



BIGBURY & RINGMORE NEWS

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

Issue 486

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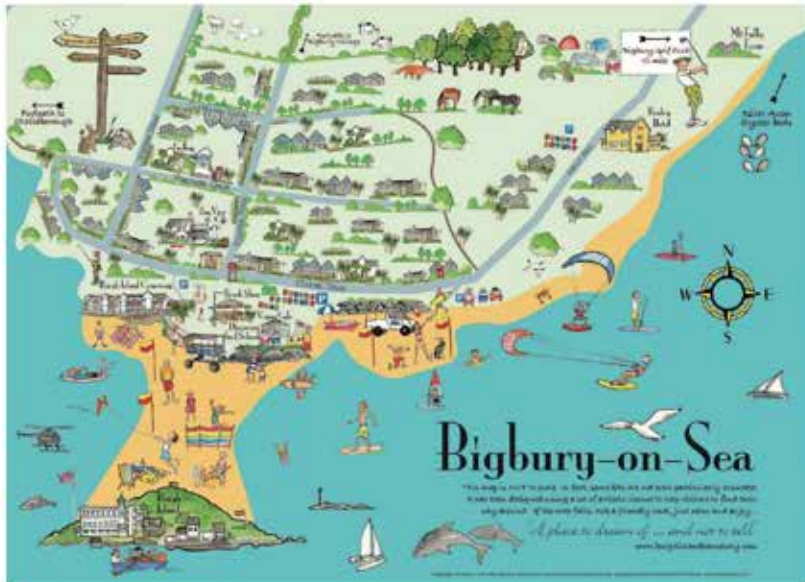
19th HOLE



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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Middle: Mike Wynne-Powell

Bottom: Bob Young



BIGBURY NET ZERO DRUMS

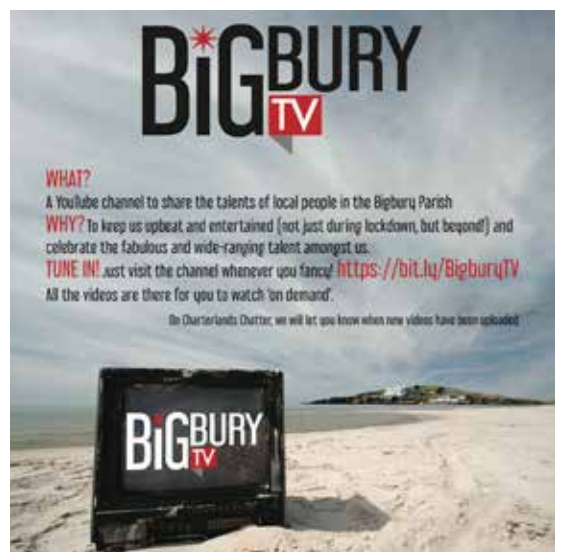
Together we can make a Difference

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.



Editor and Design: Jan Davies bigburynewseditor@gmail.com
Treasurer and Advertising: Henry Wainwright henry.wainwright52@gmail.com
Business Editor: Nancy Singleton
Distribution Manager: Dane Vanstone
Thank you to all of our volunteer distributors in Bigbury and Ringmore.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers,

Welcome to our autumn edition - where did the summer go? We have some lovely photos and reports to remind you on our community pages, including a double page spread on Ringmore Fair.

There's been lots of activity at Noddon Mill, where some young people have worked hard to transform and reveal what's left of it on page 19. Many thanks to Rosemary Piercy for the article.

We have a delicious sounding recipe for a seasonal dhansak on page 21 - most of the ingredients can be found at our own Holywell Stores.

Look out for the latest news from Burgh Island Hotel on page 16, including a special offer for locals.

A regular visitor to the hotel, Frank Annable, has sent us a story he wrote, which we hope you'll find riveting to read - thanks Frank!

Meanwhile, we're still looking for a new editor of Bigbury & Ringmore News as the next edition will be my last one. We hope to make it a bumper winter edition so please send your articles and photos in as early as possible before the 15th November.

Many thanks as always to all of our regular contributors and especially to Nancy Singleton, who does a lot of work behind the scenes for B&R News.

Best wishes to you all,
Jan Davies
bigburynewseditor@gmail.com

SOCIAL GROUPS

BIGBURY BOOKWORMS

Valerie Scott 01548 810336
valeriescott@bigbury.net

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Jackie Tagent
michael.tagent@btinternet.com

BIGBURY LADIES

Pam Trundle 01548 810719

RINGMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Eamonn Byrnes
eamonn.byrnes@gmail.com

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

RINGMORE TABLE TENNIS

Richard Baker
Richard.baker@totease.uk

BIGBURY TABLE TENNIS

Angie Bond 811131
Janie Grace 811122

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Caroline Brocklehurst
caroline.brocklehurst65@gmail.com

JU JITSU

Eoin Murphy
sigmurphy@outlook.com

FIT TO GO

Jill Gubbins 01548 810 651
gubbinsjill@gmail.com

YOGA

Stephen Harding
07400 417849

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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



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: Henry Wainwright

cllrhainwright.bigburypc@gmail.com
01548 810991

Vice Chair: David Molesworth

cllrmolesworth.bigburypc@gmail.com
01548 810178

Councillors:

Cathy Case 01548 810079
cllrccase.bigburypc.@gmail.com

Johnathon Fish
cllrjfish.bigburypc@gmail.com

Hazel Marshall
cllrhmarshall.bigburypc@gmail.com

Valerie Scott 01548 810336
cllrscott.bigburypc@gmail.com

Stuart Watts 07802 732368
cllrswatts.bigburypc@gmail.com

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: Michael Campbell

cllrncampbell.ringmorepc@outlook.com
07796 268851

Vice Chair: Richard Kent-Woolsey

cllrRichardkent.ringmorepc@gmail.com
07712 510111

Councillors:

Andrew King 07855 829936
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

I hope you had a great Summer.

We opened our Autumn/Winter programme with the rearranged appearance by local alt-folk artist Holly Ebony and her band on September 27th. At the time of writing tickets were going well and, if you attended, I hope you enjoyed it!

The fun continues on October 16th when we hold the latest in our ever popular Film & Food Nights. This time the film is *The Boys in the Boat* starring Joel Edgerton, Peter Guinness and Callum Turner and directed by George Clooney. Released last year, the film follows the University of Washington rowing team and their quest to compete in the 1936 Olympics. Admission is free with no need to pre book. Just bring a plate to share.

Other events in our Winter programme include a Christmas event on December 7th and our usual New Year Quiz on January 10th. As with last year, your Quiz Inquisitor is Norman Botton. Look out for further details of these in Bigbury & Ringmore News and Bigbury Drums.

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.

BIGBURY MEMORIAL HALL

Calendar of Events for October – November 2024

<u>Day & Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Organiser</u>	<u>Contact no.</u>
Mon. 15.45 – 17.00	Table tennis	Angle Bond Janie Grace	811131 811122
Wed. 10.30 – 12.00 (1 st Wed. of month)	Community Coffee morning	Jean Wright Yvonne Klidjian	810029 810971
(2 nd Wed. of month) 19.30 19.00	Parish Council Community Choir	Ian Bramble (clerk) Apple Taylor Appletaylor72@gmail.com	855712
Thurs. 9.30 – 10.30 10.50 - 11.30	Pilates Strong & Steady (plus tea and chat)	Jill Gubbins Jill Gubbins	810651 810651
October 16 th	Film & Food Night – <i>The Boys in the Boat</i> Free admission – just roll up with a plate to share		

Pamela Jean Brunskill
22nd December 1931 - 29th August 2024



Ringmore folk were saddened to hear of Pam's passing at the age of 92 years. She died peacefully in her sleep at home having survived her husband Stan, who died in 2013. She leaves her daughters Janice and Karen, four grandchildren and 4 great

grandchildren along with her stepchildren, Sally, Stephen and John and their families who were also an important part of her life.

Pam and Stan moved to Ringmore from Tunbridge Wells, Kent in 1975 and soon became active members of the village. Stan served as an Education Welfare Officer until his retirement while Pam completed a course enabling her to work at the then, existing Ringmore Post Office. She was proud to serve as President of Ringmore's Women's Institute and during the summer season enjoyed serving behind the bar at the Challaborough Bay Holiday Park.

They loved their garden and were virtually self sufficient with their home grown seasonal fruit and vegetables and they developed a diverse 'Old English' apple orchard, each year supplying the Ringmore apple pressing group with boxes of surplus fruit. With the addition of a small adjoining field they created a wildlife setting that included two ponds and more than satisfied the requirements of the British Wildlife Trust, thereby being awarded a certificate.

Walking was a major hobby and Pam became quite an authority on Dartmoor giving a number of presentations to interested groups. They also walked the coastline of East Anglia and completed the more undulating 630 mile South West Coast Path, from Minehead to Poole using a small tent for overnight stops. Needless to say, when they reached Toby's Point they turned left to spend a more comfortable night at 'Cliff Path', their home. Their other love was boating and along with a canoe and a sailing dingy they had a modest cruiser to explore the midland canals.

