

The THURLESTONE Parish Newsletter

A THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL PUBLICATION

Number 2

MAY-JUNE 1986

WILL THEY LET US IN ON THE ACT ?

The days of furtive District and County Council (and Water Authority) rubber stamping and unnecessary secret discussions are officially over. The Access to Information Act, which took effect on April 1st should take care of that.

It is supposed to mean that the public must be made aware in advance of items a council or one of its committees is discussing, and background papers on them must be made available on demand

In theory, this should mean a better than ever airing of local government affairs in public - a new openness between authorities and their rate-payers !

But will it work out like that or prove to be an April Fools Day event?

Much may depend on whether members of the public respond to their rights under the Act.

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DO YOU CONSIDER HYGIENE IS A HEALTH

HAZARD ?

A Mr. J.H. Woolfrey of Exeter wrote to the Western Morning News a letter which many of us, born not long after the turn of the century must surely find very interesting:-

"Does anyone ever wonder what harm the word 'hygiene' has done to the present generation? Does anyone ever enquire why it is that we need more and more hospitals to house thousands more patients?

Does anyone wonder why we have an

ever growing population of old people and an ever growing hospital population of those in the 40-60 age band?

I was born in 1906 and in my short trousered days every boy's knees and shins were covered in cuts and scabs where we were always falling down on flint roads or similar, all the water we ever used came to us through lead pipes and we spent our infant years chewing lead toy soldiers or licking other lead painted toys.

We also smoked brown paper bags, all the food we ever ate was bought loose in shops, milk came from the milkman's churn, sugar was in a sack on the grocer's floor alongside a barrel of treacle or paraffin and you always went to the shop with a basin to buy a pen-orth of jam or pickles.

Result was that we built up antibodies and so were able to resist disease. It is our generation that now constitutes the ageing population problem.

When we are dead and gone the ageing problem will disappear because those who have grown up in the age of hygiene, poison sprayed food, additives, and no antibodies will either be spending their lives in the wonderful new hospitals, or will have gone to a better place.

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PUBLISH & BE DAMNED ! The Village Magazine at Hintlesham, Suffolk, in its account of the January meeting of the Parish council reports: "Both the clerk of the council and the headmistress of the primary school have decided to take early retirement; by a coincidence both plan to write a book. Both decisions were noted with regret !"

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Quite simple, really . . .

When considering their Rate Precept for the 1986-87 financial year the Parish Council had in front of them an estimate from the precepting authority - the South Hams District Council - an estimate of the product of a 1p rate precept. The Parish Council were, however, a little disturbed to be advised that they were some £12.56 overdrawn - so they wrote an asked why. Oh dear!

Dear Sir,

Precept 1986-87 - Thurlestone Parish Council

Thank you for your letter dated 13th January and completed Precept form for 1986-87.

The estimated balance on the Parish account at the 31st. March, is in fact the difference between the actual amount needed to be raised to cover the Precept and the estimated amount that will be raised by levying a particular rate poundage.

The actual balance on the parish account at the 1st. April, 1985 was £13.84 in hand and the 1985/86 Precept was for £1200, which meant that I needed to raise £1186.16. i.e. £1200 less £13.84. The estimated penny rate product was £1467 and by levying a rate of 0.8p the sum raised would amount to £1173.60 i.e. £1467 x 0.8p. The amount likely to be raised (£1173.60) is less than the amount required to be raised (£1186.16) and therefore the difference (£12,56) is the amount by which the Parish account is likely to be overdrawn.

You have now precepted for £1200 for 1986/87 and I shall therefore need to levy a rate to raise that amount plus the estimated £12.56 overdrawn. The estimated penny rate product is £1534 and by levying a rate of 0.8p the sum of £1227.20 will be raised. If the estimated figures turned out to be absolutely correct, the balance on the account at the 31st. March 1987 would be £14.64 in hand, i.e. £1227.20 raised - £1212.56 required. However, before the Precept letters for 1987/88 are sent out this time next year, the actual penny rate product for 1985/86 will have been calculated and therefore the actual balance on the account at 1st. April 1986 will also be known.

Yours faithfully

p.p. Director of Finance.

I almost sigh with relief that I've just retired !!

D.W.D.

