



A prize-winning student at GTS has written The School Poem. We love it and we think you will too.

Be Kind Be Cool

In school
 We be kind
 Be cool,
 In the classroom
 You be kind here,
 Try to motivate your friends
 And inspire your peers,
 Have a message,
 A message you need to receive,
 Be kind
 Be cool,
 Let your feeling free.
 Run loose and revel,
 Your talent,
 School is a place
 Where anything can happen,
 Harness the power,
 The power of knowledge.
 A B and C
 Will get you into college,
 You can achieve,
 Whatever your background
 Like Christopher Wallace.
 Pick a target and
 Soar to new heights,
 Whatever the obstacle just fight.
 Fight for your right to learn,
 Be kind
 Be cool.

You have to be kind at school,
 Use school as a tool,
 A tool to prosper,
 We come to thrive.
 School gives you wings,
 The wings of life,
 The skills,
 Skills to fly...
 Dream Believe Achieve...
 That's the motto,
 Hit the ground running,
 Learn at full throttle,
 We can do it...
 Do it together.
 Most Important
 Never say never,
 Be Kind
 Be Cool.

Reuben Musgrave, Year 9

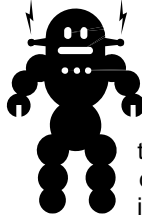
*Year 8 have been writing stories,
 and Year 7 have been writing poetry.
 Here's the first of a selection to come
 over the following months.*

Fall of the Robot Empire

A spaceship flies through the darkness of space. Its engine exhaust the only colour in the infinite expanse.

Its destination a place that shouldn't exist; a place, where robots ruled.

In 2065 we built robots that could help us with things that humans couldn't do. Darn good ones too. But in 2110 they rebelled and were totally crushed. And now, four hundred and fifty five years since the last robo-rebellion they've started again; and humans are sending an ex-climber



and an ex-rugby player to sort them out. The two men walked towards the thing that would possibly send them to their doom.

"You ready Marshall?" asked the rugby player.

"Heck yeah Rand!" the climber said confidently.

"Prepare to beam in and engage" said a computerised voice

"Here we go," Marshall said under his breath. There was a flash of green and the two men were gone

Deep inside the robot's lair there was a flash of green and a high pitched noise as humanity's heroes arrived in man's worst nightmare.

"Odd to see a prison on a cruise ship" Marshall whispered, looking around.

"There's also an asylum" Rand muttered, looking at his map. "Our first stop is the dining facility. And seeing as we've beamed into a dead end, it must be the door in front of us".

They both cocked their guns and burst into the hall. The hall full of four-foot robots. The hall full of armed four-foot robots.

"What happened to Asimov? Ow! Take this you bucket of bolts!" Marshall yelled over the top of the guns. Once the living scrap metal snuffed it and the door had been blown off they proceeded to the asylum; which required more blowing off of walls. "Brilliant. Now what?" queried Marshall as their blowing off of things revealed nothing.

"You don't think the robots coming through a door may have something to do with the exit?" Rand said sarcastically, raising an eyebrow.

"Man, I hate these things!" Marshall exclaimed as he brought his gun to the

firing position. The bots were the same as the ones in their first encounter. And twice as easy to kill. Venturing through the now open door, the two men realised that they needed to fight their way through a maze of corridors. Or simply follow a guard-bot through the maze and kill it afterwards.

"You know, I was kind of hoping for some kind of challenge" muttered Marshall, bored after half an hour of shooting and walking.

"There's the terminal Marshall. Let's get it!" Rand yelled as he charged straight into three nine-foot kettle heads.

"Um... Help?" Rand whimpered feebly.

There was a sudden flash of purple as Marshall delivered fifty rounds straight into the can-head's abdomen, causing it to blow up and the resulting shrapnel to eliminate the two others.

"What a stroke of luck" Marshall spluttered. They inched towards the terminal and prepared to hack in. This wasn't a problem for Marshall. Four hundred and fifty-ish years ago Marshall's great- great- great- great-great-granddad hacked into the Pentagon. The problem was the fifteen drones that had appeared from nowhere, all armed to the teeth.

"Marshall!" Rand growled in the 'we've got company' kind of way.

"I am working on it!" Marshall retorted, his voice sounding more frustrated by the second.

It was total carnage. Bullets flew everywhere as fifteen flying tin cans with lasers took pot-shots at an ex-rugby player with a plasma machine gun guarding an ex-climber, whose great-great- great- great-granddad had

hacked into the Pentagon four hundred and fifty years ago, who was trying to hack into an access panel and deliberately cause a nuclear meltdown.

Marshall seethed, "Oh I can't work in these conditions." He picked up his gun and the bullets slammed into each of the attacking steel footballs. "If you want a job done, do it yourself. OK, that is the biggest cliché I have ever heard" he said, disgusted he had even spoken those words. "Anyway, I believe I have a reactor to blow up."

Alarms screeched. Lights blared. Two men ran.

"We've got to get out of here." Rand yelled through his ragged gasps for breath, "The sky's gonna light up like the fourth of July!"

There was a beam station ahead of them; their ticket out of there. As they pelted down the corridor, Marshall noticed how they hadn't said 'robot' a single time during their time in the robot's lair. As they awaited their return to the ship, Marshall blurted "robot!" and they left as quickly as they arrived.

Daniel Sargent, Year 8

Friends

A secret is kept
Safe and sound
Hidden away from all around...
Moments to treasure
Years to enjoy
And fun filled adventures for
Friends to employ
Never mind the looks, the glares
And all the stares,
Your friends are there,
Holding your hand, watching
Your back.
To have a friend is special

But to be one is
The best
Never let a friend
Go
When you fight it sucks...
I know ...
All that guilt. Suffer.
Just let them moan.
A friend is a friend.
Never let them go!

Niamh Stainsby, Year 7

The Spirit of Vengeance

Every day
Every day I came home weeping
Weeping inside
Afraid to tell Ma what happened
I was beaten up at school
By some boy
And his cronies
Five years straight
No matter what I tried I couldn't sort it out
I felt a strong presence in my head
Like an ancient evil consoled within me
Vengeance
Vengeance
A voice said in my skull
The next year was the same: blood, tears
Until one day I snapped
!!crrraaccckk!!

He was on the floor crying, bleeding
But
I felt guilty?
I just taught my arch-foe a lesson and
I was guilty!
WHY?
Maybe that's the price you pay for
VENGEANCE

Brady Hooper, Year 7



Great Torrington Town Council

Mayor's Diary

First may I wish all our *Crier* readers a very Happy New Year. On



Christmas Eve I was walking the dog and fell over, breaking two ribs! I fell near to the monument and thought I might need the Air Ambulance!! I

managed to get up with the help of Chester licking my face, and struggled back to Sydney House car park. However, it didn't stop me from visiting our local nursing homes and Cottage Hospital on Christmas Day to see patients and staff. A kind invitation by Solomon Singh from Hatchmoor Nursing Home meant we enjoyed a lovely lunch with some patients and their families. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everybody who made 'The Big Sing' such a lovely evening, and particularly all the townsfolk who turned up on a very cold evening to enjoy the community singing, led by Rev. Slings and the Silver Band, with contributions from our schools and readings by Mike, Jo and Mags. We had lots of help from the Methodist Church and the Cavaliers and this resulted in a collection of over £200 for my Charities.

As Mayor, I am honoured to be president of the Bickford Centre during my term of office. The Centre

(opposite Sydney House car park) is open to all senior citizens on Mondays to Saturdays from 10am-4pm, and they can have a warm drink and biscuits and relax and enjoy a chat with other visitors and the friendly volunteers.

Helen and I are now looking forward to all the preparations for the May Fair and Carnival. It won't be long before we visit the Junior School to learn who will be our Queen, Crouner, Attendants and Heralds. Our secretaries, Melissa and Liz, are already organising road closures, contacting visiting bands, booking the fair, organising insurance and arranging committee meetings. Personally I can't wait to see what the Cavaliers are going to entertain us with this year! If you feel you could lend a hand on the committee, or on May Fair day please ring me to discuss on 01805 625662.

Please don't forget to let me know if there are any special events in 2012 you would like me to attend. Just ring Pauline, the Town Council secretary, on 01805 626135.

*Councillor Richard Rumbold
Town Mayor*

Olympic History and Great Torrington

On Monday 21st May 2012, history will be made when the Olympic Torch is carried through Merton and Great Torrington, on its way to Bideford. The torch will be carried through Great Torrington by a number of nominated runners.

Although Monday will be a working day, it is hoped as many people as

possible will line the route to cheer the torch bearers.

For a few minutes on the 21st, the eyes of the world will be on Great Torrington and we would like to add something that will be remembered long after the torch has passed. There will be crowds along the Torch's route throughout the country, and we need something special to attract the TV cameras' attention.



Suggestions to the Mayor please by the end of February – Cllr Richard Rumbold, Great Torrington Town Council, Castle Hill, Great Torrington EX38 8AA.

Email: gtowncouncil@lineone.net

Great Torrington Community Food Bank

Great Torrington Community Food Bank has been operating since early December. We are most

grateful for the support given to the committee by members of the public, and for recent donations from our district councillor, Mrs Brown; the Dartington Fields Residents' Association from a raffle at their Christmas dinner, and also from other private individuals, thanks to you all. The Food Bank is located at the Baptist Church and is open Tuesdays from 10am-12 noon, manned by our volunteers. Local organisations have given us their support and agreed to refer any deserving families.

