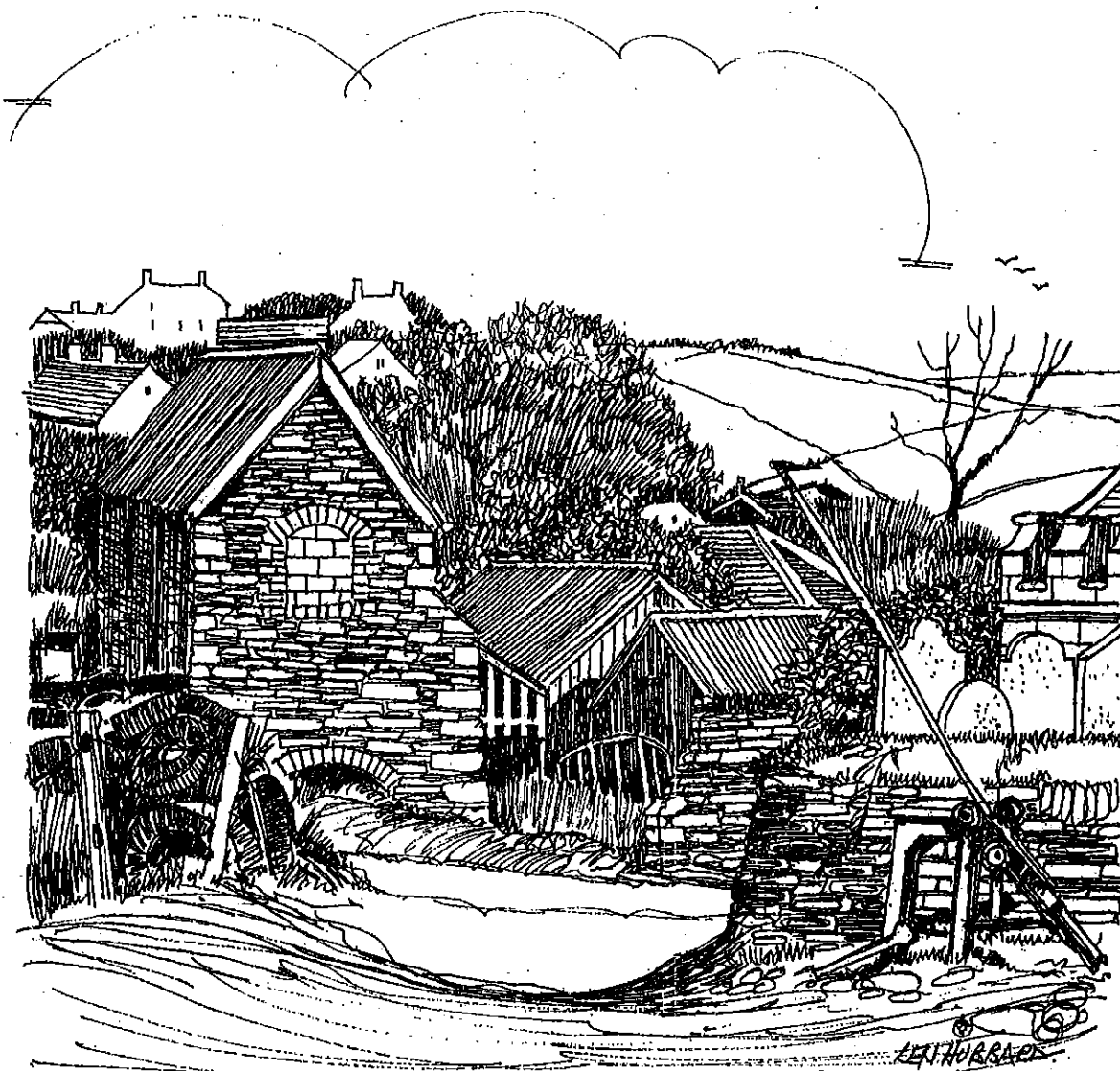


VILLAGE VOICE



JUNE - JULY 1998

Can a Thurlestone shop survive?

(special coverage inside)



NUMBER 91
JUNE - JULY 1998

Our front cover picture from Len Hubbard this month shows a view of Homefield Farm that will not be too familiar to most readers. It is a view from inside the farm. Indeed, this issue of Village Voice contains views from a number of people about various aspects of the Homefield Farm situation, and the developments affecting the village Post Office and shops. These are key elements of our village - like the church, the hotel, and the golf club - and any significant change to the services they provide has a direct impact on the quality of life that residents enjoy - and have come to take for granted.

Trusty old Villager provides an illuminating background; Gordon Bromfield reflects on twenty years occupation of Homefield Farm; Citizen covers the Parish Council and Hall meetings; and the Taylor-Yeoman action duo report on the changing shade of their activities as they move from green paper towards a blueprint for the future.

A questionnaire is contained within, seeking residents' views on the services they require. It is to be hoped that residents will respond by completing and returning it. Otherwise some of the services we take for granted might well be lost for ever.

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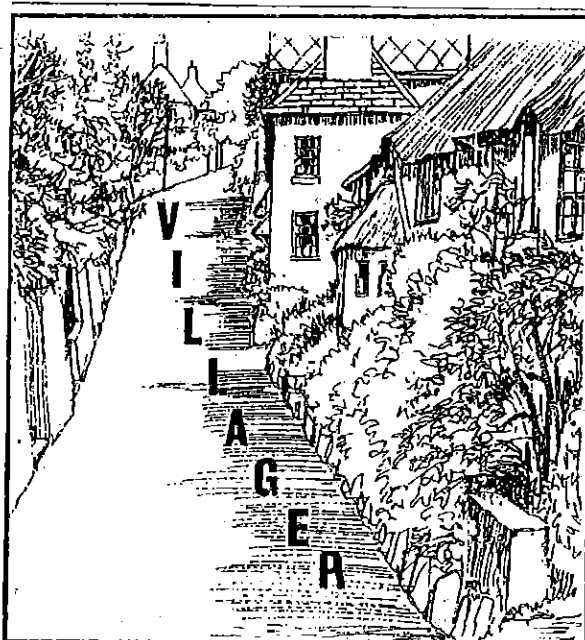
Do you remember the Bantham Steamship Company?

I merely ask because it became very clear, amid all the kerfuffle about the Thurlestone Post Office, that few taking part in the debate had any idea about the part Evans Estates plays in the parish today. Or indeed what part it has played in the past in keeping our countryside intact.

Who, you may well ask, was Evans? And what are his estates? Read on and I shall try to inform you. **Charles Edward Evans** was born on September 14, 1858 on board his father's fully-rigged ship, *Rhea Sylvia*, while she was anchored some 100 miles to the south of Lima, Peru. As a result, his early life was spent on board ships captained by his father. Shipboard lessons finally gave way to land-based school, and after that he was apprenticed to a shipbroking firm in Newport, S.Wales. He was then asked to open a branch of Beynon and Company in Cardiff, which specialised in the export of Welsh coal.

In 1890, he started on his own. Soon, his little company became three big ones as he added the import of pit-props to his coal export company. In 1906, profits from his booming business enabled him to buy back his mother's family home. Restoration of the near ruin of the Tudor manor house of Nailsea Court in Somerset took seven years and he wasn't able to move in until 1913.

A year later, at the start of the Great War, he tried to join the Navy, but was rejected because of his age. He then offered himself as an able seaman to serve in anything that would float, as long as it was taking part in the war, but was still turned down. Despite all these rejections, he finally found a novel way of getting in. He bought a yacht and



offered her (together with his own services) to the Admiralty. The result was that Lieutenant-Commander Evans, R.N.V.R., served for the rest of the war on mine-sweeping and anti-submarine patrols, mostly in Northern Scottish waters and around the Orkneys. He was decorated, promoted, and given the right to retain the rank of Commander.

After the war his shipping interests continued to grow. He was an astute businessman, but found desk-work irksome. He was much happier with watersports and was an expert canoeist and yachtsman. In 1919 Evans discovered Bantham. He wrote a letter to a friend about it: *"Shortly after the war I made the acquaintance of Donald Lea, who had been told by his doctor to spend two years at Bantham to recuperate. He had a jolly little pram dinghy, and was a great fishing man and had been a great athlete and a friend of John Buchan"*. In Lea's little boat he and Charles Evans explored every inlet and fished

everywhere they could. Evans liked it all so much that he bought himself a "cottage" at Bantham - the old smithy, the Whiddons, which had been converted into a house by landowner Hubert Brunskill.

Only a short while later, the same Hubert Brunskill, who then owned most of the acreage of the present Thurlestone Parish, over-reached himself in his business dealings (and with the bookies) and was forced to liquidate his estate.

Charles Evans seized his chance. He bought the entire estate from Brunskill. But it was Bantham that was his real interest and so he sold off much of the rest, particularly around Thurlestone, in two auctions. The Grose family, for example, bought the hotel at the first auction. In 1923, Commander Evans sold the freehold of the Thurlestone golf course to the club for £4700.

He now built himself a new holiday house, Cockleridge, on the north side of the Avon on the site of three ruined cottages. Later he built a new house, the Villa Crusoe, over there, and converted the Pilchard Cellars and Ham Cottage (formerly a Victorian boathouse) into houses.

He proved to be a good landlord and made great efforts to see that Bantham, even in those first noisy days of charabancs and motor cars, should remain peaceful and unspoilt. Though he wrote how much he enjoyed seeing people enjoying themselves on Bantham Ham and the sands, he also noted his concern about the damage so many feet were doing to the sand dunes of the Ham.

He said that Bantham gave him some of the happiest days of his life, but he did not neglect his business. In 1931 Barclays Bank gave him the management of four 9000-ton steamers (one was named *H.H. Asquith* and another *David Lloyd George*). In the following years, Charles Evans became a ship owner himself, buying those same four ships

to be the nucleus of his shipping fleet, which he first called the Nailsea Steamship Company.

In 1936 that was not enough and, to expand, he formed the Bantham Steamship Company, for which he had two ships specially built, the *Nailsea Court* and the *Nailsea Meadow*, both of 9,000 tons. His fleet grew with the addition of two more ships, the *Helmspey* and the *Helmstrath* (bought from the Strath Steamship Company) and he had four more ships built, the *Nailsea Belle*, the *Nailsea Tower*, the *Nailsea Vale* and the *Nailsea Lass*, all of 8,000 tons.

Charles Evans found that some of his ships were out-of-date almost as soon as they were built, so the very next year he scrapped the *Vale* and the *Tower* and replaced them with two new 9,000-tonners, the *Nailsea Manor* and the *Nailsea Moor*. In 1939, he added a final ship, the *Nailsea River* of 5548 tons, to the Bantham Steamship Company's fleet.

Then came the war, and almost as though working on the last-in-first-out rule, it was the *Nailsea River* which was to become the first of the Bantham Steamship Company ships to be sunk. She was attacked by German aircraft on 15th September 1940, when homeward bound from Buenos Aires for the Tyne, carrying 7,000 tons of wheat. A bomb almost went down her funnel and blew a great hole in her port side. She sank swiftly just four miles off the Scottish coast, but all the crew were saved.

Torpedoes from U-boats then accounted for the *Lass* (U-48), the *Manor* (U-126), the *Court* (U-229), and the *Meadow* (U-196). In fact, only one ship of the Bantham Steamship Company fleet, the *Nailsea Moor*, survived the war.

During that time, Evans had more to worry about than the Bantham Steamship Company's shipping losses, for the Ministry of War Transport had also put 20 large

freighters under his management. Handling all this shipping and trying to cope with the huge losses being inflicted by the German U-boats was a colossal strain. Commander Evans was to see little of his beloved Bantham and worked ridiculously hard for a man in his 80's. It is sad that, despite his dedication to Britain's war effort, he was not to live to see the Allies' final victory. He died suddenly on 11th May 1944. He left three daughters.

