

ERMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE



December 2018

Parish Diary

Sustainable Saturdays <i>Twilight Christmas Fayre and Lantern Parade</i>	Fortnightly 1st December 15th December	Reading Rooms 10am—12pm
Parish Council Meetings	Monthly—1st Tuesday 4th December 5th February 2019	Reading Rooms 7.30pm—9.30pm
Crooked Tempo Samba Practice	Every Thursday	Church 7.30pm—9.30pm
Ermington Tots	Every Friday	Reading Rooms 10am—12pm
Crooked Spire Open Mic	Monthly—2nd Friday 14th December 11th January	Crooked Spire 9pm
First & Last Lunch Club	Monthly—Last Thursday 31st January 2019	First & Last Bistro 12:30pm

Do you run a Village group or club? Add your meeting dates to this calendar! Contact George for more information; see page 39 for details.

Special Events

Wreath Making & Table Styling Workshop	Friday 14th December	Ocean Studios, Royal William Yard, Plymouth 10:30am—1pm
Christmas Carols (page 19)	Christmas Eve Monday 24th December	The Square 5:30pm
Mean Pete LIVE (page 30)	New Years Eve Monday 31st December	Crooked Spire Pub 10pm 'til Late

From the Editor...

Hello again,

The festive season is almost upon us, so it's time to crack open the mince pies and wrap up warm! The cold weather has most definitely reached us, the leaves are falling and it's certainly wetter.

Some of Christmas TV adverts this year are certainly entertaining. In Aldi's offering we have been able to catch up with the adventures of Kevin the Carrot. This Christmas we have found him attempting to protect his family from the nefarious activities of his arch enemy, Pascal the wicked Parsnip. In contrast, Iceland's ad, which you won't see on TV, addresses the impact of deforestation on tropical rainforests as woodland is cleared to produce palm oil. Although the advert focuses specifically on the declining population of Orangutans it makes a powerful wider point about the survival of the planet more generally. A very powerful message indeed.



In the final edition of the magazine this year, we have plenty of commentary on the Village Hall Project, including a Christmassy poem (page 7), as well as responses from the Parish Council and other parishioners regarding last month's edition (page 14 and page 31, respectively). On a lighter note, we have a round-up of Argyle's performance this season, festive activities for the children (page 21), and last but by no means least, Adam's tale of going 'In At the Deep End' (page 22).

If you'd like to submit something to the magazine, please don't hesitate to do so. You can email either myself or Adam with an article, story, photograph, or anything else you want to share with the Ermington community. Our contact details are on the inside back cover.

I wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In the meantime, thanks for reading!

George



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Community Notices

Festive Events in the Community

There's lots going on in the local area this December in the run-up to Christmas. If you're stuck with what to do, take a look at the Visit Devon website for inspiration. The address is [visitdevon.co.uk/whats-on/xmas-devon-events-whats-on-things-to-do](https://www.visitdevon.co.uk/whats-on/xmas-devon-events-whats-on-things-to-do).

Magazine Submissions

We're always looking for new things to print in our magazine! If you would like to publicise something in the magazine—whether it be a story, interesting article, local news, a picture, or an open letter to the community—please don't hesitate to send your submissions to the editor.

The email address to send to is george.parishmag@gmail.com. If you would like a long-form article written about you or an event, it's probably best to reach out to John Bower or Adam Hart-Davis instead, whose contact details are on the inside back cover.



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Did you know?

There is a Parish website: ermingtonparish.com
Find Council documents, read the Parish Magazine, see upcoming events, ...



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A Village Hall by Nicky Scutt

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All I want is a village hall,
Big enough for the school
to put on plays for all to see,
for ESS to serve hot food with tea,
for choirs to sing and sessions of gym, for guides and scouts
and bingo too and places for us all to go and win
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All I want is a place for all to go,
Whether you are young or old or feeling low,
To make new friends and learn new skills,
To laugh and joke and share your ills.
A place that makes you feel at home and lets you know
You are not alone.

All I want is a place for all
to meet and share and feel much better for being there.

I found this in the Ermington Parish 2000 book page 9:

“In the 1960’s the Reading Rooms were bought by Mrs. Knapman for £130 and given to the parish. In 1966 they were described like this; ***the walls were damp, roof needed repair, toilets were disgusting and facilities poor.*** Maybe that is why meetings were held in 1967 about the building of a new village hall. They were also held in 1981, in 1997 and now in the year 2000, discussions are ongoing once again.”

Here we are **51 years later** and still no hall! So in this season of goodwill I say, can we put our differences aside and finally build a village hall!



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- understand your bills and control your heating

If you receive benefits or are on a low income you may be eligible for the Warm Home Discount, a £140 payment to help with winter heating (this is in addition to the Winter Fuel Payment). If you receive the Winter Fuel Payment but don't need it, please talk to us about how you can donate it to people who will be struggling to keep warm this Winter.