Pam and Stan loved their adopted Devon village. They were good hosts and provided many happy, active holidays for their families and friends.

As health issues took over Pam remained steadfast in her desire to remain in Ringmore. This was made possible with the support of carers, her family and her dear village friends who were with her to the end.

As Pam wished, her ashes will be interred privately with Stan's at All Hallows Church.

BIGBURY COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday 7th August we raised £402 for Devon Air Ambulance. It was lovely to have Rex Brown present who told us about the use of the Air Ambulance in our area in the month of July.

On Wednesday 4th September we raised a fantastic £450 for St. Luke's Hospice. It was good to have Nina present who told us about the finance of keeping the hospice open. St. Luke's need £4.5 million raised by the public each year. She also told a heartfelt story of what a difference the hospice made to a family. St Luke's has been the Palliative Care Team for Derriford Hospital and the benefits shown have meant that the hospital are now employing their own team. Many thanks to everyone who came and supported us so generously especially with donations to sell.

On Wednesday 2nd October we will be supporting South Hams Hospital League of Friends and on Wednesday 6th November, Kingsbridge Caring. We look forward to seeing you between 10.30 and noon in the Memorial Hall.

Best wishes,

Jean, Yvonne and the team.



It's time to prepare for Bigbury & Ringmore's COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD 2024!

A reminder of the idea – for a £5 fee, your name goes into the December issue of the Bigbury & Ringmore News, to send general best Christmas & New Year wishes to the local community. You save time writing cards, don't forget anyone, plus save paper! Funds go to support St Lawrence's Church and All Hallows Church, integral parts of our community/history.

Here's how to join in: 1) Please put £5 cash into a sealed envelope.

2) On the front of the envelope, PRINT CLEARLY just your name(s) – e.g. Jack & Jill Village, The Village Family, Jack & Bubbles the goldfish, etc. Do NOT put any names other than your own on the envelope, nor any messages.

3) Please also put a telephone number on the envelope, just in case there is any clarification needed about the names. This will not be published!!

4) Put your envelope into the collecting box in Holywell Stores by close of store on **SUN 10TH NOVEMBER (Remembrance Sunday)**. This allows time for production & inclusion in the December/January News.

Any queries, please call Jill Gubbins on 810651, leaving a number for call back.

Many thanks to Jas & Jaswinder for kindly providing a collection point.

THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR KIND AND GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS 8TH 'CARD'!!

Holywell Meadow

Time to celebrate....

.....And to extend a very warm welcome to the new residents of Holywell Meadow. Here's wishing you all lots of happiness in your new homes.



Drina's 90th Birthday (continued!)

And so Drina's 90th landmark birthday celebrations continued....

....with a trip to the Billy Can at Torcross where her entourage tucked into delicious home made cream teas, sumptuous cake and super tasty soup.

Ali, John and the Billy Can team were just amazing with their attention to detail, super service full of kindness all topped off with a happy birthday song by 'Alexa' and the staff! It really was a super special afternoon at this great little cafe and amazing arts, crafts and retro sweet shop with uninterrupted views over the beautiful Slapton Ley Nature Reserve.

Thank you to everyone for making this such a special and memorable afternoon.

Nancy Singleton



L to R Yvonne, Alison, Nancy, the birthday girl Drina, Ali and John (centre back) The Billy Can

All That Jazz....



Sunny Sunday afternoon vibes were in full flow on the 4th August, when a captive audience was immersed in the sounds of Glenn Miller, the Rat Pack and more, delivered by The Carlton 12-piece Big Band, fronted by Elaine Davies. Andy Youngs with his melting velvety and oh so smooth tones of Frank Sinatra and Matt Munro were simply divine and had the audience completely captivated.

This was all topped off with a fabulous treat of delicious home made scones with jam and cream & Pimms poured to perfection all creating the perfect mood in the perfect setting. I think I even saw the beautiful flowers getting into the rhythm or maybe it was the Pimms!

I'm sure that everyone who attended would join me in saying A BIG THANK YOU to Henry, Louise and the team for hosting such a perfect afternoon.

Nancy Singleton



Oxeye Daisies on Clematon Hill
photo by Rachael Bucknill

Don Dykes

Bigbury on Sea has lost another longstanding resident this year with the very sad death of Don Dykes in Derriford Hospital on St Lawrence Day, Saturday 10th August, succumbing to lung issues/breathing problems, aged 83 years. A very private man, Don had lived in the village for many years, initially with his mother Ivy; he was a keen gardener and was a well known face as he took his walks round the area and chatted in his friendly humorous way with those he met. Many locals will have known and been grateful for Don in his role as a volunteer driver with Modbury Caring, transporting people to medical appointments at various centres. His wishes were to be buried in his home village of Staplehurst in Kent, and his funeral took place on Tuesday 3rd September. His family there have expressed their immense gratitude for the comforting words they have received.

Jill Gubbins



Happy memories from March 2006 with Don, June & Jim Bennett, Alan Bushell, & Beryl & Bryn Evans, at Bryn's 80th birthday gathering.



BIGBURY HISTORY SOCIETY

Shilston House Visit



On a lovely 11th September morning 21 members of the Bigbury History Society were shown around this fabulous Grade 2 listed building by Lucy Fenwick, the owner.

She explained how she and her husband Sebastian had organised the rebuilding and remodelling of the property, as well as initiating the adjacent Devon Rural Archives.

We were shown through the beautiful house with its mixture of a Classical Period Mansion and contemporary clean lines. Lucy provided a historical background for the house's myriad of objects and family treasures.

This was followed by a visit to the DRA where members saw photos and learnt of past ways of life in the county, and the morning was finished off with lunch at the DRA Cafe.

Our next event is a Salcombe Tour and Museum visit on October 14th. Jan Davies will give a talk on the making of her book on Bigbury Women on November 7th, then on 5th December comes another eagerly awaited History Quiz by the infamous Norman Botton - both at the Memorial Hall.

Peter Cook, Hon Sec



Nighttime Noise

Pollution comes in many forms ... from physical litter to smoke, light and noise. The BPC is aware of several instances in which loud parties have gone on into the early hours of the morning.

While we all appreciate a party, it should not be at the expense of others. Late night noise has the affect of disturbing and interfering with the right of others to enjoy their evening as they wish. The natural peacefulness of the area means excessive noise penetrates widely and disproportionately.

Interestingly, the permitted level of noise between the hours of 11pm - 7am is only 34 decibels (the equivalent of a quiet whisper).

We simply ask that everyone please be sensitive to and respectful of the right of others to have a quiet night. And, if you loan or rent your home out to others, please ask them to comply.

Thank you.

Community - Ringmore Fair

RINGMORE FAIR

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

The Ringmore Fair was a great success thanks to so many people who gave their support and time. Far too many to list individually but notably the Parish Council, Bernard Taylor, Ian Doddimead, Keith Fogarty and Nigel Fuller. The weekend's events took place in Anna Bennett's beautiful field for which we are so grateful to have had as the venue. Thanks to Anna and Mary Goggin for decorating the marquees, to Carol and Dudley Hext for the parking, to Jem Deverson and Dane Vanstone for transport, to Mike Wynne-Powell for his informative announcements and photographing of events, to Mary and Sam Mountjoy for the signage and to all those involved with the marquees.

All three days were well-attended, with the maximum 140 tickets sold, for the Saturday night Ceilidh dancing the night away to the Stargazy Pie band. A hog roast, provided by Lidstones butchers, was very much enjoyed, and there was an excellent bar run by Jem, Lizzie Andrews and Mike Campbell. Many thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes and £324 was made in aid of Devon Air Ambulance.

Despite the previous late night, 35 people came to the Sunday morning informal get together with Oli Long and his children, with a simple breakfast provided. An afternoon of music with the acclaimed Jazz and Blues singer Louise Parker and her quartet was attended by 90 people, with a complimentary glass of Pimms, and even non-Jazz lovers agreeing that Louise gave a superb performance. Thanks to Helen Kent, Lynn Parker and Lizzie for running the bar. There was just room for a little dancing!

On Bank Holiday Monday the sun shone and hundreds of people attended a family fun day enjoying cream teas whilst listening to Apple Taylor's Sea Shanty singers. Huge thanks go to Yvonne Turpin, Avril Eaves and Linda Byrnes who worked so hard, non-stop from beginning to end serving cream teas, along with Rosemary Piercy, Sarah Hitchmough and Gil Snook. Some enjoyed their own picnic and the Langage Farm ice cream van did a roaring trade. There were fourteen stalls in the marquee showcasing local produce and crafts, including 3 stalls run by volunteers, Anne White, Anna, Sally Errett and Ruth Cremin. Thanks to all those who made cakes and scones over the weekend. Face painting was enjoyed by many and kites were flown. Children and adults played a number of traditional games run by Andrew Hitchmough, Andy King, Keith and family and Mary Naylor, Bob White, Jane and Richard Baker, culminating of course in the famous egg throwing competition and fun was had by all!

