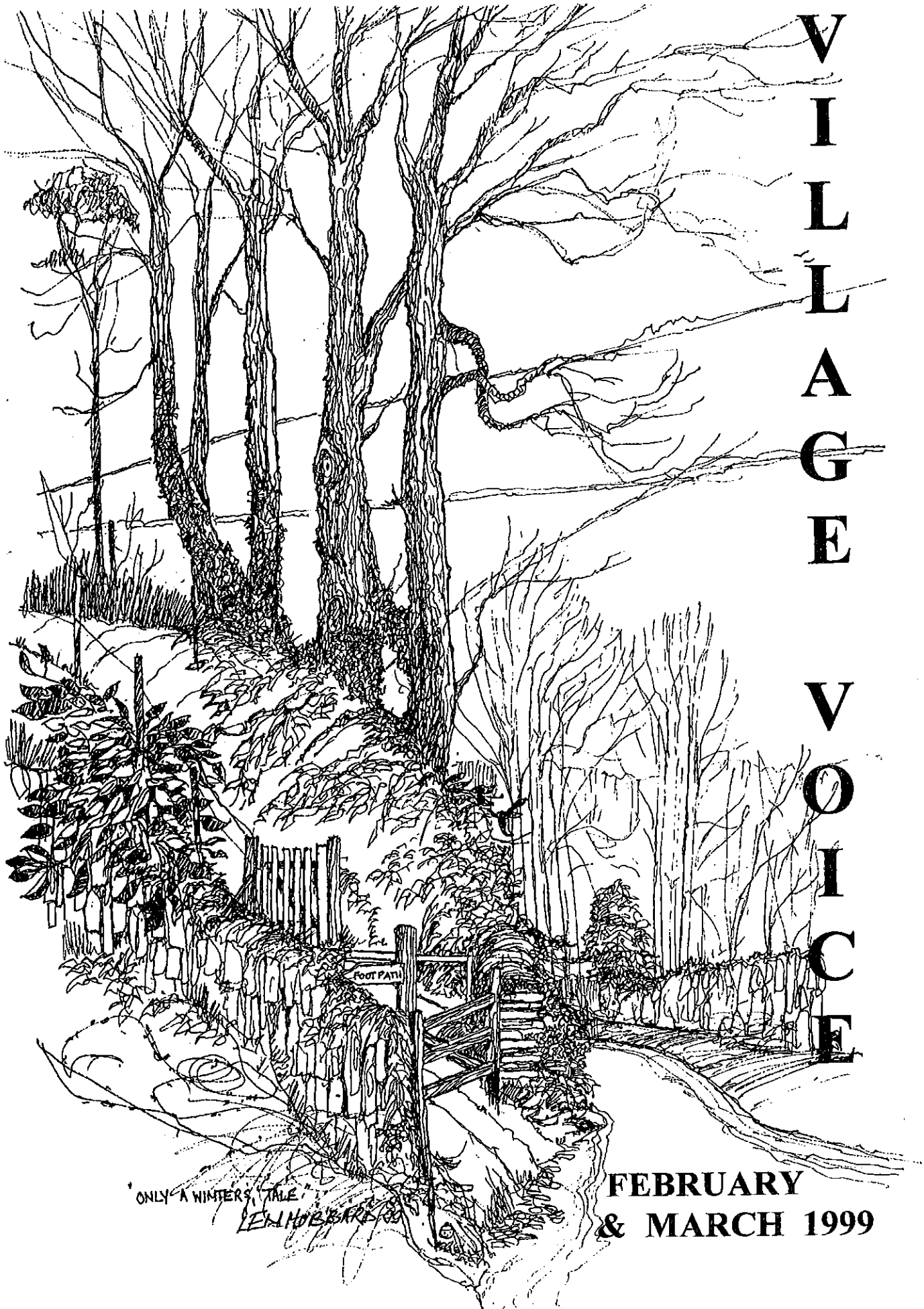


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ONLY A WINTER'S TALE
LEN HOBBART

FEBRUARY
& MARCH 1999

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NUMBER 95
FEBRUARY - MARCH 1999

This issue reaches Thurlestone residents courtesy of Mike Taylor's band of volunteer distributors, as will future editions. Residents of Bantham and Buckland will continue to receive their copies via the good offices of Jean Hurrell. Our grateful thanks to her, and all those new footsloggers now already actively involved (and not forgetting those in "the reserves") for providing this invaluable service.

The winds of change, with plenty of rain to accompany them, have certainly been blowing through the centre of Thurlestone since our last issue, and our contributors elaborate inside on both the meteorological and metaphorical aspects of the current situation. Much is happening - with road closures due to make March a really mad month - and more is to follow, as the South Hams prepares for the invasion of the eclipse-watchers, and Millennium fever reaches epidemic proportions.

Perhaps the most significant change of all to impact on the local community, however, is scheduled to take place this summer - in June to be precise - when golf club secretary Dick Marston retires, and hands over to incoming John Scott.

After that even the eclipse will seem something of an anti-climax!

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Covers LEN HUBBARD

Published Bi-monthly

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Village life has been one damn great dirty lorry after another. And the rain of course.

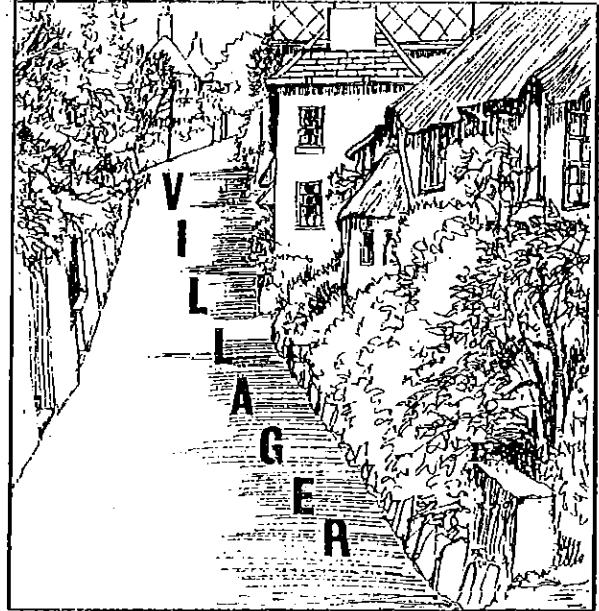
The result is a coating of mud on the houses of those fortunate, or in this case unfortunate, enough to live on the roads travelled by Spike, Fingers and Co. - as the number-plate notices in their cabs inform us are the drivers' names.

Villager opinion is that the developers should either pay for us to wash off the lower portions of our home or should wash them for us. At the *very least* we need counselling! We promise not to mention the mud on the *roads*, because we accept that as a normal hazard of living country-style.

Villager must also point out one benefit from the endless up-and-down of Spike, Fingers and Co., though doubtless our local farmers will not agree with me, and that is that our lanes have been made considerably wider with much larger passing places by these motorized monsters.

Though the developments in Thurlestone are hopefully a one-off, it has brought home the problems of big lorries in small lanes. Like other things this Government has promised us and not delivered, their transport White Paper was very definite about it - "there is substantial concern about the problem of rat-running by large lorries....we agree with these concerns". But nothing, of course, has happened and there is no strategy for stopping heavy vehicles ploughing through our lanes.

The Council for the Preservation of Rural England put their finger on it when they said recently: "It is important to define a strategic network of roads off which lorries must not stray. European law states that 40-tonne



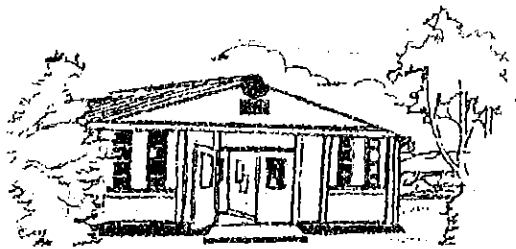
lorries should be allowed free movement on international journeys, not down every country lane in Britain.... Attention should focus on keeping heavy lorries away from our vulnerable villages and country lanes and strengthening only those bridges that serve the network." And so, no doubt, say all of us.

Our lorry problems however will no doubt come to an end in the week of the Total Eclipse (on Wednesday August 11), when all the forecasts of total gridlock in our villages come true. And while on the subject of the Eclipse and traffic gridlock, I do hope that all of you took the advice of the South Hams District Council and refrained from sexual intercourse over the festive period. The SHDC are adamant that there is no way they can guarantee an ambulance ride to hospital for the delivery of your baby, and point out that it is quite a long way by footpath to the nearest medical help for anyone in what used to be described, before TV discovered sex, as "an interesting condition". More Eclipse news later in the year.

In the meantime students of the village in days of yore will have been interested to see that when 'Homefield' was knocked down (it was Victorian and Unlisted), for the first time the side of 'The Cottage' was visible. 'The Cottage' is one of the oldest buildings in the village, dating back to the late 1600s.

The demolition also exposed some of the thick stone walls of Mr William Adams's 'Home Tenement' of 1770, the building which much later formed part of Bromfield's Shop (and earlier Broad's Dairy). You can now see the shape of 'Home Tenement' as it was before it was linked to 'The Cottage' by a modern extension in this century. 'Home Tenement' must be the origin of 'Homefield'.

William Adams was one of only nine men in the parish entitled to call themselves "Mr".



Rowland Cole, Parish Hall chairman, tells us that the structure of the hall has been thoroughly checked over by a chartered engineer who advises that, provided some remedial work is done, the hall can expect another 20 years of life.

In the light of this good news, the hall management committee has decided to shelve the idea of a new hall and are opting to go ahead with the suggested remedial work. The old "football room" will be tackled first, and pending the result of negotiations regarding the land at the rear of the site, it is hoped that the situation can be resolved in two to three months' time.

The first in a series of fund-raising events will be held on Saturday 20th February, a Barn

And just one of the two gentlemen in the village of Thurlestone in the 18th century. Mr Thomas Square was the other, and he lived close at hand in 'The Cottage', then known as 'Hingston's Cottage'.

Both these gentlemen owned much land as well as orchards in the parish. They grazed flocks of sheep on the Warren, part of the golf course of today, and on the 'Playstow', which is the land right in front of Thurlestone Golf Club and which was then the village playground. By 18th century standards they were both rich men.

It will be nice for their ghosts to know that the people who will be moving into the new buildings arising around them will be of similar financial standing!

Villager

FROM THE PARISH HALL

Dance/Supper, and details can be found elsewhere in this issue. Then on Friday 12th March at 7.30 pm the South Hams Society will be holding its AGM at the hall. **Gordon Waterhouse** and **Bryan Ashby**, the two well-known and popular local naturalists will give one of their excellent talks and slide-shows immediately following the business (8.15pm). The talk, on the flora and fauna of the Kingsbridge and Salcombe estuary, will be open to the public for a modest fee, and you are cordially invited to come.

If you are keen on natural history this is an event not to be missed!

Later in the year, Gordon will escort any interested groups around the areas discussed (date for this to be fixed later).

WARNING!

ROAD CLOSURES

The installation of sewage and drainage facilities for the Church Farm/Post Office development will necessitate a three-week period of road closures for the stretch of road between the Church and the Thurlestone Hotel entrance.