If you are over 65 you can also register with Western Power Distribution Priority Services, which means you could get more help in a power cut.

If you'd like to chat to one of our energy advisors, please call, email or visit our website. We hold regular drop-in sessions across the South Hams and also have funding for home visits, and to give talks to community groups.

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Argyle Update by Rodger Reid

The Season So Far

You've got to be made of tough stuff to follow and support Plymouth Argyle!

Last season started badly but recovered and saw the team just miss out on a play-off position. This season has started just like the last one with the team propping up the division after a series of poor results. There were a number of signings in the close season and optimism was high. Sadly some of the new recruits have yet to make a mark and, coupled with a number of longer term injuries to other squad members, there have been some very poor results.



It's not all doom and gloom however. As players return to fitness there have been some recent successes which have given cause for optimism. Towards the end of October there was midweek success against Gillingham (3—1) followed by a resounding win away to Scunthorpe (4—1) – a very rare victory at that ground. A true test was to follow with a home tie against one of the league's top sides, Sunderland. In front of over 12000 fans Argyle showed that they were a match for their opponents. Near misses and a few debateable decisions saw the Greens lose (2—0) but the performance was heartening.

A first round FA Cup match followed against Stevenage and, although dominant throughout, it took a 94th minute winner to see the Greens through to the next round which will also be at home to Oxford United.

Away from on-pitch matters, there have been changes in the boardroom. After saving the club a few years ago, James Brent is stepping down and Plymouth College old boy and successful businessman, Simon Hallet, is taking over. Since his schoolboy days he has been an Argyle fan and has already gifted the club a large amount of money to renovate and update the grandstand. Work has already begun so it shouldn't be long before Home Park will be an all round modern facility which the city and fans can be proud of. A huge thank you to James Brent. Without his intervention the city might have lost its club forever.

Back to the football and after a timely 2-1 home win against Fleetwood, the Greens then lost 0-2 away to Shrewsbury, so at the time of writing lie 3rd from bottom with 16 points. However as always we remain optimistic!

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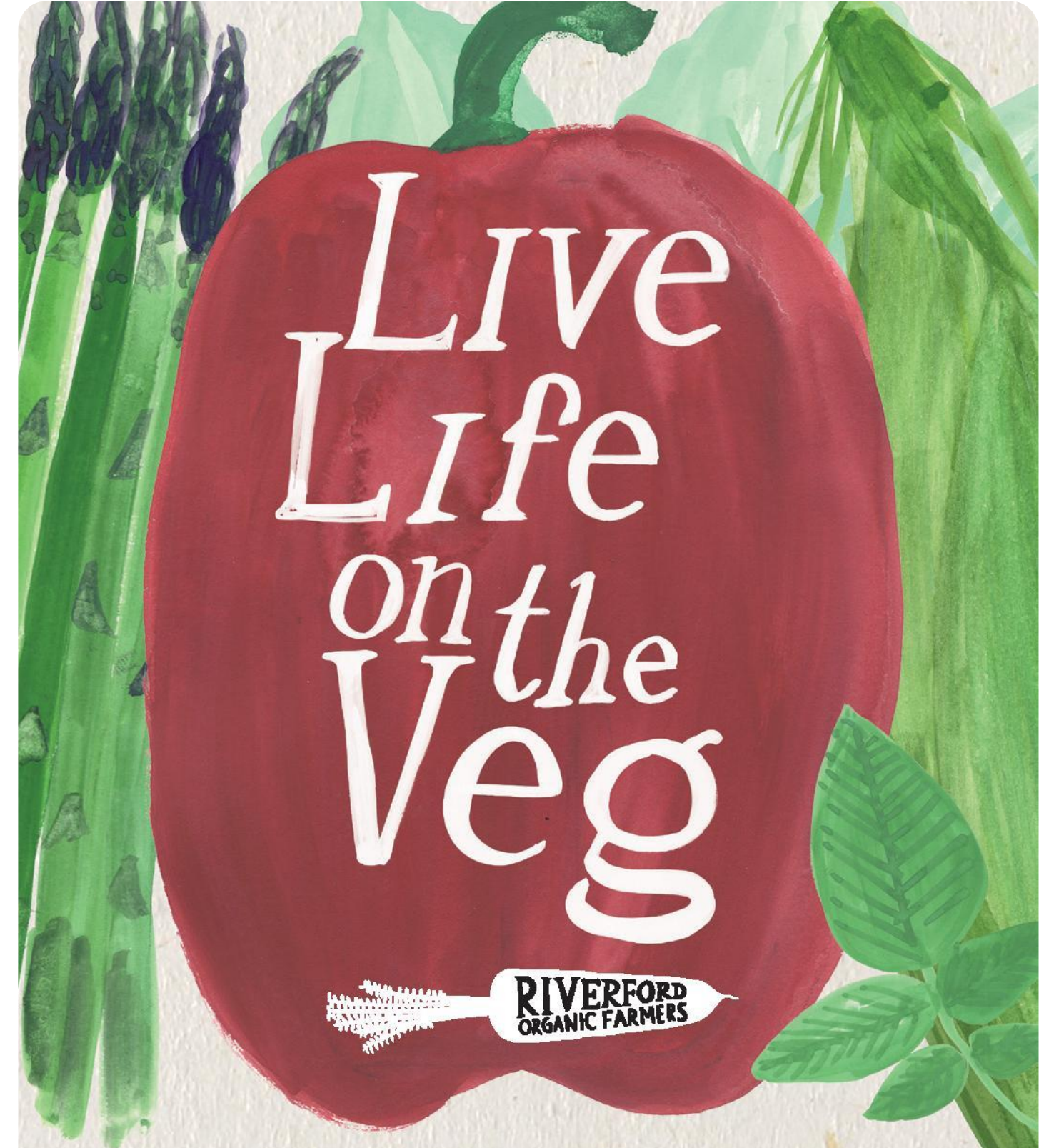
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Ermington Parish Council