The choice could be yours on 7th May

The Annual Parish Meeting on March 25th. unanimously supported the motion that there should not have been a change of name from 'Parish' to 'Village' Hall. The land on which the Hall stands was given by the Yeo family for the erection of a Parish Hall. Thurlestone is only one village of the Parish - there are 186 residents of the villages of Bantham and East and West Buckland !

The name was changed only last year at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Hall Committee - without consultation with parishioners at a Parish Meeting which is a little regrettable - but now we come to the 1986 Annual General Meeting of the Parish Hall Committee - WEDNESDAY 7th MAY at 7.30 p.m. in the VILLAGE (PARISH) HALL. Do make every effort to be there if you don't like what they did last year ! If you don't attend it could be assumed you don't care!

Perhaps not everyone realises that the Hall is a Registered Charity and has to survive entirely on its own. It has no direct connection with the Church or Parish Council and needs at all times the support, financial and otherwise, of everyone.

D.W.D.

WHY NO LEGAL
PROTECTION FOR
"CAPTIVE CUSTOMERS"

AN OPINION was most strongly expressed during the Annual Parish Meeting held in March that it was MORALLY INDEFENSIBLE not to warn anyone using Leas Foot Beach at Thurlestone of the untreated sewage pollution of the sea water off the western side.

SPEAKING of sea pollution I would quote a report which the Environmental Health Officer for Plymouth City Council made to their Public Services Committee recently:

"The fact that no link has been found from killer diseases like typhoid fever and polio meant little in a purely medical sense. The fact that no link had been found is purely because few people suffer from such diseases and therefore do not excrete viruses into the water. The same cannot be claimed for minor intestinal upsets people call 'Traveller's Diarrhoea', and it is this sort of thing that is getting into the sea."

CAREFUL examination by Parish Clerk Bill Ladd of the graph included with the South Hams District Council's Report of the 'Count of Bacteria' they carried out last year of sea water off the 19 beaches of the South Hams is frighteningly revealing and indicates a bacteria count off the west side of Leas Foot beach of something in the region of 235,000 bacteria per 100 millilitres of sea water (Coliform and *Escherichia Coli*) for despite such a count NO TEST WAS DONE FOR PATHOGENS - BACTERIA AND VIRUSES HARMFUL TO MAN - BECAUSE OF COST!

The next highest count was a mere 24,000 per 100 ml. from one other of the 19 beaches, which must surely give you some little idea of just how foul the sea water off the west side of Leas Foot is becoming.

THERE WAS NO DISSENTING voice raised at the Annual Parish

Meeting against warning all the users of Leas Foot to steer clear of the west side - either by the use of Notice Board(s) or by any other way which could be devised, and included telling parents and children of the inadvisability of playing in the water of the stream flowing out over the rocky part of the beach - also on the west side.

MENTION of this stream flowing down the meadows and across the front of the Golf Clubhouse raises another point - of danger. At the bottom of Warren Hill and opposite the roadway to the beach lies the sewage 'overflow Chamber' - a device through which all village sewage passes, and when for any reason it becomes overfull it overflows! In the past it discharged its foul load straight into the stream just by the little bridge. I have personally seen that stream a sea of sewage - and paper! However things have changed. From somewhere deep in their gold vaults the Water Authority have found something in the region of eight to ten thousand pounds - so they have now actually piped that overflow - not a very long way - just out to the stream where it runs over the rocks - thus ensuring a more potentially greater dose of bacteria for any child who plays in it - if and when the overflow occurs. Let's be fair - it is only occasional! Someone did ask at the Parish Meeting if the Water Authority "would spend that sort of money on me!"

I wonder, too.

SURELY it has to be accepted it is morally indefensible not to warn people of the potential danger to them bathers, parents or children - even dogs, maybe. Such warning might well have some little effect on local tourism, but what effect on tourism would there be for any outbreak of serious virus disease - or just simple belly ache?

ABOVE ALL it is the authorities with their neglect and delay which is morally indefensible. Surely it is not acceptable for the payment of very many thousands of pounds by way of sewage rate only to suffer from an ever increasing rate of pollution? There are now many laws of the land protecting the public from being cheated - why should the Water Authority be allowed to get away with it? I rest my case + WALTER DEE

GREAT BRITISH WRECKS

KENDALL McDONALD

The thrill of wreck diving never fades, and no one is keener to find out every last detail of the ship, the crew, and her sinking, than the wreck diver.

