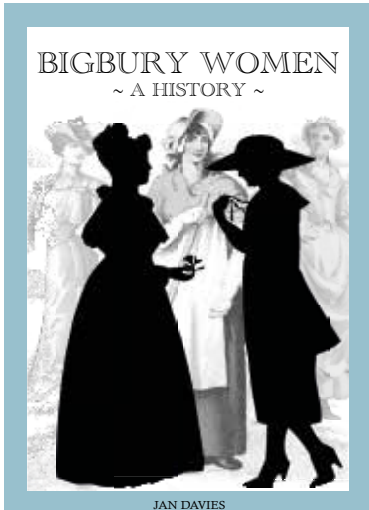


Due to the success of this first event which was a sell out, it is likely that there will be another block printing workshop at the Memorial Hall in the near future. Keep a look out for details in Bigbury Drums.

Nancy Singleton



Ringmore Historical Society



It was an interactive talk, peppered by questions from the audience on aspects of local history and women's rights (or lack of them!).

The audience response was very positive, with many people saying they had learned a lot about women's history generally and local women specifically. The photos chosen were fascinating and Jan gave thanks to the Bigbury History Society for allowing her free use of their archive in her research.



The booklet is now on sale for £5 in local shops and businesses.

In February, Jan Davies gave a very interesting presentation on her booklet 'Bigbury Women - A History', which had been published that day. All proceeds from sales are going to the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

Jan took us through the various chapters eg Population, Occupations, Mothers, Poverty etc, illustrated on screen by photos from the booklet.

What's On

3 April
Bigbury Coffee Morning
 The Memorial Hall 10.30 - 12.00

17 April
Hidden Secrets of Ringmore Church
 Ringmore WI Hall 7.30

18 April
Film & Food Night
 The Memorial Hall 7pm

23 April
Bigbury Map Project
 The Memorial Hall 7.30

25 April
Bigbury's Amazing Marine Life
 The Memorial Hall 6pm

1 May
Bigbury Coffee Morning
 The Memorial Hall 10.30 - 12.00

26/27 May
Ringmore WI Centenary Open Gardens 11 - 4.30

NEED LOCAL STORAGE?



BSS

BIGBURY SELF STORAGE

Stuart & Hazel Marshall
 HIGHER EASTON FARM
 Bigbury
 TQ7 4HQ

bigburyselfstorage@gmail.com
 07515 994542 / 07970 526048

Grade A Storage Containers ~ Anti-Condensate Lining ~ Easy Access

Customer Parking ~ Secure ~ Owners On Site

BIGBURY COFFEE MORNING



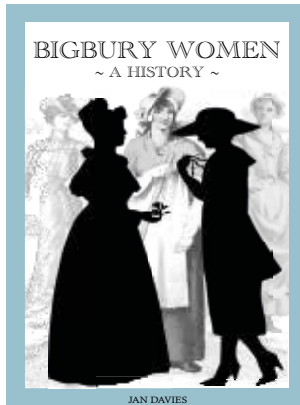
The Memorial Hall, St. Ann's Chapel
Entrance £1 to include coffee/biscuits
Bric-a-Brac, Books, Cards, Silk items from
Cambodia, Cakes, Savouries, Raffle, Guess the
weight of the cake etc.
10.30 - 12.00

Wednesday 3rd April
Supporting Hope Cove Lifeboat

Wednesday 1st May
Supporting Children's Hospice SW

NOTICE BOARD

ON SALE NOW for £5
at Holywell Stores, Unwind and
Bigbury Golf Club shop.
All proceeds from sales are going
to the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.



Folk Music for Fun at Ringmore



We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at
Orchard House (Ringmore) opposite the Parish
Rooms at 2.30 pm.

We play simple folk tunes on various
instruments and can provide recorders, whistles,
ukuleles, bongo drums and accordions. It is a
fun, friendly informal gathering and any ability
is welcome. So, if you have always wanted to
play a musical instrument come along.

BIGBURY MAP PROJECT

supporting wildlife in our parish



Tuesday 23rd April 7.30pm
Bigbury Memorial Hall

Find your house and garden in 1843.
Who owned it? Who lived there?
Was your plot still a field then?
Find out what was growing there.

How can we restore hedges, meadows
and orchards to benefit our local wildlife?

Raffle Prizes:
An apple tree, wildflower seeds, plants...

Ringmore Historical Society

Hidden Secrets of Ringmore Church

talk by Mike Wynne-Fowell

Wednesday 17th April
Ringmore WI Hall
7.30pm



Complimentary
glass of wine
Members £1
Visitors £5

BIGBURY MEMORIAL HALL

A Children's Event



Put on your snorkels, it's going to be a surprising ride!

Dr. Paul Naylor is giving a talk on

BIGBURY'S AMAZING MARINE LIFE

with his underwater photographs and video

at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 25th April at 6.00pm

Children £1, adults £2 – pay on the night.

Bring your own drink and nibbles.

Under New Management



The management of Bigbury on Sea car park and
toilets has moved from SHDC to RCP Parking Ltd.

About the decision to stop operating the car park
SHDC stated "when there is a rent increase
which means we would be running at a significant
loss, then it's the right thing to do, to walk away and
spend money where it's more urgently needed".

LIVE JAZZ
@ THE REGAL
Church St, Kingsbridge TQ7 1TD
Doors open 6.30 pm Gig starts at 7.30
Audience limited to 50 people
Reserve seats in advance. £12.50 per person
henry.wainwright52@gmail.com

Tues 6th Feb
HOT HOUSE COMBO

Tues 5th Mar
CRAIG MILVERTON TRIO
'Tribute to Oscar Peterson'

Tues 9th April
LA VIE EN ROSE

Tues 7th May
MATT HOLLICK QUARTET

@kingsbridgejazzclub www.kingsbridgejazzclub.com

FILM & FOOD NIGHT



Bigbury Memorial Hall 7.00 pm 18th April
Entry FREE, just bring a plate to share



St Lawrence's

CHURCH NEWS

What a joy, what a relief it is to announce the long-awaited return of our six bells to St Lawrence, a major part of the 'inSPIREd apPEAL' to restore the tower and bells, started in 2020. The beams were cemented into place during the first full week of February and allowed to settle before the bell frames and bells themselves came down from Bridport on 19th February. Unusually and very sadly two funerals took place on the 19th and 20th – the first for Alison Fraser, an ex-churchwarden of St Lawrence, the second for Gill Middleton, a well loved Bigbury on Sea resident – so the bells re-installation properly commenced on Wednesday 21st.