Today, Commander Evans' local landholdings are in a company called Evans Estates (1956) Limited. It is chaired by Anthony William Pitkin, and the directors, Michael Toll, Gill Goddard, and David Martin, are all grandchildren of Charles Evans. The Estates' land agent is Jonathan Aylett, who is a partner in the Totnes firm of chartered surveyors Michelmore Hughes.

The estates today consist of some 750 acres of which about 500 are farmland. The land is on both banks of the Avon with fields on the south reaching down to Thurlestone's All Saints Church and Home Farm (now being sold together with the farmhouse Homefield, hence the Post Office problem). Tenants of the estate are farming West Buckland and Lower Aunemouth and, on the other bank of the Avon, the land of Hexdown Farm, though owned by Evans, is now farmed by the owner of Mount Folly Farm near Bigbury.

Some land over the years has been sold for residential building, though the thatched "smugglers" cottages in Bantham are owned by the estate, which operates a policy of letting them to local people.

Today, Evans Estates lands run from the mouth of the Avon up river on the north bank to Doctor's Wood and to Stadbury Plantation on the other side, though their land there is only one field wide. There is much broader ownership in the north, with Bigbury Golf Course owned by Evans. On their riverbank land the Estates control fishing and shooting and boating activities with a harbourmaster,

Hugh Cater, based in the thatched boathouse, built by Commander Evans in 1936 *"to commemorate the accession of George the Sixth"*.

Evans Estates try to follow the benevolent landlordship of the Commander, but they take a fair amount of stick when it comes to Bantham Ham. Some residents and visitors alike get steamed up when faced with charges for parking on the Ham. Why should they pay to park there?

The Estate see it as a method of raising money to keep the Ham in good shape. They say that the money from parking fees goes to pay for the full-time services of three local men, who apart from minding the car park, mow the grass, and keep clean Bantham Beach and the Ham. The fees also pay for the repair of footpaths, and the fences which protect the sand dunes' vital binding marram grass, and make sure that the thatched boathouse on Jenkins Quay is still kept in a suitable state to retain its title as the most photographed scene in South Devon. (In fact, the Estates re-thatching bills in Bantham alone are quite enormous).

Cleaning the public lavatories on the Ham takes more of the private car-park receipts. The Estate's land agent points out that recent improvements there to waste disposal and sewage works cost over £18,000. Another £4000 goes annually to the business rate for the car park. They could, say the Estates, charge for cars on 365 days a year, but they have chosen not to make charges through a considerable part of the winter to let local people enjoy driving on to the Ham.

It is all a far cry from the Bantham Steamship Company, and it does make you wonder what Charles Evans would have made of it all, particularly if he saw the crowds who pour into his beloved Bantham every day in summer!

Villager

Village News Round-Up

RETIREMENT PRESENTATION TO PETER AND JOYCE

It was an extraordinarily low-key way to make a big presentation. In fact it wasn't until **Peter Stephens**, who is retiring as Rector of Thurlestone, opened the best-wishes card he and his wife **Joyce** had been given, at a crowded wine and food farewell party for them in South Milton village hall, that he found a cheque inside for £5,000! And so low-key was it all that, despite his touching speech of thanks, many of his congregation left the party not really knowing how much had in fact been handed over.

It was a record amount for such an event, and its size was largely due to the efforts of Thurlestone PCC who had written to nearly 150 people whom Peter had helped or married during his stay in Thurlestone, and who now lived away from the area.

DIVERS RESCUED

Volunteers from the parish were involved in the recent rescue of four London University divers, who had lost contact with their boat while diving off the Bolt over Easter. At the heart of the air-sea search for the divers was **Derrick Yeoman** of Thurlestone's Parkfield. Derrick is a former Coastguard and now one of the volunteer members of the National Coastwatch Institution, who are manning the old Coastguard visual watch stations which were closed by the Coastguard in 1994.

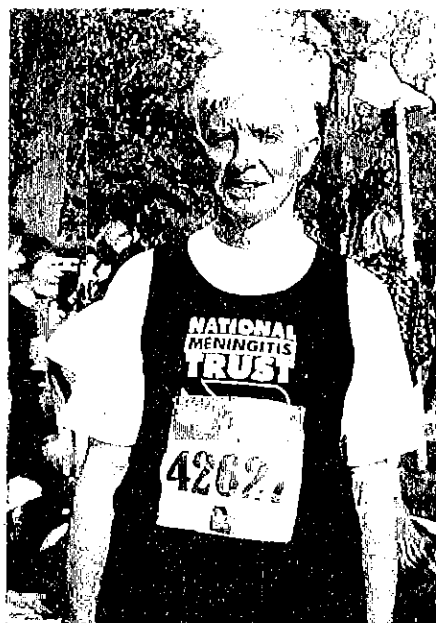
He was on duty at Prawle Point look-out station when he and his co-watcher spotted two of the divers near Langerstone Point. By calculating a reverse bearing they were able to guide the Coastguard search helicopters

and lifeboats to a successful pick-up of the other two missing divers off Bolt Head.

Derrick tells *Village Voice* that the National Coastwatch is in need of funds for more equipment, particularly for Prawle, to help the coastwatchers to watch over fishermen, yachtsmen, wind surfers, divers, small craft and also cliff-path walkers. Locals who would like to become "*Supporters of NCI Prawle Point*" (our nearest lookout since the Bolt Tail lookout was demolished) should contact Derrick at 8 Parkfield, Thurlestone (01548-560607)

MARATHON MEN

Congratulations to our three London Marathon men, **Herbie Adams** of Parkfield, **Jonathan Lonsdale** of Meadcombe and **James Marshall** of Leaside. They all finished the course and each raised over £1000 for charities. Herbie, pictured, was raising money for the National Meningitis Trust. His time was 4 hours 55 minutes.



Jonathan, who is 19, ran on behalf of MACS (Micro Anophthalmic Children's Society) and took 4 hours 5 minutes. James, who had come back specially from Australia to take part, took 4 hours 46 minutes and donated his sponsorship to the Lord Mayor of London's charities.

The three men have asked *Village Voice* to pass on their most grateful thanks to all who helped them.

ANOTHER DONATION

More proceeds from sales of the parish book "*The Story of Thurlestone, Bantham and West Buckland*" are going to another good cause. Having already given POTS £400 towards the making of their millennium video, **Kendall McDonald** and **Neil Girling** have now donated another £250 from sales of the book to Bantham Surf Life-Saving Club.

This money has been put into the Club's building fund as part of their drive to raise enough money to build a more suitable rescue centre/clubhouse at Bantham, and so improve the base of their lifeguard operations on the beaches at Bantham and Bigbury.

The Surf Life-Saving Club, which was formed in 1960, now has 118 members, including a "*Nippers*" section, training youngsters from 8 to 11 years old and a "*Juniors*" section for those from ages 12 to 15. Club life-guards patrol the beaches from mid-May to the end of September and have carried out over 50 rescues at sea and dealt with over 200 first-aid cases on the beaches.

BEACH CLEANINGS

Rosemary Stocken and helpers tackled the three beaches of Yarmer, Broad Sands and Lees Foot, clearing a considerable amount of rubbish one Wednesday in April. She was delighted at the numbers who turned out to lend a hand. The date fortunately coincided with a cancellation of a proposed TRAMP

walk, so the disappointed walkers channelled their energies into beach cleaning! Rosemary would like to say "*thank you very much indeed*" to all those who came along and helped.

On Sunday 5th April ten members of the local Ramblers Association joined **Ron Charlesworth**, Ranger of the Coast & Countryside Service, to clean up Stiddicombe Creek in the Avon estuary. It was thought that there had been no comprehensive clean-up at Stiddicombe for the last ten years. Ten bags of plastic rubbish, lengths of old fishing net, even a few bits of a wrecked boat were collected. A small mountain of unsightly driftwood was also burned.

POSTAL COLLECTION

Village Voice understands from the Royal Mail that the collection of mail (including Sunday collections) from Thurlestone Post Office **letterbox** will continue as usual, despite any changes affecting the Post Office itself, until further notice from them.

BUSES

A new bus timetable is available for 25p from the Kingsbridge Tourist Information Centre. If you want to know how to get out and about by public transport, it's a 'must' at 25p.

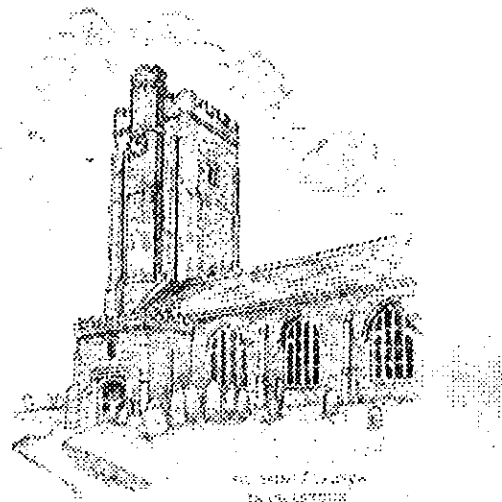
HOPPER BUSES FOR WALKERS

A new service will allow walkers on the Coastal Path between Thurlestone and Beesands to enjoy their exercise free from the thought of having to retrace their steps back to their cars. Operating dates in 1998 are:

16 May to 19 July - Saturday & Sunday
23 July to 31 August - every day
5 to 27 September - Saturday & Sunday

The detailed Timetable for the East and West loop routes (bus nos. 158 & 159) appears elsewhere in this issue.

All Saints



The Rector's Retirement

The Rector's retirement party was held in South Milton Village Hall on May 22nd where the ladies of the village had laid on a terrific spread. We all had a most enjoyable evening, although it was tinged with sadness at having to say goodbye, in their official capacity, to the Rector and Mrs Stephens, who have asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone who contributed to their most generous retirement present. We shall miss them both and wish them well in the future.

We now have to wait a while before a new Rector is appointed and, during the inter-regnum, please contact either of the Churchwardens (Michael Chipman 562013, Liz Webb 560090) about matters with which the Rector would normally be concerned.



Visiting

We are in the process of revising our visiting scheme but we need to know when someone moves into the Parish, is unwell or would just appreciate seeing a friendly face. In the past there have been complaints that nobody has visited but usually this was because we just did not know. Please help to keep us informed by ringing Liz Webb (560090).

If no other provisions are made when the Post Office closes and anyone is in real difficulties concerning pensions, etc., please contact Liz who will try to arrange for someone to help you.



COME AND ENJOY A

Cream Tea

ANY THURSDAY UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER

FROM 3.30 - 5.30 P.M. IN THE RECTORY BARN OR GARDENS

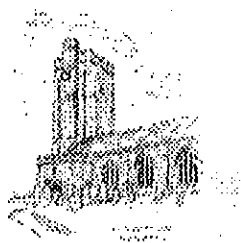
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Parties of up to 20 people can be accommodated if booked in advance.

Please contact Rosemary Chipman (562013).





All Saints Diary

Thurlestone Church Services

Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
Thursday June 11th & July 9th	8.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
June 7th & 21st, July 5th & 19th	11.10 a.m.	PARISH EUCHARIST
June 14th & 28th, July 12th	11.10 a.m.	MATINS

Family Services

Sunday June 28th	9.30 a.m.	SOUTH MILTON
Sunday July 26th	11.10 a.m.	THURLESTONE



Searchlight

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

June 2nd

June 16th

June 30th

For more information contact Liz Webb (560090)



Church Fête

SATURDAY JULY 18TH AT 2.00PM IN THE RECTORY GARDENS

Cakes, books, delicatessen, "Pandora's Box2, Children's Stall, Sideshows, Cream Teas



Grand Summer Draw

TICKETS 20 PENCE EACH FROM MEMBERS OF THE PCC OR LOCAL SHOPS

Prizes include:

THREE NIGHT BREAK FOR TWO AT THURLESTONE HOTEL OR DRYBURGH ABBEY

VOUCHER FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SHOP AT THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

DINNER FOR TWO AT HERON HOUSE HOTEL AND THE SLOOP INN

TASTER FLYING LESSON ~ FAMILY TICKET FOR WOODLAND LEISURE PARK



Advance Dates

BARBECUE ON THE GREEN ON TUESDAY AUGUST 11TH AT 6.00 P.M.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING & SUPPER ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH AT 7.00 P.M.