This book, the first in a series, is therefore the answer to the wreck diver's prayer. Here are the detailed stories of 12 ships' sinkings. But the book does not stop there. In addition to the story of why, when, where, and how each ship sank, the author has added detailed wreck diving information for each ship, either from his own logbooks, or collected from those who have dived the ships very recently. And to make the book even greater value to the keen wreck diver, special log-book pages have been added for the reader to fill in his or her own experience of diving each wreck. Once this has been done, the book will be a unique and personal record on the wreck diver's bookshelf of diving some Great British Wrecks.

Kendall McDonald made his first wreck dives in British waters in the Mohegan - the first wreck in this book. Since then he has dived on sunken ships all over the world and has written 26 books, mostly about wrecks and diving. The editorial consultant on wrecks for DIVER magazine, he has appeared on both radio and TV programmes talking about lost ships and diving down to them. A veteran of British sport diving, he was National Chairman of the British Sub-Aqua Club from 1975 to 1978, and is now a Vice-President of the Club. A professional diving journalist, he is married to Penny, who acts as his buddy on wreck dives. Extensively illustrated, with many maps.

Published by UNDERWATER WORLD PUBLICATIONS Ltd., 40 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LR. £4.95.

Thurlestone and Kingsbridge Branch

of the

N.S.P.C.C

JUMBLE SALE

at 10.30. a.m. on

SATURDAY 3rd. MAY 1986

in the VILLAGE HALL, THURLESTONE

COFFEE & BISCUITS

R A F F L E

BOOKS - PLANTS and CAKES

"JUNK" STALL and Bric-a-brac.

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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS VERY WELCOME

Please ring:

Mrs. R. MARSHALL - 560627

Mrs. Molly OSWALD - 560555

Mrs. Jack AUSTER - 560578

Items will be collected if required

otherwise would you be kind enough to bring to the Hall on the day of Sale by 9.30 am

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ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 20th MAY 1986

at 7.30 O'clock

in the VILLAGE (PARISH) HALL when

there will be the usual OPEN FORUM

This is the Annual Meeting when the Chairman for the ensuing year is elected.

Thurlestone PROBUS

The Annual General Meeting of the Thurlestone Probus Club was held at the Thurlestone Hotel on the 4th February, 28 members being present. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Pat Goodfellow.
Vice Chairman: Harry Stubley (who subsequently has regretfully had to resign).
Secretary: Derek Yeoman.
Treasurer: Roland Lewis.
Committee: Bruce MacKay and Ron Hughes.

The decision by Dudley 'Tubby' Tyas to stand down as Secretary after serving since 1982 was regretted by all present and a vote of thanks was passed for all the work he has put into making the Club a success.

On March 14th. an Ordinary Meeting was held at the Thurlestone Hotel at which 24 members were present, and a moments silence was observed in memory of a departed member Norman Tillott. Bill Van der Welle gave a very interesting and descriptive talk of his experiences as a 'young lad' in Nazi occupied Holland, which was extremely enlightening to those present.

Some 26 members attended the meeting held at the Thurlestone Hotel on Friday 11th April.

Harold Petrie was elected Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

The speaker on this occasion was Miss Lorentz, Head Mistress of Kingsbridge Comprehensive School. Her observations on the Comprehensive system stimulated considerable interest and the resulting questions caused the meeting to go on for longer than is usual, with a number of questions still left unanswered.

The NEXT MEETING is on Friday 9th. May when Harry Huggins will relate his experiences on a recent visit to New Zealand.

D.M. YEOMAN
Hon. Secretary 560300.

Family Fun Day

THE DOWNS

S A T U R D A Y 2 4 t h M A Y

Mrs. Joyce Stephens, the Rector's wife, has kindly agreed to open the above event in aid of desperately needed funds for repairs and renovations to the VILLAGE HALL and CAR PARK.

A number of local groups and individuals have offered to run stalls, games, etc., but further volunteers, particularly from those groups represented on the Hall Committee, are needed. So please contact DEREK YEOMAN of Hillside, Thurlestone (Tel: 560300) with your ideas and offers of help.