Over the next week a very hardworking and committed volunteer team (mostly over70!), aided by Neil, then Ian from Nicholson Bellhangers, hoisted and secured into position a new access ladder to the bell chamber, then two bell frames, six bells, wheels and ringing ropes.



Thanks to Bryan Carson and John Tucker who provided sustenance for the team, and the 'bells widows' anxiously awaiting their exhausted partners safe return home. Most of all, huge thanks go to the team of Jon Fish, Simon Bronstein, Mike Wynne-Powell, John Scott, Peter Cook, Henry Wainwright and Vic Gubbins – at times working till gone 7pm in the tower gloom to finish the job!



On Wednesday 28th February Andrew Nicholson visited to finalise matters on the re-installation, and a small planned late afternoon get-together of the team accidentally coincided wonderfully with a trial of the bells! Andrew, John Irish from St Georges, Bryan, Peter and Henry were led in three sets of peals by 94 years old Bell Captain Harry Bardens – see the video on the Bigbury Drums of 29th February! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r13eAwRD4E> So moving to see Harry ringing 'his' bell again after twenty years of silence! Harry's son Andrew has generously funded the new bell ropes, thank you!



The bells need to settle in but hopefully by the time you read this the team which has been forming over the last few years in readiness will have started practising and ringing for services – please contact Peter Cook on 810156 for details! One might think the project is finished but unfortunately there are still some jobs remaining. An internal ladder access can now be mounted to the tower battlements. Then, as water continues to percolate through the steeple and tower due to the extreme porosity of the local stone, an internal roof is planned over the bells to divert water to the outside. Finally the vestry will be re-installed. Scaffolding inside the church will be removed after some decorative repairs to the back wall are done. It is hoped that by early autumn a celebratory event can properly thank all supporters of this project. Keep your eyes 'pealed'!

Mothering Sunday on 10th March went well with posies for mums and treats for children attending. Please do visit St Lawrence to appreciate its peace and history inside and in the churchyard. Please contact Bryan Carson, churchwarden, (810296) or us with any queries, or help and ideas to offer.

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



All Hallows

CHURCH NEWS

LADY CHAPEL ROOF REPAIRS

Work is now underway on the Lady Chapel roof. The roof was stripped. Slate and batten sizes were recorded and replacements sourced. Some timber repairs were needed to rotten rafters. The slates will soon be re-laid and it is hoped that the roof will be completed by Easter or very shortly afterwards.



PANCAKE DAY

Pancake day was on the 13th March 10.30-12.30pm in the Parish room and although we didn't have lots of customers, perhaps the bad weather may have put a few people off, the steady stream created a good atmosphere and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves.

Mike Wynne-Powell's "the outline of which country is this" quiz got everyone thinking, and Mike was rewarded for his efforts when his ticket was drawn as the winner of the "chicken dinner".

Many thanks goes to Sally Errett and David Vincent for making the pancakes which were delicious with lemon and sugar and most enjoyed seconds or more! Big thanks to Sally for organising the event and all her helpers who raised £141 for All Hallows.



CHURCH CLEANING

This is undertaken on the last Friday of each month from 10.00 until about mid-day. Very many thanks to all who give up their time to keep All Hallows looking neat, tidy and polished! If anyone would like to come and help you will be more than welcome. The next dates are Friday 26 April and Friday 31 May.

MOTHERS DAY

Our Mothers Day service conducted by Oli Long was very well attended. The children enjoyed a craft activity in the vestry after the service, whilst the ladies were given a posy and enjoyed being served tea and cake by the male members of our congregation. Many thanks to Rosemary Wilson for the lovely camellia posies and to Sarah, Sally and Mary for the variety of delicious cakes and biscuits.



PAROCHIAL ELECTORAL ROLL

Would you like to join Ringmore Parochial Electoral Roll? Joining the electoral roll is a way of saying 'I belong' - an act of commitment to the local church and to the Church as a whole. It also enables you to vote at the church's Annual Meeting (APCM). If you are eligible to join, we would love to encourage you to sign up. To be on the church electoral roll you need to be a resident in the parish or have worshipped at All Hallows regularly for at least the last six months. You should be baptised and at least 16 years old. For further information contact: Tracy Hyde 07884 003152

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall, Bigbury at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 16th May 2024. This is the occasion when Church Wardens and PCC members are elected to serve, and also an opportunity for new ideas and comments to be discussed.

PRAYER CHAIN

From time to time, most of us feel the need for prayer (whether or not we go to Church). If anyone has a prayer request, they can phone one of the numbers listed below and give details of the request (as much or as little detail as they wish) That person will contact other members of the chain so that a number of people are offering the prayer on behalf of the individual. Confidentiality is always maintained. Prayer chain members are:

Sally Errett	714946;	Allison Wynne-Powell	810407
Mary Wilson	830280	Debbie Moseley	810958
Gill Tomlin	810028	Yvonne Turpin	810798
Heather Hinkley	714631	Rosemary Piercy	810253
Mary Naylor	07792 538138	Rosemary Wilson	810407

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

This space could be telling and illustrating your story.

Tell us about the work of your local group or club or items of interest. Do you have any 'top tips' to share?

Maybe you'd be interested in contributing to:

Wildlife Watch
or
Garden Gate

We'd love to hear from you!

You could write a one-off piece or become a regular contributor. If writing isn't your thing, why not send us your local photographs or an image of your art work?

Have you attended a local event? Do you have any business news? Why not write about it and send it in with photos. Thank you in advance!

Jan Davies & Nancy Singleton
Editor and Business Editor



Think Dark Skies!

Any pollution is unacceptable but regrettably a common problem. Very widespread examples are plastic, sewage and air pollution. Yet light pollution is not always seen as culprit. Artificial light at night has revolutionized the way we live and work outdoors and remains one of the most significant technical advances that contributes to our way of living. However, used thoughtlessly, lighting disrupts wildlife, damages human health, wastes money and energy, contributing to climate change, and it blocks our view of the starry sky.

Light pollution became more urgent after a 2016 study found that nearly 100% of the British population lives under light-polluted skies. The rapid pace at which the night was being lost in the UK prompted some parliamentarians to take action. In 2020 the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Dark Skies was formed, consisting of parliamentarians of all parties. The aim was to promote the adoption of dark sky friendly lighting and planning policies in the UK. Consequently, two newly designated International Dark Sky Reserves: Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks were established.

Closer to home, enjoying a star lit dark sky is one of the many pleasures of living in Rural Devon. So, before you turn that light on, especially outside lights, ask yourself is it really needed? Then again afterwards do not forget to turn the light off! For internal lighting, many windows can beam light unnecessarily over neighbours and the countryside. Therefore, as you would not throw your empty plastic bottle into the hedge, do not dim those starry skies with unwanted light pollution.