It is anticipated that (subject to the weather) these will take effect as follows:

WEEK ONE
8th - 14th MARCH

ROAD CLOSED
(No vehicular passage)

WEEK TWO
15th - 21st MARCH
&
WEEK THREE
22nd - 28th MARCH

SINGLE
LANE
TRAFFIC
WITH TRAFFIC
LIGHTS

The start date may vary slightly if adverse weather disrupts the scheduled building timetable.

The developers apologise for the inconvenience caused, which will be kept to the minimum possible.

Further information will be displayed at the site nearer the start date.

Contact telephone: 01823 - 274211

THE NEW THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & VILLAGE STORE

THE NEW PROPRIETORS

Adrian Masters and his wife **Alison** will be the proprietors of the new Thurlestone Post Office and Village Store. The latest position as we go to press is that, with hard effort and good weather, they expect to open in mid-March.

Adrian and Alison are no strangers to the area, as they live in Kingsbridge and run the Hope Cove Post Office Stores, a business which has been in their family for several generations. They will continue at Hope Cove and expect to operate at Thurlestone in much the same way.

They will stock a wide range of groceries, confectionery, frozen foods, and plan to offer bread from the Upper Crust bakery, fresh fruit and vegetables, and to operate an off-licence. They are very keen for you to let them know of anything in particular you would like them to sell, and say they will do their best to accommodate you. Their contact telephone number is the Hope Cove store (01548-561249).

We asked Adrian and Alison to let us know something about themselves and their family. Adrian writes:

"I am 36 (but only just!), and married to Alison. We have four children - Oliver 12, Jack 9, Alexander 6 and Grace, not yet 2 - and live in Kingsbridge.

My family has a long association with this area and especially Thurlestone. My grandfather, Harry, worked as a young man on the golf course and was the Pearl Assurance agent for many years, as was his brother, Frank. My great-aunt, Hetty, lived in the village for a very long time and also at

The Sloop, which she ran with her husband, Owen. My father (also an Owen) is probably known to you as a District and a County Councillor. My mother, Carole, works at Thurlestone Court. Several of my ancestors are in Thurlestone churchyard!

We are sure you will get used to seeing all of us in the coming months. We are certainly looking forward to meeting you."

OPENING HOURS

The opening hours they plan for the Post Office, which are the same for the shop, are the longest they have probably ever been in Thurlestone:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays:

9 am to 5 pm (no lunchtime closing)

Wednesdays and Saturdays:

9 am to 1 pm (half-day closing).

Later in the season, depending on demand, they may consider opening the shop on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

PRSP PROGRESS REPORT AND FINAL ACCOUNTING.

In our last issue, **Mike Taylor** provided estimated expenditure figures for January 1999. He now gives the actual sums:

British Telecom	£121.93 (est. £116.32)
Insurance	£ 17.10 (est. £ 13.68)

Final total expenditure was therefore £614.78 (est. £605.75) against a total income of £705.

Mike goes on to say *"Who would have thought nine months ago, when the retail situation in the village seemed so bleak, and there was a lack of positive information as to*

what would happen, that within a year we would be placing the last pieces of the jigsaw into position? It's a pleasing situation, and we should all be particularly grateful to, and thank, the people who kept things afloat by extending their 'retirement' dates, namely Kay & Bob Morley and Jean Yeoman.

Thanks are due to the Parish of Thurlestone Society for their underwriting of the project and to other individual residents who donated generously. It's also good that Bill Bruckner our milkman reports a stabilisation in his customer list and that Tony and Bronwen Zaffiro are continuing to deliver newspapers to our homes. We must also not forget to thank Stodgells, the farm site contractors for AMEL Properties, who

generously installed and gave us for free the use of the Portakabin for a temporary PO."

Editor's Footnote:

[A number of people have been involved in all these processes and we are grateful for what they have done, but there is one person in particular to whom we owe an enormous debt for this continuation of two of our vital village amenities.

Although he modestly dismisses all the work he has put into these projects with a shrug of his shoulders, Mike Taylor deserves much of the credit. Without his drive, foresight, and unselfish bestowal of time and effort, Thurlestone would now have neither Post Office nor village store. Thank you, Mike!]

PARISH MILLENNIUM CONCERT

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MONDAY 15th MARCH at 7.30 pm

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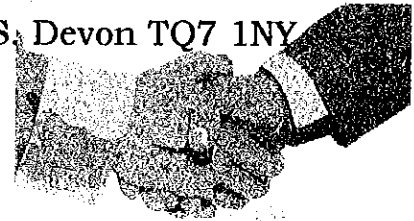
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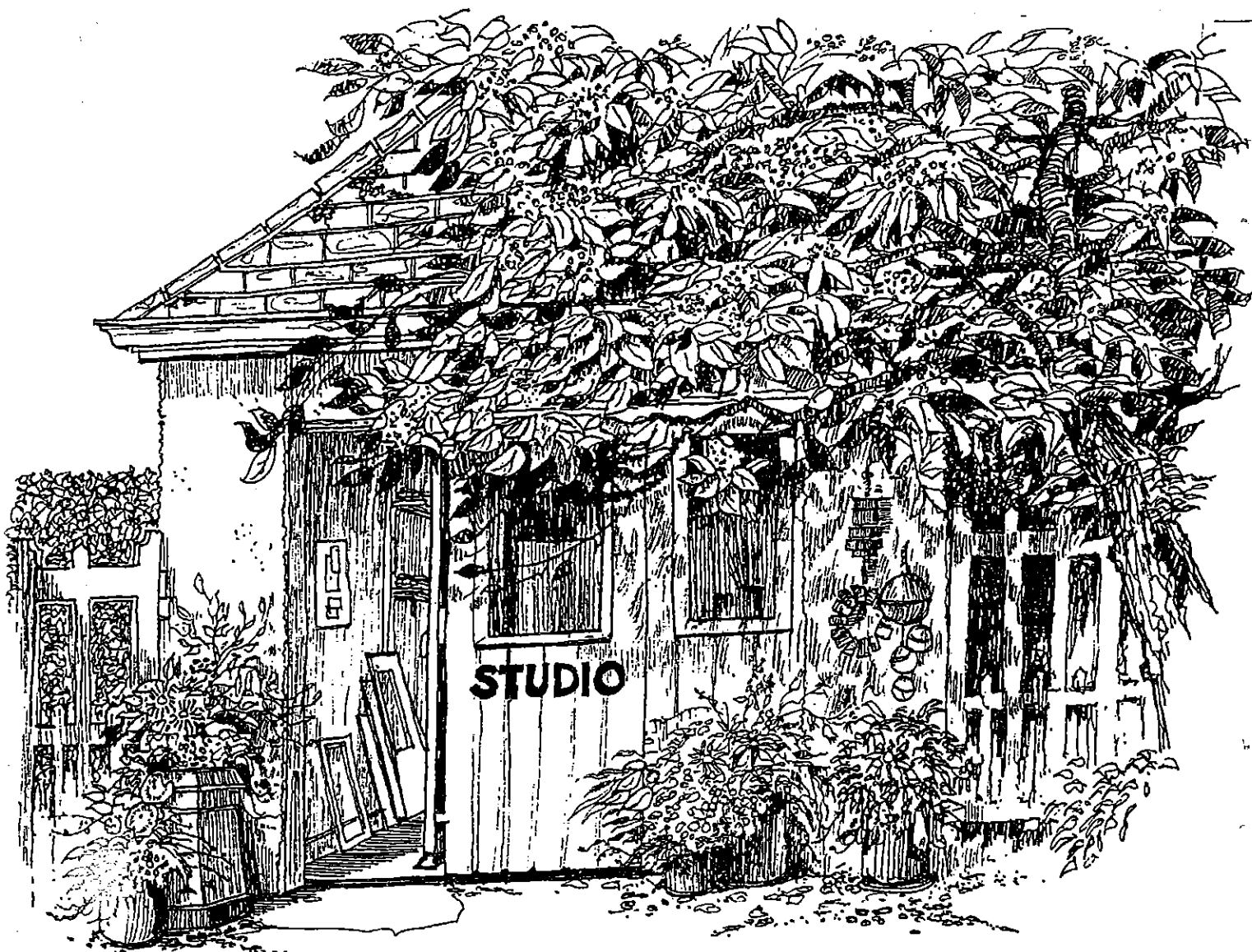
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Village News Round-Up

GORDON RETIRES - MIKE GOES ON

At the end of February the business partnership of **Gordon Jeffery** and **Mike Penwell**, builders, will dissolve after almost 30 years of working together. Known with much affection by some local customers as "Our Likely Lads", both were born in Thurlestone, locally educated and, on leaving school, did five-year apprenticeships in masonry and carpentry.

In 1969 the opportunity arose for their building-firm partnership to be formed and it has proved to be a very successful business. Now Gordon wants a chance to play more golf, visit family and friends, and travel.

Born at Trethurle Cottage, Thurlestone, he married June in 1961 and bought Jubilee Cottage (now known as April Cottage). With the business growing, they moved to Fernleys, on the high ground between Thurlestone and South Milton. They have a son and a daughter, both married, and one little grand-daughter, all of whom are living away from this area.

Gordon and Mike want to take the opportunity to thank everyone the partnership has worked for, and with, over the years. There are many people in the parish who would like to express their thanks in return and wish Gordon and Mike all the very best as they go their separate ways. (We will still see Gordon around but will have to get used to him driving a car, not his usual instantly-recognisable truck. Forgive us, Gordon, if we don't wave as you pass in the first few months of your retirement!)

Please note that meanwhile Mike will be continuing the business as a builder and can be contacted on 01548-561075 (Barton Brow, Thurlestone).

NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES

Kay and Bob Morley relinquished the newspaper round at the beginning of January as a preliminary to shutting up shop at the Village Stores fairly soon. Village Voice would like to say to them how much we residents appreciated their sterling newspaper delivery service to the community over the years and to thank them warmly.

Happily we won't lose this valuable service, for **Tony and Bronwen Zaffiro** have taken over and will continue the house-to-house deliveries both of daily and Sunday papers. They would like you to give them three days' notice if you wish to order extra papers or stop them for any reason, and seven days notice in the case of magazines, by phoning them on 01548-560020, any day of the week, after 4 pm. Bronwen looks forward to receiving your continuing support.

Whilst on the subject of newspapers, many readers will recall that for a long time our Sunday papers were delivered by **Peter Morgan** from West Alvington. After doing his usual round Peter could be relied on to partake of a little mid-day refreshment at the Village Inn, where his van was conveniently parked with surplus copies for sale.

In January Peter sadly died after a long illness. Those with long memories will also remember him as a respected motor mechanic employed by the *Ryeford Garage* in Kingsbridge.

ANOTHER AWARD FOR THE SLOOP

Congratulations to **Neil Girling** and the *Sloop Inn* at Bantham. In the recent annual South Hams For All Seasons nominations they have received a *Highly Commended* award in the Restaurant category.

END OF THE PINE

The last of the Monterey pines fringing the Bantham road at Aunemouth Cross is due to be felled. The trees are dying and there is an increasing risk of large branches breaking off or the trees falling on the road.

Basil and Jennifer Fox, who bought Aune Cross House three years ago, said that after they moved into the house they asked a tree surgeon to examine all the trees in their garden. After consultation with the South Hams District Council and Thurlestone Parish Council, four of the pines were felled and dying branches removed from the remaining trees. It was hoped at that time that the trees might live for up to five years. Sadly they have survived only three more years, and are reaching a stage where they must be considered potentially dangerous.