ST CRISPIN'S FAIR ON MONDAY OCTOBER 26TH AT 10.30 A.M.

Roger Hind

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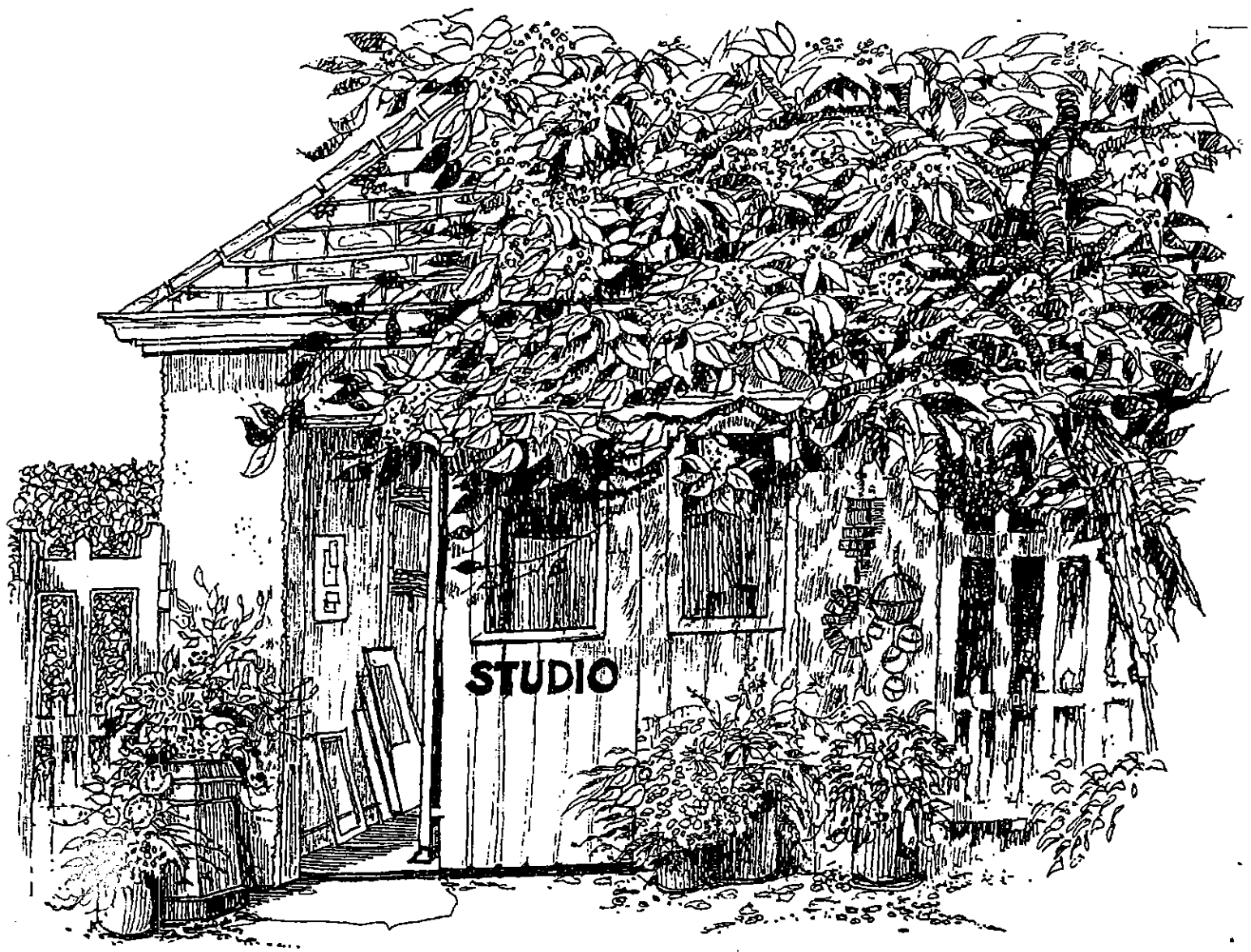
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Two Decades at Homefield



I came to *Homefield Farm* as tenant of Evans Estates in 1969 to take on from Jack Broad who had been the tenant for fifty years, during which time he had expanded the farm business to include a milk round, a shop and a coal round. With the help of my mother Mary, my father and younger brother Peter, plus the existing staff, the business continued. Sadly, in 1972, my father died. In 1973, Peter left school and did the milk round in Thurlestone, Buckland and Bantham, while I continued with the sea front and S. Milton round.

In 1974, the then village sub-postmistress retired and I was asked if I would consider filling the position of sub-postmaster in order that the village would not lose its post office. Although wanting to help, with all my other commitments I could not see that this would be possible. However, Jean Yeoman indicated that she would like to undertake the day-to-day running of the post office and Evans Estates were prepared to allow me to make the necessary alterations to accommodate the post office next to the existing shop area. Consequently I became sub-postmaster in October 1974.

I married Frances in 1976, and she continued to work as a computer programmer in Plymouth during the week and did the South Milton milk round on Saturdays.

One night in January 1979 the farm buildings were ravaged by fire. Although all of the livestock were housed in the buildings at the time, it was very fortunate that there was no loss of life. The local community was outstanding with its help and support, for which I shall always be most grateful. My mother retired in May 1982, and at this time Peter took on the milk-delivery business to run as his own enterprise.

Towards the end of the 1980s it was becoming apparent that the farm buildings were no longer viable, since they would not comply with new legislation which was coming into force with respect to drainage requirements. After investigating the various

options to overcome the problems, it was decided by Evans Estates and myself that the only sensible course of action was to conserve the existing buildings, as much as possible, by applying for planning permission to convert them to residential use. Since the shop premises were also in need of major refurbishment, and its situation in a very narrow part of the village was not ideal, it was deemed sensible to take this opportunity to relocate the shop to the road frontage of the farm buildings.

In composing this article, I have thought about the many people I have had the pleasure of meeting during my years in the village. As a 20 year old, not long out of agricultural college when I took the tenancy, I will always remember how helpful and welcoming many of the customers were - a lot of them sadly no longer with us. I have seen many changes over the years but in essence the character of the village remains.

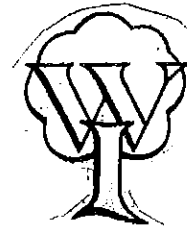
One memory of the early 70's is that of Court Park. Although quite a few of the houses had been built, the roads had not been properly constructed and it was like an obstacle course dodging the raised manhole covers which protruded from the mud.

I also recall some of the mistakes that I made. Having been sold a new 'wonder fuel' which was promoted as being suitable for all appliances, I found to my horror that it was not ideal for the 'Aga'. After a few days of using this fuel, the flues were choked with tar. The late "Butcher" Moore took great pleasure in reminding me of that little episode on almost every occasion that we met.

I would like to conclude by thanking the community for their loyal support over the years and take this opportunity to wish the future proprietor(s) of the new shop, which I feel will soon come into being, every success

Gordon Bromfield

WI NEWS



A TRAVELLER'S TALE

In April, **Lesley Austin**, a member of the Scientific Exploration Society, made a long-awaited second visit to tell us the follow-on story about life in the tiny village of Shimshal, northern Pakistan. This time it was about joining in the annual trek of village families who take their sheep, goats and yaks up to 17,000 feet into the high grazing grounds of the Karakoram Mountains for the summer. Three other Europeans had made the trip before her, but Lesley was the first woman to accomplish it.

GROUP MEETING

Twenty from Thurlestone went to South Milton to join in the fun of a group meeting on 20th April. **Chips Barber** was the speaker on Exeter ancient and modern but the highlight of the evening had to be songs by South Milton WI's answer to the Spice Girls. Gosh, what a difference a wig makes! A great time was had by all the visitors, from Salcombe, Kingsbridge and West Alvington.

EXETER UNIVERSITY

On 23rd April eight members attended the **Spring Annual Council Meeting** at Exeter University where they enjoyed a great WI day out in the company of over 1000 other Devon members.

EATING OUT

After all this, it was with great enjoyment the Lunch Out group ventured to the Hope & Anchor on 28th April for a super lunch and a good bit of socialising!

LADY'S WOOD

Martin Catt's natural history guided walk through the wood was on 13th May. Martin was excellent as usual - and the bluebells were magnificent! An enjoyable supper at the Coach House Inn, Wrangaton, followed.

DEVON COUNTY SHOW

We were delighted to come fifth in the co-operative crafts section in a very large field of experts from all over the county. We got a nice large award card and a cheque!

HEALTH CENTRES FUND-RAISING

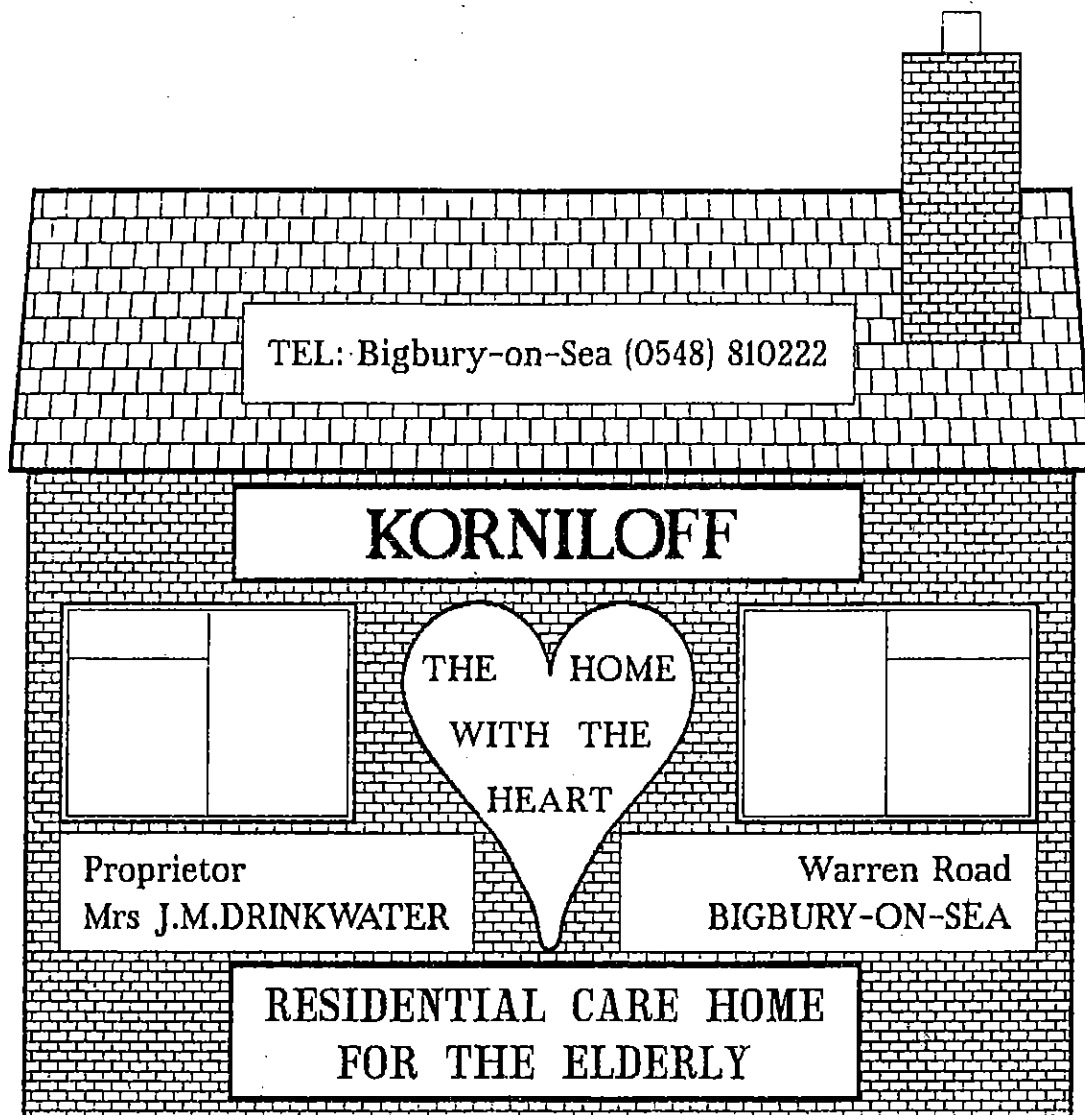
Dorothy Candy asked members to put Saturday 6th June, 7.30 pm in the parish hall, in their diaries for an informal cheese and wine evening, including an exhibition of residents' art work. All profits will go to the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Friends of the Health Centres, so everyone is welcome. Cost is £3.00 payable at the door.

