

VILLAGE VOICE



APRIL - MAY 1998



NUMBER 90
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The joys of Spring are with us again - lengthening days, bright mornings, riots of daffodils and primroses, lambs and nestlings, and trees and grass all burgeoning with new life and vigour. Even our crusty old "Villager", in a rush of new blood (or ink), has us counting our blessings, and looking on the bright side, in this issue.

It's true, we have much to enjoy here, and little wonder that visitors come from far and wide to share it with us. So the two new cooks now in Kate's Kitchen (but without a motorcycle) offer you a couple of tasty recipes to help you cope with your visitors, and our puzzler presents no fewer than five crosswords to keep them occupied while you busy yourself with the cooking.

While for many there is a nostalgic pleasure (and for some also plenty of work!) in the highlights of yesteryear, the surging juices of Spring will not be denied, and thoughts and eyes turn to what lies ahead. Happily a Brown budget has done little to spoil a green spring, and the forthcoming Parish Hall AGM will doubtless be packed with villagers of all ages agog to learn of the exciting plans for the future of our community meeting-place.

Villager's quite right - with a local garage service like ours we are lucky blighters indeed!

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Published Bi-monthly

WHAT A LOT OF LUCKY BLIGHTERS!

Now that we're all back from the **Countryside March** - *doesn't London look shabby these days?* - and we've put away the Barbours and the green wellies ready for the next one, perhaps it's time to take stock of how lucky we are to live down here.

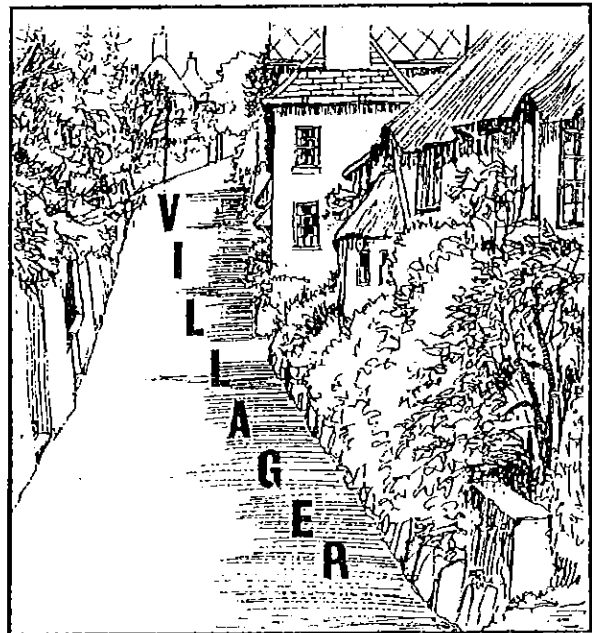
Life for most of those who live in, or have retired to, this particular parish has some disadvantages, but they really are very few. Of course, I'm not speaking on behalf of our local farmers, because the one thing the Countryside March really did was to draw everyone's attention to the raw deal our farmers and other country dwellers have been getting from this legislation-mad government.

But when you think about it, many in this parish want for little in the way of the good life. There are good pubs with good grub, a fine hotel, three shops, two post offices, excellent builders, gardeners, electricians, handymen, plumbers, painters, window-cleaners, woodworkers, thatchers and tilers, at least two artists, and one Maurice Blight whose garage service would be hard to beat in any parish in the land.

That's not to mention that you can get milk delivered to your door, together with the daily and Sunday papers, rubbish collected, streets swept, buses to Kingsbridge on Wednesdays, while on Fridays there are connections all the way to Plymouth and back.

There's a roomy parish hall for hire with its own parking, a wondrous old church fully equipped with a rector and a rectory garden big enough to stage the annual fete, a nursery school and a fine church school for older kidlets, sandy beaches to sit on, clean seas to swim in, other beaches for surf-boarders and wind-surfers, marvellous walks along the cliffs, all kinds of fishing, and a river to sail on complete with harbourmaster and boat builder.

There is even, so they say, a fine golf course.



There's a rambling club (and Probus for other ramblers), a bowls club, a surf life-saving club and bridge clubs, a keep fit club, a country club with a gym and pool, and the golf club has a tennis section. There are weight-watchers, line-dancers, and a yearly horticultural show with lots of cups for flowers and vegetables grown in parish gardens. There are weekly coffee mornings in an old barn, and a very flourishing W.I.....of course.

Then there's a parish society which is busy making a video for the Second Millenium, and there are Friends of the Church and Friends of the School and several who are keeping quiet about who they are friends with. That's why they're thankful that our free parish magazine (yes, we've got one of those too!) hasn't got a gossip column.

What about the drawbacks? Well, there are probably too many holiday homes and some of their owners are inclined to play at being big fish in a little pond, and claim that they have been here longer than anyone else, even those who were born here. But the real residents aren't a bad lot on the whole. They're very kind.....and they don't half raise a lot of money for charities.

To look after all this, there's an upstanding parish council, who sometimes keep their meetings to a quite reasonable length. The parish council are consulted about the planning applications for developments in the parish and, though they often say **no**, the district council, who know nothing about it, usually seem to be on the opposite side and appear to let practically everything through.

The developments often generate a lot of heat in our villages, but those who complain are often told that they are just being NIMBYs, whereas they're really being NIMPPOs - and saying Not In My Parish Push Off.

Other drawbacks depend on where you live in the parish. Much is made of the flood of visitors we get in summer and the resulting traffic boom. In that high season our favourite saying is that *"it is worse than Piccadilly Circus!"* Which only goes to show how long it is since most of us have been to Piccadilly!

It is during those hard times that villagers talk of double yellow lines and traffic wardens and traffic lights, and pedestrian precincts, and one-way systems, and the need to build multi-storey car-parks. They will also mutter grimly about "grid-lock" and how the emergency services will never be able to get through, though in our hearts we know that in reality of course it would be a pretty poor emergency driver who wouldn't get through - and a pretty poor lot of locals who wouldn't see that he or she was not held up for a minute.

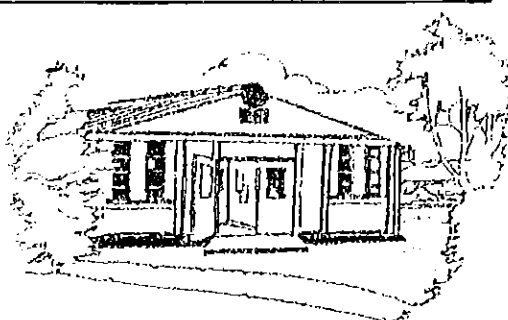
Those sort of things apart, we really have got a lot to be thankful for.

You can even get - though I have promised not to say where, in case Cunningham's bone-crazy Gestapo can read - superb T-bone steaks!

Shall we be seeing you on the Countryside March of '99?

Villager

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Hall will be held on Monday 6th April at the Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. The Chairman of the Parish Hall committee, Rowland Cole, will give his report on the past year, and the Treasurer, Bill Clarke, will present the accounts.

There will be a new officer to be elected this year, in addition to Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, as the committee is proposing the appointment of a Public Relations representative. Following the Questionnaire which appeared in Village Voice asking for your views on the future of the Parish Hall, it should prove an interesting meeting - at which the details of the views you have all expressed are likely to be revealed, and the actions to be taken for the future of the Hall may be disclosed.

All regular users of the Hall will have a particular interest in the outcome of this parish poll, and should make this important meeting a firm date in their diaries.

Come along and give the Committee your support - and the benefit of your views. This is the one time in the year when you can really become involved in the decision-making process that determines what kind of a community centre our parish is going to have. **DON'T MISS IT!**

PARISH COUNCIL : NEWS IN BRIEF

Citizen reports on the Parish Council meetings held
on 10th February and 10th March 1998.

● CAR PARKING FEES

There was widespread criticism of the lack of warning, let alone justification, for the sharp increases in car-parking charges in Kingsbridge.

● SCHOOL

The new classroom is proving to be a valuable asset. 105 pupils are currently enrolled at the school, although this number is expected to drop to about 90 next year.

● NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Ken Yeoman is the new appointment as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for West Buckland.

● MILLENNIUM

Len Hubbard and **Phil Deare** reported on the progress of the Millennium Video Project. £6000 had so far been

obtained through grants, fund-raising activities and donations. Suggestions for additional ways in which the parish might celebrate the Millenium would be sought at the Annual Parish Meeting, and it was hoped that those with ideas would give some thought to this *beforehand*.

● PARISH HALL

Minor repairs to the Hall are being put in hand.

● WAR MEMORIAL SITE

Access to the lower end of the War Memorial site has been improved by the construction of steps and a ramp.

● NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting to be held will be the Annual Parish Meeting in the Parish Hall, Thurlestone, at 7.30 pm on 21st April 1998.

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF FENCING

What are the rabbits to make of it? No sooner has one fence been lowered, giving them a better chance of getting over the top, than another one has appeared (this time in a garden in the Mead) with *electrifying* effects. "If you want to be certain your balls will get over", said one rabbit *falsetto voce*, "make sure you take enough loft. Don't risk a current handicap adjustment".

