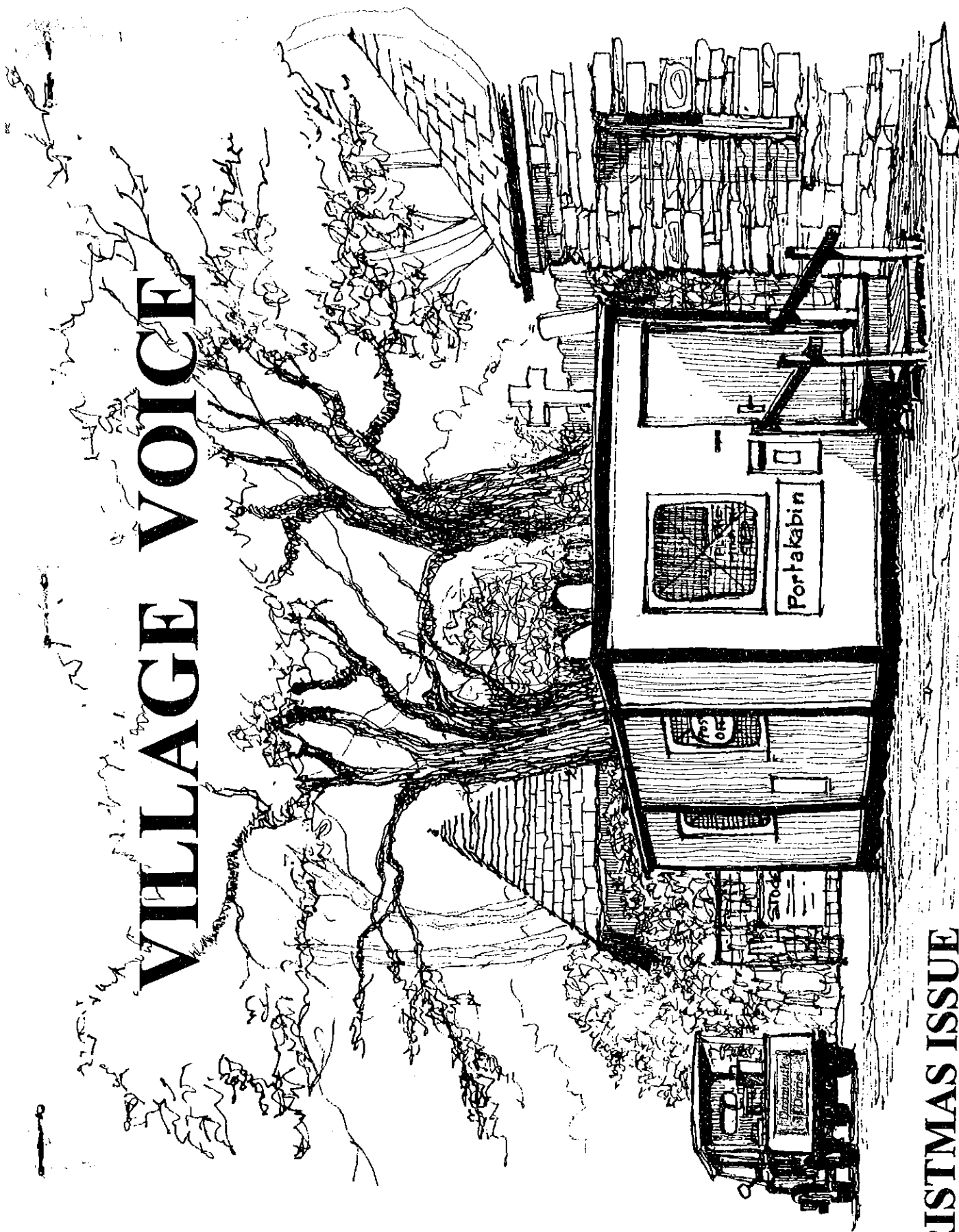


VILLAGE VOICE

CHRISTMAS ISSUE
DECEMBER 1998 & JANUARY 1999

LEN HUBBARD







NUMBER 94
DECEMBER 1998 - JANUARY 1999

Local support for the Portakabin Post Office, which we urged in our previous editorial, appears to have been reasonably satisfactory, with numbers of residents rallying round in the hour of need.

Unhappily the same level of continuing support has not been accorded to the new milk delivery-man, with dozens of residents having elected to discontinue their doorstep delivery requirement.

A consequence of this reduction in the number of households now visited by the milkman is that the distribution of Village Voice to Thurlestone residents (a service the milkman provides free to customers) has had to be urgently reviewed.

The current issue is therefore being made available for COLLECTION from Thurlestone Post Office (our thanks to Jean Yeoman) following a house-to-house leaflet drop in the village to alert all residents. This applies to Thurlestone only, as the existing delivery system for Bantham & West Buckland will remain unchanged.

At a time when local support for local services is really quite important, and may well affect their pattern for the future, this downturn in doorstep milk delivery requirements is rather surprising.

A Happy Christmas to all our readers. A moment, perhaps, to review those New Year resolutions?



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"Dear Friends"

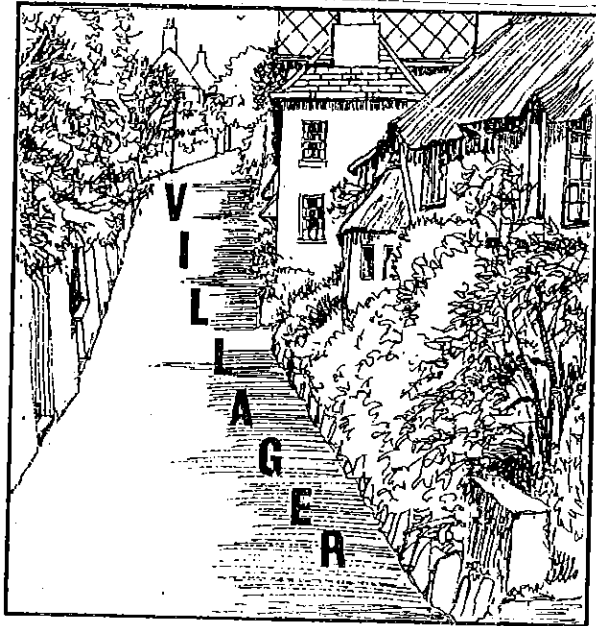
Thanks to some contacts in high places, Villager has been able to get an exclusive preview of one of those Round-Robin computer-printed family news letters which are often slipped inside Christmas cards in this day and age. This Round-Robin is obviously due to be posted in the parish....

"Greetings to all from deepest Deben (as the locals will insist on calling the wondrous place in which we have been fortunate enough to secure our second home and in which we will be spending our first real country Christmas, yule logs and all). More about our wondrous retreat in a moment - family news first.

The Boss, as I laughingly call Marmaduke, is not in a laughing mood at the moment, but will no doubt soon snap out of it. It seems that his business colleagues wouldn't listen to his advice and committed the company very heavily into something called chips. As I said to him, "*Just look at your children - you can never go wrong with chips*". In fact, I laughingly call son Rupert "*Chips with Everything*". Not to his face, of course, but his sister Genevieve knows what I mean and we have a little chuckle behind his back every mealtime.

However, I was quite surprised when the Boss got very uptight with me and said I was thinking of a different kind of chips. His were for **computers**. And when I said I didn't think computers ate chips, he slammed out of the room and seems to have hurt his forehead quite nastily on the bedroom wall. I think it was just to be beastly to me when he then said we might have to sell our wondrous retreat as the local council were thinking of charging full rates on second homes. But I told him he was being silly as one of the real villagers had told me that would be a good thing, and so he shouldn't worry about it. I expect he'll cheer up soon, once the lively village Christmas celebrations get under way.

One jolly villager - the fat one with the peaked hat - told me that Christmas down here is really magical... Father Christmas sliding on a sledge down the village pulled by



six bulls from a local farm, and the roads all lit up by coloured lanterns hanging from the trees. I can hardly wait!

But back to the children. Rupert is of course, quite brilliant and has got a place at Oxford and he is only 12! Genevieve pretends she is not jealous...goodness knows she has no need to be, she passed her entrance for Roedean with flying colours, in fact she got a netball scholarship. It is quite difficult, even for her doting parents to realise, that despite being 6ft 5ins, she is still only 10!

But enough of family. **So boring....** Me, well nothing really, though I have had a letter from Buck House asking me to sing at Prince Charlie's little anniversary do next year. I can't make up my mind whether to say yes or not. Apparently it's H.M.'s personal request so I probably will.

Now for the village news. Don't let anyone ever tell you it's all quiet in the country! Though we just missed being nominated as the best kept village in the West

Country, we have topped the list as the most-robbed village for the first time ever. Of course, the police have thrown what they call a "ring of steel" around the village, and to have someone slipping through the chinks in this armour must be quite annoying for them. Mind you, as I said to our local constable, we have much worse crime in the streets around our main residence "up country" (local expression!), and he must be pleased that they have a much nicer kind of crime down here.

Most of the locals have their own theories about who's doing the robbing - all very Sherlock Holmes they are - but they are all agreed that it must be one of them. It's so exciting the way they all look at each other sideways. One even suggested to the police that the robber was Marmaduke, based on the fact that they didn't have any burglary at all until we moved down. That didn't go down well with Marmaduke I can tell you, and he went into another of his famous sulks after the police had finished questioning him and said that any place that thought he was a burglar wasn't the sort of place he wanted to call a second home. But we all jollied round him and now he's quite looking forward to Christmas in the country.

Oh, there are some interesting people down here. One other second-homer (the locals call us Grockles, now isn't that a friendly sounding name!) told us that there's a lot of development going on down here in the villages themselves, and that accounts for the Portakabin down by the church, which will house the village Post Office until a new village shop is built. Mind you, I like the look of the Portakabin P.O..... reminds me of home somehow. So you see there's plenty going on in the village what with the Women's Institute, jumble sales, and bridge nights in the village hall. And everyone is *so* friendly.

Mind you the milkman does come round awfully early setting off all the intruder lights, but I say that just proves how fresh the milk is and warned another second-homer not to kick up too much of a fuss or they may cut out the milk round altogether. Then where would we be, having to drive into a supermarket for all that stale old milk - gosh it would be just like

home, wouldn't it. Not what we came to the country for at all!

We're not sure where we are going for Christmas lunch and New Year's Eve. The kitchen in our second home paradise is too small for the kind of turkey we're used to. However, Marmaduke has become quite attached to the village inns, but thinks we ought to use the hotel - yes, our second home has a wonderful four-star hotel in the village - for the more formal affairs.

We did think about going all 1920s at a hotel on an island near here on New Year's Eve but the Boss isn't keen on going across to the island on a big tractor which ferries guests back and forth.

One of the locals told him that the ashes from his grandmother's cremation were scattered at sea while the tractor was going across and Marmaduke made some joke about "Gran Overboard" which didn't go down too well. The bruise on the Boss's eye is going down now and will be almost gone by the Big Christmas break.

That's the only drawback to living out in the country - you do have to be careful what you say as they do seem to have a slightly different sense of humour to that we're used to in Islington with Tony.

Do pop down and see us when you can. 'Fraid we can't give you a bed during the Great Eclipse, everyone seems to want to come and see us then. And now Marmaduke has some idea of letting the cottage for the Eclipse week, says the fantastic prices you can charge will easily cover the full rates. However I don't think Rupert and Genevieve will let him get away with that. They so enjoy playing with the local children behind the school slide that they are insisting on coming for the whole of the summer hols. Well, we'll see.

Anyway, have a lovely Christmas and a wondrous 1999!

With much love from your dear old friend Margaret Pulling-Legg and, of course, Marmaduke and the children."

Villager



PARISH COUNCIL : NEWS IN BRIEF

A Parish Council meeting was held on 13th October 1998

POLICE MATTERS

At a recent Police Liaison Meeting in Salcombe, **John Brown**, Community Safety Officer, gave a talk on the implications of the 1998 Crime & Disorder Bill. District Councillor Martyn Grose said that these were such as to require the setting up of a new department at SHDC.

The current spate of burglaries in Thurlestone may be linked to a similar one in Modbury, where a bogus but plausible meter-reader is thought to be involved. Residents should not hesitate to dial 999 if they see anything suspicious. However, we were assured that the rather pushy stranger selling photographs of Thurlestone was *bona fide*.

To cope with next August's solar eclipse, the Police have been allocated £1 million (about the cost of dealing with a single fatal traffic accident!).

PARISH HALL

It was reported that there was a total of some £22,000 in the reserves. The Hall was to be painted inside and out, new front doors were to be installed and NO SMOKING signs erected.

Next year would see a succession of fund-raising events, including a spring Barn Dance, a summer party, a Jazz Band and a Steel Band.

A reply had not yet been received to the offer made by the Committee for the land adjacent to the Hall.