MAY MEETING

Two national resolutions have been put forward and were voted on at our May meeting. The first urges all levels of government to make the regeneration of so-called "brown-field" building sites in urban areas a priority in the planning of housing development. The second resolution seeks to ensure that full support is available to assist school-aged children who are carers, to protect their welfare and education. Thurlestone WI voted in favour of both.

Mr Mike Taylor attended for part of the meeting and told members of developments concerning the closing of Thurlestone's two village shops and the post office, urging them to persuade residents to return the planned questionnaire on this subject (now enclosed in this issue of *Village Voice*).

Our £100 members' bursary to Denman College is usually awarded annually but members voted in favour of its being made available every *other* year at £200 as the cost of courses had increased. Our annual Garden Lunch will be on 2nd July, by kind invitation of **Rosemary MacKay**.



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THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This unusually well-attended meeting (there were 50 parishioners present) was held on 21st April 1998. It was chaired by the Parish Council's Vice-Chairman **Derrick Yeoman**, in the absence of Peter Hurrell on holiday. This account of the proceedings is in two parts. **Part I** deals with the formal Agenda; **Part II** with two important topics raised under Any Other Business.

PART I

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman referred to recent events and issues including future plans for the Parish Hall, under its new committee, the extension of the school, and improvements at the War Memorial site. Bantham residents were responding well to the call to confirm the use of the footpath at Pilchard Cellars, but lack of support for the Eddystone Road-Coastal Path link could jeopardize its recognition at the next review. South West Water had improved the area around the holding tanks near the Golf Club. SHDC had agreed to replace and update the information plaque at Bantham. A big thank-you was due once again to **Rosemary Stocken** and her gallant band of helpers who cleared the beaches in time for the Easter break. He regretted that pollution of the Buckland Stream was still a problem. Planning permission had been given for a new club house for Bantham Life Saving Club.

GUEST SPEAKERS

John Eaton, Chief Planning Officer of the South Hams District Council had been asked to discuss the popular view that the SHDC doesn't listen to the views of the Parish Council in arriving at decisions on planning

applications. In fact, he had found that agreement with our PC was reached on 85% of occasions. However, it was important to realise why differences arose.

While the PC must identify matters of concern to the immediate community, recent Government guidelines stress that local views - however strong - are not in themselves grounds either for refusing or granting planning permission unless they are founded upon *valid* planning reasons which are capable of being substantiated. If the District Council failed to observe these guidelines, and its decisions were successfully appealed against, it would be liable for costs which ultimately would have to be recouped from ourselves, as Council Tax payers. SHDC also had to make its decisions in accordance with the Government's Regional Plan and the Devon Structure Plan, with any specific guidance in the SHDC Local Plan and with any special rules for Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, etc. The clear presentation of what is a very complex subject was warmly received.

Inspector **Peter Patrick** of the Kingsbridge Police informed us that he was being moved to Totnes, and replaced by Inspector **David Sumner**. During his five years here, crime figures had steadily fallen and relations with the public had been excellent. The Chairman thanked him for his services and wished him well in his next appointment.

Our Devon County Councillor, **Sir Simon Day**, explained that it was the reduction in Government Support Grant, following the setting up of the Plymouth and Torbay authorities, which was largely responsible for the swingeing 19% increase in Council Tax. The proposed new satellite town for the

region should be near Plymouth, where it would benefit from good communications. In his view, large numbers of new houses could not be accommodated in this area without serious consequences for the local environment. When asked how many of these new dwellings were likely to be second homes paying *half* rates, he surprised most of us by saying this was not relevant as central government made up the difference!

When the serious inadequacy of the arrangements at the Recycling Centre at Torr Quarry was brought to his attention for the *second* year running, he agreed to look into the matter.

PART II

Under **Any Other Business**, the Chairman first turned to the subject uppermost in the minds of those present, namely the crisis precipitated by the early closure of the Post Office and *both* shops in Thurlestone.

SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF HOMEFIELD FARM AND FARMHOUSE

Jonathan Aylett, the Land Agent for Evans Estates, was asked to outline the present position. He confirmed that the farm had already been sold, and the opportunity for a new shop in the converted barn duly advertised. Widespread concern was nevertheless expressed that the imminent closure of Broads Dairy in June, (followed by the Village Stores in September), would result in an extended period during which there would be neither Post Office nor shop in the village. Furthermore, it has to be said that the very guarded manner in which the information was given, particularly about prospects for the new shop, only served to raise suspicions unnecessarily and, as a result, the general mood became openly critical.

Gordon Bromfield - who has run the farm for 29 years, as well as the Post Office and shop - said that his relations with Evans Estates had always been amicable. It came as a surprise to many of us that it was the rapidly escalating costs of meeting the pollution regulations relating to farm effluent which made it uneconomic to continue farming at the Homefield site. The Meeting later expressed its appreciation to **Gordon** and **Frances** for their long service to the community.

The Meeting then turned to what could be done to provide stop-gap solutions, and insisted that positive action be taken. In response to this general view, the Chairman agreed that a small **Working Group** should be set up to assess the possibilities and develop an appropriate *plan of action*.

Following this decision, several ideas began to emerge.

- * **Mike Taylor** offered to investigate whether the village, as a community, might be able to develop its own proposal for a shop. He was prepared to carry out a fact-finding study into the feasibility of the concept.

- * **Gordon Bromfield** emphasized that, in the face of competition from supermarkets, the economic viability of any village shop depended on year-round support from its local customers. [*This message appears to reinforce the idea of the village playing a part in the sponsorship, management, and/or financing, of the new shop*].

- * The possibility of providing limited Post Office facilities in temporary accommodation was suggested, although the security implications needed to be clarified.

- * The hiring of a minibus, say two or three times a week, was proposed (by your humble scribe) as a practical way of enabling parishioners without cars to reach alternative facilities in the interim period - which might well last a year or so - during which there would be *no* local facilities.

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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.

THE MILLENNIUM

The Chairman reminded those present that he had asked - through *Village Voice* - for suggestions for *additional* ways in which the Parish might celebrate the Millennium. Initially, this produced an awkward silence and shuffling of feet, but one or two sketchy ideas eventually emerged: for example, official showings of *the* video, a craft show, tree-planting schemes in each of the three villages, a lych-gate for the school, the purchase and continued operation of a

minibus for a wide variety of parish activities.

In view of the mid-winter timing of the date of the Millennium, one useful suggestion was that events could be spread over the year 2000 as a whole. The point was also made that the new Rector should become involved, as soon as possible, in view of the central position of the Church in such an anniversary. The general feeling was that the Millennium should be marked by something permanent.

CITIZEN

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL Annual General Meeting - 6th April 1998

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The AGM was our first opportunity to hear about the views of residents and user groups on the future of the Parish Hall; these views were in response to the recent Questionnaire in *Village Voice*. The Chairman of the Hall Committee **Rowland Cole** said that, of the 35 replies received, 32 were in favour of the Hall remaining on the present site where, it was hoped, its life - already in excess of 50 years - could be extended, by refurbishment, for a few more years.

SHORT-TERM MEASURES

Improvements to be carried out without delay will include two replacement heaters, an extractor fan and redecoration for the kitchen, and remedial work on several areas of damp. In addition, the provision of three-foot-high draught-excluding boards on the stage will hopefully lessen tensions between some of the groups using the hall.

FINANCES

The Treasurer **Bill Clarke** reported on the satisfactory state of the Hall finances, and confirmed that these were more than adequate to cover the foregoing expenditure.

ELECTIONS

The existing Officers were re-elected en bloc. They are: **Rowland Cole** (Chairman), **Bill Clarke** (Treasurer) and **Linda Gray** (Secretary) - with **Alan Chapman** as Auditor. **Lindsey Fletcher** was co-opted to look after the Public Relations aspects of the use of the Hall. **Joan Lane** continues as the Hall Booking Secretary.

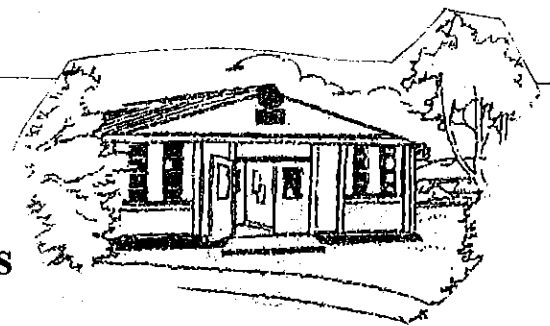
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Chairman then turned to the possible acquisition of the land at the rear of the Hall. This would overcome right-of-way complications and could provide additional car parking, if needed. An early meeting with the owner was planned. It was agreed that the Chairman should explore the options. When his findings suggested the need for decisions, he would convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.

CAR PARKING

It was agreed that the School's PTA should be asked to make a contribution to car-parking charges when functions take place at the School.

"Fly-on-the-Hall"



Q: DOES THURLESTONE NEED A VILLAGE SHOP?

PARISH RETAIL SERVICES PROJECT

- The Parish Council is actively investigating the viability of a village shop, on the site of the Thurlestone Barn, to replace the two existing shops, both of which are closing this year.
- As part of this investigation, Mike Taylor and John Crawford are carrying out a survey of the shopping needs of Thurlestone parish by way of a questionnaire which is enclosed with this copy of *Village Voice*. The questionnaires will also be available at the Village Stores, the Post Office, and the Sloop Inn.
- PLEASE complete and return the questionnaire to any of the following: Mike Taylor at 4 Landpath, Thurlestone; John Crawford at Baidland, Downs Road, Thurlestone; Thurlestone Post Office; or the Sloop Inn, Bantham by 30th June 1998.
- The completed questionnaires will be seen only by Mike, John, and the computer bureau, and after processing will be destroyed. Be reassured that the costs of this survey are being financed by private donation and will not fall on the ratepayers. It is hoped that the summarised results will be published in *Village Voice* as soon as possible.
- In the letter accompanying the survey, Mike and John have set out briefly the case for retaining a shop in the village. **BUT IF YOU DISAGREE, PLEASE SAY SO.** A village shop should be able to compete with local supermarkets on quality, convenience and service, though not always on price. But it would be very sad to encourage someone to enter a business venture to supply a demand which does not exist.
- Below is an abridged copy of a paper which was prepared following the Annual Parish Meeting of 21st April, when the Parish Council Deputy Chairman, Councillor Derrick Yeoman, and Thurlestone resident Mike Taylor agreed to investigate the situation within the overall umbrella responsibility of the Parish Council.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

- 1 Consultation with and review/evaluation of retail services which are directly affected by or coincidental with the sale by Evans Estates of Broads Dairy (Lot 1), and Homefield Farm (Lot 2). The refurbishment of the barn adjacent to, but separate from, Lot 2, is intended to provide a new village stores and post office.
- 2 Production of an outline schedule of activities and events with practical time scales for the overall objectives, listed below, to be achieved for the parish.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

- A. Maintaining a sub-post office facility of 16 hours per week minimum.
 - B. Creation of a temporary sub-post office of 28 hours per week.
 - C. Commissioning of a sub-post office offering all possible financial services, supported by Post Office Counters Ltd., in the refurbished barn, and operating for 35 hours per week.
 - D. Maintaining a minimum service level of basic groceries and provisions.
 - E. Commissioning of a village stores including off-licence, and full range of groceries, provisions, consumables, etc., operating on a Monday through Sunday trading base, depending upon customer demand and business practicability.
 - F. Continuance of household milk and other produce deliveries.
 - G. Continuance of daily newspaper deliveries.
- 3 **Planning and production of parish questionnaire for distribution in Village Voice.**
- 4 **Presentation of outline schedule to Parish Council and other interested parties.**

During the three week review period, total co-operation has been given by affected businesses and key persons associated with the parish. Communication with both developers, Evans Estates, and their agent Michelmores Hughes is increasing, and we have every expectation of further constructive and friendly co-operation throughout the critical period during which provisional agreements, and agreements in principle, become tested and implemented.