Roger Hind

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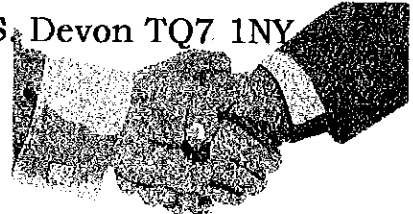
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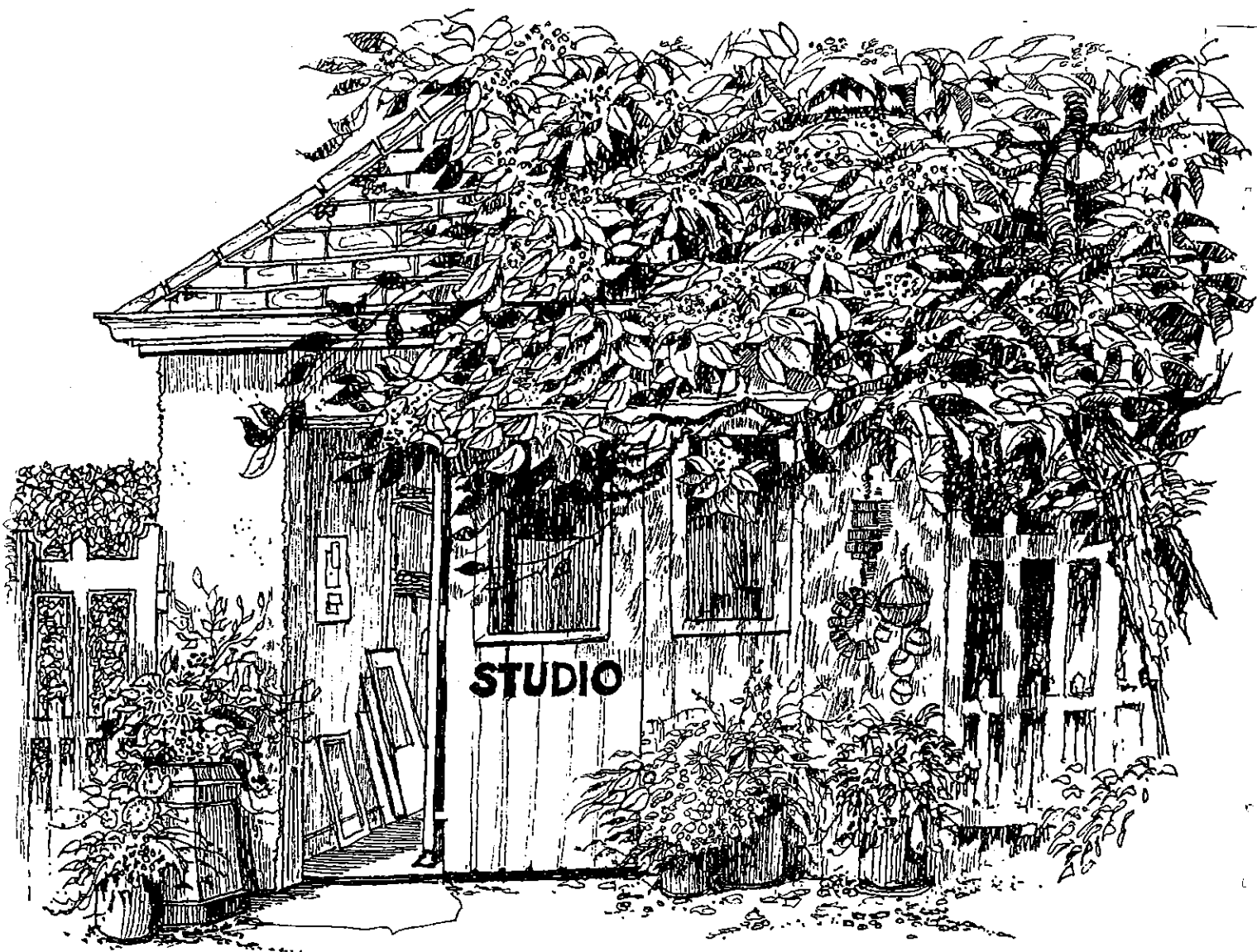
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THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting
will be held on TUESDAY 21st APRIL 1998
at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall, Thurlestone

Come along and support your hard-working Councillors.
Make it a good turnout this year.

What was happening a year ago?

The main issues and points of interest from the 1997 meeting are set out below

The Chairman, Councillor **Peter Hurrell**, outlined some of the more important events of the year.

- The Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS) had been set up, and was to make a video to mark the Millennium.
- The Golf Club and Thurlestone Hotel were celebrating their centenaries.
- The Autumn Fayre had raised a near-record £735 for the Parish Hall.
- The Homefield Farm development had received planning consent.
- Village Voice's help in publicising Council matters was acknowledged.

Mr T J Smale, Director of Policy Planning & Implementation at SHDC, said that the economy of the area, apart from fishing and agriculture, was performing well, with unemployment below the national average. Population had grown by about 20% in recent years, but new housing could be met without the need for major developments.

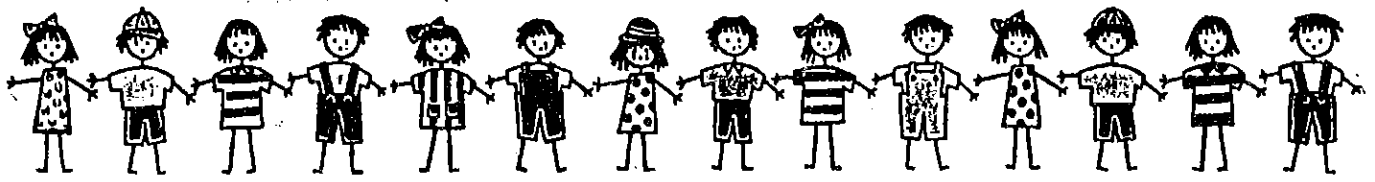
Inspector Patrick, Kingsbridge Police, acknowledged the help of the public and Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the fight against crime, and outlined the role of our Community Policeman.

Sir Simon Day, Devon County Councillor, was congratulated on his recent knighthood. He spoke about the County's Development Structure Plan, and thought that estimates of future additional housing requirements in the area needed to be substantiated. His attention was drawn to the cramped arrangements at the new Recycling Centre at Torre Quarry.

District Councillor **Martyn Grose** foresaw a progressive squeeze on funding, and looked for increased efficiency in areas such as Waste Management. Concern was expressed at the lack of playing-field facilities for children in the village.

Finally, **Len Hubbard**, Chairman of POTS was invited to give details of the Millennium Project, while **David Smeeton** described their application for an Arts Council grant

Citizen



FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

WHY BE A HOARDER?

Clear your garage, your attic, your wardrobe,
of all those "I'll never use it again" articles
and let us have them for our annual

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 2nd MAY

Parish Hall - 2.30 pm

Usual Bargains.....Raffle.....Free Tea!

The lives of numerous small unhappy children, including many in the South Hams, are transformed by the help of the NSPCC each year, but this takes money and that is where YOU come in. Goods for the stalls, raffle prizes, and donations are desperately needed. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

If you would like us to collect goods, or for further details,
please contact any of the following:

JAX AUSTER
560578

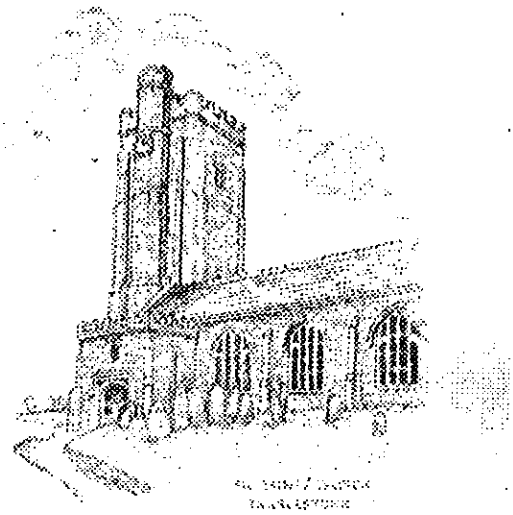
PAT CLARKE
561982

JOAN LANE
560158



National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

All Saints



Rector's Retirement

As you are probably aware, our Rector, Prebendary Peter Stephens, retires on May 31st 1998. In fact he will be taking his last Sunday Service on April 26th.

The Rector has given this parish together with South Milton over a decade of dedicated service and, of course, many more years to the Church of England as a whole. He has spent all his ministry in the Diocese of Exeter and he is currently the longest serving incumbent. To mark his retirement and in order to give his parishioners, and indeed all those who have valued his ministry, a chance to show their appreciation, in particular for his service to us, the Churchwardens and the PCC have set up a 'Retirement Fund' and, if you wish to donate to the fund, please send your donation to Liz Webb, Old Mill Cottage, West Buckland, Kingsbridge, TQ7 3AG. Cheques should be made payable to "All Saints Thurlestone P.C.C."

There will be a presentation from both parishes to the Rector and Joyce at 8.00 p.m. on Friday May 22nd in South Milton Village Hall. You are welcome to drop in for a glass of wine, a snack and a chat anytime after 7.00 p.m.

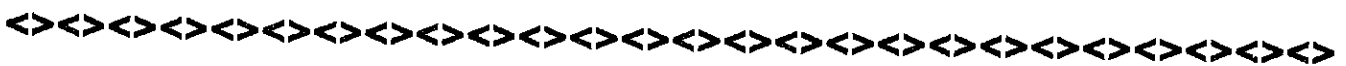


Palm Sunday Celebration

AT 3.00 P.M. ON SUNDAY APRIL 5TH IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH, THURLESTONE

Young or old, come and join us to celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week. The informal service will start with a procession round the Church by the children waving their palm branches and accompanied by a most realistic 'donkey'!

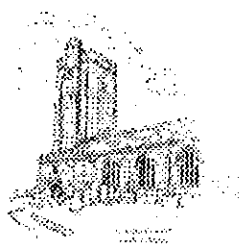
Tea and biscuits will be served after the service



Coffee-Time TAKES PLACE WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS

FROM 10.30 - 11.30 A.M. IN THE RECTORY BARN,

Everyone, local or visitor, is welcome to pop in for a cup of coffee (or tea) and a chat. There is no charge but small donations to church funds will be gratefully received. Why not give it a try? Transport is easily arranged, please contact Liz Webb (560090).



All Saints Diary

Thurlestone Church Services

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Every Sunday | 8.00 a.m. | HOLY COMMUNION |
| Every Thursday in April (none in May) | 8.30 a.m. | HOLY COMMUNION |
| April 5th, 26th, May 10th, 24th | 11.10 a.m. | PARISH EUCHARIST |
| April 19th, May 3rd, 17th, 31st | 11.10 a.m. | MATINS |

Special Services

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------|------------|
| PALM SUNDAY | PARISH EUCHARIST AND THE PASSION READING | April 5th | 11.10 a.m. |
| | PALM SUNDAY ALL AGE CELEBRATION (see overleaf) | | 3.00 p.m. |
| Maundy Thursday | JOINT PARISHES EUCHARIST | April 9th | 7.30 p.m. |
| Good Friday | LAST HOUR DEVOTION | April 10th | 2.00 p.m. |
| Easter Day | SUNG EUCHARIST | April 12th | 8.00 a.m. |
| | FESTAL MATINS (followed by Holy Communion) | | 11.10 a.m. |
| RECTOR'S LAST SUNDAY SERVICE | | April 26th | 11.10 a.m. |
| WHIT SUNDAY | MATINS | May 31st | 11.10 a.m. |
| | WHIT SUNDAY ALL-AGE SERVICE | | 3.00 p.m. |

Special Services in South Milton Church

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------|------------|
| GOOD FRIDAY | ANTE COMMUNION | April 9th | 10.30 a.m. |
| EASTER DAY | EASTER EUCHARIST with children's gifts of eggs | April 12th | 9.30 a.m. |
| | FESTAL EVENSONG | | 6.00 p.m. |
| RECTOR'S LAST SUNDAY SERVICE | | April 26th | 9.30 a.m. |
| ASCENSION DAY | JOINT PARISHES EVENSONG | May 21st | 7.30 p.m. |
| WHIT SUNDAY | MATINS | May 31st | 9.30 a.m. |



All Saints Fellowship

AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE RECTORY BARN

"Roundabout yer"

THURSDAY APRIL 23RD

The Parish in the past - Hubert Snowdon

"World without end "