RETAIL SERVICES

Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** expressed public thanks to **Mike Taylor**, **Derrick Yeoman**, **John Crawford** and **POTS** for helping to get the temporary Post Office up and running in the Portakabin, thus ensuring continuity of postal services. The Chairman thanked **Jean Yeoman** for acting as Post Mistress during this period.

MISCELLANEOUS

Millennium:

Representatives of the Parish Council, Pre-School and Friends of Thurlestone Church are to attend a meeting, under the auspices of the Parish Hall Committee, to discuss plans for the Millennium.

Citizen



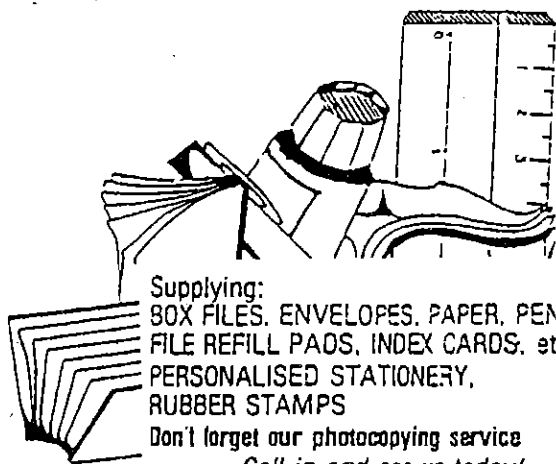
"I KNOW WHERE I AM"

by D. Stephenson

Where hedge high lanes like a summer Cresta-run
slip swiftly past church and cross and cannon long since silent to the sea
Where village people and hotel guests eat, Egon Ronay style, the produce of the sea
Where cliff-top homes like flowers in a field
await to show their fresh-washed faces to the sun
Where educated men curse over broken dreams on manicured lawns
and dogs and masters walk the sea-side path
Where children's happy shouts mingle with the tumbling seagulls' cry
and the jagged tangled rocks beat calm seas into foam
I know it's Thurlestone.

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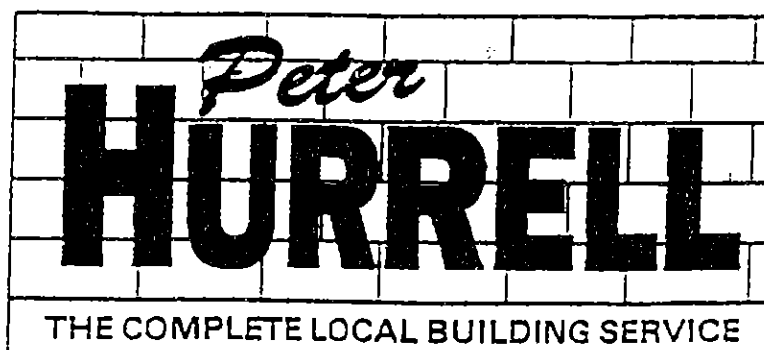
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Geoffrey Stidston	560695
Veronica White	560236
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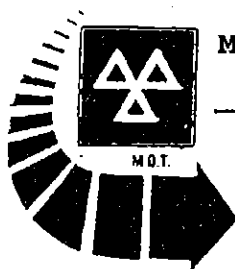
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Puzzle Corner



CHRISTMAS CLUELESS CROSSWORD

Each number represents a letter. For example 1 = P, 2 = A, and 3 = T. Enter these letters where their numbers are shown in the grid. Then identify the letters for the remaining 23 numbers and enter them in the grid. In this puzzle each horizontal row contains several words separated by bold lines. The shaded columns don't spell anything, but the unshaded columns contain words (also separated by bold lines) which can be preceded by the word **Christmas**.

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

REFERENCE GRID

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

Pat Machin's **Puzzle Corner** (continued)

CHRISTMAS MISSING LINK

Find the missing link between these pairs of words, eg RAM (PART) RIDGE. When complete, the FIRST letter of each new word will spell out the title of a Christmas Carol. Each missing link-word has FOUR letters.

A () GATE
HARVEST () WORK
HEART'S () OFF
MARCH () BRAINED
HANG () HANG
BIRD () JUICE
SHOE () RATE
LIGHT () BOOK

PAL () AGE
TOE () FILE
SLAP () BOARD
STEREO () WRITER
RAW () AWAY
CAT'S () ORE
FLAT () CLAD
RE () AGE
SQUARE () STICK

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Pat Machin

Roger Hind

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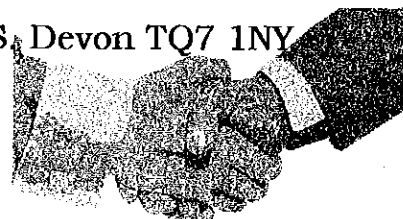
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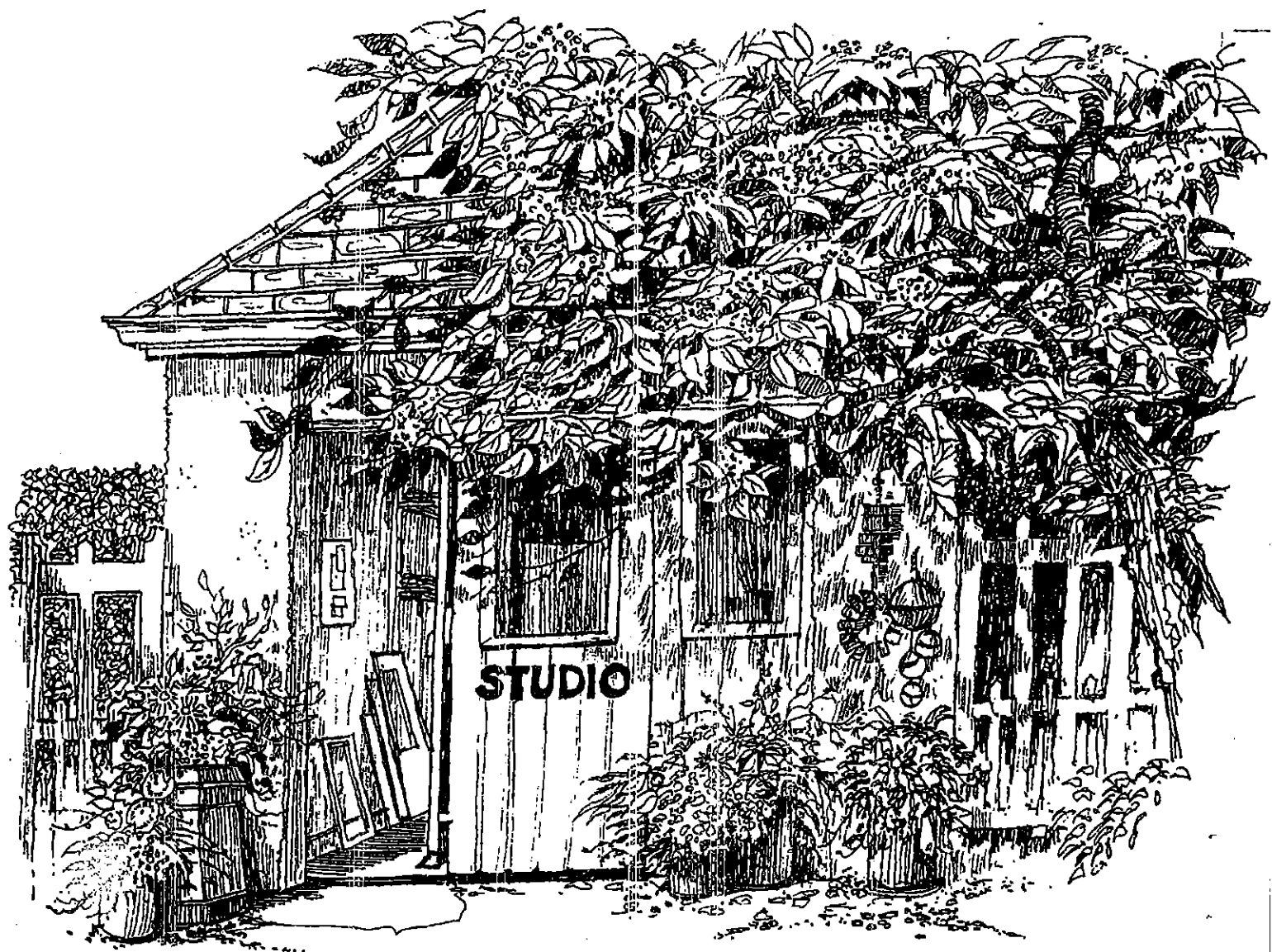
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Village News Round-Up



JOAN HILLYAR

A well-respected resident of Thurlestone, Joan Hillyar, died at the beginning of October at the age of 90. Readers may remember Joan's two fairly recent contributions to Village Voice, including an account of her wartime service in the WRNS.

Joan and her husband, Jim, (who predeceased her) spent their early married life running what was then the flower farm at Bantham until they retired to Pilgrim Cottage at Thurlestone.

Over more recent years Joan fought a continuing and uncomfortable battle with ill-health, including having one of her legs amputated. She had a very positive and forward-looking attitude to life, rarely mentioning her physical frailties.

She is survived by her son, who lives in Cyprus, and we extend condolences to him and his family.

HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Former President **Dick White** has now retired. One of the founder members, Dick has given great service to the Show since its inception in 1979 - from setting up the benches for Show day to presenting the annual awards - and has now decided to take a well-earned rest. We wish him all the best.

Ben Horn is the new President and **David Coward** was re-elected show Chairman at the recent AGM, with **Clare McKillop** as his deputy. **John Lonsdale** continues as show Secretary, and **John Beven** is the new Treasurer (succeeding Alf Amess). **Derek Brown** is a welcome new committee member.

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION

The organisers would like to thank the many kind donors of goods and the friends who helped with the Jumble Sale in October, when £225 was raised for N.C.I. A letter of appreciation has been received from them.

CHURCH REPAIRS

Commandos from Lympstone travelled over to Thurlestone one day recently and were to be seen abseiling down the church tower! It was not an official military exercise but a helping hand in fixing glass plates (known as 'tell-tales') over small cracks in the tower masonry so the condition of the fabric could be monitored.

MARATHON RUN

Congratulations to Thurlestone's **Paul Housego** who ran in the New York marathon at the end of October, completing the course in 3 hours and 38 minutes. Paul says that he enjoyed the run - apart from the last three miles! He is donating his sponsorship funds to the animal charity **Tuskforce** - it's not too late to contribute. Barclays Bank say whatever money he raises they will match!

NSPCC - TIME OF BAZAAR

Please note that the wrong time for this event was shown in the last issue - it will start at 2.30 pm (not 10.30 am) on 5th December.

GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

Advance notice. On Friday 12th March next, the Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show has gathered together a distinguished

panel of gardening experts who will help to solve your gardening problems. The panel will include: **Don Cockman** of Babbacombe, **Vic Flawn** of Chillington, and **Ben Horn** of South Milton, under the chairmanship of **Julian Tregelles**. The event will be held at South Milton village hall at 7.30 pm.

MEAD CLOSURE

The **cattle grid** at the entrance to the Mead Estate is to be cleaned out on **Monday 7th December**. Eagle Properties have written to advise us that the entrance will be **CLOSED** from 9.00 am until 12 noon and residents and visitors should take particular note of the date and times.

If you are planning to take your car over the cattle grid that morning, make sure you do it before the work gets under way. **You have been warned!**

TWO BUSES A DAY!

Many a long year has passed - certainly more than 20 - since we had even one public service bus a day from the parish to Kingsbridge. Did you know that, with the exception of weekends, we now have **TWO** buses a day? At the back of this issue, in the Directory, you will find the times.

This and the Hopper Bus last summer make really good news particularly for those who don't drive. We should spread the word and try to 'give it a go' now and then. Why not think about leaving your car in the garage for a change, taking a hassle-free and scenic journey to the town whilst at the same time making your contribution to reducing atmospheric pollution? It's most important that residents use the service now we've got it.

From Kingsbridge there are bus services to Plymouth, Exeter, Totnes and Dartmouth, timetables for which can be picked up from the Tourist Information Office on the Quay at Kingsbridge.

The South Hams Rural Transport Forum meets at Tresillian in Kingsbridge once every three months and Parish Councils are asked to send a representative. Sadly, so far, **our** Parish Council has not had a member available to attend, but it is understood they can delegate a non-Parish Councillor to go. The next meeting is on 13th January 1999.

REMEMBER WALLY?

Many Thurlestone village residents will remember **Wally Bennett**, our very popular postman some years ago - bustling round the village, always with a smile on his face and a welcome greeting to everyone, rain or shine.

After a serious accident and subsequent illness, Wally had to retire prematurely both from his work as a postman and as a very well-liked elected District Councillor for Kingsbridge. He was Mayor of Kingsbridge at one time. Over many years, when faced with a problem, many Kingsbridge folk invariably went to Wally for advice. He quickly informed them about the current state of play, and what would be their best decision.

Sadly Wally has now lost the sight of one eye and the other eye has only 40 per cent vision, but it is encouraging to know that the good eye is in a stable condition now. His wife Rosemary says that Wally is coping with his disability very well and together they get much pleasure from their family, who have done well in their chosen careers, and their grandchild.