OUTLINE SCHEDULE FROM 12th MAY 1998 TO JANUARY 1999

- (a) **Basic post office**, 16 hours per week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday mornings.
- (i) Location to be as now, i.e. Broads Dairy shop premises
Time period - 17th June to 28th July 1998
Postmaster - Gordon Bromfield
 - (ii) Location as above
Time period - 29th July to mid-September 1998
Postmaster - to be advised
- (b) **Temporary post office**, 28 hours per week.
To be in a Portakabin sited in parking area in front of barn adjacent to Lot 2.
Time period, mid-September 1998 to January 1999
Postmaster - to be advised
- (c) **New post office**, 35 hours per week.
To be located in newly refurbished barn.
Time period, January 1999 and onwards into the new millennium
Postmaster - to be advised



(d) Maintenance of basic groceries and provisions

(i) Location to be as existing village stores/off licence. Current opening hours may be extended depending upon customer demand and business practicability.
Time period - 12th May 1998 to 26th September 1998

(ii) Voluntary order acceptance and home delivery service to be created for the period 27th September 1998 to January 1999 (commissioning of new stores). This voluntary service should/could be available to any people who are currently dependent upon the two existing shops.

(e) New Village Store, Monday to Sunday trading.

Location - newly refurbished barn adjacent to Lot 2.
Time period - January 1999 and into the new millennium
Proprietors - to be advised

(f) Household milk and other produce deliveries As currently operated, although a change in ownership and management is planned for 14th August 1998. The current operator intends to ensure the same level of service by the new owner.

(g) Daily newspaper deliveries As currently operated and until such time, ie after 27th September 1998, as the new management begins to function. The level of service will be maintained until the new owners are in full operation.

N.B. Items (b), (c) and (e) above are dependent upon planning considerations - probably clarified by June/July 1998.

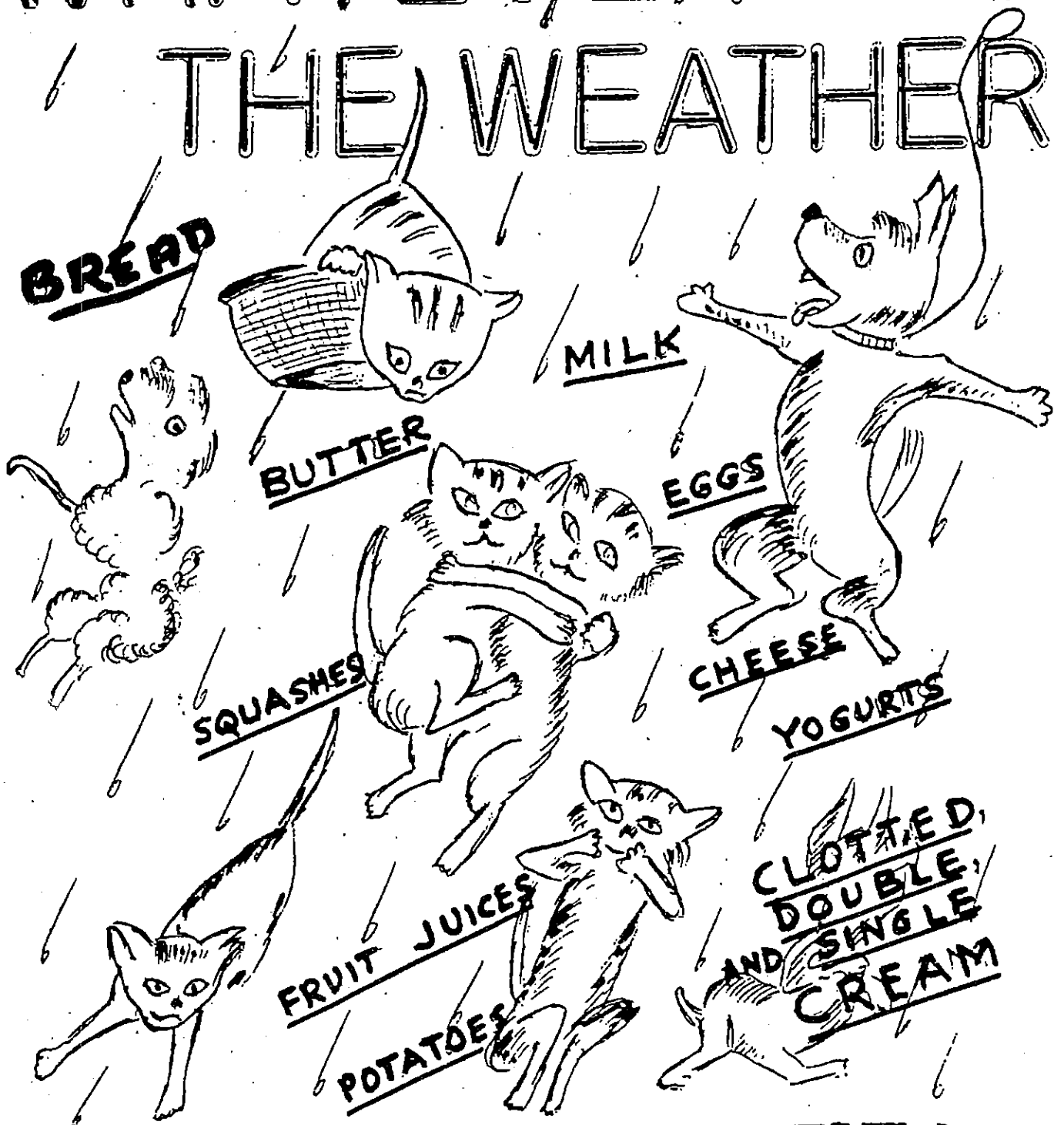
**A: YES, OR NO -
TELL YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

- **Fill in the questionnaire**
- **Give the Parish Council your HONEST OPINION
- whatever you think!**
- **Return it by 30th June**



Thank you for your co-operation. It will help to shape Thurstlestone's future.

WHATEVER THE WEATHER



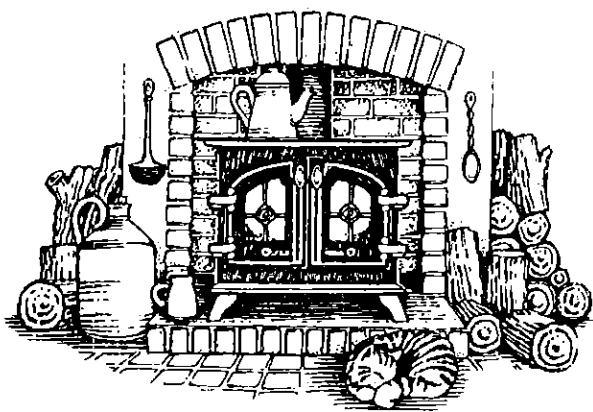
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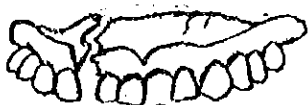
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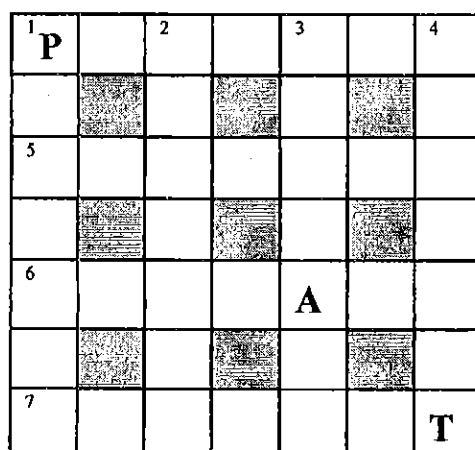
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1. MINI - CROSSWORD

Each clue is an anagram of the solution.
Three letters are given as starters.



CLUES

Across

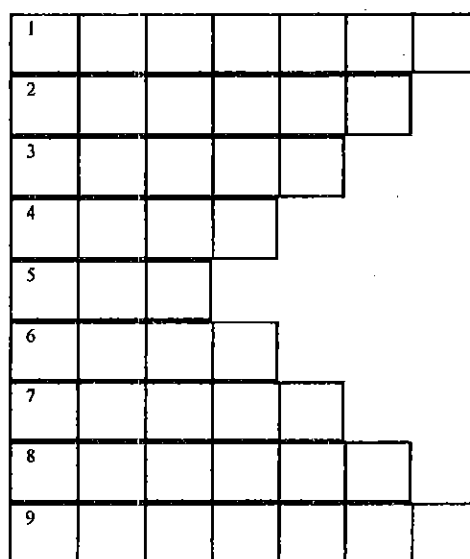
1. RENT POD
5. OUR CAGE
6. MAIN TEA
7. MEET LEN

Down

1. AGA PECK
2. ORE UNIT
3. MEAN EAT
4. PET SEED

2. EGG-TIMER

The answers to these clues are anagrams of the word above or below, plus or minus one letter.



1. Take the chair
2. Wish
3. Water plants
4. An animal
5. A colour
6. Harmful
7. Wept
8. Believe
9. Repeated aloud

3. EIGHT FROM FOUR

Can you pair these four-letter words together so that you can make ten eight-letter words?

- | | |
|------|------|
| MAIN | WORM |
| TONE | FIRE |
| AGED | GEMS |
| BARD | OVER |
| PACK | WARD |
| DISC | CAMP |
| ROOT | MASS |
| SAIL | INCH |
| ROBE | CLUB |
| AGES | SCAB |

4. MISSING LINKS

Find the missing link between these pairs.
Each word has 4 letters. The first letter of each word, in order, spells out a local Pub.

- | | | | |
|---------|---|---|--------|
| JACK | (|) | PRIEST |
| LAY | (|) | ON |
| TOOTH | (|) | AXE |
| LEADING | (|) | WAYS |
| CITRIC | (|) | DROP |
| NICK | (|) | PLATE |
| RUN | (|) | RIGHT |
| PAL | (|) | AGE |
| BREAK | (|) | LACE |
| RED | (|) | HANGER |
| BE | (|) | SIGHT |
| FLY | (|) | LAP |
| TIGHT | (|) | WALK |

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

12th May 1998

But - you may say - haven't we just had the Annual Meeting? Well yes ... and no. That was the Annual *Parish* Meeting. **This** was supposed to be more like a routine *Parish Council* Meeting ... only Annual, if you follow. In practice, the need for the Parish to develop an emergency plan, to ensure at least minimal retail services for parishioners over the coming months, made the occasion anything but routine!