There was a great atmosphere throughout the weekend. The aim was to bring the community together and this was definitely achieved, so a massive thank you to everyone concerned! It was a delight to see so many people of all ages having fun in the long-awaited August sunshine and I look forward to seeing you all same place, same time next year!

Events organiser Heather Hinkley



Community - Ringmore Fair



What's On

2 October

Bigbury Coffee Morning
The Memorial Hall 10.30 - 12

4 October

Bells, Bell Ringing & Bigbury
The Memorial Hall 7.30pm

6 October

All Hallows Harvest Lunch
Ringmore Parish Room 12.30

13 October

St Lawrence's Harvest Lunch
The Memorial Hall 1pm

14 October

Tearfund Lunch
Ringmore WI Hall 11.00 - 2.00

14 October

Bigbury History Society
Salcombe Tour & Museum Visit

4 November

Tearfund Lunch
Ringmore WI Hall 11.00 - 2.00

6 November

Bigbury Coffee Morning
The Memorial Hall 10.30 - 12

7 November

Researching 'Bigbury Women' - talk
The Memorial Hall 7.30pm

2 December

Tearfund Lunch
Ringmore WI Hall 11.00 - 2.00

5 December

Bigbury History Society Quiz Night
The Memorial Hall 7pm

7 December

WI Christmas Celebrations
Ringmore WI Hall 11.00 - 1.00

BIGBURY & RINGMORE NEWS

We are looking for a **new editor** as Jan Davies is stepping down in December 2024.

To find out more please contact Jan, who would be pleased to support the new editor.
bigburynewseditor@gmail.com

Helping to keep the communities informed and connected.



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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.

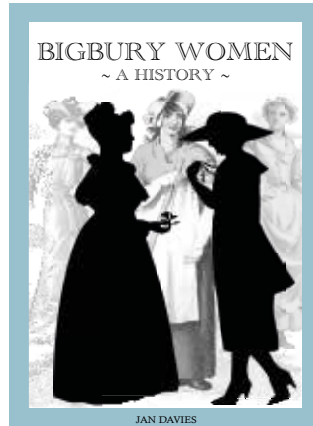
10.30 - 12.00

Wednesday 2nd October
Supporting South Hams Hospital
League of Friends

Wednesday 6th November
Supporting Kingsbridge Caring

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.



Bells, Bell Ringing and Bigbury



To celebrate the return of the bells at
St Lawrence Church, Bigbury we have
an evening of sounds, images and music
telling their story.

Short presentations from Peter Cook, Vic Gubbins
Mike Wynne-Powell, Jo Highley and more....

Friday 4 October @ 7.30 pm

Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel, TQ7 4HQ
Free entry - BYOB and sharing platter
Raffle in aid of St Lawrence Church



Bigbury History Society Events

14 Oct Salcombe Tour & Museum

7 Nov Researching the history of
Bigbury Women in the
archives: a talk by Jan Davies
7.30pm The Memorial Hall

5 Dec Quiz Night by Norman Botton
7pm The Memorial Hall

MUSIC FOR FUN AT RINGMORE



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.

If you would like further information contact
simsdiddie@gmail.com

All Hallows, Ringmore
HARVEST
Lunch
prepared by The Journey's End

SUNDAY, 6TH OCTOBER

12:30pm for 1:00pm
TICKET PRICE: £20
UNDER 14: £10
RINGMORE PARISH ROOM

CONTACT HEATHER ON
01548 714631

Parish Skip October (date tbc)



Bigbury Parish Council
is planning to hire three skips,
two for general waste & one for green waste.

The skips are for disposal of refuse
by **BIGBURY PARISHIONERS ONLY**.

Location: the Memorial Hall car park
Car tyres, builders rubble, TV sets
and fridges **cannot** be accepted.

ST LAWRENCE'S
**HARVEST
LUNCH**
MEMORIAL HALL · ST ANN'S CHAPEL
**SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER
AT 1PM**
BRING YOUR OWN DRINK & GLASSES
TICKETS £10 PER ADULT/£5 PER CHILD
AVAILABLE FROM JEAN TEL 810029
BOOK BEFORE THURSDAY 10TH OCT

JOIN RINGMORE WI
Christmas
**CELEBRATIONS AT
RINGMORE WI HALL**
SATURDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2024
@ 11:00AM-1:00PM
**MULLED WINE, HOT DRINKS,
MINCE PIES, CHOIR, RAFFLE,
CHRISTMAS CAKES**
ALL ARE WELCOME



St Lawrence's

CHURCH NEWS

Variable weather but a busy summer! Two particular events stand out: Bigbury Beach Day (3rd August) and St Lawrence Day (10th August) Teas Afternoon. All the hard work, organisation and support these involved from helpers and participants is very much appreciated! Oli Long's prayer for good weather was answered for a fun get together down on the sands, which it is hoped to repeat next summer. Jean Wright once again laid on a super spread on a sunny day at the hall, 33 people attended and £380 was raised - how lovely!



Our deepest condolences go to the family of Chris Lane, who for many years has been a very good friend to the church and supported St Lawrence with his building expertise, fixing tiles, clearing gutters etc - a lovely man and will be greatly missed.

Coming up soon are the following events to which all are very welcome ...

To mark the publication of a book on Bigbury's Bells, a community celebration of the St Lawrence's bells project will be held on Friday 4th October at 7:30 pm at Bigbury Memorial Hall. A short series of brief talks accompanied by photos and films will explain the bells' history, the project financing and actual restoration of the bells, with a handbells demonstration. The event is free, please BYOB and a small sharing platter if you can. There will be a raffle in aid of the church, and of course 'hot off the press' books to buy, only £5 a copy! Holywell Stores will stock further copies for sale after the event. The community in both local and wider terms has been immensely supportive of the 'inSPIREd apPEAL' to get St Lawrence's bells ringing again, and hopefully you have heard them.

Our bells restoration has stimulated much interest across the Devon bell ringing community, drawing in teams from other areas keen to ring our peal of six - indeed a group of about 20 from near Exeter came and rang for about an hour and a half on Wednesday 11 September. The 'Rinkley Ringers' were founded in the mid-1990s, Bigbury's Harry Barden being a founder member. Every month they go and ring at a tower before, and then at another, after lunch. They began ringing at Bigbury followed by lunch at The Pickwick and finished with a ring at Kingston.

Harry was pleased to host them at his home church as many had not rung before, which gave the new ringers a chance to "bag" another tower for their list! So October 4th will be an opportunity to reflect on the success story that are St Lawrence's bells, do come along that evening!



Apologies for mentioning Christmas but planning for the Community Christmas Card, which now covers Ringmore, needs to start now to be ready for the next News issue! This year, rather than produce a separate card distributed with the December news issue, as has been the case previously, there will be a double sided page to cut out of the magazine and fold into an A5 card. There will still be artwork by a local, and anyone with a home in Bigbury or Ringmore parish can join in - please see how to on the poster elsewhere in the News. An environmentally and community friendly idea, helping raise funds for our local churches, as the money will be split between St Lawrence and All Hallows according to participants' location. Please contact me if you would like further details. Deadline for envelopes at Holywell Stores is close of shop on Sunday 10th November (Remembrance Sunday).

Work wise in St Lawrence, the vestry door and screen woodwork have been refurbished - rotten wood has been replaced and new coatings applied thanks to Vic and Peter. Work on reducing the water ingress into the tower also continues; a temporary tarpaulin tent has shown that water can be fairly successfully diverted away from the bells towards the outside of the tower, and enquiries are being made into a more permanent interior structure to be formed for this purpose. Also a further floor is planned for just under the bells, to help reduce the decibel level for ringers when the bells are rung.

The news on the poorly organ is not looking good, but the piano and hymnal machine are serving the congregation well in the meantime. New hands to play occasionally for services are very welcome - please contact Bryan and Angie Carson.

We're a friendly bunch at church, do come and join us, with free refreshments after Sunday services! 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

Harvest Festival

On the 6th October we are holding our Harvest Festival service led by Rev John Elliott. This will be followed by a Harvest lunch in the Parish room. Please look out for our poster.

Tear Fund Lunches

Autumn is fast approaching and with it the return of Tearfund lunches. Do come and enjoy a tasty soup, delicious crumble and tea or coffee as well as a time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. All donations go to Tearfund – a charity that aims to tackle poverty through sustainable development, respond to disasters and challenge injustice.

Lunches will be available between 11am and 2pm at the WI hall, Ringmore on the following dates:-

- Monday 14th October
- Monday 4th November
- Monday 2nd December
- Monday 6th January
- Monday 3rd February
- Monday 3rd March

Christmas Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service will be held on Friday, 20th December. The candlelit service will be led by our vicar Matt Rowland with a joint choir from Ringmore and Modbury led by Jo Highly. After the service there is a chance to chat with friends while enjoying mulled wine and mince pies. Please phone the church warden on 07563 663410 if you would like to join the choir.

