

VILLAGE VOICE

APRIL - MAY 1999





NUMBER 96
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This issue sadly records the passing of the founder of Village Voice, the irrepressible Dudley Drabble. The parish owes him a debt on more than one count, but perhaps the continuation of Village Voice would be the kind of memorial he would appreciate most. So long as it does, his name will continue as its founder on this our title page.

Our splendid new Village Shop and Post Office duly opened its doors on 15th March, and was kept pretty busy as residents went along to make their preliminary inspection and assessment. Let us hope their support continues - and enables this new (and essential) village enterprise to prosper.

Residents also turned out in strength for a farewell bash at the Parish Hall for Jean Yeoman, and Kay and Bob Morley, on the previous Saturday. It proved a happy occasion, and a suitable send-off for these rather special people, for whose service to the village community we will long retain grateful and affectionate memories.

People may come and go but developments, it seems, are likely to be with us always. With Church Farm and Homefield still to be completed, attention is now turning towards the future of the Rectory. *Is the village perhaps to lose its Tythe Barn in order to gain a new incumbent?*

Founder Dudley Drabble

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DUDLEY DRABBLE

A tribute

The fact that you are reading this is, in itself, a tribute to one man. That man was Dudley Drabble, who founded Village Voice sixteen years and nearly one hundred copies ago, and who died in February. He was 89.

Dudley has no doubt registered a strong complaint with the Great Editor in the Sky that he was not allowed to score ninety, in October, for he was very proud of the length of his life. Few have more right to such pride.

In fact, Dudley should have died more than twenty years ago. Then it was only his dogged determination, real grit you could call it, which pulled him through a massive operation for lung cancer. Even the surgeon didn't expect a man of Dudley's age to survive it, but then Dudley had the help not only of his determination, but the special advantage of his very own nurse - his wife Lilian, who before their marriage had chosen nursing as her career.

That Dudley Drabble became publisher and printer and editor of Village Voice - and that it succeeded so well - was another pride of his life. It was a success that owed nothing to any previous journalistic experience unless you count editing his school magazine or the production of a news-sheet for his RAF unit while serving overseas during the war.

Like his cousin, Phil Drabble, the tv presenter of *One Man and His Dog*, he was a Derbyshire man, though he spent his early years in Canada where his father was a building inspector. Later the family came home and Dudley went to school in Cheshire. His first job was with a Derby

auctioneer. After his demob from the RAF he moved to South Devon and for many years, until his retirement in 1975, was Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages for the South Hams district. He was also secretary of the Kingsbridge & South Hams Chamber of Trade.

Four years before he fully retired he took on the job of Clerk to the Thurlestone Parish Council. It was to be a job which would keep him "ticking over", as he called it, after he stopped full-time work. Then came the diagnosis of lung cancer.

After his recovery, he was still determined to do something to keep him occupied - that, he was sure, was the secret of the good old age on which he had set his heart.

It is amazing that he managed not only to start Village Voice but to keep it running with a circulation of 500 copies every other month. His print shop was at one end of a draughty garage, attached to the South Milton bungalow where he and Lilian lived with their dog. His press was an ancient ink-squirting duplicator. His editorial office was the lounge. Editing and sub-editing was done on the run on the old typewriter which also cut the wax stencils. Putting the magazine together meant he and Lilian sat in front of a coffee table for day after day shuffling sheets of paper into order and then into a huge hand stapler - which needed two mighty bangs down to pin each copy together.

More time was spent collecting boxes of paper, tubes of ink and stencils from the Devon County Council depot in Exeter in his little car which was never designed to cope with such huge loads. Then he would

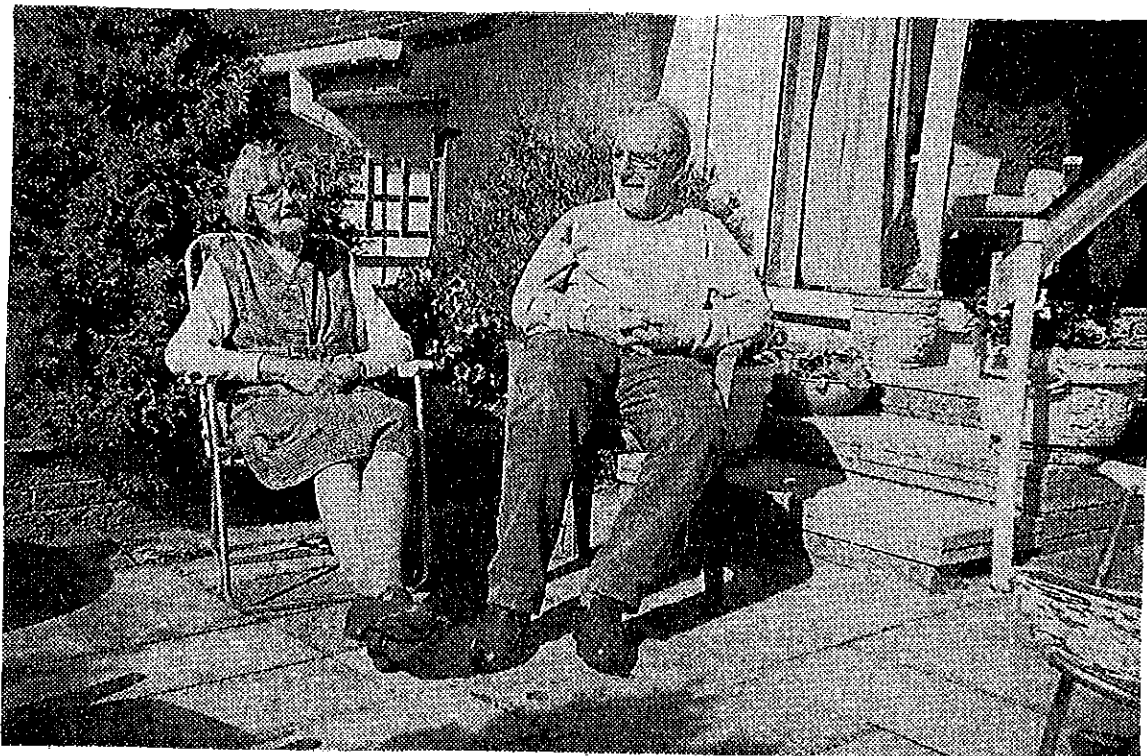
ring or write to possible contributors asking for articles. Dudley was even the art editor of his beloved magazine, drawing most of the illustrations himself.

There came a time when all this was just too much and when Dudley got no replies to his requests for someone to take the magazine over, even his determination failed and he announced that he was ceasing publication. And so he did - for one issue! In that time he managed to persuade Penny and I to run the magazine with Dudley watching over us as a sort of editor-in-chief. Penny became the ink-bespattered printer, after taking lessons from Dudley in that chilly garage in the art of handling fragile wax stencils, (some were sent away to Cornwall to be electronically produced) and the art of coaxing the ancient duplicator to produce clean copies and not to rip up too many pages in its internal workings. She managed somehow to get every edition

printed on time ready for the milk run delivery by Peter Bromfield in Thurlestone and Jean Hurrell in Buckland and Bantham. The sheer hard work of it all made us wonder how Dudley and Lilian had ever managed it. Without local help with the collation we, in our turn, could not have coped.

But Dudley did. He did it because of his sheer determination to provide Thurlestone parish with the magazine it needed to be a proper community. The amazing and continuing success of his brainchild is the greatest tribute all of us can pay him today. He saw Village Voice as a forum for local opinion, for information, and above all for enjoyment. He didn't approve of obituaries in Village Voice. And so they rarely appeared - a tradition which continues to this day. This time, however, another editor's decision is final.