We would stress the Food Bank is for emergency help while waiting for the



appropriate agency to take over and assist. If you do have any donations of tinned or dried food please drop them off to Kiz at the Community Information Centre (opp. Sydney House car park) or to the Parish Church. Once again, thank you for your interest and help.

For more information:

Mags Zaharia 01805 623474

email: mags-liviu@talktalk.net

Sharon Balman 01805 938079

email: ps.balman@googlemail.com

Kiz Angell 01805 625838

email: kizangell@btconnect.com

Bingo Nights

Why not come along to the Torridge Vale Social Club, have a game of Bingo, maybe win a prize, but definitely help to support May Fair Week. All profits will go to help run the May Fair and Carnival.

So come along on the 16th March and/or 13th April at 7.30pm and help us to keep our May Fair and Carnival running.

*Richard Rumbold
Chair of May Fair Committee*

A Big Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who assisted in the clothes collection for my forthcoming World Challenge trip to Morocco. I collected just under half a tonne of clothes and raised £215. This will see me well on my way to Morocco. I am still cleaning cars at £5 in order to raise the remainder of the funds and can be contacted on 01805 622539.

Henry D'Alberti-Nicholson

Battle of Torrington Commemorative March 2012 *Free Event*

Torrington 1646, in association with the Great Torrington Cavaliers and the Sealed Knot, would like to invite everyone to a day and evening of fun, falconry and fireworks in the 17th Century, to commemorate the Battle of Torrington in 1646.



The event will take place on Saturday 18th February.

The day will start with Al Mitchell, the Town Crier, accompanied by the Mayor's Guard, marching around the town proclaiming the event open. Torrington 1646 will be open between 10am-4pm giving a taste of life in the 17th Century, including a living history display and demonstrations of musket and pike drill by the Sealed Knot.

A musket firing competition will be held in the afternoon (weather permitting). The Falconer will be showing his birds of prey and the Barber Surgeon will also be in attendance demonstrating his very own version of the NHS (No Hope Surgery!) There will be a bar in the grounds of 1646 and the café will be open all day serving breakfasts, light lunches, bacon sandwiches and light snacks.

In the evening there will be a torchlight parade through the town led by the Great Torrington Cavaliers. The march will start from Great Torrington School car park at 7pm (muster at 6.30pm) and end up in the town square

approximately 20 minutes later, where the Mayor will address the assembled troops and public and the Town Crier will read out the proclamation that was read to the townsfolk on the day after the battle. The Mayor will then lay a wreath on the mass grave outside the church of St. Michael and All Angels. Everyone is welcome to join in this unique event. Torches will be on sale in the school car park.

The day will conclude with a fireworks display in South Street car park and free hot drinks at Torrington 1646.

Evening Timetable:

6.30pm - Muster at Great Torrington School car park.

7pm - Musket volley. March begins.

7.20pm - Musket volley, wreath laying and proclamation in town square.

7.45pm - Fireworks in South Street car park, followed by free hot drinks from the 1646 Café

For more information please contact Kate Henderson at Torrington 1646 on 01805 626146 or email 1646@great-torrington.com.

This year we are grateful to Councillors Andy Boyd, Margaret Brown and Geoff Lee who have secured funding through the Torridge District Council Councillors' Grant Fund. We would also like to thank the Great Torrington Cavaliers for their donation towards this event. Without their support this event would not be possible.

Great Torrington Town Hall Project January 2012 Update

A new 'push' for our town hall project has been quietly going on recently.



Many of you will be familiar with the signs that something is happening, with scaffolding enveloping the whole building and the obvious builder activity. I've heard it rumoured there's another storey being built, but I can assure you that it really is only the roof being replaced, with a few modern enhancements.

Behind the scenes however, there have been some changes within the Great Torrington Buildings Preservation Trust. The dedicated Dr. Harry Cramp, who has chaired the committee, led the project and written these regular articles for so long, has finally decided that he wants a more restful time. Thankfully his expertise is retained and he remains as Vice Chair, but after some persuasion I have taken on the position of Chair and intend to carry on the excellent work of the BPT. I hope that the many pitfalls and problems encountered over the years will soon be at an end and we will finally see our town hall firmly back as a civic and social centre for Great Torrington.

The website, which sadly became out-of-date, is being revised with current information along with new images of the roof refurbishment (just to prove there's no new storey being built), so go and have a look at

www.greattorrington-townhall.org

From previous articles you may be aware that the current works, although being paid for from funds raised by BPT, are actually being undertaken by Great Torrington Townlands Charity, the current owners of the building. This is because these works became urgent before other project-delaying problems could be solved. Roof work had to begin straight away to ensure preservation of the fabric of the building, rather than wait and risk further expense in the future. It is hoped that this momentum can be continued, whilst new energy is put into solving the problems that have delayed the project so many times, using the funds already raised to continue with planned works over the coming months rather than see it all stop once more.

Previous articles about our town hall refurbishment project have detailed the financial burden this building has been to its current owners because of its state of disrepair. Funds have had to be used to subsidise the upkeep of an unused building, rather than for the charitable purposes intended. It is our hope that with renewed energy and momentum, we will be able to finally solve the basic but fundamental problems which have prevented the transfer of ownership, and therefore subsequent fundraising, and finally complete the refurbishment.

Watch This Space...

*Richard Phillips, Chairman
Great Torrington Buildings
Preservation Trust.*



Torrington Rotary Club Youth Speaks Competition

On Wednesday 23rd November, five teams from GTS took part in the first round of this year's Rotary Club's Youth Speaks competition.

As usual our first round was against Shebbear College. All of our teams did very well, with one team winning the competition. So congratulations to Will Huxtable, Susie Roberts and Bluebell Munro who will be representing GTS at the next round in February.

This first round of the competition, provided an impressive evening's entertainment for all. Each team comprised three members; the chairperson, the speaker and the proposer of the vote of thanks, all of whom gave confident and engaging performances on a range of topics including deforestation, the Bermuda Triangle, the pros and cons of television, fire safety and the impact of global warming upon less developed economies.

All five teams worked extremely hard during lunchtimes, English lessons and, of course, at home to write, learn and rehearse their speeches. Despite their nerves, they enjoyed the

experience greatly and most are determined to take part again next year.

The winning team will not be resting upon their laurels; they will be rehearsing hard for the even greater challenge of the next round in February. Good luck!

Viv Willatts

It is with deep regret that we have to mark the death of our good friend and colleague Viv Willatts.

Viv started work for Genesis in March 1999 when she became the administrator, to help run the business once the refurbishments at Castle Hill and the Pannier Market had been completed.

Over the years Viv proved to be a fierce champion of the Genesis businesses; 1646, The Pannier Market, Castle Hill, TIC, Thomas Fowler Centre and The Vicarage Garden, and saw the company through many ups and downs.

In the office she was always thoughtful, cheerful and optimistic, she went out of her way to help.

Viv bravely fought illness, combining treatment and work right up to the end.

Viv's contribution to Genesis and The Great Torrington CDT will be sorely missed and the thoughts of the Trustees, Directors and Staff are all with her family.

Ian Lovell
General Manager

A Tribute to Viv

At Castle Hill we knew someone
Who was kind & helpful to all
She always enjoyed any kind of fun
Her good nature never seemed to pall
She has left us now & we much regret
The passing of such a good friend
She has patiently endured so much but yet
Her life has come to a peaceful end
The Trust & Genesis were her domain
The Market Traders & Shopkeepers too
She knew all who worked there each by name
With them her memory will stay true
Your family & friends have sadly lost you
And will feel sorrow tho' the bond cannot sever
For the memory of a person whose heart was true
Is something to treasure for ever

Roger Carter



Move of Offices in Castle Hill

Genesis (Great Torrington) Ltd., and The Great Torrington CDT announce that the administration office has moved to the offices above the 1646 Café, formerly occupied by The Thomas Fowler Centre. Telephone numbers remain the same. The office will continue to open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am-12.30 pm.

Abbeyfield Glen Tor

Abbeyfield Glen Tor in Villa Road, Torrington, offers supported housing for older people, where there is the opportunity to lead a full life with independence, privacy, security, and in safety. This housing service is intended for older people who no longer feel happy coping alone at home, and who wish to remain as independent as possible.

Abbeyfield Glen Tor is part of the Abbeyfield South West Society and belongs to a national charity providing supported independent housing for older people. Dedicated volunteers give their time to manage the Society and each house, and offer friendship and support to the residents. Paid staff provide all meals and support to residents and organise the day to day running of the house.

Visitors are always welcome. If you would like to see the house and meet the residents please call 01805 623605 or email John Portman on johnp.abbeyfield@talktalk.net.

If you, a family member, or a friend, is seeking supported housing please contact us for information or visit www.abbeyfieldsouthwest.org.uk or the national website www.abbeyfield.com

There is a vacant room at Abbeyfield Glen Tor. The fully inclusive charges for a room with private bathroom facilities range from £210 per week and this includes the provision of full meals each day and all housing costs.