Many times he pushed our daily newspaper through the letter-box with the mail - a specially good idea when it was raining! Come to think of it, **Robert**, the current postman on the Mead, does this as well.

So....let's remember ALL our local postmen as they push those mountains of Christmas cards through our letter-boxes during the coming season of goodwill....and remember to be generous!

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CHRISTMAS ON A THURLESTONE FARM 70 YEARS AGO



An extract from Hubert Snowdon's book "Born to Farm in Devon"

"Christmas was well-celebrated in Victorian style with plenty of food and greenery decoration, much of it home-grown.

Relatives came to us, because we were tied to the farm, and enjoyed the farm fare and atmosphere. They brought their offerings, shop-bought, new and glittering. We children enjoyed that.

Children's stockings were filled with simple gifts, a penny and an orange in the toe, a bar of chocolate, sweets, nuts, mini-toys and puzzles, perhaps a book, and an individual present tied at the top.

Sleepily we heard rustlings in the night, but dare not wake lest Santa didn't stop. Early in the morn we woke to the clamour every family knows. The farm work and milk round were bustled through and we never opened the rest of the presents until everyone was in. Everyone was very red-faced, the outside workers from their hurry, and the cooks from extra breakfasts to fry, and already joints and vegetables were cooking for the big meal at 1 pm.

There were chicken, ducks or goose and

always with roast pork, never turkey at that time, thought to be an extravagant luxury of the wealthy. The traditional pudding with silver three-penny pieces and one sixpence. In the afternoon some slept, some walked with the children.

At 4 pm came a cup of tea and Christmas cake. The farming few went out to the yard again to see to the needs of the animals. The cooks prepared the big supper, cold meat and all the trimmings followed by sweetmeats and crackers. In paper hats we played games, mainly for the children's sake until bedtime, and by the silence afterwards the exhausted adults were glad to sit quiet with a cup of tea, or perhaps a glass of wine. Alcohol was never over-indulged in or encouraged. Cider was available at meals.

Boxing Day was quieter, the men sporting, rabbiting, hunting, perhaps a football match, with a big meal and party in the evening. One day we always gave the children a party in our big kitchen.

On the Sunday we all attempted to attend the Chapel services."

PARISH RETAIL SERVICES PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT



As indicated in the last issue, we have been able to see for ourselves the gradual progress being made by the two developers, both of whom have supported the Parish since early spring.

I am assured by **Amel Properties** that their target date of "end of January" is still relevant for the refurbishment of the Village Stores and Post Office barn.

During the next two months we will be able to see how this target is achieved. In the same period it is expected that the finalisation of tenancy/ownership of the new facility will be completed. Following on from this, it is logical to assume that the Portakabin and existing Village Stores will be replaced by early spring.

The planned progress through to the spring is now entirely in the hands of the developer and estate agent, together with the continued goodwill and efforts particularly of **Jean Yeoman**, and **Kay and Bob Morley**

FINANCE

Finance was a major issue when formulating an action plan in May. I am pleased to be able to report the following financial situation:

Income

Funding from POTS pledge	200.00
Residents donations	505.00
Total Income	705.00

Expenditure

<u>Phases 1 & 2 May-October '98</u>	
Insurance	52.00
Solicitors (Birchen & Co)	373.75
<u>Administration:</u>	
Parish Council Green Paper	23.10

SWW standing charge	4.30
Phones and postage	22.60
Total	475.75

<u>Estimated January '99 spending</u>	
British Telecom	116.32
Insurance	13.68
Total	130.00

Total Expenditure	605.75
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SUMMARY

The balance of funding, roughly £100, is to be held as a contingency fund within the POTS accounting system through to the spring.

We must also recognise that:

the total questionnaire portion of the project, masterminded by **John Crawford**, was privately funded

the Post Office elements have been funded by the August donations from residents and 50% of the £200 pledge by POTS

local individuals and the developers have given their skills and their time at no cost to the project

As part of the final reckoning, I express grateful thanks for the "nil cost" work carried out by **Gordon Jeffery** and **Mike Penwell** in the final "fitting-out" stage of the Portakabin.

As a general "thank you", perhaps we should all collectively ensure a "bumper seasonal turnover" through our pre-Christmas and New Year spending in the Village Stores and Portakabin Post Office businesses.

Mike Taylor

THURLESTONE'S CHURCH

Towering over Thurlestone is a massive church proclaiming support for the Christian faith. It has been there for centuries and will still be there after we have gone. Why and when was it built, and how has it fared?

Thanks to the Rev. Frank Coope MA, appointed Rector in 1897, we have a scholarly account of its history which, taken together with standard books on the county, notably Hoskins' "Devon", reveals a story of continued faith through times of joy and adversity.

The church dates from the early 1200s when the chancel and the northern half of the nave were built, much of which have survived including the lancet windows in the chancel. The first known Rector, called Henry, was licensed by Pope Gregory IX in 1230 AD. Surely the main reason for such a large place of worship was that the Catholic church felt it was strong enough to erect it.

Christianity had been rather slow to penetrate the relatively remote county of Devon. From about 200 AD Celtic missionaries reportedly wandered along the coast and up the rivers and meditated in their little oratories. By 500 AD most of the county had been evangelised. Then, with the Saxon invasion, a religious hierarchy developed under Bishops, with limited church building and the beginnings of parochial boundaries. In 1050 the Bishop moved from Crediton to the walled city of Exeter.

The years 1100 to 1300 were probably the most remarkable in the ecclesiastical history of Devon. The church had grown to power to be second only to the King. It owned one-sixth of the county, an estimated 142,000

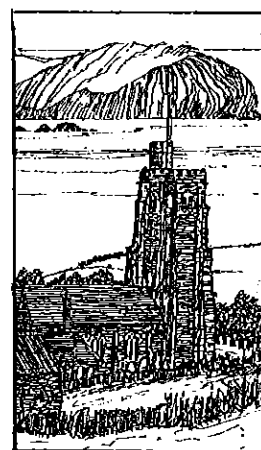
acres in all, together with four influential monastic houses and 24 manors. One in every 55 of the population was a cleric. With these

resources, a start was made on building the magnificent cathedral in Exeter and, aided by a succession of forceful Bishops, including Bartholomew (1161-1184), who was described as "a luminary of the English church", a vast building programme was introduced which included Thurlestone. Soon the beautiful church at South Milton was going up as were others at Churchstow, West Alvington and Kingsbridge, mostly in the local hard green slate.

These splendid churches served to integrate Catholicism into the ordinary way of life of the villagers, so that men and women were able to worship in the midst of their work, their homes and their families and the graves of their ancestors. How many attended is uncertain.

The population of the parish of Thurlestone at the time of Domesday in 1087 was probably not more than 40 to 50. Even so, the farming community, with their broad Devon accents, must have gone along, weather permitting, to participate in services, held for the most part in Latin.

In the following years few alterations or additions to the church were made but, with a steadily increasing agricultural population, a major enlargement was undertaken in the 1400s. The Lady Chapel and the south aisle were added, the fine pillars of Dartmoor granite replacing part of the wall of the



former nave, and a substantial tower was erected. Thus the church assumed its present shape. In the following century an elegant porch and a splendidly carved rood screen were added. By then the parishioners must have contributed a considerable quantity of gifts such as vestments and plate, and have cherished any that had survived recurrent marauding attacks from the sea.

There followed the Reformation, instituted by Henry VIII in the 1530s, with the deposition of Catholic bishops and priests and the removal of all images and valuables from churches. The introduction to the New Prayer Book in English and the suppression of the Catholic mass in Latin caused immediate rebellion but within two to three generations almost all Devonians had become solidly Protestant. The next upheaval was the Civil War of the 1640s, but our church seems to have survived the depredations of the Roundheads and the Puritans.

A few years later the north wall was taken down and rebuilt and the rood screen, beyond repair, was removed. The 1700s were a rather undistinguished period for the Church of England, partly due to the lack of firm leadership. At Thurlestone little seems to have been done to keep the fabric in good repair.

Then came the 1800s, especially during the long Rectorship of the Rev. Peregrine Ilbert MA. Many improvements took place. He refurbished the interior, ridding it of the "desolation of many generations". The tower, having sunk unevenly, was partly taken down and rebuilt, the high-back benches were replaced by forms, a finely-carved rood screen, made in Exeter, was slung between the chancel and the nave, and a new carved eagle for the lectern was received as a gift. The whole of the church was whitewashed and large painted texts in frames were hung on the walls. Stocks were kept in the porch for boys who misbehaved in church!

A sounding-board suspended above the pulpit was at one time a feature of many country churches in Devon, including Thurlestone. A former Rector, regretting our loss, recalled a friend who presented his church with a new board. The Vicar, wishing to test it for sound, went to the far end of the nave, instructing his Sexton to speak from the pulpit. "I have not been paid for six months" the Sexton shouted "How does that sound?"

In this century, the biggest repair has involved the replacement of the whole of the roof in 1904. More manageable items have included a new vestry and the abandonment of the insecure platform from the base of the tower upon which a group of villagers had played their fiddles and brass for many generations. The musicians removed to the chancel for a while, until an organ was installed in 1908 bearing the medieval inscription in Latin which read "Love and not shouting reaches the ears of God".

The late-Norman font which had been "worn away by the feet of priests for 800 years" was pointed, relined with lead and mounted on a granite base. There is a new pulpit and lectern and, recently, a new organ. Glass in the windows is modern, several indicating the parishioners who generously gave them. Indeed, almost the whole fabric and contents of the church comprise gifts of one sort or another. Amongst those that have survived from long ago are the bells, a splendid Elizabethan chalice and cover made in Exeter, and a Charles I prayerbook.

With so small a parochial population which, despite a considerable increase in recent years, still numbers less than 1000, the proper upkeep of the church is a constant anxiety. Lacking a wealthy squire or patron, the residents have always managed to supplement such resources as are available from elsewhere. In the future they will surely continue to do so.

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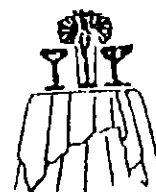


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HARRY HUGGINS GETS RATTY!

1998 brought us a new kind of animal. We have rabbits (like the poor, always with us), wood mice (aka. long-tailed field mice), squirrels (not often), shrews, there have been badgers (far too frequently and so destructive we have had to resort to unusual and expensive measures), and once, a long time ago, a stoat. We could do with him again, to work on the rabbits. There was a fox, but he was over the fence; and there is a house there now.

The new chums are **voles**. Quite often, as you drive along, a little figure crosses the lane in front: it looks like a grey-brown sausage, snub nose, no tail to speak of, and no visible legs, but it goes so fast it must have them. That is a **field vole**. In the garden we see the other sort, **bank vole**. Its tail is longer, it has the snub nose and not much in the way of ears; its sides and back are rich mahogany colour.

As we gaze out of the window (we spend much of our time doing just that) one often scampers from one flower bed to another. Once, when doing that, one met June, who was standing on the lawn. It circled round her as though she was a roundabout and continued on its way.

Often one appears on the bird table, which has a stalk in the middle underneath, like a mushroom, to stop things climbing up. That worked when it was first made and the garden had not grown. In fact once in those early days we were nearly hauled before the Police, the RSPB, the RSPCA, Uncle Tom Copley and anyone else you can think of. Reason? The table has a roof to keep it dry (and for earwigs to hide in) and from table to

roof there are stout wire bars about an inch apart. So it is really a cage. It keeps out things like Jackdaws and Rooks which would gobble up the food in less than no time. Also it provides some protection from predators - Sparrowhawks and cats. Small birds can get in. Starlings usually cling to the side of the table and swish about inside with their beaks, although on occasion one gets in and has to squirm to get out again. There has been the odd one which we have had to fish out - whether, if we waited, he would have slimmed down like Winnie the Pooh until he could squeeze himself out we do not know.

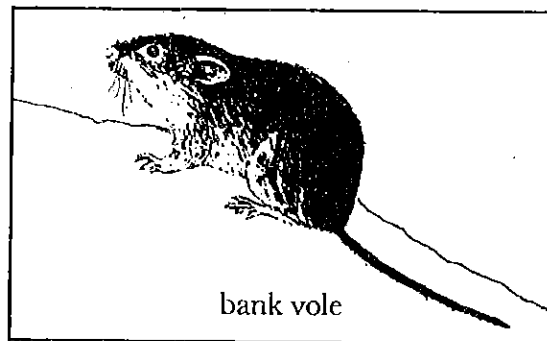
At the time we were nearly arrested, Meadcombe Road stopped at the level of our garden. Crosslands, Wingfield, and all those were just figments of Eagle Developments' imagination. People used to stop their cars

by our garden and eat picnics, gaze into our house, or whatever. Yes, they did gaze in - some folks are incredibly nosey!