MONDAY MAY 18TH

A visit to Dartington Glass, Torrington

Please contact Liz Webb (560090) if you would like to go on the trip



Searchlight

MEETS FOR 5-11 YEAR OLDS AT ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAYS

April 28th

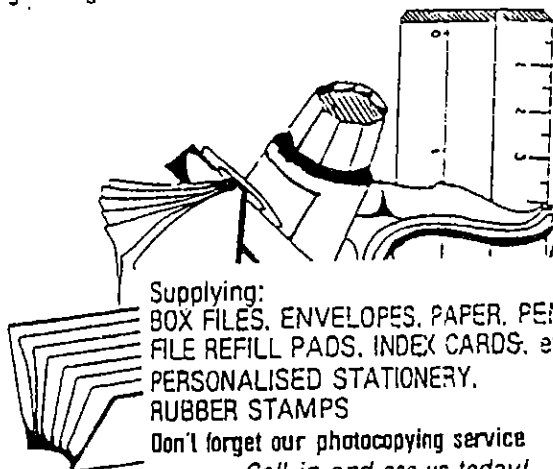
May 12th

May 19th

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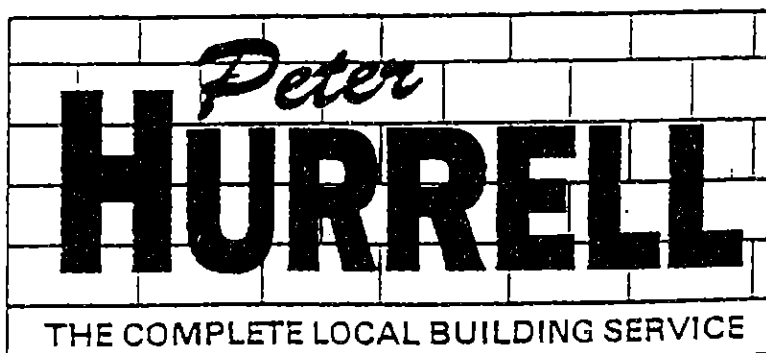
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Your Parish Council

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Chairman | |
| Peter Hurrell | 560496 |
| Vice-Chairman | |
| Derrick Yeoman | 560607 |
| Members | |
| John Dayment | 560295 |
| David Grose | 560375 |
| Charles Mitchelmore | 560602 |
| Geoffrey Stidston | 560695 |
| Veronica White | 560236 |
| Parish Clerk | |
| John Lonsdale | 560742 |
| District Councillor | |
| Martyn Grose | 560396 |
| County Councillor | |
| Simon Day | 01752 - 691212 |
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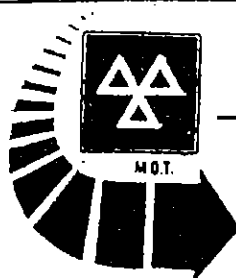
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Village News Round-Up

RETIREMENT OF RECTOR

Sunday 26th April will be the last time our Rector **Peter Stephens** officiates at public worship in All Saints before his retirement on 31st May. Happily he and his wife, **Joyce**, will be staying on in their new home in Thurlestone. To quote from the parish magazine Peter says *"Joyce and I will not have to move away from all our friends although, quite obviously, we shall all have to make a considerable adjustment in our relationship. I shall of course continue to be a priest and will no doubt be helping out with Sunday duties in various parishes in the Deanery, but I shall no longer be Rector, and shall have to ask you to be careful not to so greet me!"* At the time this was written there was no news of a successor.

We all join in wishing Peter and Joyce a long and happy retirement and are pleased that they will still be amongst us in the parish.

SILT REMOVAL

Thurlestone-based firm **Rodney Stidston Plant** has been heavily involved (with **Nicholas Rowell Haulage**) in the recent job of removing 4500 cubic metres of silt from the Kingsbridge basin. *"We fully appreciate the professional manner in which the contractors undertook this task"* said Deputy Salcombe Harbour Master **Stephen Tooke**.

Silt had built up slowly and steadily at the head of the estuary and this operation involved a 200 m. stretch from the Quay to the pontoon. The job took five weeks to complete, working from within the estuary and the quayside. That is why parts of the Quay car-park were sectioned off earlier this

year. The result will be greatly improved accessibility for residents' and visitors' boats.....and wasn't watching the work proceeding a fascinating sight?

JOAN ON THE BOX

Our sharp-eyed readers may have spotted **Joan Lane** on Spotlight South West recently. On the day Freedom Fields Hospital finally closed its doors she was asked, as a former employee there, to comment on immediate post-war working conditions at the hospital. She remembers the opening of the new radio-therapy department there in the early 1950s where she worked as a radiographer. The staff in her department in those days was small in number and often had to cover at Greenbank Hospital too. It was a far cry from the large new department now operating from Derriford.

SUPPORT JONATHAN

Jonathan Lonsdale who, amongst other things, aids **Peter Bromfield**, is taking part in the London Marathon on 26th April. He aims to raise funds for MACS - the Micro & Anophthalmic Children's Society - which was formed to organize mutual support and self-help for the families of children suffering from rare, serious eye conditions in the UK and around the world. He is seeking sponsors to achieve his objective and he will be putting a leaflet about this through your letterbox. Please be generous and support Jonathan's efforts! Good luck from all at Village Voice.

AVON ESTUARY WALK

A footpath link between Bantham and Bigbury-on-Sea has been established by the

South Hams Coast & Countryside Service which can be used by walkers when the Avon ferry is not operating. On Sunday 31st May there will be a celebration walk around the estuary, using the ferry to cross the Avon from Bantham and walking to Aveton Gifford and back to Bantham.

Basil Fox of Bantham tells us that *"Just before the walk starts the South Hams group of the Ramblers Association will be handing over a cheque for £1000 to a representative of the South Hams District Council"*, adding that this money, which is being given towards improving footpaths, has come from profits on the sale of two books compiled by members of the local Ramblers - **"Walks Around Kingsbridge"** and **"Walks Around Salcombe"**. For details of these ring Basil on 01548-561419.

Details of this celebration walk are given in the Coast & Countryside Service's **"Jigsaw"** booklet as follows. *"Meet at the ferry sign, near the top end of Bantham car park at 9.45 am for a 10.00 am ferry. Bring a picnic lunch and binoculars if you have them. Cameras are a must!. Return around 5.30 pm (Strenuous 9 miles). The cost is £3.00 for adults, £2.00 for children. This includes ferry fee. Be one of the first to try out our new waymarked walk around the Avon estuary. Starting from Bantham with a ferry crossing, this ramble explores the valley through woods, fields and along river banks. Along the way you will see birds and other wildlife, learn how a lime kiln worked and pay a visit to Avon Oysters for a coffee break and a chance to see how oysters and mussels are produced in the river waters. Stunning scenery guaranteed....."*

COUNTDOWN TO SPLASHDOWN

The South Hams District Council, via our Parish Council, say that they would like to hear from any person, club or group who would like to hire the new Kingsbridge swimming pool or start a new activity. They

will be organizing a core programme offering public swimming, plus lessons and activity classes, but also want to put aside time for private hire. What they hope to encourage are life-saving, a swimming club, sub-aqua, and hire by youth and community groups such as WIs, Guides, Rotary Clubs and so on. The pool is due to open early this summer. Please contact **Liz Slater** or **Paula Bleasdale** on 01548-857100.

PROBUS

Thurlestone branch of PROBUS has just held its twentieth AGM at Thurlestone Hotel, and elected the following officers for 1998:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Chairman:</i> | A.T.Wade |
| <i>Vice-Chairman:</i> | P.Candy |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | R.Nicholls |
| <i>Speakers Secretary:</i> | A.Illingworth |

However, they were unable to fill the Secretary's post - Philip Candy is holding the fort for the moment. Any volunteers for this position?

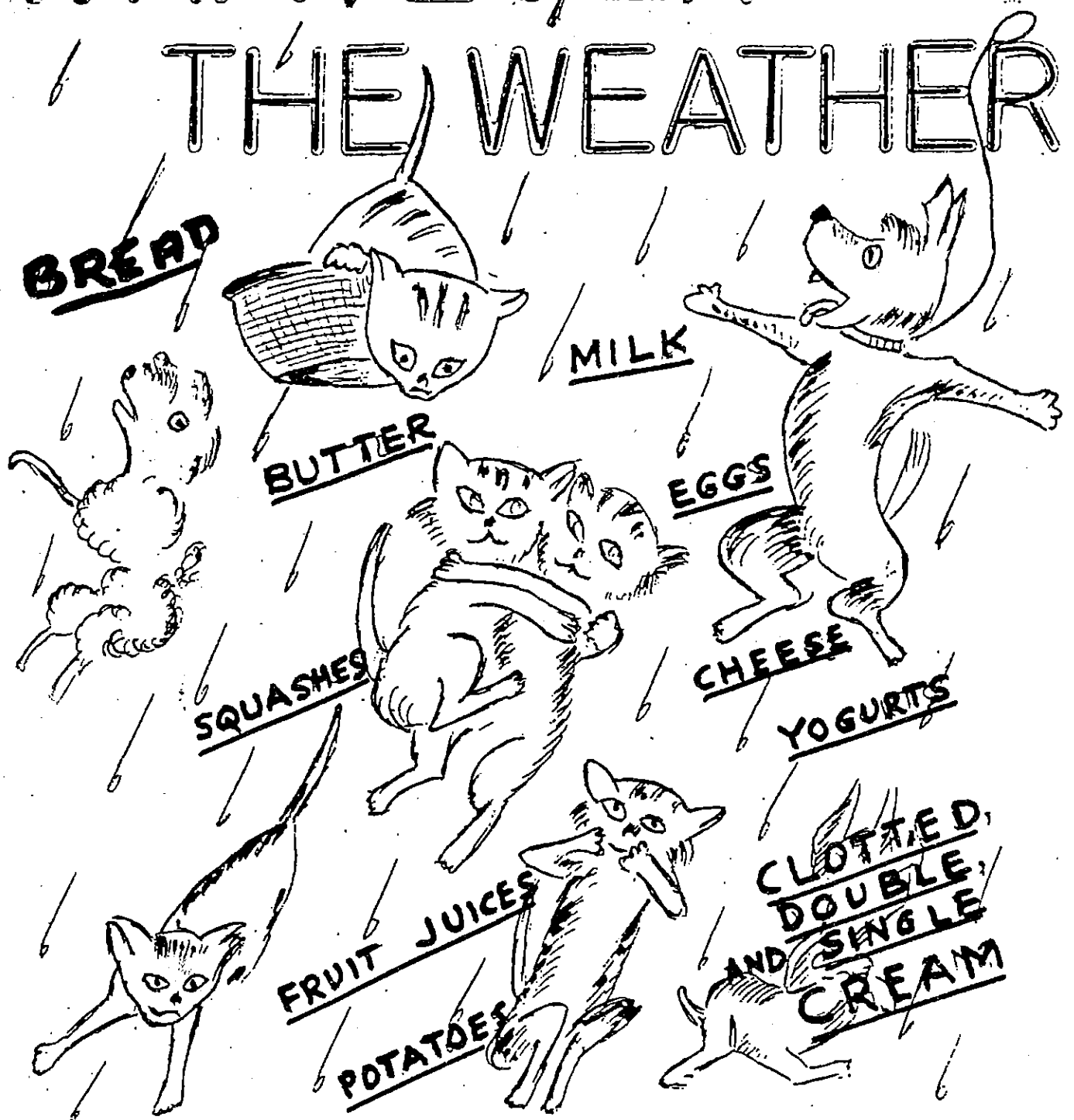
Appreciation was expressed to **Pat Machin, Dennis Thorpe, John Norris** and **Ian Fraser**, the retiring members of committee, and they were warmly thanked for their work. There are a few vacancies for members, so if anyone would like to join PROBUS, please have a word with any of the officers.