Christmas Festivities with the Local Community

On Monday 12th December, Great Torrington School pupils and staff welcomed over 40 guests from local care homes to our Christmas coffee morning complete with cakes, mince pies and Christmas crackers supplied by the school kitchen.



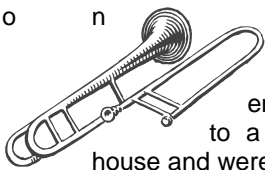
Pupils did a magnificent job serving teas and coffees and baked treats whilst our guests were treated to Christmas Carols and songs sung by our very own Glee club and School Choir.

A lovely atmosphere and enjoyment was had by all. We hope to repeat the event next year. Much reminiscing of school days with staff and pupils was shared and pupils have asked if they can do it again next year.

Torrington Silver Band Christmas Concert

Torrington Silver Band would like to say thanks to everyone who came along to their Christmas Concert on Saturday 10th December.

The band enjoyed playing to a completely full house and were pleased to see so many people enjoying themselves and supporting the band at the same time. As well as the main



band's concert, the audience were treated to some pieces played by younger members, also three newer band members, who were performing for the first time. A couple of older members played a duet with a change of instruments, namely trombones.

Christmas Carols Evening

Thank you to all who came along for this great evening of carols and a few other pieces of music. I'm sure a similar evening will be arranged again for next year. The band and audience would like to thank Bill and Daphne Metherell for arranging this festive treat. Thanks also to those who helped on the night

We were also presented with a cheque from Sophie Parsons who has raised £155.59 for the band.

Carols in the Square

We would also like to thank the people of Torrington for their contributions when the band played carols in the square for the three Saturdays before Christmas. Donations totalled over £500.

Thank you very much

Nick Megson
Chairman & Bandmaster

TorrAGE, Snow Patrol and Torridge Volunteer Garden Service

So far we have not had the 'dreaded but beautiful' snow, and have not had to call upon our 'Snow Patrol' volunteers. We have met up with many who have volunteered, but to those we have yet to meet, please give us a ring

if you are still available, or call into our office so that we may 'sign you up' just in case we do experience some bad weather later on.

We have been busy signing up many volunteers for various tasks, (whether it be gardening, undertaking small tasks, collecting prescriptions or befriending) but we would still be grateful for anyone to give a little of their time to either help or visit those who may be very lonely within our thriving town. Why not pop in or give us a ring if you can spare just half-an-hour once-a fortnight. *"Please remember that a little means such a lot to others"*

Our garden volunteers will meet up in March for a 'refresher day' and will not start gardening again until April, but if you would like to be put on our list or require help prior to April, then please contact us, or call into our office.

If you have any queries relating to these or other TorrAGE services, please speak to Linda, Anna or Jane in the Torrington office on 01805 622666 or call in to the office on either Tuesday or Thursday morning.



Cosmi-Cuts Torrington closed on 31st December

Karen and Jill would like to say thank you to all their customers and friends for the lovely flowers, gifts, cards and good wishes.

Come and join Langtree Reunites Netball Club!

Is your New Year's resolution to get fitter? Why not come and join Langtree Reunites Netball Club!

We are a team of mixed age and mixed ability netballers. We welcome all abilities and have a non-competitive attitude.

Training is at GTS sports hall on a Wednesday evening juniors 7-8pm, and seniors 8-9:30pm. Why not start 2012 with something new and active?

Contact head coach Tess on 07971 083 510.

Ellie Kinsella

Pause for Thought

Sale, Sale, Sale, there can't be many of us that have not been confronted with this word over the last few weeks; it was being displayed even before Christmas in some stores. We have winter sales, spring sales, mid-season sales, summer sales and autumn sales, from what I can see of it they practically run continually from one season to the other! It's 30% off, 50% off, and I have seen as much as 70% off, if a profit is still being made with all those discounts, why was it not sold at the lower price in the first place?

Do you know, I have never seen or heard anyone offering the Christian faith with a sale price tag, oh yes! There was a price alright, one that we could never afford or even repay. There is a verse of scripture that reads 'Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever', in the material world,



seasons come and go year after year, fashions change, but in the spiritual world we can have love, joy and peace that never changes. Our salvation through Jesus came at a price.

It is man's sin that separates us from having a relationship with Father God, which began with Adam and Eve. In order to restore this relationship He sent Jesus His Son, born as a baby, which is why we celebrate Christmas. Later He was hung on a cross where He died aged 32; that is the price tag for our sins, 100% no discount, He paid it all. That is what makes the Christian faith different from any other.

Accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour of our lives restores our relationship with Father God. If you do not have a relationship with Him, the prayer is simple, all you need to say is sorry to God our Father for all your sins and ask Jesus to come into your life from now on, that's it, and the benefits are out of this world at a bargain price.

Vernon Andrew

If anyone would like to contact me with regards to making a commitment to Jesus, please do so through the Crier editor.

The Appledore Singers Taster Evening

Ladies – do you like singing? Have



you been inspired by the Military Wives? Would you like to belong to a local choir and perform to an

audience?

The Appledore Singers are holding a special 'taster' evening on Monday 19th March, 7.30-9pm in The Pier House (Merley Road, Westward Ho!), where you can meet the choir, chat to our Musical Director, join in with a rehearsal and enjoy yourselves. We have appeared at the Queen's Theatre in Barnstaple, and we regularly perform for WIs and other clubs and organisations in churches and village halls, near and far. Our recent Christmas concert in Westward Ho! was a sell-out; see us on YouTube! You don't have to be able to read music to join our choir – just a willingness to learn is all we ask. As one recent recruit put it, "I never knew rehearsals could be such fun!" So why not come along and see for yourself – you'll be made most welcome!

For information:

Secretary Jenny Cawsey
01237 424982

Musical Director Pam Beechey
01769 560034

Visit: theappledoresingers.co.uk

Solo Pianist for February Concert

Pianist James Sherlock will perform at Bideford Music Club on Wednesday 8th February 2012, 7.30pm at the Bideford Methodist Church Hall, High Street. He will play sonatas by Mozart and Beethoven as well as pieces by Chopin, Ravel, Bach and Poulenc.

Tickets are £11 (students free) and available at the door.

Please call 01237 477242.

Diary

*A Listing of Community, Social
and Fundraising Events in the
Torrington and Surrounding
District Areas*

February 2012

Wed 1

Little Tadpoles stay & play session (only £1.50) every Weds afternoon during term-time 1-3pm now operating at Scout Hall, Gas Lane. Contact 01805 622747

3rd Torrington Brownies at Torrington Baptist Hall, New Street every Weds during term-time 6.30-8.00pm Tel: Shirley Lee 01805 625965

Free English Course for adults, Great Torrington School on Weds 7-9pm excluding school holidays. Learn the basics or aim towards L2(GCSE=) qualification. For info ring Jayne Doyle 0797 687 7985 or 01237 472462

Langtree Unites Netball Club welcomes anyone interested every Weds evening apart from half term (juniors 7-8pm and seniors 8-9.30pm) @ Torrington sports hall for info contact head coach Tessa on 07971 083 510

High 5 Training @ GTS Sports Hall every Weds. 6-7pm for primary school pupils 3-6yrs, 7-8pm for juniors, and 8-9.30pm for seniors. New players welcome, Tess 07971 083 510

Film 'Las Acacias' (12A) 8pm The Plough

Thu 2

Pannier General Market every Thursday 10am-4pm
Little Fishes Toddler Group at Torrington Baptist Church every Thursday during term-time 9.30-11.30am – play, stories, craft, music & healthy snacks - cost £1.50 per family
Tel: Wendy 01805 623214

Slimming World at TVSC every Thursday 5.30 & 7.30pm info Bev Roberts 01805 624955

Rugby Training at Donnacroft every Thursday 7pm start clubhouse open 8pm

Writers Poets and Listeners 7.30pm at the Plough

Film 'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows' (ctba) 8pm @ The Plough

Fri 3

Pannier Bric-a-Brac Market every Friday 10am-4pm

Allsorts Childrens' Club at Bluecoat Infants School every Friday 6.30-8pm school years 1-6 Contact Morag 01805 625510

Allsorts Plus Young Persons' Club at Bluecoat School every Friday 8-9pm years 6-9 Contact Morag 01805 625510

Film 'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows' (ctba) 8pm @ The Plough

Sat 4

Pannier General Market every Saturday 10am-4pm

Music 'Reg Meuross' 8pm' @ The Plough

Sun 5

Baptist Church 10.30am Creative Church & 4pm devotional hour led by John & Tilly Kimber

Torrington Methodist Church 10.30am Rev David Gregory 6.30pm Rev Graham Slingo

Music 'Jacqui Dankworth' 7.30pm @ The Plough

Mon 6

Little Frogs sessions Monday-Friday 8.45am-3.45pm during term-time now next to the Scout Hall, Gas Lane, Torrington, 07870 509 674

Little Tadpoles stay & play session every Monday during term-time 9.30-11.30am now operating at Scout Hall, Gas Lane. Contact 01805 622747

Panamart Community Information Centre Support group every Monday 1.30-3pm tired, in pain, anxious, depressed come for tea and a chat, all welcome, group supported by N Devon Link service

1st Torrington Rainbows at Torrington Rugby Club every Monday during term time 6.15-7.15pm Tel: Linda Searle 01237 451302