Home Communion

Throughout the year there is the opportunity for home communion for those who are home bound. Please phone the church warden on 07563 663410 to discuss further. The Ringmore House group meets weekly on a Wednesday from 10am-12pm, normally in Challaborough. Please phone the church warden on 07563 663410 if you are interested.

Church cleans take place on the last Friday of each month from 10am-12pm. Any help is gratefully received.

All Hallows Prayer Group

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	07778 937087
Mary Wilson	830280	Debbie Moseley	07570 804796
Gill Tomlin	810028	Yvonne Turpin	810798
Heather Hinkley	714631	Rosemary Piercy	07562 231617
Mary Naylor	07792 538138		

All Hallows, Ringmore
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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 precious GEMs!

By joining Friends of St Lawrence's Church (FOSL), you will help maintain this priceless building and its remarkable contents. To find out more about the benefits of becoming a Friend, please contact: FOSL Secretary, Gill Cook 01548 810 156 or visit our website: www.FOSLBigbury.co.uk



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Modbury Mission Community

CHURCH SERVICES: OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2024

	Aveton Gifford 11.00 am	Bigbury 11.00 am	Kingston 9.30 am	Modbury 9.30 am	Ringmore 9.30 am
October 6 th	Sunday Worship	Communion	Communion	Harvest Communion	Harvest Festival
October 13 th	Sunday Worship	Harvest Communion	Village Service	Communion (8 am) (BCP) All Age Worship	Sunday Worship
October 20 th	Communion	Sunday Worship	Communion (11 am)	Communion	Sunday Worship
October 27 th	Communion	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship "Rooted" (6 pm)	Communion
November 3 rd	Sunday Worship	Village Service	Sunday Worship	Communion	Village Service
November 10 th	Remembrance		Remembrance	Communion (8 am) (BCP) Remembrance	
November 17 th	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship	Communion (11 am)	Communion	Sunday Worship
November 24 th	Communion	Communion	Sunday Worship	Sunday Worship ----- "Rooted" (6 pm)	Communion

Saying your prayers

He was an old man, the skipper of the little boat that plied between Wick and the Shetlands, and the young, smart group of actors and actresses who were going to play for a few days in the islands, thought him very quaint and old-fashioned. He even said grace before meals!

However, a storm blew up suddenly, and when the boat began to pitch violently, the theatre party sent a deputation up to the bridge. "Maybe we'll get through, and maybe we won't" was the reply. "I never remember such a storm".

Morale below deck grew lower and lower. Finally, a second delegation went up to the bridge, and this time they begged the captain to come down and say a prayer with his terrified passengers. His reply is significant.

"I say my prayers when it's calm", the old man said, "and when it's rough I attend to my ship".

(Printed in the November 1968 issue of "Orbit", serving seven Anglican churches in France)

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

Dear Local Neighbours,

We are delighted to share some exciting news, just in case you haven't heard- Burgh Island Hotel is officially off the market! Our team are thrilled to continue our journey to the next stage.

The current custodian, Giles Fuchs, has announced significant investments to further elevate our beautiful Hotel. As you will have noticed a state of the art water treatment plant has been commissioned, the hotel has had a coat of paint including our pergoda. The rolling refurbishment of our windows continues and with each one the hotel looks more beautiful, this along with the new roof, which should be finished by the end of September ensures that Burgh Island remains a truly iconic destination.

In addition, we'd like to update you on some outdoor housekeeping.


- The blue bins are being moved to behind the burr to protect your outlook. The red gas canisters have also been moved to a less obtrusive location to maintain your stunning views from the mainland.
- The white sacks in our compound, left over from the building of the new water treatment plant, which we are trying to get rid of, are being covered to enhance the landscape.
- The blue bins outside the green staff house will be back out of site once the scaffolding is taken down
- The scaffolding being used for roof repairs, will be taken down by 28th September 2024, further enhancing the beautiful view of our island.
- We are looking to build a bin store to hide the blue bins outside the Pilchard Inn.

To celebrate this exciting news, we're offering a 10% discount on all dining for non-resident guests! Join us for a delightful Afternoon Tea in the Nettlefold restaurant or a gourmet meal at the Pilchard Inn.

For bookings, please contact our reception team at reception@burghisland.com or call 01548 810 514, and simply quote LOCAL10 to enjoy this exclusive offer.

We look forward to welcoming you here to the island and continuing to share this special place with us.

The Burgh Island Team



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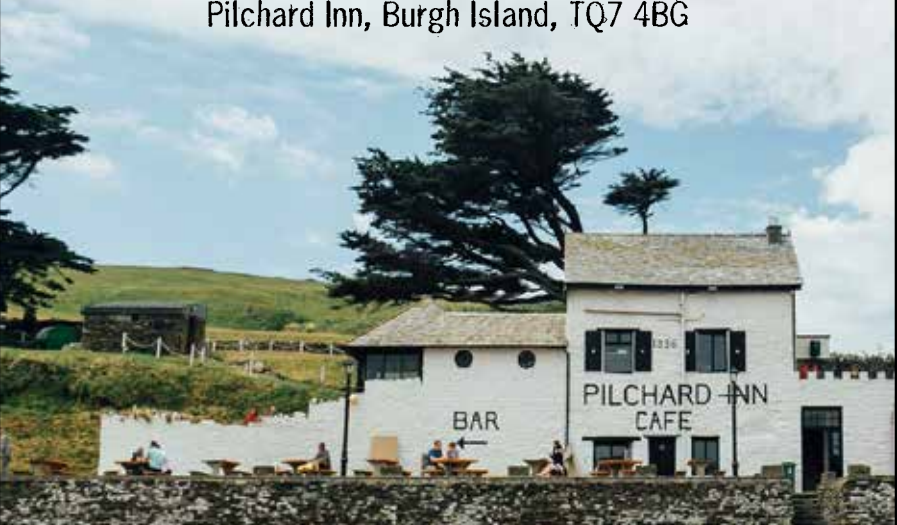
BAR
11:00 - 22:00

KITCHEN

LUNCH
12:00 - 16:00

DINNER
(BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL)
18:30 - 20:00

Pets welcome!
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Pilchard Inn, Burgh Island, TQ7 4BG

A photograph of the exterior of the Pilchard Inn. The building is a white stone structure with a sign that reads "PILCHARD INN CAFE" and "BAR". There are several trees in the background and a stone wall in the foreground.

Beach Banter



www.discoverysurf.com



As I write this for the Autumn edition of the Bigbury News, it's like a summers' day outside! The season doesn't want to end and long may it continue.

Here at Discovery we've had a fabulous summer, the slightly changeable weather we've had has been good for waves, so plenty of happy surfers, and it's been lovely seeing many old and new faces enjoying time at the beach.



The season is now slowing down a bit and it was great to celebrate after the busy season with our team, firstly at the end of August with a BBQ here in BoS, and then we really treated ourselves and headed to the the Bigbury Camping Barn AKA the 'Bigbury Spa' early September for pizzas, drinks and the whole spa experience in the hot tub, sauna and cold plunge pool!

What a great facility for group gatherings and that view down the valley really is magnificent. Now a lot of team are off to university, back at school or on their travels, and we'll miss having our extended Disco family here during the winter!



Now the children are back at school we're still busy with our weekend and after school surf clubs, and it's great to see to see so many keen little surfers honing their skills into the autumn season. Some might say it's the best time of year here at Bigbury as the water is still warm, and the far off hurricanes send more swell our way, so we can enjoy some great waves as well. The surf school is open everyday (weather dependant) and our surf club courses and lessons are available right up until early December. During October Half Term we'll be open throughout for lessons and equipment hire and we've got a youth surf course running during the main week as well.



Many of you ask if we sell off some of our equipment at the end of the season, and we will have a few boards available which we'll advertise via our newsletter (sign up for all of our news) and our social channels (Facebook and Instagram).

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions or would like to get anything booked in and maybe we'll see some of you on the beach soon.

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



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Noddon Mill



Five “Children” – and the transformation of Noddon Mill.

It's always memorable when we have all 11 of our family together - from Vancouver and Wiltshire. Several years ago, when the grandchildren were still small, we decided to walk to Kingston, or, more accurately, the Dolphin. We never reached our destination, since the moment Noddon Mill came into sight, the children were captivated, and they rushed off to explore the ruins. With the aid of sticks they laid into the brambles and ivy, and we spent most of the day there; the adults lazed in the field while the children worked away with occasional dips in the stream to cool off.



This became a family tradition; on each visit they return to the Mill, most recently this summer, and although the “children” are now in their teens and twenties they've lost none of their interest.

The path of stones from the back door, which they first laid about 7 years ago, is visible again, and the inside of the mill is now revealed in an entirely new way.

