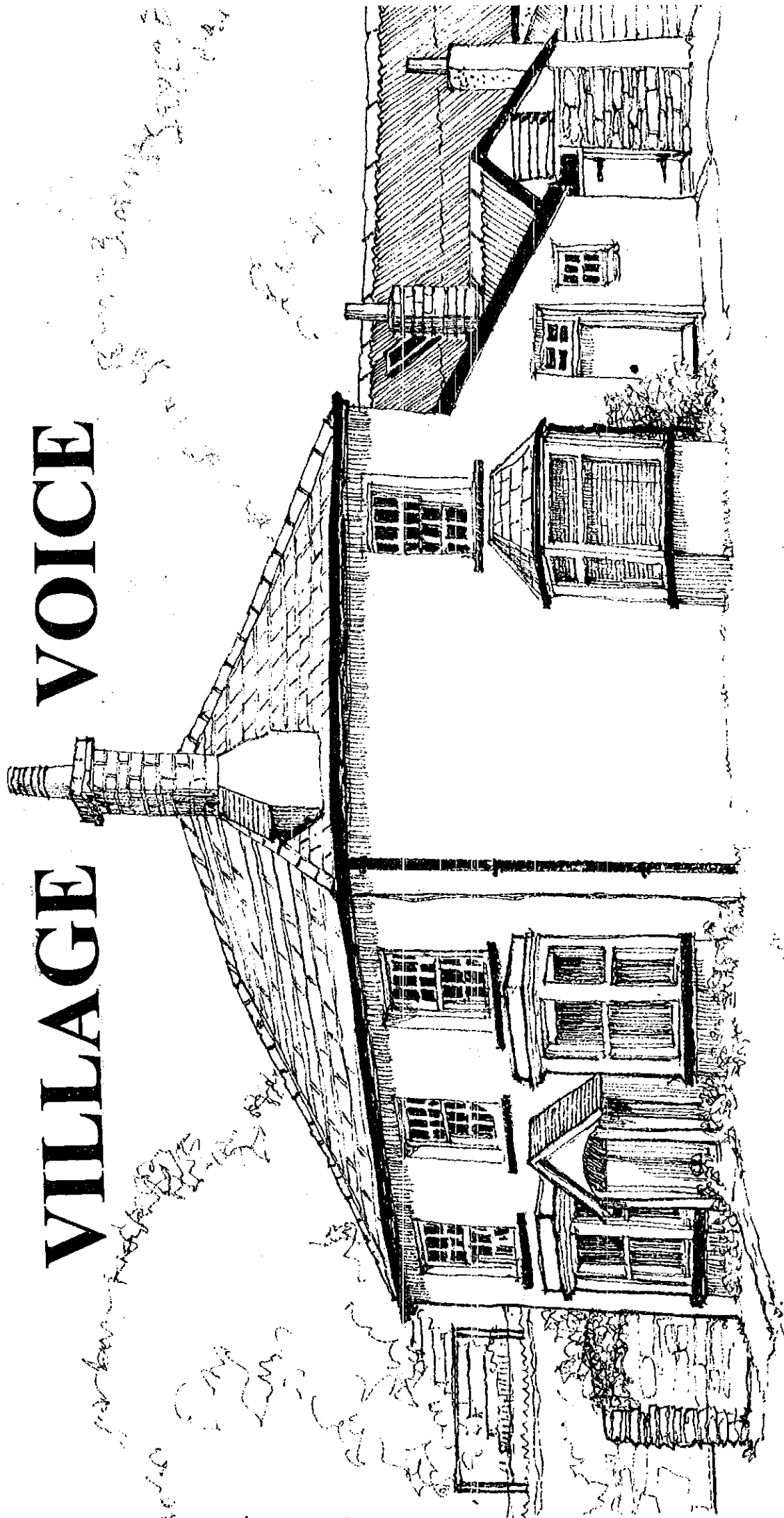


VILLAGE VOICE



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 1998



NUMBER 93
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1998

Hats off! The Post Office is alive and well and still flourishing in Thurlestone. Courtesy of the action duo of Mike Taylor and Derrick Yeoman (and others acknowledged within this issue) our new (albeit temporary) Postmistress Jean Yeoman is now Portakabinned outside the shop-to-be, facing the cannon - and the future - with confidence, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

The community spirit that has brought this about will surely continue to manifest itself in support for the venture, by transferring State pensions and allowances from banked to cash-paid ones wherever possible, and paying a variety of bills (eg SWEB) via our local Post Office with consequential savings on postage.

Next year, the permanently-homed Post Office & Village Shop can look forward to selling a stack of commemorative postcards of the Eclipse to those meteorological twitchers wanting to prove to their friends that "I was there!" But for now, it is local support that is required to see to it that Thurlestone Post Office has only one black day in the coming calendar. *So come on, Delson!*

Founder Dudley Drabble

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"YOU AIN'T SEEN NUFFINK YET!"

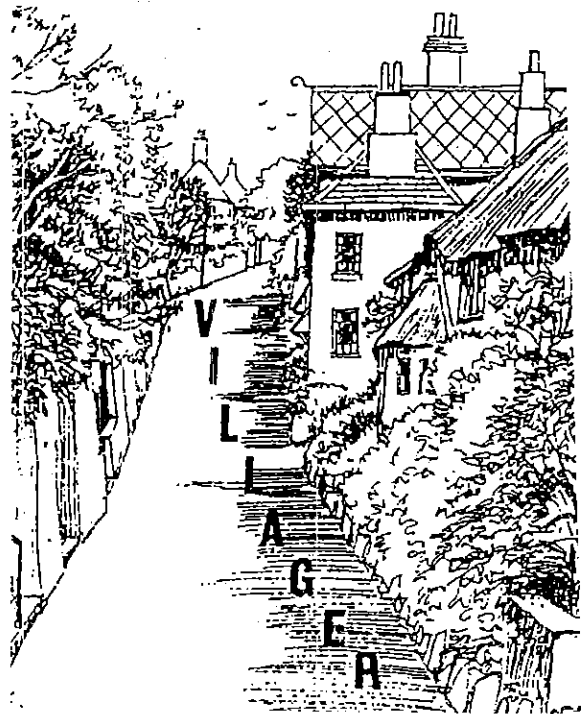
The broad Mead accent did nothing to hide the speaker's fears. He said it again - "You ain't seen nuffink yet!" He was, it seems, talking about the future of tourism in this heavenly parish and in particular about next summer.

Now each year is different as far as holiday-makers are concerned. Of course, it's all quiet now and, except for the scars on our memories, everything seems much the same as before they swamped us this summer.

But residents can date the year by some particularly distinctive thing about those tourists - do you remember that 1997 was the year of the "wedge of cheese" luggage carriers on their roof-racks?

Whereas this year was marked by the open sports cars whose drivers, once they reached rumble-strips, whipped out their mobile phones and posed their way through the villages. Of course, this came a bit unstuck in Bantham when a traffic-block from the Churchstow roundabout to The Sloop could take more than an hour-and-a-half. There is a limit to how much posing you can do, how much fake conversation you can have with (a) wife (b) mistress or (c) (much misnamed) "gay" friend. Either way, we shall remember the summer of 1998 as the Year of the Phone Posies.

But what was our Old Meadonian on about? You ain't seen nuffink yet...wasn't this year bad enough? It was only when we were about to loosen his tongue with liberal applications of a local spirit and assure him that the police "Ring of Steel" was still clamped tightly round the parish so that it was safe to venture out again (provided you locked up carefully behind you), that he was able to utter a long sibilant sound. At first it was just a hiss then, as we strained our ears, the word "eclipsesse" came whistling out.



Soon all was revealed. The summer of 1999 is the Year of the Sun's Total Eclipse, and as it is only possible to see the full eclipse from South Devon and Cornwall vantage points such as our parish, the pundits are already forecasting millions, yes **millions**, of extra holiday-makers descending on us in August. Signs of shortages are already taking place - prices of accommodation for the vital time are soaring and they say that those who haven't booked now may well be disappointed. From all reports it really seems likely that we ain't seen nuffink yet.

So what are we going to do to be saved? Should everyone turn their garden into a camp site for these New Visitors? Should all farmers stop farming and turn all their fields over to caravans and campers? And their barns to backpackers? What about food supplies? We all know how these holiday-makers like to eat. Will we have to be supplied by sea?

Should everything south of Kingsbridge become a no-go area with only residents allowed to drive the lanes? Should every



village become a pedestrian precinct? Should the "Ring of Steel" become even bigger and tighter? Should we have a park-and-ride at the entrance to each and every village?

Let's forget about small problems like the Post Office Portakabin. Let's swing all our resources on to tackling this new problem.

Death by tourist seems a serious possibility in the summer of 1999. That is why I am calling for volunteers for a special emergency committee to deal with the Day The Sun Goes Out.

Your Parish Needs You!

Villager

*Parish of Thurlestone Society
cordially invite you to*

"IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT ON THE NIGHT"

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 1998
Thurlestone Hotel at 7.30 pm

**A unique opportunity to see the as-yet-unedited material
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"The Land Of The Five Beaches"**

Come and see the "rushes" of our documentary
on the history, life, and times of our parish
See the aerial shots, the days of smuggling and wrecks re-enacted
Watch all the activities of the parish
See the local school children recounting its early history,
and the older residents talking about their early days here
And lots more besides!

Refreshments

Please come and enjoy a very entertaining evening

PARISH COUNCIL : NEWS IN BRIEF

A Parish Council meeting was held on 15th September 1998

POLICE MATTERS

Inspector **David Sumner** was invited to respond to the Parish Council's worries over possible changes in local policing policies. These worries were caused by the report - at the last Parish Council meeting - of the deliberations at the latest South Hams Police Liaison meeting.

Readers will be relieved to see his open letter, printed in Postbag, which covers the substance of his address to the Parish Council. This statement of policing policies is not markedly different from the ideas of his predecessor, and is very much welcomed.

HOMEFIELD FARM AND FARMHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS

These two important developments have now been given formal planning approval.

The Portakabin which is to house the temporary Post Office is now in place. It will provide Postmistress **Jean Yeoman** with a bright and airy working environment, and offers a more convenient and central location for all residents of the village.

LAND FOR COMMUNITY USE

Representatives of the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, South Hams District Council and Evans Estates, together with a SHDC planning officer and a local resident, met on 11th September to formulate proposals for the use of the piece of land behind the church which is being offered by Evans Estates for community purposes.

The draft proposals provide for both a playing field and a screened car park for about 14 cars.

MISCELLANEOUS

"School - Keep Clear" markings are now in place outside the school but it was noted that the warning was not always observed. The matter would be pursued with the people believed to be involved.

District Councillor **Martyn Grose** pointed out that the Government's Crime & Disorder Bill requires SHDC to formulate a strategy for dealing with crime in the area.

There was a complaint about the regular passage through Thurlestone of the Thurlestone Sands Holiday Fellowship coach during holiday periods. The chairman is to take up the subject informally.

Chippings are to be placed on the lower half of the Warren Hill footpath as well as on the top half.

Detailed tests are to be carried out to identify the source of the Buckland Stream pollution.

A reminder was given that the PC had been asked to send a representative to the next meeting of the South Hams Rural Transport Forum.

Concern was expressed about the safety of an East Buckland resident's new garden dam.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Parish Hall, Thurlestone, on 13th October 1998, at 7.30 pm.