Their removal will mark the end of a conspicuous landmark which has dominated Aune Cross for over 50 years.

OUR TREE WARDEN

In 1990 the local District Council appointed tree wardens in every parish. As reported at the time, Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** was delegated to look after Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland. This he is still doing.

Working closely with the Parish Council, tree wardens gather information, give advice, and encourage the practical conservation of trees in their community. They are NOT expected to be tree experts, but are required to have a genuine interest in trees and the countryside.

The scheme, run as a partnership between the District Council's environment service and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), has proved to be very successful. Charles is available to provide free advice and encourage us to take a pride in our trees. His phone number is 01548-560602, and if he can't answer all your questions he is sure to know the number of someone who can!

DOG'S DELIGHT

It was fascinating to read in the January 9th issue of the Sunday Telegraph one of the regular articles by **Will Cohu** about his dog, Parker the Scottie, on a visit to Devon.

"In Devon we stayed for a night at the Thurlestone Hotel, which has a heart-stopping setting, delicious food, and room service good enough to please an American. Dogs are allowed in some of the standard rooms but the only one of those available was a bit stuffy. For a few pounds more, we took a deluxe room for ourselves, leaving Parker, celebrity dog, to his own lonely celebrity suite. We smuggled him down the corridor to help out with supper, but I could tell that he would have traded all the delicious sausage I gave him for a potter about the village green, or one chance to track down the other Scottie that was staying in the hotel....but I was tired after a long drive and it was raining.

When Parker took the food his eyes were greedy, but ungrateful. He still lay in a miserable pile. I heard myself saying "What's the matter; don't you like breast of partridge?". In the morning I made that New Year resolution and took him for a wet walk. We were both covered in mud, but he loved it and came back a happy, filthy, dog who lashed into his boring biscuit and tinned food."

[Must be the same mud Villager is grouching about in this issue!]

MEAD PHONES

The recent hiccups with phones in Mead Lane is said to be caused by problems with underground cables traversing lawns, drives, tree roots and so on. The BT man found it a bit of a job to establish the exact route of certain cables in the absence of reliable maps, until a kindly resident got out his divining rods and put him on the right path!

TOGETHER WE'LL CRACK CRIME!

An "audit consultation document" is now available for the South Hams following the implementation of the Crime & Disorder Act, 1998. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities and police to co-operate with other agencies to formulate a strategy for reducing crime and disorder.

Copies of this document are available in public libraries and at police stations. It is important that the views of residents and visitors alike are expressed on the problems this document highlights.

If you wish to respond please **WRITE** to John Brown, Community Safety Coordinator, South Hams District Council, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5NE (e-mail: environmental.health @ south-ham-dc.gov.uk.) **before 18th FEBRUARY 1999.**

DESIGN FOR VIDEO COVER

POTS are delighted with the response to their appeal, made through Village Voice, for possible designs for the Millennium video and thank the contributors. They report that they have received some excellent ideas which will make their decision on the final choice a very difficult task!

AUSTRIAN EXCHANGE?

Margaret Illingworth, through connections in Austria, has received requests from two schoolgirls who live in the north of that country, some 40 kilometres from Vienna.

SONJA KRONBERGER and **ANGELIKA SCHONAUER** are both aged 14, have been studying English for four years, and are good friends.

They would love to come to Thurlestone or nearby to a household (or households) with youngsters of a similar age, and then be hostesses in their own homes in Austria for a return visit.

They have lots of interests and hobbies, which include cycling, jogging, tennis, listening to music, playing basketball and volleyball.

Their holidays are from 3rd July to 6th September, 1999. If you are interested, please contact Margaret on 01548-560068 as soon as possible.

WALLY BENNETT

December's issue of *Village Voice* carried the news of our former postman's recovery from illness. He sends his greetings to you and was delighted to carry around our news item to show to his friends in the big town of Kingsbridge.

SOUTH MILTON WI

BRING & BUY COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 13th FEBRUARY
S. MILTON VILLAGE HALL
10.30 - Noon

In aid of Dartmoor Rescue

SOUTH MILTON
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JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 20th MARCH
2.30 pm

S. MILTON VILLAGE HALL

Jumble for sale to be brought to the Hall
between 9.00 and 11.00 that day

PARISH COUNCIL : NEWS IN BRIEF

Meetings were held on 12th November, 8th December 1998 and 12th January 1999

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Speakers invited to address the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April will include discussion of problems associated with next August's solar eclipse, pollution of the West Buckland stream, and implications of the Crime and Disorder Bill.

PARISH HALL

- # A new "Millennium" bench is to be made by Mr Dawes and placed by the Hall.
- # A Barn Dance to be held on 20th February.
- # The South Hams Society is sponsoring a talk by Messrs Ashby and Waterhouse on 12th March.

SCHOOL

The Developers at the Homefield Farm and Farmhouse sites have agreed to emphasize to all drivers of haulage vehicles the need to drive with extreme care when passing the School.

POLLUTION

- # Bantham Beach has failed two inspections, and will not be flying a Blue Flag this year.
- # A pollution survey of West Buckland stream has started.

HOMEFIELD FARM DEVELOPMENT

- # Negotiations are in progress with a prospective tenant for the Post Office.
- # Concern was expressed about damage to grass verges caused by the heavy lorries.
- # In March, traffic through the village will be seriously restricted for up to three weeks.

WAR MEMORIAL SITE

Ideas are being discussed for improving the War Memorial site. These include a hedge along the roadside, to enhance privacy, and hydrangeas and other shrubs at the back of the site. It is

hoped to complete work by the Millennium.

LAND FOR COMMUNITY USE

It is likely to be late next year before the land at the rear of the Church can be released by Evans Estates for use by the village, but this will not hold up work on the planning application. Advice on the proposed playing field was sought, at an on-site meeting, from SHDC's Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Mr John Goulden.

FUTURE OF THE RECTORY SITE

It was reported that the Church authorities intend to put the Rectory up for sale. The Council was concerned that this could place a question-mark over the future of the Barn and, in this event, steps would have to be taken to ensure the preservation of one of the more historically interesting buildings in the village. There was speculation, too, about ways in which any possible future development of the Rectory site might be linked to the current developments at the Homefield Farmhouse site, via the adjacent plot behind The Cottage on which Ash Mill Developments have now applied to build an additional house.

MISCELLANEOUS

- # Agreed for the road sweeper to spend one week in four in Bantham and Buckland.
- # County Emergency Services are seeking information about local events which could be disrupted during the period around the Solar Eclipse. A notice will appear in *Village Voice* in due course.
- # The new Hopper Bus scheme has been given a national award.

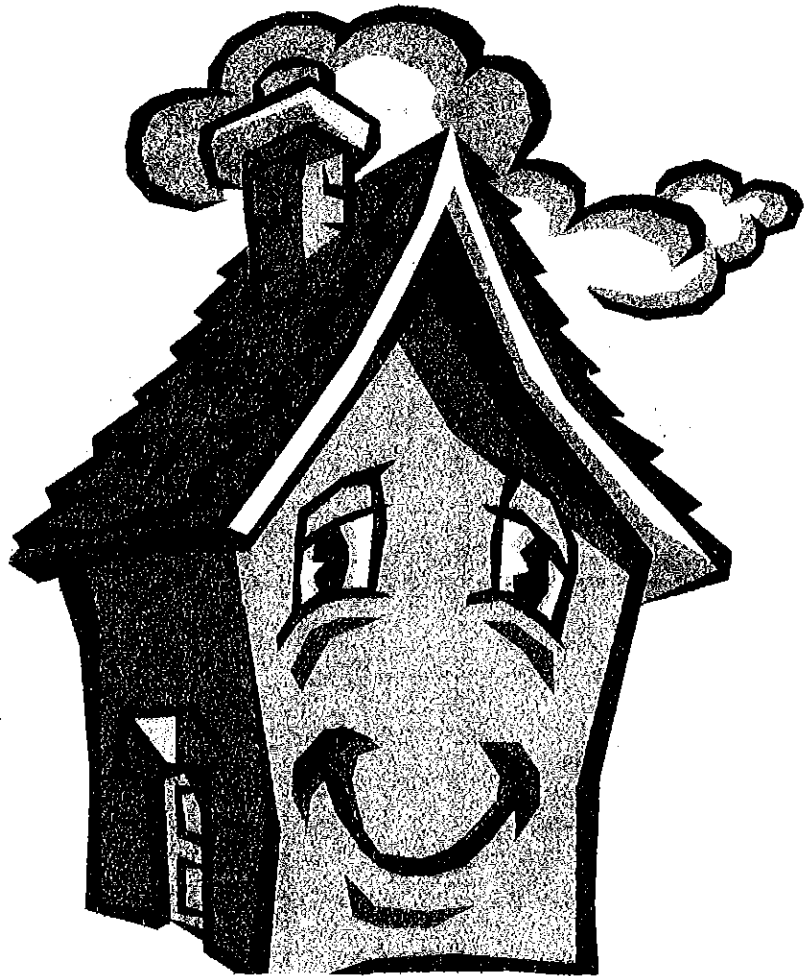
NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

9th February at The Sloop, Bantham at 7.30 pm.
CITIZEN

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Puzzle Corner

WORD-SEARCH ONE

The answers to the clues can be made up by combining three sets of three letters from the grid. When complete, three sets of three letters should remain. Combine these letters to find another 9 - letter word.

1. A Hebridean island
2. An ignorant person
3. Eager to fight
4. Lucky
5. Australian city
6. Designer of houses
7. Article of furniture
8. A dog
9. Formal assurance
10. A film director
11. A vegetable
12. A camel
13. A girl's name
14. A female garment
15. A period of time
16. Sea spray
17. An ornamental shrub
18. Orchestra member
19. Spanish composer
20. Metallic element
21. ???

HSH	LIC	HIA	TUN	RAN	ARY	SID
NES	TNI	MEL	COM	BEC	CHC	PAN
FOR	OAT	SPI	GUS	FOR	ARD	ALD
ULA	TEE	ASP	IST	ARC	PET	DAC
MED	RNE	MUS	UND	TED	GHT	ORA
RIG	GER	PLE	ECT	OSE	NDR	DRO
OCK	BEN	HIT	IUM	INE	BOU	MAG
SYT	TIM	EBO	IGN	GUA	ROD	ATE
HIT	IFT	UEZ	TIC	ARA	BEL	FOR

WORD-SEARCH TWO

Find the fruits (listed on the right) in the grid below. Their names may be found written up, down, to the left, to the right, or even diagonally. Once all the fruits have been found the remaining letters will give the name of another fruit.