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Modbury Mission Community

CHURCH SERVICES: APRIL AND MAY 2024

	Aveton Gifford 11.00 am	Bigbury 11.00 am	Kingston 9.30 am	Modbury 9.30 am	Ringmore 9.30 am
April 7 th	Sunday Worship	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion	Communion
April 14 th	Sunday Worship	Communion	Village Service	Communion (8 am) (BCP) ----- All Age Worship	Sunday Worship
April 21 st	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion (11 am)	Communion	Sunday Worship
April 28 th	Communion	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion
May 5 th	Sunday Worship	Village Service	Sunday Worship	Communion	Village Service
May 12 th	Sunday Worship	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion (8 am) (BCP) ----- All Age Worship	Sunday Worship
May 19 th	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion (11 am)	Communion	Sunday Worship
May 26 th	Communion	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion

EASTER JOY

I've been particularly grateful for the arrival of spring this year, seeing life return to hedgerows and gardens. The winter was so gloomy, damp and windy. It was difficult not to be discouraged. Having just celebrated Easter, the gloom reminded me of the darkness that the Gospel writers report, came over the land when Jesus was crucified. This would have matched the feelings of loss and grief his friends and family were experiencing. But remarkably events surrounding Jesus' execution still led to the Roman Centurion on duty that day to declare, "Surely he was the Son of God."

Then on the third day overwhelming hope returned with Jesus' resurrection. Whatever our circumstances, however gloomy, we have the hope of eternal life through faith in Jesus. As he promised, "For God so love the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life".

So let's get out of our houses this spring and enjoy the sunshine, the warming air and the outbreak of life around us. We are particularly blessed to be living in the South Hams.

Gil Snook

Gil Snook

Vicar: The Revd Matt Rowland (830260: every day except (normally) Saturday)
Curate: The Revd Oli Long (732007: not Saturday)
Readers: Joyce Howitt (07929 117397), Gil Snook (07563 663410), Michael Tagent (Emeritus)

Beach Banter

When Archibald Nettlefold opened the Burgh Island Hotel in 1929 he wanted to find a way to transport guests across to the island at high tide without getting their evening wear wet. This led to the world's first sea tractor, launched in 1930, which held its passengers high above the waves for the 270-yard crossing.

Today's sea tractor is based on a 1969 design by nuclear engineering pioneer Robert Jackson CBE (in exchange for a case of champagne!) and continues this mission of delivering dry guests to the island.

On most days, the journey is sedate, if a little noisy, with barely a splash onto the deck.

On others, such as 10th February this year.... well, the pictures tell the story.....

Steve Allen

All aboard!



Dodging the waves breaking from both sides...



Well that's the tuxedo ruined....



Home and (not so) dry! Time for a pint ... and a chaser!



Beach Banter



Discovery Surf School



**Bigbury Coastguard
Rescue Team**



BIGBURY-ON-SEA CAR PARK
contact-less payment code: 3476

www.discoverysurf.com

Hopefully by the time you're reading this Spring will have fully arrived! It's been slow to warm up this season, but at least we've been enjoying plenty of good surf in and around the prolific downpours. Here at Discovery we're fully up and running and our first Surf Club courses of the year have been scoring some fun sessions.



Photo credit: Christian Jones

Throughout the Easter holidays we will be open everyday for surf lessons and equipment hire and we have availability on our courses and single lessons if you're keen to get involved. Throughout April and May there are lessons and Fast Track, Surf Club and Summer courses available, so please contact us to book or have a look at our website for more details. The water is still a bit on the chilly side, but fear not, as we have a large range of warm winter wetsuits, boots, gloves and hoods to keep you toasty while you surf - these are available for lessons and to hire as well.

Discovery Surf School has been affiliated with the internationally recognised governing body the Academy of Surf Instructors (ASI) for many years, and recently it's been exciting to see how Surfing England have been developing their NGB status within the UK. We have now become a Surfing England accredited surf school and have been planning and developing new ways to deliver surf instructor



courses and improving what we can offer our surf club children through their Grom Squad program. We're looking forward to sharing this with everyone over the coming season.

As well as governing Surf Schools, Surfing England run national surfing competitions and bring together the top English talent, training them in preparation for international surfing events. We are extremely proud that our very own Sebastian Connolly has been selected to join the England Junior Surf Squad in the Under 16 division. This is an amazing opportunity for Seb, with potential to represent England at international competitions. He was selected as a result of his commitment, talent and excellent competition results during 2023.



We look forward to some warmer days, after school surfs in the sunshine and seeing you at the beach!

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

Martin and Annika Connolly
Owners/Directors
Jess Harvey
Surf School Manager
martin@discoverysurf.com



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Shilstone

The restoration of Shilstone began in 1997 when the site was purchased by Sebastian and Lucy Fenwick. The initial work was on the surrounding dilapidated farm buildings, converting these into offices, workshops and cottages. The hedgerows were restored and relayed, new banks shored up, and the overgrown valley with its rare and lovely water theatre and grotto, were unveiled and revealed to their former glory, showing the valley woven with stone lined rills and leets, and the series of ponds connected with cascades of water.

The house, which had formerly been important, had been much reduced in size, and was at this point a rather nondescript farmhouse, sitting at the top of the valley above the grotto. After much research the architectural historian Christopher Rae-Scott, produced detailed drawings of the design for a new house, on the footprint of the earlier house. It is built around a lovely internal courtyard, filled with flowers, and the style of it appears to evolve from 1620 in the magnificent oak panelled, plaster ceilinged drawing room to 1720, in the south and east sides of the house.

There was no garden, and this has been planned and planted from scratch, to the design of Lucy Fenwick. The walled garden was there, but very dilapidated, and had to be essentially rebuilt. The ten ton granite cider press which was already at Shilstone, was moved with great difficulty to its position in the walled garden, and is now a delightful fountain with Triton in its centre holding a shell from which the water cascades. Lucy is very keen on wildflowers, and long grasses, and is working on increasing the unmown areas to encourage the native wild flowers to establish themselves. This is a slow process, but the number of specimens increases each year, and last year (2023) saw a record number of wild orchids. The knock on effect of this is greater diversity of wildlife, especially the insects and birds.



The Archive at Shilstone was established by the Fenwicks in 2009 and is an invaluable resource for anyone wishing to learn more about the history of Devon. Housing a substantial collection of historical documents, maps, books, photographs, journals, periodicals and architectural drawings, the Archive is open to all from Wednesday to Sunday for general browsing, or for researching specific places or buildings. There is also a programme of events, including a popular evening lecture programme, which runs throughout the year, as well as plans for local history projects involving community groups and schools.