One day a car pulled up. We saw the faces of the occupants start to seethe with indignation and

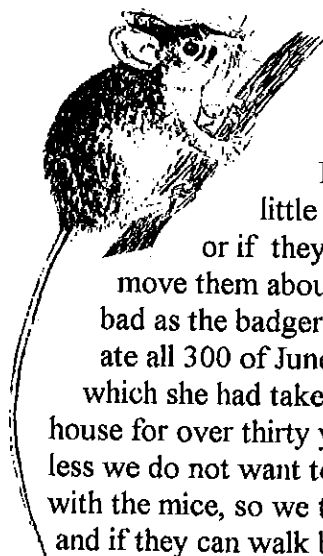
righteousness. They could see a Robin in a cage. You know, "*all heaven in a rage...*" and all that. They flung open their car doors and started to stride up the garden....to release the Robin, prosecute us, and do anything else they could think of. Whereupon the Robin hopped off the bird table and flew away!

Since then, things have grown and now there is a juniper tree all round. You are not supposed to let it happen because moggies might get at the birds, but so far that has not occurred. But now and then little animals climb up and get on. Sometimes there must



quite often we see a bank vole make it - they are quite happy to run around in daylight, as we see when they skip across the grass. June got very close to one on the table once. I tried to get near another, with a camera, but it heard my big feet coming.

We have caught about three in our *bring-em-back-alive* traps (or rather *take-em-away-live* traps). And only about five wood mice so far this autumn. They must have had a population crash. These small quadrupeds do that, they build up and then go down like the Stock Market. Last winter, between October and May, we caught 73 mice. And one winter we had close on a couple of hundred.



We don't mind these things, in fact we like them. But they will dig up little bulbs and eat them, or if they don't eat them they move them about. They are not as bad as the badger which dug up and ate all 300 of June's precious tulips which she had taken from house to house for over thirty years. But none the less we do not want to share our garden with the mice, so we take them elsewhere and if they can walk back, good luck to them.

Deporting them can be fraught. One escaped in the boot of the car. It was in the trap when it was put in, but when the time came for release, no mouse. When we got home we emptied the boot, no small task. I like to carry everything which might be needed and much which will not, walking sticks, umbrellas, maps, field guides for birds, butterflies, flowers, caterpillars, the book about the coast path from Lyme Regis to Plymouth (very necessary despite the fact we only ever walk the bit from the golf club to Butter Cove), and then some.

When everything was out mouse was sitting by the rear seats. I plunged in and grabbed, needless to say without success, whereupon

he trotted up the wheel arch and vanished into the upholstery. What to do? We couldn't take the car to pieces and if he starved to death in situ there would be a big pong and a bigger bill from the garage for finding the corpse. But all was well, we set the trap, baited with fresh juicy peanuts, in the boot, closed the lid down and next morning found him trapped again.

One night there was a terrible rattling in one of the traps in the porch, outside our window. Nothing there when we checked in the morning. Something had escaped although the trap had closed again: when an animal goes in and tips up the metal seesaw it is held shut by a magnetic cupboard catch which is strong enough to defeat most things. A night or two later it happened again. There must have been some monster mouse - or could it have been a rat? (Not that we have ever seen one of those). One evening soon after the clatter started again I rushed out and picked up the trap. It held a shrew! With its little pointed snout it must have been able to get a grip on the edge of the seesaw to try to open it. Obviously on the previous occasions it had succeeded!

The book says the weight of a grown shrew is 7 to 10 grams, so if you went to the shop you would get around 50 to the lb. Though you would never find 50 together. You would never find even two, except to mate, and that very briefly. They are solitary and loathe one another.

Just very occasionally we catch one in a trap. We don't like it to happen. For one thing they do no harm to our plants. They are not vegetarians - their teeth are more like those of a dog, or a badger, not like the little chisels which the vegetarian rodents have. For another thing, they are apt to die on you. Their life span is no more than eighteen months, none survives its second winter, and they don't live on the one day one night basis that we do. We have about sixteen hours awake, all in one go, and sleep for eight hours, give or take an hour or two. Likewise

in one go. A few do it differently - sailors on watch etc. - and some like your humble servant fit in a bit more sleep, after lunch, or in front of the tv set. Craig Rich usually sends me off and Tony Soper always does. He is such a nice fellow and what he says is always so interesting, but he has that beautifully soothing voice.

But a shrew has about ten spells of activity in each 24 hours, and about ten little sleeps in between. So its life is lived at a much faster rate than that of most animals and if it does not catch the beetles, worms and things it lives on, which it cannot do in a trap baited only with ground up peanuts, it quickly dies. They tell you to put a dab of cat food in the traps but we don't have any of that and if we bought some it would go rotten before we used much of it. Luckily in the nearly twenty years over which we have been setting traps there have been only a couple of shrews. Anyway, this one was alive and kicking and was soon released.

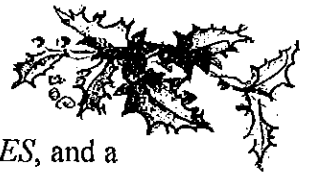
To go back to the voles, the field and bank voles are about mouse sized. There is a rat-

sized one, **water vole** ("Wind in the Willows" Ratty). They may be in these parts but we have not met one. We would find one sometimes in the wilder and wetter places in East Anglia; usually he was sitting on a damp platform at water level, chewing away at bits of reed. We called them '*miserables*' because they looked so miserable. The world is against them now. Dredging and clearing out waterways have destroyed much of their habitat. And mink eat the ones that are left. Funny that - rabbits are equally defenceless against mink, but there is no diminution in *their* numbers.

The owners of the caravan camps which surrounded the north Essex coast used to find them very useful. Many camps were on low-lying land, just inside the high grassy walls which kept the sea out - well, most of the time. And time without number the punters complained about rats. "**Oh no,**" said the owners, "**they are not rats, they are voles.**"

Maybe that placated the people, but if they believed that they would believe anything.

MILLENNIUM VIDEO



The video makers are reaching the stage where a design for the cover of the cassette is needed. It should have a parish theme.

They are appealing to residents, including school children, to come up with ideas - broadly or in detail.

If you can take a photograph, paint a picture, design a lay-out or contribute anything to help, that would be very useful. Or just jot down your ideas. Details to bear in mind are:

SIZE: To fit a normal VHS cover for a standard cassette

FRONT: To contain the title of the video

LAND OF THE FIVE BEACHES, and a resume of what it is about - i.e. 3000 years of history and the life and time of the people of the parish of Thurlestone (which includes Bantham and Buckland) etc.

BACK: Amongst other things, this must also allow space to include the names of between four and six sponsors

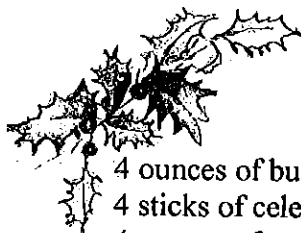
TIMING: Let Len Hubbard at Burwood Gallery have your ideas by Easter 1999.

DON'T WAIT - START WORK ON IT NOW WHILE THE DEMANDS OF YOUR GARDEN AND OTHER OUTDOOR PURSUITS ARE AT A LOW EBB!

KATE'S KITCHEN

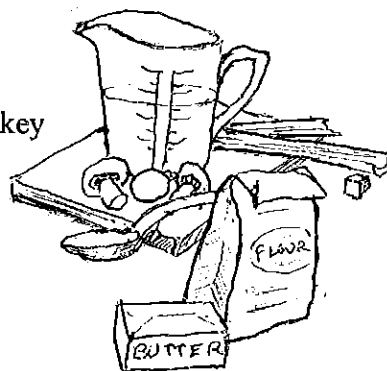


A Happy Christmas is one thing - but what to do with all the left-overs is quite another! This gratin is easy to make and you can ring the changes with the ingredients according to what is lingering in the fridge after all the festivities. Cold sprouts can be served again in a "bake", and croissants with the remains of your jar of mincemeat make a quick pudding.



HAM AND TURKEY GRATIN

- 4 ounces of butter
- 4 sticks of celery, chopped
- 4 ounces of mushrooms, sliced
- 4 ounces each of chopped cooked ham and turkey
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1½ ounces of flour
- ¾ pint of milk
- one vegetable stock cube
- 3 ounces of Cheddar cheese, grated
- 2 ounces of breadcrumbs



Fry the celery in one ounce of the butter and put it in an ovenproof dish. Fry the mushrooms in another ounce and add to the dish with the ham, turkey and eggs. Make a white sauce with the remaining butter, the flour, and the milk, in which you have dissolved the stock cube. Pour this over the turkey mixture and sprinkle the cheese and breadcrumbs over the top. Bake at 180° C (375° F - Gas 4) for thirty minutes.

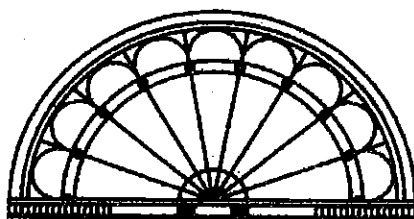
SPROUT AND NUTMEG BAKE

Make a thick white sauce with one ounce of butter, two level tablespoons of flour and seven fluid ounces of milk. Add eight ounces of chopped cooked sprouts, three beaten eggs, seasoning and grated nutmeg to taste. Puree all this until smooth and bake in a greased dish at 200° C (400° F - Gas 6) until golden.

MINCEMEAT CROISSANTS



Split the croissants horizontally. Toast both halves on the inside and spread the bottom halves with a spoonful of mincemeat, topped with a spoonful of thick cream. Put back their lids and heat them through in a warm oven.



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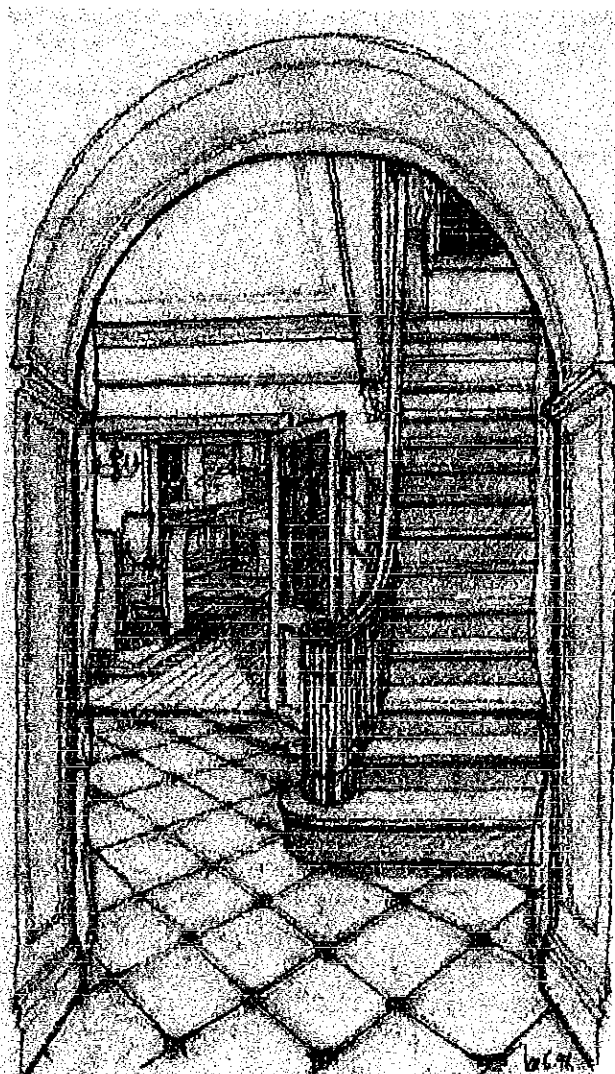
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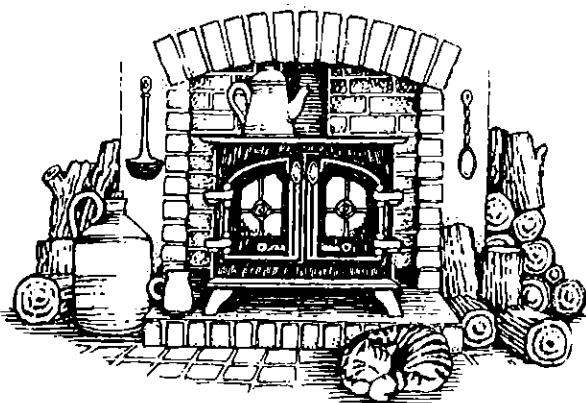
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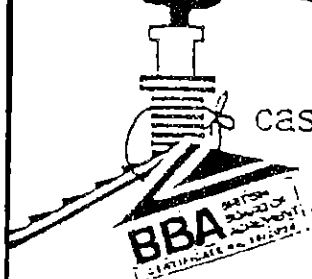
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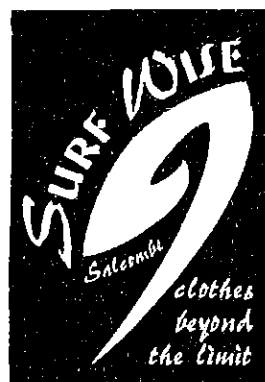
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HORSWELL DIARY

Deadlines are not my forte! Our editor will verify that! I'm just not ready for Christmas, for trees and trimmings, parties and presents. It will have to be a last-minute affair. Simple, understated and meaningful. All the usual razzamatazz can wait until next year, to celebrate the Millennium. Meanwhile, the pudding's in the pantry, and the cake's in the tin, so it's really just the presents I have to choose and cards to send to faraway family and friends.