E	C	N	I	U	Q	H	C	A	E	P
M	P	T	O	C	I	R	P	A	I	E
I	P	A	L	E	M	O	N	N	K	A
L	L	U	R	H	A	W	E	S	M	R
R	U	F	I	G	Q	A	E	A	O	N
H	M	N	U	T	P	E	V	T	D	O
U	D	E	G	P	H	G	I	S	A	S
B	A	U	L	A	I	N	L	U	C	M
A	T	E	I	O	P	A	O	M	O	A
R	E	O	L	S	N	R	T	A	V	D
B	A	N	A	N	A	O	G	N	A	M

FRUITS

FIG, HAW, HIP, NUT, DATE,
LIME, PEAR, PLUM, SLOE,
UGLI, GRAPE, LEMON, MANGO,
MELON, OLIVE, PEACH, BANANA,
DAMSON, ORANGE, QUINCE,
APRICOT, AVOCADO, RHUBARB,
SATSUMA, PINEAPPLE

WI NEWS



JANUARY SPEAKER

Shades of raj, empire, and Kenneth More's film *The Khyber Pass*, were conjured up at the January meeting when **Lesley Austin** talked, and showed slides, about her travels in some of the more remote corners of Pakistan. The North West Frontier, the Khyber Pass, Baluchistan, and principally where the borders of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan meet, were areas which she had recently visited..

She was lucky to have been the guest of a Baluchi tribal family so she was able to go to places not normally available to tourists. Her biggest regret was that she was unable to enter Afghanistan due to the activities of the Taliban. Despite moves by some Islamic countries to allow females more freedom outside the home, the large majority of women still live in *purdah*. Lesley observed that, in the public places she visited, women were notably absent.

Two alarming aspects of life in these parts concern her. Good copies of every type of firearm from pistols and rifles to various large rocket-launched missiles were made in many back street workshops, were comparatively cheap and freely available for purchase and export. The second was that many fortunes continue to be amassed by drug traders.

Lesley was colourfully attired in a glittering costume typical of the area - only revealed when she removed the long, black, head-to-toe all-enveloping "shuttlecock" *burkha* worn over it, which women of the part of the world Lesley visited are obliged to wear outside the home.

NEW MEMBERS

Newly-elected President, **Joan Lane**, chaired an enjoyable and well-attended meeting at which eight new members were welcomed.

THINGS TO COME

Sheila Ward encouraged entries for the local home economics area's triennial show at Malborough on 25th March. Chinese cookery with a modern approach, including short cuts and use of some convenience foods, would be demonstrated by **Sue Vickery** for the area at Kingsbridge Methodist Hall, 3.30 pm on 8th February. On 12th February, 2.30 pm at the parish hall, there will be a demonstration of pasta cookery by **Helen Rhymes**, to which friends and visitors are very welcome.

WALL-HANGING

A wall-hanging for the Parish Hall, incorporating a map of Thurstlestone and pictorial facets of village life, will be produced by a group of members to mark the millennium.

LUNCH OUT

The Lunch Out group's next venue is the Church House Inn at Churchstow.

CATERING

Janet Fraser reported that the parish hall committee is holding a fund-raising Barn Dance/Supper on Saturday 20th February, at 7.30pm. Supper would be provided by the WI and volunteer cooks are required (contact Janet Fraser)

MARGARET SAVAGE

The news of the death of former member **Margaret Savage** in Edinburgh was received with sadness.

NEXT MEETING

Caroline Steen (Child Psychologist) will be the speaker on Thursday 11th February.

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HARRY HUGGINS JOINS THE SURF SCOTER LIFERS CLUB

A couple of issues ago I chattered about **lifers**. Here on our home patch we don't reckon to get many, more accurately we don't reckon to get *any*, on account of having seen most things there are to see here. Imagine our surprise and joy, at the end of October, to have *two in a week*. Storms brought them - Hurricane Mitch and its friends and relations.

We do a **bird diary**. In it is written what *birds* we see, or sometimes what we hear (mostly at night, like the Tawny Owl singing by the hotel golf course); *animals*, like when the dolphins came into the bay; *butterflies*; *moths*, if we know what they are (Jersey Tigers are easy - upper wings black with yellow stripes, under wings vivid orange. But most of the LBJs defeat us. *Mice* caught and released go down. Most days there is something about the *weather*; always if there is some other entry; occasionally there is a note about just the weather alone, if interesting, like the green flash of the setting sun on 20th December.

For 21st October last the diary says "**gale**". Until the end of the month it said that on several days. On 23rd it said "**storm**".

The first lifer was on our doorstep, almost. June was gazing at the sea through the telescope. We keep it near the window and can see most of what goes on. Not everything, trees have grown and we can no longer see who is going in and out of the golf clubhouse. But we see quite a lot.

According to the diary it was blowing Force 7, which if not technically a gale is near enough for most people, from the south-west and well on-shore. Off Leasfoot Beach and just a little way out to sea she saw a small, dark-looking bird with a white patch at the top of its tail. House Martin, she thought,

but a House Martin's white below, and much smaller than this was - even through the telescope you would hardly see one there. Anyway, Martins ought to be in Africa.

This creature appeared all dark, above and below, apart from the white rump. It has quite long wings, angled back at the wrists, and a longish tail. It flapped fairly slowly, seeming quite at home in the strong wind. It might have been a **Storm Petrel** - the little chap they used to call a Mother Carey's Chicken. I have never seen one, our paths have not crossed, but the books says they flutter like a bat.

One bird book, written by a gentleman with vast experience and a penetrating mind, says that if the wing-beats are slow enough to count it cannot be a Storm Petrel. So this must be a **Leach's Storm Petrel**. **Leach's Fork-Tailed Petrel** they used to call it.



Leach's Storm Petrel



Storm Petrel

Recently they have dropped the Fork-Tailed

bit - the fork is very difficult to see unless you have the bird in your hand. It was about eight inches long and eighteen inches from tip to tip of its narrow wings. She was lucky to find it.

A lifer for both of us! I had seen one once before, a very dead one near the Golf Club - but corpses don't count. Which is why twitchers are said to give the kiss-of-life to a newly-dead bird, in the hope that it will gasp a few breaths of its own and then they can put a tick on their list. We drove down to the Links Court car park to try for a closer look. There was no sign of it and we got the car covered in salt spray for nothing.

Leach's Storm Petrels breed in millions around the coast of North America. Some nest, though in much smaller numbers, on islands off Scotland and the Norwegian coast. They nest in burrows, in grassy banks, under rocks, etc., coming ashore to change over for incubation, and to feed their chick (only one) in the dark. In daylight, predators - skuas, gulls - would get them. For the rest of the time they are at sea and are thought to winter far out in the South Atlantic. To get there they must fly south from the breeding areas and sometimes they meet bad weather. A gale blows them down wind and no bird can make headway against winds of fifty knots or more.

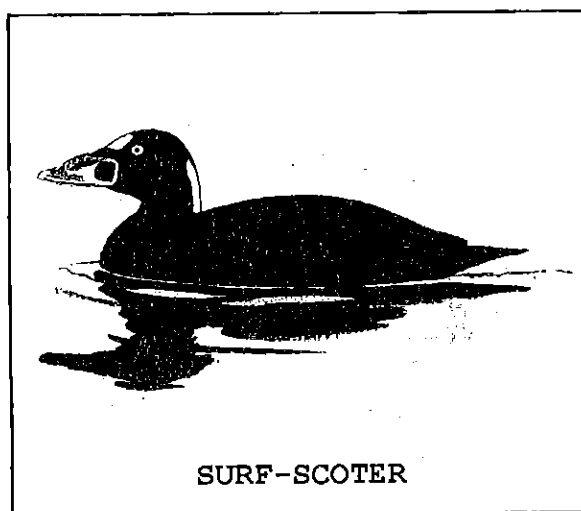
Provided they have enough sea room they can ride out a gale and be on their way when it moderates or changes direction, but when there are gale force winds for day after day and they have land to leeward they are in trouble. (So are bigger and more powerful things like Gannets). Many blow ashore and are wrecked, like the corpse I found. We hoped this one was able to make its way to the shelter of Start Bay.

These Storm Petrels are members of the 'tube-nose' group, so-called because their nostrils are in a little tube at the top of their beaks. There are lots of species - Albatrosses, Shearwaters, other Petrels (there

are twenty sorts of Storm Petrel), the Fulmars (looking like gulls) which we see in small numbers along our coast. It used to be said that because all of these tube-noses live totally at sea (except when on land to breed, during which time they neither eat nor drink ashore) they must drink sea water and the tube nostrils are for them to get rid of the salt.

A puzzle, for some gulls, all penguins, even phalaropes (which are little waders) live at sea except when nesting and must drink sea water....but they don't have tube noses. Sir David Attenborough, in his Life of Birds TV thing, said the tube-noses have an incredibly developed sense of smell - most birds are said to have none - and this enables them to detect their food floating on the surface of the sea, even at a great distance. They say they eat little things in the plankton, plus excreta of whales and other interesting things. You can choose to believe whichever of these explanations you like, but I reckon I put my money on Sir David.

At just about the time we were seeing the Petrel, a friend rang to say there was a **Surf Scoter** on Slapton Ley. This is a diving duck, the male of which is black with a white patch on his forehead and the nape of his neck, and a massive beak which is red and yellow with a black spot on each side. Females and young ones are browner, with two white patches on each cheek and dull bits.



We see Common (or Black) Scoters off our coast. They are black. Well, the ladies are dark brown but they are usually so far away that you cannot tell the difference. They live on the sea in bunches of forty or fifty, and you see them flying in a tight group about a foot above the surface. The best place to find them is off Slapton line, though there has been none this last winter when we've been to look. They swim well offshore, are hard to pick out clearly because they keep disappearing behind waves, and just as you get the telescope on them they all dive.

Common Scoters nest in the old-world high arctic, right across Scandinavia and Siberia. Surf Scoter is a North American species, breeding from Alaska across Canada eastwards, by the lakes and waterways in which they tell me that part of the world abounds. They spend winters off the coasts of both western and eastern North America. Some find their way across the Atlantic but you cannot call them common over here. *Bird Watching* magazine said there were about a dozen seen around Britain in the latter part of 1998.

No doubt this one had been swept across by the same string of depressions and decaying hurricanes which plagued us in October. The friend told us it was in Ireland Bay, which is the deep inlet of Slapton Ley opposite the middle car park. Inland the bay is choked with reeds; a soggy area stretches on inland beyond Deer Bridge on that narrow winding road which runs from Stokenham to Slapton village.

So off we went. This was to be a 'twitch' which we do not often do...on account of

things usually having departed before we get there. But if the friend was kind enough to ring us we did not want to disappoint him by not going. We had to make our way from the bridge, past those rather tatty huts and the place where they keep the fishing dinghies. When the level of the water in the Ley is low Ireland Bay can be reached by walking along the narrow beach below the herbage.

Not so this time, and we had to clamber along the assault course they have made on the slope above the Ley - stiles, slippery paths and steps put in by young men who are six feet three with disproportionately long legs. Not easy in wellies and carrying a telescope on its tripod, but we made it to the raised boardwalk where the reeds start.

The friend who had told us was there - we were glad we went. After a while the Surf Scoter came swimming out of the reeds on the far side of the bay. Not near enough but you could see it was a brown duck with a couple of whitish marks on each side of its head and a pretty massive bill.

A good test of whether you have really got to grips with a species is to ask yourself "Could I recognise it for myself if I saw one again?" I think I could, but this bird was difficult as it was diving constantly (for fish I suppose) and swimming quickly when on the surface. In no way could I get the telescope properly on it...and I could not be quite *sure* of the shape of its huge bill.

But it was good enough, we had another lifer!