Last year, Shilstone opened a charming café next to the Archive, in a pretty courtyard full of flowers and with picturesque views of the surrounding Devonshire countryside. Offering a warm and friendly atmosphere, it serves a variety of fresh and locally sourced produce. Whether you're looking for a hearty breakfast, light lunch or a delicious afternoon tea the menu has something for everyone.



On Sundays, Shilstone offers a fantastic traditional Sunday lunch, in the summer this takes place in the Mughal Marquee, which is in the Walled Garden, and in the winter it is in the Great Barn with oak beamed ceiling which is opposite the house.

The house and garden are open for tours every month, led by Lucy Fenwick, and on some designated tours she will also conduct a tour specifically of the picture collection, which has been lovingly curated over the past twenty years. Lucy was formerly a director at Sotheby's auction house in London, as a specialist in British Paintings. The collection comprises pictures of family interest or connection, together with local views, and a room largely dedicated to early 20th century British Paintings. Check the website for details of dates and booking availability.

Shilstone now holds a variety of events and workshops which include a recent very popular Linnet block printing workshop, and coming up, a wreath making workshop. At Easter, Shilstone is offering a host of activities including an Easter trail for the little ones to explore the gardens and collect a prize of hot chocolate for all at the end. Also, our chefs will be firing up our brand-new wood-fired BBQs on Easter Sunday serving up a selection of delicious specials cooked over hot coals in the cafe courtyard. So if the sun is shining you can wander around the gardens, taking in the glorious views, or explore the woods. Alternatively, there will be plenty of seating, inside and out available in the cafe where they will also be serving a selection of Easter treats including homemade hot cross buns and chocolates. As often described by visitors, Shilstone is a hidden gem just waiting to be discovered.

<https://shilstonedevon.com>

Bigbury Bells

BELL RINGERS AHOY!

After the great news that the bells are back and working, now we must find a ringing team to ring the bells. As the bells were last rung over 20 years ago the old bell ringers have long found pastures new (except for Harry Bardens). Therefore, a new band of bell ringers are needed.



Harry Bardens returns!

A group of novice ringers led by Peter Cook have been training with the help of Modbury (John Irish and John Wood) and Kingston (Mervyn Freeman) bell ringers. Yet more new and or experienced ringers are needed. For those who have rung before, however long ago, it is just like riding a bike you never forget. For those new to ringing, all are welcome to join our practice sessions on either Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings.

If interested, please call Peter on 01548 810156. One final note, the collective noun for a group of bell ringers is either band, peal or camp of bell ringers (according to Dr Google). Other suggestions are always welcome!

Henry Wainwright



Harry Bardens (3rd left) and the bells in February 2022



Harry Bardens (left) and Bigbury bell ringers in 1966

RICHARD'S BELL

What a wonderful couple of days it was when the bells came back home to St Lawrence's. It was particularly special to me. When they were taken down I took photos of them on 22 February 2022 and noticed that one of them had the name of Richard on the bell (the founder I presume) and the company name John Taylor on the frame. So I called it Richard's bell after my lovely husband who is buried in the churchyard.

Sadly I wasn't able to be there when they were returned but a big thank you to Henry Wainwright, who took a couple of photos of Richard's bell being unloaded. Two days later I was given a tip off that the bells had been hung and again, thanks to Henry, I was able to go into the vestry and look up at the bell in place. I called it Richard's bell bottom! Just looking forward to hearing them ringing again.

Alice Taylor



Photo Gallery



Jill Gubbins



Nancy Singleton



Sue Hillman-Smith



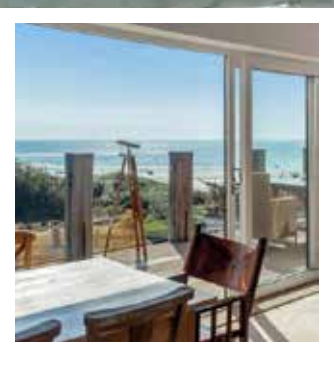
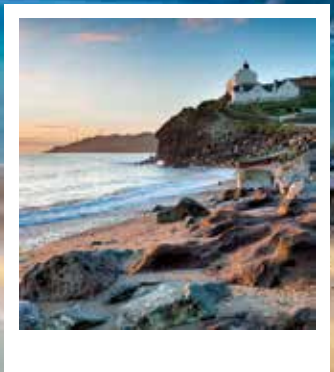
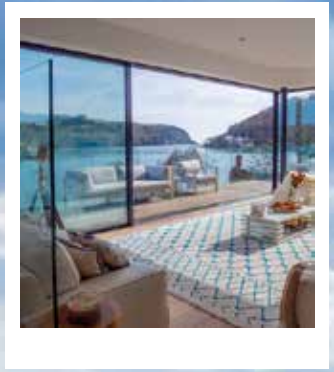
Helen Buick



Helen Buick



Mike Wynne-Powell



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Village Kitchen

LAMB WELLINGTON

WITH WILD GARLIC MASH, CARROTS, ROASTED CAULIFLOWER AND A CAPER AND TOMATO JUS



Ingredients:

2 canons of lamb (sinew and skin removed) each cut into 2
1 leek
4 slices Parma ham
2 sheets puff pastry (each cut into 2)
1 egg (for egg wash)
Olive oil
Salt and pepper

Caper and tomato jus:

500ml lamb stock
1 tsp redcurrant jelly
1 tomato (peeled, deseeded and chopped)
3 tsp capers

Wild garlic mash, carrots, roast cauliflower:

3 large Maris Piper potatoes (peeled and diced)
25g Devonshire cream
25g Devonshire butter
1 bunch of wild garlic leaves (washed)
4 medium sized carrots (peeled and chopped)
1 tbsp rapeseed oil
12 cauliflower florets
Olive oil
Salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 200 celsius or gas mark 6. Rub the lamb with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Seal the lamb in a hot frying pan and remove to cool. Top and tail the leek, slice down the length of the leek from the centre out. Wash the leek and blanch the sheets of leek in boiling water for 30 seconds and refresh in iced water. Remove from the water and dry off. Lay the 4 sliced of Parma ham on the kitchen counter. On each slice lay sheets of leek then place the lamb canons on top of the leek. Roll the ham and leeks tightly around the lamb. Roll out the puff pastry large enough to wrap the lamb parcels in. Carefully roll the lamb in the pastry, sealing the joins in with some egg wash, then egg wash the outside of the pastry and leave the wellingtons to rest in the fridge.