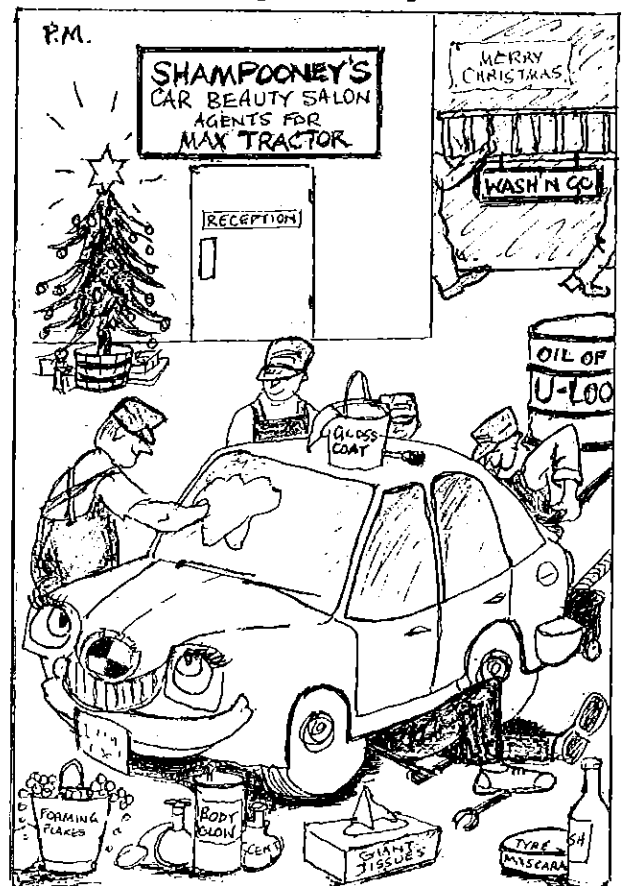
I have one very special friend. He's trustworthy, loyal and never lets me down. We're a great team. He's quite a bit younger than me. He's even good looking, although I guess we're both beginning to show our age a little now. But after all our years together it still gives me pleasure to see him across a crowded car park. My husband worries about us, especially when we're out late together and a long way from home, but he still trusts him. And late in the night, burning up the miles between far-flung destinations, I find his warmth and familiarity safe and secure.

An advert for Christmas presents said *"Send a friend to a Health Spa for a day of top to toe relaxation and beauty therapy."* It sounded tempting. I booked my friend in without delay.

OK, so to you he's just a car, an old blue BMW with peacock scratches on his roof, but we've travelled 140,000 miles together without complaint in wet and wind, snow and sunshine, traffic jams and open highway. Despite a daily mud-pack and massage along our

narrow country lanes he deserved a special treat. And sure enough, after a full day's top to toe pampering and special treatment for a small water retention problem, he reappeared purring with contentment, looking sleek, rested, and well groomed. Champney's would have been proud of the bill!

Thus rejuvenated we've been back tramping the highways, eating up the miles between work and duties, family and friends, creating our own special groove in the tarmac between Devon, London and Oxfordshire. Together we snarl at the number of roadworks that slow us down, and revel at the beauty of the autumn countryside that passes like videotape across the screen. Startling images flash by: golden leaves and scarlet berries against sharp blue skies;



black storm clouds over dark ploughed fields; golden gingerbread houses in Cotswold villages huddled together in warm sunshine; beside the motorway vast modern warehouses teaming with activity, fleets of trucks loading at every door like piglets suckling milk from a sow.

In London squally winds peel sticky backed leaves from grimy, glutinous pavements to slap them coldly against one's legs. Grim-faced joggers, defying heart attacks, jostle walkers from their path and hard-eyed pigeons view one with intent.

Walking in a South London park can be, as we know, a perilous occupation. A notice by the lake advises against immersing oneself or one's pet in its foetid waters for fear of poisoning from aquatic toxic algae. Another exhorts us not to feed and thus encourage the wildlife as numbers already vastly exceed those capable of being supported by the natural habitat, causing the erosion of banks and the destruction of vegetation. Lest one should find other ways to amuse oneself a kill-joy notice advises that rollerblading is banned in the restaurant.

Had it been the Minister for Agriculture discovered here, rather than his soul-mate the Secretary for Wales, one could have assumed he was doing timely research into the disastrous effects of urbanisation of the countryside - pollution of waterways, transmission of disease, unsustainable wildlife, the pressures of public access, and the destruction of flora and fauna. Quite apart from vital food production for the nation, he might realise that without the

voluntary efforts of Britain's farmers to maintain the countryside it will quickly decline into this kind of urban decay.

Instead, farmers across the nation, battle for survival, for the right to sell their produce at a profit, to compete in a market stacked against them by trading agreements and a strong pound. It seemed appropriate that this year we celebrated harvest festival not in a small country church but in the vast church of St. Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield. It is sadly here, in the city of London, not in the wide open spaces of the shires, that the future of farming is to be decided. I wish my husband would exercise his right as a Freeman of the City Of London to drive a flock of sheep over Westminster Bridge and bring the area to a standstill. Perhaps if politicians were unable to go about their business unhampered they might be more appreciative of the current restrictions faced by farmers.

And whilst we produce more than we can sell, floods and famine sweep through central America, refugees hunt for food in the bitter cold of Kosovo, and Saddam stockpiles weapons of such massive destruction that the middle east teeters on the brink of war.

So, if I could wave a magic wand, what would I give for Christmas presents? World peace, fair trade, relief from famine and disease, hope, respect for our planet and every living creature upon it, a sense of wonder at the beauty of life and, above all, love.

Happy Christmas!



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Dates for your Diary

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Tuesday Night is Quiz Night

Sat 14th

WINTER in the CARIBBEAN

Friday 20th

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December

Thursday 17th

Pre - Christmas Party

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Tuesday 22nd

Wednesday 23rd

Christmas Quiz Night

Christmas Draw and Live music from Howard

Christmas Eve - Extension 'til 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Boxing Day

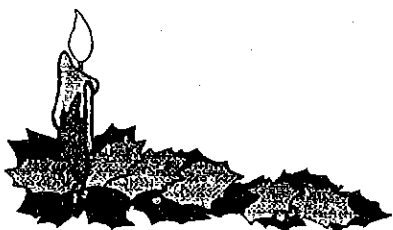
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PROTECTING YOUR HOME

Break-ins are often the work of opportunists. Reducing these opportunities can make a real difference. The majority of burglaries take place during day time and not, as many people think, at night. Intruders often get in downstairs, at the back of the house. Put yourself in the burglar's position. *How would you get in if you were locked out? The chances are the burglar would use the same route!*

Complete this simple security checklist and it will give you an idea of how secure, or otherwise, your property is:

DOORS

- # Do doors have a solid wood core (try to avoid glass panels) YES/NO
- # Do all external doors have two good locks? YES/NO
- # Are there three strong hinges fitted to external doors? YES/NO
- # Is a security chain fitted? YES/NO
- # Is it always used? YES/NO

WINDOWS

- # Are window locks fitted? YES/NO
- # Are the locks easy to use? YES/NO
- # Do you always use them? YES/NO
- # Can your sliding patio doors be lifted off their rails? YES/NO
- # Can doors and windows be seen by neighbours? YES/NO
- # Are window frames rotten or is the putty dried out? YES/NO
- # Are garage and shed doors securely locked? YES/NO

The police Divisional Crime Prevention Officer will be able to supply you with particular information regarding any aspects of security, home or personal, and a Home Office publication "**Your Practical Guide to Crime Prevention**" is available free from your local police station. The Crime Prevention Officer's telephone number is **01803-841609**.

TRAMP

Despite the grey weather of the mid-October day that looked more inclined to drizzle than sunshine, a small but sturdy band of trampers set off resolutely from Aveton Gifford car park.

Reaching the village by field path (not road), we went up towards the church and thence across some rather wet fields. A slightly devious course led us eventually to the entrance to Chantry. Pleasant, if a trifle soggy, walking over more fields and along tracks brought us to the lane leading to Loddiswell and our pub lunch, which was

good. We did not over-indulge or linger too long and when we came out the sun was shining.

Soon leaving the road we followed a track down to the bridge over the river. After another stretch through the meadows, we finally took to the lanes and, keeping up a good pace, by way of Venn and Hatch we rapidly came back to Aveton Gifford. An uneventful walk but most enjoyable, particularly when the sun shone!

Pam Brewster



CHRISTMAS WITH THE STANBOROUGH CHORUS



Jo Parkin (alto) and Tom Gilkes (bass) are the most recent residents of the parish to become members of the Stanborough Chorus, joining Shirley Pope, Liz and Graham Worrall, and Liz Webb. They may soon need a minibus to get themselves to rehearsals and concerts!

The Chorus is a mixed-voice choir of about 55 members who rehearse at Kingsbridge Methodist Church on Wednesday evenings. The music sung ranges from ancient to modern, small items to large works, light to serious, and unaccompanied to accompanied. The majority of concerts are performed in aid of charity, and venues are widespread throughout Devon, varying from small chapels to the grandeur of Exeter Cathedral and Buckfast Abbey. The choir has twice played host to a Czech children's choir and is now planning its second visit to Opava in the Czech Republic.

There will be several opportunities to hear the Chorus during December. There are concerts, all starting at 7.30 pm, at the following venues:

Buckfast Abbey on Friday 11th December

Kingsbridge Town Hall, with Kingsbridge Silver Band, on Saturday 12th December

Churchstow parish church on Friday 18th December

Bigbury parish church on Saturday 19th December

Saltram House on Tuesday 22nd December

On Christmas Eve at 4.30pm at **St. Edmund's Church**, Kingsbridge, the annual Carols for All concert takes place, which this year is in aid of Bantham Surf Life-Saving Club. For more information about these or other concerts, please contact the secretary, **Liz Webb** (560090).

Scholarships are offered to boys and girls aged 10 and over. These enable the youngsters to participate fully without cost, and if you know a child who enjoys singing, or you would like to become a member, please contact Liz as above.

THE MUSIC OF SIBELIUS.

This is the title of a series of six lectures on this famous composer which will be given by **Professor Basil Smallman** at Dodbrooke Church Hall, Kingsbridge, from 2.15 pm to 3.45 pm on Tuesday afternoons commencing 12th January, 1999.

The talks, which will be fully illustrated by means of CD recordings and live performance on piano, will focus on the seven great symphonies of Sibelius, which

have enjoyed immense popularity in Britain, together with such well-known tone poems as *Pohjola's Daughter* and *The Swan of Tuonela* which reveal the composer's constant absorption in the Finnish folk legends of the *Kalevala*.

No previous knowledge of the subject is necessary; all comers are welcome; enjoyment is guaranteed!

Weather Wag

by Jan Turner



Early November should see us experiencing the first real frosts of the year.

Many a very enjoyable Guy Fawkes night saw us village children warmly wrapped up and waiting around a bonfire in Shute Farm Quarry for the dads to set off our Roman Candles and mini-rockets. Danger never entered our heads, but I guess that the dads took great care over us. We always had a straw-stuffed effigy to put on top of the bonfire. There may well have been times when to light a wet bonfire required ingenuity (a sprinkling of TVO usually did the trick!!)

However, back to the weather. It is about this time, when the evenings are drawing in, that winter seems to knock on the door in the form of a first real frost. Today I heard that snow was forecast for the hills of Northern England. I still think that we are in for a sharp shock this winter, it's when it will occur that's the crunch. We still haven't got our generator (hint, hint). However, you never know, when the boss reads this he may be jolted into action.

Today is 4th November and there was a bit of ground frost this morning. The skies had cleared during the night to allow the temperature to drop to 2.8°C, enough to cause a touch of frost on the seed heads and dried grass lying along the hedges in the garden. There were also more garden birds at the feeder outside the kitchen window. I think that the steely fingers of the colder season are creeping in at last. Only seven weeks to the shortest day and then we'll be looking towards the spring.

I have a book entitled Weather Facts by Dick File, into which I delve every now and then when researching for this article. This time the heading, 'Christmas Weather' struck me as interesting. In it he tells us about the annual 'bet' with, say, Ladbrokes as to whether there will be a White Christmas. Bing Crosby sings lyrical about it, children wish for it, and postmen dread it, as do farmers. I have a secret longing for it, I have to confess. Only once in many years of house to house carol-singing has it snowed quietly

and beautifully. It was exciting and magical, everyone seemed to want to be quiet and listen to the gentle swishing sound it makes as it passes through foliage, or floats in front of your face. The glorious shapes of the individual flakes can be appreciated during times like this. So here's hoping for 21st December in South Milton. In fact, the bookmakers regard it more like a nightmare, because there can be no backing the 'odds-on'!