Why did they do it? For some it was curiosity, for others, adventure. The excitement when they discovered that there was a back door! The discovery of machinery at the back! The fun of “hearing a big clunk” as their forks first hit the concrete floor!

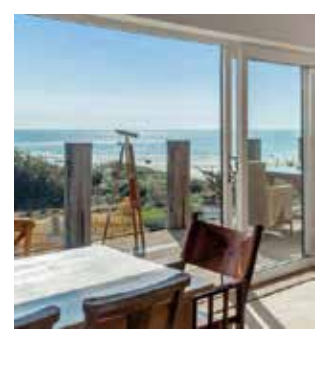
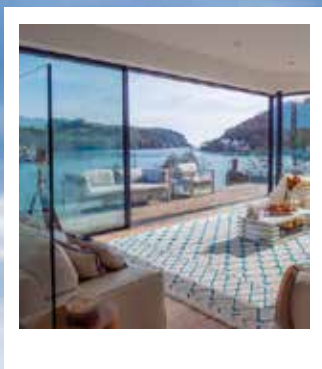
Here are some reminiscences from Olivia, our eldest granddaughter:

“...Once we decided to get into the building by whacking the weeds, it was like discovering a buried treasure. Each time we went back and unearthed a little bit more, which added to the experience; unearthing all the new things about the Mill made it fun. I wanted to continue doing it, because it felt like stepping into a little magical world separate from ours. It was like discovering a little secret garden that was just waiting for someone to come along and find it! I think the feeling of pride and independence in taking on a project completely of our own accord also really helped - and the satisfaction in seeing it done! It really stood out to me because it was unlike anything you'd see in cities, and was different to other historical artifacts (for lack of a better term) because it was something you could actually interact with. It felt like you were actually capable of connecting with something from the past, rather than looking at it from behind glass - if that makes sense - and I think our interaction with it actually gave it some story in the end! It was no longer a perfectly preserved historical monument, it was changing and being shaped whatever which way! I think we get too focused on preserving things exactly as we find them and forget that they weren't made to be stared at from a safe distance - they're meant to be interacted with, and I think that's what I enjoyed most about Noddon Mill - that it's a piece of history which continues to be written, and we contributed to some of its story.”



Do have a look before nature starts her rampage over the ruins – it is fascinating. But be careful – the lintel over the back door looks distinctly old!

Rosemary Piercy



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Village Kitchen

COCONUT & SQUASH DHANSAK



Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
- 500g of butternut squash, peeled and chopped into 2cm chunks
- 2 white onions, diced
- 4 tablespoons of mild curry paste
- 1 x 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
- 1 x 400g tin of coconut milk
- 1 x 400g tin of lentils (or equivalent of overnight lentils, soaked)
- 200 g of spinach
- 150ml of coconut yoghurt
- Handful of coriander, chopped
- 1 naan bread - plain or garlic and coriander

Instructions

Begin by putting the squash into a roasting tin. Drizzle with olive oil and roast the squash in the oven at a medium-high heat for 35 minutes. While the squash is cooking, heat oil in a large pan and add the onions. Cook until the onions are translucent and soft before adding the curry paste, tomatoes and coconut milk. Let this simmer for 10 mins until it has thickened into a rich and moreish sauce.

Add the squash to the sauce with the lentils, spinach and any seasoning it requires. Allow the spinach to wilt in the sauce and then mix in the coconut yoghurt to add some added creaminess. Serve the curry with toasted naan bread, a dollop of extra yoghurt on the side and sprinkle with chopped coriander.

Fiona Stace

Cocktail Hour

Burgh Island Hotel has kindly sent us this seasonal recipe.

THE RUM ONE

- 50ml White Rum
- 15ml Gomme
- 15ml Triple Sec
- 50ml Orange Juice
- 25ml Disaronno
- 50ml Pineapple Juice
- 15ml Lime
- 15ml cherry Syrup

Preparation:

Add Ice to your cocktail shaker and mix all ingredients in. Give it a good shake and serve. A tropical twist featuring Plantation 3-star white rum, pineapple, almond and citrus, creating a fruity flavour that will leave you wanting more. Best enjoyed with friends, to enjoy the last bits of fun in the sun.



Wildlife Watch

SEA WATCH SATURDAY!

5 October, 2 November and 7 December 8.30 - 10.30

Location: Wembury Point, Wembury Point Car Park Spring Road , Plymouth, PL9 0BA

Devon Wildlife Trust's Marine Engagement team are kicking off monthly sea watches at Wembury Point! Join us to learn all about Devon's marine megafauna!

We will be joined by enthusiastic local volunteers and sea watch expert, Paul Burley, who will show us how to search for cetaceans and sea birds from the land, as well as learning about their behaviour and fascinating lives at sea.

We'll be collecting vital data whilst we're at it, aligning with Seaquest Southwest, a citizen science project run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust, which aims to to engage people with the marine environment; to collect data on marine wildlife; and to better understand and conserve marine wildlife.

This event is free of charge (although donations to Devon Wildlife Trust are gratefully accepted), so all you need to take part are a decent pair of binoculars or a telescope!

Booking details here:

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/events/2024-10-05-sea-watch-saturday-5-oct>

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Reducing protections and changing rules around pollution will lead to more chemicals on streets and fields, more sewage in rivers, more plastics in oceans and more stress for communities as green spaces are destroyed. Ultimately, we could all see even less wildlife and fewer wild places.

Your MP can help and they should be taking local voices seriously. Ask them to speak up by sending a postcard that will land on the doormat of their office. Details here:
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/defend-nature-send-your-postcard>



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Avon River Champions



**Clean River
Thriving Wildlife
Sustainable Communities**

We will need more people in volunteer teams next year to beat this menace which smothers our native plants and destroys our river banks. If you are wanting to do something practical to 'help your river' – this could be something for you. Register your interest with info@avon-river-champions.org 07908 525663



The River Guardians of the River Avon, River Gara & Slapton Ley and the Salcombe & Kingsbridge Estuary will meet this autumn with Devon Wildlife Trust's Lynne Kenderdine (Avon Valley Project), Gary Jolliffe (Force4Nature) and Tim Wilkins (South Devon Nature Trust) to formulate a plan for concerted action to limit the damage being done to our riverine biodiversity and river health by the alien species – Himalayan Balsam.



We will explore the potential natural biological control of Himalayan Balsam with leading scientists at CABI. This natural control method combined with the physical removal of the plants is likely to prove a more resilient approach to the dreadful invasive plant. <https://www.cabi.org/invasivespecies/species/himalayan-balsam/>

Find out more about the State of our Rivers in Devon with our latest review of publicly available data on hours of Combined Sewer Overspills by catchments in Devon and, for each water body, the Reasons for Not Achieving Good ecological status (according to the Environment Agency).



State of Rivers in Devon Review of publicly available data (2024)



We are still waiting to hear from the Water Restoration Fund about the outcome of our bid for funding

Please follow us on FaceBook and Instagram (@avon-river-champions) to find out what we are doing to restore the health of all our water bodies.

Louise Wainwright
Chair Avon River Champions
info@avon-river-champions.org
www.avon-river-champions.org

Octopus Fan Club

The proposed Octopus Rolliers Fan Club is a 1 MW wind turbine that we hope will be built in Bigbury within two years. It is the 'get out of jail' card we have been looking for to provide a viable option to over-reliance on oil-fired and LPG heating systems in our rural communities. If we host this wind turbine we can reduce parish carbon emissions (from burning fossil fuels) that are causing our climate and our lives to change forever. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make a real difference to our parish carbon footprints. Come to the public consultation on 8th October. Understand it. Embrace it. Check out the details of the proposed Rolliers Fan Club here: <https://octopus.energy/Rolliers-Development-Project/> Octopus describes this as a 'community energy project'. Our normal understanding of a community

energy project is that the 'community' would have to raise ALL the funding to buy the turbine, engage with the national grid to get a connection offer, undertake all the studies needed for the planning application, handle the public consultations and figure out the financial plans and how to sell the energy and bill customers. We don't have to do this. Octopus are doing this. If we want to we can purchase bonds and be a co-investor. Octopus wants to pilot these much smaller scale single turbines, embedded in the local grid, as a complimentary strategy that takes the demand pressure off the National Grid. This opportunity has come about because Als Parker, lives in Bigbury, loves it and knows the local grid well – and she is now the technical executive nationally for the Octopus 'Community Energy' programme. The 100% renewable energy produced by

the proposed Rolliers Fan Club will serve up to 900 homes that are connected to our local grid. None of the energy will be exported and therefore it is not reliant on the larger national grid. There will be no additional pylons to move the energy around. Our new energy will use existing poles. National Grid ED have already given Octopus a connection offer (to the local grid) – subject to planning permission from SHDC. It is possible that planning application will go before the SHDC Development Management Committee in December 2024. Up to 500 homes in Bigbury, Ringmore, Kingston, Aveton Gifford and Churchstow can go on-line now and apply to be on the waiting list for membership of the Rolliers Fan Club, once it has planning permission. Membership is free but you have to be an Octopus customer. Members are eligible for discounts of 20 to 50% off their energy bills depending on how fast the turbine fans are moving when they are using energy. No – they are not noisy. The proposed field site is uniquely and surprisingly very sensitively sited on land owned by the Fish family, up behind Tuffland Farm. It does not dominate the landscape in spite of its size because of its position, the high hedges along the approach roads to Bigbury, the very few homes within line of sight and the lack of viewpoints of the site from public footpaths or other roads. Many people in Bigbury already buy their energy from Octopus and there are positive vibes about the turbine. Come along to the public consultation and also hear what additional offers are available from Octopus for installation of heat pumps, solar panels, grants and credit terms etc.