Prepare the jus by reducing the stock by half and adding the redcurrant jelly. Cook the potato in boiling salted water. When cooked, drain and mash. Heat the cream and butter together and add to the potato. Whilst the potatoes are cooking, blanch the wild garlic leaves in boiling salted water before cooling them in iced water. Blend the leaves in a blender and add to the mash then season. Cook the carrots in boiling salted water. When cooked add the rapeseed oil and blend until smooth. Season the cauliflower with salt and pepper and drizzle with a little olive oil. Place in a baking tray and cook for the same amount of time as the wellingtons. To finish, bake the wellingtons for about 18 minutes, the pastry should be golden. Allow to rest for 5 mins. Whilst the lamb is resting make sure the other ingredients are hot and add the tomato and capers to the jus. Cut the excess pastry from the wellingtons and cut them in half. Plate the wellingtons on top of the carrot puree, add the cauliflower florettes and garlic mash and drizzle with jus. Serves 4

Fiona Stace

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Wildlife Watch

Sound & Vision



'Sound & Vision' can be associated with David Bowie's hit single back in 1977, gosh was it really that long ago! Well, Mike Wynne-Powell's 'Sound and Vision' presentation in the Parish Room, Ringmore on 28th January was certainly a big hit that's for sure!



Cinnabar Moth

Around 40 residents and visitors were treated to an eclectic repertoire of all things Ringmore and beyond from insects, butterflies and moths, boats, stormy seas, a Coronation tea party, Mamma Mia, kite surfers, birds, bats, dogs, Christmas Bazaar, Bigbury bells, sand writing and so much more...



Comma Butterfly

As always Mike's presentation was light hearted, engaging and informative. The audience were immersed in the sounds and visions of our environment from the people who live, work and play here to the breathtaking wildlife, flora and fauna on our doorstep.

You'll often see Mike around the village and its environs looking for photographic opportunities that capture the essence of the stunning environment in which we are fortunate enough to live in. Should you bump into Mike, he is a font of knowledge on all things flora and fauna and will be happy to share and enthuse with you what he's seen on his travels.



Dark Dagger Moth Caterpillar

It's fair to say that as a result of Mike's Sound & Vision, everyone left feeling uplifted, better informed, more connected with their environment, eager to explore and keen to discover more. Thank you Mike for all of the time and effort you put into giving so much pleasure and helping to support All Hallows Church funds with donations from the event.

Here's to Sound & Vision 10!

Nancy Singleton

Green Woodpecker

He's been seen several times over the winter on the lawn at Long Easton.



Newt Survey 1 April - 30 May
<https://amphibian-survey.arc-trust.org>
Henry Wainwright

Fly factoids - did you know?

(photos by Mike Wynne-Powell) Hoverflies are the most important pollinators among flies, very commonly seen in shafts of sunlight hovering.. The larvae of many species feed on aphids, whilst others are efficient nutrient recyclers, thus making a valuable contribution to a healthy garden.



Celery Fly – *Euleia heraclei*, are a stunningly beautiful, but small fly with transparent wings with black patterning and eyes that in sunlight display orange, yellow and green colours. The larvae mine inside leaves of celery, parsnips, celeriac, parsley, lovage and related wild flowers, which makes the leaves of the plant become brown and papery.



Moth Fly, (family Psychodidae) looks like a tiny moth, but in fact is a fly with hairy wings, there are numerous different species in the UK and they are harmless. They live and tolerate decaying matter and thus often inhabit drain pipes. In some parts of the world they are bloodsucking and transmit disease.



The Cup Returns

Mary Smallwood, a resident of Bigbury for over 50 years was a keen supporter of the church, W.I and the Bigbury garden and produce show. In her honour, after she died in 2012, the produce show committee established the Mary Smallwood trophy in 2013 and Pete Marsh was the first winner ten years ago. Charles Smallwood, Mary's son, was sorting things out at home and came across the Bigbury Garden and Produce Show Challenge Cup.



In February he was passing and took the opportunity to return the cup to the parish. Alas he could not shed any light on the origins or information about the cup or the presenter of the cup, a Mrs F Blight. All we currently know is that the cup is solid silver and has a dated hall mark of 1931.



Charles returns the cup to Louise Wainwright who is holding the current Mary Smallwood trophy.

We would like to know more. For instance, when was the cup last presented at a Bigbury garden and produce show, is there anyone who received the trophy and who might Mrs F Blight be and her connection with the village. Finally, any suggestions about what the cup should be used for now considering we did not have a produce show last year would be welcome.

Contact: henry.wainwright52@gmail.com



Why do we need No Mow May?

We've lost nearly 97% of flower-rich meadows since the 1930's and with them gone are vital food needed by pollinators, like bees and butterflies.

But your lawn can help! A healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground. Best of all, to reap these benefits all you have to do is not mow your lawn in May and beyond!



How to take part

With over 20 million gardens in the UK, even the smallest grassy patches add up to a significant proportion of our land which, if managed properly, can deliver enormous gains for nature, communities and the climate. This is why Plantlife calls for people to get involved with #NoMowMay every year, and let wild plants get a head start on summer.





You might have attended the first event last September when we looked at the 1843 Tithe Map, showing buildings and land-use across the parish.

I now have another map showing the land-use 180 years later in 2023 so we can compare Bigbury then and now. This is interesting in itself and I wouldn't have been able to do it without the assistance and knowledge of our local farmers - thank you!

In 1830 we had 60 acres of orchards and 130 acres of meadows. In common with the rest of the country, we now have far fewer and this is having a detrimental effect on our wildlife.

We can't change the world but we can do a huge amount for our little parish!

We have an opportunity to restore some of the plant life that insects need for food and shelter. Without the insects, we'd have no food so we can all do our little bit and see how it adds up to a big difference.

Could you plant one fruit tree? Do you have room for a few square metres of meadow in your garden? Could you replace an old fence with a hedge?

There's lots to see and hear, with prizes to be won so make it an evening out - bring your friends and neighbours!

Jan Davies

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BIGBURY MAP PROJECT

supporting wildlife in our parish



Tuesday 23rd April 7.30pm
Bigbury Memorial Hall

Find your house and garden in 1843.
Who owned it? Who lived there?
Was your plot still a field then?
Find out what was growing there.

How can we restore hedges, meadows and orchards to benefit our local wildlife?

Raffle Prizes:
An apple tree, wildflower seeds, plants...

Local History

Ringmore Post Offices

from the Ringmore Historical Society Archives

Until 1890 there was no post office in Ringmore. However, Mrs George Freeman, who lived at Challaborough Cottage, was known as the "Receiver" of letters, which came to her from Kingsbridge, and by some mails from Ivybridge, both via Aveton Gifford. The Money Order and Telegraph Office was at Modbury.