1st Torrington Brownies at Torrington Baptist Hall, New Street every Monday during term time 6-7.30pm Tel: Leanne Wade 01805 625846

Torrington Seniors, at Torrington Rugby Club every Monday during term-time 7.30-9pm Tel: Sandra Nevard 07729 065 556

1st Torrington Cubs at Scout Hall Gas Lane every Monday during term-time 5.45-7.15pm Tel: Anna 01805 601580

1st Torrington Scout Group at Scout Hall Gas Lane every Monday during term-time 7.30-9pm Tel: Peter 01409 281246

Hatha Yoga at the Plough every Monday 6.30-8pm

Cash Bingo Torridge Vale Social Club eyes down 7.30pm every Monday

Tue 7

Story time 10-10.30am in Library on 1st Tues of every month

Torrington Community Food Bank open every Tuesday 10am-noon @ Baptist Church, New Street, details 01805 625879

1st Torrington Guides at Torrington Rugby Club every Tuesday 7-8.30pm Tel: Linda Masterson 01805 623212

Beaver Group every Tuesday for boys & girls between 6-8yrs @ Scout Hut, Gas Lane 4.30-5.45pm. Anne Lewis, Beaver Leader 01805 601580

Spiritual Healing every Tues 3-4.30pm & 7-9pm. Frithelstockstone Torrington for info 01805 622883

Bingo Taddipport Village Hall every Tuesday eyes down 7.30pm

Rugby Training at Donnacroft every Tuesday 7pm start

Fair Trade Steering Group meeting 7.30pm in Plough

Gt Torrington Horticultural Society 7.30pm TVSC. Philip Collins speaking on Barometers

Film 'Tabloid' (15) 8pm @ The Plough
Zumba® Great Torrington School Gym every Tuesday, (Hatchmoor Rd entrance) 8-9pm

Wed 8

Gt.Torrington Care Forum at the Early Years Centre: Lunch 11.45am-12.25pm: Forum 12.30-1.30pm

Theatre 'Voyage of the Nutjelly Nanna' 11am/ 1.30pm @ The Plough

Cribbage Pairs Tournament @ 8pm Torrington Arms

W.I 17th Century gardens 7pm @ Methodist Hall

Film 'Surviving Life' (Theory & Practice) (nc) 8pm @ The Plough

Thu 9

Theatre 'Voyage of the Nutjelly Nanna' 11am/ 1.30pm @ The Plough

Comedy 'Can You Dig It?' 8pm @ The Plough

Poetry Open Mouth Poetry Night 8pm @ The Plough

CRIER COPY DEADLINE
for the March 2012
Issue by 12noon today
latest please

Fri 10

Live An evening with Andy Kershaw 8pm @ The Plough

Sat 11

Theatre 'John Peels Shed' by John Osborne 8pm @ The Plough

Sun 12

Baptist Church 10.30am Preacher Mark Stanbury

Torrington Methodist Church

10.30am Mrs Rosemary Quinnell
6.30pm Rev Graham Slingso Cafe worship

Film 'Another Earth' (12A) 3pm & 7pm @ The Plough

Mon 13

Historical Society talk 'The Secret of Bloody Corner' by Nick Arnold 7 for 7.30pm @ Methodist Church

Film 'Puss in Boots' (U) 2pm @ The Plough

Tue 14

Blood Donations @ Gt Torrington School

Parkinson's UK Torridge Branch monthly coffee morning every 3rd Tuesday of the month 10.30am-12.30pm at The Pill, Bideford

Music The Alternative Valentines Night 7pm @ The Plough

Wed15

Film 'Puss in Boots' (U) 2pm @ The Plough

Film 'We Have a Pope' (ctba) 8pm @ The Plough

Thu 16

Film 2pm @ The Plough 'Alvin & The

Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (U)

Film 'The Dark Crystal' (PG) 8pm @ The Plough

Fri 17

Film 2pm @ The Plough 'Alvin & The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (U)

Film 'The Iron Lady' (ctba) 8pm @ The Plough

Sat 18

Taddipport Tea Dance 2-4pm details Doug 01805 622648 or Beryl 01805 624294

1646 Commemorative March Free Event, Falconry, living history, Sealed Knot 11am-4pm evening torchlight procession details Kate on 01805 626146

Live An Evening with Ann

Widdecombe 8pm @ The Plough

Sun 19

Baptist Church 10.30am Messy Church Preacher Loraine Eade

Torrington Methodist Church

10.30am Rev Graham Slingso Holy Communion 6.30pm Mr David Lewis

Classical Yuka Ishizuka, violin / Nadav Herzka, piano 3pm @ The Plough

Film 'The Iron Lady' (ctba) 7pm @ The Plough

Tue 21

Torrington Probus Club 10.30am Black Horse

Baptist Church 6pm Pancake Party

Film 'Mother & Child' (ctba) 8pm @ The Plough

Wed 22

Film 'Tatsumi' (ctba) 8pm @ The Plough

Thu 23

Theatre The Cherry Orchard, 8pm @ The Plough

Fri 24

Christian Aid Lent Lunch 12-1.45pm @ Methodist Church, see article & posters

Music 'The Wiyos' 8pm @ The Plough

Sat 25

Fair Trade Quiz 7.30pm @ The Plough £1 with wine and nibbles included ring 01805 622143 to book table & team

Fun Evening @ Roborough Village Hall @ 7.30pm tickets £8 adults & half price for under 11s, includes glass of cider & pasty, for info Edna 01805 603698

Music 'Nancy Kerr & James Fagan' 8pm @ The Plough

Sun 26

Baptist Church 10.30am Preacher (to be confirmed)

Torrington Methodist Church

10.30am Mr Colin Rice 6.30pm Inspire Fair Trade Film 'Blood Diamond' 7pm @ Yarde Cafe £5 includes tea & cake, 7pm

Film 'War Horse' (12A) 3pm & 7pm @ The Plough

Tue 28

Film 'War Horse' (12A) 5pm & 8pm @ The Plough

Wed 29

FREE DAY (includes War Horse @ 8pm) All day at The Plough

March 2012

Thu 1

Pannier General Market every Thursday 10am-4pm

Little Fishes Toddler Group at Torrington Baptist Church every Thursday during term-time 9.30-11.30am, play, stories, craft, music & healthy snacks cost £1.50 per family Tel: Wendy 01805 623214

Slimming World TVSC every Thursday at 5.30 & 7.30pm info Bev Roberts 01805 624955

Rugby Training at Donnacroft every Thursday 7pm start clubhouse open 8pm

Writers Poets and Listeners 7.30pm at the Plough

Fri 2

Pannier Bric-a-Brac Market every Friday 10am-4pm

Christian Aid Lent Lunch 12-1-45pm @ St Michaels Church, see article & posters

Allsorts Childrens' Club at Bluecoat Infants School every Friday 6.30-8pm school years 1-6 Contact Morag 01805 625510

Allsorts Plus Young Persons' Club at Bluecoat School every Friday 8-9pm years 6-9 contact Morag 01805 625510

Sat 3

Pannier General Market every Saturday 10am-4pm

FairTrade Fortnight Extravaganza! Take a step for fair trade, food sampling, fairtrade stall, free tea & coffee 10am-noon @ 14 South St.

Sun 4

Gt Torrington Commons Car Boot Sale 7-11am Old Bowling Green every Sunday until 25th September

Catholic Church of the Holy Family - Mass every Sunday 9.15am

Baptist Church Services every Sunday 10.30am

St. Michael's Church Sung Mass & Sermon every Sunday 10am

Torrington Community Church Bluecoat Infants School every Sunday 11am all welcome Karen Tel: 01805 622866

Torrington Methodist Church

10.30am Fair Trade Film 'Black Gold' 7pm @ Yarde Cafe. £5 includes tea/ coffee & cake

Mon 5

Little Frogs sessions Monday-Friday 8.45am-3.45pm during term-time now next to the Scout Hall, Gas Lane, Torrington, 07870 509 674

Little Tadpoles stay & play session (only £1.50) every Monday during term-time 9.30-11.30am now operating at Scout Hall, Gas Lane. Contact 01805 622747

Panamart Community Information Centre support group every Monday 1.30-3pm tired, in pain, anxious, depressed come for tea and a chat, all welcome, group supported by N Devon Link service

1st Torrington Rainbows at Torrington Rugby Club every Monday during term-time 6.15-7.15pm Tel: Linda Searle 01237 451302

1st Torrington Brownies at Torrington Baptist Hall, New Street every Monday during term-time 6-7.30pm Tel: Leanne Wade 01805 625846

Torrington Seniors, at Torrington Rugby Club every Monday during term-time 7.30-9pm Tel: Sandra Nevard 07729 065 556

1st Torrington Cubs at Scout Hall Gas Lane every Monday during term-time 5.45-7.15pm Tel: Anna 01805 601580

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Bingo Taddipport Village Hall every Tuesday eyes down 7.30pm

Rugby Training at Donnacroft every Tuesday 7pm start

Zumba® Great Torrington School Gym every Tuesday, (Hatchmoor Rd entrance) 8-9pm

Wed 7

Little Tadpoles stay & play session (only £1.50) every Wednesday afternoon during term-time 1-3pm now operating at Scout Hall, Gas Lane. 01805 622747

3rd Torrington Brownies at Torrington Baptist Hall, New Street every Wednesday during term-time 6.30-8pm Tel: Shirley Lee 01805 625965

Free English Course for adults Great Torrington School on Weds 7-9pm excluding school holidays. Learn the basics or aim towards L2(GCSE=) qualification. For info ring Jayne Doyle 07976 877 985 or 01237 472462

Langtree Unites Netball Club Welcomes anyone interested every Weds evening apart from half term (Juniors 7-8pm and Seniors 8-9.30pm) @ Torrington sports hall for info contact head coach Tessa on 07971 083 510

High 5 Training @ GTS Sports Hall every Weds for all. 6-7pm for primary school pupils 3-6yrs, 7-8pm for Juniors, and 8-9.30pm for seniors new players welcome, contact Tess on 07971 083 510



Fr. Lawrence writes.....