Harry Huggins

BIRD HYGIENE

Those who feed the wild birds which frequent our gardens, and delight us, have recently been warned that seed and peanut feeders etc. should be replenished outside, and not inside the house, and that rubber gloves should be worn during the re-filling and maintenance of these hanging receptacles.

The sites from which they are supported should be regularly changed too. Our feathered friends can unfortunately be carriers of salmonella bacteria, which can be ingested by humans with disastrous effects.

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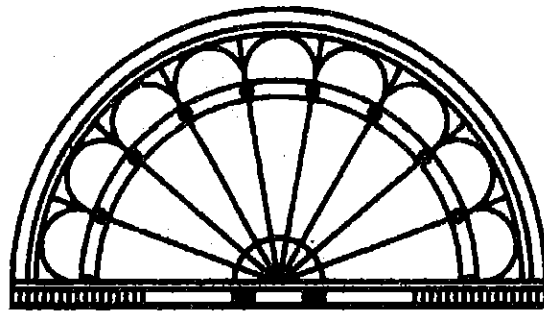
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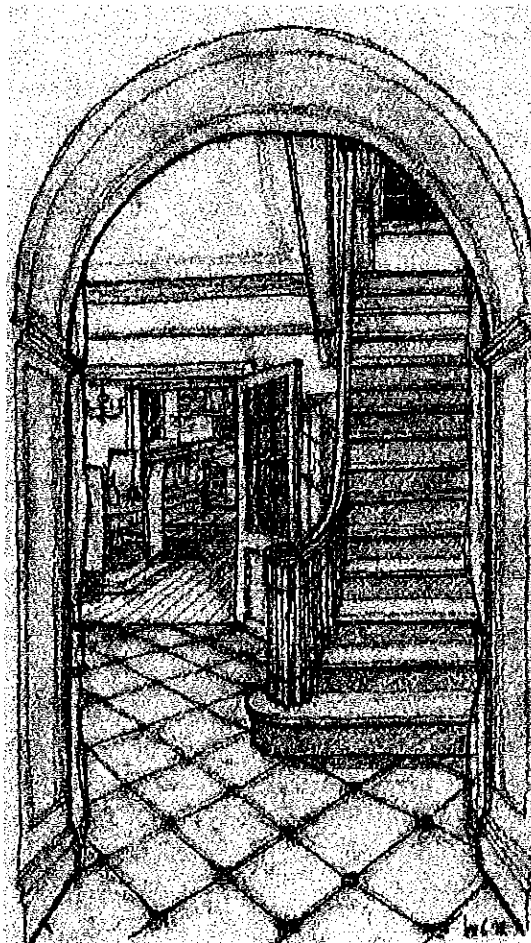
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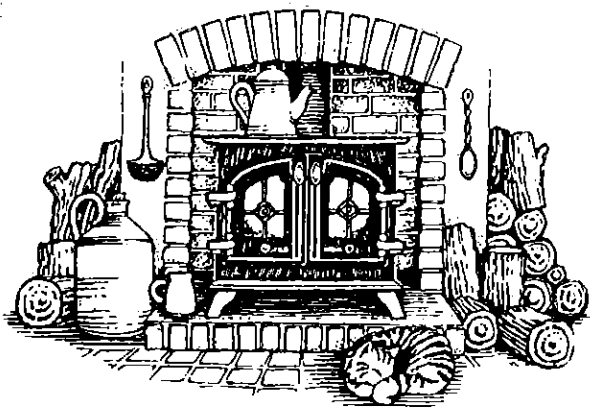
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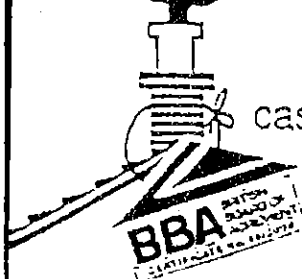
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HORSWELL DIARY

Another new year. Another blank page on which to write our dreams. Change is in the air. New hopes, new fears, new endings, new beginnings. The death of a century, the birth of a new millennium. The race is on, the countdown under way. Inexorably we are pulled to the brink of the year 2000 to hurl ourselves over its edge into the bottomless pit of expectations!

Will we say farewell to the twentieth century with regret? Savour her last-remaining days? Bury her with dignity? Eulogise her achievements? Or will we throw her on the scrap heap without a thank-you or a prayer and rush forward to embrace all that is new?

For suddenly everything is "new". New Labour, New Age, New Millennium, New Euro. "New" somehow implies excitement and hope, but also something unproven, uncertain, and potentially worrying. Certainly, whether we stand like Canute against the tide or let go and drift with the flow, change is inevitable. Some people find it harder to cope with than others. Increasingly, "change counsellors" are required to help people reconstruct their lives after the traumas of redundancy, death, or illness. For others it is the fear that the baby will be thrown out with the bathwater and that "new" will not live up to its promise of being better than "old".

But we cannot hold on to the past however attached we may have become. Life sweeps us along on its roller-coaster ride and if we always travel with our back to the engine we will fail to see the new opportunities coming our way.

Feng Shui, the Chinese art of harmony and balance, makes use of the energy created by change to accentuate the

positive in life, to help us create the life that we really want. The belief is that by creating a template of our hopes and aspirations in our immediate environment the physical changes stimulate the relevant areas of our lives to activate the changes we require - i.e. 'positive thoughts require positive actions'. To make room for these new opportunities we must first clear out all the clutter and stagnant energy that is holding us back. Feng Shui says *"If you don't love it, don't use it or if it doesn't bring you joy, get rid of it! Clearing clutter sets you free and allows new energy to enter your life"*.

The ancient Chinese accepted change as the natural cycle of Life and used its repeating patterns as recorded in the "I Ching" or "Book of Changes" to understand the here and now and to divine future trends. Their aim was to find the "Tao" or the "Path" which would enable them to live in harmony with the times. Their philosophy provides a certain comfort by showing that we are part of a great design - that what is "new" is really "recycled".

Europe now has the Euro and one suspects that before long Britain will join the common currency and, like it or not, will be sucked into the federalism of "New" Europe, losing our autonomy and sovereignty in the process. One wonders how those families who lost husbands, sons and brothers in the wars to 'free' Europe must feel as we consider voluntarily handing over our power to Brussels and the Bundesbank. For an island nation that has always been proud to be free it is an alarming, but perhaps inevitable, prospect.

However, those who view the transfer of power to Europe and the adoption of a common currency with trepidation

should take comfort from the events of 1700 years ago. With the Roman Empire in decline, its Emperors moved east, setting up a new powerbase in Byzantium, creating a glittering new civilization built to the glory of God. By charging ten per cent on all goods traded through their city they earned money to pay for their buildings, their public services and their entertainments. The value of the Byzantine coinage was so consistent that it became the international trading currency, and merchants from as far away as China preferred to use it rather than their own. (Trading Euros on the Hang Seng?). The Emperor Constantine wanted to call the city New Rome but it quickly became known as Constantinople. How long before Brussels is renamed New London, or perhaps Blairstadt or Tonyville?

And whilst our ministers are tempted with Pugin wallpapers and interest-free loans, Emperor Constantine encouraged

his with luxurious new villas built in the style of those in Rome. He also pacified the masses with "bread and circuses". A foretaste of sandwiches at the Dome?

As we lurch towards Europe, and worry about the cultural and economic changes the new millennium may bring, we should heed the words, found etched on a limestone slab in the city of Uruk, of a philosophical Sumerian: *"He who possesses much silver may be happy. He who possesses much barley may be happy but he who has nothing at all can sleep"*. Or indeed: *"You can have a lord, you can have a king, but the man to fear is the tax collector"*. Finally: *"We are doomed to die, let us spend"*.

Those words were written 5,000 years ago. *Plus ça change!*

With best wishes for a happy and eventful New Year!

Prunella Dart

MORE BLOOPERS

In the last issue we printed some "bloopers" sent in by Jane Marston from *"The History of the World According to Student Bloopers"* by Richard Lederer. We continue with some 'facts' about the Bible.

"The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked "Am I my brother's son?". God asked Abraham to sacrifice Issac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Issac stole his brother's birthmark. Jacob was a patriarch who brought up his twelve sons to be patriarchs, but they did not take to it. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led them to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Afterwards Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Philatelists, a race of people who lived in Biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines."

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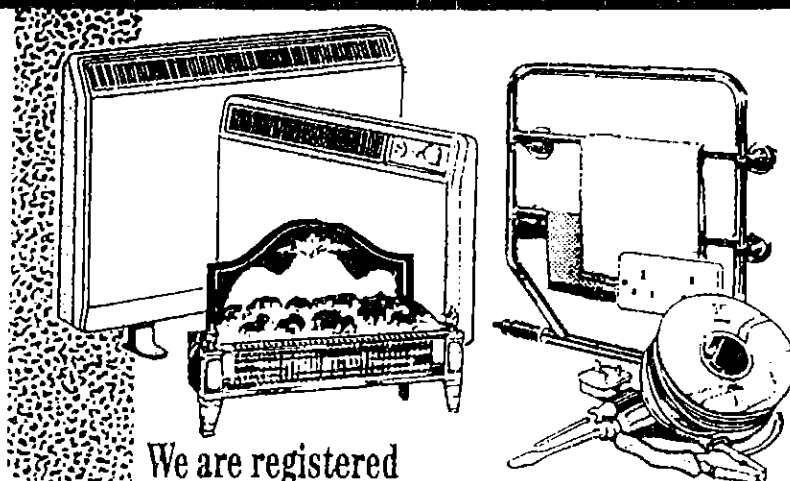
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MOROCCAN LAMB STEW

2 lbs leg of lamb, cut into pieces
Half a pound of finely chopped onions
3 finely chopped cloves of garlic
2 teaspoonsful of ground cumin,
ground coriander and paprika
(you can add any other spice you fancy
such as cinnamon or ginger)
Juice of one LARGE lemon



Put all the ingredients into an oven-proof dish (with some salt if you use it), and mix them all thoroughly. Cover the dish with foil, and then a close-fitting lid. Cook in a slow oven (300° F, 150° C, gas mark 3) for a couple of hours, by which time you should have a delicious, aromatic stew. **DO NOT ALLOW THE LIQUID TO EVAPORATE.**

GINGER ICE-CREAM

4 eggs, yolks and whites in separate dishes
3 ozs icing sugar
Stem ginger in syrup
Half a pint double cream, whipped stiffly

Whisk egg yolks with icing sugar and two tablespoonsful of the ginger syrup until mixture is very thick and pale in colour. Chop four pieces stem ginger finely and fold them in with the whipped cream. Whip egg whites until stiff. Carefully fold everything together. Pour ice-cream into a suitable container and freeze it overnight.