In 1890 a little post office was established at Challaborough Cottage. Letters were received by Mail Cart from Aveton Gifford at 9.40 am and were despatched at 3.55 pm (weekdays only). The nearest Money Order and Telegraph Office was still at Modbury.

In 1907 the Post Master was Tom Farley who lived with his wife Emma and their niece Flossie Bardens in the middle cottage of the row which is now called Ivy Cottage, in which they had the Post Office. In 1914 they moved to the house now called Hillside and the Post Office moved with them. By then the nearest Money Order Office was at Kingston and the nearest Telegraph Office was at Bigbury.

By 1923 the Sub-Post Office was at the cottage now called Sea View, which was owned by David Triggs. His daughter Miriam Olver was Post-Mistress. After the death of David Triggs in 1925, his cottage was sold and Miriam Olver moved with the Post Office to a cottage at what is now part of Ivy Cottage.

At some stage in the 1930's Owen and Molly Jarvis had the Post Office in Rose Cottage but by 1935 Fred and Bessie Ryder had allocated the northern end of their cottage

(now called Wychwood) to a little shop and post office. Mrs Mary Triggs who lived at Houghton and cycled to Ringmore each day ran this. Eventually Mary Triggs moved with the Post Office to the northern end of Ivy Cottage which had previously been its home. After her death in 1951, Edward Rogers took over the cottage and Post Office.

Thus for over 50 years Ringmore residents had maintained post office services in the village by giving up space in their tiny cottages. From these small post offices mail was delivered on foot by local postmen to the farms and houses of Ringmore, as described by Margaret Lock in the booklet "Ringmore Remembered". She was for a short time the village Post-woman.

Following this period, Mr and Mrs Wyatt bought all three cottages comprising Ivy Cottage and converted them into one - using the northern part as a post office and Village Shop. This arrangement continued without interruption with Mr and Mrs Gander, Mr and Mrs Herndon and Mr and Mrs Race succeeding each other as Post Master and Postmistress.

During the 1980's Roger and Susanne Race enlarged the premises by converting an old store at the north end of the cottage into an annex of the shop. This more elaborate shop did not pay and it and the Post office were closed in 1991.

Fortunately John and Rosemary Tate, who owned Cross Park, made a brave effort to convert part of their premises into a shop and post office which continued to operate until 1998 when it too had to close.

BIGBURY & RINGMORE NEWS

300, 200 & 100 years ago

April/May 1724

Baptised in Bigbury:

*Anthony, son of Dr Anthony & Elizabeth Cornishe
Lydia, daughter of John & Honour Treby*

Buried in Bigbury:

*Andrew Phillipps
Stephen Willing*

April/May 1824

Baptised in Bigbury:

Joseph, son of William & Elizabeth Dingle, Farmer

Buried in Bigbury:

Jenny Sullock aged 85

Baptised in Ringmore:

John, son of William & Sarah Ryder, Labourer

Buried in Ringmore:

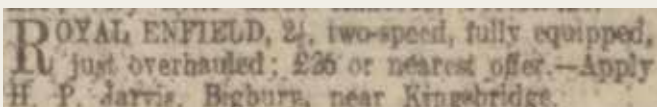
*Robert Morgan aged 64
Elizabeth Ryder aged 4
Edward Colliver aged 5*

Married in Bigbury:

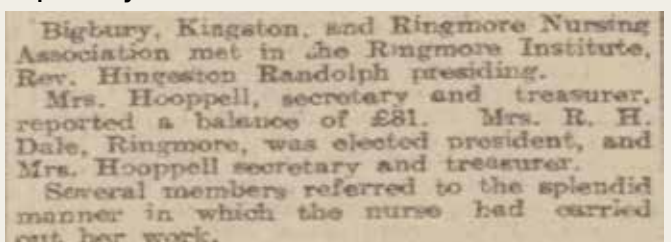
Rosa Kerswill Beck & Martin Taylor

Western Morning News April/May 1924

Motor Cycle For Sale:



ROYAL ENFIELD, 24, two-speed, fully equipped,
R just overhauled; £26 or nearest offer. - Apply
H. P. Jarvis, Bigbury, near Kingsbridge.



Bigbury, Kingston, and Ringmore Nursing
Association met in the Ringmore Institute,
Rev. Hingston Randolph presiding.
Mrs. Hooppell, secretary and treasurer,
reported a balance of £81. Mrs. R. H.
Dale, Ringmore, was elected president, and
Mrs. Hooppell secretary and treasurer.
Several members referred to the splendid
manner in which the nurse had carried
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Business Matters

Have you made the link?

Some of our local business may have already taken advantage of the opportunity to participate in the Heart of the South West Growth Hub's free Digital Link service, if not there's still an opportunity for you to make the link...

Businesses in Devon are actively embracing digital transformation with the help of the Digital Link service from the Growth Hub. Tailored for small businesses in Devon, Somerset, Plymouth, and Torbay, this service has already helped many hundreds of businesses since the launch in June 2023.

Feedback and testimonials from the free 1-2-1 sessions with Digital Business Advisers shows how the sessions help business owners acquire crucial insights into digital strategies and guides them through the digital landscape.

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Peter & Lisa

heart of the south west
Growth Hub

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Unlock your digital potential

Clients value the specific advice on digital marketing, social media, and SEO provided in the 1-2-1 sessions. One participant shared how the session left them "feeling very inspired," and they were ready to action an ambitious eight-page plan. Another pointed out the importance of dedicating time to understanding the digital environment, saying 'The meeting left me feeling motivated and excited about the future of my little business.'

Business interested in finding out more about the Growth Hub's Digital Link service and booking a free, fully funded 1-2-1 session can visit:

www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk
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Tel: 03456 047047

Farming Productivity & Slurry Applications Now Open

If they haven't done so already, our farming community may like to consider applying to this fund.

Funding is now available for farming equipment and technology for kit that will help you improve productivity and slurry management through the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund. Grants of £1,000 to £50,000 are available under the 3 themes of productivity, slurry management and animal health and welfare. Farmers, foresters, growers and contractors to those sectors can apply. The window to apply will close at midday on 17 April 2024.

For further information on the grants and items included please read the grant guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-2024>

Nancy Singleton, Business Editor

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St Lawrence's is packed with amazing history including 18th century bells that, after a period of renovation, are back in their rightful place within the majestic tower of early 13th century origin.