So, what is the definition of a White Christmas? Most bets are struck on whether snow will actually fall on Christmas Day. This usually means at any stage of the 24 hours from midnight to midnight. Depending on the bookmaker's rules, a short burst of sleet in an otherwise rainy period may qualify as success for the punter. Sleet is defined as rain and snow mixed in our version of the English language, so the snow certainly need not settle on the ground. (In the United States the word sleet is used for what we understand as hail.)

Next, where must the snow or sleet fall? Well, anywhere really, but 'on the summit of Ben Nevis' would improve your chances over someone saying, 'in Bognor', for example. In fact it is the roof of the London Weather Centre that is the place in question. The observers here verify whether sleet or snow has occurred within the elected time. The roof is about 30 metres above the ground at High Holborn, and observers go outside every hour to make recordings of temperature, humidity, cloud base and visibility, and look for precipitation. During cloudy periods he or she will also check between routine hourly observations and especially on Christmas Day if the temperature is close to or below freezing point. The Supervisor and Senior Forecaster will also be keeping a lookout between mince pies and coffee.

During this century you could have 'collected' on a white Christmas bet for London in 1916, 1927, 1938, 1956, 1964, 1968, 1970 and 1976. These were occasions with sleet or snow falling - but not necessarily lying -

averaging about one year in about twelve. I think we are overdue a white Christmas, so be prepared. If snow falls on Christmas Eve and is still lying the next day it doesn't count for betting purposes. However it does look superb doesn't it? In 1981 snow was lying over much of the country from a previous fall, though the weather on Christmas Day was gloriously sunny. The roll-call of years with snow lying in Central London yields only five this century - 1906, 1938, 1970 and 1981. On higher ground away from the urban environment the list would be much longer, and even for parts of outer London the years 1917, 1923, and 1956 can be added.

The figures for the months July - September are included this month. It was interesting to observe in my overall set of figures, that we actually haven't had as much rain this year as we did last year in the same time-span. For example, 1997 Feb = 70.93mm, but this year Feb = 8.43mm. Also, 1997 August = 144mm. compared with this year August = 25.81mm. In total for the first three quarters of the year, 1994 had 829.07mm., 1997 510.6mm, and this year 498.42mm. Our rainfall in this country is so localised that between places

only half a mile apart the figures can vary tremendously. Plymouth had far more rain in October than we did.

However, perhaps we should spare a thought for Central America where there has been a disaster related to Hurricane Mitch. It's hard to believe that a crater-lake could overflow to the extent that the side of the volcano was washed away smothering everything in its path. If you had witnessed the Ley at South Milton Sands breaking through the sandbank at any time I guess you would have some idea, albeit on a small scale.

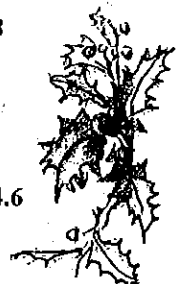
Well, here's to a winter of interest if not severity. I am anxious to obtain some interesting traces on my barograph, and must reconcile the fact that there will be bad weather to match.

Are you going to have a flutter on the White Christmas bet?

P.S. The top speed in recent weeks here was 70 mph on 25th October. Around that date there were 8 successive days when the top speed exceeded 50mph.

WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 1998

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE
RAINFALL mm					
Monthly Total	63.53	25.81	85.31	174.65	498.42
Days of Rain	10	9	19	38	119
Wettest Day	20.52 (20 th)	7.08 (1 st)	22.85 (4 th)	4 th Sept	4 th Sept
TEMPERATURE C					
Monthly Average	16.7	16.4	16	16.4	13.85
Highest Temperature	25.1 (25 th)	24.2 (19 th)	22.8 (19 th)	25.1	26.8 (17 th June)
Lowest Temperature	7.9 (24 th)	7.4 (28 th)	7.6 (28 th)	7.4	
WIND DIRECTION					
West	19	20	17	56	146
East	9	11	12	32	112
North	1	0	0	1	6
South	2	0	1	3	9
WIND SPEED					
Strongest Gust	48 (13 th)	40 (24 th)	49 (10 th)	49	88
Days below 5 mph	0	0	0	0	
SUNNIEST DAY					
Number of Hours	12.43	13.85	10.78		
Date	21 st	9 th	19 th		
Cumulative Total	175	235.9	136.4	547.3	1424.6

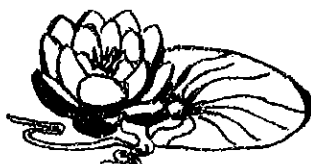


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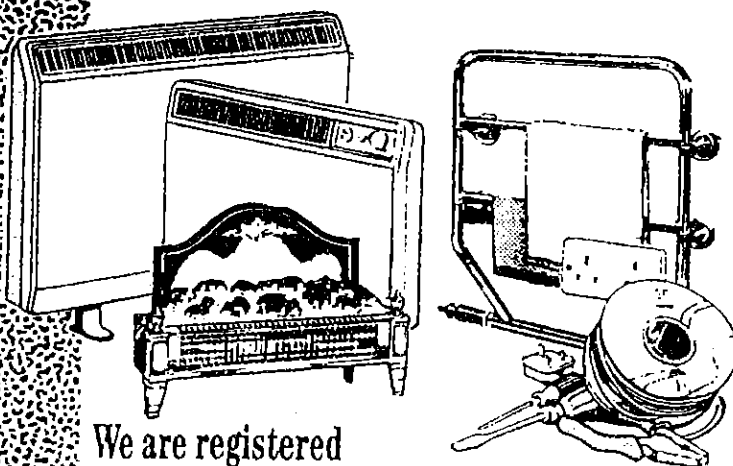
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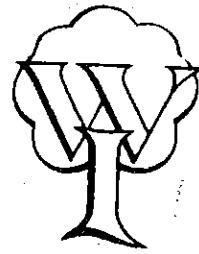
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WI NEWS



A NEW YEAR, A NEW COMMITTEE

There was almost a full house at the annual meeting in November when **Joan Lane** was elected President, **Carolyn Taylor** the Secretary, and **Pat Clarke** the Treasurer.

The outgoing President, **Dorothy Candy**, was warmly thanked for her commitment and enthusiasm during her term of office, and she in turn thanked her secretary, **Tricia Millman**, and Treasurer, **Pam Brewster**, who were also standing down.

The committee also includes: **Sheila Ward**, **Mary Tregelles**, **Pat Scarfe**, **Jo Parkin**, **Norma Kendall**, **Janet Fraser**, **Margaret Cullum**, **Val Brown** and **Pam Brewster**.

Irene Hill, a visiting voluntary county organiser, gave us some interesting facts about a little known aspect of WI, our membership of the Associated Countrywomen of the World or ACWW.

When joining WI, a member automatically becomes affiliated to ACWW, which consists of some 9 million women around the world who belong to women's organisations similar to the WI. WI members' annual voluntary contributions help to provide core funding for ACWW, which is thereby enabled to help women overseas to help themselves and their families.

LITERARY EVENT

Earlier, at the October meeting, a popular local novelist, **Marcia Willett**, spoke very entertainingly about her writing and the things that had inspired her, and gave us an insight into how she sets about the business of constructing and writing her books.

PAINTING ON GLASS

Early in November at Thurlestone an Area day-school was held on glass-painting, tutored by Mrs Ann Gavaghan, which proved to be a fascinating and enjoyable day for the dozen members who attended.

SOCIAL COFFEE TIME

A purely social coffee morning with a difference was enjoyed on 18th November. The difference was a wonderful collection of hand crafts made by members, and it highlighted some very talented craftswomen amongst us. **Sheila Ward** organised things and deserves full marks!



WHAT'S AHEAD

- # Our **Christmas Lunch** will take place on 10th December.
- # On 11th December there is an invitation from West Alvington WI to join them at their annual **carol concert**, with tea and mince-pies in the village hall to follow.
- # At the January monthly meeting there is the welcome return of **Lesley Austin** talking about Baluchistan.
- # On Monday 25th January there will be a Home Economics Area day-school on Japanese folded patchwork at Thurlestone
- # On the 28th January, the Lunch Out group meets at the Old Inn, Malborough.

May we wish all Village Voice readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

BOOKSHELF



ANGELA'S ASHES

by Frank McCourt

A friend loaned me this book but once I started to read it I thought "Why am I inflicting myself by reading about all this misery?". So that was that. I don't want to read of a drunken Irish father who causes his wife and children to live on handouts in dirt, hunger and poverty. No wonder there was a move to teetotalism in the early part of the century!

RM

MY NAME ESCAPES ME

by Alec Guinness

Such a charming and witty book, lovely bedtime reading and full of reminiscences of his long life and times. For me he was one of the few actors who was brilliant at the job of assuming so completely the character of the role he was playing. A far cry from such actors as Jeremy Irons who is always woodenly the same in whatever part he plays.

RM

THE ORCHARD ON FIRE

by Shena Mackay
(Minerva paperback £5.95)

An eloquent and beautifully written novel about a 1950s childhood in Kent. Told in the first person and with an abundance of acutely observed detail, the author is at her best in capturing both the innocence of youth and the spirit of place.

In "Dunedin", her previous novel, she was unable to sustain the brilliance of her short stories over a much longer narrative. In "The Orchard on Fire", however, she has mastered the longer form of the novel without losing for a single page her unique blend of subtle and sensitive insight

combined with a diamond-sharp quality of writing. This latest novel (which was shortlisted for the 1996 Booker prize), is a sheer delight, marks a major step forward in her development, and puts her at the forefront of contemporary writers.

Make this your Christmas reading present to yourself - you won't be disappointed!

PMM

AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE

by Beryl Bainbridge
(Penguin £5.99)

Readers may remember seeing, earlier this year, the film of this book on tv with Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman as the principal male characters. It's another about the 1950s and again the main character is young, but this time the setting is Liverpool. Stella has always been imaginative and stage-struck and her adventures start when she gets her first job as an assistant stage manager at the Liverpool Playhouse. The story revolves around the rehearsal by the repertory theatre of its Christmas production of "Peter Pan" and is a subtle and enjoyable insight into adult relationships. It has a very surprise ending!

PMM

BREWER'S DICTIONARY OF PHRASE & FABLE

Every home should have a copy! When I used the expression the other day "*That put the kibosh on it*" I was asked where the expression came from. Brewer's, of course, told me. It's an endless source of information and interest (a very well-thumbed book in our house) and it would make a great Christmas present.

RM

NOT TO BE SNEEZED AT.....



Al Parker's brother, B.A. Parker of New South Wales, has sent us this article, which suggests that **SEASONAL COLDS ARE TOTALLY PREVENTABLE!**

This assertion, incredible to many, is supported by twenty years of my own experience and study and confirmed by an increasing number of friends and customers of my second-hand book store at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney.

Seasonal colds are preventable because they are not caused by a virus but by **drier air**. The colder the air the drier it tends to be. At body temperature (37°C) it takes about 45 mls of water to saturate a litre of air but at freezing point only 5 mls. Clearly there is a dramatic drop in the amount of water the air can hold even though the relative humidity remains at 100 percent.

We breathe some 25,000 times a day; between 12 and 125 thousand litres of air, say. That air must be saturated at body temperature by the time it reaches the wind-pipe (trachea). If it is not, several nasty things can happen, which I will go into later.

How on earth does the nose provide such a huge amount of heat and moisture? There are banks of erectile tissue (turbinates) which, when irritated by the dry air, produce histamines. These increase blood-flow, allowing plasma to exude into their airway and remove the irritant. Since the major irritant is dry air this is very appropriate. Do not assume too readily that the body is wrong when the nose runs; if it didn't you would die. What many people take to be a sign of disease is, in fact, the cure.

Unfortunately, there is not much space for the turbinates to expand into, so the nose soon blocks up. Then may follow some more serious disorders, as follows:

(a) The little tubes leading to the sinuses and middle-ear may also be occluded. The pressure in these cavities drops, causing head and ear-aches, and may even pull the eardrum adrift (imploded eardrum).

(b) The mucus in these cavities, normally moved out by the waving cilia, becomes static, allowing the bacteria to breed and bring about sinusitis and middle-ear infection (otitis media).

Much more serious is:

(c). With the nose blocked we are forced to breathe through the mouth and this results in the air reaching the wind-pipe being too dry and cold. There the moisture is taken out of the mucus lining the trachea, which quickly becomes so thick that the cilia can't shift it towards the larynx.

The larynx (voice-box, vocal chords) depends on mucus coming up from the trachea for lubrication. When it stops coming up the larynx quickly becomes irritated and inflamed, and so we cough to try and soothe the vocal chords with mucus. However, the mucus may be so thick that even coughing cannot shift it. A dry-non-productive cough is the harbinger of real trouble because it means the static mucus will enable the ever-present bacteria to breed. Bronchitis is the consequence. This is a *secondary* infection. In the case of seasonal colds the cause is not infection. As far as I know, there is no evidence that it is.