The November edition of the Parish Magazine contained a letter from Mr. Denis Onley, Chairperson of the Friends of Ermington Park. Mr. Onley's letter was in response to the Parish Council analysis of the Village Hall Open Day published in the June – July edition of the Magazine.

Readers will be aware that the proposal to build a new village hall in the play park area of the recreation ground has arisen because the current facilities provided by the Reading Rooms have significant limitations including access, parking and marketability. Most importantly it does not serve the needs of the wide range of Ermington parishioners including the young, old and some with mobility problems. A working group of parish councillors and parishioners was set up in November 2015 to take the Parish Council proposal forward. A number of consultations involving parishioners and community groups were organised during 2016 and 2017. The most recent involved 9 manned mini exhibitions between July and September 2017 so that parishioners could look at drawings and details of the proposed hall location, costings and so on. These exhibitions were advertised in the Parish Magazine, the Ivybridge and South Hams Gazette and on public notice boards. Those attending the exhibitions were asked to complete a questionnaire which asked participants whether or not a new village hall with parking and a secure children's play ground met their needs. 92 of 94 households within the Parish said yes. 92 of 94 households within the Parish also indicated in the questionnaire that they would not object in principle to the Parish Precept (that part of Council Tax received by the Parish Council) being increased to fund the project.

Having taken the results of the extensive consultation processes fully into account and the strong public support for the project, the Parish Council decided at its meeting in October 2017 to proceed to planning. Unfortunately the Parish Council was, at its January 2018 meeting, presented with a statement and petition objecting to our proposals from Friends of Ermington Park. The Village Hall Open Day was therefore set up primarily to address the concerns set out in the statement and petition. It provided parishioners and petitioners with details of plans and all published material to enable them to view all the data, receive answers to questions and form a properly informed view of the project. It is our understanding that this degree of information was not offered by the Friends of Ermington Park when requesting signatures for the petition.

Mr. Onley's letter makes a number of assertions and allegations in respect of the conduct of the Open Day, the Parish Council report on it and the project in general. I will deal, as briefly as possible, with the points he raises.

Mr. Onley states that his group spoke to around 100 people on the day and that most of them were not happy with the Parish Council proposals. The word "most" would indicate that over 50 were not content. This does not stand up against our written evidence from those who completed one of our questionnaires at the event. Detailed figures were contained in the published report and analysis of the Open Day I mentioned earlier. That report explains that participants were not specifically asked whether or not they approved of the scheme. However of the 68 people who

completed our questionnaire only 16 people raised objection to the location or felt that there was no need for a hall. (One questionnaire was not adequately completed) Mr. Onley says he does not consider that 51 people stating that they support or raised no objection to the Scheme have the right to commit the whole parish to the project given that the number of registered electors is 701. The Open Day was not a consultation exercise. That work has already been done through the extensive consultations I have already mentioned.

A whole range of negative comments is set out in Mr. Onley's letter. The Working Group, in drawing up the current plans, took account of comments during its many consultations with parishioners, potential users and public authorities. This included safety, parking, size, costs, ecology, noise, marketability and so on. We will, of course, give proper consideration to all the comments we received at the Open Day and parishioners will have the opportunity to support or reject the project as part of the planning consultation process.