You're invited to our public consultation!



What?

An Octopus Wind Turbine Event

Where?

Bigbury Memorial Hall, Kingsbridge, TQ7 4HQ

When?

Tuesday, October 8th
10am - 7pm



At Octopus Energy Generation, we're excited to announce our plans to submit a planning application for a **single 1MW EWT wind turbine** in Bigbury Parish, near Kingsbridge, South Devon. The proposed turbine would generate clean, renewable electricity for the local grid and offer people living nearby discounted electricity through the Octopus Fan Club initiative. We'd love the chance to chat and gather your thoughts on this project.

What to expect?

In true Octopus fashion, our public consultation will be a fun, informative, and an engaging event suitable for everyone. Here's what we have in store:



An immersive Virtual Reality experience allowing you to see and hear an example turbine.



More information on our Octopus Fan Club initiative.



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For more info on the project specifics, please check out our project webpage by scanning the QR code below. If you can't make it to the event, no worries! You can share your feedback with us online until 8/11/24.
octopus.energy/Rolliers-Development-Project



AGM of Bigbury Net Zero

Thanks to the Matthew Gibbs (GM Bigbury Golf Club) for allowing BNZ to hold its AGM at the golf club from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm on Monday 28th October. Mags will be putting on a simple range of evening meals before the AGM (5.30 pm to 6.30 pm) Please book a meal through BNZ (info @ bigburynetzero.org). We will collate the meals order and send it to Mags. More details on the notice boards at Holywell Stores and on Bigbury Net Zero Drums soon.

Louise Wainwright, Chair BNZ
info@bigburynetzero.org

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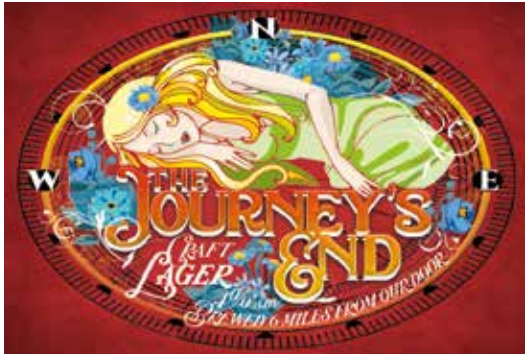


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IN OUR PRIVATE GYM IN
CHALLABOROUGH

Spotlight on Local Business



Nestled in the picturesque village of Ringmore, South Devon, The Journeys End Inn is a charming 13th-century free house that has become a beloved local gem. This historic pub, with its rustic charm and welcoming atmosphere, offers a perfect retreat for both locals and visitors alike. The inn is renowned for its cozy ambiance, featuring four real fires during the winter months, and a spacious beer garden for the warmer seasons.



The Journeys End Inn prides itself on serving a delightful array of locally sourced food and beverages. The menu changes daily to reflect the best seasonal produce.

From traditional pub fare to innovative dishes inspired by the South Hams coastline, every meal is a testament to the inn's commitment to quality and freshness. The pub also boasts an impressive selection of real ales, including their own craft lager brewed just six miles away.



What truly sets The Journeys End Inn apart is its dedication to creating a community hub. The friendly staff ensure that every guest feels at home.

Whether you're stopping by for a hearty meal, a refreshing pint, or simply to soak in the historic surroundings, the inn offers a warm and inviting experience. A wonderful pub for walkers, dog owners, and anyone looking to enjoy the best of Devon hospitality.

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Business Matters



Welcome to Business Finance Week 2024



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In the current climate, economic uncertainty can affect cash flow. We all want to see local businesses across all sectors being financially healthy and thriving. To help support this, the British Business Bank are hosting:-

Business Finance Week

The British Business Bank will be working alongside several partners throughout the UK to host Business Finance Week 2024 between 24th September and 3rd October. Through a series of in-person events, webinars across the UK's nations and regions, Business Finance Week is here to help smaller businesses learn all about the different finance options available to support them in growing their business.

With a variety of different types of events, smaller businesses can easily find something of interest to them at their stage in the finance journey, both in the local region and virtually across the UK. Plus, all events are completely free of charge.

This is an opportunity to access finance and find the right product for your business. The full events calendar and further information can be accessed by visiting www.british-business-bank.co.uk

Nancy Singleton, Business Editor

Pepe

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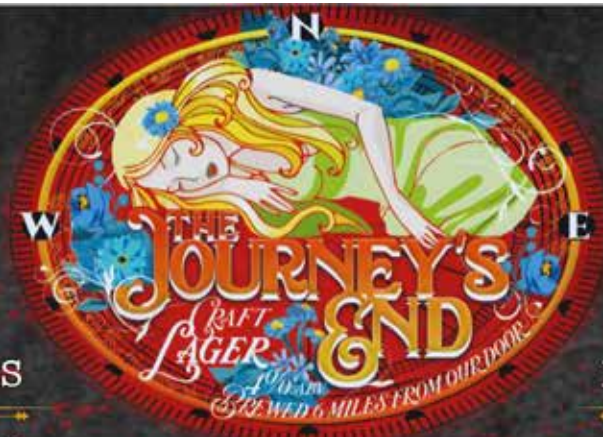
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Bigbury golfers have been enjoying their golf this season; with the course in excellent condition thanks to Richard Shapland and his excellent greenkeeping team, there have been some incredible competition scores leading to tumbling handicaps.

Linda Hanbury arrived at Bigbury Golf Course on a sunny Tuesday in August for her Lady Captains Day and there was colourful bunting adorning the Clubhouse both on the outside and the inside, as well as lovely floral arrangements in the ladies locker room and the clubhouse. 45 ladies enjoyed playing a special fun Stableford competition in lovely weather.



Before starting the competition there was an unusual putting contest with players having three balls to aim at a bottle of pink gin at the far side of the putting green. The winner was Helen Dinsdale who left a ball just two inches from the bottle. When entering, the ladies happily made a charitable donation.

Out on the course there were some different challenges, including putting with a left hand putter and the "flamingo hole" where the drive was taken standing on one leg (or take a one stroke penalty). There were also many prizes for the popular challenges, including nearest the line, nearest the pin on a par three and nearest the pin in two on a par four. Linda had also set up "hidden teams" all with animal names, as well as a doubled score for all players on the 18th. There were prizes galore and far too many to list! A count-back was needed to decide the team winners who were the Toucans, which pleased Rose Corbett, Margie Balkwill and Kerry Taylor. The runners-up were the Kangaroos team, Cathy Harrington, Rosemary Sharps and Dot Kenneth.

The Stableford competition winner with a very good score of 39 points was Sue Witzner. Sue said she had enjoyed her round and the course was playing so well. She was delighted with her flowers and thanked Linda for the super day. After playing, Prosecco and nibbles were served. The members were joined by six retired golfers and there was much catching up chatter and shared stories.

Everyone then enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, prepared by caterer Maggs and served by her team. The bone china tea services and proper tea pots were so lovely. Following the prize giving Linda was delighted to announce that Mary Wilcox would be the 2025 Bigbury Lady Captain and this news was greeted with loud applause. A successful and happy day had ended for another year.

Men's Captain, Jack Green, reports that Bigbury Golf Club had the honour of hosting the Royal Naval Golfing Society (RNGS) to a 'Friendly' Men's Four Ball Better Ball (4BBB) golf match. Each Team consisted of five pairs playing against each other. The weather was sunny with a moderate North Easterly wind, which made for an interesting game and the golf course was in excellent condition.

RNGS Captain, David Brocklebank, turned up with a strong team, which was supplemented with some past RN personnel who are also members of Bigbury GC. It was especially good to see that some current serving personnel were in the team, one of whom is currently serving on HMS VICTORIOUS, which is in Devonport for a long period of maintenance. This brought the average age of the Navy team down by some measure!



It was clear they were seeking revenge for their defeat last year, and so it turned out. The end result was a win for the RNGS of 4½ to ½. Although this looks convincing, all bar one of the games were decided on the last two holes. Needless to say the match was very competitive and played in good spirits; this and the amusing banter, which is inevitable with any side from the Services, meant it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Following a drink, some cake and a photo call in the sunshine, when Bigbury's Captain Jack presented the Trophy to David, both teams departed on a well-earned weekend.