Kendall McDonald



Lilian and Dudley Drabble relaxing at home

OF STOMPS AND STUMPS

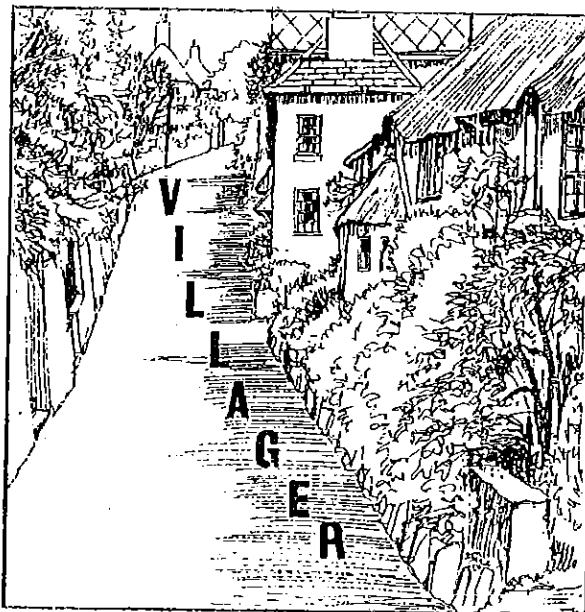
Wild rumours of rave-ups planned for Bantham fields have recently stirred up equally wild alarm. Other parishioners have, however, gone wild with joy about this likely welcome break from the normal calm of our existence.

The rumours said that this rave was to take place during the time of the Eclipse, which you will have noted the powers-that-be are now trying to damp down, having realised that all who could possibly be asked to do additional work during an invasion of an extra 3 million holiday-makers are asking for money in advance.

My undercover agents have, however, been able to tell me that though there are at least six rock concerts planned in various nearby parts for the week of the Eclipse - not to mention the Friends of Thurlestone Church masked ball at the hotel on blackout night itself - the rumours of a massive Eclipse and Ecstasy rave at Bantham are sadly wide of the mark.

But it is true that this summer a jolly event will take place in a Bantham field, where a marquee able to seat 500 will blossom over a wooden dance floor, and no doubt some hot music will be played. This affair is planned for August 28, during the Bank Holiday weekend, a few burnt eyeballs after the Eclipse. This is a £10-a-head fund-raising effort by Bantham Sailing Club and Bantham Surf Life-Saving Club, which they are calling a Pre-Millennium Celebration. Money raised will be shared between the Lifesavers and the Macmillan Cancer Fund.

No common or garden rave this one, but a big event aimed at both residents and holiday-makers with a famous dance band, a steel band, tombola and silent auction. You can bring your own picnic to your table or splendid food can be supplied.



Did you curse at the delay at getting up to your keep-fit or down to golf when brought to a halt by tree-cutters at work in the main street of Thurlestone last month? I expect you did.

Whether you cursed or waited patiently, few of you will have realised you were witnessing yet another change to the face of the parish. Not a great development, but a minor one this time, merely the cutting down of a big rotten elm stump, held back at a perilous angle by a cocoon of ivy and honeysuckle from falling into the road by Cradles Cottage.

This stump was the last of two huge elms which grew up out of the bank and hung high over Cradles Cottage, which once had its name changed to Elm Cottages as a mark of respect to those great trees. They died and were topped many years ago, probably two of the earliest victims of Dutch Elm disease - a disease which though it had no name then was possibly the reason for the general distrust of elms which were likely to shed great boughs for no apparent good reason.

Many veteran villagers will remember being warned by their parents about climbing elms when birds-nesting. (Be calm, Harry Huggins, we are talking about yonks ago!)

The removal the other day of this last stump is a good point at which to remember how leafy was Thurlestone less than 50 years ago. For instance, another great elm with divided trunk stood in what is now the front garden of Home Cottage, almost exactly opposite the Bantham turn. Hanging over the Pumphouse and the entrance to the Village Stores was a giant among white-flowering horse chestnut trees. Other trees made a leafy arch over the road near the entrance to the old Rectory, and elms towered up by Thatchways.

But trees are not the only things that change. Names are changing too. When Bob and Kay

Morley finally decided to shut the Village Stores, Kay ran a little competition among her customers to name her home once the shop had been taken out of it

Here are some of the names which were suggested: *Dun Celline; Rose Bo 'Kay; Kay's Cottage; Morleys; Little Field; Ye Olde Shoppe; Old Village Stores; Blossom Cott; Rose Cottage; Primrose Cottage; Honeysuckle Cottage; Mooring Cottage; Bracken Cottage; March Cottage; Mortimers; Cob Cottage; The Moorings; The Hollies; Scone; Jarvis's Farthing; Bramble Cottage.*

Well, Bob and Kay could only agree on one - so COB COTTAGE it is. And Mrs Villager has drunk her prize of a bottle of good white wine!

Villager

TELEPHONE SCAM

Here is a warning from someone with personal experience!

"I received a phone call from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T service technician who was conducting a test on our telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test we should touch nine (9) zero (0) the hash (#) sign and then hang up. Luckily we were suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the phone company we were told that by pushing 90# you give the requesting individual full access to your phone line, which allows them to place a long distance phone call billed to your home phone number. We were further informed that this scam has been originating from many of the local jails and prisons. I have also verified this information with UC8 Telecomm.

Please be aware. This sounds like an urban legend but it is not. I further contacted GTE Security this morning and verified that this is definitely possible.

DO NOT PRESS 90# FOR ANYONE!

GTE Security requested that I share this information with everyone I know. Could you please pass this on? If you have mailing lists and/or newsletters from organisations you are connected with, I encourage you to pass on this information."

Village Voice is indebted to **Ian MacKay** for this warning.

Pat Machin's

Puzzle Corner

WORD PAIRS I

From the list of words, take out two which go with each other to answer a clue. This will remove 40, leaving just one. What is it?

CLUES

- a. Two pies
- b. Two go with post
- c. An American river
- d. Two dogs
- e. Two anagrams
- f. A Shakespeare play
- g. Well known Cornish items
- h. A US city
- i. Two joined to penny
- j. Two go with calf
- k. Two palindromes
- l. He has a duty
- m. 007's author
- n. In no place
- o. Two keys
- p. A royal residence
- q. Two go with chair
- r. An army rank
- s. A pantomime
- t. A talking bird opera

WORDS

- 1. Ago
- 2. Ian
- 3. Now
- 4. Rio
- 5. Chic
- 6. Deck
- 7. Ella
- 8. Gate
- 9. Here
- 10. Skim
- 11. Apple
- 12. Cream
- 13. Field
- 14. House
- 15. Kayak
- 16. Night
- 17. Pasty
- 18. Royal
- 19. Cinder
- 20. Fatted
- 21. Grande
- 22. Magpie
- 23. Palace
- 24. Cottage
- 25. Customs
- 26. Fleming
- 27. Ingrate
- 28. Lurcher
- 29. Marshal
- 30. Officer
- 31. Reviver
- 32. Rocking
- 33. Tearing
- 34. Twelfth
- 35. Farthing
- 36. Prandial
- 37. Skeleton
- 38. Thieving
- 39. Diversion
- 40. Buckingham
- 41. Shipperke

WORD PAIRS II

From the list of 4-letter words, take out pairs to make fifteen 8-letter words.

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. BLOW | 9. GAME | 17. PINE | 24. SPIT |
| 2. CARD | 10. HEAD | 18. PIPE | 25. STOP |
| 3. COCK | 11. HEAT | 19. RACE | 26. WALK |
| 4. DOOR | 12. KNOB | 20. RATE | 27. WAVE |
| 5. EDGE | 13. LACE | 21. SIDE | 28. WIND |
| 6. FIRE | 14. LONG | 22. SIDE | 29. WISE |
| 7. FIRE | 15. MONK | 23. SOCK | 30. WOOD |
| 8. FISH | 16. MOST | | |