If you cannot help then please make certain you come along and spend your money! The FUN DAY starts at 11 a.m. and carries on until 4 p.m. with SIDE SHOWS, hopefully PONY and/Or DONLEY RIDES, STALLS, REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE, etc. Anyone wishing to contribute raffle prizes should contact:

PAT MacDONALD - 560436

MOLLIE OSWALD - 560550

DEREK YEOMAN - 560300

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This NEWSLETTER is Edited and produced by DUDLEY DRABBLE at No.10 Backshay Close, South Milton, Kingsbridge TQ7 3JU. Tel. 560533

NOTICE OF EVENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS for the next issue due out early in JULY should be submitted by 15th June.

SOME EXTRACTS FROM THE 1985 ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE

Devon and Cornwall CONSTABULARY

The Chief Constable Mr. Donald Elliott Q.P.M., F.B.I.M., writing in his Foreword to the Report....

"....In all matters of crime it is essential that we work together to discourage criminal behaviour and I will do all I can with my officers to seek new initiatives in this regard..."

"....We have had a review of our methods of dealing with young people, particularly in an effort to ensure that young people are dealt with in a fair and consistent way throughout the force area. Youth and Community Services has been formed with a very small Headquarters staff to co-ordinate the work which will go on in divisions and sub-divisions..."

"It has been my aim throughout the years, using the limited resources available, to reduce the amount of drugs available throughout the area and there have been several successful operations relating to powerful criminal elements who were involved in the distribution of drugs in this area. The majority of them have now been dealt with by the courts..."

"....It was brought to my attention during the year that there seemed to be an increase in the number of young people involved in alcohol abuse and every effort is being made to educate young people in this area, again with the co-operation of other agencies. The abuse of alcohol related to the use of motor cars and motorcycles is of great concern and action is required to help save young lives..."

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CONTROLLED DRUG OFFENCES DETECTED

There was an increase during 1985 to 1,768. The 1984 figure being 1,450 and in 1983 - 1,076.

BREATHALYSER TESTS

In 1985, 7,533 Breathalyser Tests were given to motorists and there

2,960 prosecutions - and increase of almost 1,500 in the ten year period since 1975.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

During 1985 there were 238 male and 28 female juvenile offenders UNDER THE AGE OF 10 YEARS.

There were 978 male and 285 female offenders between 10 and 13 years and 2,498 male and 602 female juvenile offenders aged 14 to 16 years - a total figure of 4,629 in these age groups - an increase of 422 over 1984.

Only 21 were committed for trial, a total of 80 were sent to Detention Centres whilst 489 were dealt with under 'Care and Supervision Orders. 3,250 received a caution!

(One has to wonder if some parents are being adequately caring. Ed.)

PARKING PENALTIES

A total of 61,727 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued during the year for such offences as parking - an increase of over 10% on the previous year.

WORRYING OF LIVESTOCK BY DOGS

There were 59 reported cases of Sheep worrying. 70 sheep were killed and 44 injured. 40 dogs were traced. 16 fines were imposed totalling £905.

STRAY DOGS

5,557 were handled by the police during 1985. 2,956 were returned to owners, 524 found suitable homes, 73 were destroyed and 2,004 taken to dog's homes.

(Time for a licence increase? Ed)

ROADSIDE BREAKDOWNS

2,394 vehicles had mechanical or electrical faults, 374 lack of fuel, 129 broken fanbelt, 204 lack of water, 385 with tyre failure and 67 with broken windcreens

TYPES OF OFFENCES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES

Offences against the person 427
Offences against property with violence - 1,130. Offences against property without violence 4,786. Criminal damage 555.

Some thoughts of an Ex-Parish Clerk!

WHATEVER your particular sphere in life, be it a humble parish clerk ! or a top executive my opinion has always been that one should hang up one's hat rather than hang on to the "poor chap is losing his grip" stage !

AFTER 15 years - happy years but often frustrating in dealing with some of the larger authorities, my interest in the welfare of Thurlestone Parish Council can perhaps be taken for granted. A smooth, quietly organised transition from the old to the new would mean a continuity of effort and minimal interruption or disruption of any matters on hand. I sincerely believe, in handing over to William (Bill) Ladd that purpose has been achieved.