Another consequence of static mucus in the wind-pipe is that it causes a traffic-jam because it prevents the mucus still being produced by the lower trachea, bronchi and bronchioles from getting to the larynx. The

bore of the airways narrows and the work of breathing increases, the muscles of respiration become exhausted and you may start to ache all over. You have what many people confuse with flu, *but it is totally preventable!*

How? Very, very simply. If you moisten your nostrils when they start to go dry the turbinates will not need to swell and block off the nose. This can be done with saliva, just lick the back of the index finger and sniff. If this is aesthetically or bacteriologically objectionable plain old tap-water will do, plus a little bit of salt. Ciliated mucosa is happiest with isotonic saline (same concentration as blood plasma, 0.9 per cent by weight).

Anti-histamines reduce the nose's capacity to moisten air and may reduce the area of lining that can function as respiratory epithelium. This causes dependence and an INCREASED tendency to asthma, bronchitis, sinusitis, otitis media, pharyngitis and laryngitis.

If, indeed, seasonal colds are not due to a infectious agent, then they can't be catching. So why is the superstition that they *are* so widespread? People succumb to the colder, drier air at different rates. The *Journal of Clinical Investigations* published the research of *Togias et al* in 1985. He challenged the noses of a group of subjects with cold, dry air for a mere 15 minutes. Then their sputum

was examined for inflammatory chemicals (produced by the airway linings). They found a wide range of responses; some had produced little sign of inflammation and others a huge amount.

It is this differential response that nourishes the belief that colds are catching. You come into contact with someone who has a sore throat or sniffles and soon after your nose starts to run. Obviously, you caught it from them. Wrong! You, for some reason, are reacting more slowly than they. Some of the reasons could be genetic (thicker epithelium, better histamine response, etc.) and some could be behavioural (been shouting, teaching, exercising, snoring, flying, worrying etc.) and some could be chemical irritants.

If you look after your nose in the way I've suggested, you will find that it will become so efficient that even in winter you will not need a handkerchief or tissues. I get plenty of opportunity to explain to customers why they get so many respiratory problems when the westerly, and especially south-westerly winds blow. Now, after 7 years, there is a significant number of folk who no longer suffer from colds and so on or, at least, have drastically reduced them.

Britons, beware the north-easterlies because they are colder and therefore drier!

THE LUCKY BIRDS NEXT DOOR



Now that winter looms, a neighbour has started to fill up her several bird feeders. She believes (or her husband does!) that the birds should avail themselves of the plentiful supply of **natural** food during summer and autumn. It was amazing how soon - within 24 hours - a variety of feathered friends were visiting her garden. Blue tits, great tits, robins, greenfinches and sparrows. A couple of collared doves were also scavenging on the ground below the seed feeder. The jackdaws, rooks and magpies have yet to learn of this food source again - but they will, never fear!

K M



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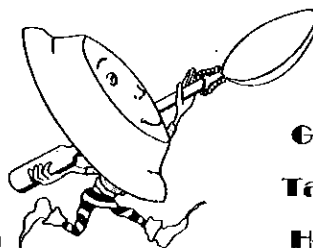
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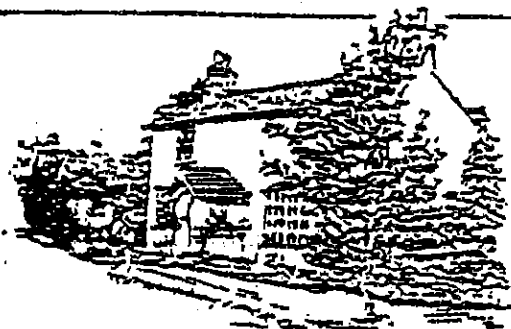
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Can we reverse the decline of our native woodlands? **A FITTING PROJECT FOR THE MILLENNIUM**

*This article is based on a draft of a forthcoming appeal by The Woodland Trust,
made available to us by Charles Mitchelmore*



Background

In Devon we have some of the most glorious woodland in the country but, over the years, too much of it has disappeared. At the start of the present Millennium, the county was mainly given to wooded countryside but, now, less than a tenth remains as native woodland. Twenty-five years ago, the late **Kenneth Watkins** OBE was so concerned about this loss that he set up The Woodland Trust and bought its first woodland - Avon Woods at Woodleigh near Kingsbridge.

About The Woodland Trust

Since its inception the Trust:

- # has acquired, and taken over the management of, 40,000 acres of woodland and countryside, at 900 sites throughout the UK, for the benefit of public enjoyment; and
- # has planted millions of native trees in an ongoing programme to restore lost woodland.

In Devon alone, the Trust owns and manages 80 woods covering an area of some 1000 acres. In addition to safeguarding native woodland, and its place in the landscape, the work is vital in protecting and regenerating wildlife habitats.

The Ken Watkins Memorial Project

The Trust is about to take on its most ambitious and exciting woodland project yet - here in the South Hams where it all started. The aim is to create a 350-acre showcase of woodland creation and conservation - as a living memorial to the vision of its Founder, **Ken Watkins**. The plan is to make Avon Woods the cornerstone of the project:

- # *firstly* by acquiring 203 acres of

adjacent farmland on which to create a new native wood of some 130,000 native trees, to be known as Watkins Wood; and

- # *secondly* by acquiring a 46-acre ancient woodland site - Aveton Wood, across the river from Avon Woods - and restoring it with native tree cover before its value is lost irretrievably to the conifers which predominate at present.

Ancient woodland is woodland which has existed for 400 years or more. It contains more wildlife species than younger woodland, and includes many which are threatened with extinction. The present, fragmented patchwork of woodlands is unable to sustain healthy wildlife populations. The scale of the planned area, and the diversity of its habitats, will form a viable sanctuary for hundreds of species of plants and animals - including otters, dormice, dippers and owls - and build on the 30 different species of breeding birds and 100 plant species already established in Avon Woods.

Now, in time for the start of the next Millennium, there is a wonderful opportunity to reverse the retreat of Devon's beautiful, native woodland.

The Trust has been working hard to raise as much as it can towards its £900,000 target - from legacies, grants, and Trust members - and it will shortly be asking the public to help with the final £100,000 needed. Please contact our parish Tree Warden, Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** on 560602 if you would like to know more. A donation to this project would be so worthwhile. Your own contribution to mark the Millennium?

FRIDAY BRIDGE CLUB

The Friday bridge club held its AGM at the end of October, when **Dorothy Stone** was re-elected chairman, with **John London** continuing as treasurer and **Sheila Tootill** as secretary. Cups were presented as follows:

Leading Pair (Best Average 1997/8) **Kitty & David Cooke** 54.58%
Most Improved Pair 1997/8 **Joan McKenzie & Pat Machin**

The final table of averages for pairs completing a minimum of 15 attendances over the year, and achieving an average of better than 50% is given below, and shows how closely matched the competition has been throughout the year.

1.	Kitty Cooke & David Cooke	54.58%
2.	Mickey Radley & Reg Radley	54.08%
3.	David Mason & Reg Tootill	53.81%
4.	Jean McLean & Sheila Tootill	53.04%
5.	Mike Blackwell & Robin Macdonald	52.06%
6.	Jean Goldsworthy & Mike Patrick	51.71%
7.	Joan McKenzie & Pat Machin	51.30%
8.	Robina Monks & Arnold Monks	51.16%
9.	Joy Hailey & Don Hailey	51.02%
10.	Dorothy Stone & Joan Mills	50.74%
11.	Mike Bolland & Alan Chapman	50.56%



The club has been running successfully for the past 14 years, since its foundation by Bill Phillips and his wife, Betty, former Thurlestone residents who now live at Totnes. It is a very friendly club and all the members ENJOY their bridge. (The usual remark to anyone dropping a clanger is "*Don't worry, it's only a game!*"). The club's previous waiting list having been satisfied there are now a few spaces available for new members. Anyone interested in joining for duplicate bridge on Friday evenings at 7.00 pm should contact **Dorothy Stone** on 560708.

BLOOPERS

Jane Marston has sent us a collection of student howlers compiled in the USA (where they are referred to as "bloopers") by **Richard Lederer**.

He says "One of the fringe benefits of being an English or History teacher is receiving the occasional jewel of a student blooper in an essay. I have pasted together the following "history" of the world from certifiably genuine student bloopers collected by teachers throughout the US, from grade 8 to college level".

Village Voice will print extracts from these in each issue through 1999, and we start with some student "facts" about the Egyptians.

"The inhabitants of Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and travelled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain areas of the dessert are cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain".



POST BAG

Dear Editor

As the autumn days grow short and portend approaching winter we realise how quickly the seasons rotate. We have now been home in Waterloo, Ontario, for months, but our memories of blissful Devon are forever fresh. It was such a pleasure the other day to open the October Village Voice, and read about the Millennium project with Derrick Yeoman and David Smeeton.

We laughed at, or should I say sympathised with, Villager's comments about the tourist hordes who will descend on the South Hams in time for 'the day the sun goes out' in August 1999. Only last summer as Paul was reading in the living room at Thurlestone, he looked out of the window to see the people in a huge tour coach looking down and smiling. He thought "who are those people?"!

Since leaving Devon we have experienced the "Bill & Monica Show", which never ends, and a wrenching global stock market crunch which has been a wake-up call for the G7 nations. Yet these larger issues beyond our control are not the stuff that comforts us, rather the everyday humdrum of life.

For example, walking to the Village Store in a Devon drizzle to chat with Kay and pick up the morning "Times" and squares of Sticky Toffee Goosey Pudding, or perhaps the morning run (Cheryl) through Thurlestone village to see the mist rise over Bolt Tail, then on to the Mead, its gardens ablaze with springtime beauty. Evening walks along the coast path to Bantham to watch the sun sink like red amber is another simple pleasure. I should add that playing two-ball at the golf club is yet another fond thought - the embarrassment of having to be bailed out by the stout play of Pip the Putter happened more than once!

We also enjoyed the morning we helped collate the pages of Village Voice. We soon found ourselves running madly around the little table like demented gerbils, chased by the all-time speed champion Pam Brewster. This led to a bad case of vertigo, which was only relieved by a cookie and a "nice cuppa tea".

We look forward to seeing all our Devon friends in 1999, to resuming our Tramp walks, and being in our Devon cottage. The very best of Christmas cheer and happy holidays to you all.

Cheryl & Paul White
Ontario

Dear Editor

I was in West Buckland last week and saw the entry in Village Voice about the eclipse next August. Yesterday I looked on the Internet to see what was available about it. There is a lot but it occurred to me that you might like to see the enclosed, which is quite detailed, about what is to happen in South Devon. Of course you probably have already seen it all, but I am sending it in case it is of interest.

Perhaps I should introduce myself. I was first brought to Bantham about 1936 as a young boy, and have distinct memories of the beach and Burgh Island. Visits did not recur until my wife and I brought our children and stayed regularly with that great character Phyllis (Emma) Hamilton at Hawk's Rise in West Buckland for about 15 years until she moved to a nursing home. My wife and I went to her funeral service in Thurlestone church. Now we stay at the Martin's cottage at the foot of "Sudden Death", and exchange memories of the past with Anne Jenkins and Nina Hurrell.

We were hoping to see the eclipse, but I fear we have left it too late; everything seems to

be booked up! I hope the weather is clear for you in Thurstlestone on the great day. With good wishes.

(Dr.) J.H.SANDERS
Oxford

[Editor's notes: (1) The papers Dr.Sanders kindly sent are available if any reader would like to borrow them. The information is being used for subsequent issues. (2) If anyone can help him with his accommodation problems please contact me.]

Dear Editor

As I write (12.11.98) I am distressed at the sight of the numerous copies of Village Voice October/November issue which await collection

from Thurstlestone Post Office by Thurstlestone residents - five weeks after publication!

A lot of work must be involved in this excellent team publication - in the editorial office, the printing and collating, the original brainwork of the contributors, and last but not least by the skilled artistic illustrator whose work adorns the front cover. We owe gratitude to everyone involved.

If reports are true and Village Voice doesn't reach you by the usual "Milkman" route, due to his diminishing customer list since taking over from Peter, ask yourself if you are to blame.

Remember that our local advertisers need to be supported, for without their financial backing you could lose your free Village Voice! This problem must be tackled.