Light has been much of the focus of our celebrations over the Christmas period. Jesus Christ is the 'Light' which enters the darkened world through his miraculous birth. At Epiphany we heard how the wise men followed the star, another light, which then took them to the child Jesus, the source of light Himself.



Our services over Christmas were sourced by candlelight only, or decorated with extra candles and of course most of our homes have had Christmas trees in them, themselves covered with small electric bulbs. Each flickering light has brought warmth and colour. Each light has been a reflection of the presence of Jesus in our own homes.

Now that we are in February the trees have gone, the decorations are long packed away, after the 12th day of Christmas, and the lights are packed away in the attic for another year. When the grey skies are overhead it can seem a little sad that the little lights have gone....

The lights may have gone but the 'Light' never leaves us.

By the time you read this, the Church will have celebrated Candlemass, always on the 2nd February, 40 days after Christmas Day. It is the day when we remember Jesus being presented in the Temple by his earthly parents. It is called Candlemass because traditionally this was the day when the priest would bless beeswax candles in Church to be taken home and used by the faithful throughout the year.

The light, symbolized now in the candle reminds us of Jesus' birth and his presence with us at all times. As we continue into our new year, it is important to keep carrying the 'Light' within us. Each of us is called by Jesus to be Christ-like, to bear the light of Christ and be a Christ-light. Each one

of us is to be a candle to others, lighting the way to the source Himself.

I hope that if you've been to Church over Christmas, some of the light has stayed with you and you will come again, but unlike the Christmas Tree lights, it will be sooner than in a year's time and that we can all continue to shine brightly like the sun in the sky.

New Lease of Life for the Eric Palmer Centre

The Eric Palmer Centre has been at the heart of the Torrington community for many years. It has seen a variety of uses over time, including the local junior school and more recently, the home of the Devon Youth Service.

Paul and Louise Banfield, along with their son Charlie, are pleased to announce its regeneration this year. Paul and Louise have been in the health and fitness industry for a combined 40 years and currently run the Pure Pilates Studio in Barnstaple. Charlie, who qualified as a personal trainer last year, and plays rugby for Torrington 1st team, will be joining them in breathing new life into the building, which will become a health and fitness centre, available for use by the whole community.

We are very excited at the prospect of providing this much-needed facility for Torrington, and if you see us beavering away at the EPC over the coming weeks, feel free to come and have a look and a chat.

Follow progress of the the regeneration on Facebook 'Function Fitness' or our website.

Louise Banfield

www.functionfitnesstorington.co.uk



Thank You...

...To Beryl Scott, a long-term volunteer on the *Crier*, who has donated her complete *Crier* back-issue collection to the Library, due to her recent move.

Horticultural Society Our New Year

We start our New Year on Tuesday 7th February at 7.30pm in Torrridge Vale Social Club. Subs of £4 will be due. We are a friendly bunch and at our regular meetings, usually have a speaker on a garden or plant-related topic. We organise trips out to gardens and take part in inter-club quizzes etc.

Our speaker in February will be District Councillor and barometer expert, Philip Collins. Let's hope the glass remains high and we are without snow!

The speaker on Tuesday 6th March at 7.30pm will be Robin Hull. He is a Bonsai expert and will be bringing along examples from his collection and explaining the methods of planting and training. Torturing plants may not be your thing, but there is a philosophy behind it too. We hope to see you there.

We will also be celebrating the RHS National Garden Week. Our contribution will be a 'Green Tombola' to be held on Saturday 21st April. Some of our members are already nurturing tulips that will contribute to the prizes on the day. We also plan to have seedlings, seeds and other garden paraphernalia as prizes

For more about the Society follow the links from the *Crier* website. Alternatively ring Sally Ramsden on 01805 623152 or just turn up to a meeting.



Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Sally Ramsden

Fairtrade Fortnight 2012 Take a Step for Fairtrade 25th February-11th March

Fairtrade is getting big. Last year, sales of Fairtrade products in the UK totalled £1 billion, which is a big step towards a better trade system for farmers in developing countries. But there is still a long way to go, there are a lot of commodities that are still being bought under unfair trade rules with farmers working in unfair conditions.

This year the focus of national Fairtrade Fortnight is on encouraging lots of people to get involved. Every step, no matter how big or small, is valuable and will contribute to something huge. The 'Take a Step in 2012' campaign aims to achieve 1.5 million steps for Fairtrade. That's one step for every Fairtrade farmer and worker that the Fairtrade Foundation hopes to work with around the world. Each step is one closer to the better deal from global trade that millions more farmers and workers urgently need.

Your pledge can be anything to support Fairtrade. It might be changing one of the items in your shopping basket to Fairtrade; filling in a campaign postcard; making a donation to support groups working towards Fairtrade; supporting a Fairtrade event... the opportunities are endless.



Whatever you already do to support Fairtrade, in the 'Take a Step' campaign there is always something more that you can do. Please register your step at www.fairtrade.org.uk/step.

The Torrington Fairtrade Group have all sorts planned for Fairtrade Fortnight and look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

For more information, contact the Fairtrade Group on 01805 622143.

Cherubeer Open Gardens

Three gardens in the hamlet of Cherubeer, 2 miles east of Dolton and 8 miles south east of Torrington, will be opening for the charity, The National Garden Scheme, on Sunday 5th February and Thursday 16th February from 2-5 pm.

The gardens have many spring flowers and shrubs including a collection of over 150 different named forms of snowdrop, a National Collection of hardy cyclamen and many single and double forms of hellebore.

Entry costs £4 for the three gardens. There will be hot soup and teas available. There will also be plants for sale, including named snowdrops and cyclamen.

The National Garden Scheme was founded in 1927 and raises funds by opening gardens to the public. Last year in Devon over 150 gardens, most of which are privately owned and only



open for the NGS, raised over £120,000 for Macmillan Cancer support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices and many other deserving causes.

For further information about Cherubeer Gardens and others open for the National Garden Scheme visit www.ngs.org.uk

*Jo and Tom Hynes
01805 804265*

Great Torrington Memory Café

What is a Memory Café?

A memory café is somewhere where people with dementia and their families/friends can visit to support each other and share information and experiences. Healthcare professionals are also on hand to answer any questions, offer advice and provide support, such as coping strategies, along with signposting to other relevant services.

Who is it for?

People who attend the cafés are from all walks of life and of varying ages; some may have had a recent diagnosis of dementia whilst others may be worried about their memory and want advice. People who visit find that they continue to come along, and value the café for its welcoming, informal and relaxed atmosphere. The café offers a listening ear and a couple of hours' break from the regular day's routine.

The café operates on a drop-in basis, just turn up and you will be welcomed by our staff and volunteers

with a cup of tea/coffee, and cake or a biscuit.

Where is it held?

The Plough Arts Centre - Gallery Room (a lift is available). 9-11 Fore St, Great Torrington. The café is open on the second Thursday of each month, from 10am-12pm.

For more information visit:
www.northdevonmemorycafes.org.uk

Roborough Fun Evening

Roborough Village Hall are holding a fun evening on February 25th at 7.30pm. Come along and join Chris Batters for an evening of fun and nostalgia from the bygone years of the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Tickets £8 adults, children under 11 half-price, to include a glass of cider or juice and a pastry. Please contact Edna for tickets 01805 603698.

North Devon Journal Charity Bulletin Board

North Devon Journal is launching a new initiative called the Charity Bulletin Board.



The Charity Bulletin Board is a weekly chance for charities to update readers on their activities and events. This might also be an opportunity for charities to fulfil certain obligations, by publishing the results of charity collections for example, or it could be used as way to appeal for volunteers or to publicise an event.

Getting your entry into the bulletin

board couldn't be simpler. All you need to do is email your information to charity@northdevonjournal.co.uk or send it to: Charity Bulletin Board, North Devon Journal, Avery House, Liberty Road, Roundswell Business Park, Barnstaple, EX31 3TL.

Please keep your entries to 100 words or less. Items to be sent a week prior to the ideal date of publication to allow for processing. Multiple notices are not accepted.

Three Cheers for the Torrington Rotary Club

Another wonderful evening spent at the Plough Theatre, thanks to the kindness of Torrington Rotary Club.

Clients and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed the antics, laughter and acting created throughout the showing of *Hobson's Choice*!

A lovely start to the evening was being driven from Woodland Vale to the Plough by The Mayor of Torrington. We were given V.I.P treatment and a warm welcome on our arrival; the sherry, orange juice and homemade mince pies and cream were delicious and satisfied our taste buds.