THURLESTONE was not perhaps the most active of Parish Councils in 1971. I don't believe any were! Meetings lasting half an hour or so with little public interest. I feel I played some small part in inspiring members to involve parishioners and institute more public participation. After all Parish Councillors are, in my opinion, the trustees for the duration of their period of service, of all parish rights - be it footpaths or planning or the general well being of the community. I have never known this council to deviate from the general principle of that factor,

WHAT is your opinion regarding Plans with a capital 'P'. Structure Plans, Local Plans, and so on. Are they just 'jobs for the boys' or a useful working basis for the present and future. My own thoughts tend towards the feeling that most rural parishes have managed quite remarkably well over the centuries without being sustained by 'Plans for the Future'. All these Plans are very costly in manpower and money and I think a rather lower increase in the annual rate increase and a little more application to road maintenance, sewage disposal, car parking and toilet facilities, coastal erosion and so on could be where such money would be more usefully applied and thus make these rate increases a little more acceptable.

OF COURSE, since 1974, District and County Councillors have been entitled to substantial 'attendance allowances' - not just at council meetings, but site meetings and so forth, plus very acceptable mileage allowances. And has there not been a very substantial measure of 'Empire Building' by the District and the Water Authorities. Just look at the vast office facilities they now appear to need. How ever did we manage in the old days? Is'nt it all rather staggering and one has to wonder where it will end. I could guess - more and more rate increases to pay for it all until one day somebody calls 'time' !

That brings me to thoughts on 1987. There will be both District and Parish Elections in May of next year, and without wishing to offend the present incumbent I think it is time Thurlestone had a representative where the seat of local power is sited - and where I consider all too often they seem to take decisions behind closed doors and then impose them on a somewhat helpless electorate.

AS for the Parish - I'm all for elections there as well, but must admit you have a pretty good council now - and elections do cost the parish money - in 1983 it was around £350 !!

D.W.DRABBLE

Of the original Parish Council of 1971 when I was appointed, only two, Mr Roy Adams and Mr. Peter Hurrell remain. Of the other members Mr. Derrick Yeoman was elected in 1973, Mr. John Dayment and Miss Rosemary Stocken in 1979, Mr. David Grose won a bye-election in 1980, and Mr. Geoffrey Stidston was elected in 1983, when the other above-named were also re-elected. Mr. Grose and Mr. Stidston carry on long family traditions of service to the community. Mr. E.M.C. Grose joining the council in April 1925 (being Chairman from 1934-1955 - retiring in 1961. when Mr. W.R.Grose joined the council until 1970 - and Mr. Peter Grose who joined in 1966 and was Chairman from 1968-1980. Mr Eric Stidston joined the Council in 1949 and his father Mr. A.E.Stidston was a councillor also in 1925 for very many years., also being Chairman 1925/27 .

Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Society

PLANT and PRODUCE SALE

in SOUTH MILTON VILLAGE HALL

at 2.30 p.m. on SATURDAY 31st MAY 1986 - a simple golden opportunity to STOCK YOUR GARDEN WITH SOME FIRST CLASS BEDDING AND OTHER PLANTS

If you desire any further information please contact any Committee Member

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr. P.W.J.Hurrell (Chairman) 560496. Mr. Derrick Yeoman (V-Chairman) 560607
Miss. Rosemary Stocken, 560257. Mr. Roy Adams, 560247. Mr. David Grose 560395
Mr. John Dayment, 560295. Mr. Geoffrey Stinson. 560695.

PARISH CLERK: Mr. W.G.Ladd - 560686
(Thorntons, South Milton, Kingsbridge)

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: Mr. Jack Thomas 560269.

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL; all Departments: TOTNES (97) 864499.

THE EDITOR (AND BETTER HALF) RECENTLY RECENTLY SUFFERED A PRETTY SEVERE VIRUS INFECTION. The following came through the letter-box one day:

My poor head is slowly spinning,
And my stomach quickly sinking.
I have a very nasty virus
Death is all that seems desirous.
Thank Goodness, at last the Doctor's come
But I feel he is perhaps rather dumb,
He just parades the room and shouts
"There's a lot of it about" !
Then he leaves a load of pills
Which I doubt will cure my ills.
But, strange to say I'm getting better,
I can even write a letter.
You may well think I'm idiotic
When I say "There is life after antibiotic

The views and opinions recorded in this publication are those of the contributors

TELEPHONE: KINGSBRIDGE 6494

PETER BROMFIELD

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