Citizen

Roger Hind

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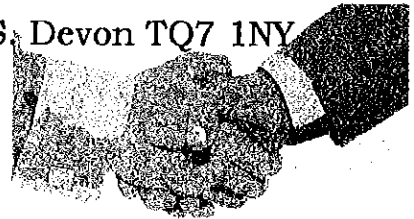
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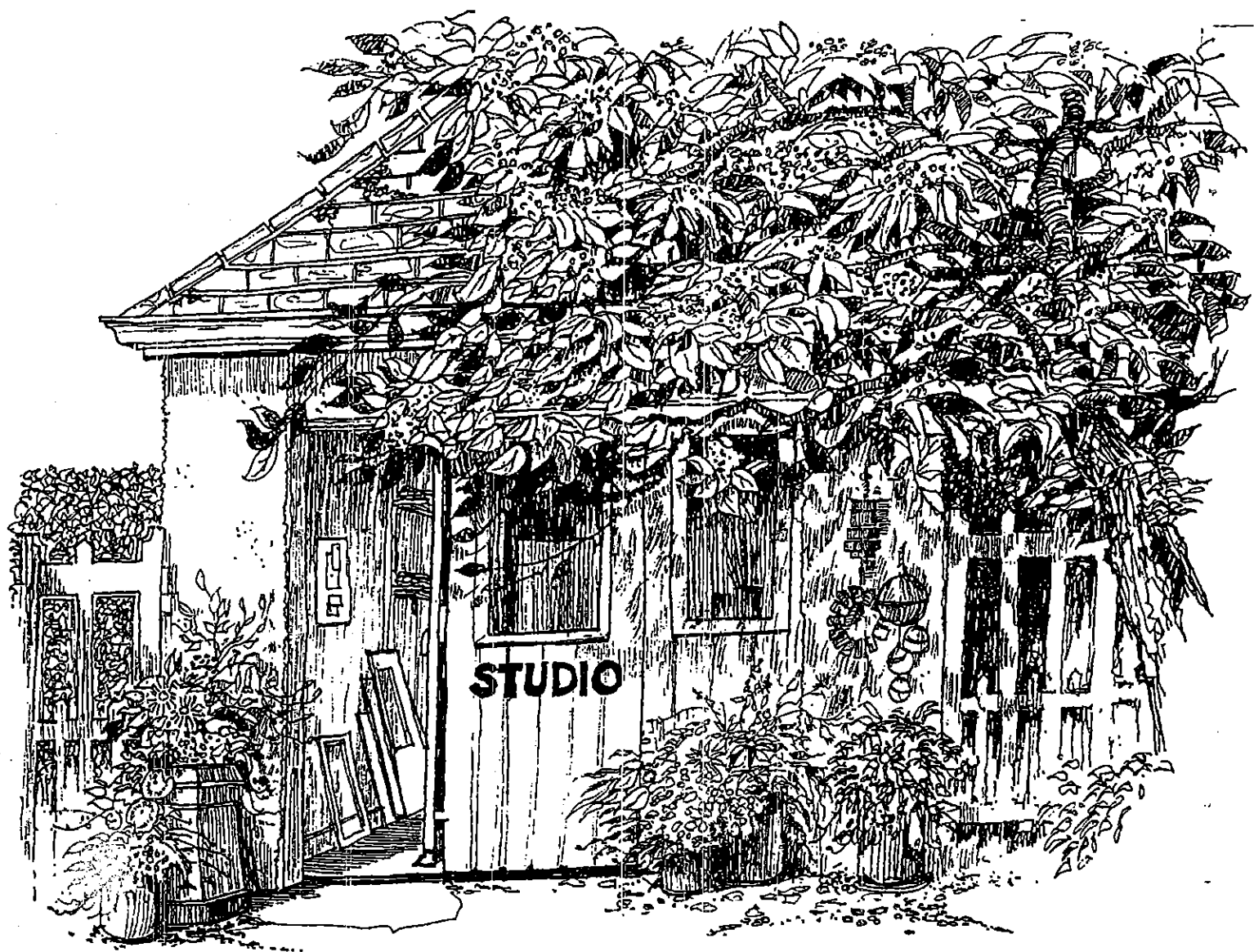
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POSTBAG

Letter from Inspector David Sumner, Kingsbridge Police Station

The comments on policing in the last edition of Village Voice no doubt worried the readership and called into question my commitment to policing Thurlestone. I therefore hope you will publish my response so that I can attempt to repair some of the damage that has been done.



WPC Jan Utting

WPC Jan Utting is the community constable for Thurlestone and the surrounding areas. This was the case prior to my arrival and continues to be so. Jan will already be known to many of you through the contact she has made in her capacity as your local officer. I hope the photograph will help as an introduction to those who are not yet acquainted with Jan.

WPC Utting also has to respond to "999" calls and other requests for police assistance in the Kingsbridge policing area in her capacity as a patrol officer. However, it is her responsibility to investigate crime reported in the Thurlestone area and to address matters of local concern.

One of our main ways of discovering matters of local concern is liaison with the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. It is precisely for this reason that shortly after my arrival I set personal targets for Jan and all other Kingsbridge officers to liaise with these groups. The comments in Village Voice suggesting I had taken away the community constables, stopped police attending parish council meetings and did not care for Neighbourhood Watch was therefore not only incorrect, but hurtful.

When I took over from the successful and respected Inspector Peter Patrick, I gave great thought to how the falling crime rates he had overseen could be continued. At the same time I sought to improve and increase policing in the villages in my area.

As I am sure your readers will understand this is a challenging task, but with their commitment to the area, it is one my officers and support staff have risen to. I have placed the Special Constabulary at the disposal of my officers so that when they identify issues of local concern, through Neighbourhood Watch and Parish Councils, the Special Constabulary can patrol the area when the regular officers are not available.

This is an increase in policing and not the reduction suggested by your articles. The Force invests heavily in training and equipping these unpaid volunteers to a similar standard as regular officers. They have the same

powers as regulars and to insinuate they are not up to the job is insulting to them.

The Special Constabulary exists to supplement and not replace regular officers. Your community officer patrols your area. However, if Jan is working night duty and the problem is occurring in the early evening, WPC Utting can direct the Specials to patrol your area until she is available, rather than let the problem wait until she returns to an evening shift.

The recent damage to Thurlestone's bus shelter is an example. Whilst Jan is on leave a regular officer has been tasked to interview local suspects and Specials have been directed to patrol the area. I can assure you that villains are not fussy whether they are arrested by a Special or a regular.

Of course, damage to the bus shelter is not the most serious crime problem faced by the residents of Thurlestone and Kingsbridge Police. All of us at the station are incensed by the recent burglaries in Thurlestone.



Picture courtesy of South Hams Newspapers

DC Pete Stephens

Detective Constable Pete Stephens is in charge of investigating these crimes. Before I go into details of the policing operation to apprehend the offenders for the most recent burglaries, I would like

to update you on earlier policy action against villains targeting Thurlestone.

In mid-May 1998 three burglaries took place and a car was broken into in Thurlestone. DC Stephens secured a conviction against a 21-year old Plymouth man, resulting in 15 months' imprisonment by Plymouth Crown Court in August 1998. The burglaries then ceased until mid-June when, in a four-week period, a further three burglaries took place in Thurlestone.

An enquiry team was set up and a suspect working in the area was arrested. Kingsbridge police went to great lengths to ensure the man was placed in a bail hostel well away from our area.

The burglaries then ceased until early August, from when a further five burglaries occurred. As I am sure you are aware, I have significantly increased policing in the area. Road checks were mounted on roads in and out of Thurlestone and are continuing. Uniformed and plain clothes police from Kingsbridge and other parts of the Force are patrolling your area as I write.

There are further policing methods which I cannot disclose, but I have briefed your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Parish Council Chairman. Contrary to what "Citizen" may say, I have been pleased to receive the full support of Neighbourhood Watch and information from the general public.

Policing is a partnership between the police and the public. During my time at Kingsbridge I will work tirelessly to ensure this remains the case.

Inspector David Sumner
Kingsbridge Police Station

PARISH RETAIL SERVICES PROJECT

an update by Mike Taylor

The project has progressed according to the detailed plans established in the spring.

Summer has included

- # the rescue of the Post Office
- # Jean Yeoman working in Stygian gloom in the Homefield building
- # Kay and Bob Morley providing an excellent extended service at the Village Stores for residents and visitors
- # Nigel, our new milk roundsman, obviously warming to his task.

In August we were fortunate in achieving that month's target of £500 which has cleared the bridging loan provided to the scheme by the Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS). My grateful thanks go to the nineteen residents who kept their promise of financial donations to help the P.O. project, thereby making my task so straightforward.

I would like to stress my appreciation to POTS, who have taken on the role of official tenant both when the P.O. remained at Homefield and now it is in the Portakabin. They have also paid for insurance cover. Most importantly, how grateful we should be for Jean Yeoman's willingness to keep a P.O. running for us in the interim!

September showed the results of our labours - one week earlier than planned - with the arrival of the Portakabin. This is now fully-equipped as a four-days-a-week sub-Post Office.

It is open ALL DAY on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 9 am - 1 pm and 2 pm - 5 pm.

Looking ahead to the autumn we would like to see good use being made of the new facilities which the two development companies, Post Office Counters Ltd.,

Derrick Yeoman, John Crawford, and I have worked over the summer months to provide. We trust that our efforts will give a lead to the point at which the refurbished barn becomes a new composite village stores and Post Office. Kay and Bob will then move on to new activities and the rest is very much down to all of us.

The developers will begin site clearance and building operations in October and early indications are that there is considerable positive interest not only in the private dwellings being created but also in the new Post Office & Village Shop.

Property details on all matters are now available through the developers' agents, *Charles Head.*

By the time the next issue of Village Voice appears in December, we will have seen a lot of building activity already taking place on the development sites.

Mike Taylor

Editor's footnote

Village Voice would like to say a large "THANK YOU" on behalf of the whole of Thurlestone to those residents who worked so hard to keep this vital service in the village.

Mike Taylor and Derrick Yeoman in particular have given many hours of time and planning (and, on moving day, muscle-power!) to the realisation of this goal.

They have done all this on a purely voluntary basis and it is a perfect example of what a good community spirit there is in the parish.

Thanks again to all involved.

Puzzle Corner

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.

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

Village News Round-Up

IDA SMITH'S DEATH

It is with great sadness we report the death of Thurlestone resident **Ida Smith**, peacefully, in South Hams Hospital in early September.

Born here 89 years ago, Ida worked in her earlier years at the Thurlestone Hotel, was married and leaves a daughter, Margaret.

With her personal experience of living through long-gone days in the parish, including schooling, she was a fund of lively information for local historians which she was always pleased and proud to impart. Most recently she was able to pass on many of these recollections when she helped the Millennium video project with her childhood and other reminiscences. She also made valuable input into *Devon Within Living Memory*, a book published by the Devon WI in 1993.

During the Second World War, Ida was attached to the WRNS at the Thurlestone Hotel and was a keen participant in the service's 50-year re-union day there.

Up until very recently she was keenly interested, and took part, in community events. Ida Smith was a lady of great character and will be missed by many. We pass to her daughter our sincere condolences.

BANTHAM SURF LIFE-SAVING CLUB

Following the article in Village Voice earlier this year, an excellent full-colour feature on the work of the club has just appeared in the September issue of Devon Life. It is a very good write-up, and well worth searching out. The parish should be proud of the club's achievements.

THE GREAT MOVE

Jean Yeoman, our Postmistress, was being photographed from all sides as she was overseeing the PO move to the Portakabin on 23 September. Not only was she being filmed for the Millennium video, she was also being snapped by a Western Morning News photographer! Below is one of the pictures which accompanied the following day's WMN write-up.