The next PROBUS luncheon gathering will be on Friday 17th April at the Hotel.

ANY OLD FURNITURE?

If you've any furniture surplus to requirements and are willing to dispose of it for free, why not give **Totnes Furniture Re-cycling** a ring on 01803-863698? They will collect, repair and recycle such items, selling to people on low incomes at minimum cost. The scheme is funded by, amongst other authorities, the South Hams District Council and Totnes Town Council. **Totnes Furniture Re-cycling** is based at Unit 2, Brooks Yard, Ford Road, Totnes Industrial Estate.

WHATEVER THE WEATHER



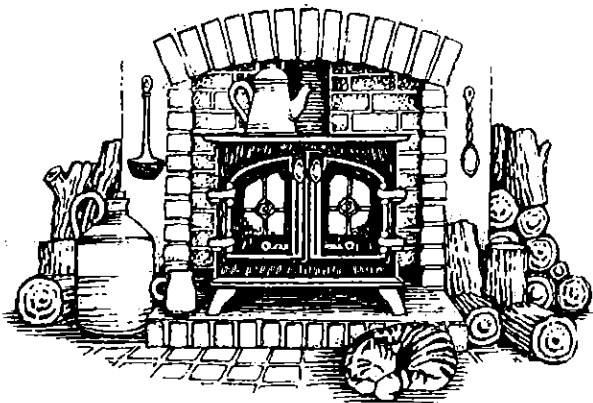
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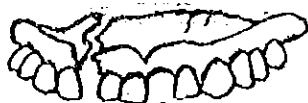
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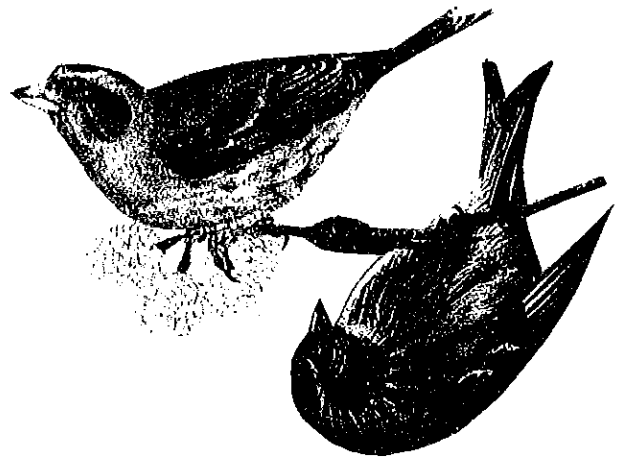
SISKIN COMES TO THURLESTONE

For us, the Thurlestone bird of last winter was Siskin.

There were other goodies. Lake Stidston in the valley (since evaporated and/or flowed out to sea) held lots of Teals and Widgeons, and from time to time there were scarcer things, like Shoveler. The drakes, in winter plumage, with white breasts and chestnut sides, always look rather splendid if you ignore their huge clumsy-looking bills. For a few days there were even four or five Pintails. The drakes, with chocolate heads, pure white breasts, grey bodies and long slender tails, are nowise as gaudy as the Shovelers, or even the Widgeons, but no duck is more elegant.

But for scarcity and (for us) excitement, none of these matched the Siskins. Anne Grose started it. In early January she rang to say she had some at her bird-feeders. She wanted to tell us. If you are a *birder*, and you find a rare bird, you like to tell someone. Unless it is very, very rare, when you photograph it and tell people about it after it has gone. Suppression, the twitchers call that, and it makes them very angry indeed, because if they have dipped out on your bird someone else might have seen more birds in the year than they have!

We were delighted that Anne told us, because although Siskin is not especially rare, and is getting commoner, it is not really a garden bird and is decidedly scarce here. But Anne knows her wildlife (particularly toads) and her description, "*little stripey green finches with black moleskin caps*", could refer to



nothing else. I wanted to try for a photograph, but day after day the weather was dire - rain and gales - and it hardly got light all day. When the sun did reappear I rang her, but they had gone.

Ah well, another one that got away. Until one morning when, while we were still in bed, Siskins appeared on our nut basket. This dangles on the crab-apple tree, just outside our bedroom window. We lie watching the birds, and drinking tea, when we ought to be getting up. There were always Greenfinches at the nuts. The gentlemen are yellow green. The ladies are brownish. Both have a yellow panel along the flight feathers of their folded wings; they have hefty seed-crushing beaks, not quite parrot-like, but on the way.

The Siskins are much smaller. They are little bigger than Blue Tits, only two thirds the size of the Greenfinches. The males' backs are green, striped with black. They have yellow on their breast, faces, and rumps. Their wings are black with a yellow bar across. They have the black caps which Anne noted, and black bibs. No other green-coloured finch has a black cap. Their beaks are, for a finch, spikey and pointed - just the thing for extracting seeds from pine cones.

We saw our birds first on the 21st of January, a gentleman and two ladies (who are duller than their men friends, and don't have either caps or bibs). Thereafter they came almost every day until the 8th of February. After that we saw them no more. How many there were we do not know. We saw three males together and two females, so there must have been five. People who find these things out by catching birds and putting rings on their legs say that if you see three Blue Tits feeding in your garden there are probably thirty, at least, coming in relays. Whether there were many more Siskins I do not know, but somehow I doubt it.

It was interesting to see them with the Greenfinches. Those were much bigger and sturdier-looking, but they were not the bosses - far from it - and were soon chased off when the Siskins wanted to feed. We thought Blue Tits were acrobatic, but they had nothing on the Siskins, which ate nuts quite happily while hanging upside down. Just try eating and swallowing your dinner when hanging by your feet!

Where these birds came from and where they went we have no idea. They are birds of conifers. The book says their favourite tree is spruce. They spend summer - and breed - in the northern forests in a great band across Europe and Asia. In winter they are nomads. Scotland is their main stronghold in the British Isles.

They are relative newcomers to nesting in our county. A pair bred in 1952 on Lundy island - a nasty barren place. Anywhere less likely for a woodland-loving bird you cannot imagine. But then, no one ever imagined that in the late 1970s a pair of Serins would nest in

the garden of Furzey Close. These are tiny finches, common in summer all over Europe, but almost unknown in Britain. They never did it again.

People thought the Siskins began to nest in mainland Devon in the late 1950s. They build high up in the branches of conifers, and it is reckoned the increase in plantations brought them in. Thank goodness something likes conifers. A few pairs now breed in Haldon Forest and others on Dartmoor. If you go to Fernworthy reservoir - the one they show pictures of when they want to scare us into using less water in times of drought (water meters are much more effective) - you can usually find some in the conifers at the top.

But we have had few records for our parish - a party at West Buckland in December 1981 in the Alder trees in the valley (they like Alder seeds) and some in the same place in January 1992. That is all we have noted for our neck of the woods apart from a couple of sightings in October 1993.

I think this coming for our bird food is something quite new. Some years ago people wrote in the bird magazines that they would come for peanuts but only if in those red netting bags, which we don't use. The first time you put one out a Starling makes a hole in the bag and all the nuts fall out - which may be good for mice, and Starlings, but does little for the smaller birds we want to help.

But let us hope that this visitation was not the last, and that next winter there will be another excited phone call from Anne to say that Siskin has come to see her again.

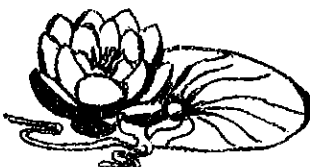
Harry Huggins

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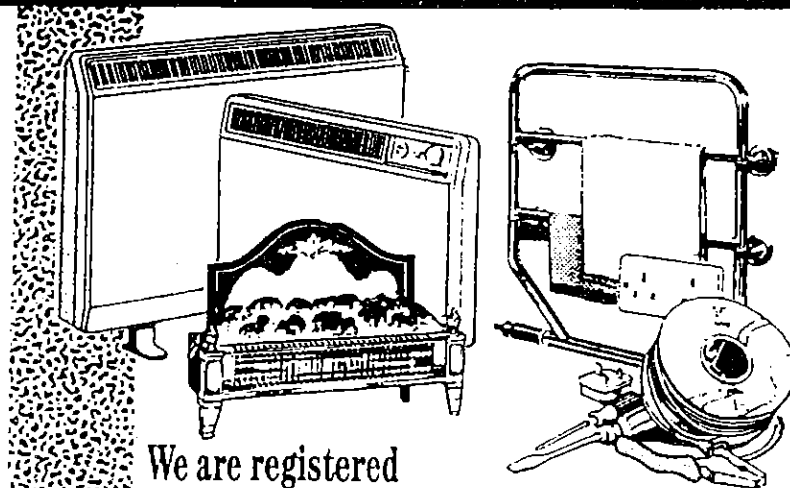
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Pat Machin's

Puzzle Corner

CLUELESS CROSSWORD

Each number represents a letter. For example 1 = P, 2 = A, and 3 = T. Enter these letters where their numbers are shown in the grid. Then identify the letters for the remaining 23 numbers and enter them in the grid. When completed it should show a normal crossword grid. All 26 letters of the alphabet are used.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 21 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 12 | | 6 | 2 | 20 | 7 | 15 | 14 | 25 | | 23 |
| | 2 | | | 2 | | 2 | | 7 | | 14 | | 14 | 19 | 14 |
| 21 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 4 | 14 | 25 | | 8 | 7 | 23 | 14 | 15 | | 24 |
| 24 | | 9 | | 14 | | 14 | | 16 | | 24 | | 26 | 13 | 8 |
| 11 | 26 | 15 | 10 | | 24 | 8 | 21 | 26 | 15 | 3 | 14 | 25 | | |
| 15 | | 24 | | 18 | | 17 | | 24 | | 22 | | 14 | | 4 |
| 24 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 11 | 15 | 14 | | 2 | 25 | 17 | 14 |
| 8 | | | | 19 | | | 26 | | | 12 | | | | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 14 | | 4 | 7 | 21 | 16 | 26 | 24 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 21 |
| 21 | | 2 | | 14 | | 2 | | 26 | | 5 | | 12 | | 26 |
| | | 13 | 14 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 2 | 15 | | 2 | 12 | 2 | 13 |
| 15 | 2 | 5 | | 12 | | 21 | | 10 | | 6 | | 2 | | 14 |
| 24 | | 24 | 25 | 24 | 7 | 4 | | 14 | 9 | 18 | 2 | 15 | 14 | 25 |
| 23 | 2 | 8 | | 5 | | 2 | | 13 | | 26 | | | 13 | |
| 14 | | 21 | 2 | 22 | 24 | 8 | 5 | 21 | | 4 | 7 | 15 | 2 | 13 |