Roger Hind

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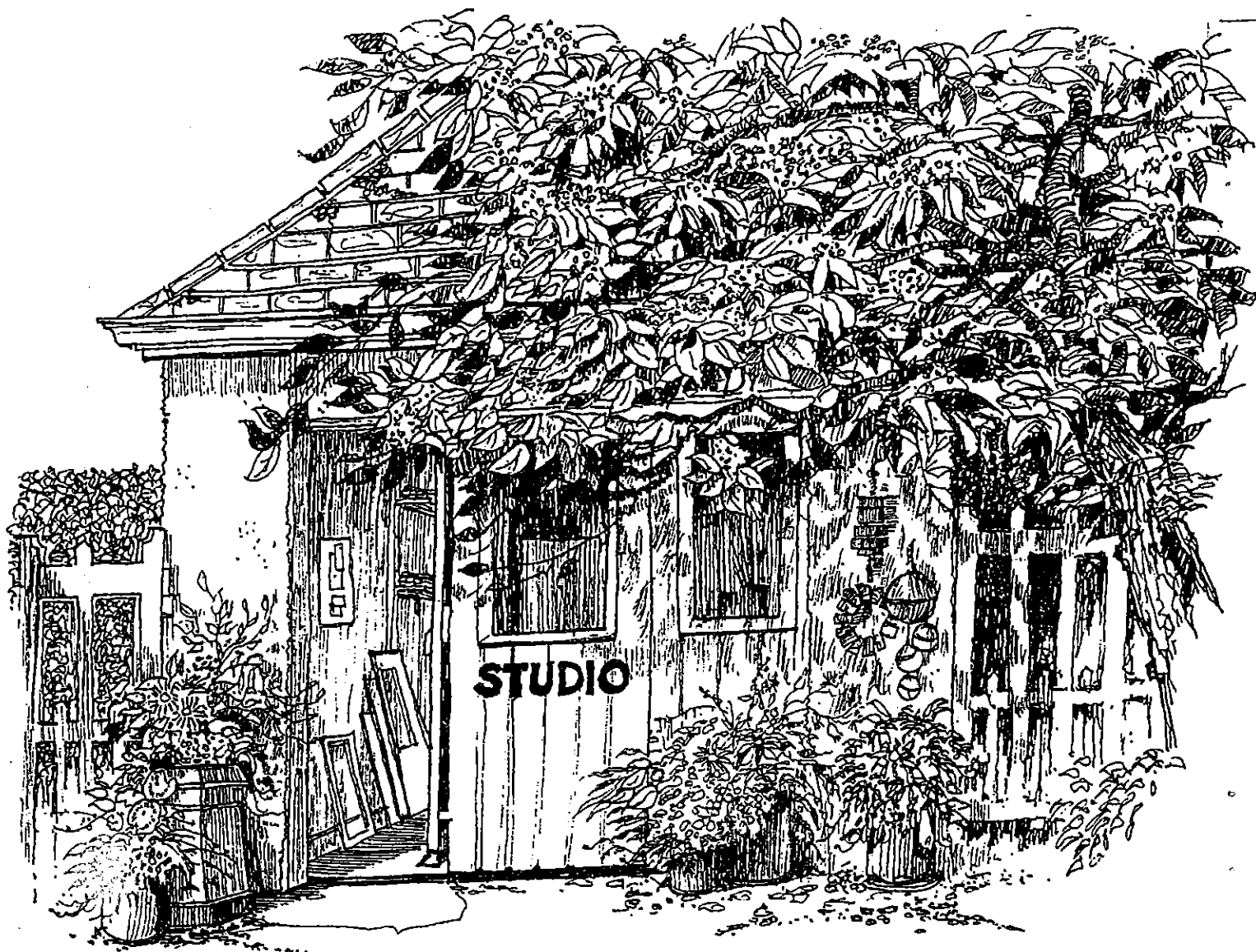
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Village News Round-Up

RETIREMENT PARTY

The parish hall was bursting at the seams at midday on Saturday 13th March as village friends of Kay and Bob Morley and Jean Yeoman gave a cheese & wine lunch party to mark the retirement of three people who have been, and are, special to Thurlestone village.

On behalf of the residents, chairman of the parish council, Peter Hurrell, presented Len Hubbard watercolours of the village, and bouquets, to the guests of honour. He thanked them for their selflessness in postponing their intended dates of retirement from 1998, so Thurlestone would not be left without a shop or a Post Office.

Fortunately all three are remaining in our midst and to the question *"Now what are you going to do?"* all replied *"Enjoy some leisure time!"*. We believe Bob is off sailing already and that Kay intends to take her golf clubs to her native Scotland later in the year to indulge for a while in one of her favourite pastimes. Jean is just about to go for a holiday.

To all of them Village Voice sends the warmest of good wishes in their new-found freedom and most grateful thanks for what they have done in the past for our community.

PARISH PLAYERS

A number of parish residents responded to Val Brown's call in the last issue for anyone interested in forming a millennium concert party to join her at the parish hall on the evening of 15th March. As a result of this, a performing arts group, under the title *"Parish Players"* has been formed.

The idea is to design a series of events to include readings, musical solos, choral singing, sketches and so on. Devising the material and then rehearsing will take place during this year with the idea of putting on a number of performances on a small scale, leading up to a special effort for the millennium.

There will be something for everyone to do - even those not expert at learning lines! The idea is that all who get involved get a large measure of enjoyment out of it.

Please come to the next meeting which Val has fixed for

**MONDAY 19th APRIL,
7.30 pm Parish Hall**

.....and bring your ideas too!

MRS GERTRUDE BURNS

Mr D L Burns of Weymouth, whose mother Gertrude (*"Gertie"* to all those who knew her) sadly died at the age of 95 on the 22nd February, is appreciative of all the people who attended her funeral and says how touching it was to see so many. *"I know Mum would have been happy to see how many of you came to show your respects, and my wife and I wish to thank everyone"*.

Gertie was born and brought up in Thurlestone but as a young married woman she moved to Devonport. She returned later and lived at 1 Church Cottages with her sister, the late Mrs Hoskins. She had many valuable memories of life in Thurlestone in the *"old days"* (which have happily been caught recently on film for the millennium video) and which she loved to recall.

We send our condolences to her son and the family.

ERIC TRENEMAN STIDSTON 1905 - 1999

Eric Treneman Stidston was born on 22nd June 1905 at Court Park, Thurlestone, the younger son of Minnie and Albert Edward Stidston.

He began his education at Thurlestone Church School, then Kingsbridge Grammar School, and later at Bloxham in Oxfordshire, where he became a keen team member in soccer, rugby and

cricket. On completing his education, he continued to play football for Thurlestone, and cricket for Kingsbridge.

He began his working days farming with his father and remembers vividly being told, when he requested a salary, that he was a lucky man to be taught! Despite this, he continued to farm with his father, until his father died, when he assumed total responsibility for Court Park for the next 50 years.

In 1938 he married Margaret. They had five children, three girls and two boys, who in later years assisted in the running of Court Park.

Eric was an enthusiastic community member, being a Parish Councillor for 40 years. His knowledge of the district was invaluable where history of the area and boundaries were concerned. He was also on the District Council and a school governor for many years.

He took a keen interest in village life, and was always ready with comment or advice (wanted or unwanted!) laced with a sense of humour. He was a member of the of the Devon and Cornwall Long Wools Association and judged at the Royal Show, Smithfield, and many local shows.

On retirement he devoted much of his time to the vegetable garden and, whenever possible, sea - angling. He was also an avid follower of sales, always seeking a bargain.

He was a remarkable man with great vision, and in spite of changing times always abided by the adage "Times change, but principles do not". In essence, he contributed to much of what Thurlestone is today.

Village Voice extends sympathy to Margaret and the family.

BELLS ACROSS THE MEDIA

Villager was the first to float the idea in the February / March 1997 issue of *Village Voice* that the future residents of the new properties beside the church should be obliged to sign a covenant saying they would not object to the church bells ringing after they were in residence.

We are happy to report that this was taken up and written into buyers' contracts.

The national press heard about it and so on 17th March the *Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, and other well-known dailies carried articles on the subject. Then national radio and TV got in on the act. Legal niceties were explored (eg does the church clock *chime* come in the same category as *bellringing*?)

For a day or so the village was the media flavour of the month. And all of it due to **Villager**, our own *agent provocateur extraordinaire*. It's jolly good publicity for Thurlestone - but if **Villager** starts to syndicate his bi-monthly commentary we could find the national media permanently camped on our doorsteps!

The free-lance journalist who reported the story visited Thurlestone on 16th March and was delighted to hear from one of our older residents, who is hard of hearing, that she purposely sits on a seat near All Saints when the bells are ringing - and turns her hearing-aid to maximum the better to enjoy the music!

ROCKY GROUND

We are reliably informed that there is strong pressure for the parish to make its millennium project the removal of the Thurlestone Rock from South Milton Sands and have it re-sited off Yarmer Beach.

NEW SHOP OFFICIAL OPENING

The official 'tape-cutting' to open the new Village Shop & PO will be performed by Mrs Gillian Goddard of Evans Estates at 11.00 am on Wednesday 7th April and developers AMEL Properties say everyone in the village would be welcome to attend.

The anticipated closure of the main road through Thurlestone scheduled for the week of 8th March could not take place for a number of reasons, so we have that treat to come.

It is currently anticipated that it will be mid-April but *Village Voice* has been advised that "*nothing is yet finalised*".