Bigbury Golf Club welcomes visitors to its comfortable 19th hole clubhouse. Many Winter specials are being introduced beginning in October and these include traditional Sunday lunches as well as some NSPCC Charity coffee and cake mornings. The information can be found on our Facebook page and all visitors will be made most welcome.

Marlene Johnson

A DRESS TO DIE FOR

PARIS 1943.

There was a gentle tap on the dressing-room door. Michelle Mirat spoke, her face was close to the door so that she didn't have to raise her voice.

"Hello, who's there".
"Andre, you wanted to see me".

Michelle opened the door, just enough for Andre to squeeze through. He looked around the tiny dressing-room, the usual scattering of costumes were hanging around the walls but as his gaze swept the room, he saw the bulk of a Gestapo officer lying against the dressing-table, his face contorted in a fixed grimace. His eyes stared straight at Andre, and he was very obviously dead, saliva foam ran from the corner of his mouth.

Andre looked at Michelle, she was remarkably calm under the circumstances.

"Does anyone know he's here? In the club I mean", he said. "No, I don't think so", she replied, "he came to see me, to do a deal, he said. If I granted him certain favours, he wouldn't look too closely at our clientele, he was lying of course, I had no choice".

Andre took her by the shoulders and looked straight into her eyes and said,

"We'll get him out of here, don't worry, you did the right thing, we've all come too far in this war to risk compromises now".

He was amazed at how young these girls had been that he had worked with during the occupation. Many had received little training before joining the 'resistance' and too many had paid the ultimate price. As Andre left the dressing-room to get help, the adrenaline that had kept Michelle from going into shock was starting to wear off. She thought of how Feisler had come to her and told her how, Cedrine, her friend, had failed to 'make him happy' and she had now joined her Jewish friends on a little holiday.

"I'm sure that a bright girl like you won't make the same mistake", he had said. He gripped her arm as he continued, "I've been watching your little club and I think my superiors might be interested in some of your regulars".

As he pressed himself against her, she knew it was useless to try and fight him. She looked into his eyes, "I can see that I have no choice", she said.

As she spoke, she put her hands on his chest and gently pushed him backwards towards the chair at her dressing-table, smiling, he didn't resist. "Sit down", she said, "I'm sure this is something that we can both enjoy".

Feisler sat down heavily and as he did so, Michelle straddled him pulling her dress up over her hips. Feisler licked his lips and ran his hands up her thighs.

Michelle kissed him tenderly on his nose and took the fringing of her dress in one hand, delicately running the beads across his lips. He looked at her as he playfully took a bead in his teeth. Michelle had to be quick, she hit him under the chin with the heel of her hand, and kept her hand jammed firmly under his chin with all her strength.

Feisler's eyes raged at her as he pushed her off, as he did so he grabbed his throat and his breathing became frantic as he tore at the neck of his tunic. He collapsed against her dressing-table and foam billowed from his lips as his body stopped convulsing. She knew that Andre would dispose of the body, and she also knew that she could no longer stay in Paris.

Michelle started to shake.

THE BELVEDERE HOTEL 2014.

Sophie Monroe was attempting the 'Charleston'. Although to be truthful, this wasn't the first time she'd tried. At home, in the confines of her kitchen, she had rehearsed a few steps knowing that there was every chance that the band would play a 'Charleston' on this 'Flappers and Philosophers' weekend. The hotel ballroom had been refurbished and brought back to its original 'Art Deco' splendour. All the guests had made the effort, and the whole room sparkled with elegance and glamour.

Charlie, Sophie's husband, had agreed to come away for the weekend, even though it wasn't really his thing. Wearing a dinner-jacket each evening, he imagined, would make him feel very self-conscious and certainly out of his usual shambolic comfort zone. This evening had, however, been a revelation. He was starting to really enjoy himself. His fear of looking 'a bit camp', as he tried to match Sophie's moves, was overtaken by the realisation that he could actually do this. He had, it seemed, a natural flair, and his lean appearance and gelled-back hair made him look very much the matinee idol.

"Rudolph Valentino", Sophie had quipped as they had got ready. "More like Rudolph the reindeer", Charlie had countered.

Charlie looked at Sophie as she danced. Her enjoyment was palpable. Step kick, back kick, scissor swivel. All steps that she had practiced. Her short 'bobbed' hair and fine features, gave her a girlish appearance. Her slight frame belied a healthy appetite and usual sedentary habits. This was the most exercise she'd had in years, Charlie thought to himself. He was always trying to encourage her to take more exercise, and the fact that she was also a smoker was a constant worry. He feared that her health wouldn't always be so robust.

Sophie had searched 'charity' and 'vintage' clothes shops until she had found the perfect dress. The dress was an 'overdress' which was worn over a 'slip'. The design was simple; straight across the back, with a slight 'v' in the front. It had tiered rows of beaded fringe, which moved excitedly as she danced. The dress was authentic, and beautiful. Sophie had feared that with the age of the dress, it may not stand up to the rigours of the 'Charleston'.

Charlie had said, "I hope that the other guests won't be dodging the beads as they ricochet off the dance floor". He had thought her rather extravagant when she bought the dress, and he had received the subsequent credit card statement. But she had had her heart set on this weekend being special, so he didn't comment.

The 'Charleston' came to an end and Charlie escorted Sophie back to their table, pulling out a chair for her in an exaggerated manner that made Sophie giggle. "I had no idea I'd married such a gentleman," she said. Charlie struck a pose and in very clipped English said, "terribly kind of you to say so my dear", and with a flourish, sat down.

The band took a break and Charlie sensed that they were being watched by a couple on the next table. He turned around and made eye contact with a rather eccentric looking woman who was wearing an electric blue ball gown and a large peacock feather in a 1920's headband that held her Titian-red hair in place. He had noticed her earlier in the evening when she spoke to the bar and waiting staff in a theatrical rather than affected manner. Her conversation was punctuated with lots of "Dahling" and "Delightful". Her husband in contrast was a quiet man dressed (in Charlie's opinion) expensively in a white tuxedo.

"Sorry to stare dahling, but we were admiring your 'Charleston'. You must be professional dancers." The woman leant towards them as she spoke. Sophie bristled with pride and Charlie just laughed. "We're not even competent amateurs", he said. "Well, we were very impressed, and as for your dress dahling, I'm so jealous, it must be authentic", she said.

"Yes", said Sophie, "I found it in a 'vintage' clothes shop; the owner told me that it had belonged to the wife of a diplomat living in Paris. Apparently, they were very much the 'society couple' of their day. The shop owner had bid for the dress on 'ebay'. The original owner's grandson had been selling off a few heirlooms, before moving house."

Sophie leant forwards as she spoke and the beads on her dress 'dinked' against her wineglass and one of the beads dipped into the wine. Charlie noticed and he pulled the glass toward him, not wanting the wine to soak into the fabric. Sophie was oblivious.

"Well," said the woman, "I think that her spirit must be dancing with you tonight, you looked stunning. That dress is an absolute dream, unfortunately not my size, otherwise," she said, looking either side of her for dramatic effect, "I would have to kill you for it". There was a momentary pause, and then they all laughed.

"So, you must be Agatha Christie," said Charlie. "I do apologise dahling, my name's Diana and this is my husband Peter". "Sophie and Charlie", Charlie responded.

Diana's eyes swept the room, "Isn't this just divine?" Do people still say 'divine'?, thought Charlie. "It's perfect", said Sophie taking a sip of her wine, "I hope that you'll excuse me, and I know it's a terrible habit, but I must go outside for a cigarette".

Peter spoke for the first time, "I hope that you have a long cigarette holder to compliment your outfit". "No, I'm afraid I smoke roll-ups, although I have got them in a very elegant case". Peter smiled and Diana issued another "marvellous!" Sophie rose to her feet and Charlie moved in unison.

"I suppose I'll have to come with you even though I shall probably die of passive smoking", he said. Sophie laughed, "now you're making me feel guilty".

As she moved from the table, she put her hand to her throat and lurched forwards, knocking over the bottle of wine. Charlie was quick to catch her as she collapsed. The room suddenly became silent as all eyes were on their table. Sophie lay in Charlie's arms as her body convulsed and she tried to breath.

"Call an ambulance", Charlie shouted in desperation. Peter was now kneeling beside them and checking Sophie's pulse by placing two fingers to her neck. His movements were calm and measured. Sophie now lay motionless and barely conscious. Charlie was in a state of shock, he gazed at her feeling completely helpless.

"It's her heart isn't it?" he said. "No, I think its poison", said Peter, pulling Sophie into an upright position. "We must try to get her to drink some water, and please everybody, move back".

The party guests had gathered around, most in a bemused state of intoxication. Worried voices drifted in and out of Charlie's nightmare. "Is she alright?". "Has anyone called an ambulance?". And less helpful; "Probably a 'binge' drinker."

Peter now spoke to Charlie with a sense of urgency in his voice. "Hold her steady, I'm going to pour some water into her mouth, we have to try to dilute whatever it is she's taken and if she's sick, so much the better".