REFERENCE GRID

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

Pat Machin's - **Puzzle Corner** - continued

MINI - CROSSWORDS

In Mini-Crosswords A & B, place letters (shown underneath) to make a 2-way crossword
In Mini-Crosswords C & D, place words (shown underneath) in the grids to make crosswords

A

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| G | O | L | F |
| O | | | |
| L | | | |
| F | | | |

B E E E F O O T T

B

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| P | L | A | N |
| L | | | |
| A | | | |
| N | | | |

E E I O T V V W W

C

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ASKED ASKEW ELDER
GRAPE GRASP POWER

D

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ASTER BERET EGRET
ROTOR SHAPE SHRUB

Answers to the **Clueless Crossword** and the four **Mini-Crosswords** appear on a later page.

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION

Programme of early season activities

Club Afternoons

A weekly club afternoon has been proposed to encourage members to play tennis together on a regular basis, starting on
MONDAY 20th APRIL 1998, at 2.30 pm.
Guests of members are welcome.

Junior Club Afternoons

Once the football and rugby seasons are over, there will be a weekly tennis session for junior members (and this will also include their guests) starting on:
SUNDAY 19th APRIL 1998, at 4.00 pm.

Easter Holiday Tournaments

FRIDAY 17th APRIL 1998

Round Robin Tournaments will be held at the following times:

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2.00 pm - 4.00 pm 8-12 year old players

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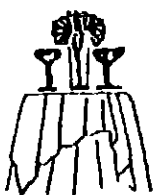
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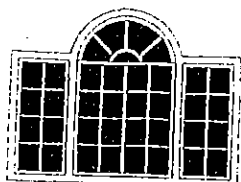
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Gladioli for Dame Edna
Moth Orchids for David Bellamy
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A KINGSBRIDGE firm has claimed its position among Britain's best landscape gardeners.

The Garden Shop is celebrating after earning membership to the prestigious British Association of Landscape Industries.

Owned by James Tregelles, the business underwent a rigorous appraisal to satisfy stringent conditions of management and quality of workmanship.

Before awarding approval, inspectors visited several sites completed by the firm's landscape department over the past two years.

"We are naturally delighted at being elected to membership of this national body, and we feel that this reflects the high quality of our work and the satisfaction it gives our clients," said James.

The landscape department mainly reshapes private gardens but also boasts a number of business customers.

Full time maintenance and construction teams are at work

throughout the area, tending everything from hotel grounds to a small holiday home gardens.

Owing to the firm's position, the expert team specialises in the building and planting of coastal gardens, many of them sloping and difficult.

They are guided by the expertise of James, who holds a diploma in garden design and construction.

He shares his time between designing gardens, preparing estimates and running the Fore Street shop, which is packed with a cornucopia of flowers, greenery and garden equipment.

Up until the end of June, the firm was known as Avon Mill Landscape Department based at the Garden Centre at Loddiswell.

The office is now relocated to the Garden Shop in Fore Street to where all enquires are now channelled. In fact, because James is based in the shop, potential customers in need of the firm's expert services can call on him first hand.

KATE'S KITCHEN



It takes two of us to replace Kate, so we're giving you two recipes that go together - an interesting soup and an unusual bread to serve with it. Both can be frozen but remember after defrosting to serve the bread warm...and the soup piping hot!

TOMATO AND RED PEPPER SOUP

This is a very easy soup to make, with the added advantage that you do not have to thicken it with potatoes or flour. Good for the waistline-conscious! The following serves six:

● Ingredients

- 4 onions (three-quarters of a pound), chopped
- 3 large sweet red peppers, seeded and chopped
- 2 ozs. butter (or 4 tablespoonsful of olive oil)
- 1 tin tomatoes (400 g. or 14 ozs.)
- 2 pints vegetable stock (or use one and a half vegetable stock cubes)
- 1 heaped teaspoon each of dried thyme and basil
- 1 tablespoon parsley, finely chopped

● Method

Gently fry onions and peppers in butter (or oil) until soft. This takes longer than you expect as peppers do not soften easily. Stir in remaining ingredients, bring to the boil, and simmer for about 30 minutes. Cool and puree the soup in a liquidiser or food processor. Reheat and serve with a swirl of cream and a little more chopped parsley scattered over each bowl.

CHEESE BREAD

● Ingredients

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 8 ozs. flour | three-quarters of a teaspoonful of oregano |
| 8 ozs. Cheddar cheese, grated | three-quarters of a teaspoonful of dry mustard |
| 1 egg, beaten | half a teaspoonful of salt |
| 1 cup milk | 6 green onions, finely chopped |
| 4 teaspoonsful baking powder | 1 tablespoonful melted butter |

● Method

Mix all the dry ingredients together, then add all the liquid. Bake at 175°C (350°F) in a greased loaf-tin for about one hour.

J & R

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

I spent a very nostalgic day at Thurlestone school, at the headmaster's invitation, to join in the celebration of Queen Victoria's "restoration".

I saw the new classroom which retains some of the old wooden panelling and the heavy door by which we entered the school - through the now blocked-off outside porch in my day - and recalled the occasion that same heavy door slammed shut one windy day and took the tip off a finger of a little girl named Cross. Old pupils revived memories and present ones chattered incessantly.....so much buzzed in my head that day I had difficulty catching off to sleep that night!

That afternoon I called in to see Mrs Eileen Grant, née Rendle, my neighbour when at Clanacombe. We were at the school together. She is a week or two older than me and has since celebrated her 80th birthday. Her mother was a Foote and I remember Gran Foote at 3 Seaview. She was a tall, strong, woman but bowed with age and work. For a short time she helped with our washdays at Langmans Farm. (I described them in my book).

One dinner time she told off we well-fed children for grumbling about food we didn't like and told us that some days she and her brothers and sisters - she was one of eleven - were given just a hard biscuit each for their dinner and dared not ask for more.

Another Foote daughter married Alpheus Ball, as mentioned in the Churchstow letter in your last issue. He was a much more versatile character than the letter modestly implied. When a boy I was sent to Churchstow with our cart-horses for him to shoe. He trapped our rabbits at Langmans and used a trained donkey to carry the gin traps round the fields.

When we lived at Thurlestone I spent a deal of time with him, especially fishing off our beaches. He

also fished fresh water and was good with a gun - especially rough shooting for the pot. He was also a good gardener. If shown a peapod with ten peas he could always pull one from his pocket with eleven peas!

He was a countryman aware of the flora and fauna, and the beauty, around him. I once took him to the Devon County Show at Exeter because he had never been there. My wife was with us in the flower tent - always an amazing display - and, turning to her, I said "Where's Alf?". We saw him transfixed, two stalls back, staring at a beautiful blaze of multi-coloured sweet peas. A big man, pipe in hand, tears rolled down his cheeks. I was glad I took him.

The article "Who are Devonians?", also in the last issue, was timely on my account because I have been working on the same subject for the Millennium project and/or for my second book, should it get published.

One dialect correction, please, in my previous letter. "Aint" and "baint" is not Devon, although commonly used today with so many former upcountry dwellers now using their version. In Devon it's "I ant got one of they" or "No, I bant gwain to do that"!

"Delsonian"

Dear Editor

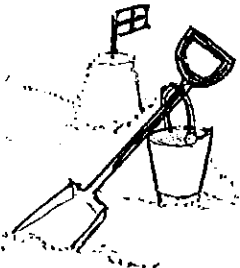
I am delighted to hear that the Thurlestone committee of St. Luke's Hospice will continue in good hands, and would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Terry Woodrow, her friends, and the residents of Thurlestone, who over the years have made such an invaluable contribution to our work at the hospice.

The hospice has come a long way in the past 15 years, and now offers the best in palliative care to patients from Plymouth and the surrounding areas - and this care is provided free. As such it is a



BANTHAM HOLIDAYS

Remembered by Neville Oswald



In October Mollie and I shook the sand of Bigbury Bay from our feet and moved to our new home to be near our daughters and their families. Our address is 4 St Martin's Square, Chichester. It is bang in the middle of the town about a well-struck three wood from the side entrance of Marks & Spencer. We now realise how much we miss our old friends in Devon and hope that some of them will call on us when they are next in these parts.

What a long time it is since our first visit to Bantham in 1954. In response to an advertisement, we brought our three children, then aged 12, 8, and 4, for our summer holiday. We stayed at a farm a little way up the hill from the Sloop on the right side going up. I have tried to identify it several times since without success. There must have been about 15 of us staying in what I suppose is now called a Guest House. The children were thrilled with the beach, the boats and the little marine life nestling under the rocks, as indeed our grandchildren are now.

Next morning we all packed into the dining room for breakfast, hugger-mugger at tables for four. It was perfectly adequate provided we kept our elbows firmly pressed to our sides. Soon, a portly visitor had a fit of coughing and sneezing that went on and on and eventually silenced all of us. Then, just as we started to eat, he produced a letter from an inside pocket and started to read it out loud. We were still in a state of shock from his efforts to clear his upper air passages, and so sat back and listened until our youngest found the silence rather more than she could tolerate and chipped in with her high-pitched voice. That was enough to release the tension and we then proceeded to devour our bacon and eggs.

It is easy to overemphasize this trivial

happening, but the routine recurred every morning, including the reading of a letter as often as not. Soon we came down to breakfast wondering how far he had got with his customary habits, knowing that we could not really settle until he had finished them.

After breakfast the kids had a spell on the beach and then we all adjourned to Thurlestone to see the golf club, which was the chief object of our holiday. Arriving at about noon we had some difficulty in getting up the steps which were littered with children and their ice creams and lemonades, which they had requested vociferously in the club dining room. The bar was packed with members standing about six deep trying to get their drinks.

The reason for the hullabaloo, I was told, was that Saturday from noon to one was the busiest time in the week when new arrivals and others went down to see who was there and who had just arrived. It was the time when golf and tennis matches were booked for the following week. Our children soon found ways of occupying themselves with tennis, organized barbecues on the beach, weekly cricket matches on the practice ground and permission to play the Boozer's Loop after 5 pm.