THE MEDIA & THE VIDEO

Derrick Yeoman and **David Smeeton** went on air, interviewed by **Douglas Mounce**, on the 7th September, to talk about the making of the Millennium video. It was excellent publicity, and there were some fascinating sound clips. If these are anything to go by it will be a wonderful video! There has also been a lot of press interest.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The Summer Dance held in mid-August raised £1250 for the Church Building Trust. Chairman of the Friends, **Martyn Grose**, thanks all those whose hard work made the evening so successful, to the sponsors who provided tombola prizes, and of course to all

those who bought tickets and went along to have a happy time.

The Friends are the latest to receive a grant from the proceeds of sales of "*The Story of Thurlestone, Bantham & Buckland*" the book created by **Kendall McDonald, Neil Girling and Peter Hurrell**.

£1000 has now been given to good causes in the parish as a result of this book's sales.

A special range of coffee mugs, featuring pictures of the Thurlestone Rock and the Church, are also now on sale in aid of Friends' funds and can be found at the Village Store and at the Thurlestone Hotel reception.

Cost is £5 per mug, or £19 for four.

[It is interesting to note that the book and these mugs are the only souvenirs of Thurlestone that you can give your friends for Christmas].

ANYONE FOR CROCHET?

Now we all know how handy are our lady residents with needles and hooks, wools and silks, but this time they have excelled themselves. In a recent sale advert in the Gazette for one of the parish's loveliest houses, we were a little surprised to read that it had "...**verandah, terrace, gardens (crochet lawn), garage...**". Now that must have taken them some time to hook together!

A DISTANT GLOW

The Avon Lantern still twinkles from the other side of the river. The return match for this trophy took place at Thurlestone on Sunday 20th September, and the home side showed their determination to regain it by winning the first three matches. The Bigbury visitors were equally set on retaining the trophy, and took the remaining seven matches for a decisive victory. After an excellent meal, and amid much jollity, the lantern was carried back across the Avon in triumph.

PARISH HALL AUTUMN FAIR

This event is now a firm fixture on the hall's calendar and a 'one-off' fund-raiser for the year. Fair weather on Saturday 28th August ensured a good turnout of folk to support all the attractively laden stalls.

Hall chairman, Rowland Cole, expressed appreciation for the work that had been put into staging the fair, to the parish organisations and individuals who took part, and to the generous donors of goods. The sum raised - over £500 - has been earmarked this year for the hall's repainting fund.

The residents of the parish should also take the opportunity to thank the people who serve on the parish hall committee for their work, not always easy, in maintaining the hall for use by all of us for our personal activities and events. If there were no such volunteers - and the parish were to end up by default without a community hall - what a sad day indeed it would be.

REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW

In late August or thereabouts all householders received a green-printed Register of Electors 1999 form on which the names of those residents of their household eligible to vote are printed.

The householder should verify these names and add any others. The form is to be returned to the Electoral Officer at Totnes **BEFORE** 10th October 1998. *If you haven't done this yet, please don't delay.* If you have lost the form, ring 01803-861234 and ask the Electoral Officer for another one.

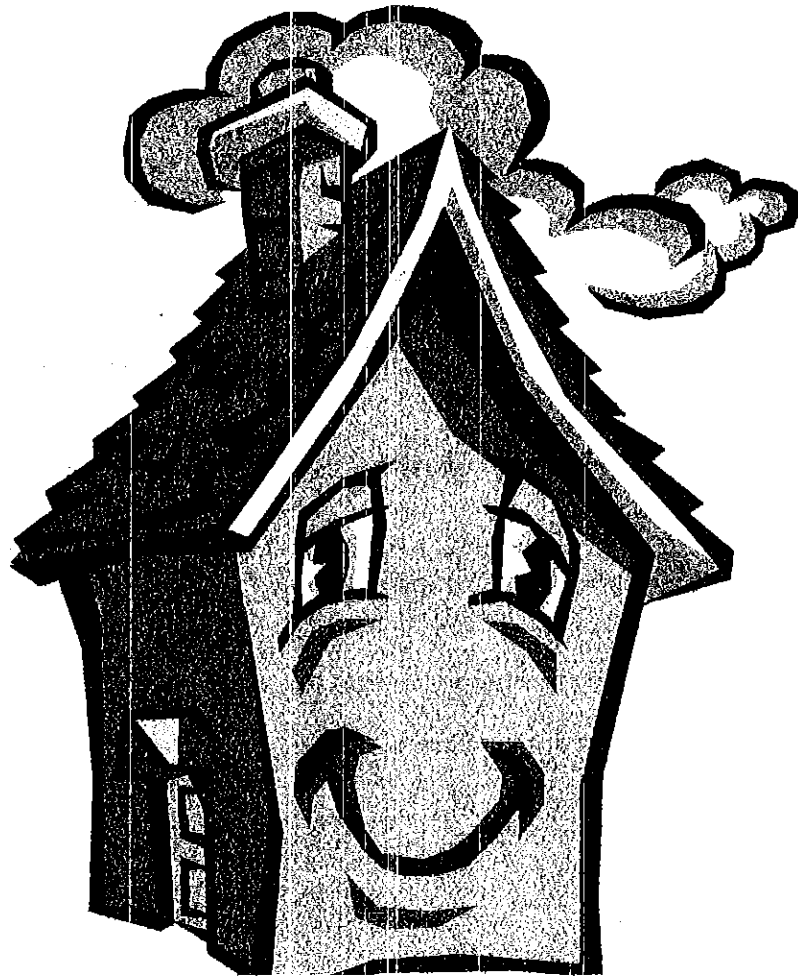
You will **not** be eligible to vote if you don't complete and return the form. You could also be denied credit facilities if your name is not on a current Electoral Roll.

IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW!
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KATE'S KITCHEN



LIMES make a pleasant change from LEMONS

Here are three easy recipes which make the most of the lime's wonderful scent and flavour. Trout can be served on their own or with the salsa, and the lime pie (from the Florida Keys) makes a refreshing end to a meal.

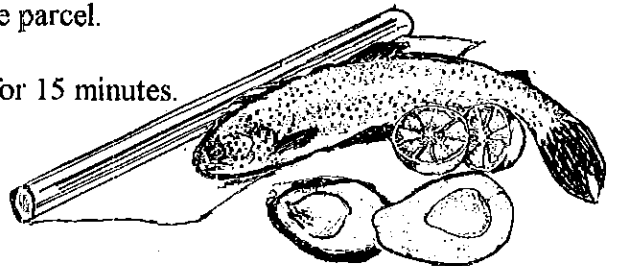
1. TROUT WITH LIME

Place four trout fillets on a sheet of foil, on a baking tray. Stir the juice and grated rind of a lime into two ounces of melted butter and pour this over the fish.

Sprinkle on some fresh or dried dill, salt and pepper, then put another sheet of foil on top, crimping the edges together to make a loose parcel.

Bake it in the oven at 180C, 350F, gas mark 4, for 15 minutes.

2. AVOCADO AND PRAWN SALSA



Scoop the flesh of an avocado from its skin and chop it into small pieces.

Stir in the juice and grated rind of a lime, three chopped spring onions, six ounces of cooked prawns and a tablespoonful of tomato salsa (to be found in most supermarkets these days)

3. KEY LIME PIE

Bake blind a 10" pastry case.

Mix a 405g. tin of condensed milk with the juice and grated rind of three limes and the yolks of three large eggs. Whisk the three egg whites until stiff and fold them gently into the mixture.

Pour it into the pastry case and bake at 160C, 325F, gas mark 3, for 20 minutes. The pie will rise like a soufflé and should be well browned on top.

SCHOOL UNDER SCRUTINY

Headmaster Alun Williams reflects on the recent OFSTED inspection

As I write, the summer holidays are almost over. In a period of *relative* inactivity, the days tend to merge into each other, with sky and sun and cloud covering weeks rather than hours. Momentous events, however, seem to be more firmly fixed, with time drifting slowly around them as if the events themselves are somewhat abstracted from daily experience. Such events come to governments, countries, families and schools. We at Thurlestone, along with two other local schools, experienced *Ofsted* inspections during the course of the last term and the minute-by-minute impact of these periods of public scrutiny weigh more mightily than many months of comparative calm.

The anticipation of an event is usually much more intense than the experience itself, though it is the experience that creates the flow of activities that ripple on - long after the experience can be barely remembered. It is also true that those who view an inspection, rather than those who are subjected to it, tend to treat it in an almost cavalier fashion:

"You've got nothing to worry about - just relax and be yourself."

"Why are you spending all this time in school? Everything's all right."

"As soon as you go into a school you know whether it's good or bad."

I know people talk and think in this way because I do it when colleagues tell me of impending inspections in their schools. Yet you dare not take their casual words to heart. You must be earnest, you must not appear to be complacent, you must be smart and quick. At the same time the impression must be generated that you are genuinely delighted to welcome these walking repositories of all that

is excellent in education and that, had you not been informed that your school was to be inspected, you would have requested, even pleaded for, a visitation. Most sincerely.

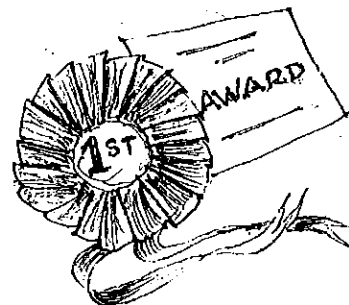
Yet those who inspected our school were kind to the teachers and children, there was an absence of arrogance and the experience, though burdensome, seemed positive and optimistic. The staff were, without exception, praised for the quality of the lessons and the children for their responsible and spontaneous good behaviour. All subjects were well regarded. We received, as they say, *a very good report*. The report, however, was not simply the result of a four day "snapshot". It was a vindication of consistent devotion to details which transform a school from the ordinary into something fine and good. The staff and pupils should feel proud of what they have done. And so it was that those who said *"You have got nothing to worry about"* were right after all.

Finally, it is important to remember that a school is part of, and belongs to, its community; Thurlestone and South Milton share in our success and contribute to it. I have been struck by the increasing interest and activity taken by members of the community in the continuing progress and history of our school. Whether it is to celebrate a major event, like the Millennium celebrations, or even a personally important event like the visit of an old pupil (now living in Australia), and being courteously received and shown around by Nick Bromfield and Alice Alderson, the school remains a most important centre for all our activities.

Please accept my thanks to all of you for being part of our success.

Alun Williams

THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW



South Milton village hall was the venue this year for our 20th Annual Show. It's hard to believe the Show has been going so long. There are still some of the show's original founder committee members actively involved.

It is a very healthy sign to see new names appearing on lists of entrants and, even better, to see new names on winners' cards. The new show Chairman, **David Coward**, presided over a first class show with more entries than last year, particularly the flowers and pot plants section. The poor summer weather had not deterred gardeners' enthusiasm and the flowers made a particularly bright, colourful display on a grey and showery show day. The judges remarked on the high standards.

Ben Horn, immediate past show Chairman, presented the Show trophies to the worthy winners as follows:

TROPHY	WINNER
Open Fruit & Vegetable:	Tony Church
Amateur Fruit & Vegetable:	David Coward
Cut Flowers & Pot Plants:	Cyril Atkin
Senior Children:	Ellie Stidston
Junior Children:	William Wightman
Cookery:	Pam Brewster
Handicrafts:	Lyn Gunning
Thurlestone Resident:	David Coward
South Milton Resident:	Evelyn Snowdon
Yeo Cup:	David Coward
Wray Cup:	Derrick Yeoman
Chapman Bowl:	Cyril Atkin
Marshall Cup:	Tony Church
President's Tankard:	Kate Hubbard
Kingsbridge Garden Shop Cup:	Joan Lane
White Cup:	Ellie Stidston
Derrick Yeoman Cup:	William Wightman
Doris Tyler Trophy:	Mary Tregelles
Doris Jackson Trophy:	Lyn Gunning

A plaque was presented to Tony Church as the winner of the Open Fruit & Vegetable cup for three successive years.