The Torrington Players' performance was a second to none, it was delightful to watch such creative, strong and versatile actors perform.

Clients and staff commented that it was a very enjoyable evening. Laughter certainly was the best medicine!!!!!!!

Big Thank you from the clients and staff from Woodland Vale

Julie Davis

The Voice of the Over-50s

Are you aged over 50? Do you want to help improve our local community? Do you want to work on issues of importance to older people? Do you want your voice heard?



If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then please consider joining the Great Torrington and District branch of the Senior Council for Devon. We exist to help people aged 50+ live lives that are as fulfilling as possible, by acting as their voice, advocate and enabler. We are independent and non-party political, membership is free and all are welcome.

The branch is planning a recruitment drive for new members in the spring and summer of 2012, because there has never been a more urgent need for an organisation such as ours. In a time of crisis in the public finances, those aged over 50 need a clear and strong voice speaking on their behalf on those issues affecting their quality of life: from transport and health and social care to leisure, relations between the generations, and social isolation.

Our greatest achievement since we started in 2008 is the creation of the Great Torrington memory café at the Plough, which offers a friendly meeting place for those living with dementia and their carers. The group holds regular meetings at the Methodist church on topics of public interest, and we are warm and sociable as well as

committed to speaking out when necessary.

We are particularly interested in working with other town organisations on exploring new and interesting ways of treating the issues, such as through drama and sport, music and film. For further information, please contact Graham Bowen on 01805 625801 or email bowengem@gmail.com.

Torrington Christmas Fair 2011

The Torrington Town Traders would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Torrington Christmas Fair such a great afternoon.

Thank you to the Cavaliers and Brian Woods for putting up the Christmas tree and lights in the Square ready for the event, also to Scott and Michelle from Devon Highways for helping with the road closures.

We are grateful for the support of all the entertainers who gave their time voluntarily to help us; Streetz Dance Crew, Blaze, Torrington Allstar Majorettes, Torrington Silver Band, and the Guides and Brownies who all brought a festive feel to the afternoon with their performances.

Thank you to our compere, Geoff Lee, who kept everything running smoothly, Father Christmas and Mother Christmas and their lovely Elves, St John's Ambulance, and the Pannier Market shopkeepers who let us take over for the day and the help they gave in setting up for the Fair.

We are also extremely grateful to Phil Vanstone who came with his Fun

Fair which added to the enjoyment and for the generous donations to the Fair by the stall holders.

Thank you for all the donations of raffle prizes from businesses throughout the area and to everyone who helped advertise the event.

We hope everyone enjoyed the afternoon and we look forward to holding a variety of events throughout the coming year.

*Carol and Jeanne, Jeneca Beads,
Lea, Lovelea's
Jayne, Jayne Poole Photographers.*

Overweight Pets

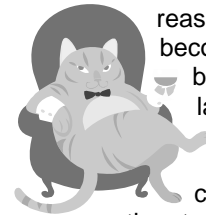
Approximately 36% of dogs and 43% of cats in this country are overweight.

There are many different reasons why a pet may become overweight. It can be due to over-feeding, lack of exercise or possibly a medical illness but the most common cause is a pet eating too many calories (just like ourselves).

We often like to 'treat' our pets, giving them 'human' treats such as biscuits, toast and table scraps and these are usually very high in calories.

When feeding your pet you must ensure that the amount of energy that is taken in by the body is the same as the amount of energy that is burned off in exercise. It is very important to get this balance right or the excess energy that is not used will be stored as fat.

Obesity is a serious problem and can decrease your pet's lifespan. Obesity



is also associated with many other pet health problems such as:

- Diabetes Mellitus
- Arthritis
- Breathing Difficulties
- Heart Disease
- Skin Complaints
- An Increased Surgical Risk

To help your pet lose weight safely, a specific low calorie diet should be fed that provides all the nutrients and energy that your pet requires – just cutting down on their normal food will reduce calorie content but it also reduces all of the other vital nutrients such as protein, vitamins and minerals.

If you would like some FREE advice on weight loss for your pet please call into your local veterinary practice to speak to the pet health counsellor.

Torrington W.I.

Last year 21,000 new members joined the WI and 112 new Institutes were formed. One of these is neighbouring St Giles in the Wood and we are very happy to welcome them into the throng.



Torrington's monthly meetings are held in the Methodist Church Hall, at the top of Mill Street and the next one will be on Wednesday 8th February at 7pm. Our speaker that evening will be Dr Janet Few and her subject is '17th Century Gardens'. Writing this overlooking my rain-soaked, wind-torn 21st century plot, I wonder if the weather was as bad then. Probably!

That evening we will be finalising plans for our annual lunch the following week, and for another annual event when we take part in the North Devon Hospice's Knit-In which also takes place this month. Members who don't knit sponsor those who do, spending two hours knitting and nattering to raise money for this excellent charity. If someone waves a sponsorship form at you, I hope you feel able to donate a small sum - or a large one! Our Institute supports the Hospice year-round with a bring-and-buy stall at monthly meetings.

For those of us who like to tax our 'little grey cells', there is the first round of the WI County Quiz on 25th February. We always like to have a go, with no great hopes of winning, but certain of a jolly good afternoon in the enthusiastic company of members from other WIs.

You can find out a lot about the WI nationwide at www.thewi.org.uk

To know more about Torrington WI ring the President, Daphne Metherell on 01805 622876.

GTS Girl 3rd at National Karate Championships

On Saturday 15th October, Rebecca McCulloch in year nine, beat off some stiff competition to come 3rd in



the Kata event at the National Wado-Ryu Karate-Do Academy championships held at the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, Bristol. Well Done!



Torrington Girl Shares in County Football Success

17 year-old Corporal Emily Towers-Veal (pictured above far left) of Torrington played for the winning County Senior girls' team during the ACF Girls National Football Championships held in Nottingham on Saturday 26th November 2011.

Emily received her winner's medal from Nottinghamshire A.C.F.'s honorary Colonel John Ludlum and also County Colours and certificate from Major Dave Clapp, Devon County Sports & Adventure Training Officer.

Football is just one of many exciting and adventurous activities on offer to young people of 12-18 years through Devon ACF.

Torrington ACF parades on Friday evenings at Great Torrington School, for more information call or



text Detachment
C o m m a n d e r
S e r g e a n t M a j o r
G a r r y C o a t e s o n
0 7 7 3 9 1 0 9 8 6 1.



Visit: www.armycadets.com.

The Devon Air Ambulance Lottery

The Devon Air Ambulance flew its first mission on 27th August 1992 and since that time, thanks to the support of the people of Devon, the service has continued to grow and develop. Accidents and illnesses happen, and the quicker emergency medical treatment can be administered to a sick or injured patient, the better their chance of recovery. Our Air Ambulances have, to-date, flown over 17,500 missions!

DAAT is proud to have two bespoke helicopters, one based at Middlemoor in Exeter and the other at Eaglescott Airfield, Burrington, North Devon. With so many remote locations in the county, the Air Ambulances prove their worth time and time again. It costs in the region of £4.5 million to keep both aircraft airborne, with all of this being raised by the community and friends of Devon, as the service is totally independent of government support.

It is reassuring to know that with two Air Ambulances covering the county, 50% of Devon can be reached within 5 minutes, and the rest within 20 minutes.

DAAT's own weekly Lottery is a bedrock income and last year helped keep the helicopters airborne by bringing in sales of just over £1,000,000! To participate in the DAAT Lottery, you can join at the Torrington Tourist Information Centre. If you

prefer, you can also pay by standing order or cheque by ringing 01392 469886, or by downloading an application form at www.daat.org.

So, go on, have a flutter...and rest assured your £1 a week entry is truly making a difference to help keep this essential lifesaving service flying!



GTS Christmas Concert at St Michael's Church

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by a packed out St Michael's Church on Friday 9th December 2011.

The audience were treated to all sorts of classical, pop, traditional and folk music. It was the final public performance for Mr Nick Morgan with his successful Glee Club.

Primary School students from Monkleigh, Newton Tracey and Torrington Junior School joined GTS pupils and performed some of the musical pieces that they have been learning at the Torrington Roots Band club this term.

The event was hosted by performing Arts Ambassadors Emmeline Douglas-Mann and Ellie Collingwood.

St Giles WI

Just to tempt all those who may fancy one night out a month, with (hopefully!) good company and the chance to learn something new, here is our meeting plan for this year.

January 18th Kinesiology with Polly from Pollyclinics, Barnstaple



February 15th Learn to do an Indian head massage with Meg Sanders
March 21st Pottery with Jax @ Little Torrington Studio

April 18th Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) TBC

May 16th Wine & Cheese evening incorporating AGM

June 20th Eastacott Vineyard visit & tasting. (7.30pm start)

July 18th Summer barbeque & gardening talk in Dowland

All meetings at the village hall unless otherwise stated. We welcome visitors at £3.50 a session.

Contact Kate on 01805 625783 or st.gileswi@hotmail.co.uk

The Great North Devon Knit-In 2012 Calling All North Devon Knitters...!

Get together with friends or family to take part in the 15th annual Great North Devon Knit-In! On or around 15th February, you could hold a two-hour knit in the location of your choice and raise sponsorship in aid of North Devon Hospice.

Nearly 80 groups from across the area took part last year and raised an amazing £15,000. This time we would like to do even better! Could you help us reach our fundraising target?