We came down on holiday every August in the following years and soon became part of a social mixture of all ages. The place was run by and for the residents and householders of Thurlestone and South Milton, and those who wished to play golf and could not afford the charges joined the very flourishing Artisans' Club. The summer visitors, most of whom seemed to have friends or relations who owned a house in the place, were rather pressed for accommodation. The Thurlestone Hotel had just about recovered from the war

wonderful and much-needed facility and a tribute to the community spirit and the work of loyal supporters like the Thurlestone group.

But as the benefits of hospice care have become more widely accepted and the range of care and treatments has expanded, demand for our care has increased dramatically. In consequence we are running out of space and are planning another extension. Our annual running costs have risen to some £1.5 million of which as a charity we have to raise £1 million in donations.

The challenge is enormous but we are confident that with the continued support of the community, the hospice will continue to provide the highest standards of care and support for patients and their families. If you would like further details of the hospice's service, or how to help, please talk either to your local committee, or visit the Kingsbridge shop at 42 Fore Street, or you can ring me on 01752-401172.

Tony Morton

St. Luke's Hospice

Dear Editor

I can't tell you how much Paul and I have enjoyed receiving Village Voice. It has brought us a lot of pleasure, and such fun to keep up with the busy life in the parish of Thurlestone.

We have had a relatively mild El Nino* winter - not so much snow and mostly mild days (-5°C to +2°C). The nights are cold, down to -11°C last night [February 9th]. I am sure it is much warmer in beautiful Thurlestone. We are looking forward to our return visit.

Thank you again for producing such a wonderful newsy publication - enjoyed WORLD WIDE!

Cheryl White
Waterloo, Ontario

(* See Weather Wag's article in the October 1997 issue of Village Voice - Ed)

Dear Editor

I would like to thank you all for your unstinting support and encouragement - not to speak of friendship - during my time at the Thurlestone Hotel. I have shared many special moments with you all.

However, it is now time for me to retire gracefully from hairdressing and meet new challenges. I know I will miss seeing you all on a regular basis, but hope our paths will cross again. I wish you all well! Many, many thanks, and much love.

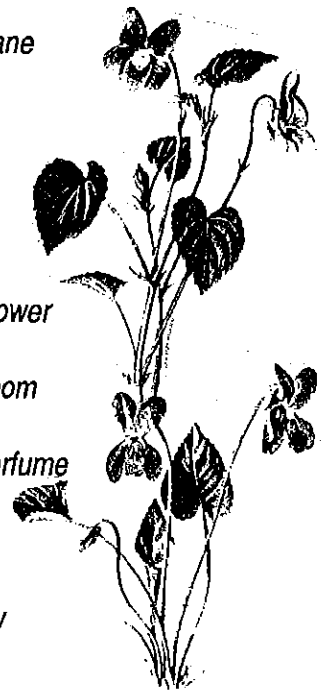
Janet Wellens
Ivybridge

Dear Editor

Helen Farnworth remembers this piece of poetry from many years ago and asks "Do any Village Voice readers know it too? If so, do they know the poet's name?"

THE VIOLET

*Down in a green and shady lane
A modest violet grew,
Its stalk was bent
It hung its head
As if to hide from view.
And yet it was a lovely flower
Its colour bright and fair,
It might have graced a rosy bower
Instead of hiding there.
Yet there it was content to bloom
In modest tints arrayed,
And there diffused a sweet perfume
Within the silent shade.
Then let me to the valley go
This pretty flower to see,
That I might also learn to grow
In sweet humility.*



Would anyone with any information about this poem please contact me on 560652. Thank you.

Ruth Jordan
5 Old Rectory Gardens

and was beginning to entertain many of the same people year after year. With no Mead and fewer houses on Yarmer, holiday rentals were few and far between. Once newcomers had found one, they tended to hang on to it year after year on the same dates, as we did.

We found the contrast between Thurlestone and Bantham quite striking. Thurlestone, having had not only a golf club but two sizeable housing estates plonked in the middle of its bailiwick, was a flourishing concern, whereas Bantham seemed to be dead half the time. I was keen to "throw a line in" but was told that was possible only if I knew somebody with a boat. I knew nobody. Eventually the village policeman (there was one then) offered to take me out in his rowing

boat. We went out with the tide and came back with the tide; much to my surprise we caught several sizeable bass, which were enjoyed by one and all back in the boarding house.

The biggest event in the year, which coincided with our brief stay, was the annual dance for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Just about everybody in the village seemed to contribute something to the raffle and tombola and other side-shows. It was always a resounding success. It gave parents an opportunity to notice that their teenage children were growing up rather more rapidly than they had surmised!

Neville Oswald

Pat Machin's - Puzzle Corner - Answers

CLUELESS CROSSWORD

Across:

Spoof, Cajoled, Ewe, Stormed, Novel, Urn, Bulk, Insulted, Improbable, Adze, Game, Mosquitoes, Referral, Afar, Lag, Idiom, Exhaled, Van, Sayings, Molar

Down:

Pat, Fame, Cadenza, Jonquil, Levity, Deluded, Vein, Siblings, Oxlip, How, Measured, Bus, Fig, Margins, Oarsman, Quakers, Offal, Effigy, Live, Chum, Era

Letter Reference Grid

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 = P | 2 = A | 3 = T | 4 = M | 5 = G | 6 = C | 7 = O | 8 = N | 9 = X | 10 = K | 11 = B | 12 = F | 13 = R |
| 14 = E | 15 = L | 16 = Q | 17 = Z | 18 = H | 19 = W | 20 = J | 21 = S | 22 = Y | 23 = V | 24 = I | 25 = D | 26 = U |

COMPLETED MINI-CROSSWORDS

A
B
C
D

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| L | O | F | T |
| F | E | T | E |

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BOOKSHELF

COLD MOUNTAIN

by C.Frazier

This is a *magnificent* book and worthy of much wider acclaim than it has so far achieved. It is beautifully written and the character portrayals and scenic descriptions are so vivid you can imagine yourself being there all the time.

It is based on the American Civil War, and Inman, a young man living at the small village of Cold Mountain goes off to the war and is very badly wounded. He leaves behind Ada, his girl friend, who lives with her clergyman father on a farm. Her father dies, the farm hands are called up, and Ada is left wondering how to manage the farm, which is already nearly derelict.

How she does that, with the help of a young girl, Ruby, is a wonderful story on its own. Ruby says that she will be as good as any man, but insists she is to be no hired help and demands equality. To emphasise that point, and assert her rights, she stresses that "*We each empty our own pot in the morning*". She turns out to be a most endearing and colourful character.

After long spells in hospital, Inman deserts and begins a tortuous and hazardous journey to attempt to get back to Cold Mountain. He and Ada are eventually reunited....but that is enough from me.

You MUST read it.

THE STORY OF MY DISAPPEARANCE

by Paul Watkins

This book was a real bonus because I could not remember seeing it reviewed, or ordering it from the library, and had never heard of this writer, so when it happened to be one of

the best novels I had read for some time I was pleased. I enjoyed it so much that as soon as I finished it I read it again!

The story is about an East German who, as part of his National Service, was sent to Kabul during the Russian occupation and, after some incredible and horrifying experiences, he is sent to New Zealand as an undercover agent. This introduces a welcome romantic thread, and after more violent incidents there is a beautifully happy ending. Credits on the fly-leaf say "*A writer of rare and precocious power*" (Sunday Telegraph) and "*Paul Watkins writes with a narrative power and visceral imagery that sets him apart from his contemporaries*" (The Times).

What more do you want? I have ordered his previous book "**Archangel**".

G.W.

PILLARS OF THE EARTH

by Ken Follett

I have only recently come to reading our Ken, and am delighted to find how well written and researched his books are. This one is written because of his great interest in the building of the medieval cathedrals and the book's simple story line teaches us such a lot. A pity, though, that he puts so much violent sex in it!

THE SUN IN THE MORNING

by M.M.Kaye

This is such a refreshing look at India in the early part of the century by someone who was born and brought up there. She truly loved the real India and Indians and can't understand the wrong impressions of other writers about the British raj and racialism. On her advice I will start to read some of the *Just So Stories* to my grandchildren.

R.M.



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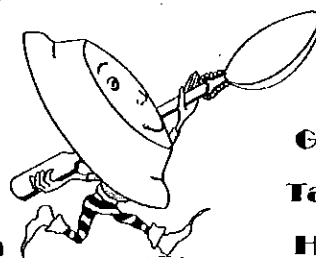
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Is This A Spearhead I See Before Me....?

Recent stormy seas have rolled back the history of Thurlestone at least 3,000 years.

Pete Daniels of Parkfield was walking along the shore at Leas Foot one day at the end of February. He was looking down at the beach with more than usual attention. This particular Low Water Spring tide had exposed an area from which the previous night's rough seas had stripped away most of the sand and shingle. He knew from many a "beachcombing" walk that this was a good time to find things on beaches.

As he walked along the surf line, he suddenly saw a bright green length of "stone", which had apparently been tossed up by the waves. Even before he picked it up he knew that it was copper or brass - that bright green colour is a dead give-away for any pieces of those metals left long in the sea. But he was not prepared for what he held in his hands - a perfect Bronze Age spearhead nearly a foot long!

The green patina on the metal did nothing to conceal the great skill with which it had been cast. The hollow end of the spearhead even had two exactly opposing holes in the metal ready for a pin to be put through to hold the shaft in place - exactly the same design as you find today in the heads of many garden tools. The curator of Exeter Museum who has now seen it, seems to think it might have been made around Newton Abbot, based on some other spearheads found there.

But almost certainly the spearhead had never been hurled in anger, if at all. It looks so unmarked despite its thousands of years in the sea or under the beach that when you examine it you get the feeling that it has never been fitted to a shaft. Its point has not been finished off either. So could this have been one of the first British products intended for export! The Bronze Age in Britain lasted until about 1000 BC, when iron took over. So was Thurlestone once a centre of the British Bronze Age export drive? That thought may not be very short of the mark when you remember the Bronze Age-Iron Age trading camp uncovered years ago by

storm-driven seas amid the sand dunes of Bantham Ham, and the discovery by divers (1992) of the tin ingot cargo of a Bronze Age ship in the mouth of the River Erme. Indeed the whole area around Thurlestone seems to have been the scene of much more trading activity than we might imagine. Dartmoor tin miners are thought to have floated their tin down the Avon to sell as crude ingots at Bantham to merchants who had sailed across from Gaul.

That suggests a lot of shipping. But then why else would Iron Age man have built an earthwork fort on Bolt Tail looking down on Hope Cove - unless it was to watch over seaborne trade? Why else were bronze swords and daggers, the cargo of a wrecked Bronze Age arms salesman found on Moor Sand, near Salcombe? Why were big stone anchors found in the river at Bantham?