Mr. Onley alleges that our questionnaires were being selectively given out to supporters of our plans and that we deliberately avoided his supporters. Not true. All attendees had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire and although we encouraged people to do so they were under no pressure or obligation to complete one. The forms were placed on a table near the exit to assist this process and were available from 10am when the doors were opened to the public. In order to protect the integrity of the process we required the forms to be completed in situ and therefore prevented a batch of blank forms from being taken out of the building for subsequent completion. Mr. Onley says he is confident that more than 12 of his supporters completed a questionnaire opposing the village hall being built on the site proposed. I can personally assure Mr. Onley that the number of recorded objections under this category on the completed questionnaires we received numbered 12.

In commenting on our conduct of the Open Day Mr. Onley uses the term "many" and "numerous" in describing the comments he says he received from residents informing him that they were not listened to by us. We were there to listen and did so. A great deal of effort went into producing the material and data on display and we used it to the full in dealing with queries. There was certainly some heated discussion but questions were dealt with in a patient, polite and non-confrontational manner. Sadly, however, there was some unacceptable behaviour where at least one of our working group members was the victim of objectionable remarks, also appalling language used within earshot of a couple who, as a result, felt it necessary to remove children from the area. I must emphasise, however, that these were isolated incidents.

The allegation that an attendee was refused access to the financial details is a puzzle. The relevant documents were freely available on a table for people to scrutinise and ask questions of the two working group members manning the table for that purpose.

We were, on the whole, encouraged by the atmosphere created by those attending the Open Day. People were generally appreciative of the opportunity to see and discuss details of the scheme. There was an awareness and appreciation of the amount of work put into the event and the high standard of the plans and drawings all of which had been produced at no cost to the parish.

With regard to the play area we will look carefully at the provision for children and young people in the village and will consult on this before we put together a plan for content and design. We have already been in contact with a specialist company as a first step and have confirmation that the area proposed is good for a village the size of Ermington. The location of the area proposed bounded by a fence together with its proximity to the proposed village hall will add to the security of the area. The close proximity and containment of new equipment adds to the dynamic of play rather than separate groups distributed over a wider area as is currently the case. I have doubts about the value and financial propriety of spending South Hams District Council funds on changes to the existing play area in the way suggested by the Friends of Ermington Park when there is the prospect of a new play area as part of the Parish Council proposals.

Mr. Onley says that a local landowner has offered land as an alternative site not previously considered. The Parish Council has not been provided with written confirmation of this offer or details of costs and acreage involved. The suggestion that new industrial units planned for Ermington could be used to provide a village hall was thoroughly explored with South Hams District Council in a site meeting with them in June. This resulted in the suggestion being rejected. Mr. Onley reports comments from one person that there are other indoor spaces that could be used involving restaurants and a pub. There are obvious limitations on their potential use which is no doubt why they are not used for that purpose now. The Reading Rooms, School and Pre-School Annex are also suggested. The limitations of the Reading Rooms and School are set out clearly in the Working Group's Options Appraisal Report and Addendum which provides an appraisal of a number of sites for a village hall. The School is adjacent to the Pre-School Annex. It is, therefore, reasonable to take the conclusions reached in the appraisal of the School as a potential site and apply them to the Pre-School Annex. The Options Appraisal Report and Addendum together with other village hall published documents are available on the Ermington Parish website, www.ermingtonparish.com under the Parish Council tab.

The current proposed location for the hall would provide a facility designed around its potential use for social and recreational events. It will, by its proximity to the recreation ground, provide a real benefit to users of the field and encourage more clubs and groups to use the recreation ground.

Mr. Onley says that the petition is still being ignored. The Open Day was specifically held in response to it and was a day well spent discussing and gathering the views of those attending the event. We have gone to great lengths to deal with any issues parishioners may have and are encouraged by the positive comments and feedback we received.

I must take issue with Mr. Onley's statement that nearly 200 local residents signed the petition. The petition included signatures from people from as far away as Penzance, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, St Germans and Plymouth. There were also some duplicate signatures.

John Kerslake

Chairman, Ermington Parish Council

Birding Corner by John Bower

Coastal Birds

In the November edition I wrote about the commoner sea birds seen around our coast but as September to December sees an increase in all seabird activity we will look at some of the less frequently seen seabirds. Our island, surrounded by sea, is a fantastic place to see many different species of seabird and you don't have to risk seasickness or get your feet wet to do it, as these are all visible from the coast. For example at this time many thousands of Shags, Auks and Terns that have bred throughout this summer are all preparing to make the long journeys to their wintering grounds, some as far away as Antarctica. Many of these seabirds will pass along our coast close to land and can be seen from headlands. Cormorants are large heavy hook-billed dark coloured birds that resemble geese in flight. They fly low over the sea usually but can be seen flying overhead. They can be told from the Shag, a very similar bird by their slightly larger size, and white thigh patches in breeding plumage. Shags are much more numerous, especially around the coast while Cormorants are often seen perching high on trees by inland lakes.