All Saints Diary

Thurlestone Church Services

Every Sunday	8.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
Thursday April 8th, May 13th	8.30 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION
April 18th, May 2nd & 16th	11.10 a.m.	PARISH EUCHARIST
April 11th & 25th, May 9th & 30th	11.10 a.m.	MATINS
April 25th	11.10 a.m.	FAMILY SERVICE

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday April 1st	Joint Parish Eucharist	7.30 p.m.	SOUTH MILTON
Good Friday April 2nd	Good Friday Liturgy	10.30 a.m.	SOUTH MILTON
	Last Hour Meditation	2.00 p.m.	THURLESTONE
Easter Sunday April 4th	Sung Eucharist	8.00 a.m.	THURLESTONE
	Family Easter Eucharist	9.30 a.m.	SOUTH MILTON
	Festal Matins	11.10 a.m.	THURLESTONE

followed by Holy Communion

Ascension Day Services:

Thursday May 13th	Joint Parish Eucharist	7.30 p.m.	THURLESTONE
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Whit Sunday:

Sunday May 23rd	Parish Eucharist	11.10 a.m.	THURLESTONE
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All Saints Fellowship

meets in the Rectory Barn at 2.30 p.m.

"A HELPING HAND" - Thursday April 22nd

The Work of Macmillan Nurses

"SAY CHEESE" - Date in May/June to be arranged

A visit to see how Yarg cheese is made.

Please come and support these afternoons which are always very interesting

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



Coffee at Thurlestone Court

an opportunity to meet the residents

ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (APRIL 6TH & MAY 4TH) AT 10.30 A.M.

We should be very pleased to see you.



Advance Dates for your Diary:

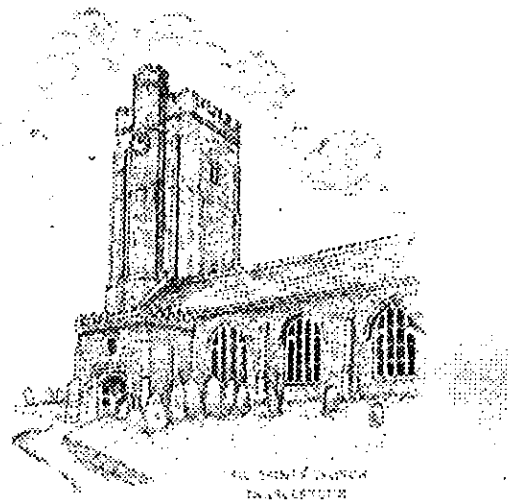
Church Fete - SATURDAY JULY 24TH AT 2.00PM

The Eclipse of the Sun - Talk & slides 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

All Saints



Churchwardens: Michael Chipman 562013 & Liz Webb 560090

The Rectory

There has been much speculation about the future of the Rectory and until recently there was no definite decision. Now however, we are pleased to be able to report that discussions are at a very advanced stage between the Diocese and Ash Mill Developments for the acquisition of a new rectory in the bottom of Jean Hide's garden, adjacent to the present rectory. As part of the negotiations the developers will have the current rectory site and the developer has indicated his intention to retain the present rectory building, although no plans have yet been submitted.

We realise that the loss of the present rectory does not meet with everyone's approval but it is felt that the benefits of a new house greatly outweigh those of keeping the present building which needs refurbishment, including the installation of central heating. The house will not only be a great deal more comfortable and cheaper to heat and maintain but will also have a study which has direct access from outside thus ensuring the privacy of the family home. These points are all important in attracting a suitable applicant and as soon as the Diocese has a completion date for the new rectory, which should be about mid-August, we shall be able to advertise the vacancy.

The Eclipse of the Sun

Tickets are going fast so, if you have not yet ordered your free tickets (see February/March Village Voice), please send a self-addressed envelope (stamped if you live outside Thurlestone) to Joan Galloway, Edens, Warren Road, Thurlestone TQ7 3NT marking the top left-hand corner with the number of tickets you require. It may be necessary to limit the number of tickets per household or to put people on a waiting list. Tickets will be sent in late July/early August - please let Joan know if they are no longer required.

Coffee at Thurlestone Court

ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH (APRIL 6TH & MAY 4TH) AT 10.30 A.M.

This is an opportunity to meet the residents and we should be very pleased to see you.

Searchlight

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR 5 - 11 YEAR OLDS THAT MEETS FORTNIGHTLY ON TUESDAYS!!

Meetings on April 20th, May 4th, 11th & 25th after School in the Resources Room

Coffee Time

EVERY THURSDAY FROM 10.30 - 11.30 A.M. IN THE RECTORY BARN

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PARISH COUNCIL : NEWS IN BRIEF

Meetings were held on 9th February at The Sloop and 16th March at the Parish Hall

PARISH HALL

- The barn dance in February raised £360
- New heaters in the loos are slowly drying out these hitherto damp and chilly realms
- Redecoration of the hall is almost complete
- The AGM will be on 12th April

SCHOOL

Contrary to indications this time last year, the number of pupils is holding up at 104 this term

POLICE MATTERS

The next police liaison meeting to be held in Dartmouth on 12th April will discuss traffic problems. Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** is to attend.

POLLUTION

- Concern was expressed at the loss of the 'clean beach' award for Bantham beach. The tests being carried out to analyse the problem will be explained at the annual parish meeting
- It was reported that **Rosemary Stocken** and her team of helpers would once again be clearing the local beaches, on 24th March, in time for Easter
- The household waste recycling scheme is being extended to this area on 19th April. Notices have been sent out

CHURCH FARM DEVELOPMENT

- The new Post Office and Village Store duly opened on 15th March, with increased hours of business covering Monday to Saturday.
- It is understood that the accommodation adjoining the new shop has been sold to a local resident

- The closure of the road, originally planned for March, has been deferred to 19th April, but special arrangements will be made to allow scheduled buses to pass through

OPEN FORUM

- District Councillor **Martyn Grose** reported that the transfer of council housing to the new housing company was about to take place, on schedule
- The recent further changes at Pilchard Cellars, which did not have planning permission were strongly criticised, and the council was urged to take up the matter
- It was reported that The Rectory was about to be sold - to one of the developers - and that the future of the Barn was still in doubt

WARREN HILL FOOTWAY

It seems that the plan (agreed last September) to put down chippings on this dangerously slippery footpath - much used by local residents and some horses (!) - has been beset by endless administrative problems. Ownership of the land and responsibility for maintenance of the path are still contentious but, meanwhile, Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** has had the first section (Swallows to Warren Road) resurfaced. From Heathfield down the hill remains unsurfaced.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next meetings will be the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April, and the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 11th May, both in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm.

Citizen

DICK MARSTON RETIRES FROM THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

In June there will be a significant change at the Golf Club. The Secretary / Manager, **Richard Marston, B.E.M.**, will be retiring after twenty-two years of devoted service to the Club.

Being the longest-serving Secretary in the Club's history, it goes without saying that over the years Dick has acquired a wealth of information and contacts within the area, and has always maintained that very important link between the Club and the local community.

Following a successful career, over twenty-three years, in the Royal Navy, of which three years were in the British Embassy in Moscow, he returned to his native county of Cornwall and took up the position of Secretary at the Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club.

In 1977 he was appointed to the post of Secretary/Manager at Thurlestone Golf Club and settled in "Roughover" with his wife Jane and daughter Sarah. During his time at Thurlestone Dick has always projected and endeavoured to maintain the high ideals of golf at Thurlestone, and the manner in which he has administered the affairs of the Club is well-renowned. His reputation has been widespread and he is one of the most highly-respected Secretaries in the South-West - a true ambassador for Thurlestone.

His love of and dedication to the game of golf is without bounds and - no mean performer himself - his ability and application on the golf course is as well respected as his performance in the Secretary's office. To mark his long-standing service and achievement, the Club has decided to bestow upon him the honour of Life Membership.

Dick and Jane will only be moving as far as Kingsbridge and so he will continue to be within "striking distance" of his beloved Golf Club. We shall therefore see and hear of him from time to time at the golf club, but from the Thurlestone community it is a farewell and best wishes in retirement.

The new Secretary/Manager, who is expected to take over in mid-summer, will be Mr John Scott, currently the Secretary of Wrexham Golf Club.