The committee thanks the judges, stewards and everyone who took part in another enjoyable show.

We are saddened to hear of **Ernie Milcoy's** recent death. He and his wife Joan served as the "back room boys" on show day for a number of years, working out the scores and prize-winners. Ernie moved from South Milton to Totnes some years ago, following Joan's death.

At next year's show, which will be held in Thurlestone Parish Hall, we will be celebrating our "coming of age" so look out around next May/June for the show schedule which we promise will have some novel classes for our 21st anniversary!

Meantime, the next important date in the local horticultural calendar will be Monday 12th October 1998, at Thurlestone Parish Hall, when the twentieth Annual General Meeting of the Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show will be held at 7.30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to come, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

TASTY DISH!

From the *Eskdale Advertiser*:

"Hazel Johnstone, with the trophy for the best Border tart."

(With acknowledgements to *The Daily Telegraph*)

Millennium Video

Some of you may have wondered if there was a rescue afoot when a RN helicopter circled the parish in the early afternoon of Tuesday 15th September. The good news is that it was carrying cameraman **David Howarth** and director **Derek Fairhead** of the Millennium Video Project. Courtesy of 846 Squadron from RNAS Yeovilton they were able to film some 30 minutes of aerial views of the whole parish - marvellous footage for the documentary!

Much of the filming is now 'in the can'. We still have to shoot the rebuilding of the farm complex, record interviews with farmers in the parish, shoot some interviews looking to the future, and polish off some extra environmental shots. But we are now moving towards the editing stage, where it will be all put together in sequence.

We will shortly be organising a group to come up with **music**, and another to design the **covers** for the final cassettes. The project is on course for final editing and production in October and November next year.

We plan to show "*rushes*" of what has been filmed - as you will see from the poster elsewhere in this issue. Come and see the aerial shots, the days of smuggling and wrecks, see the children from our school

recounting the early history of the parish, watch yourselves in all the activities of the parish and see the older residents talking about the early days of the century!

Support has been first class. We have already raised more than £10,000 of our £14,000 target. We hope to hear shortly from the Shell *Better Britain* Campaign that they will also be supporting us.

Meanwhile the "**Angels**" leaflets are selling well and have so far raised more than £2,000. For those readers who don't know about this scheme you are guaranteed a copy of the video at the Millennium if you pay the twelve pounds purchase price in advance. Forms are with the hotel, pubs, PO, Len Hubbard's gallery and from our Treasurer, Phil Deare. Please tell your friends and visitors and help keep funds rolling in.

"The Land Of The Five Beaches", our documentary on the history, life and times of Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland - will be a lively chronicle of our 3,000 years of parish history. Yes, I know we originally said 2,000 years, but when Peter Daniels found that Bronze Age spearhead, it added another 1,000 years!

David Smeeton

Pat Machin's Puzzle Corner - Answers to Clueless Crossword

Across:

Exquisite, Gown, Flax, Among, Veneer, Raider, Tiara, Emerge, Trying, Taste, Plush, Erica, Store, Impact, Voodoo, Afire, Thrall, Nibble, Khaki, Yeti, Tyke, Carriages.

Down:

Joke, Endear, Quartet, Isobars, Ingrate, Effigy, Haze, Viewpoint, Rigmarole, Equip, Ivied, Apt, Tor, Stalker, Origami, Evening, Arabic, Orbits, Heed, Lake

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

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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.

IT'S YOUR LOOK-OUT!

*SAFE-GUARDING LIFE AT SEA
IS WHAT THE NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION IS ALL ABOUT*

The last visual-watch Coastguard stations in Britain had all closed by 1994, including our nearest at Prawle Point. A new charity has now been formed, the **National Coastwatch Institution**, by concerned seafarers anxious to reinstate this valuable service.

Run solely by trained volunteers, it has the full support of, and recognition by, HM Coastguard. Prawle Point is manned throughout the year and keeps a watch on one of the most dangerous stretches of coast in the south-west.

What are Coastwatchers looking for?

Fishermen, yachtsmen, wind-surfers, divers, small craft, and cliff path walkers - any of whom may be in need of help.

Why do we need this service?

To safeguard life at sea by re-establishing a visual watch on coastal waters

The NCI also

*monitor VHF Channel 16 and
emergency channels,*

keep radar watch,

work with HM Coastguard,

*report local weather conditions to
the Meteorological Office,*

*report on visible pollution and
marine wildlife.*

NCI Prawle Point

This station opened earlier this year. It is the

first in Devon, and the twenty-second countrywide. The NCI is relying on public help to improve basic equipment and maintain the building, so that it can continue a service throughout the year for those who use the sea.

How can you help?

You can become a National Coastwatch Institution supporter by subscription - any sum, there is no set fee. You will find elsewhere in this issue an application form. NCI would also welcome local fund-raising events. One is already planned (see below) and we hope all readers will try to support it by donating good clean jumble, unwanted gifts, raffle prizes and so on and by **offering to help on the day! Enquiries to 560436.**

In aid of
Prawle Point

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INSTITUTION

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Saturday 17th October
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Thurlestone Parish Hall

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between 10 am and noon,

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HOME JAMES!

Readers will recall Joan Galloway writing, in the June-July issue, of her forthcoming sponsored drive in aid of the NSPCC and All Saints parish church. Now she reports on a successful journey.

WE DID IT!.... all the way from Thurlestone to Cumbria, and then back home via Banbury and Yeovil, covering 1040 miles (including a climb up a 1 in 4 hill), avoiding all Motorways and only travelling on main roads when absolutely necessary. The hood was down all the way and there were no side-screens in place. If it rained, which it did at odd times, we just went fast (?) and the rain went over us!

Very many thanks to Maurice Blight for servicing James so carefully and so thoroughly. I had not a moment's worry about her performance throughout the trip.

Thank you, too, to Rosemary Stocken for coming with me to Cumbria and sharing the driving, and to Sam my 23-year-old grandson [because of insurance he was not allowed to drive] who came with me on the return journey, navigating magnificently along miles of very small roads and taking great pride in avoiding all towns wherever possible.

I spent five days in Cumbria with my eldest son and family. This included a celebration for my youngest son's 40th birthday when we had our whole family together - 15 in all. This is always a very special treat as it so seldom happens.

Seven days were spent on driving and the most we did in one day was 196 miles, the least 128 miles. Doesn't sound much, but we were on small, or very small, minor roads for a lot of the time. (I usually double the time taken by a modern car when reckoning).

We also stopped off at various places, including Rode, the Tropical Bird Centre, Chatsworth in the Peak District, and the Yeovilton Fleet Air Arm Museum. We had two comfortable nights in B&Bs, the first at Bruton (Somerset), the second at Buxton (Derbyshire).

So James has now had her Diamond Jubilee Treat. I am sure she will still be going in ten years' time...but doubt if I shall! I hope my youngest son, Robert, who will inherit her, may do something to celebrate.

Finally, I should like to thank all those kind people who sponsored us. The sum of £1200 was raised and will be shared by Thurlestone church and the NSPCC.

At this year's church fete we had a Quiz about James. The quiz and the answers are given below - accompanied by my remarks!

Joan Galloway

Questions

1. What is James official designation?
2. Is James Vintage, Classic, or Veteran?
3. What mileage has James now done?
4. Mileage on Round Britain Trip in 1998?
5. Amount collected for the Guide Dogs for the Blind in 1998?
6. Where is the Mannequin Pis statue?
7. Why are there so few of James's particular model?
8. Is the elephant African or Indian?
9. James is a 'she'. Quote another instance of a male name with a female identity.
10. How much did I pay for James in 1940?

Answers

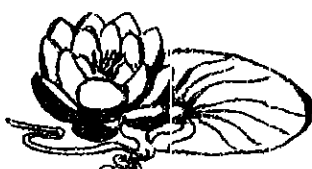
1. 1938 Morris 8, Series II, 2-seater Tourer
(No-one got this completely right)
2. Classic
3. 161,103 (Nearest 160,000)
4. 3,214 (Nearest 3,200 - 2 people)
5. £3,313.25 (Nearest £3,200)
6. Brussels
7. Because of WW2 - no more were built after 1938
8. African
9. The one I had in mind was that a Naval ship is always referred to as "she", but often has a male name. Various answers given.
10. £65 (one correct answer)

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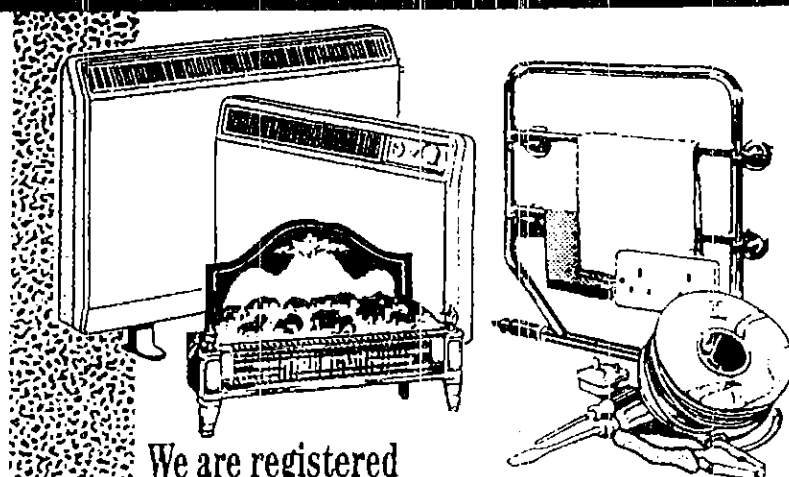
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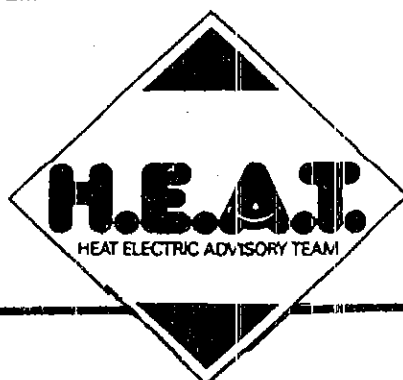
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HARRY HUGGINS HAS THE TIME OF HIS LIFERS

People who are bird watchers see **lifers**.

So do people who are not bird watchers, but they don't care very much, unless something is a five-minute wonder, like those Waxwings at Kingsbridge Quay in February 1996. A lifer is simply a bird you are seeing for the first time in your life. So anything can only be a lifer once, and they all must have been lifers at some time, but you don't really remember the first time you saw a sparrow or a starling.

Nevertheless, some do stick in the memory. I think of the Black Woodpecker, as big as a crow, flying among pine trees in the Pyrenees. And of a Little Bittern, a tiny heron the size of a Jackdaw, flitting like a butterfly along the side of a railway embankment which ran, maybe still runs, across Lake Scutari in what was then southern Yugoslavia. And a Hoopoe Lark, a big long-legged lark with a long down-curved bill, in the desert north of Eilat, in Israel.

The first lifer I remember, as clearly as on the day I saw it, was, of all things, a **Magpie**.



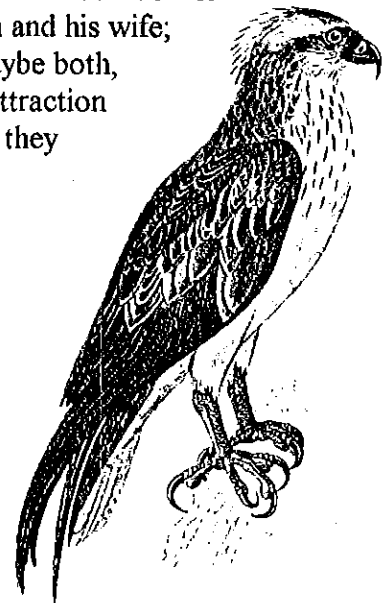
I was about eight. We lived at Cliftonville, the slightly up-market end of Margate (maybe Westgate-on-Sea was posher, but we never went there). The Isle of Thanet was heavily game-keepered and anything which might take eggs of chicks of game birds was exterminated, and despite much time spent in the countryside (you could walk to it, even a child could) I had never seen a Magpie. Then

one day I was in a train with my mother and saw, through the window, this beautiful black-and-white bird which mother said was a Magpie.