The UK Auk family includes everyone's favourite, Puffins, but also Guillemots, Black Guillemots, Razorbills, and Little Auks. Puffins require no description and breed mainly on the small islands around our coast but rarely on the mainland. I saw them breeding on a tiny island off north Cornwall in the 1970s but they seem to have disappeared from there and the closest breeding colonies are Lundy, Skokholm and Skomer, islands off Devon and Pembrokeshire. The Devon Ferry, MS Oldenburg, serves Lundy from Bideford, and Skomer is reached from near Marloes in Pembrokeshire in summer. Guillemots are larger versions of the Puffin, upright dark brown birds with white under parts, a long tapering beak, stiff wings in flight, usually low over the water. Razorbills, somewhat less common, are very similar but markedly black with white under parts and a more substantial beak. Black Guillemots are mainly seen around the Scottish and Irish coasts and as the name suggests are black apart from a large white wing patch. Little Auks are much rarer, smaller than Puffins, black upper and white under parts and a tiny pointed beak. I have only ever seen two; one from a boat off Lundy and the other blown ashore and brought into my veterinary surgery exhausted and dying.

Shearwaters are related to Fulmars and the commonest species, the Manx Shearwater will often be seen gliding closely over the waves just off shore. They are truly remarkable fliers, hardly ever beating their wings and as they wheel in and out of the waves, you see their black upper parts and then their stark white under parts. Unmistakable. They fly huge distances for food; some, breeding on Skomer are known to fly as far as the Gulf of Mexico for fish before returning to their nest with a single chick in their burrow. They are designed for superb flight, and like the Swift, find it difficult with long wings and short legs to walk and are easy prey to the huge Greater Blackbacked Gulls on turning to their burrow. For this reason they only fly in at night, preferably when no moonlight is shining. If you are very lucky, also in this "Petrel" family are the tiny black and white Storm Petrels the size of House Martins, which can be seen "dancing" on the waves individually or in groups.

In certain conditions and locations seabirds from other parts of the world can appear moving through our seas, sometimes moved thousands of miles outside of their normal range by storms or other adverse weather out in the Atlantic. Shearwaters from the Mediterranean such as Sooty, Balearic and Cory's Shearwaters occasionally appear amongst larger numbers of British-breeding Manx Shearwaters.

Three different species of Skua, the pirates of our ocean which attack other seabirds for food can also be seen marauding offshore mainly from late summer into autumn. The Great Skua, or Bonxie, is the largest, about the size of a Herring Gull but stockier, has white patches on the wings. All Skuas have a hooked bill, and pale wing markings on mainly brown bodies. The Arctic and Pomarine Skuas are smaller with different tail endings; the Arctic has a pointed projection, while the Pomarine has feathers projecting and twisting over each other. Don't forget to take your binoculars and wrap up warm and have waterproof clothing for your coastal watches!!

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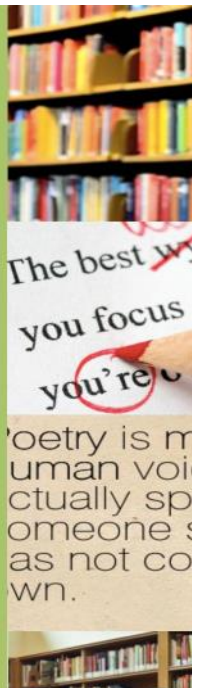
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*Ermington Village Fund wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas
and a healthy and peaceful New Year.*

The past year has seen so many more people enjoying events in the village. Over 400 came for the spectacular fireworks display, and of course the essential Glorsticks. Thank you to Terry and his team who ran the BBQ—a sell-out again! Quiz night had a full house with teams from all around the village. Everyone said what a great night they had. Thanks go to Andrew and Sue for their hospitality, to Sharon and Scott for compering and scoring, and to those who sponsored and gave donations to make a successful evening raising £358. A donation of £175 will be given to the British Legion to mark the centenary of the end of WW1. The winners of the trophy were ESS. The Christmas lights are up throughout the village and the trees decorated; many thanks go to Scott and the volunteers, who put them up, and to Ed and Brian who put up the tree and lights for the Fawns Close bungalows. Last year despite the weather, the Square was packed for the Carols, we look forward to seeing everyone again for a sing along with Richard's band, a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, on Christmas Eve 5.30pm in the Square. The Village Fund committee meet regularly to organise events; we would like more people to come and share their ideas about any social event, or project they would like to see happen in the village. We are an informal but dedicated group representing most areas in and around the village, so however much time you are able to give, you will be welcome. We post meeting and event dates on Facebook, Look forward to seeing you.

BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE. Di Webley (Sec.)



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Santa's quiz

Can you answer all the questions in Santa's Christmas quiz? Check your answers on p23!