Mike Wadey

PAT MACHIN'S PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

WORD PAIRS I

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a. 11 & 24 | k. 15 & 31 |
| b. 8 & 18 | l. 25 & 30 |
| c. 4 & 21 | m. 2 & 26 |
| d. 28 & 41 | n. 3 & 9 |
| e. 27 & 33 | o. 14 & 37 |
| f. 34 & 16 | p. 40 & 23 |
| g. 12 & 17 | q. 6 & 32 |
| h. 5 & 1 | r. 13 & 29 |
| i. 18 & 35 | s. 19 & 7 |
| j. 10 & 20 | t. 38 & 22 |

LEAVING Diversion

WORD PAIRS II

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| BLOWPIPE | LONGSTOP |
| DOORKNOB | MONKFISH |
| EDGEWISE | PINEWOOD |
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ECLIPSE UPDATE

CO-ORDINATOR APPOINTED

The long-awaited appointment, by South Hams District Council, of an Eclipse Co-ordinator has now taken place and we are happy to tell you that it is **JANET MARSDEN** who has taken on the task. Her professional background has been in environmental health, and she is looking forward to her stint in the South Hams, which she sees as a unique opportunity.

Already Janet is wading through the many requests they have received for information.

"Everyone asks me how many people will come and the truth is nobody knows. For the South Hams I think it is a balance between helping our businesses to benefit from this event and ensuring that all the necessary planning is in place to help our residents to cope with the increased number of visitors".

South Hams District Council was the first local authority in Devon and Cornwall to publish an Eclipse Bulletin and edition number two will shortly be published by them.

WATER

South West Water, in its latest edition of "Waterlevel" (No 3) reports that in the area covered by the total eclipse (far west of Cornwall to South Devon) they would normally supply water to one million people.

This could rise to 1.3 million during peak summer tourist times and, without any special action, it is reckoned they could provide an unrestricted supply to 1.9 million people in the area of the total eclipse - in other words over half a million more people than would normally be there - without any reduction in water usage.

However, they go on to warn that

"This volume of water is determined by the capacity of our water treatment works and water mains. We do not envisage running out of water - but realistically there will be an exceptionally high demand for our water"

They will be advancing a number of improvement schemes at a cost of about £1 million:

"but we will still need to reduce non-essential use of water, which means we may consider introducing a temporary ban on the use of domestic hose-pipes and garden sprinklers in the area of the total eclipse for the first three weeks of August".

Peter Briens, SWW Operations & Engineering Director, believes this to be a prudent measure that will help us to enjoy the full benefits of this historic event and enable SWW to provide high levels of customer service. They will be stocking bottles of tap water to provide to customers in case of any protracted temporary loss of supply.

No problems are envisaged with sewerage services but there will be monitoring of waste water treatment works to ensure extra loading does not impair their performance.

Their tips on how to save water include:

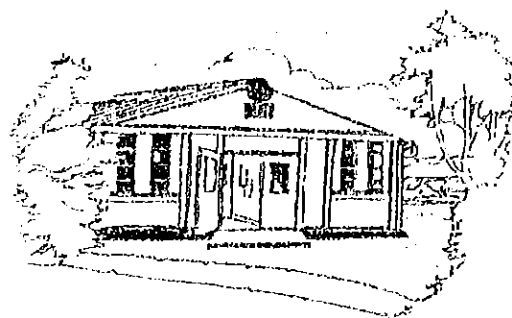
- * shower rather than bathe;
- * use your washing machine and dishwasher only when you have a full load;
- * don't leave the tap running when cleaning your teeth - use a beaker of water instead;
- * instal a water-saving device in your wc cistern;
- * turn off taps fully and stop them dripping.

SWW say that when there is a high demand for water from the mains, as there could be around and on the 11th August, variations in pressure might occur. This could lead to some temporary discolouration in supply. Do not be concerned, they say, for this could be due to iron deposits which have built up in the mains system. Whilst unpleasant to look at the iron levels are not likely to be of any public health significance. However, if you are concerned, run the taps until the water runs clear. If it persists, ring them (0345-776677)

(Note to gardeners:

If your tap water is so affected and you take the suggested action, make sure your garden watering can is under the tap. The plants won't mind a bit of iron! Editor .)

TOE-TAPPING TIME AT THE PARISH HALL



One wonders how many protesting males were dragged unwillingly to the parish hall on Saturday 20th February for the Barn Dance? "Dancing? Dancing when we could be slumped in a favourite chair watching the telly or reading the week-end sport?" But once over the threshold then the toe-tapping rhythms of Mrs Crotty's Ceilidh Band soon dispelled all doubts!

The long tables down both sides of the hall gradually filled up with groups of friends, the lively music began, the bar opened and the evening was under way. This was a community fund-raising event by the parish hall committee organised by Lindsey Fletcher and Gillian Marshall. "Four steps forward, four back, CLAP" roared the caller. Luckily we could all manage that. Soon, under his expert guidance, even those with two left feet were clapping and stomping with the rest.



with natty head-gear - especially PD who sported a jaunty straw creation complete with feathers. Soon it was supper-time and dancers sat down, thankful for the rest and tasty refreshments. These were provided by the WI and they miraculously produced chips with our pasties and salad!

Looking around the newly refurbished hall, there was time to appreciate the new decor. The walls are an ideal background for the old pictures and prints that have been donated by local residents. Other works of art have been generously loaned by artists Alex Sawyer and Louise Boxhall "We would like some more old photos, then we could complete the village story" commented Lindsay. "It is wonderful to see the parish hall used as a venue for the whole community" she added.

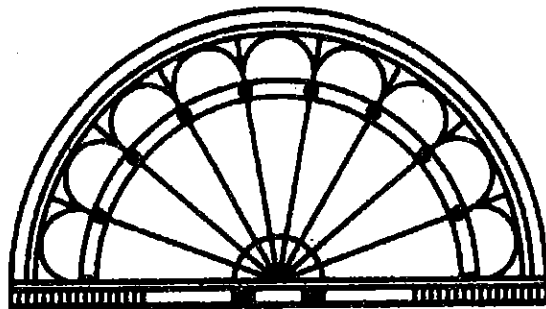
The infectious music had everyone, young and old, enjoying the dancing and the packed hall was a galaxy of colour as we moved in sequence. Not always as the caller expected, one must admit, but he had a soothing tone and the patience of Job. Kitty and David Cook stoically ran the bar, keeping the hot and thirsty dancers well provided for.

All too soon the raffle prizes had been collected and the last dance called. It was such an enjoyable evening. What a buzz of congratulations as we gathered up our coats and went out into the cold night air. Hopefully there will soon be another Barn Dance so I won't be packing my dancing shoes in the loft just yet! Heard later that £380 was raised. *What a tremendous success.*

Check shirts and jeans were the favourite outfit. Some people had really gone to town

WB

**Don't forget
that our Parish Hall AGM will be held
Monday 12th April, 7.30pm.
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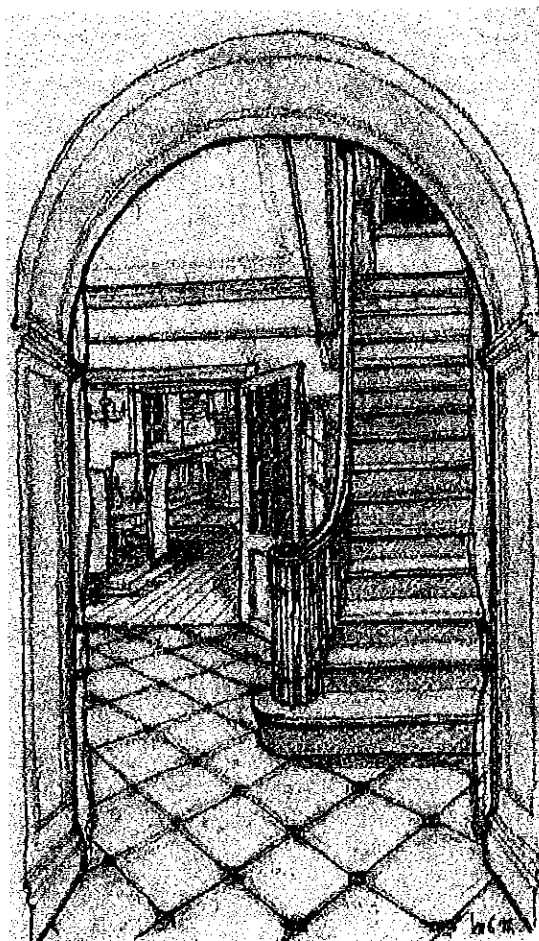
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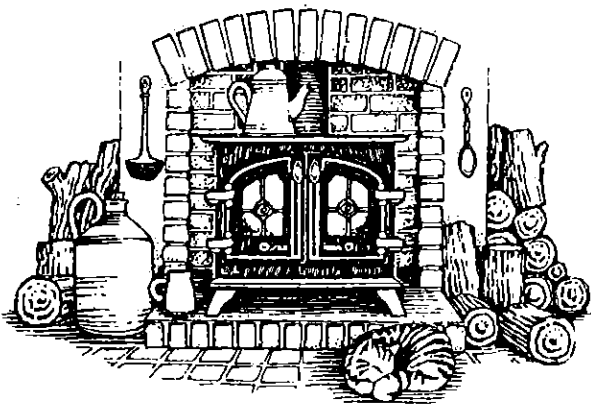
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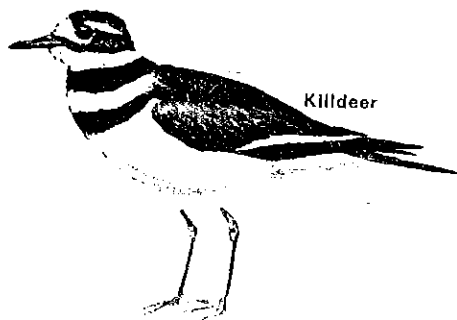
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HARRY HUGGINS ON WATCHING BIRDS