Thanks to the immense efforts of the Tower & Bell initiative led by Vic & Jill Gubbins with widespread support of our community & FOSL, the six bells of St Lawrence's can ring out again in all their glory.



Photo by Mike Wynne-Powell

FRIENDS NEEDED!

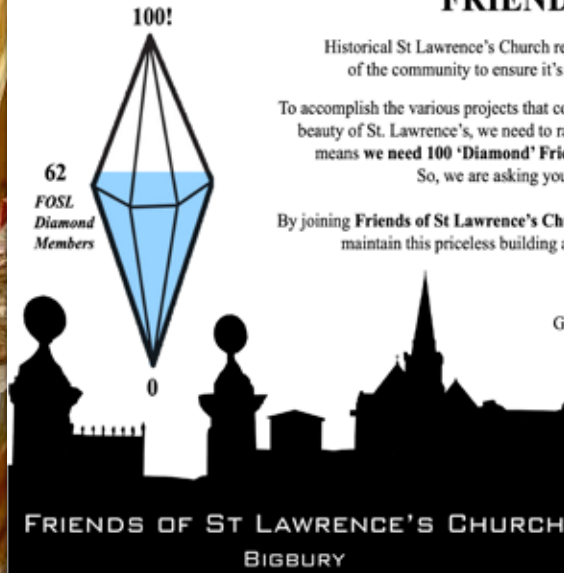
Historical St Lawrence's Church relies on the ongoing support of the community to ensure it's here for future generations.

To accomplish the various projects that contribute to the heritage and beauty of St. Lawrence's, we need to raise circa £6000/year which means we need 100 'Diamond' Friends giving just £5/month. So, we are asking you to become one of our 100!

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

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The energy and enthusiasm of our local farms and businesses for our community effort to reduce the Bigbury carbon footprint by 2050 is creating an engine that will help to drive change. Given their very busy lives, the interest and commitment of our business and farming sectors is really rewarding for

all of us. We thank them all for their efforts and for sharing their journeys with the rest of the community. Our parish target is carbon neutrality by 2050. Change has already started in Bigbury.

We hope that by exploring a wide range of possibilities that address either/both the biodiversity loss and the need to reduce and balance out carbon emissions – we will find an opportunity for all gardeners, households, farms, landowners and businesses to do a little more for Planet Bigbury. Creating and measuring biodiversity net gains (increasing wildlife habitats – species rich meadows, wildflower field borders etc) in Bigbury are just as important to us as reducing carbon emissions. One way or another let's all make a difference.

South West Devon Decarbonisation Plan

Six businesses in Bigbury have applied to the South West Devon Decarbonisation Programme for free advice on the measurement of their Carbon Footprints and the development of a Decarbonisation Plan. Some of the advisory sessions will be filmed and could also be available to watch later on Bigbury TV. The scheme is funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund. Those businesses which complete the process of developing a decarbonisation plan will be eligible to apply for a competitive grant of up to £10,000 to implement their plan. The first tranche of 25 businesses in South Hams have now been recruited but there is another programme coming up soon for further applications. We are very lucky that so many Bigbury businesses were included in the first round. <https://bipc.librariesunlimited.org.uk/decarbonisation-plans>

Go Climate Positive

The difference between the above scheme and the one which is included in the proposed Small Farm Carbon Offset Scheme is that the business advisor, Eoin McQuone (Go Climate Positive) also includes the Scope 3 emissions category which means the carbon footprint of your suppliers. Scope 3 emissions are important because it is part of our planetary responsibility to choose low carbon suppliers. The two schemes have been conferring to avoid duplication. Go Climate Positive can still offer services to businesses not included in the above scheme or can simply add on the Scope 3 emissions data to the less detailed report from the SW Devon Decarbonisation Plan.

Carbon Footprints for your own home

If you want to see if you can tread more lightly with your carbon footprint – why not test the Carbon Savvy Calculator. It's free and very easy to do. The tester footprint tool only takes a minute to complete. Have you got a minute? <https://carbonsavvy.uk/>

The Soil Exchange

Stuart and Hazel Marshall, owners of Higher Easton Farm, have begun the process of measuring their farm carbon footprint using the Farm Carbon Toolkit, well ahead of the emerging Bigbury pilot for the Small Farm Carbon Offset scheme has begun. It's great to see the enthusiasm for knowing where you are on the journey to Net Zero so that it's clear what the options are. This has been made possible through the Lloyds Bank support for the Soil Association Exchange scheme.



The Marshalls were visited by farm advisor William Campbell-Clause who spent a few hours with them collating details such as use of fuel, energy, types of animal feedstock, land management and hedgerow management. The Marshalls set stringent targets for Will in his next steps which will be to come up with a diversification plan for the farm that will return the same economic benefits without extra effort.

Once Will has the results from the Farm Carbon Toolkit Calculator and a Soil Association Technician has also visited to collect some other data, he will work with the Marshalls to understand the farm's impact across 6 different indicators (Soil health, Climate change, Social, Biodiversity, Animal Welfare and Water) and create a set of recommendations for how they can improve their score in each area. This seems a valuable service that should give farmers a holistic view of the environmental performance of their farm and an actionable plan at the end, including funding options to support these. The service is free to you as it is supported by Lloyds Bank.

What can we do to support our businesses and farms in return for all they are already doing for us? Can we buy more local produce and groceries? Eat out locally? Can we join volunteer groups to help with tree planting, leaky dam building, creating silt traps? Thinking Bigbury First – will get us past the winning post.

Louise Wainwright
Chair Bigbury Net Zero
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Avon River Champions



Many small tributaries search their way through the rural idyll of our agricultural landscape, tumbling their way to the River Avon. The river is a living ecosystem that also provides us with clean drinking water and a nice place

to swim occasionally and feel its restorative grace. Myths, folklore and stories naturally draw inspiration from rivers. Our footpaths and bridleways often trace the river's circuitous route from the moor to the estuary. Plenty of time for us to ponder as we wander with the river to the sea.

A river is not simply an amenity or an ecosystem service – it's home to tiny aquatic invertebrates, it's a fish nursery, a safe haven for migrating salmon that have navigated hundreds of miles to return to their breeding grounds and iconic birds such as the Dipper, Kingfisher and Wagtails which search for the bounty of riverflies that abound in clear waters. It's not difficult to feel joy at the gathering pace of the headwaters across river boulders, the surge of water under the bridges, or the babbling of Torr Brook or feel the thrill of the swoosh in the tidal flow of the estuary.

The water cycle replenishes the water that passes under the bridge and dilutes the salty water of Bigbury Bay. Rain clouds rise above the oceans and replenish the peat bogs on Dartmoor which soak up this bounty of life-giving pure water. It's a natural circle that runs on the energy inherent in the natural environment. A gift from Nature.