- What might you find hidden in a yummy Christmas pud?
a) A coin b) A small toy c) Some pants
- Which is not one of my reindeer?
a) Prancer b) Blitzen c) Rooney
- In the song, what was the singer's true love given on the third day of Christmas?
a) Gold rings b) French hens c) A Nintendo 3DS
- In the film *Elf*, what does Buddy say is the best way to spread Christmas cheer?
a) Drinking ten bottles of ginger beer
b) Singing loud for all to hear
c) Giving sleigh rides on Santa's reindeer
- What magic item of clothing makes Frosty the Snowman come to life?
a) A hat b) A scarf c) A pair of earmuffs
- Which Dr Seuss character stole Christmas?
a) The Flinch b) The Pinch c) The Grinch
- In which magical country is it always winter, but never Christmas?
a) Wonderland
b) Narnia
c) Lancashire



How to play Consequences

The Victorians loved playing Consequences at Christmas and it's still fun today. All you need is paper, a pencil and at least two people.

- On a piece of paper, write a **boy's name** and fold the paper over the top of the writing so the person you pass it to can't see it. Pass it to the player on your left.
- The next person writes a **girl's name**, folds the paper and passes it left (or back to you if only two players).
- Carry on writing, folding and passing the paper, writing down something for each of these: **place name**, **what he said to her**, **what she said to him** and **what the consequence was** (in other words, what happened).
- Then read out your story! It might go something like this: "**Harry Styles** met **my mum** at **the supermarket**. He said to her, '**Let's go swimming**.' She said to him, '**Have you got any biscuits?**' The consequence was, **they had fish and chips for tea**. The end!"

In At the Deep End by Adam Hart-Davis

In my old age I am becoming increasingly absent-minded. I go into a room and cannot remember what I am looking for. I dial half a phone number, but can't remember the rest. Is this just unimportant memory loss, or is it the onset of dementia?

During the summer I was invited to take part in the "Ivybridge Remembers" week. I have always been naïve, and I foolishly said I would be happy to perform. As a result, I found myself, on the evening of Wednesday 17 October, shaking in my shoes in front of a packed audience of at least 200 people in the Watermark.

One of my basic mistakes was failing to find out what else was happening. I had been asked to do something contemporary with the Great War, and I discovered that the song "K-K-K-Katie" was a smash hit in 1918; so I volunteered to sing it. I managed to forget some of the (dreadful) words in the second verse, and I was singing feebly without accompaniment, but at least the audience joined in the chorus with enthusiasm:

K-K-K-Katie, beautiful Katie, You're the only g-g-g-girl that I adore;

When the m-m-moon shines over the cowshed,

I'll be waiting at the k-k-k-kitchen door.

What made me feel a complete fool was that the U3A choir were there in force, and sang two medleys of songs, with keyboard accompaniment, and masses of audience participation., What's more the U3A ukulele band also sang two splendid medleys, with audience participation. And as if that were not enough a gentleman in a superb outfit sang two strident songs with the keyboard helping him along. How feeble was my unaccompanied effort in comparison with all that extravaganza.

Luckily I had a second appearance, and recited the old Stanley Holloway monologue "Albert and the lion," which I remembered vaguely; it begins

There's a famous seaside place called Blackpool

That's noted for fresh air and fun,

And Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom

Went there with young Albert, their son.

On the night I remembered nearly all the words, and the audience clapped politely, so after that I did not feel quite so bad.

I recited it again at the AGM of the Millfields Trust in Plymouth, by which time I remembered all the words, which was confirmed by a woman there. She said she

had had the monologue on an old 78rpm record, and had listened again and again, till she knew it by heart.



Then, during the tea-break in my weekly lip-reading class in Newton Abbot, I mentioned that I had recited Albert and the lion, and immediately Derek, sitting opposite, started off “There’s a famous seaside place called Blackpool...” We proceeded to recite alternate verses; he knew the whole thing, word perfect, and he will be 90 next year. He says he learned it when he was a lad – before I was born, I guess. What an inspiration. I am determined now to learn a few more such things, for I have read somewhere that learning poetry helps to stave off dementia – and so Albert may save my mind. Derek told me what I should learn next:

*I'll tell of the Battle of Hastings,
As happened in days long gone by,
When Duke William became King of England,
And 'Arold got shot in the eye...*

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Rainfall Records with Frances Bromfield