Keith Millman
Mead Lane

Pat Machin's Diddle Corner Answers

CHRISTMAS CLUELESS CROSSWORD

Across: DUCK, SCRAPE, PUCE, EARTHY, OPAQUE, AM, CRAYON, SURF, DORY, OCCUPY, EFTS, DUDE, RAKE, PASTY, RINSE, AWE, SIZES, SUN, ICY, THROG, ANTE, GLAD, INTO, GAS, HOPPERS, OUR, BISON, CARTON, NEEDS, SNAKE, EELS, STEP, LACK, INSIST, DREW, AGAIN, MEW, BY, ADVENT, KEG, ENJOY, YIELD, VERSE, TAXI

Down: DECORATIONS, DAY, CRACKER, TREE, EVE, SHOPPING, ISLAND, ROSE, SEASON, CAKE, PARTY, STOCKINGS, PUDDING, PRESENT, CARDS, CAROLS, BOX

OR

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

MISSING LINK

Four-letter words: TOLL, HOME, EASE, HARE, OVER, LIME, LACE, YEAR, AVER, NAIL, DASH, TYPE, HIDE, EYES, IRON, VOLT, YARD

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MORE THAN JUST A PATH



The South West Coast Path

stretches for 613 miles from Poole Harbour in the East, along the south coast to Cornwall, and back along the north coast to Minehead. But this Path is more than just a path. Its Steering Group is supported by many organisations - including **Devon County Council**, the **Ramblers Association**, the **National Farmers Union** and the **Country Landowners Association** - and aims:

- # to improve links with existing rights of way, regional routes and circular walks,
- # to improve public transport services in the vicinity of the coast path, and
- # to encourage the active involvement of **local** communities, farmers, tourist bodies, businesses, **villages** and towns in the further development of the concept.

How these aims can be met is well illustrated by examples from our own area. The South Hams District Council has recently inaugurated the **Hopper Bus** service linking Kingsbridge and points on the coast path between Start Point and Thurlestone. The Coast and Countryside Service - with substantial financial help from the South Hams group of the Ramblers Association - has improved the footpath link between Bigbury-on-Sea and Bantham via Aveton Gifford. Local people in the parish of Aveton Gifford maintain a splendid network of footpaths - described in a leaflet and walks booklet. The National Trust is

also considering the creation of additional footpaths near Southdown Farm.

A recent Survey revealed that the Coast Path attracts over one million visits each year, from all parts of Britain and overseas as well as from local residents, and benefits the regional economy by some £15 million annually.

With this potential to bring in more tourists, and more money into local businesses and communities, what should we in the Parish of Thurlestone be doing? If we could encourage walkers on the Path to come onto our inland network of paths, we would have more people staying in our B&Bs, visiting our village inns and using our shops, including the new one for Thurlestone.

One way to do this would be to improve our local footpaths and, luckily, there is a scheme sponsored by the Devon County Council which is designed to help us do just that. It is called the **Parish Paths Partnership** scheme. This places Parishes in charge of their footpaths, and provides financial help to bring them up to standard.

I suggest that our Parish Council take a look at the scheme so that, in our video, we can claim that Thurlestone is well on its way to the Millennium target of having all rights of way in the Parish both accessible and in good condition.

Basil Fox



FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

2.30 PM

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

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We are raising funds so that the

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DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

Sat 5th NSPCC Christmas Bazaar, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Mon 7th Mead Estate cattle grid closed, 9.00 am - 12.00 noon
 Tues 8th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 9th TRAMP Christmas Walk, Ashprington
 Thur 10th WI Christmas Lunch., Parish Hall, 12.30 pm
 Fri 11th Probus meeting, Thurlstone Hotel, 12.30 for 1.00 pm

JANUARY

Tues 12th Basil Smallman, Dodbrooke Church Hall, 2.15 pm
 Tues 12th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 13th TRAMP walk (route to be advised)
 Thur 14th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Lesley Austin)
 Fri 22nd Probus meeting, Thurlstone Hotel, 12.30 for 1.00 pm

FEBRUARY

Thur 11th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Carolyn Steen)
 Fri 12th Probus meeting, Thurlstone Hotel, 12.30 for 1.00 pm

MARCH

Thur 11th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Oyster Farming)
 Fri 12th "Gardeners Question Time" S.Milton village hall, 7.30 pm
 Sat 20th PARISH HALL BARN DANCE, Thurlstone, 7.00 pm

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



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PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

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The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was founded on behalf of Thurlstone 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.

This December/January issue is for collection by Thurlstone residents from the Post Office. It is delivered by MRS JEAN HURRELL in Bantham and Buckland.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 6th JANUARY 1999

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

PARISH

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse	560447
BOWLS CLUB (Indoor) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	Contact Eileen Dayment	560295
BRIDGE CLUBS 7 pm Parish Hall Wednesdays Fridays	Contact Mary Fulford-Smith Contact Dorothy Stone	842467 560708
CHURCHWARDENS	Michael Clippman Liz Webb	562013 560090
COFFEE TIME (Rectory Barn) Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 October-May.	Contact Liz Webb	560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact Kyr Marshall	560214
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary, Dick Marston	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
PROBIS	Contact Philip Candy	560857
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Ron Parkin	561215
W. I. Second Thursday monthly (ex Auguse) 2.30 pm Parish Hall	Contact Tricia Millman	560788
RECTOR	to be announced	
PARISH COUNCIL		
Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Vice - Chairman	Veronica White	560236
Parish Clerk	John Lonsdale	560742
District Councillor	Martyn Grose	560396
County Councillor	Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	John Dayment	560295
	David Grose	560375
	Charles Mithelmor	560602
	Geoffrey Stidson	560695
	Derrick Yeoman	560607

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

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RUBBISH COLLECTION	Thursday	(But Friday in Bank-Holiday - Monday weeks)
BUSES (Western National)	No. 161 No. 162	No. 161 No. 162
Bantham	10.30 14.20	10.10 13.50
Buckland	10.33 14.17	10.50 14.00
Thurlestone	10.41 14.09	10.41 14.09
South Milton	10.50 14.00	10.33 14.17
Kingsbridge	11.00 14.40	10.30 14.20
The 9.45 am from Thurlestone to Kingsbridge connects with the 10.05 (92) and 11.05 (93) to Plymouth. Return from Plymouth (Bus Station) at 15.45 arriving Kingsbridge 16.54 for the 17.00 to Thurlestone.		
GARAGE (Blight Engineering) LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays)	11.10 - 11.30am 11.35 - 11.45am 12.20 - 12.35pm	Bantham Buckland Old Chapel Thurlestone Church
	11.50 - 12.15pm 12.40 - 12.50pm	Thurlestone Parish Hall Thurlestone Sands
	Maurice Blight Kingsbridge	560220 852315

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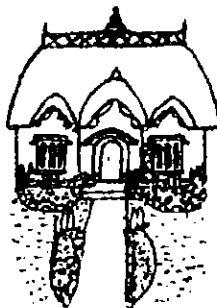
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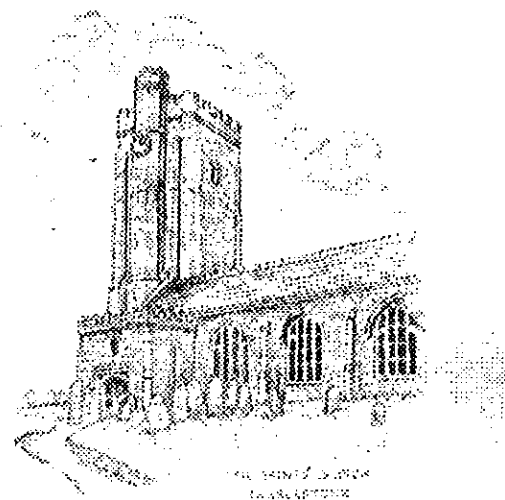
Shrub borders, Feature Trees, Hedges
Rockeries, Conifer and Heather beds

Free estimates and qualified advice

On Loddswell to California Cross Road

Tel: 01 548 550754

All Saints



Churchwardens: Michael Chipman 562013 & Liz Webb 560090

St Crispin's Fair

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with St Crispin's Fair and to all those who supported it. Although fewer people came than last year, the total raised was nearly £700, almost as much as last year.



BY POPULAR DEMAND THE 2ND

All Saints Christmas Quiz

ALL THE ANSWERS ARE NAMES OF PLACES IN DEVON.

Entry forms 50p available from the Village Stores, the Post Office or Liz Webb after December 12th. Completed forms should be returned to Liz or the shops by January 10th.

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR ENTRY FORM FOR THE BEFORE THE SHOPS SHUT ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

1ST PRIZE £5

FIRST FIVE RUNNERS-UP DRAWN £1



All Saints Christmas Cards

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

"Carol Singers" & "Evensong at All Saints"

together with cards featuring All Saints stained glass windows, Christmas flowers, church scenes and Bantham in the snow.

Cards are available after Morning Service, at Coffee-Time or from the Village Stores.



Coffee Time

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? We should like to see you - Ring Liz for a lift. There is no charge but a voluntary donation may be made to church funds.



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)

Come & join the

All Saints Carollers

in aid of our sponsored Romanian child, Moirica Pasca, and "Children in Distress"

Monday December 14th:

Court Park, The Mead & Court Lane

MEET AT 6.00PM IN THE PARISH HALL CARPARK
~~~~~

**Monday December 21st:**

Buckland & Bantham

MEET AT 5.00PM IN THE LANE BY BUCKLAND FARM  
~~~~~

Wednesday December 23rd:

Island View, Sea View Terrace,

Main Street, Parkfield & Yarmer

MEET AT 6.00PM BY THE TELEPHONE BOX IN OLD POST OFFICE LANE
~~~~~

Everyone is welcome to join the *All Saints Carollers*, the more the merrier - enthusiasm is more important than your singing voice!! If possible let Liz know that you hope to join us. It is impossible to sing at every house in the parish, so if you particularly want us to come to you or to stay away, let Liz know.

IF ANYONE WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER REFRESHMENTS

ON ANY OF THE EVENINGS, PLEASE LET US KNOW.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## **January is Marmalade time**

Excellent value for home made produce

Orders taken for:

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| <b>Orange</b>      | <b>£1.05</b> |
| <b>Grapefruit</b>  | <b>£1.10</b> |
| <b>Lemon</b>       | <b>£1.10</b> |
| <b>Dark Chunky</b> | <b>£1.20</b> |

These are last year's prices and may increase slightly when the price of fruit is known. All prices per lb. Minimum order 5 lbs (may be mixed). 5p per lb. reduction on orders of 20 lbs and over.

Available from: Joan Galloway, Edens, Warren Road, Tel: 560453

PLEASE ORDER BY EARLY JANUARY

**All proceeds in aid of the Church**

**WANTED!!**

1LB OR 12OZ JAM JARS WITH LIDS. PLEASE CONTACT JOAN GALLOWAY



# All Saints Diary

## Thurlestone Church Services

|                                        |            |                  |
|----------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Every Sunday                           | 8.00 a.m.  | HOLY COMMUNION   |
| Thursday December 17th, January 14th   | 8.30 a.m.  | HOLY COMMUNION   |
| December 6th, January 3rd, 17th & 31st | 11.10 a.m. | PARISH EUCHARIST |
| December 13th & 27th, January 24th     | 11.10 a.m. | MATINS           |

### Family Services:

|                         |                         |            |              |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Sunday December 6th     | Toy & Tree Service      | 9.30 a.m.  | SOUTH MILTON |
| Wednesday December 23rd | Crib Service            | 4.00 p.m.  | THURLESTONE  |
| Sunday January 10th     | Epiphany Service & Play | 11.10 a.m. | THURLESTONE  |

### Christmas Services:

|                        |                          |            |              |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Thursday December 17th | School Carol Service     | 6.00 p.m.  | SOUTH MILTON |
| Sunday December 20th   | Nine Lessons & Carols    | 11.10 a.m. | THURLESTONE  |
| Christmas Eve          | Eucharist                | 11.45 p.m. | THURLESTONE  |
| Christmas Day          | <u>NO HOLY COMMUNION</u> | 8.00 a.m.  | THURLESTONE  |
|                        | Matins followed by       | 11.10 a.m. | THURLESTONE  |
|                        | Holy Communion           |            |              |



## All Saints Fellowship

"SING NOWELL" - Thursday December 17th at 2.30 p.m.

Carols & Mincepies at Thurlestone Court

"BEHIND BARS" - Thursday January 28th at 2.30 p.m. in South Milton Village Hall

The Revd. Peter Frowley talks about the work of a prison chaplain in Hong Kong

Anyone who heard Peter's sermon on November 14th will tell you that this is not to be missed.

Everyone is very welcome & lifts can be arranged, please contact Liz or Rosemary.



## Epiphany Play

At 10.30 a.m on January 10th, the 1st Sunday after Epiphany, the children from *Searchlight* will perform an Epiphany Play as part of a Joint Parishes Family Service in Thurlestone Church. We would be very pleased to see you there and the children would value your support.



## Advance Dates for your diary:

**Church Fete** - SATURDAY JULY 24TH AT 2.00PM

**The Eclipse of the Sun** - PROFESSOR EMERITUS MICHAEL SEATON, F.R.S. University College, London - A talk with slides on MONDAY AUGUST 9TH AT 7.30 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

**Barbecue on the Green** - TUESDAY AUGUST 10TH AT 6.00 P.M. ON VILLAGE GREEN

**St Crispin's Fair** - MONDAY OCTOBER 25TH AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE PARISH HALL

# THE SLOOP INN

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GOOD PUB  
GUIDE

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

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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