Well, thanks to the watchful eyes of Pete Daniels, we do now know that Thurlestone played a part in Bronze Age trading. Now he is looking hard for a Bronze Age axe-head, which he says he's always wanted to find!

Stop Press:

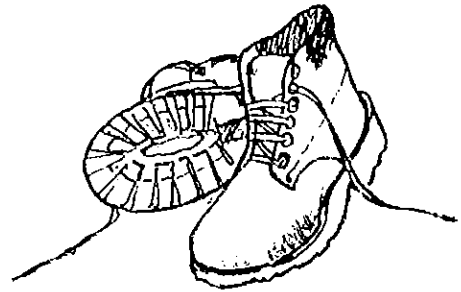
The Leas Foot story doesn't end there. We now know that the same day Pete Daniels found his spearhead, Vic Tyler (also of Parkfield) found a large copper coin - on the very same beach. The coin appears to be British and dated 1707, which would put it into the reign of Queen Anne. That means it might have come from one of the 708 bodies washed up on beaches for miles along the coast after the wreck of *HMS Ramillies* near Bolt Tail in 1760. Or else it could have come from the *Chanteloupe*, wrecked almost on Thurlestone Rock in 1772.

On the other hand it could have fallen from the pocket of someone some time in 1708, who was walking along the beach at Leas Foot after a storm saying to himself, "This looks the sort of day to find something"!



Kendall McDonald

TRAMP



1 It is regrettable that it was probably not out of concern for the damage a fleet of cars would cause to the environment, but the fact that the parking space outside Kingsbridge Rugby Club is very limited that made the twelve trampers and a dog squeeze into as few cars as possible to get to the start of the February walk. There we met one more walker, and two more dogs. It was a promisingly grey day, and not cold.

Striding down a very steep field towards Bowcombe Creek, the leader pointed out that this same slope would have to be climbed on the way back. Happily no one took any notice.

Along the further side of the creek and across the fields, a slightly roundabout route took us to West Charleton. The dogs in particular enjoyed the walk to the creek shore. There the terrain was tricky in places but as the tide was low (something that had been taken into consideration) it was not really hazardous.

Fortunately other members of the group showed more talent in spotting the path leading back to the fields than the leader, and we reached the Frogmore pub in good time for our soup and delicious Frogmore Bakery bread.

Thanks to the past few days of dry weather, the tracks up from Frogmore to Duncombe Cross were not waist-high in mud as we had feared in January - though one of them still showed a tendency to turn into a running stream. Soon we rejoined our morning's path.

We were not unduly daunted by the steep field and, by no means exhausted, almost trotted back to the waiting cars.

Pam Brewster

2 The walk that nobody expected to happen. The weather forecast for Wednesday 4th March was not an encouragement to those walking for pleasure. Those members who are also in Probus were so depressed at their ladies' evening the night before that they drowned their disappointment with an extra bottle or two. Dawn broke on Wednesday revealing to bleary eyes not rain but sunshine, followed by the thought that the previous night's excesses were about to be tested with a nine-mile walk.

The walk started in Dittisham and headed across fields and lanes to Kingston and then Capton. Going was slow as the ground was very muddy with deep puddles after the previous day's rain. From Capton we headed north through the woods towards Barberry Water Bridge where we stopped to rally the troops. Because of the slow heavy going we decided to cut out one section and head straight for the Red Lion and lunch. Arriving just after 1.00 pm, we were welcomed with a lovely vegetable soup and other refreshment so necessary after three hours' walking.

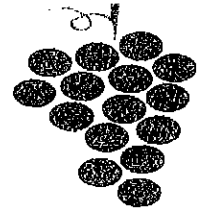
After lunch we set off to the head of Dittisham Mill Creek, stopping on the way to look at the almost derelict mill and the leat used to supply the power. Then we took to the water's edge and for an hour followed the beach back to the car park. This needed care as the rocks were slippery, the tide having only just receded. One of the dogs disgraced itself on this section of the walk, disappearing into the bracken and reappearing a few minutes later with a dead pheasant. A stern lecture was given on what "out of season" meant, but the dog's face showed satisfaction and pride. By 3.15 pm eighteen of us were back in our cars, the 19th having left at the lunch stop for "matters spiritual".

Derek Yeoman



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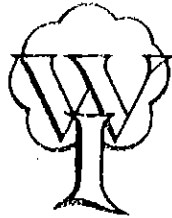


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W.I. NEWS



PUB GRUB

The new **Lunch Out** group got off to a splendid start as 24 members gathered to do justice to an excellent meal at the **Sloop**. The next jaunt, to the **Hope & Anchor** in Hope Cove, will be on 28th April.

BACK TO SCHOOL....

Before this excursion a school party with a difference was held on Valentine's evening at the Parish Hall, when the pupils of **Beaux Belles Academy** (school motto *Acne in Minibus* - "a good spot to be coached") dressed in a variety of school uniforms, made merry in a suitably decorated classroom and had supper. Under the watchful eye of the headmistress, Miss Cynthia Pain, head girl Candy Floss, and other assorted 'academics', a tasty "**school dinner**" was served in the school canteen. Minds were exercised with '**Lessons**' and vocal chords with resounding choruses of the school song (with apologies to the Eton Boating Song). A good time was had by all. Special thanks go to **Val Brown** for the inspiration and drive that made it all possible!

SHARPITOR

Tony Murdoch, the head gardener from **Sharpitor**, came in February. Over the last few years he has transformed the gardens there and, having seen his beautiful slides, we are all now looking forward to the private tour he will give us of the garden one evening in high summer.

BEEES

Jean Lee couldn't come to talk at our March meeting due to illness, but President **Dorothy Candy** set to and found a wonderful substitute in the shape of **David Wilson** of Sherford on the subject of bee-keeping. His

talk was so much enjoyed that he is booked to come again in June 1999 - and is bringing some bees with him!

COMING EVENTS

On 6th April there will be a floristry day-school at **Strete** which several members are joining. A small party is going on the county trip to the **Westonbirt Arboretum** on 20th April and that same evening **South Milton WI** will be our hostess at the spring group meeting. A group of eight members is heading for **Exeter University** for the spring council meeting on 23rd April and on 30th April we will join in the Resolutions meeting at **Charleton**. A guided tour of Lady's Wood (Devon Wildlife Trust) by **Martin Catt** on the evening of 13th May is also in the pipeline. Husbands and friends are welcome to join us for this...and the supper afterwards at a suitable local hostelry.

LINE DANCING

Line dancing is still going strong. It was in February 1997 that the WI first started it off in the parish hall, and there are some members who have hardly missed a session since. It's good to see them swinging into action and thoroughly enjoying this great form of exercise.

DEVON COUNTY SHOW

There will be eight items of Cookery and Crafts going from Thurlestone WI to the Devon County Show in May, entered in the two co-operative classes.

This year the WI marquee will be featuring the 50th anniversary of **Denman College**, the WI's own residential educational college near Oxford. It will also provide the best place in the Show for any members or visitors looking for really good home-made refreshments.

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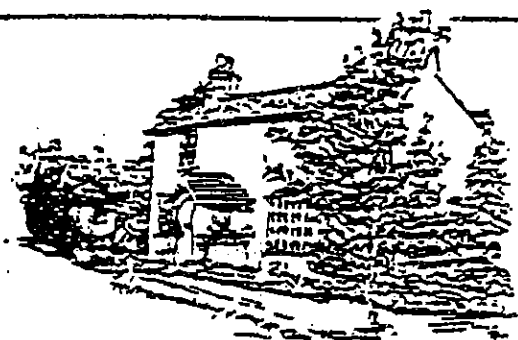
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HORSWELL DIARY

The last time I saw Jane was over a cold bottle of Chablis in a smart new restaurant near her London Office.

She had just been promoted to a fantastic job in publishing and I had successfully launched a new design business. We had a lot to celebrate and, not having seen each other for many, many years, a lot of reminiscing to do. We've known each other forever and the conversation soon veered off marketing strategies and circulation numbers towards the finer points of newt catching and my dismal attempts to vault over the wooden horse in the school gym which, maddeningly, she still seemed to find screamingly funny. Pink with laughter and the effects of the Chablis we finally headed back to our respective business meetings, promising that we would get together more often as it had been such fun.

Well, that was twelve years ago, and when last week Jane 'phoned on her way back to London from Cornwall - asking if she could call in on her way by - I suddenly felt wrong-footed and unprepared. Would she think I had opted out, settling for the bucolic country life? Had I let myself go, lost my cutting edge, my city chic? Well, yes, I probably had. But did that bother me? That's what I wasn't sure about.

It had been a hectic month, racing up and down to London, juggling house-sitters and dog-sitters, business and pleasure, balancing family and friends with commitments and chores. Even with the lighter evenings the days are still too short to accommodate all that needs doing, and despite running at full tilt a backlog of work continues to grow. I dream about time warps, expanding time, stretching it so that I can achieve all that I want to do. I wonder if I had a clone if it would halve my workload or double it. I long for the day with nothing prearranged scrawled in haste on the calendar, the luxury of thinking "What shall I do today", the uncertainty of not knowing. To my amazement a friend tells me that she is going to start a part-time job because she has too much time on her hands. I suggest she gives seminars for people like me, revealing

the secrets of her success - except that people like me would not have time to attend them.

Some events though I wouldn't miss for the world - well, not intentionally. Like the banquet at the Skinners Hall at which my husband was presented with an award by the Lord Mayor of London. Laden with overnight bags, ballgown and my husband's white tie and tails, rushing against the clock to compensate for the delay on the train, and squeezed into an inadequately-lit lift it was hard not to feel a little rising frustration when the door failed to open at any of the six floors of the hotel. The situation was not eased when my cries for help were answered by an uppity head waiter who sauntered by with a tray of drinks borne high on his shoulder. "Calm down, Madam", he spat as he swept past, never to return. Needless to say, his comment had exactly the reverse effect.

Two or three others paused briefly to peer at me as one might a captive tiger in a cage before continuing past. Eventually a housekeeper of indeterminate foreign nationality took pity on me and fiddled with the locking mechanism muttering incantations under her breath. Finally with a screech that could have been Swahili for *Open Sesame*, the lock sprang open and I made a dash for freedom, bolting along the corridor to our room for a hasty bath and change of clothes.