I think it is time to write again about some of the things which birdwatchers do.

Birdwatchers watch birds. Obvious, isn't it? If they didn't they wouldn't be bird watchers. But it wasn't always like that.

At one time a lot of them watched not *all* birds but just one. They stuck to their one sort and ignored everything else. As I write this there are three Goldfinches and a lady Blackcap on the peanuts outside the window. Maybe the Goldfinches are local. The Blackcap came from the continent, probably eastern Europe, to winter here and will be on her way back when spring comes. I have enjoyed seeing them. Perhaps I would have enjoyed seeing that Killdeer more - that is the north American plover which was at Aveton Gifford in early February.



However, some time in the late 1940s I had lunch with the then Secretary of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. He was the top dog. Perhaps he was the only dog - I wouldn't know. Since his day they have had a Director in charge and now there is a Chief Executive. The last one, Baroness Young, was ennobled by Tony Blair and has gone off to be the boss of English Nature.

But in those days a piffling little thing the Society was, very different from the present enormous organisation with over one million members and an annual income of knocking on £40 million. I don't have its latest accounts, but in 1997 members paid subscriptions of £13 million and it spent £3 million on recruitment. Which in the late 1940s would have been just plain impossible.

I cannot remember why we met. I had at the time a hand in a local natural history society and I rather think he wanted to line me up as some sort of organiser in south Essex, where we lived then. There was already a warden, or perhaps he was a watcher. What he wardened, or watched, I do not know, because the RSPB had then no reserves in south east Essex and still has not. There was, no doubt still is, a magnificent place for birds - Foulness Island, a vast tract of fields, marshes and shingle banks sticking out into the North Sea. That needed no protecting. The War Department, which did all sorts of mysterious things there, saw to that. Whatever the reason for our meeting, nothing came of it.

But in course of our discussion the Secretary man sought to guide me about my own birding. I should not concern myself with identification. That was a waste of time. I ought to find one species and study it in meticulous detail. He was very distinguished in the bird world. Of course in those days that world was so small that, outside perhaps a few hundred people, no one had ever heard of him. Very different to now, when because of television the name of Bill Oddie is known in every household. The Secretary man studied Reed Warblers, and was an internationally recognised expert on them.

In these days we can buy a really useful pair of binoculars for £100, though we can pay ten times that if we feel the necessity. In the 1940s there were virtually no binoculars (well, a few ex-naval things, pretty useless for birdwatching). And if the equivalent then of £100 was £5 I for one certainly did not have that. A 1940s bank clerk was badly paid. Mind you, so long as he did not put his hand in the till, he would get a pay cheque, or a pension cheque, until he handed in his dinner pail. It isn't like that any more.

The Secretary man would find a nest of Reed Warblers in a reed bed. He would put up a little tent a few feet away and there he would sit for days, noting down everything the birds did, how they behaved, how often they fed the young, what

they fed them on, until I suppose they flew. (I wonder what happened if a Cuckoo said "This is a nice nest to put an egg in" and did?). In due course no doubt he wrote a monograph, which I believe is a book about one species.

I had a sort of mentor, headmaster of a village school. He was one of the old sort, chalk in one hand, cane in the other. On his patch juvenile crime did not exist. He thrashed them on the basis "that's for nothing, now watch out" and watch out they all did! He told me to do as the Secretary man had said, to pick a species to work on. He himself did Green Woodpeckers and Corn Buntings, the latter then very common in south Essex, but I expect non-existent now, killed off by changed farming methods. He also set mousetraps in his fruit trees to catch Blue Tits which pecked at the buds. He has been dead for many years.

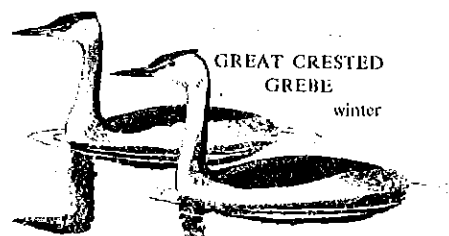
We wonder now how people could be birdwatchers without identifying most of the birds they saw. Well, in those days identification was jolly difficult. Few had optical aids. We now use field guides - books you can carry in your pocket which show just about anything you are likely to see. Then there was none. The great Roger Tory Peterson, who invented the really useful modern guide, began in his native America in I think 1934. His European book was published first in 1954 (many improvements later it is still going strong).

There was the magnificent Handbook of British Birds, published in five volumes from 1938 to 1941. It cost 5gns. if you agreed to sign up for all five, otherwise 25 shillings (one pound and 25 pence) a volume - half a week's wages! You can still buy it secondhand, for around £100 for the five books, and very useful it is. It was written by four leading ornithologists; for each species it dealt with habitat, migration, breeding, voice, distribution and of course a detailed description of all plumages. There were very fine pictures by leading artists, but pictures was all they were, and there were very few illustrations of birds which were flying. And no way could you take it out into the field as you can with what we have available now.

So what did they do? Well, if they got near enough to a birds they shot it - "What is hit is history; what is missed is mystery!". I quote from British Birds magazine (they the only monthly

publication dealing with birds) for August 1931. *"Red-headed Bunting in Orkney. A new British bird. On the afternoon of June 19th 1931, on North Ronaldsay, my wife and I saw a bird entirely new to us. On our return to the house we were able to identify it as a Red-headed Bunting. We realised that the observation was of no real scientific value without the bird. We therefore went out again and about 9.15 pm found and procured it. It was made into a very good skin"*

When our county bird society was formed, a bit over seventy years ago, the founders called it "Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society" in the hope of doing something to stop the immediate slaughter of any rare bird which appeared on the scene; the name of the national body is "The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds" because it was founded, some time at the end of the nineteenth century, to try to prevent the killing of Egrets for ladies to wear on their hats, and to check the slaughter of Great Crested Grebes which were being made into muffs! Towards the end of February we went to the Slapton line and saw at least ten Great Crested Grebes swimming on the sea - proof that the RSPB had been effective, or that the fashion has changed.

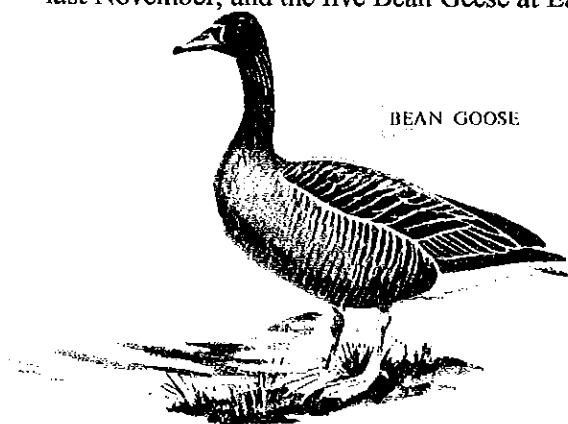


In the 1930s and 1940s, about which I have been writing, there were really very few birders. A good many boys collected eggs. It was not against the law then. To most birds such collecting did little harm. It is the use of herbicides and insecticides which has done so much to reduce the commoner species, and the big chemical companies had not invented these things then. Egg collectors and the dealers who supplied them cause incalculable harm to rare species like Red Kites, but those birds were relatively few in the first place. I don't think that most of the boys who collected eggs knew nor maybe even cared a lot about birds, and most soon dropped the idea when they moved on to more interesting things, like girls.