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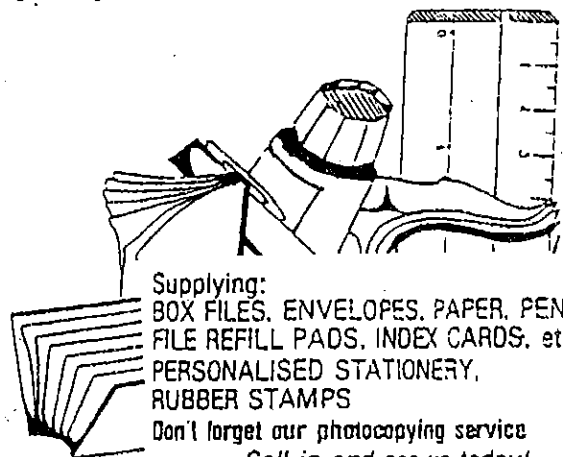
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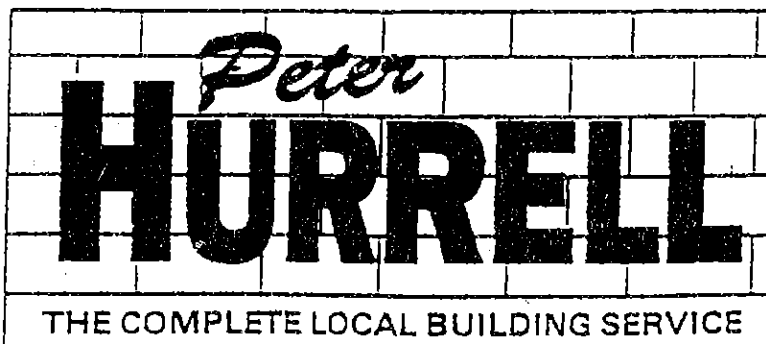
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February

Tues 2nd

Quiz Night - EVERY TUESDAY 8.30PM



Bubbly Reception & Buffet to celebrate Sarah's name going over the door!
See you there - everyone welcome. 6.30pm onwards.


Sun 7th

STEAK NIGHT - 2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1 - EVERY SUNDAY

EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY 6PM-7PM - HAPPY HOUR !

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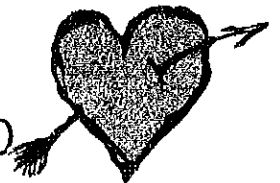
Fri 12th

Music with Howard Jones  - don't miss his other dates - 18th & 25th

Fri 12th, Sat 13th & Sun 14th **VALENTINES DINNER**

3 course dinner with glass of champagne - £25 for TWO

Please telephone to reserve your table.



March



 Live Music with Howard Jones 

Also playing Fri 12th & Thurs 25th from 8.30pm

Weds 9th

???

INTER-PUB QUIZ

???

Teams from other local pubs come to pit their wits against our own Quiztastic Team ! All in aid of the Renal Unit Trust Fund.



Weds 17th

VILLAGE INN DAY AT THE RACES

A Day at the Races - with style! - Bubbly, buffet lunch, transport from Newton Abbot, Private Box with Balcony - a great day out.

Weds 17th - its also **ST PATRICKS DAY !! IRISH NIGHT AT THE V.I.**

Buy 2 & get the 3rd one FREE!! - Caffreys, Guinness, Baileys, Jamiesons



Sunday 28th **TREASURE HUNT** - hop in your car and find the answers to our cryptic clues! Return to the Village for Lunch and trophies.

WEATHER WAG

by Jan Turner

If you had a bet on a 'white Christmas' for 1998 - you lost.

I didn't hear of anyone losing lots of money, although there was a small news item to say that there was no snow in London this time. It was not a good year to stake a large amount given the weather patterns and forecasts for over the holiday. Perhaps the betting should be on "*location of the highest gust at any recording station*". On second thoughts this could create problems, so let's keep to the snow on the Met Office roof!

January is the month for totalling up the statistics for the past year and for doing some analyses. I have included the figures for the last four years, rather than just the last quarter, for you to mull over. I began recording in 1994 in some detail, but did not have such a full set of statistics as I have now. So 1995 is the first year to show detailed figures.

During this period February 1998 was the driest month overall with only 8.43 mm of rain. Compare this with the figure for 1994 of 133.9 mm. Even 1997 was 70.93 mm so this last year was a disastrously dry month. (Remember the old saying "February fill-dyke"?)

Fortunately there had been ample rain in the previous months and a reasonable amount fell during March and April to fill the reservoirs. Roadford filled to maximum - for the first time since it was built I believe. Thankfully August was drier, only 25 mm - the majority falling in just five days - and compare this with 144 mm in 1997. The summer (July and August) temperature was the lowest at 16.7° C, but interestingly the coolest temperature was higher than any of the years 1995-98. Think about that!

The wind direction seems to be reverting to

normal now with the westerlies beginning to dominate as they should - 51% against 42% easterlies in 1998. Speed seems to have been much the same, although there have been periods of prolonged gales as I mentioned in the last article.

I am looking forward to witnessing the **total eclipse** of the sun, which will be the last one seen here in the UK until 2090. (I shan't be here for that one - my youngest grandson will be 98 years old!) With all the hype and concerns for the region, I guess we can expect it to be **very crowded** here. I bet there will be relatives and friends we didn't know we had getting in touch with a view to coming to stay. (Cynic did I hear you say?). All our spare beds are booked by our family but there is still some garden space left!

If you have a yen for knowing more about this event, can I draw your attention to a first-class little book by local author **Pam Hine** "*Total Eclipse of the Sun in Devon and Cornwall*"? It is available from local bookshops, price £2.95. Then for the more technically-minded the **Royal Greenwich Observatory** has produced a book called "*The RGO Guide to the Total Eclipse of the Sun*". The author is **Steve Bell** and it is available in many bookshops for £5.99.

I shall be experimenting with my new telescope, pinhole card and image of the sun in preparation for an attempt at recording the event for the future. **Please remember :**

DO NOT LOOK AT THE SUN THROUGH A TELESCOPE, BINOCULARS OR CAMERA. OBSERVE WITH SUITABLE EYE PROTECTION DURING THE PARTIAL PHASE AND WITH THE NAKED EYE ONLY DURING THE TWO MINUTES OF TOTALITY.

Severe damage could be incurred should you be careless.

Both these books contain sound advice and we should adhere to it. The RGO book encloses a pair of special spectacles to use. Over the last four years August 11th has been fine, clear and dry but in 1996 with only 4.7 hours of sunshine.

We are off to Scotland for a week between the 4th and 11th January and we're hoping for a window in the weather. The mountains should look pretty, but what respect they demand from us all as we have seen in this last few days. I still have a feeling that there

is something in the wings in the way of weather that is waiting to jump on us, make us sit up, turn up the central heating and go panic shopping. It only needs a NE wind and a few flakes of snow doesn't it? Still the children enjoy it and so do some adults - ask Vicky Carpenter or Rev. Peter Stephens!

But let's look forward to 1999 and hope there'll be favourable conditions for all our planned events; it would be particularly nice to have a clear, fine, frosty night on December 31st!

YEARLY COMPARISON OF WEATHER STATISTICS				
RAINFALL mm	1995	1996	1997	1998
Total	858.87	679	783.89	758.25
Wettest Month	Jan. 137	Nov. 109	Aug. 144	Oct. 96.27
Highest Daily Rainfall	Sept. 11/12 38.12	May. 18/19 29.63	June 2/3 28.73	Sept. 4/5 22.85
Driest Month	June 10.6	June 9.12	April 20.68	Feb. 8.43
WIND				
Westerly	168 Days=46.01%	127 Days=34.79%	152 Days=41.64%	189 Days=51.78%
Easterly	173 Days=47.39%	209 Days=57.26%	177 Days=48.5%	130 Days=41.91%
Northerly	12 Days = 3.28%	6 Days = 1.64%	8 Days = 2.19%	6 Days = 1.6%
Southerly	11 Days = 3. %	3 Days = 0.82%	27 Days=7.4%	19 Days= 5.2%
Highest Gust mph.	Jan. 22nd 80	Oct. 29th 84	Dec. 25th 78	Jan. 6th 88
TEMPERATURE C.				
Hottest Month	Aug. 20.07	July 17.46	Aug. 18.6	July 16.7
Highest Daily Average	Aug. 3rd 25.6	July 29th 20.05	Aug. 23/24th 21.5	June & July 20th 21.0
Highest Maximum	Aug. 1st 32	July 20th 26.8	July 9th 28.1	May 17th 26.8
Lowest Daily Average	Dec. 6th 0.5	Jan. 27th -1.3	Jan. 4th. -1.7	Dec. 21st 2.2
Lowest Minimum	Dec. 26th -3.8	Jan. 27th -3.5	Jan. 4th -4.4	Dec. 21st -2.2
Average for the Year	13.06	10.11	14.02	11.9
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	N/A	1573	1937	1662.36

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Although there will be no formal tuition, there will be enough experienced patchers and quilters among us to offer help to the more inexperienced. It will be a gathering of like-minded people who enjoy, and are really interested in, all kinds of

patchwork and quilting at every kind of level. It will be a chance to see other people's work, to swap ideas, see new materials and so on. Later on we may feel we can engage occasional tutors.

It is envisaged that there will be a modest joining fee (say £5.00) and then sessions would be pay as you go, say £1.00.

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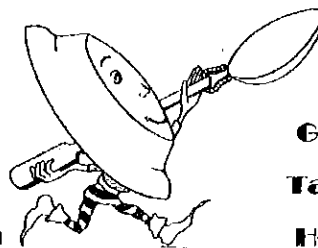
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SOAP SEQUEL

by Hubert Snowdon

Picking up from the first episode in the October-November 1998 issue (*The Day the Soap Washed In*), a local Customs Officer was busy when the soap came up on the beaches. He warned everyone that their findings should be reported by filling in an appropriate form. Every house was visited and those with undeclared soap were fined. Families today may remember the unlucky ones - I don't know their names.

For myself, I was previously acquainted with the local Customs Officer from Salcombe, a little man who travelled on a very large motor cycle. When he asked if I had completed a declaration I replied that he knew already I had got soap. He gave me a form to fill up, saying *"See you keep enough for yourself!"*

I had learned earlier from my family that it paid to keep in touch with the local Customs official. He occasionally called in at the farm to ask if I knew, or had heard, of anything washing in. Times gone a Snowdon and a Bevell walked Thurlestone beaches every morning at 4 am, their usual time of rising, to see what was washing in.

Now, one evening about three weeks after we collected the soap, a huge high-sided Navy truck turned up, driven by a member of the WRNS who was accompanied by a gold-braided officer. Talk about scrambled egg! They had come for the soap. It was 5 pm and we were milking the cows, already late, we were so pushed with war work on the farm. Also, with my father ill, I was up to my neck and not pleased.

I knew nothing of rank, and cared less, telling the officer the timing was inconvenient, our men were due to leave off at 5.30pm and we were already late. He informed me what power the Government War Authority had.

I said *"I'll show you where the soap is, and you can start loading it until I am free"*. The loose cakes of soap were tipped in a heap on the barn floor adjoining the road, over a ton. *"How are we going to load that?"* he said. *"We have nothing"*. I kicked my toe towards a two-handled bath in the barn that the tractor had buckled. *"Use that"* I said, and left

them to get back to my own work.

About three-quarters of an hour later I returned. It was by now dark. The sidelights of the truck were on. I carried a hurricane lantern and saw the girl struggling to lift up the old bath full of soap above her head so she could tip it into the truck.

The officer stood in the road, with spotless uniform and clean hands. I exploded *"What! You allow this poor girl to load by herself? Call yourself an officer and a gentleman? You useless stuffed shirt!"* I helped the girl to load the rest. She never spoke, and nor did he. I kept up my tirade until they left. It is difficult for me to understand that chasm between ranks, even today.