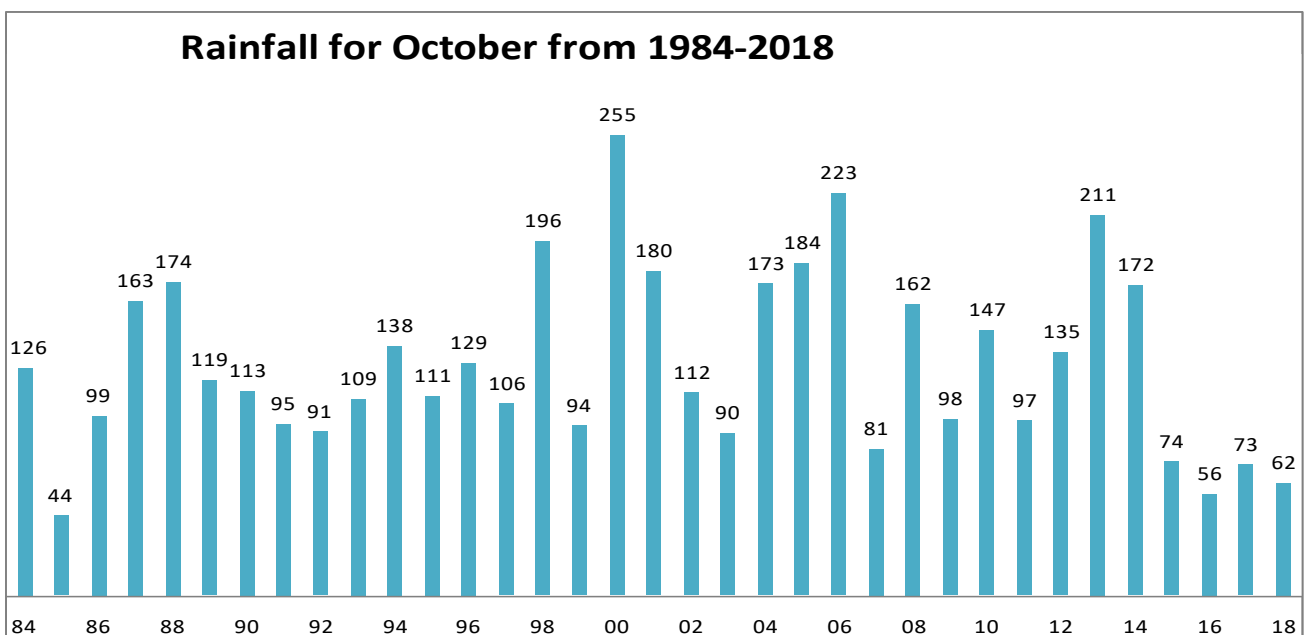
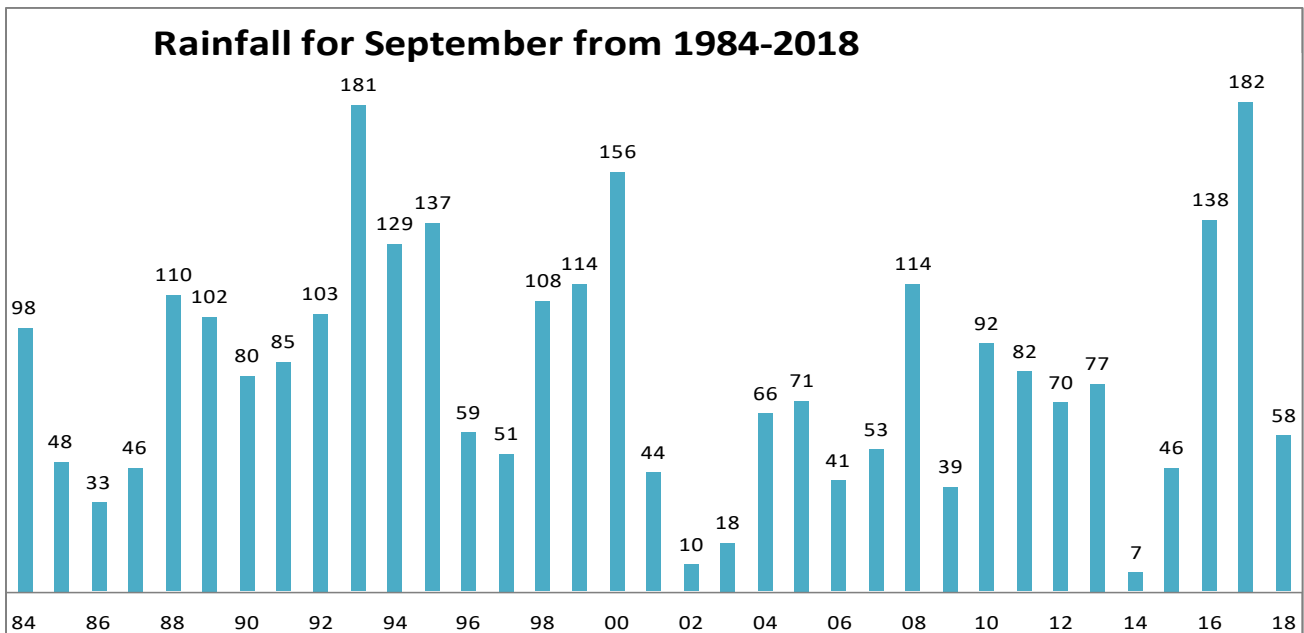
Summary of Records.