Inevitably the more birds you see the fewer lifers you find because you have had them all already. But you have bogey birds which elude you. Little Auk was one for me. They are not uncommon around the coast, people were always talking of just having seen one, but despite a long life's birding, I had never found one in the wild. Corpses brought in by cats, yes, but they do not count. Until in October 1996 there were three in the sea off Leasfoot Beach, looking like penguins the size of starlings.

We have this friend Wal. We like outings with him and his wife; one or other, maybe both, has a magnetic attraction for birds. When they were with us a Goshawk, extremely rare, turned up at Aveton Gifford. When we took them to Lopwell Dam, on the Tavy, there was a Bittern, even rarer.

And when they were having coffee with us here at Thurlestone one day an **Osprey** flew past the window. Not *so* rare, but you don't see many in Thurlestone.



They have birded almost everywhere. Poland, Spain, Israel, the West Indies, and seen many species, so their scope for new birds is limited. Last spring they went to Lesbos, one

of the "in" places for birders, being on the migration route between Africa and northern Europe and Asia. They saw four lifers - there are a few things there, off the coast of Turkey, that you don't get anywhere else. They took friends, the Tower Captain and his wife. West Charleton is the tower where he captains the bells and it is always easier to remember him by that name than by his real one. Mr & Mrs Tower Captain are fairly new to birding. They had sixty lifers!

Last spring we took our "let's get over the winter" break in Tenerife, at the Los Gigantes Hotel (Thomson Sun!). Los G. is on the coast a bit south of the north west corner of the island. It is what I think they call an *urbanizacion*, a modern development put up on a green field site (in this case a brown rock site) for holiday-makers. It is stuck on the last possible bit of land before stupendous cliffs fall into the Atlantic. Most of it is 1-in-4 or steeper, which has the advantage that as they build apartments (of course they still do) they work up the hillside and each block looks over the top of the one below. The hotel is quite old as they go - we know it was there 25 years ago because we planned to go but the holiday company went broke.

There is a harbour. There are many, many eating and drinking places, offices which hire out cars and whale watching, and there are the apartments - I lost count at 800. It is all beautifully done, flowering trees and shrubs everywhere, and all the roads have footpaths (unlike in a parish I can name).

The hotel is perched on a rocky platform over the sea. It is good. In fact, it is very good: big bedrooms, spacious public areas, excellent food, kind staff. There are two big pools with lots of sunbeds, though that didn't stop people going down at seven in the morning to fight over them. Not us, we don't want to lie in the sun. We asked for a high floor, and got it - the eighth - which was just as well for outside the hotel was a bar and each evening a lady sang. She was not merely

bad, she was awful, so awful that she was quite fascinating! But she stopped before midnight - unlike the people in Playa de las Americas who go on until daybreak.

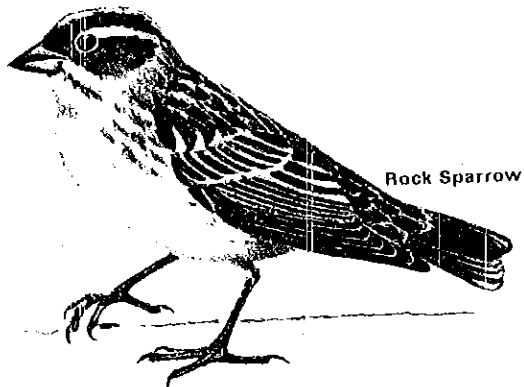
There is a flip side, there has to be. There were birds and butterflies in the garden. But there are no fields to which we could stroll to look for things. Almost all the distant fields are covered with huge canvas tents under which they grow tomatoes and bananas. We asked why they now had these tents, instead of walls around like they used to. Easy, we were told. Tents are paid for by the EU (i.e. by you and me). They have to pay for the walls themselves.

June had a birthday. She had twenty red roses - well only nineteen because someone had pinched the head off one. Up in the mountains we found her birthday bird - a male Canary, buzzing up and down doing his songflight. Brilliant yellow and green he was, unlike most Canaries which are just brown. As we were at dinner the huge dining hall erupted with clapping. A waiter appeared, carrying a cake with candles. Oh, she thought, someone has a birthday. But he plonked it down on our table. She looked at me reproachfully and said "You didn't!" But no, I hadn't. When you check into the hotel they take your passport, and know who has a birthday. The cake had three candles. She said no way was she telling anyone how many years each stood for!

For a few days we rented a car, a terrifying experience. Out of Los Gigantes there are two roads. One goes uphill to Santiago del Teide and on to the north coast, Puerto de la Cruz, etc. It is steep, winding, and the traffic is horrendous. The other road goes east to Playa de las Americas and the airport. It is winding too, but the traffic is even more horrendous.

Near Santiago del Teide we drove to a favourite little road surrounded by fields which are farmed, but only half-heartedly.

There are trees and bushes and flowers. There we saw a big flock of Linnets; the males were bright scarlet, far more colourful than the ones we get here in Devon. And June had a lifer, which I missed through

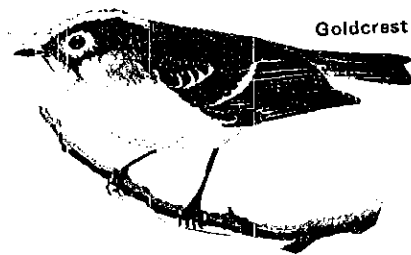


looking the other way at the time, a **Rock Sparrow**, like a very pale version of the lady House Sparrows we have here, with a dark brown-and-white striped head.

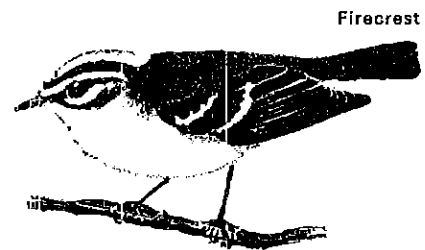
But we both had a lifer which was quite unexpected. The mountainous centre of the island is a volcanic crater, about ten miles across. The bang when the top blew off that must have made the Krakatoa eruption sound like popping a paper bag (though there was no one around at the time). Teidi, over twelve thousand feet, is a later pimple on the crater rim. Just below the rim, to the south, is a picnic place called Las Lajas. There is a refreshment hut and barbecues where locals disport themselves at weekends, cooking pigs and drinking wine out of jerrycans. There are taps with water for drinking and washing up. The birds love it, they drink at the taps and eat crumbs from picnics.

One day we stopped there and strolling along a track down the mountain-side we found a little bird. We went again and found three. Here in our parish we often see, and more often hear, Goldcrests. They turn up most winters, sometimes in considerable numbers. They are usually quite tame, but difficult to see because they are so small. You hear their song, a high-pitched pumping which my favourite field guide describes as "cedar-for-

me, cedar-for-me, cedar-for-me....sissysuet". Far less often we find a Firecrest, similar in size to a Goldcrest and more colourful.



Goldcrest has a yellow stripe on top of its head with a narrow black stripe on either side and whitish patches around its eyes, which give it a rather surprised look.



Firecrest has a stripe on its crown; the male's is quite orange. There is a black line on each side. It also has a black stripe from its bill across each eye and a vivid white band above - quite unmissable.

The little fellows we found in Tenerife were similar in size. They had the black line through each eye, like a Firecrest, but the latter's broad white stripe over each eye was absent. Tenerife Kinglets are what they were. The pundits cannot decide whether they are really Goldcrests or Firecrests; obviously they are somewhere between the two. I don't know who christened them Kinglets. In America they have something very similar to our Firecrest which they call Golden-crowned Kinglet. Perhaps an American named these.

We didn't match the Tower Captain's sixty lifers on Lesbos, but at least Tenerife provided me with one lifer and June with two.

Harry Huggins

The day the Soap washed in...

by *Delsonian* (Hubert Snowdon)

Early in the last war, on a February evening, I decided to fetch petrol from the Thurlestone Hotel garage. It was 5 o'clock and men were coming up from work at the golf club and gardens, and were calling at the pub for their usual pint before going home.

Ernest Snowdon, my relative, said to me "There is something washing in, in boxes". Over a pint I pondered on this, and my Thurlestone love of "wrecking" set the adrenalin flowing. Let me explain that "wrecking" to us means beach-combing, not luring ships on to the rocks for lust.

I made a quick decision. Many people would by now be combing *Thurlestone* beaches, so I would drive down to *Bantham* beach and, hopefully, be first there! It was high tide and, in the twilight, I saw that I was forestalled by the figure of the late Jim Stear. He was walking away from me and pulling the occasional box from the tide, unaware of me. Boxes were washing in behind him, and I grabbed the nearest and hid it in the rushes. That was mine, whatever it contained!

Then, proceeding towards Jim, we pulled in 22 boxes between us. "What are you going to do with them?" I asked. He said he didn't know. "Well", I said, "As you have no transport I'll go 50-50 with you and bring down a horse and cart tomorrow and haul them up". He agreed,

Next morning I had the farm to see to and a milk round to do as my father was in bed recuperating from an operation. It was high tide about 7 am but I couldn't be on the beach until near midday when it was nearly low tide. Several people had cleared the beach - boxes of Sunlight soap, tinned sausages and packets of dried egg - as the tide receded. I believe they had been supplies for the American troops being carried on a ship that was torpedoed.

I took our boxes up to the village and locked them in a shed, then back to farming. There would be many people watching the beach through the daylight hours. That evening I visited my wife-to-be, at *Bantham*, and stayed there until gone 11 o'clock. Then the 'wrecking' bug bit again. I wondered what the beach

would look like when it would be low tide, about midnight. A great surprise awaited me. It was full moonlight and I was the only witness to a remarkable sight.

Cakes of Sunlight soap littered the whole expanse of *Bantham* beach, right out to the low tide. Shining in the moonlight, they were evenly dispersed about two to three feet apart - almost difficult to walk between. Obviously the boxes had broken open and shed their contents and it was a mystery how the flow had distributed them so evenly.

Next morning hordes of people would arrive for the high tide at 8 am. The word had travelled far about the bounty on the beaches. Unaware, they would arrive expecting to find boxes. Come they did.

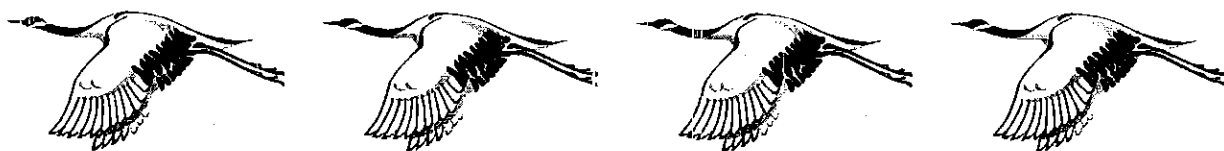
Again I had the milk round to do but I told our three men, Ned Yeoman, George Dyer and Roy Mitchelmore, that when they finished the milking they were to take the tractor and trailer and potato baskets to the beach and pick up the loose cakes of soap.

The hundreds of people who had turned up apparently had neither receptacles nor carriers in which to collect loose soap. My notion of a midnight visit had paid off. Soap was being stuffed in clothing - anywhere that would hold it. Ladies were even lifting their skirts and filling their winter bloomers!