This fun, sociable event is open to anyone, whether experienced knitters or complete beginners. So why



not get involved, have some fun and support your local hospice.

For more information:

Call Rebecca 01271 347204

Email:

rebeccaworth@northdevonhospice.org.uk.

Download your entry form at

www.northdevonhospice.org.uk.

Church Tower Floodlighting

If you would like to light up the Church Tower to give a greeting to someone or remember a loved one on an anniversary, please telephone 01805 623169, cheques to be made payable to "PCC Great Torrington Parish".

One day £2, any three days (not necessarily consecutive) £5. To be printed in the March edition of the *Crier*, your entry must be in by Wednesday 8th February.

During February the Tower will be lit on, 11th, 12th, 13th Remembering with love our dear friend Sheila Bright on her 80th Birthday on February 11th. From Cath, Jayne, Angela & families.

Torrington in Bloom

This year, we celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics, with the Olympic Flame passing through Torrington on its way to London, so let's make our lovely town sparkle with rubies, sapphires and diamonds, like the jewels in the Crown! Let's make our gardens glow with those royal colours, not forgetting gold, silver and bronze, too!

Hundreds of bulbs and spring bedding have now been planted by various members of Torrington in Bloom and volunteers from around the town. It's over to the rest of you now...

If you think your neighbourhood needs brightening up, give us a ring for advice and guidance (even if it's just a tiny area that looks messy and untidy, you can be empowered to take control of that space).

Torrington in Bloom held its AGM in November, and our membership has expanded, listed below is the committee, members and helpers:

Chair: Tony Welch

Vice-Chair: Barry Cubitt

Treasurer: Paul Watson

Secretary: Cherry Hammon

Committee: Val & Mike Knight, Paula Clarke, Phyllis Smale, Dave Squire, Beth McClure, Joyce Martin (Torrington TC)

Members and helpers: Margaret Brown (Torrington DC), Cheryl Russell-Cargill, Claire Wafforne, Nigel Stark, Richard Phillips (Town Traders, Mrs Bevan, Eileen Young & daughter)

If any of you feel able to help make Torrington sparkle, please let us know.

Cherry Hammon

Secretary, Torrington in Bloom

Tel: 625788

Torrington First Thursday Writers' Group December Meeting

The words "And this is how it happened" or similar, were to end the contributions to the December meeting. Some members complied rigidly, whilst others felt better able to express the intended sentiment without being quite so constrained!

At the end of 2010 five members produced a small book of their work entitled *Continuum*, the proceeds from which went to Shelter Box. Enough was raised to send a box to Turkey following the devastation caused in October last year.

The group has had a very entertaining year and new members have joined us. We always enjoy the challenge that each month brings and invite anyone to come along who feels they have something to contribute. This month you can choose your own subject but your piece should start with the words.... "This is how it began...." The meeting will take place at the Plough on Thursday, 2nd February at 7.30 pm.

Visit: www.torringtonwriters.co.uk.

Stephanie Easton

Enrico Caruso 25th February 1873 - 2nd August 1921 Part 4

In 1903 Caruso travelled to New York City to take up a contract with the Metropolitan Opera.

Caruso's contract had been negotiated by his agent, the banker/impresario, Pasquale Simonelli and he debuted at the Met in a new production of *Rigoletto* on November 23rd 1903. This time Marcella Sembrich sang opposite him as Gilda.

A few months later, he began a life-long association with the Victor Talking Machine Company. He made his first American disc on February 4th 1904, having signed a lucrative deal with Victor. Thereafter, his recording career ran in tandem with his met career, the one bolstering the other until he died in 1921.

Caruso's post-1903 career was not confined to New York. He gave recitals and operatic performances in a large number of cities across the USA and Canada and continued to sing widely in Europe; appearing at Covent Garden in 1904-07 and 1913-14 and also in France, Belgium, Monaco, Hungary and Germany prior to the outbreak of World War I. At one point Nellie Melba asked him to join her on a tour of Australia, but he declined because of the amount of time such a trip would entail.

In the next issue I will tell you about his later career and perusal life.

Until then good listening.

Bob Dymond



Regular Recipe Spot

We would still like to receive recipes for a regular feature, particularly favourite family meals and bakes.

Email to torrington.crier@gmail.com or drop them in to the Library.

BBC Frozen Planet Doug Allan GTS visit

Doug Allan is well known for his award-winning photography and for his camerawork on the hugely successful BBC programmes such as the recently acclaimed *Frozen Planet* and *Ocean Giants*.

We are very excited to announce that whilst he is touring the UK in 2012 he will be visiting Great Torrington School to talk about his stories and life adventures as one of the world's leading wildlife cameramen. He will also be appearing at the Plough in Torrington on March 6th 2012, if you wish to book tickets to listen to his fascinating talk.

Heritage Museum

Great Torrington Heritage Museum and Archive is alive, but still homeless.



We are hoping to have good news to pass on in the Spring. Work is going on behind the scenes and we have secured some marvellous agricultural implements. We are continuing the sorting of artifacts and archive material, all of which will be of great benefit when we do open.

Anyone with a history interest is very welcome to come and join us.

In the meantime, here are a few interesting facts.....

Did you know?

You may have watched *The Antiques Roadshow* on Sunday 8th January 2012, and seen two note books on planes spotted going overhead in WW2, one being a Norseman which may have been carrying Glen Miller.

Glen Miller was stationed here for a short time and billeted at Stevenstone. He played in a concert held in the School Hall and took under his wing the young Derek Reed.

Did you know?

After the Battle of Torrington in February 1646, the Parish Register records the burial of 63 soldiers and many people believe that they lie under the mound in the churchyard.

You may recall that, when we commemorated the 350th anniversary of the Battle, some of the events took place by the mound. Our Vicar blessed it and the Devon Dowsing Society investigated it. They decided that there was a pit seven feet deep containing 67 bodies, four more than recorded.

There is an intriguing follow up to this, as one of the dowsers persuaded a friend, who is a clairvoyant, to quietly examine the mound. She told him that he had missed one, that there were 68 bodies, 63 a few hundred years old and five very old ones, probably Neolithic (New Stone Age). She added that they had been buried in a barrow. Early Christians often built their churches in places already considered of special significance to the pagans they had converted and there are a number of round barrows in the area.

Val Morris

New Torrington Guide and Brief History

I am working on a guide/brief history of Torrington and shall be very pleased to hear from anyone who can help me with answers to the following questions. I shall, of course, give due acknowledgement in my book to anyone who provides me with information.

When did the glove factory in Whites Lane close?

Was Whites Lane once called Halsdon Road or did that just refer to the row of large houses which is still known as Halsdon Terrace?

When did the old cinema in Church Lane close?

When did the bingo hall, which replaced the cinema, close?

When was Tannery Row built?

When were the most recent refurbishments to the Baptist Chapel carried out?

When were the railings added to the high pavement in Mill Street?

When did Torridge View cease to be a workhouse?

When was Torridge View demolished and Woodland Vale built? When was the drinking fountain in the square cleaned up?

Was there an orchard or market garden where Castle Hill Gardens is now?

When was Castle Gardens Surgery built?

When were Pathfields, Castle Hill Gardens, Greenbank, Dartington

Fields, Burwood, Kingsmead built?
 Where was the Torrington hostel
 where land girls were
 accommodated after the Second
 World War?
 Does anyone know someone who
 was evacuated to Torrington and
 stayed on, or came back to live
 here?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Moira



Brewer



Happy New Year to everyone from me, Sir Duke and all my gang at K9focus. Firstly a big thank you to everyone who sent Christmas presents to us all, we had an absolute ball eating the treats and ripping the packaging! Sadly we were really busy over Christmas and we had lots of new friends come and join us – some in a very sorry state which made me so sad that I just had to take to verse!

*Christmas spirit has now past
 Goodwill to all God's creatures, simply
 didn't last
 First there were the puppies,
 abandoned and left to die
 Then the old staffie, tied up and
 starved, she so made me cry!*

*Our kennels are full, our coffers empty
 Our phones are nonstop, with dogs
 aplenty
 The volunteers work hard and are
 always cheery
 But deep down inside you know they
 are weary*

*Rescuing dogs is a daily chore
 As soon as one is homed, there are
 always more
 German Shepherds, Rottweilers, and
 Jack Russell too
 Loving homes, money, volunteers, too
 few!*

*Gloom and doom, none of us need
 And so to our readers I do plead
 If you have space for a little mite
 Please remember our strays, and end
 their homeless plight*

As you can probably tell from the verse, the last month has been one of the worst in the rescue, with enquiries mounting everyday. We have very limited resources as everyone that looks after us is a volunteer, and so if you have an hour-a-week or an hour-a-day that you can spare and would like to help dogs in your area then please do ring Aunty Lynne on 01769 560928. We are desperate for people to help with admin, dog walking, dog socialisation, fund raising, leaflet distribution, every little helps.

Until next month, this is Sir Duke wishing you all a very bright and prosperous 2012 and see you next month.

Lent Lunches

The first Christian Aid Lent Lunch will be held on Friday 24th February at the Methodist Church between 12-1.45 pm, with a choice of home-made soup, rolls, butter, cheese, chutney and a cup of tea or coffee for £3. Please see the *Crier* diary or posters for the venues for the next five lunches which are hosted by the Baptist, Catholic, Church of England and Methodist Churches of the town. By attending these Lent Lunches you will be helping the work of Christian Aid.