Later I received a cheque for our efforts, which a neighbour thought would not be worthwhile. But it was.

An inland farmer friend asked if I knew where he could obtain some of the tinned sausage. *"Bring a sack tonight about 7.30 pm"* I told him. From Bantham we scrambled over the rocks, past the Long Stone in the moonlight, and in gullies between the rocks we saw the tins glinting. They were in five feet of water. I had misjudged the time of low-water. It was February, but I took off my coat and went in.

We retrieved two sacksful and scrambled back over the rocks. But the tins were so dented with washing around that the farmer's family was afraid to use the contents for fear that the tins might be "blown" - though they fed his sheepdogs for some time.

In conclusion, there is a saying *"Second wrecking is best"*, meaning that the clever ones wait for those who labour to haul the first of the goods up the beach to return for a second lot. The clever ones meanwhile carry off the first load. Arguments were not uncommon!

In my case there was a difference. I had a couple of boxes of soap stored away in the barns and some time, much later, chanced to check on them. They were almost empty. My "second wrecker" was unusual, for it was the rats that had enjoyed a good diet of Sunlight soap!

BOOKSHELF

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

The author worked as a journalist before taking up writing full time in 1991. For me this is fiction of the highest class - continually moving, deeply impressive and with elegant prose.

The story starts in France in 1910 and tells of an illicit love affair between an English man and a French woman. Subsequently the man, Stephen, survives the grim horrors of trench warfare in 1914-18. This character exercises a fascination throughout - both on his companions in the book and on the reader!

PMM

The Big Picture by Douglas Kennedy

A best-seller in the U.S., this novel has been translated into fourteen languages. Kennedy was born in New York City but now lives in London. This thriller has great pace and is well thought out, full of twists and heart-thumping surprises.

Ben, the main character, has the opportunity to take on a false identity following his accidental killing of his wife. I won't spoil it for you by telling you any more of the tale, but someone else has described the book as "*The Horse Whisperer* recast by Patricia Highsmith, a compulsive page-turner....", which is about right.

PMM

Dear England: a Quest for England. by Harry Reid

A Scots journalist's impressions of his travels around England. A philosophical view of many off the beaten track places.

RM

Madame de Pompadour by Nancy Mitford

Improve your knowledge of French politics and love affairs with this interesting and well-illustrated book.

RM

Original Sin by P.D.James

A little light relief by a writer who brings knowledge and good grammar to a mystery detective story. It was so absorbing that, for once, I did not want to look at the end to see "who dunnit" - a record for me!

RM

H.M.S. Surprise by Patrick O'Brian

Occasionally you "discover" a brilliant new author - only to find that he's already an established favourite of most of your friends!

Such was my introduction to O'Brian, and *HMS Surprise* - the third of his novels in a series now extending to eighteen. They are Hornblower-style Napoleonic era epics which make C.S.Forester's seem amateurish by comparison! The historic and nautical detail is overwhelmingly convincing, and the narrative holds you spellbound as you follow the fortunes of the two principal characters - close friends whose paths keep crossing in their respective and related naval careers.

It was literally unputdownable - and has left me with no option but to begin the series at the beginning, and follow the author and his characters through the whole series of eighteen (so far!). O'Brian fans out there - receive your newest convert! For those of you who know him not....delay no longer. There is treasure laid up for you, too!

RFM

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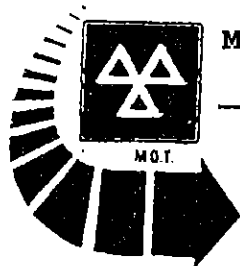
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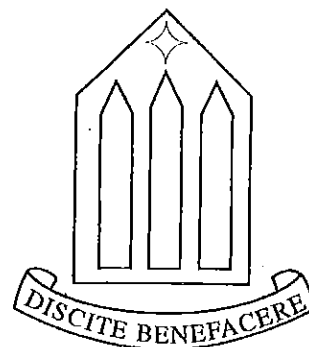


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The Ghost of Christmas Past

People sometimes comment wistfully that the magic of Christmas has been commercialised away, consigned to the spirit of Christmas Past and that it is now squalid and insincere, representing not much more than the triumph of avarice over altruism. In spite of these grim observations, Christmas in school this year was an event which will remain a significant and cherished one in our memories.

For the first time, the annual carol service was at All Saints Church, South Milton. The children rolled into church on the murky evening like polished apples: into a church infused with the heady aroma of mulled wine and freshly-baked mince-pies (provided by kindly parents) mingling with the sweet and holy scent of incense.

We were uniquely fortunate this year for we have talented, enthusiastic and reliable older pupils who set an impressive standard in the quality of their singing and their range of material.

The warm beauty of South Milton church, the love lavished upon it by its churchwardens and congregation conspired with the sweetness of the singing to provide an atmosphere that was as intoxicating as any described by Thomas Hardy. We were also

fortunate to have the services of **Mr Alastair Durden**, whose abilities as an organist are matched only by the generous contribution he continues to make to our school's musical productions.

It is easy to express thanks to all those who made our service so enchanting, but the appreciation is genuine and the significance of their contribution may be expressed in the statement read so beautifully by **Sean Prowse**: *"Two thousand Christmases became real to us then...."*

Mr Durden will also be playing at a school concert scheduled for Friday 12th February, 7.30 pm at the school. He will be joining *Amici Musicali* - **Carmen Lasok**, **Dorit Zeleniak** (two young London professionals) and **Nicholas Gardner** - in a programme of arias, songs and duets by Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Offenbach and Puccini.

A similar concert was held last July, to the huge delight of the audience, but was poorly attended. We are hoping for a much better response on this occasion. Tickets will be £4.50 (£3.00 for children) from the school and will include refreshments. **THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE MISSED!**

Alun Williams

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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (OR THE THREE Ps)

So what is this Parish Paths Partnership mentioned in the last Village Voice ("More than just a Path")?

It is a county-wide scheme to give parishes responsibility for their rights of way and to encourage community involvement in their upkeep. It is a Countryside Commission initiative funded with Government money.

Its main aim is to improve the condition of the local rights of way, to keep them open and used properly.

Devon County Council offers parishes joining the scheme one year grants at a maximum rate of £50 a mile of footpaths and £75 a mile of bridle-ways so that, in consultation with farmers and landowners, rights of way may be upgraded by such practical work as vegetation clearance, repair of stiles and way-marking.

Over **one hundred** parishes in Devon have joined the 3Ps scheme and it has been welcomed by farmers, landowners, walkers and local people. Paths close to villages where people frequently walk their dogs have been made easier of access and adequate way-marking of cross-country paths has encouraged walkers to keep to the correct route, which benefits everyone.

Because a Parish Council has taken responsibility for the paths, the work on them, the creation of diversions and the consideration of complaints (eg, an electric fence obstructing a right of way) become matters for local consideration and resolution. The parish helps to make its paths easy to use and of minimum concern to the farmers and landowners whose land they cross.

It seems to be a scheme where everyone can benefit as well as providing scope for local involvement.

I wonder why our Parish Council turned it down at its December meeting? Perhaps they would tell us in the pages of Village Voice?

Basil Fox

Dear Editor

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Thurlestone NSPCC committee would like to thank everyone for their support and donations during the past year.

The Bridge Evening and Christmas Bazaar together raised £1,250.

We shall be maintaining our efforts at fund-raising throughout 1999, starting with our Grand Jumble Sale on Saturday 1st May.

These funds help to enable the NSPCC to fulfil its vision for children, which is expressed as: "*re-kindling social responsibility so that ending cruelty to children becomes everybody's business*".

We hope we will get your support once again.

Monica Dickins

Footnote:

Monica and her committee wonder if **Whist Drives** would be popular. If there is sufficient demand they would gladly organise some as an aid to their fund-raising. Please let her know on 560518.



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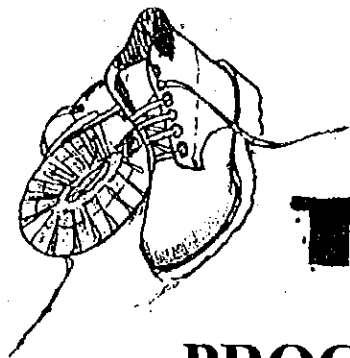
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TRAMP 99

PROGRAMME OF WALKS

DATE	AREA	LEADER
13 January	South Pool	Bob Nicholls
10 February	Local walk	Sheila & Tony Ward
10 March	Local Walk	Stuart Reynolds
24 March	Hallsands	Ron Parkin
14 April	Stiddicombe Wood (Aveton Gifford)	Derek Yeoman
28 April	Kingston	Ron Parkin
12 May	Dittisham, Kingswear, Dartmouth	Tricia Wilson
26 May	South Dartmoor	Roy Travis
9 June	Frogmore	Pam Brewster
23 June	Stepping Stone, South Moor	Derek Yeoman
14 July	Postbridge	Stuart Reynolds
28 July	Shipley Bridge	John & Christine Wilson
11 August	No Walk - Solar Eclipse	
25 August	South Dartmoor	Sue Dwyer
8 September	Lustleigh Cleave	Sheila & Tony Ward
22 September	South Dartmoor	Roy Travis
13 October	Capton, Cornworthy	Bob Nicholls
10 November	S.Milton, S.Huish, Hope Cove	Ian Fraser
8 December	Local Walk & Christmas Lunch for past & present Tramps	Ian Fraser

TRAMP ground-rules remain the same, viz:

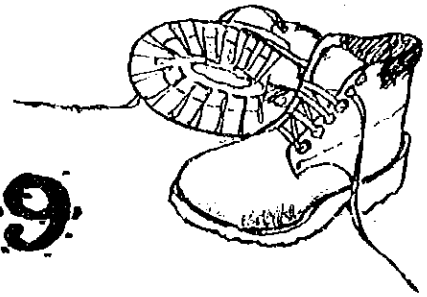
Meet Thurlestone Parish Hall car park

In the months of January, February, October, November and December we meet on the second Wednesday only. From March to September we meet twice per month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

Notices will be put up on the pump-house notice board and in the shop by the walk leader one week beforehand.

All walkers take part at their own risk. A first aid kit is carried on all walks.

TRAMP 99



It was enough to restore your faith in human nature to find sixteen people and a dog, though possibly she didn't have much say in the matter, were prepared to defy or just simply ignore an unfavourable weather forecast and set off beneath a grey sky on the first tramp of 1999.

Fourteen of us, and the dog, braved the not over-turbulent waters of the estuary to cross from Salcombe to East Portlemouth where the other two were waiting. We were lucky; the first drops of rain didn't fall until we had covered the stretch along the coastal path and were heading inland across the fields above the Gara Rock Hotel.

We were fairly sheltered on the rather muddy, and steep, sunken track which eventually led us down to the road above Waterhead. The stepping stones over the creek were still high and dry; we had made such good time that we had reached them long before the tide. We trudged cheerfully, if damply, along the road, past the entrance to Gullet Farm, the scene of many a National

Trust cream tea, towards our lunch-time destination - the Millbrook Inn at South Pool.

A giant pasty, although scrumptious, was probably not the ideal preparation for the steep climb up the road which inevitably followed our lunch. Those who had limited themselves to a large bowl of substantial soup helped down by two thick chunks of granary bread must have walked more lightly. However, we all reached the top in good shape.