We are also part of this amazing water cycle. We drink the water. We use the river system as a drain for the rain that falls on our roofs, roads, gardens and farmland. When this water is not polluted – our part of the water cycle seems justified. But we are not simply returning rainwater. Throughout the UK we are polluting our rivers and have done much harm to the wildlife that lives there and even harming the people who like to swim in rivers. No river in Great Britain is of Excellent Ecological Status because of the ubiquitous presence of 'forever chemicals' and the intermittent agricultural and sewage pollution. It's a complex story of responsibility with many lifestyle and behaviour changes needed if we are to minimise our impact on the health of our rivers.

River Safari Creatives needed

Avon River Champions are calling out to photographers, artists, local naturalists, landowners, parish footpath wardens, poets and writers. We would like to identify a series of local walks on public footpaths where we can celebrate and record the seasonal flora and fauna which lives there and also explain the issues which are affecting them. We would like to produce a series of beautifully illustrated footpath maps in a simple booklet form that could be sold in local village shops and pubs – to raise funds for the work of local River Guardians and the teams working to protect our local water bodies. Can you help us? Please get in touch if you want to enjoy this creative endeavour.

The Mindful Plonker

Have you ever wondered where the things we flush down the toilet or go down our sink plug holes – end up? Condoms, sanitary products, cigarettes, wet wipes, cotton buds, nappies, fat, rubbish, beauty products, medicines – they all become part of the water cycle once they go down the toilet or the drains. They have to be removed. That costs more money and sometimes causes blockages. If we get a Combined Sewer Overspill event – they can go directly into the river with all the poo and pee too. Best not to use the loo or the sink as a bin. Less 'out of sight – out of mind' would help quite a lot.

Volunteer Efforts

The almost biblical rainfall this winter is a portent of what is to come due to the seemingly relentless momentum of climate change. Flood defences are firmly on the agenda of landowners and local government. They are doing what they can. Budgets and time are always tight. Volunteer groups working with Force4Nature and the Woodland Trust Volunteers are working full throttle to assist farmers and landowners by building leaky dams, silt traps and planting bands of trees along the contours of steep fields and along river banks. The Westcountry Rivers Trust volunteers are working with riparian landowners to restore eroded riverbanks using firmly staked fallen tree branches. If you would like to join these merry bands – check out the notice boards and the Info Hub (telephone box) at Holywell Stores for their contacts.

Louise Wainwright

Chair Avon River Champions

www.avon-river-champions.org

info@avon-river-champions.org

The Mindful Plonker

Dish washing flotsam from the washing up bowl gone in a flash down the sink's black hole

All remnants of fat slide off dinner plates removed by detergents rich with phosphates

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My plates now glimmer but there is not a hope
For the gentle river life which cannot cope.

I now scrape my plates clean before washing
Only poo, pee and paper before flushing

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Are all that get flushed down my aquaducts

I'm now proud to join the Mindful Plonkers
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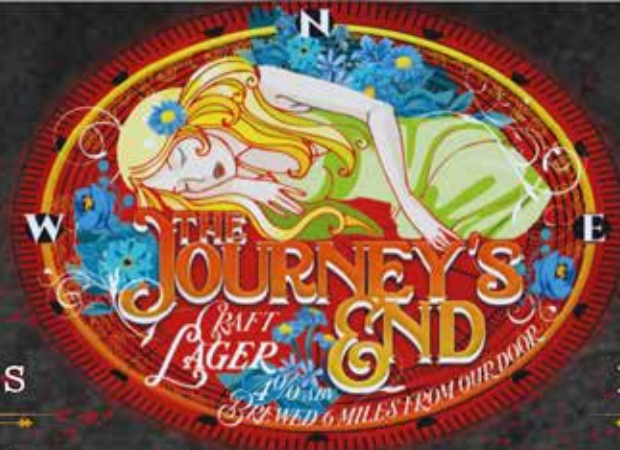
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As many people may recall, the 2024 year started with reasonable weather. Indeed our Captains enjoyed blue skies and sunshine early January for their Drive In celebrations to start their year. However, as we will all have noticed, it has been rather dreary, gloomy and wet since then and this has impacted on the Bigbury golfers' competitions. Unfortunately many have been postponed and cancelled although our Greenkeepers have amazingly managed to keep the course looking great.

There has been a very notable result to 2024 for our youngest member, Ellis Mutton, who kick started his year with a round of golf resulting in a remarkable 50 Stableford Points. Club Professional, Sam Edwards, said "It was a fantastic score from Ellis resulting in a five shot handicap reduction". Ellis plays regularly in the men's competitions with his father, Darren, and Grandad Tony and it is rather amazing to have the three generations of a family enjoying their golf and membership of Bigbury.



Three generations of the Mutton family

Our 2024 Club Captains have announced the Charities they will be supporting during their year. Jack Green has chosen the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) which is celebrating its 200 year anniversary this year. Dartmouth has two inshore "D class" inflatable crafts, and an Atlantic "B class" rib. Salcombe has an "Atlantic" rib and an All Weather "Tamar class". Jack also reports that there are two Bigbury members who are active with both the Dartmouth and Salcombe RNLI.

Linda Hanbury's charity is Motor Neurone Disease (MND). She expects that you will all have heard of this very debilitating disease due to the amazing money and awareness raising marathons run by Kevin Sinfield for his team mate, the scrum half at Leeds Rhinos, Rob Burrow. Also, Doddie Weir did amazing work raising awareness of this disease. before his very sad death in November 2022.

Andrew Ware has decided to continue the Seniors Section support for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT). The Trust provides emergency medical services through the provision of two helicopter air ambulances and two critical care cars. Since the autumn of 2016 the Exeter based aircraft has been able to fly into the hours of darkness, up to midnight, enabled by a network of community night landing sites created across the county a most valuable extension of this charities invaluable service.



L-R Andrew Ware, Charlie Thomson (Seniors' Vice-Captain and Committee Finance member), Mike Heath (Past Seniors Captain), Rex Brown (DAAT) and Phil.

Early in January, Phil Jolly, the Bigbury Senior's outgoing captain, performed his final duty when he enjoyed presenting a cheque for £1,100 that had been raised during 2023. Phil took the opportunity to thank everyone who had contributed to the fundraising. Receiving the cheque on behalf of the DAAT was Rex Brown and he thanked Bigbury Seniors for their continuing support which was so much appreciated by the Trust.

Marlene Johnson





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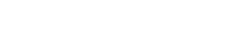
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