*Barbara Down
 Treasurer*

A Way For Young People To Get Creative

Experienced arts practitioner and Youth Theatre Director Rob Pudner has brought his dramatic workshops back to Great Torrington, with sessions taking place at Bluecoat Infant and Nursery School on Wednesday evenings, where participants are stretched, not only theatrically, but also as young individuals.

Rob has been educating, inspiring

and enthusing young people for over 16 years. The workshops are led in a relaxed and informal environment where everyone is valued. His ethos is very much about nurturing natural creative talent, individuality and developing those all important life skills. Rob said "these workshops are about having fun and are not about turning young people into starlets, but allowing them to shine in their own individual way whilst their overall development as people is nurtured and supported."

Following a twelve week focus on stagecraft, both age groups will perform a piece of theatre which will be shared with the general public in a variety of venues this summer. New members of all abilities are always welcome and you can find out more at www.entertaininglydifferent.co.uk.

Common News

I am told that it rained everyday in December, and so far this year we have only had one dry day. The Common is saturated, very muddy and the recent strong winds have uprooted several trees.

The biggest of these is a mature cherry which was growing above the remains of the canal at the bottom of Furzebeam Wood. The path along here is not official and enters private land (part of the Clinton Estate) half way along. However plans are afoot to make the whole length from Reeds Field to the weir as a permitted footpath. Much work is due to take place on the stretch outside The Common to remove obstructions and to make the sheer drops down into the river safe. This will now have started, and I believe illustrated talks are planned to take place in Torrington to let us know all about it.

Michael Collingham

Taddipport Tea Dance

We would like to sat thank you for the support we have had over the last year. The monies we raised have

the plough
ARTS CENTRE
Great Torrington
Box Office: 01805 624624

**Have You Ever Wondered...
What Happened 'After Juliet'
or What Happens When the
Dead Talk Back?**

The Plough Youth Theatre knows - and you could too if you join our PYT and take part in one of our latest productions!

In March 2012 Plough Youth Theatre will be staging two fantastic new productions. PYT Juniors will be presenting Terry Pratchett's much-loved *Johnny and the Dead*, adapted by Stephen Briggs, and PYT Seniors will perform Sharman Macdonald's *After Juliet*, a play specially commissioned by the Royal National Theatre for the BT National Connections Scheme for young people.

Sarah Middleton, new Plough Youth Theatre and Outreach Director, says: "I've had a fantastic first term of directing PYT and now we're all ready to get stuck in to these exciting new projects. I'm looking forward to working with participants old and new, and can't wait to show everyone what great talent we have to offer."

If you want to join Johnny and his friends on the fight to save the cemetery, or find out what lies in store

for the Montagues and Capulets post Romeo and Juliet, then PYT is the place to be! No experience necessary, just bring yourself and bundles of enthusiasm. Rehearsals start Saturday 14th January and run every Saturday during term time.

Infants (5-7) 9.45-10.45am £35/£30

Juniors (8-12) 11am-1.30pm £70/£60

Seniors (13-18) 2.15-4.45pm £70/£60
(Lower charge listed for supporters)

Plough Play Story for 3-5 years

Come and join us at The Plough for a fun drama workshop with Richard Wolfenden-Brown and Sarah Middleton. Each week we will explore a fairy story then bring it to life with characters and simple costumes in the theatre. Bring your energy, imagination and a parent!

Starts Thursday 2nd February 10-11am, then every Thursday. £3 per child. Parents free!

**Free Day at The
Plough Arts Centre!
Wednesday 29th February**

On this extra day in the calendar, we are offering something to all who live in the area of Great Torrington. Pop in for a free film screening (*War Horse*), a free workshop, even a free tea or coffee!

All events are free all day – yes free!!

If you've never been into The Plough before you are especially welcome, come and try something different, we guarantee you will be pleasantly surprised.

Call the Box Office for full details.
01805 624624

**After the Flood
Refurbished Plough!**

By the time you read this, our recently refurbished restaurant/cafe and box office will be completed and open to welcome you back. With a new-look menu, greatly improved open seating area and spanking new bar we look forward to seeing you very soon.



**'Panamart' Community
Information Centre**

Most of you will know by now that the 'Panamart' Fairtrade shop has shut, however, the Community Information Centre is still up and running and is in fact expanding into both sides of the building.

The 'Esteem' project, for anyone who experiences difficulties causing their mental health to suffer, has new visitors most weeks and has supported over 20 people over the last three months. We have a support worker to help with benefit claims and IT skills and an art tutor. We have courses run by the SW Co-ordinator of 'Time To Change' coming up as well as many other supporting activities to help with self-esteem and confidence.

The Centre also has a volunteer Youth Counsellor available on a Tuesday evening who works alongside Devon Youth Services, supporting young people with job hunting or voluntary work; hosts Stones Solicitors who provide free legal advice; Graham Slingo from the Methodist Church

drops in regularly to have coffee with anyone who would like a chat; we host the LOGO LinK Devon youth group and Book Relief UK have a shop on the premises.

An adult literacy course is starting shortly at the Centre and hopefully some adult maths classes will soon be available to help us help with our children's homework (would the lady who spoke to me a few months ago about this please make contact!).

We also host training for 'Homelife Carers' and now have plenty of information on 'Panamart Children' our sponsorship and fundraising project for Panamanian children with disabilities and their families. We continue to sell Panamanian projects and greetings cards here.

'Panamart' Enterprise

Contrary to rumour, we have not bought the 'Stones Solicitors' building, however we have managed to negotiate the use of the building for the community, until it sells, for a peppercorn rent. The idea is that in this difficult financial climate, and time of job losses, those with imagination and enterprise (local sole traders only) use the shop front room to either start-up a new business or advertise their existing business, giving themselves a boost in the area, for just £2 + a donation, a day. This shop area can also be used as a pop-up charity shop for local fundraising or to advertise your local group. We would also like to host 'art work for sale' here.

The rest of the building is being used mainly for young people, with small projects being organised by local youth workers and youth theatre rehearsals.

There is also an office for rent on a daily basis for counsellors etc., who would like to start up their practice here. There are a couple of larger rooms available for meetings and training here too. If you are interested in using this opportunity in our community, supported by Stones Solicitors, Torrington Methodist Church and Great Torrington Town Council, email Kiz at kizangell@btconnect.com or call 01805 625838.

Calling All Counsellors!

Are you interested in meeting up with others in the area for support, discussion about the latest research and advice, with speakers etc?

Please advise of the best day and time for a meeting and give some details about your area of work, so that we can put a group together which will be convenient to as many of us as possible.

Email: kizangell@btconnect.com

P. Milton and A. Frayne

Zumba®, What's That?

Zumba® classes feature exotic rhythms like salsa, merengue, cumbia and samba, set to Latin international beats. It is great for weight loss, toning, improving general fitness and is suitable for ages 16-80.

Although there are choreographed routines, it's not a 'dance' class, it is all about the fun and having a good time whilst getting fit! It doesn't matter if you're not getting the moves right as long as you're shaking something you're working it!

Zumba® originated with fitness instructor Alberto "Beto" Perez from Colombia. He forgot to take his traditional aerobics music to class so had to improvise with the music he had in his car. The Latin grooves were a big hit with his aerobics class and so Zumba® was born!

Torrington Rugby Club Annual Veterans' Rugby Match

The 5th annual veterans' rugby match between Torrington's and Bideford's senior rugby players went ahead as planned on Saturday 31st December, on Torrington's outside pitch, which was wet but not as wet as the main one!

Dave Hickman's parents presented the trophy to Bideford's captain following their 22-5 victory, although their winger's birth certificate needs to be seen to confirm if he is old enough



to qualify for veterans' rugby?!? If this can be confirmed, it would mean that Torrington actually won 5-0, as he scored all of their four tries.

Torrington did have their own flying winger in the form of prop forward Carl Owen, flying over in the corner for five points!

Torrington Colts Youth Rugby

James Kendrew continues to work with the Colts team, now with the willing help of Chris Beer as Carlton Cockwill has had to slow down a little. He is still helping out as and when he can. I'm sure you'll be back at full speed soon Carlton.

Torrige Inn

A massive thank you to Rob, John and Ken of the Torrige Inn for the Big Breakfast they held for Torrington Rugby Club and North Devon Hospice. A grand total of £225 was raised for both causes and a good full breakfast was had by all, thanks to those that attended.



Xmas Disco

Another big thank you has to go to Amy and Adrian Avery for organising the Christmas disco held at the rugby club on behalf of TRFC, and in association with the Streetz dancing group.

If anyone would like to become involved on or off the pitch of your very local rugby club, please contact as below. You can hire our facilities for various purposes or sponsor us in a number of ways, all help as always, is greatly appreciated.

C'mon Torrie.

*Rob Bewes, 1st Team Manager
07976 066 440*

Devon Sensory Bus

Torrington Visits

The Devon Sensory Bus will visit Torrington's South Street Car Park on the 1st Wednesday of every other month.

During 2012 this will be on 1st February, 4th April, 6th June, 1st August, 3rd October and 5th December.