Rainfall for August 2018 was average at 97mm.

While at 58mm, September was just 71% of what might be expected, it was however only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the 2017 record breaking figure of 182mm.

October is normally the fourth wettest month of the year with a rolling average of 128mm of rain but in 2018 only 62mm (48%) was recorded making it the second driest of the ten months so far.

This means we are currently roughly 10% down on the precipitation that could normally be expected by the end of October.





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If you have had difficulties for 6 months or longer you can apply for Attendance Allowance, if you are in hospital you can apply but you won't receive anything until you come out. If you live in a private care home and pay your own costs you can also apply.

If you are terminally ill you can apply straight away and your application will be speeded up.

To find out more, visit **southhamscab.org.uk** and type Attendance Allowance into the "How can we help" search box.

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Letter from a Parishioner

Editor's Note: This is in reply to Denis Olney's letter in the November 2018 edition. You can reply to this letter by emailing the Editor. Anonymous responses will not be considered.

It would be a pointless exercise to try and analyse Denis Olney's many claims in his letter in November 2018 issue.

Of course there are many valid concerns about the position and cost of the proposed village hall.

However, on the one hand, Denis Olney as Chairperson of the 'Friends of Ermington Park' group and also a former and present Councillor on Ermington Parish Council, appears to suggest, through a comment made at the Open Day, that there is no need for a Community Hall, accessible to all. The claimed reason for this view is that there is enough alternative "indoor space" when he knows the sites listed have limited availability and very limited accessibility, especially for the young and old. One of these, the Pre-School, has even requested South Hams to find an alternative location for elections because of the disruption caused.

Then Mr. Olney, now seemingly agreeing the benefits of a hall, suggests that there are two alternative sites for the hall, one of which, I understand, is on a steep slope and the other taking up one or more of the planned Employment Units adjacent to the 'Spires' (SHDC Planning 21/2544/15). It is somewhat ironic that the developer of the 'Spires' proposed building the site Project Office in this area as a building which would have been convertible to a hall. This appears to have been declined so they installed portable units, since removed, instead.

At an earlier date, Tesco Lee Mill (in Planning) offered to build a Community Hall though the defined optimal site was where the current proposed site stands. This too was rejected by the parish.

Although the Reading Rooms are mentioned, Mr. Olney does not suggest in his letter that this site, which is parish owned, be transformed into a Community Hall. During recent Parish Council meetings, he has accepted that the building cannot be renovated to a suitable standard even with a massive outlay.

The proposed site is not perfect but it affects less 'green' space than any other potential site in the village. A hall would provide space for many more activities than other existing 'indoor space' can deliver. It could attract more visitors from the neighbourhood which could benefit 'existing local businesses' and, although the additional parking space is not extensive, it would help a little in the ever increasing congestion in Ermington. **Michael Holliday.** A friend of Ermington Fields.

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We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sue Roberts
Chair of Governors



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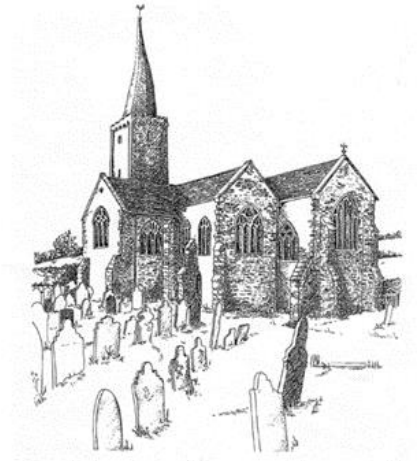


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You can find out about everything that's going on across all the parishes at its new website,

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- Ivybridge** - The Watermark Centre, PL21 0SZ
Monday, 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Kingsbridge** - Quay House, TQ7 1DZ
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The deadline for the February-March 2019 edition is:

Sunday, 20th January 2019

Editorial Team

Send articles in Word format to the Editor...

George Jones, Editor

Email: george.parishmag@gmail.com

Phone: 07577 711792

Adam Hart-Davis, Assistant Editor

Email: adam.parishmag@gmail.com

Phone: 01752 698389

John Bower, Reporter / Proof Reader

Email: johnbower@btinternet.com

Phone: 01548 830373

Rodger Reid, Distribution

Email: rodgereid@gmail.com

Phone: 01752 894579

Rob Rees, Treasurer / Advertising

Email: rob.parishmag@gmail.com

Phone: 01548 830029

Please Note: Authors and submitters may ask the editors to withhold their name, but anonymous submissions will not be published in the Magazine.

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