But now very many people are interested to some degree in birds. I do not know how many of the RSPB's million members are active birdwatchers, nor how many birdwatchers are not members of the RSPB. But there are an awful lot of active ones now who have access to excellent optical equipment (and seem to be able to afford it) and new field-guides come tumbling off the presses faster than we can cope with them.

Fashions in what we do have changed too. I suppose there are still a few people who are like the learned professor who spent his time finding out more and more about less and less. But there is much more general interest. True there are the twitchers who chase the rarities. There is a bit of a twitcher in each of us and we are liars if we say there is not. But rarities are the cherries in the cake and most of us are quite happy looking at the cake - most of the time!

We enjoyed seeing the Surf Scoter on Slapton Ley last November, and the five Bean Geese at East

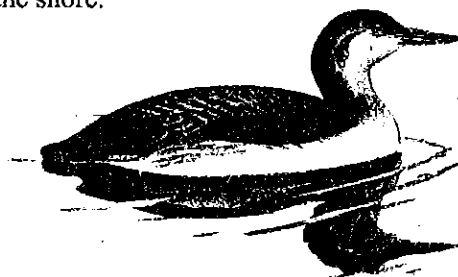


BEAN GOOSE

Prawle at the end of December. We missed the Killdeer at Aveton Gifford in early February. We waited a couple of days before going, because the thought of five hundred twitchers' cars along the little road from Knap Mill to Aveton Gifford was too awful to contemplate. But there were no twitchers, and no bird either - it had stayed only half an hour.

At the end of February we went to Slapton for another twitchers' bird - a Yellow-browed Warbler, the size of a Blue Tit, greeny colour, with a huge yellow stripe over each eye. They told us it was very elusive, and in the quarry: from the bridge you go along the up-and-down footpath past Ireland Bay until you reach the gate which says "No Entry". The quarry is there, all

overgrown. But on the way we stopped at Torcross. On the sea were the ten Great Crested Grebes, and about fifty little black Scoter ducks; and a beautiful Great Northern Diver quite close in, our first for some years. Blow some tiny little bird which we might or might not see - give me a nice big Great Northern Diver any day. We stayed by the shore.



GREAT NORTHERN
DIVER
winter

We are lucky in where we live - there are lots of places to look for birds. I have just written about three of them, all worth a visit. There are books which tell you where to go. There is the "Where to Watch....." series. The one about Devon and Cornwall is into its third edition: written by Dave Norman and Vic Tucker, whom some will remember working at the Thurlestone Hotel as a gardener. There are places which no book mentions, such as Trago Mills near Newton Abbot for ducks - there used to be Egyptian Geese there (close relatives of our Shelduck). I don't know about now for nobody can get me in there! And don't miss out on picnic sites. People drop bits of sandwiches, and where there is food there are birds.

When we went to Eilat, in Israel, a few years ago, the leader man drove us in his minibus for miles up and down *wadis*, some of which seemed as deep as the Grand Canyon, looking for Sinai Rosefinches - very rare - and never a one did he find. For our second week there we had our own rented car, and we took ourselves to a place called Amran's Pillars, out on the edge of the desert. Who Amran was and whether his pillars were a natural rock formation or something man-made we never found out. But people went there for picnics. My wife scattered crumbs. And down came Sinai Rosefinches. We told the leader, and I believe scattering crumbs at Amran's Pillars is now a regular item for the birding parties he takes to Eilat twice each year.

Harry Huggins

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

I am sure your readers will be pleased to know that the 'Ring of Steel' is still very much in evidence. In fact last week it actually arrived in our bedroom!

It was a dark and windy night and we went to bed about midnight. At about half past four we suddenly woke up and became aware that there was a man in our bedroom, shining a large flash-lamp. The light was put on and we saw that he had the word "Police" on his jacket. Of course as we had watched a lot of Crimewatch we knew he was really a burglar in disguise. Regardless of who he was we both behaved as if it was perfectly normal for him to be there (probably because we were half-asleep) and sat up in bed politely in order to conduct a better conversation.

He told us - and he really was the Police - that our back door had been swinging wide open. The milkman on seeing this as he delivered the milk wisely decided not to enter and be knocked on the head by armed robbers - besides he had a lot more milk to deliver - and rang the police on his mobile phone. They arrived faster than you can say "narrow country lanes", and here they were. *"And so, sir, if you could just check that nothing is missing, we'll be on our way".*

We checked and, thankfully, nothing was, except perhaps a little of our dignity, and so with our thanks they departed. The culprit was the north wind which had blown the door, not quite securely latched, wide open.

Seriously, we are very grateful to our milkman for his observation and prompt action and have thanked him personally, and to the Police. It is nice to know that they are taking such good care of us. May the Force be with you!

Thurlestone Resident
(Name & Address supplied)

Dear Editor

I would like to say many thanks for all the lovely cards and presents I have received on my retirement. Special thanks to Village Voice, the WI and POTS for the party on Saturday 13 March and for the beautiful bouquet and the painting by Len Hubbard.

I have enjoyed my work in the Post Office and would like also to thank Mrs Mary Bromfield, Gordon, Frances, Kathryn and Richard for their friendship over the years.

I would also like to express gratitude to my husband Derrick, to Mike Taylor, Len Hubbard, POTS, Gordon Jeffery, and Mike Penwell for their hard work in organising the Portakabin, and to Simon Friend of Ash Mill Developments, Michael Tangye of AMEL Properties and Keith of Stodgells for their cooperation.

May I also wish Adrian and his staff much success in the new Post Office and Village Shop.

Best wishes to all.

Jean Yeoman
Parkfield

Dear Editor

Thank you all so much for a wonderful 'do' at the parish hall yesterday, also for the flowers and picture which is now hanging on the wall. It was a day we shall never forget, with so many friends under one roof.

If retirement is as good as everyone tell us it is, we are going to be very busy!

Best wishes to you all

Bob & Kay Morley
Cob Cottage

Dear Editor

Our Devon neighbours have given us some back numbers of Village Voice to read and my wife, Gladys, has asked me to write to you about "The Grockles" and what are they?

Now you have to understand that Gladys and me own a chain works in the Midlands and for fifty weeks of the year we are hard at it. I am proud to tell you that Gladys still regularly produces fifteen tonnes an hour of the best quality Titanic Brand ships anchor chain.

We have had this business as I mentioned above for the last fifty years and for the first time last year had some holiday and came for two weeks to East Buckstone. We liked it here and because there seemed to be a lot of houses for sale decided to buy one, spending some of our hard-earned savings. We thought we would like to spend our two weeks' holiday here every year.

We also thought that in spending our money down there we would be helping the local economy. As Gladys says *"There are not many foundries or forges down there offering the sort of jobs we have up here"* and I suppose if it wasn't for the visitors the people who own the local hotel would be having a pretty thin time of it.

For our two weeks holiday this year we decided to buy a sports car, you know the sort, one where the top comes off. It was quite a change from the van we use here for delivering the chain in.

Well, one day during our holiday we were coming past the Village Inn with the top down. Gladys was driving and I was on the mobile talking to the works when someone shouted at us as we went by. I couldn't catch the first word, but the second was definitely "Grockles".

When we got back to our holiday home I said to Gladys *"Someone shouted something about Grockles as we went by the Village Inn, what do you think it means?"*. She stopped laying slabs out on the terrace for a moment and said *"Why*

don't you write to Village Voice and ask them what a Grockle is. Maybe it's a sort of local sea-food dish they serve at the Village Inn".

So that is the question, and if you can find time to let us have an answer we should be very grateful.

Fred & Gladys
West Midlands
(Name & Address supplied)

Dear Editor

It now seems highly probable that by the time Village Voice goes for publication the site of The Rectory and the Tythe Barn will have been sold to a developer.

This in itself is good news because it furthers the cause of appointing a new Rector.