By the next day the party was about over and the flow of goodies ceased. But the overnight tide had brought in the broken boxes and we loaded a trailerful to make into potato chitting trays later on.

Of course the Customs officers were very much in evidence and warned everyone that it was an offence not to declare their findings. The 'last day of the soap' was beautiful and warm - rare in February - and having cleared the beach to low water we sat, in shirt sleeves, on the rocks in warm sunshine eating the pasties my mother had made from the sausages!

There is a sequel to the soap episode for a later issue.



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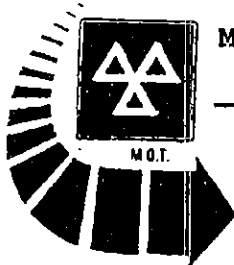
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HORSWELL DIARY

Life goes too fast. Already autumn's rust is curling the edges of the sycamore and chestnut leaves. Squirrels are busy burying nuts in instantly forgettable places and shiny conkers burst from spiky shells. Spiders' webs, bejewelled and shimmering with dew, spin out between the trees and, in the orchard, drowsy wasps suck sugar from fallen fruit. Our small birds are back at the feeders, filling the air with cheerful song, and badgers are destroying the lawn, rooting out leather jackets, rather like pigs foraging for truffles. Summer is fading and leaves in invisible airy spirals snake slowly to the ground.

The peacocks have lost their fine tails and with them much of their arrogance. Their beautiful long feathers fall out one by one, leaving just a stumpy brown feathered tail through which the new season's finery will appear in the Spring. During this moulting period the birds are subdued, eating and sleeping to conserve energy for the winter ahead. Imran has fathered three chicks which Jemima has raised with admirable care. When she first escorted them to our door they were small and fluffy like little yellow ducklings. Now eight weeks later they are about twelve inches tall with brown speckled and barred feathers like their mother, with just a hint of green and blue beginning to show through on their necks. We hope that at least two may be females so that Genghis will eventually have a mate of his own. Meanwhile he relies on Ducky Duck for friendship.

The fox left us with just one duck, a female pochard, and a clutch of eggs, of which only one hatched. We call him Ducky Duck because at first we thought he was a she. He still has an identity

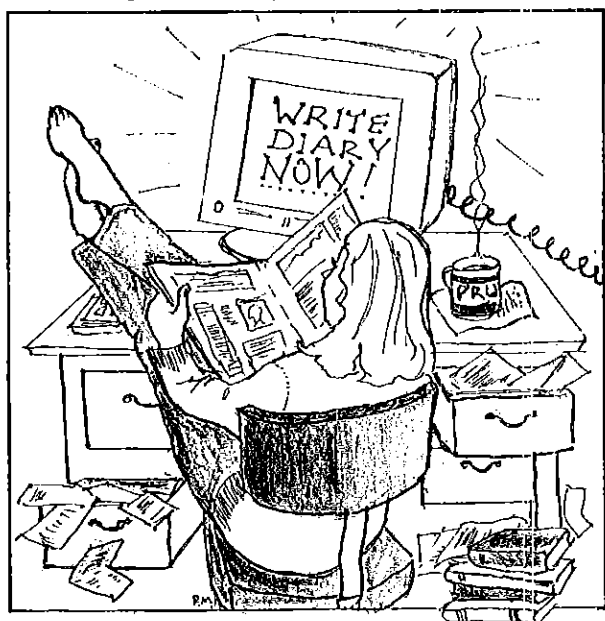
problem. He looks like a cross between a mallard and a seagull, and thinks he is a peacock, spending his days with Genghis and presumably wondering when his legs will grow. He spends very little time on the pond behaving like a duck and greets his friend with a delighted "***mwack, mwack***" when he swoops down from his tree in the morning. He is so pleased to see Genghis that he runs over the lawn to greet him, tripping over his big yellow flippers in his haste. Together they graze the garden and snooze on the warm gravel side by side.

Life goes too fast. Last week we visited one of our prettiest, kindest and most glamorous friends. She had shrunk almost beyond recognition, taken five hours to dress and prepare for our visit and, almost unable to breathe, had presided over an elegant tea reminding her daughter to provide pastry forks and only the best napkins. Five days later we attended her funeral at Dorchester Abbey. Friends who had decorated St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey for the Royal weddings had filled the vast church with soaring arrangements of exquisite white lilies and sweet scented roses. Three hundred voices filled the air with her favourite hymns, their love for her reverberating from the ancient stones. Women wept and men looked sombre. Autumn sunshine slanted through tall windows on her pale oak coffin. The Nunc Dimittis had never seemed more sad. I am reminded to treasure every single moment of my life. Good or bad, they go too fast.

And then, like a video clip, that scene is over and we're whizzing down the

motorway to Devon listening to the demise of an American President, embarrassed by the invasion of his privacy. Freedom of information, the press, the media, the Internet all encourage us to be judgmental. They invite opinion and provide a seedbed for bigotry. Are his critics so perfect themselves that they should delight in or decry his private weakness when his public role is beyond reproach? Fallibility is part of the human condition. I prefer it to the predictability of the zealot or the microchip - and even a microchip is fallible sometimes. It may be clever enough to programme our boiler or to launch a nuclear warhead but it is apparently unable to understand the simple abbreviation of the year 2000. Incredible, isn't it, that we rational human beings have allowed ourselves to become so reliant on something so small, so all-powerful?

And yet information technology has crept insidiously into our lives. Now, like Pavlov's dog, we bow to its commands. "Answer me!" flashes the angry red eye on the ansaphone. How can I refuse? "Read my messages!" says the fax machine with a reproachful green-eyed stare.



"Insert more paper! Replace my ribbon!" commands the word processor, refusing to continue unless I obey.

"You have messages", says the invisible woman hiding in the car phone.

"You have messages - please call 121".

And of course I do! With the advent of digital TV even our television now asks "Do you want to interact with me?"

No, of course I don't. I'm far too busy interacting with real live human beings, but I hardly dare say so in case it hears me and answers back!

The communications explosion of the 90's has certainly been amazing, with computers moving from main-frame to lap-top and even palm-top, and the advent of fax machines, mobile phones, e-mail, the Internet, and the proposed Ethernet. But at the end of the day we are only human, and there's a limit to how much communicating one wants to do in a day.

Life goes too fast. Already I'm suffering from communication overload. The phone rings continuously and my desk is stacked with unanswered mail. Mail order catalogues remind me that Christmas lurks around the corner and charities plead that they need my support. A communication from the tax man reminds me to self-assess or be damned. Barclaycard offers limits of credit with noughts so prolific one wonders if the printer has jammed. (If only my bank statement used the same printer!)

But not to worry - **Reader's Digest** assures me that I, Prunella Dart, have been selected from a cast of thousands to be a (potential) millionaire. Did they tell you that too? If so, please don't tell me. *It's good to dream!*

Prunella Dart

ROSEMARY'S COTEHELE BRAIN-TEASER

tickled out by Philip Candy

On a WI outing to Cotehele recently, **Rosemary MacKay** asked everyone on the coach to supply an answer to the following problem, which she had taken from a Sunday newspaper: **"If there are 22 people in a room and each person shakes hands once with each of the other people in the room, how many handshakes are there?"**

The general solution to problems of this nature is:

$$\text{Number of handshakes} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$

where n = total number of people.

So the solution to the problem is:

$$\text{Number of handshakes} = 11 \times 21 = 231.$$

Do not take my word for it that the above is the general solution. Prove it to yourself using the following diagram which is drawn for the case of $n = 5$

	1	2	3	4	5
1	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5
2	2,1	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5
3	3,1	3,2	3,3	3,4	3,5
4	4,1	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,5
5	5,1	5,2	5,3	5,4	5,5

Each square represents a handshake between an individual whose number is at the top with an individual whose number is at the side. For example, square 2,3 represents a handshake between individual number 2 and individual number 3. Total number of squares = $n^2 = 5 \times 5 = 25$.

The squares in the diagonal 1,1 to 5,5 all represent individuals shaking hands with themselves. There are $n = 5$ of

these squares and we don't want them.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total number of remaining squares} \\ = n^2 - n = 25 - 5 = 20. \end{aligned}$$

Considering now the remaining squares, you will see that each square to the left of the diagonal (1,1 to 5,5) is matched by a corresponding square to the right of the diagonal. For example, square 3,2 represents the same handshake as square 2,3.

It is clear, therefore, that the answer we are looking for is half the number of the remaining squares,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{i.e. Number of handshakes} \\ = \frac{n^2 - n}{2} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} = 5 \times 2 = 10 \end{aligned}$$

Note that either n or $(n-1)$ must be an even number. Therefore the route to a quick solution is to halve whichever is the even number and multiply that by the other number. For example, if there are 20 people in the room instead of 22 the number of handshakes = $10 \times 19 = 190$. Having two fewer people in the room has saved 41 handshakes. Let us try it with a larger number, say, the whole population of the world:

$$n = 6,000,000,000$$

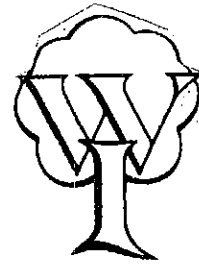
$$n - 1 = 5,999,999,999.$$

$$\text{Number of handshakes} =$$

$$17,999,999,997,000,000,000.$$

There is one snag associated with the last calculation if it has taken you five minutes to do it. The answer may be spot on to the last bambino for the world as it was **five minutes ago** but, if so, you have an error of 4,872,329,266 for the world **as it is now**, because whilst you were doing the calculation the world population rose by 812. Now **that is a real problem for at the current rate world population will have doubled by 2050.**

WI NEWS



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our most recent speaker was Jackie Clark, a breast-care nurse from Derriford. She gave us advice and information, telling us of today's procedures and of their aims, via the Primrose Appeal, to set up a new breast-care unit at the hospital. This would be purpose-built and where many of the various diagnostic examinations and tests could be made in a one-session, one-site appointment, cutting down on the stress of having to make multiple visits. Eight visitors and prospective members swelled the attendance at the first monthly meeting after the August break and President Dorothy Candy gave them a warm welcome.

THE DENMAN EXPERIENCE

Dorothy told us about the public speaking course she attended at Denman, the WI educational establishment near Oxford. It was her first visit there where she enjoyed the beautiful Queen Anne house set in rolling parkland, the companionship, the tuition, the food, the bar, and particularly the new en-suite Devon room, equipped and furnished to 4-star standards! She thanked the members for the bursary.

WELL SPENT

We've had thank-you letters from the Patient Support Groups at both Kingsbridge and Salcombe for the gifts of £150 each as a result of our cheese & wine evening. Salcombe intend to spend the gift on a foetal heart monitor - which costs exactly £150!

FARE TRADING

Margaret Illingworth passed on the thanks of the parish hall committee for the cake stall we ran at their Autumn Fair.

CRUISING TO COTEHELE

There was one good day, on Sunday 13th September, sandwiched between some unpleasantly wet and windy ones, and happily the date chosen for a trip to the NT property, Cotehele. Members, husbands and friends coached out at 9.30 am, headed to Plymouth, then chugged up the River Tamar to enjoy the delights of house and grounds. En route Rosemary MacKay set us a brain teaser - covered on another page.

EATING AGAIN

The Lunch Out group's excursion to the Loddiswell Inn on 24th September was also enjoyed by participants.

REMINDERS!

The following events will be run by the South Hams Home Economics Area:

9th October, Kingsbridge Methodist hall, 10.30 am, b & b coffee morning in aid of the 1999 Show at Malborough;

23rd October, same place, 2.15 pm, a demonstration of 3-D Decoupage pictures;

30th October, West Alvington village hall, 2.15 pm, demonstration of simple cake icing.