The formal business opened with the re-election of **Peter Hurrell** as Chairman of the PC, and **Derrick Yeoman** as Vice-Chairman. Improvements to the Parish Hall were reported, together with steps being taken to assess the feasibility of acquiring the land at the rear of the site. Progress was noted with information boards and signposts in the area. The School had been inspected recently.

District Councillor **Martyn Grose** pointed out that the SHDC's annual surplus from car parking (£200,000) was being used to hold down increases in Council Tax. He looked forward to the transfer of our council housing to a Local Housing Company. This would raise sufficient funds to clear outstanding debts of £13 million, to use £10 million to build up to 500 new houses and to set aside a further £15 million for capital projects helping new industries to get started. Input of the views of Parish Councils on the SHDC Local Plan, in the coming months, was vital.

OUTLINE SCHEDULE TO PRESERVE CONTINUITY OF RETAIL SERVICES

The Chairman opened the main discussion - on the collapse of retail services in Thurlestone - by inviting **Mike Taylor** to

present his report to the PC. This had been compiled in only three weeks, and the following proposals are thought to form the basis for an ***Outline Schedule*** of activities and events over the next year or so:

- # **Basic Post Office** (16 hours per week) in Broads Dairy: from 17th June to 28th July, still with Gordon Bromfield as Postmaster; and from 28th July to early September (if new owners agree) with another Postmaster.
- # **Temporary Post Office** (28 hours per week) in Portakabin in front of barn: from early September to commissioning of new Post Office early in 1999.
- # **New Post Office** (35 hours per week) in refurbished barn: from commissioning date in early 1999 onwards.
- # **Basic Provisions**, under present (or extended) arrangements from Village Stores: until 26th September.
- # **Stop-gap Arrangements**, by means of creation and operation of voluntary system for collection of grocery orders and subsequent delivery to homes: from 27th September to commissioning of new Shop early in 1999. System to be restricted at first to those currently *dependent* on the two existing shops, but could be developed into a permanent service if there is a future demand for it.
- # **Milk Round**, under present arrangements until mid-August when new management is ready to take over.
- # **News Round**, under present arrangements until some time after 27th September when new management is ready to take over.
- # **Questionnaire on Future Needs** for retail services, for parishioners to complete and return, will be enclosed in the June issue of **Village Voice**.

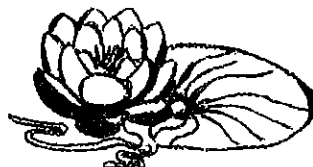
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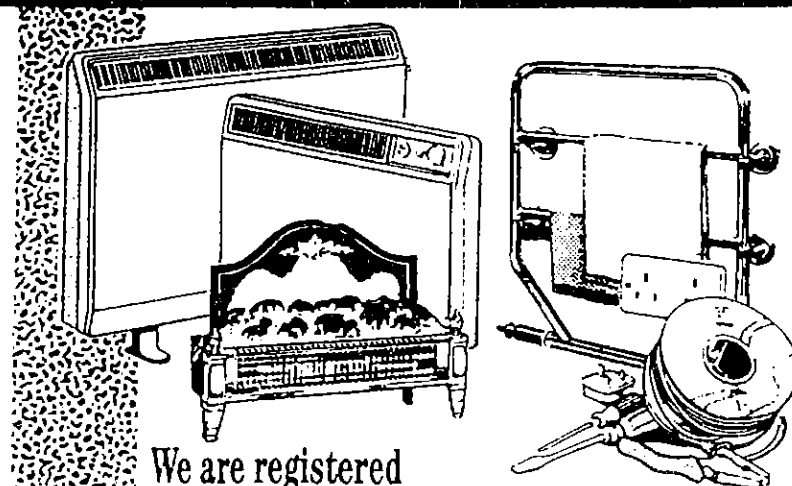
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Weather Wag

by Jan Turner

What a varied and interesting first quarter of the year we have experienced, with everything from frost and snow to unseasonably high temperatures, very high winds and less rain here than normal.

I have included the figures for these facts in this issue so have a look at the rainfall. There has been a continuous decline in amount at my station year on year from 1994 up to 1998. In other areas of the country quite the reverse is the case. The other interesting fact has been the temperature throughout the three months. I don't remember a winter when I have hardly ever put on a coat to hang out the washing or to go to the shops. The temperature was mostly around the 10°-12° C mark during the day, and even the night times saw much higher temperatures than normal.

The February winds were kind and gentle. Even the other months were gentle, with the odd blip. However the blips were memorable with power cuts and damage in various places as a result of 88+ mph gusts. Fences and hedges took a hammering down our way, and the conifers all over the area are very burned on the seaward side. They probably won't recover like the Escallonia and Eleagnus in our garden. These look tatty but are recovering well. There was more sunshine than usual, of course, as little rain leads to clearer skies and therefore more sunshine. Having said that, there was little frost of any real consequence.

April has made up for that in no uncertain way! In fact, it has been a demon of a month, with rain (3 times the normal level here, with 60 mm so far) and very low temperatures leading to damaging frosts. The early potatoes up near Milton Lane End are looking very sad at

present, but they'll come again, as there's still plenty of time.

I can't let this issue go without mentioning my old friend **El Nino**. Tornadoes of frightening proportions in America, droughts in Africa, and severe floods with loss of life in the Midlands in our own country, are all linked to the beast. Watching 999 the other night was a salutary reminder that mother nature will "have her own back" at some point if we go on abusing her.

Then there's the huge block of "ice shelf" which has broken off the Larsen Ice shelf in Antarctica. It's an iceberg - 25 miles long and 3 miles wide - setting off on its journey of self-destruction. In so doing it will produce a massive amount of freezing cold water surrounding it, and as it travels away from the ice shelf it will cool the water through which it floats. What then?? Some predict it could affect the weather globally, so there is another factor in the weather pattern equation for us to battle with.

THEN THERE IS US. What are we doing to counter it? NOT MUCH, if we look around and see the huge fires (not naturally occurring ones) that still rage on in the Rainforests, or the misuse of the land by all and sundry in most parts of the world to a greater or lesser degree. However, although **El Nino** IS a naturally occurring phenomenon we have to watch out we don't encourage its effects by our own abuse of the whole natural environment in which we live. Enough, enough! I'm getting too serious. (But it is you know!!)

Now, what about April? Never know'd the like, beggared if I 'ev. Snow, frost, gales,

rain, hail, you name it, we had it - even fog, mist and glorious sunshine. Yesterday, 25th April, there were children playing in the surf. Today the sea has been a beautiful blue with a few white tops and wind surfers scooting across the bay.

On Tuesday 15th April my grandchildren were on the beach for a walk with their Dad and saw a seal frolicking in the surf. We don't see too many so near the beach. It sat up in the sea and had a good look, just checking that they were behaving well and then disappeared. We saw him/her again the next day, again very close in. He had another good look, a sort of casual chat, showed us a few tricks, then swam off, disgusted that we wouldn't play with him. The children couldn't believe that they had seen one in the wild.

There have been dolphins off Lyme Regis and several other sightings of animals or birds here earlier than usual. Many butterflies are already about, I saw several in the garden yesterday. I wonder how many other little "thingies" are getting about, ones that we are not so eager to see. Mild winters often bring unpleasant surprises in the form of aphids or cabbage white butterflies. In 1988-9 there were so many aphids that there were fears that the supply of pesticides would run out. Aphids also spread plant viruses, and as a result crop diseases were rife. However nature always attempts to put things right and there was a booming population of ladybirds who feast on aphids.

Perhaps the most sensitive of the garden 'pests' is the humble slug. Weather-wise it reacts swiftly in order to keep its skin moist otherwise it dies of dehydration. So when dry weather is imminent it retreats underground in order to avoid death. When the wet weather returns it gets going again doing what it does best, eating your plants. In the summer of 1990 the sales of slug pellets were seriously affected. We usually spend about £7-8 million pounds on pellets, but in that dry summer sales fell by about £1m.

Rabbits also react to warmer temperatures and breed with great glee. After the 1960s Myxomatosis disease almost wiped out a large proportion of the rabbit population, the remainder became more resistant and since then farmers have been faced with a plague of fine healthy rabbits. My garden is now totally fenced in, just the front wall (over which they clamber) and the gate to equip with small mesh rabbit netting. All to grow a few plants that can survive the sea and winds, but I guess it will be worth it. Even the Colorado beetle is knocking on the door with alarming regularity. Thank goodness for the English Channel. They cannot fly in temperatures less than 25° C so the air over the Channel is a fine barrier.

I think that we may well be in for a good summer! I'm no forecaster, but there's a feeling about the air that says we will not be disappointed. Hopefully enough to suit all our needs. "Is that Utopia?" I ask myself. *Well, we can hope - can't we?*

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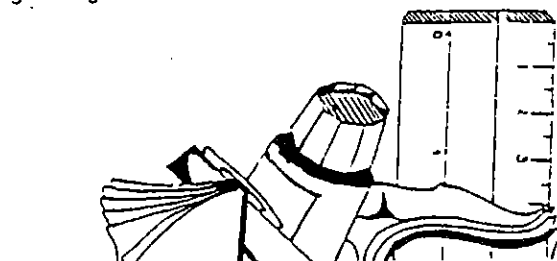
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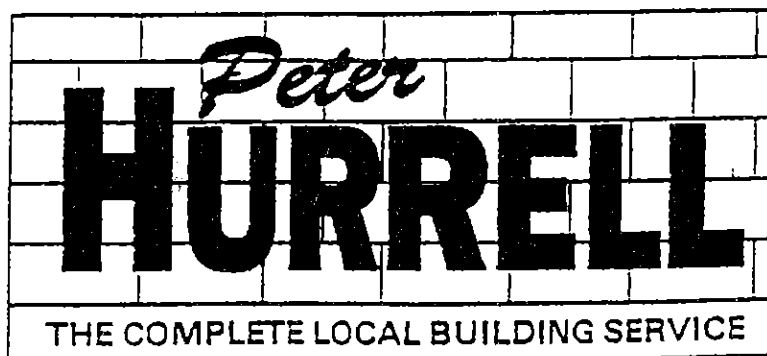
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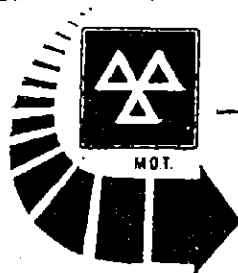
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VEGETABLE MOUSSAKA

As any Greek will tell you, a moussaka is made with minced lamb. So this is not the authentic dish, but it uses aubergines - the other essential ingredient - and the lentils, high in protein, are an excellent substitute for the meat. You can add sliced mushrooms - or courgettes - if you wish and, if you do not like too much oil, you can blanch the aubergines for three minutes in boiling water instead of frying them. The recipe serves six people.

● Ingredients

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 4 ozs green lentils | 2 large aubergines, thinly sliced |
| 1 large red pepper | 2 tablespoons of tomato paste |
| 2 large onions, chopped | 2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped |
| 1/4 pint of red wine | 1 tin (400 grams) of chopped tomatoes |
| 1/2 pint of vegetable stock | 1 heaped teaspoon each of cinnamon and nutmeg |
| 6 tablespoons olive oil | 1 tablespoon of chopped parsley |

● Topping

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 500 grams of Greek yoghurt | 2 eggs, beaten |
| 100 grams of Feta cheese, crumbled | Grated nutmeg, black pepper, and parmesan |

● Method

1. Beat together all the ingredients for the topping except the parmesan.
2. Simmer the lentils in the vegetable stock for half an hour or until they are soft, but still whole. Meanwhile, fry the onion in 2 tablespoons of oil until golden, add the garlic and pepper and cook gently, covered, until the pepper softens. Then add the tomatoes, tomato paste, spices, wine and parsley. Stir in the cooked lentils and season to taste.
3. Fry the aubergine slices in the remaining oil until lightly browned on both sides. (It's quicker to blanch them but they will have less flavour)
4. Line a shallow ovenproof dish with half the aubergine slices and spread half the lentil mixture over them. Repeat this and then carefully pour on the topping. Sprinkle it with grated parmesan and bake the moussaka for half an hour at 180° C (350° F, gas mark 4) until well browned and bubbling.