Charlie was starting to gain control of himself, knowing that he must do something to save Sophie. He gently opened her mouth by squeezing her cheeks with his thumb and forefinger, as if trying to prize something from a child's mouth.

Peter started to carefully pour water from a bottle that he had reached from the table. Sophie gave another convulsion even though she showed no sign of being conscious. The convulsion turned into a choking cough and both Peter and Charlie were spattered with water.

Peter poured a drop more; this time Sophie took a swallow as her reflexes started to accept the water. Charlie looked at his wife and felt as though his heart was being wrenched from his body. Her face was ashen, and her make-up smeared. She sat in a crumpled heap, helpless, all dignity and vibrancy gone.

There was suddenly another presence and a voice that cut into their drama. "Ok; what have we got here?" A paramedic was addressing Peter. Peter looked up, "I think its poison", he said. "I don't think she's ingested too much, but she needs to go to hospital to see what it is she's taken". The paramedic shone a light into her eyes and checked for various responses.

Diana touched Charlie on the arm; Charlie hadn't noticed that she'd not been present during the commotion. "She'll be ok", she said, trying to reassure him, "The ambulance is on its way". Diana had reacted quickly to the situation and immediately gone to reception to get them to call an ambulance.

"Does anyone know what she could have taken", the paramedic spoke having finished his checks, "This isn't food poisoning". "The last thing I recall was her having a drink of wine," said Charlie, "but we've both had exactly the same, so unless someone has poisoned her glass, surely we would both have been affected".

"I'll take the remains of her glass as a sample", said the paramedic, "the hospital will need to run tests".

Sophie's condition stabilised as she spent the next day in hospital. Charlie was sitting at her bedside when a young, very smart man approached. "Mr. Munroe", he said. "Yes," said Charlie. "My name's Pearson, detective inspector, I wonder could we have a word in private please sir."

Charlie followed the detective out of the ward rather puzzled as to what a detective could possibly need to speak to him about. They sat down on two plastic chairs in the corridor.

"I'll come straight to the point", he said, "the hospital is obliged to inform us of any patients that are admitted, that could have been the victim of a crime. Your wife was admitted after falling ill, having apparently taken poison. The hospital has since informed us that she did in fact consume a small amount of potassium cyanide, luckily she did not consume enough for it to be fatal, but had she done so we would be looking at a potential murder case".

The word murder struck Charlie like a hammer-blow. "Why on earth would anyone want to murder my wife?", he said with a tremor in his voice.

"This is what we hope to find out sir. Potassium cyanide is not a common poison, and it would be highly unlikely that it entered Mrs. Munroe's drink by accident. We are running routine enquiries at the hotel and have looked at the guest list and as yet it remains a mystery. I understand that your wife was assisted by a Mr. Peter Milton?"

"Peter Milton?" Charlie thought for a second, "Yes of course, Peter and Diana, they were on the next table, extremely kind". "Well as luck would have it sir, Peter Milton happens to be a well-respected pathologist and has agreed to help us try and get to the bottom of this, he will probably be in touch with you in the next day or so.

But in the meantime, if you could give some thought to any reason why someone should want to poison your wife, perhaps you could call me at the station".

He presented Charlie with a card. Charlie took the card and shaking his head he said "No one would poison Sophie, it's absurd". "I'll be in touch if we find anything else sir", the detective stood and walked down the corridor, leaving Charlie slightly 'shell-shocked'.

The next day Sophie left the hospital and arrived home none the worse for her ordeal, other than feeling that she had been a nuisance to everyone, and disappointed that the evening had been ruined. She was almost in a state of denial that she had in fact been poisoned. Peter Milton had phoned and spoken to Charlie saying that he had been looking into the case and with the results from the hospital had been coming to some very curious conclusions, and could he take a look at the dress that Sophie had worn that evening as it may give him some answers.

Also, and even more strangely he wanted the name of the 'vintage clothes' shop where the dress had been purchased. Charlie provided him with the necessary information, and when he relayed all of this to Sophie, she said, "All we need now is for 'Hercule Poirot' to pop up and I really will think I've gone mad".

Two weeks passed and Charlie and Sophie had returned to work. Charlie took a call on his mobile, it was Peter, "Hello Charlie, I hope that you are both well, I should very much like to see you both, and what I have to tell you I think will come as something of a surprise, it certainly gave my team at the 'Path. Lab' a bit of homework".

They agreed to meet at the weekend, Peter had very kindly offered to buy them lunch at the hotel where the incident took place. "And don't worry" said Peter, "we'll employ a food taster so that nobody gets poisoned again".

Sophie and Charlie arrived slightly early, and when Peter arrived, he had Diana on his arm looking striking in a long dress that was a conspiracy of vibrant colours, Peter on the other hand was looking very casual in cream 'Chinos' and a white open neck shirt. They greeted Sophie and Charlie like long lost friends and after a very good lunch sat in the bar whilst Peter started to tell them what conclusions he had come to.

"The shop where you bought the dress provided me with details of the previous owner. Interestingly, the dress had originally been made for his grandmother who as you know was married to a diplomat living in Paris in the 20's.

The dress was then passed on to her daughter who was working as a cabaret performer in and around Paris during the occupation of France in the second world war. She was a singer and dancer and worked with some very important people of the time."

“I say important because during the occupation, people in show-business were very useful to the French ‘resistance’. They could move freely around France and pass on information about the occupying troops. We had our own people, also in France, called ‘Special Operations Executive’ or SOE’s and often the two would liaise.

One famous spy was in fact Josephine Baker and because of her celebrity she became a very useful part of the ‘resistance’ movement. These people were incredibly brave and you’re probably wondering what any of this has got to do with Sophie’s dress”.

Sophie and Charlie were transfixed and completely absorbed in what Peter was telling them. They just nodded in unison.

Peter continued, “when we analysed the substance that Sophie had taken, we were curious as to where it could have come from, Potassium cyanide is a poison that was used in ‘lethal pills.’ All SOE’s were issued with these pills , often the women would hide them in lipstick cases and the sole purpose of them was that if you were captured and at risk of being tortured , this was a quick and painless way out.

The pills were usually the size of a pea, in a glass ampoule and coated in a rubber like substance. For the poison to work, the pill would have to be crushed between the teeth and death would have been almost instantaneous. If the pill was swallowed accidentally it would pass through the system harmlessly.

Well, now to your beautiful dress. When Charlie sent it over to me, I took it to the laboratory and after fighting off a couple of my female colleagues who wanted to try it on, we looked very closely at the beads.” Charlie and Sophie looked at each other as the realisation of what Peter was about to say hit home.

Peter continued, “no prizes for guessing what we found. It appears our dancing girl had ingeniously hidden ‘lethal pills’ in the fringe of her dress and presumably, had she been picked up by the ‘Gestapo’ whilst working, she had, shall we say, given herself a way out.”

“So how did these pills affect me”, Sophie asked. “I think I can answer that one”, said Charlie. “whilst you were talking to Diana at the table, you didn’t notice but some of the fringing on your dress had dipped into your wine glass, I removed them and thought no more about it”.

“Well”, said Peter, “that, is the final piece in the jigsaw, I couldn’t work out how you came to take the poison, but now it makes sense, we found a damaged bead, it had cracked sufficiently for the cyanide to leak out and by dipping it in the wine it would have been enough to have the effect that we all witnessed. Sophie, you are a very lucky girl, and we have another surprise for you”.

Hovering in the background was the hotel manager; he was holding a bouquet of flowers and an envelope.

“Mrs. Munroe”, he said, “please accept these flowers on behalf of the hotel and two tickets for our next dance, we were all extremely sorry that your last visit ended so dramatically, and we would so like both you and Mr. Munroe to be our guests”. Sophie had a tear running down her face as she accepted the flowers.

A short time later, Sophie, Charlie, Peter and Diana were standing in a cemetery in Paris. Among the ornate headstones and elaborate family tombs, was a modest marble scroll with the basic dates and details of a certain Mme. Michelle Mirat, the brave lady who had become, although unwittingly, a small chapter in their lives. As Sophie bent to put flowers on her grave she said, “The next ‘Charleston’ that I dance will be in your honour, that was very nearly, a dress to die for”.

Frank Annable

Frank Annable and his wife have been regular visitors to the Burgh Island Hotel for over 20 years and have spent most of those at Christmas. He has written a few short stories over the years , two of which were previously printed in Bigbury News. Both of those stories had a direct connection to the Burgh Island Hotel.

Frank tells us that this story was inspired by a couple that they met on the island. They always dress in period whilst on the island and his wife makes her own clothes. Their friend was so taken by one such creation that she said, “ That dress, I’m going to have to kill you for it.”

So, Frank was inspired to write a story and was amazed where it took him. He hopes that the story will be of interest to “the good folk of Bigbury.”

Frank and his wife were on the island in September and will be again at Christmas.

Thank you Frank for this riveting tale.





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