The next track was by far the muddiest and I suspect we were all happy to reach the road which forded the creek and led past Waterhead back to East Portlemouth. We were grateful to the gallant ferryman who risked his life on the stormy estuary waters to make the two trips to ferry us back to Salcombe.

Despite the impression you may have gained from this account, it was a most enjoyable walk and definitely the best way to spend a soggy day!

Pam Brewster

Pat Machin's **Puzzle Corner** - Wordsearch Answers

WORDSEARCH ONE

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. BENBECULA | 2. IGNORAMUS | 3. BELLICOSE | 4. FORTUNATE |
| 2. MELBOURNE | 6. ARCHITECT | 7. SIDEBORD | 8. DACHSHUND |
| 9. GUARANTEE | 10. HITCHCOCK | 11. ASPARAGUS | 12. DROMEDARY |
| 13. GERALDINE | 14. PETTICOAT | 15. FORTNIGHT | 16. SPINDRIFT |
| 17. FORSYTHIA | 18. TIMPANIST | 19. RODRIGUEZ | 20. MAGNESIUM |
| 21. COMPLETED | | | |

WORDSEARCH TWO

ANSWER = KUMQUAT

H.R.ADAMS

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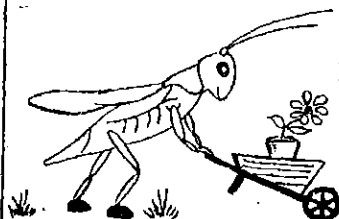
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All Saints Diary

Thurlestone Church Services

Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
Thursday February 18th, March 11th	8.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
February 14th & 28th, March 14th	11.10 a.m.	PARISH EUCHARIST
February 7th & 21st, March 7th & 21st	11.10 a.m.	MATINS

Family Services:

Sunday February 7th	Candlemas Christingle Service	3.00 p.m.	SOUTH MILTON
Sunday March 14th	Mothering Sunday Eucharist	9.30 a.m.	SOUTH MILTON
Sunday March 28th	Palm Sunday Procession	11.10 a.m.	THURLESTONE

School Lent Service

Wednesday February 24th	1.30 p.m.	THURLESTONE
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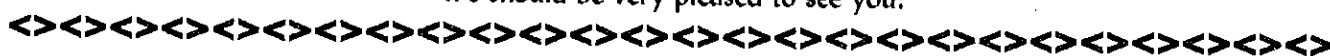


Coffee at Thurlestone Court

an opportunity to meet the residents

ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (FEBRUARY 2ND OR MARCH 2ND) AT 10.30 A.M.

We should be very pleased to see you.



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.



All Saints Fellowship

meets in the Rectory Barn at 2.30 p.m.

"AN APOTHECARY'S LEGACY" - Thursday February 25th

Margaret Lorenz talks about the history of the Cookworthy Museum

"SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN" - Thursday March 25th

Canon Arthur Redman gives an insight into the work of *Children in Distress*

Please come and support these afternoons which are always very interesting

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



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

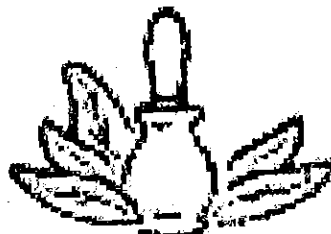
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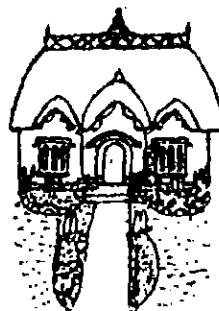
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PARISH

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 p.m Parish Hall Wednesdays Fridays	Contact Mary Fulford-Smith Contact Dorothy Stone	842467 560708
CHURCHWARDENS	Michael Chipman Liz Webb	562013 560090
	Contact Liz Webb	560090
COFFEE TIME (Rectory Barn) Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 October-May.	Contact Kit Marshall	560214
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Secretary, Dick Marston Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560405 560157
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION	Contact Brenda Murch	560487
KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall	Contact John Lonsdale	560742
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact Philip Candy	560857
PROBUS	Contact Ian Fraser	560892
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Carolyn Taylor	562033
W.I. Second Thursday monthly (ex. August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall		

RECTOR to be announced

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Vice - Chairman	Veronica White	560236
Parish Clerk	John Lonsdale	560742
District Councillor	Maryn Grose	560396
County Councillor	Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	John Dayment	560295
	David Grose	560375
	Charles Mitchelmore	560602
(Tree Warden)	Geoffrey Stidston	560695
	Derrick Yeoman	560607

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

DIRECTORY

HEALTH CENTRES	Kingsbridge Salcombe	853551 842284
MILK DELIVERY	R. Bruckner & Son	01803- 832801
VILLAGE SHOPS	Thurlestone Village Store Banham Village Shop	Open weekdays 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Sunday 9.00 am - 10.00 am (See Post Office)
PARISH HALL Chairman Bookings	Rowland Cole Joan Lane	561006 560158
POST OFFICES	Thurlestone P.O. Banham P.O. (and Shop)	560624 560645
Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9 am - 1pm, and 2 pm - 5 pm Postal collections 10.30 am and 4.25 pm Monday - Friday 10.30 am Saturday; 11 am Sunday		
Open daily 9 am - 1 pm and 2 - 5.30 pm (Summer - exc. Wed pm) OPEN 9 am - 12.30 pm (Winter) Postal collections 9.30 am and 4.10 pm Monday-Friday 9.30 am Saturday; 11 am Sunday		
POLICE		
Emergency (life threatened, persons injured, offenders nearby, etc.) Central Switchboard (admin. matters, service department or police station) Force Enquiry Centre (non - urgent - 24 hours a day) (reporting a crime or other incident, asking for information or advice) Confidential information		999 0990-777-444 0990-700-400 0800-555-111
RUBBISH COLLECTION	Thursday	(But Friday in Bank-Holiday - Monday weeks)

BUSES (Western National)

	No. 161	No. 162	No. 161	No. 162
	Wed only	Mon - Sat	Wed only	Mon - Sat
Banham	10.30 14.20	-	10.10 13.50	12.15 17.00
Buckland	10.33 14.17	-	10.50 14.00	12.40 17.25
Thurlestone	10.41 14.09	09.45 13.28	10.41 14.09	12.31 17.16
South Milton	10.50 14.00	09.36 13.19	10.33 14.17	-
Kingsbridge	11.00 14.40	10.02 13.45	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)	Banham	Maurice Blight 560220 Kingsbridge 857315
	11.10 - 11.30 am	
	11.35 - 11.45 am Buckland Old Chapel	11.50 - 12.15 pm Thurlestone Parish Hall
	12.20 - 12.35 pm Thurlestone Church	12.40 - 12.50 pm Thurlestone Sands

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

Tues 9th Parish Council Meeting, Sloop Inn, 7.30 pm
 Wed 10th Tramp - local walk
 Thur 11th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Caroline Steen)
 Fri 12th Probus meeting, Thurstlestone Hotel, 12.30 for 1.00 pm
 Pasta cookery demonstration, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Musical Concert at the School, 7.30 pm
 Coffee Morning (Dartmoor Rescue), S. Milton, 10.30 am
 Sat 13th Parish Hall Barn Dance & Supper, Thurstlestone, 7.00 pm
 Sat 20th

MARCH

Mon 8th **ROAD CLOSURE** period commences
 Wed 10th Tramp - local walk
 Thur 11th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Oyster Farming)
 Fri 12th Gardening Questions Evening, S. Milton village hall, 7.30 pm
 South Hams Society AGM, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Mon 15th Val Brown's Concert meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Thur 16th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Sat 20th Bowls Club Jumble Sale, S. Milton, 2.30 pm
 Wed 24th Tramp - Hallsands

APRIL

Thur 8th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Stained Glass)
 Wed 14th Tramp - Stiddicombe Wood, Avelton Gifford
 Tues 20th Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 28th Tramp - Kingston

MAY

Sat 1st NSPCC Jumble Sale, Parish Hall
 Tues 11th Annual Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 12th Tramp - Dittisham, Kingswear, Dartmouth
 Thur 13th WI Resolutions meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm

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

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

Village Voice is delivered in Thurstlestone by MIKE TAYLOR and a team of volunteer helpers. It is delivered by MRS JEAN HURRELL in Bantham and Buckland.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 6th MARCH 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)

1998 All Saints Quiz

Congratulations to all those who entered the 1998 All Saints Quiz. About sixty people bought a quiz sheet and ten returned answers. The winner of the £5 prize was Pat Machin (who else!!) with all 50 answers correct - well done. There were six runners-up winning £1: Geoff Ladd (49), Paddy Wyatt/Val Bell (45), Jean Yeoman (44), Revd. Peter Frowley (42), Joyce Howitt, one of the Lay Readers during the inter-regnum, (41) and Al Parker (41). Val Brown, the Bromfields and the Chipmans all scored over 30, the latters' answers being faxed from America!! The answer most often wrong was No.5 - Marsh was just not wet enough! Well done to you all.

ANSWERS

1. Is this urban sprawl?	MOORTOWN	26. Colour not fight in the toy	JACK-IN-THE-GREEN
2. Deer country	BUCKLAND/ HARTLAND	27. This sounds a fruity entrance	APPLEDORE
3. The wood remains with Richard	ASHBURTON	28. The Lord is deserving	GODSWORTHY
4. Send game	POSTBRIDGE	29. Loan available	CREDITON
5. A very wet place	WATER	30. Point to the unknown opening	EXMOUTH
6. There's no airport here	LUTON	31. Irate state first	CALIFORNIA CROSS
7. Foreign ale	FRENCHBEER	32. No Illuminations here	BLACKPOOL
8. On the Orient first	EASTON	33. Old king has a heart of stone	COLETON
9. A nut's partner at the end	BOLT TAIL	34. Rotate small church	TURNCHAPEL
10. I hear the price has gone up	PENNYMOOR	35. Depressed disciple?	DOWN THOMAS
11. No cats here	DOG VILLAGE	36. Prince	CHARLES
12. Where the gander crosses the river	GOOSEFORD	37. Sounds like a good road	STRETE
13. I hear they're pleased to see you here	WELCOMBE	38. Are we in Jamaica?	KINGSTON
14. The deer is angry	BUCKS CROSS	39. The sound of a soprano donkey!	HIGH BRAY
15. Pop group	SLADE	40. Yorkshire city	BRADFORD
16. Wartime leader	CHURCHILL	41. Three feet	YARD
17. His curtsy?	BOW	42. A double dose of parish support?	TWO POTS
18. Lady heavy weight	LYNTON	43. Expect	HOPE
19. He's got the bacon	GEORGEHAM/ ABBOTSHAM	44. Young mare, I hear	FILLEIGH
20. Is this a flowering tree?	ROSE ASH	45. It would be nonsense to enter here	FOLLY GATE
21. Stop here on your journey	TRAVELLER'S REST	46. Crossing law	BRIDGERULE
22. None are listed here	NEWBUILDINGS	47. Cold with initial awe	CHILLA
23. Seven days	WEEK	48. Not a West Highland terrier!	BLACK DOG
24. Enthusiasm but not from the north	SOUTH ZEAL	49. A ruler with an arrow	QUEEN DART
25. Club offspring	BATSON	50. Not the end	START

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