"JAMES" RIDES AGAIN!

by Joan Galloway

I bought *James* - in spite of the name she is a SHE - in 1940, second-hand, for £65. This 1938 Open Morris 2-seater has had a hard working life; many small boys in our school learnt to drive on her, and we used to take up to five boys at a time on outings, to matches and so on. My youngest son, Robert, was driving her round the school grounds at the age of eight. When we retired, in 1977, Robert completely rebuilt her during his first year at university, and on completion she passed her MOT, by Maurice, first time.

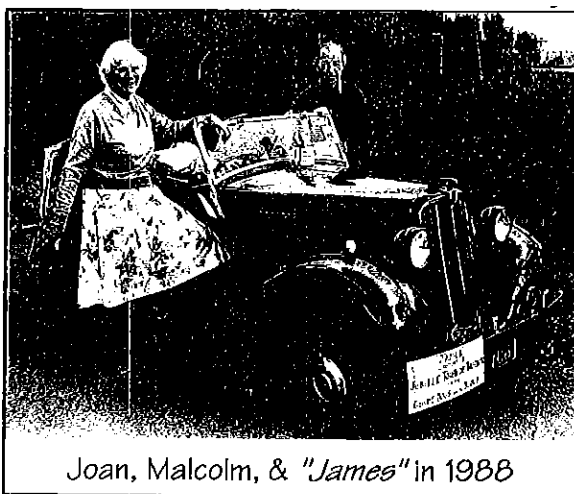
In 1988, when *James* was 50 years old, Malcolm, my husband, and I did a Round Britain Tour, doing a total mileage of 3,214 miles and raising £3,313 in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind, through sponsors and donations. Wherever we stopped we used to put a collecting tin on the bonnet and some 'blurb' about *James*, and the tin was never stolen and there was always some money in it when we returned to the car. It truly restored one's faith in human nature!

Now she is 60! Sadly I no longer have Malcolm but I am determined to celebrate, albeit in a much smaller way, and in July I plan to do a round trip up to Cumbria, returning via Banbury. My eldest son lives near Kirkby Stephen and he and his wife are hosting a 40th birthday party for Robert, and my trip is planned to coincide with this.

Rosemary Stocken has very kindly agreed to come with me as far as Cumbria, and I shall be more than delighted to have her company as it means we can go on all the smaller roads with a passenger to map read, which will add to the enjoyment enormously. I admit freely to being a bit apprehensive about doing the trip on my own.

In 1988 we thought it would make more point to our trip if we got sponsored, and I am thinking the same now - though of course

in a much smaller way. I have decided to do it in aid of **THURLESTONE CHURCH** and the **NSPCC** equally, and shall be most grateful to any who feel like supporting us. There is a form below which may be completed, or the NSPCC committee and PCC members will have forms. Kay Morley has kindly agreed to have them in her shop, and they will also be available in the church.



Joan, Malcolm, & "James" in 1988

I reckon we will do a maximum of 950 miles if we complete the trip, and this is probably a very optimistic figure. By Motorway it is 300 miles plus from Cumbria to Thurlestone.

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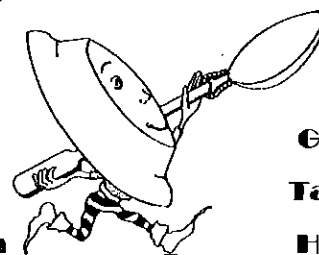
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HORSWELL DIARY

Two weeks ago I was wondering if my geraniums would survive their sprinkling of snow. Today it is so hot that the dogs are lying in the shade under the Jeep whilst Genghis, our lonesome peacock, is stretched out on its roof, soaking up the sunshine. He and Imran had their annual cockfight yesterday to determine territory and ownership of the two hens for the forthcoming mating season. They flew at each other with their spurs extended, screeching and pecking ferociously and trampling on one another's magnificent tails. Poor old Genghis didn't seem to put up much of a fight this year, quickly bowing to his inevitable defeat. Meanwhile Imran, his feathers puffed up and tail fully displayed, strutted around the courtyard with the precise steps and arrogance of a flamenco dancer, his head thrown back crowing victory to the far hills with a raucous screech.

Jemima and Betty seem resigned to the outcome and are snoozing in the cool earthy scrapes they have dug in the rose bed whilst above them, perched triumphantly on the stone ball at the top of a tall gatepost, Imran preens himself in the sunshine, his chest and head the colour of burnished lapis lazuli, the green and golden feathers of his long sweeping tail shimmering like silken threads in the breeze.

The daffodils are over now, their untidy leaves enabling grass and weeds to grow around them, safe from the mower for some time yet. I shall miss being able to bring armfuls of "Cheerfulness" indoors, their sweet perfume scenting the whole house. There are still the gentle primroses, cowslips and bluebells to remind us of Spring but already the hot pinks, purples and yellows of the azaleas and rhododendrons hint at summer, looking almost tropical against the cloudless blue sky. In the woods the dark skeletal shapes of beech and oak are gradually

softening in a haze of palest green as "the folded leaf is wooed from the bud with winds upon the branch" and, in the orchard, blossoms of pear and apple are scattered like confetti over the trees.

The air is filled with the sound of birdsong, an endless chatter and chirrup and flutter of activity as blackbirds and blue tits, goldfinch and greenfinch, great tit and thrush go busily about their daily tasks. The only other sounds are the rattle of the Sunday papers, the splash of the fountain and the sound of the sea sighing through the trees. In Tennyson's words, "There is sweet music here that softer falls than petals from blown roses on the grass". Heaven is having the time to stop and listen to it.

Even paradise has its sadness. Last week three of our ornamental ducks disappeared in a trail of feathers leading to the woods. Two Carolinas with their fore-and-aft admiral's 'hats' and our handsome red-crested Pochard must have made a tasty dish for a hungry fox or, from the droppings left, perhaps a badger. It seems a cowardly act. The ducks are all so tame they feed from our hands, waddling across the lawn to wait for their food, unafraid of dogs or peacocks. Their death would have been poor sport, particularly as the hens were sitting on eggs, keeping their mates close to home. We are anxious for the remaining female Pochard who is still sitting on her nest, the last male Carolina who has taken over the role of her chaperone, and our pair of mallards whose bright intelligent eyes regard us with such total trust.

In London, last month, we were invited on an official visit to the Surrey Docks Farm Project, which is an inner city 'farm' - on just two acres of land in Bermondsey - to initiate underprivileged city children into rural life. Looking at the high-rise blocks and treeless streets all around, it is easy to understand that

the beauty of the countryside, which we can sometimes take for granted, is something the local children find hard to comprehend. The farm provides a colourful oasis, an escape to another world, a safe haven for the maladjusted, a refuge for children who have been abused and a stimulus to those with learning and emotional problems.

The energy, enthusiasm and creativity that emanates from those young people involved in maintaining its existence and running the educational programme was an inspiration, and the power of a few ducks, sheep, goats and chickens to heal the wounds of harsh urban life was a delight to see. It reminded me how, as a child, I had immersed myself in

the world of Doctor Doolittle, day-dreaming of his travels and conversations with his motley crew of animals, safe in their world, far removed from the insecurities of adult life. It's strange how day-dreams come true. Sitting here in the sunshine with our dogs and birds around us, the trout in the pond, the fish in the fountain, the old fat toad trying to hide under a leaf and the bumble bee circling my head, there is a sense of harmony and mutual understanding of which Doctor Doolittle would have approved - a "gentleness in hearts at peace under an English Heaven".

All I need now is a Push-me-pull-you!

Prunella Dart

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Malborough	09.28	16.35
Salcombe Gould Rd	09.40	15.23
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Soar Mill, Sun Park	09.69	15.04
Bolberry Down Car Park	10.07	14.56
Inner Hope, Coastguard Stn.	10.17	14.46
South Milton Stores	10.36	14.27
Thurlestone Church	10.45	14.18
Kingsbridge Quay	11.05	14.00

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Chillington	11.31	17.32
Stokenham Carehouse Cross	11.34	17.29
Beeson Village	11.39	17.23
Beesands - Cricket Inn	11.42	17.20
Start Point Car Park	11.54	17.08
East Prawle - The Green	12.12	16.50
Gara Rocks Hotel	12.22	16.40
East Portlemouth,	12.28	16.34
South Pool, Mill Brook Inn	12.44	16.18
Frogmore New Road	12.51	16.12
West Charleton	12.57	16.06
Kingsbridge Quay	13.03	16.00

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Diary of Events

at the Village Inn



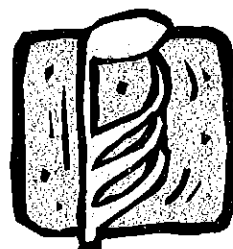
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JUNE



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11th - Thursday - DIXIE DEMONS JAZZ BAND

JULY

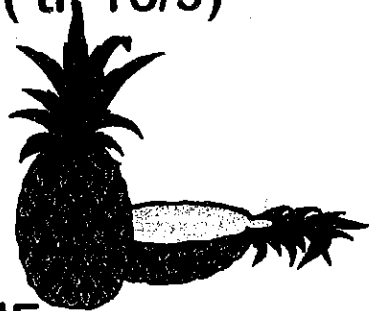


9th - Thursday - HOWARD JONES



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AUGUST

7th - Friday - DIXIE DEMONS JAZZ BAND



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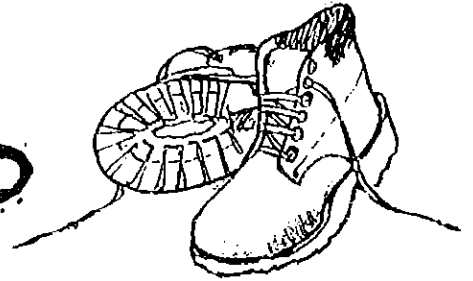


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TRAMP



It was cancelled last year due to unsuitable Moors weather and I was convinced right up to the last minute that our Lydford Gorge walk would suffer the same fate in 1998. Cold winds and rain had been the order of the day right up to 15th April, when (guess what!) we awoke to a covering of snow. However a more encouraging report from the Devon and Cornwall border, in the area of Lydford, persuaded me that the walk would still be on.

We assembled in the Parish Hall car-park at 9.10 am and headed towards Lydford. Sure enough, by the time we arrived the sun was out and the snow was virtually non-existent. Eighteen of us - with three dogs - then set off via lanes and tracks towards the moor to the east of the A 386.

The going was good, and the low temperature in a strong northerly wind ensured that a fair pace was set. We soon passed the WD sign and set off down towards Hornden - not to the Elephants Nest, as some had hoped, but to a footpath which climbed through the fields before descending into a small copse where, with the sun shining brightly and good shelter from the biting northerly, we took lunch.

Two visitors had been incorrectly advised regarding lunch arrangements, but a "loaves and fishes" share-out ensured they had a more varied meal than many of us. As the clouds covered the sun we set off across the fields, passing Wheal Betsey Engine House, over the A.386 again and turned due north into the still biting wind. Topping the crest of this bit of moorland, we were able to see the cottages and the Mucky Duck at the southern end of the Gorge.