An anxious husband awaited me, delighted to be reunited with his suit, albeit at the eleventh hour. Not daring to take the lift we raced down six flights of stairs and fell into the nearest taxi. "I know you", said the taxi driver. "Oh?" said my husband. ("Aargh!", thought I.) "I've carried you before." And indeed he had. We must have been his best paying fare of all time. On that occasion we were on our way home, catching the train at Paddington, and had stopped to pick up a suit which had been altered for my husband. Being rush hour and taxis in short supply we decided to hold on to our cab whilst my husband popped in to collect the suit. A two-minute operation one might think? Alas, no. Having been regaled with the driver's life

history, his aspirations for the future, his theories on life, the planet and the universe for what seemed the best part of an hour, my husband emerged with his suit to face a cab fare of titanic proportions. *"I've been to Florida since I last saw you"*, continued our driver. *"Great holiday!"* We nodded dumbly, conscious of our contribution to his travel costs. *"How was the suit?"*, he asked. *"Expensive!"* we chimed in unison.

Another dash to London later in the month was to celebrate a friend's Birthday with a Tea Dance at the Waldorf hotel. It was a glittering affair - champagne, chandeliers, marble dance floors, and a Palm Court orchestra. The only thing lacking was expertise on the dance floor. Most of us were of an era when ballroom dancing was not considered an essential social grace. We could all remember the Twist, the Mashed Potato and the Hippy Hippy Shake, but were sadly unable to execute a Foxtrot or a Tango or tell the difference between a Quickstep and a Waltz without counting one, two, three, one, two, three under our breath. How I wish I had toughed it out at Miss Murray's School of Ballroom Dancing all those years ago instead of sloping off to join friends for an illicit cigarette at the Juke Box Cafe. It would have spared me my blushes when on leaving the dance floor fellow partygoers held up two menu cards revealing a damning score of *"Nul Points!"*

On arrival back home all three dogs rushed out of the front door to greet us. It should have prepared us for the scene awaiting us indoors. An empty biscuit tin and a house strewn with dogs' hairs bore testament to a life of total indulgence in our absence. No wonder Bertie covers his head with his paws and mopes for hours when the dog-sitter goes home.

The garden is rapidly coming alive with the mild weather and ducks and birds seem to think spring has arrived. The peacocks have started displaying their beautiful tails and calling to one another from the treetops and our pair of mallards flew past the bedroom window in a victory fly past to announce the laying of their first batch of eggs. A pair of wild mallards have started to visit our pond and we hope they don't lead our 'tame' ducks

away once the mating season is over. We feed them corn every day to supplement their diet although most of it seems to be eaten by a family of grey squirrels. At least, I suppose if they're stealing the corn they're not stripping the bark from the trees which they would normally do.

The snowdrops were heavenly this year, spreading like snowdrifts under the trees. Now they are beginning to fade, giving way to primroses and a golden sea of daffodils. Maddeningly, a combination of strong winds and rabbit-chasing dogs means that many of the blooms are knocked to the ground. We collect these each day to bring into the house. We call it Bertie's Bouquet since he is the greatest culprit!

My girlfriend Jane seemed smaller when she arrived than I had remembered. But perhaps it was just in contrast to the large powerful car she was driving. Immaculately groomed and full of energy, she told us about her imminent transfer to Cairo, from where she would be commuting on a weekly basis to Moscow to set up the infrastructure of a vast new business enterprise. She talked about her husband, her child, her famous colleagues, of deals done in smart restaurants, and holidays in exotic locations. I thought of the hydrangeas still to prune and the herbaceous border that was crying out for my attention. The prospect seemed suddenly very dull.

Later that day I took the dogs for a walk along the cliff path to Bantham. It was a glorious evening. The sky was streaked pink and grey and dark waves were tipped with gold from the setting sun. Flossie and Bertie ran ahead, the wind ruffling their fur. Abo, my loyal old friend, stayed close, plodding along beside me. I thought about Jane's visit. As we walked down the last slope towards Bantham Beach we could see a small figure walking slowly up towards us. It was my husband coming to meet me. The dogs raced forward, jumping for joy when they realised who it was. I ran down to join them just as the sun slipped down below the horizon leaving a golden glow where it had been.

Cairo and Moscow suddenly seemed very unimportant.

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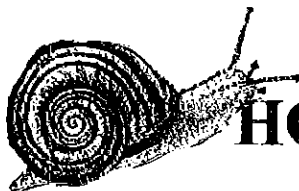
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HORTICULTURAL SHOW NEWS

Owing to the success of the Hanging Basket class last year, we have extended it to include **TUBS AND OTHER FLOWER CONTAINERS** this year!

These items will be judged *on site* between 20th and 25th July. An award will be made to the winner at the Show, which takes place at South Milton village hall this year on **SATURDAY 1st AUGUST**.

Have a go and help to provide extra colour and natural beauty in our parishes!

Entry forms and details will be in local shops soon. These will be separate from the main Show schedule. Each container entered will require an individual form.

Our Annual Plant Sale will be held at the Parish Hall, Thurlestone, on the morning of **SATURDAY 23rd MAY**, from 10.30 am until noon. Our gardening guru will be present to give advice and answer questions. (Football fans please note that the Sale is in the morning so you will not miss that very special match on the box in the afternoon).

Here is a good gardening tip, if you are plagued by slugs and snails nobbling your pot plants outdoors. A spray of WD 40 round the outside and rim of the pot works miracles as the little blighters are then unable to get a grip on it! Shield your plants as you spray - they won't appreciate being doused in this form of lubricant!

"Greenfly"

MISSING PHOTOGRAPHS

Lost on the evening of 14th February in Thurlestone.
A roll of 3 school photographs of Blackheath High & Torquay High.
Please phone 560345 if you have any information

RED CROSS WEEK 3rd - 9th MAY

Can you deliver a counter-top tray or collect for an hour?

The Red Cross is also seeking small teams of fund-raisers who could organise local events and/or assist with the Open Gardens scheme in the summer.

It would welcome ideas for specific events.

Contact Joan Locke
(01392-273932)

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AUCTION

**SATURDAY
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VIEWING
1 pm - 2 pm

Contact: Daphne Osmond
560917

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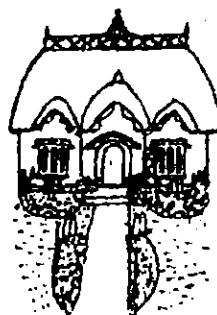
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DIARY DATES

APRIL

Wed 1st TRAMP to Lydford Gorge
 Mon 6th Parish Hall AGM, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Thur 9th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Remote Pakistan)
 Wed 15th TRAMP to Swincombe
 Fri. 17th Probus Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel
 Sat. 18th Hearing Dogs Concert (see inside)
 Tues 21st Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Sat 25th Auction, S.Milton Village Hall, 2.30 pm
 Tues 28th WI, "Hope & Anchor", 12.30 pm

MAY

Sat 2nd NSPCC Jumble Sale, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Wed. 6th TRAMP, New Waste, Cornwood, R.Yealm
 Tues 12th Annual Parish Council Meeting, P.Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 13th WI, Evening Walk, Lady's Wood
 Thur 14th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Resolutions)
 Wed 20th TRAMP, Slapton Country Walk
 Sat 30th St Luke's Hospice, Coffee Morning, P.Hall, 10.30am

JUNE

Wed 30th TRAMP, Kingswear, Coletton Fishacre (NT)
 Thur 11th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Folk Songs)
 Tues 16th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 17th TRAMP, Down Thomas, Wembury

Please notify Village Voice of any corrections, changes, additions, or forthcoming events by the deadline for the next issue.

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

Village Voice is distributed free to permanent residents of the villages in the parish.

There is also a subscription service, which mails copies to readers at an annual cost of £7.00. Please apply to:

Sheila Parker, 8 Mead Lane, Thurlestone (01548-560330)

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council and is delighted to remain under the Council's sponsorship. This does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in these pages are the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council, and they should only be ascribed to the authors concerned.

Your copy is delivered to you by our volunteer distributors - dairyman PETER BROMFIELD in Thurlestone and MRS JEAN HURRELL in Bantham and Buckland.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 2nd MAY 1998

Please drop any contributions marked "Village Voice" through the letterbox at 25 Mead Lane before that date (or e-mail to 106052,3170 @ compuserve.com)

PARISH

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB | Clubhouse | 560447 |
| BOWLS CLUB (indoor) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm | Contact Eileen Dayment | 560490 |
| BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m. Parish Hall Wednesdays Fridays | Contact Mary Fulford-Smith Contact Dorothy Stone | 842467 560708 |
| COFFEE TIME (Rectory Barn) Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 October-May. | Contact Liz Webb | 560090 |
| FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH | Contact Kendall McDonald | 560239 |
| THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION | Secretary, Dick Marston Contact Lindsey Fletcher | 560405 560157 |
| KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall | Contact Brenda Murch | 560487 |
| HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual) | Contact John Lonsdale | 560742 |
| LINE DANCING Mondays, 10 - 11 am Parish Hall | Contact Pat Clarke | 561982 |
| PROBUS | Contact Philip Candy | 560857 |
| TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers) | Contact Ron Parkin | 561215 |
| WOMENS INSTITUTE Second Thursday monthly (ex. August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall | Contact Tricia Millman | 560788 |
| RECTOR | Prebendary Peter S. Stephens | 560232 |
| PARISH COUNCIL Chairman Vice-Chairman Parish Clerk District Councillor County Councillor Members | Peter Hurrell Derrick Yeoman John Lonsdale John Grose Simon Day John Dayment David Grose Charles Mitchelmore Geoffrey Siddons Veronica White | 560496 560607 560742 560396 01752 - 691212 560295 560375 560802 560695 560236 |

The Parish Council meetings take place on Tuesdays. See dates on Diary page overleaf.

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| PARISH HALL Chairman Bookings | Rowland Cole Joan Lane | 561006 560158 | | | | |
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| RUBBISH COLLECTION | Thursday (Friday in Bank Hol Monday weeks) | | | | | |
| BUSES (Western National) Wednesdays only: No. 161 | Weds & Fri No. 162 | Weds only No. 161 | | | | |
| Bantham Buckland Thurlestone Church South Milton Kingsbridge Quay | 10.35 am 10.38 am 10.46 am 10.55 am 11.05 am | - - 09.53 am - 10.10 am | Kingsbridge Quay South Milton Thurlestone Church Buckland Bantham | 13.25 pm 13.35 pm 13.44 pm 13.52 pm 13.55 pm | 1.15 pm - 12.31 pm - - | 17.40 - 17.56 - - |
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| GARAGE (Blight Engineering) LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays) | 11.10 - 11.30am | Bantham | 11.50 - 12.15pm | Thurlestone Parish Hall | Maurice Blight Kingsbridge | 560220 852315 |
| 11.35 - 11.45am | Buckland Old Chapel | 11.50 - 12.15pm | Thurlestone Parish Hall | 12.40 - 12.50pm | Thurlestone Sands | |

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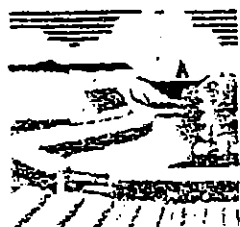
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