At Thurlestone parish hall, 18th November we will be holding an "Arts & Crafts" coffee morning and showing the work of some of our members.

LOCAL NOVELIST'S VISIT

Local novelist Marcia Willett will talk on October 8th when visitors, members or non-members, are most welcome.



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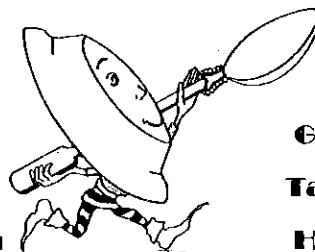
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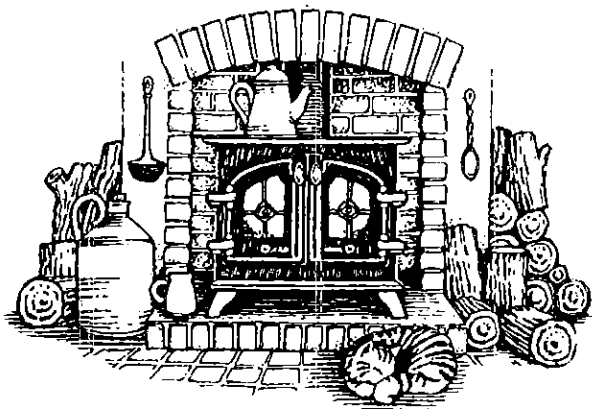
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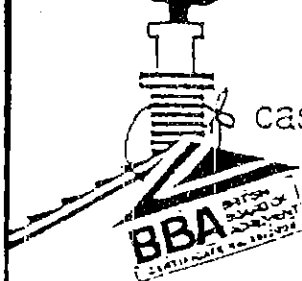
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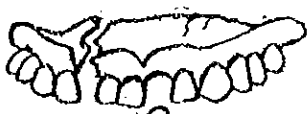
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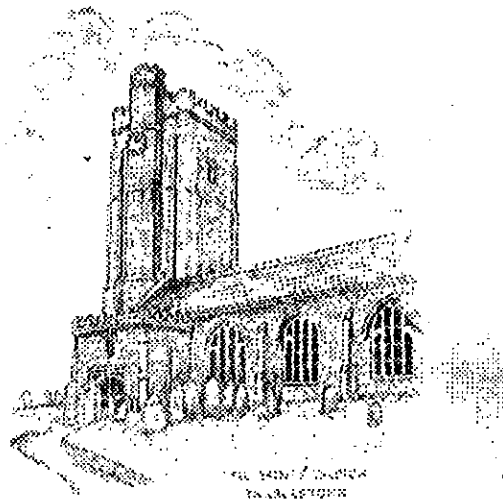
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All Saints



Churchwardens: Michael Chipman 562013 & Liz Webb 560090

Barbecue on the Green

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Barbecue on the Green and to all those who supported it. Considering the summer we have had, we were extremely lucky to have one of the warmest evenings ever. we were able to serve not only hot dogs and burgers but also "pudding" in the form of candyfloss. and a grand total of £880 was raised



Searchlight

We were pleased to welcome three new members for the start of this term, Rachel McKillop, Hattie Lewin-Titt and Adam Sutton, and Rebecca and Denise Yeoman are joining us next week. The last meeting was spent preparing for harvest and during the next two we will be looking at preparing for All Saints Day.



All Saints Day Family Service

Sunday November 1st is All Saints Day and there will be a special Family Service in Thurlestone Church at 3.00 p.m. We would be very pleased to see you there - young, old or in between. The service is very simple and you will be able to learn about different Saints from the Searchlight children and find out that perhaps you too are a Saint!! The Service will end with tea and cake.



All Saints Christmas Cards

LOUISE BOXHALL'S "A DUSTING OF SNOW, THURLESTONE VILLAGE"

IS AVAILABLE AT 60P EACH OR 4 FOR £2

Also available are the Louise's "Carol Singers" & "Evensong at All Saints" together with cards featuring All Saints stained glass windows, Christmas flowers, the church and Bantham in the snow.

Cards will be available at Coffee-Time and St Crispin's Fair.



All Saints Fellowship

Thursday October 22nd & November 26th 2.30 p.m. in the Rectory Barn

Everyone is very welcome & lifts can be arranged



All Saints Diary

Thurlestone Church Services

Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
Thursday October 15th & November 12th	8.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
October 4th & 18th, November 15th	11.10 a.m.	PARISH EUCHARIST
October 11th & 25th, November 22nd	11.10 a.m.	MATINS

Family Services

Sunday October 4th	Harvest Eucharist	9.30 a.m.	SOUTH MILTON
Sunday November 1st	All Saints Day	3.00 p.m.	THURLESTONE

Joint Services

Sunday November 1st	All Saints Day Eucharist	10.30 a.m.	SOUTH MILTON
Sunday November 29th	Advent Sunday	10.30 a.m.	THURLESTONE

Remembrance Day Service

Sunday November 8th	11.10 a.m.	THURLESTONE
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followed by the laying of wreaths on the war memorial



Searchlight

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR 5 - 11 YEAR OLDS THAT MEETS FORTNIGHTLY ON TUESDAYS!!
in All Saints Primary School from 3.45 - 4.45 p.m.
If you know a child who would like to join, please contact Liz Webb (560090)



Coffee Time

STARTS AGAIN ON OCTOBER 8TH
EVERY THURSDAY FROM 10.30 - 11.30 A.M. IN THE RECTORY BARN

Why not drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat?
There is no charge but a voluntary donation may be made to church funds.



St Crispin's Fair

MONDAY OCTOBER 26TH AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE PARISH HALL

All Saints Christmas Cards

Order your Christmas Puddings, Christmas Cakes & Mince pies

Come and stock up for Christmas

Entry 50p (children free) including Coffee & a Crispin!

Village Inn

Diary of events

for October & November

Happy Hour - Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays



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WEATHER WAG

by Jan Turner

There's a distinct sense of Autumn about the weather today. I have a feeling that our summer may be about to conclude.

This morning there was very heavy rain, followed by a clearing air stream as the cold front went through. The rest of the day has been bright and fine but cooler - definitely Autumnal; so much so that I went out to pick some blackberries to go with the apples given to me by a dear friend and old teacher of mine last Thursday.

My grandchildren were with me during the very warm weather we had in the early part of August. It was a welcome change, as we usually huddle behind our inadequate wind break and have hot drinks in between short dips in the none-too-gentle waves. It was interesting to watch the way the wind behaved at that time, and I'll try to explain why, during these days, the wind seemed to change. When we woke in the mornings (early when Karen and Matthew are with us!!) the sea was like a mill-pond and there was not a breath of wind from any direction. But by the time I entered my recordings at 8.30 am there was usually a figure (eg. 2, 6, or 8 mph) and the general direction was NE.

During the night the land-mass bordering the sea cools more quickly than the sea itself, so in quiet weather air tends to flow out to sea no matter what the general direction of the current airstream. When the two are almost identical (as in the early morning when the sun is rising), the air is still, hence the flat mirror or mill-pond effect. As soon as the sun begins to warm the land convection currents begin to cause the air to rise, and the air above the sea begins to move slowly towards the land and the surface begins to ruffle. This

movement of air is called a **Sea-Breeze**. Should the wind in the morning be **more** than 12 mph the sea breeze will not develop.

Sea-Breezes need:

- # Light winds.
- # Fair morning skies so that the sun can get to the land.
- # Limited instability so that cumulus develop.

Sea-Breezes will not develop when:

- # The morning is overcast.
- # The wind is blowing from land to sea at above 12mph.
- # It is a hot and sultry morning.

So, the lighter the wind, the earlier the sea-breeze can exert itself. Therefore, in conditions such as I have described, the sea-breeze could get as far as three miles inland. Across our peninsula then, on a still morning, the breeze would come from at least three directions on each of our coasts - westerly here, southerly from Bolt Tail to Start Point, and easterly along Slapton line by as early as 8.00 am - whilst in the inland centre nothing much will be happening until later in the morning. As the general wind speed increases so it becomes increasingly difficult for the breeze to stop and reverse the wind. Morning winds of only 8-11mph usually mean no breeze until the afternoon.

How many of us have noticed that the best part of the day (the clearest, warmest and most calm) is usually about mid-day (BST) or just before? Then a few fluffy cumulus clouds appear just inland, gradually extending towards the sea. (Just as you begin to set out the picnic, the sun goes in and the children begin to shiver and complain!) These clouds mark the line, roughly parallel to the coast, called the **sea-breeze front**.

It marks the position at which the two winds meet, and marks the chimney or escape route up which the two opposing winds blow. On the seaward side of this the air is clean and cool (a boon to sufferers from air-borne allergies as the pollen count is much lower. People are known to have found this an advantage of living on the coast). On the landward side there will be much more cloud and a hazy atmosphere. This is also why most coastal resorts have a greater total of sunshine hours.

There is a generally accepted **Season of Sea - Breezes** due entirely to the difference in the temperatures of the land and sea. It follows then, that breezes will be strongest and most prevalent when this difference is at its greatest. The sea is coolest in February and warmest in September. It is like a storage heater taking a long time to warm up and to cool down, whereas the land warms up and cools down quickly with the rhythm of day and night. So late spring and early summer sees the greatest temperature differences between land and sea and so the greatest number of sea-breezes.

This year there were some really strong breezes late in the day which, when combined with a rising tide produced some quite lively conditions. These were much enjoyed by our local children as they safely rode the waves on their inflated tyres. Earlier in the day they may well have been blown out to sea as there was on many days quite a breeze from the east. It was good to see the care exerted by parents in such conditions, ensuring that inflatables and tyres were firmly tethered ON the beach. It is sometimes hard to tell the difference between these breezes, but watch for the line of clouds, and high-wheeling birds riding the rising air up the 'chimney'. (That's something sailors will know all about, "goose-winging" craft.)

I missed the tail end of Hurricane

Danielle as Ken and I were at the other end of the country attending a family wedding. I believe that the seas were terrific and the rainfall considerable. Mine read 22 mm on the 4th to 5th of September. It's amazing how far the energy generated in such a storm can travel. The weirdest event of this kind I have ever witnessed was in 1957/58 or thereabouts. The seas were gigantic, a huge rolling swell, the like of which I haven't seen since, and not a breath of wind to accompany it. It was the tail end of a hurricane named, wait for it, **Janet**. My Dad always tells the tale about it, the noise was deafening even in the village, and really it was quite frightening if you didn't know what it was.

Today I read a little bit about hurricanes and their names. Apparently every six years a panel chooses names for the years ahead, each beginning with a consecutive letter of the alphabet. These all used to be female names but, with the advent of the feminist movement, the National Hurricane Centre in Miami gave in. However, it sometimes appears that the female ones give the most trouble - hence Bonney and Danielle - while Charley and Earl seemed to have failed to impress!! Next year we shall meet an Arlene, Floyd, Gert, Maria and possibly Vince. Some names to look out for in the future are Ivan, Karl, Lisa, Paula and Walter.

Well, I must wait for this little tantrum to pass over before we overhaul the shutters ready for the coming winter's onslaught, but I really look forward to the wonderful sunsets we get in the dying times of Autumn.

This time next year the total eclipse of the sun will have come and gone. It is the last we will see from the UK for a very long time, as the next is not due until the year 2090.

Just pray that we get a nice clear day on 11th August 1999!