Arriving at the Gorge we discovered that all the walkers were members of the NT so the £3.20 entrance fee wasn't required except by one member who had forgotten her card (what a generous husband she had!). The Gorge was at its very best as the amount of rain during the past week had swollen the river and falls to exciting levels, and of course we were sheltered from the wind. After approximately 45 minutes we arrived at the far end of the Gorge and stopped at the Café for a welcome drink.

Despite our worries as to whether we should take to the moors or not, all turned out well in the end. The walk was voted most successful and, with the nine miles being devoid of any long steep climbs, was not too strenuous.

Derek Yeoman

2 When we had finally gathered at New Waste, the starting point of our first May walk, the eleven of us - and three dogs - decided not to take the coward's way out and follow a more sheltered track from Ivybridge. The dogs didn't mind. In any case, their opinion was not sought.

Beneath gloomy skies we set off up the Yealm valley, skirting the wood for a while. The rain held off, and the sun even threatened to come out - but decided better of it. A little beyond the waterfall at Yealm Steps we came out of the valley on to the open moor, and followed some compass bearing or other taken on a largely invisible landmark. On we squelched over the waterlogged tussocks, the drizzle becoming more persistent. Soon the more perceptive of us realized that our northerly

course was somewhat unusual in that the west wind was coming from our right. In fact the compass had made up its mind to mislead us - by 180 degrees. It wanted to go home.

Changing course slightly we soon reached a river valley which would have been the Erme had it not been the Yealm, and we started downstream. The drizzle having stopped, a convenient dip seemed a good place to have lunch. We were not tempted to linger, and in

no time at all we were back at Yealm Steps and skirting the woods once more.

For a moment the sun nearly shone, but when we arrived back at the cars it was raining again and we were glad we hadn't gone in search of the Erme. The dogs didn't comment.

However, despite the adverse conditions, we had enjoyed the walk!

Pam Brewster

POSTBAG

Dear Editor,

It was a pity that *Villager*, in an otherwise amusing article in the last issue, made some ill-judged remarks. I am sure we all sympathize with those who suffer, rather than profit, from the impact of market forces but those market forces have very little to do with government and even less with a "legislation-mad government".

Certainly, most of us would agree that some farmers are suffering at present, but no useful purpose is served by confusing the issues. Countryside Marches and other claims for public sympathy should be seen as what they are - self-interested lobbying. There's nothing wrong with lobbying. But *Villager* is surely wrong to equate the "raw deal" farmers are having to suffer with that faced by his "other country dwellers"! Indeed, the rest of his article seems to underline my point.

I am also sorry that *Villager* chose to propagate that hoary old myth that the District Council knows nothing about the needs of this parish. Don't we have a district councillor elected by us to represent us, for goodness sake? *Villager* knows very well, I am sure, that the District Council has to follow planning legislation enacted in the past

by central governments determined to limit the independence of local government.

Let us at least try, in *Village Voice*, to hit the right targets rather than lash out at our District Council. That's not going to get us anywhere.

Basil Fox

Aune Cross House, Bantham

Dear Editor

The Thurlestone branch of the NSPCC would like to express their sincere thanks to the many kind people who attended, contributed, or helped in other ways to make their recent fund-raising events in Thurlestone so successful. The Bridge evening raised £242 and the Jumble Sale £497.

Perhaps our friends and supporters would also like to make a note of our next event, which will be a Coffee morning on Thursday, 18th July at the home of Mr & Mrs Wilson.

With thanks again for your help and generosity.

Monica Dickins

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NEVILLE OSWALD OFFERS SOME ADVICE TO WOULD-BE CONTRIBUTORS TO VILLAGE VOICE

One of the joys of Thurlestone is the arrival every two months of the latest edition of Village Voice.

Thanks to the efforts of three outstanding editors over the years, we are regularly kept up to date with what is going on in the place. Some of us who have known VV since it started perhaps do not realize that it has an effect on one's way of thinking. In my case I found that, having struggled for years to write rather turgid scientific articles, the editors of VV wanted material that readers actually enjoyed reading - something that had not occurred to me before - and that contained some memorable fact or experience. If it was amusing, so much the better.

Restriction to these limitations - all of which were foreign to me - and then having to apply them to Thurlestone would, I thought, be an impossible burden. I remembered the inauspicious start to writing I made more than 60 years ago, and how immensely proud I was when my first article was accepted for publication in our hospital journal. Alas it was, as far as I could tell, completely ignored by potential readers and soon sank without trace. My next article, compiled with infinite trouble, I showed to my consultant for his opinion. He took it and said he would edit it and then submit it to the British Medical Journal for possible publication. I was thrilled, of course, and somehow managed to exist during the six anxious months that followed, until it finally appeared in print. When it did, the consultant's name was blazoned across the top with no sign of mine anywhere.

Even so, the habit of writing stuck and then, when I retired, VV came along. By then I had become hardened to the whims of editors and

had no fear when coming under the influence of someone who had spent years in the cut and thrust of journalism in London. He taught me to adapt to the style that VV demanded, and I am grateful to him; I hope my articles have been both readable and informative.

Where does all this get a potential new contributor to VV? Well, although I have described the requirements to him as best I can, he may wish to go a little further and consider the advice that Bernard Shaw gave, "*Take a subject of the utmost seriousness and treat it with the utmost triviality*". I think this is only half an answer because we might equally "*Take a subject of the utmost triviality and treat it with the utmost seriousness*".

How does this work out in practice in a place like Thurlestone? Well, recent VVs have given details of impending changes in various Bromfield establishments, most of the detail coming from the journalist with the Fleet Street training. Imagine being invited to go with him when he prepares a further instalment. You find a newly-built house and ask for his comments. He says he could write several pages about it, off the cuff, but would have to consult his not inconsiderable library if a detailed study were required. He then notices that two of the bricks on the house are damaged, and says he could write similarly about the two bricks. "*Which would you prefer*", he asks, "*a diatribe on the differences between mock Tudor and Queen Anne or a detailed description of bricklaying?*" You do not know; you are out of your depth. He advises you, before you make up your mind, to capture the mood of the village.

You look around and the only sign of life is a little lady of mature years waiting for a bus.

Then you hear the crescendo of tinkling milk bottles, heralding the approach of Peter - in his time probably the best header of a football that Thurlestone has ever produced. In a flash he is gone. I call on Jean and find she has the day off. We pass Bert puffing up the hill on his heavily laden bicycle and then find Kay chatting to Doris. She has no time for us as she is just off to Plymouth to buy her weekly supply of stores. Then it's on up to Maurice's place where Keith is trying to shift one of the Stidston vehicles that is blocking the entrance, and Maurice is inside lying on his back under a car, muttering to himself. I do not care to disturb him.

I give up; to hell with the mood of the village. Then the present editor of VV turns

up unexpectedly and, noting my signs of distress, tries to calm me down. I explain my difficulties and she is kindness itself. Editors, she says, exist to help people, otherwise they would not get enough contributions to fill their journals. I now realize how lucky we are to have her, and the Fleet Street man, on the spot and available. Any would-be contributors to VV, however confused and incompetent they think they may be, should consult them and listen to what they have to say. Who knows, some of them may soon burst forth into print.

Writing can be a hard taskmaster, but surely there are few - if any - pleasanter pastimes.

Neville Oswald

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TENNIS NEWS LETTER

It is disappointing that the tennis courts, outside the summer months, are very much under-used.

Potentially we have what could be an excellent amenity, so we are intending to revitalise the club by building up the senior membership and regenerating a club fraternity. We are calling on all players, and also any would-be players, to come and join us and make it happen. Non-members of the club will be welcome.

Please do not be put off, even if your game is rusty or, indeed, if you are a beginner. The playing ability of the existing group is mixed.

We meet at the club pavilion every Monday afternoon at 2.00 pm, playing from 2.30 through to 5.30 pm, and

hopefully we will continue through the year, as far as the weather will permit. As indicated the tennis pavilion will be open, along with the changing rooms should you need to use them. Those of us who want to, can also socialize over tea and biscuits during the afternoons.

It is also recognized that many people who might like to play tennis with the club cannot do so during the working day. This being the case we would like to hear from you, since it may be possible, based on the interest, to arrange games in the evenings or at weekends.

If you have any prior questions, or would simply just like to register an interest, please contact me on 560760 or my colleague Tricia Gange on 561300.

Michael Phillips

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1998

Saturdays at 2.30 pm (25.7.98 to 29.8.98) **Senior Mixed Doubles - Round Robin**
Tuesdays at 2.30 pm (28.7.98 to 25.8.98) **Ladies Doubles - Round Robin**
Thursdays at 2.30 pm (30.7.98 to 27.8.98) **Men's Doubles - Round Robin**

The section will again be running a series of junior tournaments during school holidays as follows:

Tuesdays at 9.30 am **Two progressive events** ages 10 -13 and 14-16

Thursdays at 9.30 am **Two Round Robin events** ages 10 -13 and 14-16

Starter tennis **Round Robin event** (10 am to 11.30 am) ages 8-10 years

The committee is asking for volunteers to help run this event for the young players.

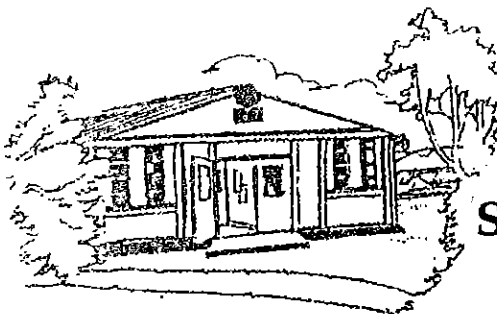
Please contact Lindsay Fletcher (560157)

Details of above events with tournament entry lists will be posted on the tennis club notice board

Starter tennis tuition for ages 5-10 years is available in summer and throughout school holidays.

THE COMMITTEE REMINDS MEMBERS THAT COURTS ARE TO BE BOOKED AT ALL TIMES WITH THE GOLF PRO'S SHOP PRIOR TO PLAYING. ALL MEMBERS' GUESTS - AND NON-MEMBERS - MUST BE SIGNED IN AND REGISTERED IN THE VISITORS' BOOK IN THE GOLF PRO'S SHOP BEFORE PLAYING. A DAILY PLAYING TICKET WILL THEN BE ISSUED.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE
THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST AT 6 PM
IN THE TENNIS CLUBHOUSE



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Thurlestone & South Milton

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DIARY DATES

JUNE		
Sat	6th	Cheese & Wine for local Patient Support Group
Thur	11th	W1, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Folk Songs)
Tues	16th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed	17th	TRAMP, Down Thomas, Wembury
Sat	20th	Primrose Appeal Coffee Morning, P.Hall, 10.30 am
Wed	30th	TRAMP, Coletton Fishacre (NT)

JULY		
Wed	1st	TRAMP, Cremyll, Rame Head
Thur	2nd	W1 Garden Lunch
Sat	4th	Conservative Coffee Morning, Hotel, 10.30 am
Sat/Sun	4th/5th	Village Gardens Week-End, S.Milton (see inside)
Thur	9th	W1, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Food Allergies)
Wed	15th	TRAMP, Holbeton, Mothecombe (swim)
Thur	16th	NSPCC Garden Coffee Morning
Tues	21st	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm

AUGUST		
Sat	1st	Horticultural Show, S.Milton Village Hall, 2.30 pm
Tues	5th	TRAMP, Tavy Cleave
Tues	11th	Barbecue on the Green, 6.00 pm
Wed	12th	Tennis AGM, Clubhouse Pavilion, 6.00 pm
Tues	19th	TRAMP, Holne, O Brook

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

VILLAGE VOICE

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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 Banham and Buckland.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 6th JULY 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

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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	to be announced	
PARISH COUNCIL Chairman Vice-Chairman Parish Clerk: District Councillor: County Councillor Members	Peter Hurrell Derrick Yeoman John Lonsdale Marya Grose Simon Day John Dayment David Grose Charles Mitchelmore Geoffrey Stidson 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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