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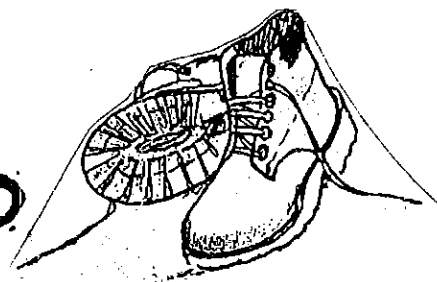
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TRAMP



1 On 13th August thirteen Trampers and four dogs set off in brilliant sunshine to walk the Hameldown Ridge. We had blue skies all day long and found the gentle breezes on the higher parts very welcome. There were beautiful views. For once we had no stiles to climb so our canine friends were delighted!

We picnicked on the grassy slopes looking down on Widecombe village. After lunch we descended to the village and picked up the lane leading to Bone Hill Rocks - quite hard going in the afternoon heat. Our path took us over a moorland track to Hound Tor and thence back to our start point in Swallerton car park....where we found very welcome ice creams and cool drinks.

The walk was about 10 miles and took four and a half hours, including a leisurely picnic.

Stuart Reynolds

2 Wandering lonely as a crowd, as a famous poet almost said, twenty three of us (including an extended family of seven, walking with us for the first time) plus four dogs, set off from Holne via Michelcombe to explore the near uncharted wastes of Holne Moor.

19th August was a beautiful day and we should have been lying on the beach, but instead we started the walk with a one-hour climb in the brilliant sunshine to the summit of Holne Moor. A break here to replenish the liquid lost on the way up gave us the best opportunity possible to enjoy the fantastic views in all directions. It was even more satisfying when the leader confirmed that we were on the correct course.

One hour later we arrived at O Brook and, turning northwards, started looking for a suitable place to stop for lunch. With our loads lightened, even if it was only a transfer from rucksack to stomach, we continued in a northerly direction

until we reached Holne Moor leat. Here we turned eastwards and headed towards Venford Reservoir, having time on the way to enjoy an excellent view of the Dart Valley away to the left. A comfort stop was taken at Venford, where one or two members disobeyed the leader's instructions to delay taking refreshments until we arrived at Holne. It was thought the leader might have some private arrangement with the Holne Tea Shop.

After Venford we set off across unexplored moorland and for the next mile or so experienced the remains of a bracken fire, burnt twigs to tear at exposed limbs, then a boggy area where one member managed to experience peaty water up to her knees, and finally a long uphill trek through foot-high gorse. It was at this point that the dogs refused to go any further and had to be carried but, being mere humans, we were expected to press on to the top.

From here we were able to sight what was thought to be Holne down in the valley so with a downhill detour we hoped we were heading towards home. Those who had doubted our leader's navigational skills were at this point proved wrong, as one of the younger members noticed a herd of black pigs which he had seen on the way up. We were no longer lost (sorry, confused), and within twenty minutes or so we were back in Holne.

It was a really enjoyable walk, if a little painful at times. At dinner a few days later one of the walkers apologised for continually scratching at her legs as the scabs were itching. Who said walking wasn't a blood sport?

Derek Yeoman

3 Gathered from sundry corners of Devon and Cornwall, fourteen of us and a dog set off from the Information Centre car park below Haytor shortly after the arrival of the ice cream van

on a grey but warm morning on 2nd September.

At Smallacombe Rocks one of our number decided to stay and sketch and take photos. He would rejoin us some time. The rest of us went on down to the footpath leading to the road to New Bridge. This, we agreed, would be an ideal spot for a picnic or for our decadent December slurp. However, picnic time was still a long way off. Next, there was the pretty stretch along the Becka Brook and after a slight pause at Becky Falls and a few more paths and lanes, we reached water. It was a picturesque spot with its pretty cottage and an immaculate (guilt-causing for one of us at least) garden.

The steep track up from Horsham to Manaton made us feel we had earned our lunch. Some time before, a few drops of rain had fallen in a casual way but by now they were sufficiently numerous to make most people choose the benches underneath the trees round the attractive village green for their picnic. Just two eccentrics decided that a seat in the rain was more refreshing but waterproofs soon seemed prudent and were definitely advisable when we all set off again.

We climbed up quite steeply, passing Bowerman's Nose, which we forgot to look at though we did stop to admire the already distant view of Manaton. No one succumbed to the lure of a cup of tea or an ice at Swallerton, and we forgot to examine the site of a mediaeval village below Hound Tor...the rain's fault, perhaps? Coming down towards Becka Brook again we spied number 14 striding out way ahead of us but not in the direction of the clapper bridge over which we crossed and where we paused beneath the dripping trees to gather strength for the next climb up to Smallacombe Rocks. This was quite taxing but we all made it, number 14 too, the vigorous vanguard sheltering beneath a convenient overhang whilst the rest caught up. The going was now easy. Just beyond Haytor the path goes through a little grassy gully, the sides of which were a colourful mass of gorse and heather.

Back at the car park the ice-cream van was waiting and the rain was falling quite determinedly. Nevertheless it had not greatly diminished our enjoyment and appreciation of a

walk that had been so varied and interesting - the first our leaders had planned!

4

The final walk of the month took place on September 15th. It cannot be claimed that the Thurlestone contingent - eight people and one dog - had made a definite decision to take a rather circuitous, but scenic, route from South Brent to Higher Lutton, our starting point. However, it happened that we passed swiftly through the outskirts of South Brent, carefully avoided ending up in Rattery, and took the picturesque road through Harbournford back to the road in Brent leading to Higher Lutton.

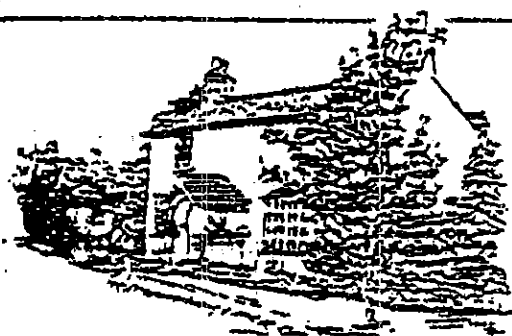
This meant, of course, that we arrived a little later than the appointed hour but the three other members of the group, and two dogs, were more or less patiently waiting for us. We set off along the lane which we soon left in favour of a track. And so we went, across fields, along lanes and tracks, some easy going, one quite steep and probably once the bed of a stream - possibly still one in rainy weather. Luckily the worst we had was occasional drizzle, and then the sun came out.

Out on the open moor two men on pony-back with their sheepdog were driving a herd of black cattle towards the pound at Corringdon Ball Gate. They let us pass through first. It was at that point that our leader, having been refused access to his land at the last minute by a disobliging farmer, demonstrated his skill with map and compass, worked out an alternative route, and led us down to Owley.

Our picnic spot was a sunny slope at the edge of a field with a distant view of South Brent. Lady's Wood provided yet more variety and there was even a train crossing the viaduct. Then using tracks where possible and avoiding the roads we came to Lydia Bridge over the Avon and were soon back at Higher Lutton. However, this was not the end of the day's pleasures: our leaders invited us back to their home where we indulged in tea and cake, sitting in the sun beside the pool, chatting and relaxing after a lovely walk.

Pam Brewster

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JANE MARSTON says she has recently read a collection of amusing Naval signals sent in the days before modern communications, mostly during World War Two. Here are a few which she thinks might be of interest to readers, especially those (like Jane) with Royal Navy connections!

- ★ A Russian convoy was being steadily shadowed day and night by relays of Blom and Voss flying boats. The aircraft flew round and round the convoy, keeping low on the horizon and well out of range of the escort's guns. An irritated escort leader told his signalman to make by lamp to the German: *"You are making me dizzy. For God's sake go round the other way!"* The signal was sent, acknowledged and the flying boat turned round immediately.

- ★ In the winter of 1940, when Wrens were buying up all available serge to make trousers, a Commander-in-Chief made the following signal: *"Wrens clothing is to be held up until the needs of seagoing personnel have been satisfied"*.

- ★ **From Flag Officer, Gibraltar:**
"Small round object sighted 180 degrees 5 miles from Europa Point. Probably mine".
From Flag Officer Force H:
"Certainly not mine".

- ★ From tug towing battle practice target to firing cruiser whose shots are falling too close:
"We aim to please. You aim too please".

- ★ Two frigates approaching Portland Harbour in channel gale, visibility nil.
From first frigate: *"When do you expect to sight Portland Breakwater"*.
Reply: *"Fifteen minutes ago. Estimate my position 4th fairway Came Golf Course"*.

**[With acknowledgements to
"Make A Signal" by Jack Broome,
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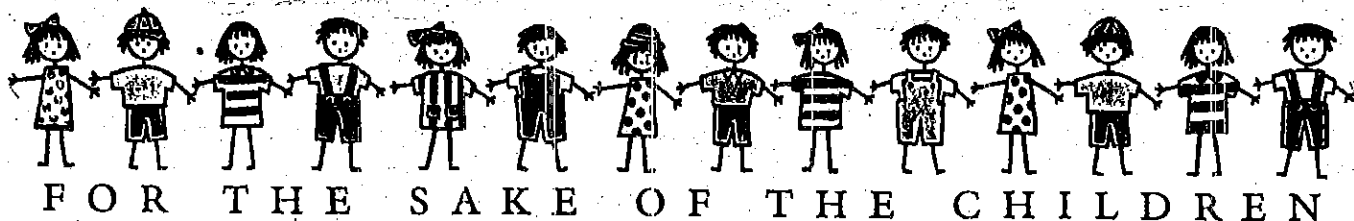
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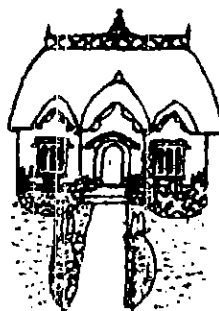
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DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

Thur 1st Conservatives Bridge, Thurlestone Hotel, 6.30 for 7.00 pm
 Tues 6th Basil Smallman Music Lectures, Dodbrooke Hall, 2.30 pm
 Thur 8th W.I., Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Marcia Willett)
 Mon 12th Horticultural Show AGM, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Tues 13th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 14th TRAMP, Dartington, Staverton
 Sat 17th Coastwatch Jumble Sale, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Mon 26th St. Crispin Fair, Parish Hall, 10.30 am

NOVEMBER

Wed 4th TRAMP, Harberton
 Thur 12th W.I., Annual Meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Sat 14th NSPCC Bridge, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm
 Wed 18th Arts & Crafts Exhibition + Coffee, Parish Hall, 10.30 am
 Sat 28th Conservatives Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall, 10.30 am
 Sun 29th "It'll be all right on the Night", Thurlestone Hotel, 7.30 pm

DECEMBER

Sat 5th NSPCC Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall, 10.30 am
 Tues 8th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 9th TRAMP Christmas Walk, Ashprington
 Thur 10th W.I., Parish Hall, 2.30 pm

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

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PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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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.

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 6th NOVEMBER 1998

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FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact Kit Marshall	560214
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary, Dick Marsdon	560405
TENNIS SECTION	Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560157
KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall	Contact Brenda Murch	560487
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact John Lonsdale	560742
PROBUS	Contact Philip Candy	560857
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Ron Parkin	561215
W. I. Second Thursday monthly (ex. August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall	Contact Tricia Millman	560788
RECTOR	to be announced	
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South Milton 10.55 am	Buckland 13.52 pm	-
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Tel. Kingsbridge
560489/560215

'WHICH'
GOOD PUB
GUIDE

The warm and welcoming 'Inn' Place

A Fine Free House range of Draught Beer,
— Ciders, Wines and Spirits. —

FOOD • Choose from the Chef's Fresh Local Seafoods
Prime Devon meats, Speciality Salads and a variety of Home
Prepared Dishes

ACCOMMODATION

FIVE DOUBLE ROOMS
4 with private bath & W.C.

& THREE LUXURY
SELF-CATERING
COTTAGES

Each
Sleeping
up to
six