However, the bad news for many of us is that the 17th century brew-house (alias the Tythe Barn) and its garden, featured in your edition for April-May 1991, will change hands protected neither by Listed status nor, so we understand, by any covenant preventing the developer from destroying what has been, until now, the only 'public space' in the heart of the village.

Though nominally the property of the Church Commissioners, the Tythe Barn has for many years served as a meeting place for parishioners and as a provider of cream teas to visitors in the summer months, the proceeds of which have gone to charity.

May I appeal to those of you who, like me, would like to secure the future of the Barn and the garden as a planning gain from the developer, to make your views known to our Parish Councillors.

John Crawford
Baidland

Dear Editor

You advised me, at the eleventh hour, that my article dated 14th March entitled "Oh, NOT to be in euroland, now that April's there" is not to be published, even though we had jointly discussed its production since early February.

The reason for non-publication is stated as "*Village Voice would not be able to handle the anticipated response without prejudice to correspondents who would feel entitled to add to the debate in subsequent issues*".

Whilst I believe that many people share my concerns about the EU, I do not agree that there would necessarily be a deluge of correspondence on the subject. My only objective is to raise awareness, and seek to explore the possibilities of a mini-referendum / questionnaire prior to polling day on 10th June.

As of today, Sunday 28th March, the article is available to anyone who is interested in the UK's dilemma regarding the single currency and federal Europe.

Mike Taylor
4 Landpath, Thurlestone
01548 - 562033

Dear Editor

THANKS A MILLION

A new day hospice, teaching centre and an extension to the wards will all now be possible at our local hospice, St Luke's, because of the wonderful success of their recent "Thanks a Million" appeal. This aimed to raise £1 million in one million seconds - and they came within an ace of doing it in time. Happily it did not take them much longer!

In 1998 the hospice cared for 68 South Hams residents, not only offering the best in medical and nursing care, but also providing emotional, spiritual and practical support. This can vastly improve the quality of life for sufferers until it is time for them to die, and gives tremendous help to those who are bereaved.

St Luke's wants to say how enormously grateful they are to the residents of Thurlestone for their continuing financial help.

A sincere thank you to you all.

Jonathan Farnhill
St Luke's Hospice
Turnchapel Plymouth

Thurlestone & South Milton
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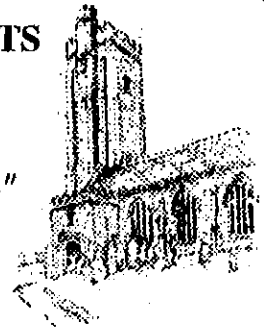
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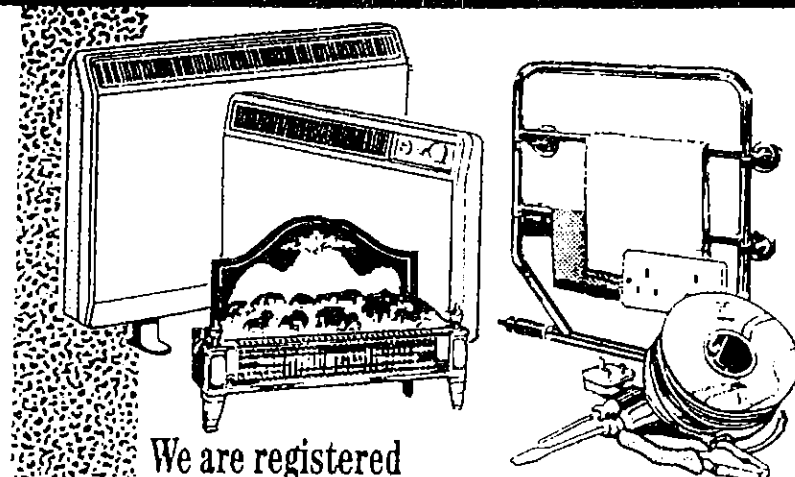
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HORSWELL DIARY

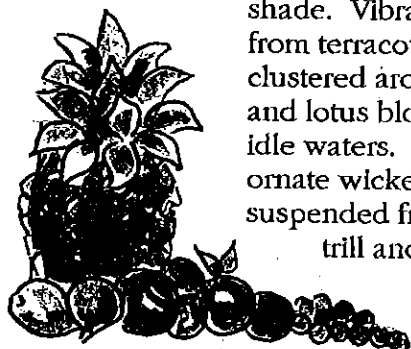
Not so much 'Horswell Diary' as 'Postcard from Paradise'. For before the intrusion of tourism this small island [Koh Samui] off the east coast of Thailand must surely have been the Garden of Eden - a box of jewels more precious than any Maharani's dowry.

Set in a sea of turquoise flecked with gold, jade-fringed palm trees cast amethyst shadows over platinum sands. At night stars glitter bright as diamond chips in soft sapphire skies. The whole island scintillates with colours, sights and smells to enliven the soul. Everywhere there is a feeling of vibrancy, vitality and abundance - a celebration of Life itself.

Under the watchful eye and benevolent smile of the giant golden Buddha perched on a hilltop, the islanders live tranquil, harmonious lives in accordance with his teachings. Buddhism's benign respect for life, coupled with a sense of personal responsibility, or *Karma*, is reflected in every aspect of their lives. They know that to receive one must also give. No gift is accepted without the most gracious thanks. Nothing is taken without some small reciprocal offering being given. Each house, however humble, has at its entrance a miniature "spirit house", richly decorated and garlanded with flowers. Here offerings of food and drink are left to feed the gods in return for their continuing bounty and protection.

Their own homes are built to embrace the elements. Traditionally thatched, raised on stilts to catch the breeze, steep roofs collect the monsoon rains for later use and overhang dark verandahs giving precious

shade. Vibrant flowers spill from terracotta pots clustered around their doors and lotus blooms float in idle waters. Songbirds in ornate wicker cages suspended from the eaves trill and coo as lean cats sidle snugly around



open doorways. Amber-skinned children play nearby without malice or tears.

Everywhere one senses a happy symbiosis between man and nature. Perhaps it is still nature who is top dog, allowing man to live like a flea on its back - tolerated though an occasional irritant and, in extreme cases, a risk to its overall well-being. Whilst nature's raw energy thrusts vast coconut palms and flowering trees towards the sky, man pads quietly about his business in their shadows, reaping their abundant fruits and giving thanks to his god.

Watching these shy, gentle people being trained to cope with the unsmiling demands and ungracious behaviour of their cosmopolitan guests, it is easy to see that the world would be a better place if the roles were reversed and the guests could learn some of the calm, soothing sweetness of their Thai hosts.

With tourism comes, inevitably, commercialism, yet this too is effected with tolerance and humour. Market stalls are laden with riches harvested from local waters. Gleaming snapper, sea bass, shark, oysters, king prawns and lobsters nestle in sparkling ice. Fruit stalls are ablaze with colour, piled high with bananas, mangoes, papaya, lychees, limes and coconuts. Tie-dyed sarongs flutter bright as butterfly wings beside cooking utensils that clink together in the breeze, twirling on their strings. Delicate flowers carved from soap and boxes made from shells of abalone and pearl vie with fake 'designer' clothes to satisfy the tourist's hunger for a bargain whilst pineapples are crushed with ice and coconut milk to quench his thirst.

Tailors' shops overflow with silks to echo the blues of sea and sky, the greens of the rainforest, the vibrant pinks, oranges and purples of flowering bougainvillea and the rich golds and reds of an island sunset. Language makes a mockery of well-intentioned signs. A menu invites one to enjoy "*grilled crad craw*" and at the temple we are told that out of respect "*No wearing*

brassieres, close-fitting shorts or underpants allowed". At night the street comes alive with lights and music, spicy cooking smells and tooting taxis. Tourists jostle happily with snake-charmers and street vendors, soothsayers and stallholders. Bargaining is fierce but agreement always reached with a smile. Transvestites, feathered and bejewelled like exotic birds, and with fantastic maquillage, invite one to their "Folies Bergeres". Buddhist monks in

saffron robes offer redemption in old age when "lady boy" can no longer trade on his cute androgeny.

Today, my husband arrived from England with dismal tales of cold and sleet, monetary union and 76,000 new homes in Devon. I feel despair drop like a pebble in Utopia, rippling out across the surface of my dreams.

Prunella Dart



....AND MORE BLOOPERS

Here are some more "bloopers" courtesy of Jane Marston. Culled from *"The History of the World According to Student Bloopers"* by Richard Lederer, this time the subject is the Greeks.

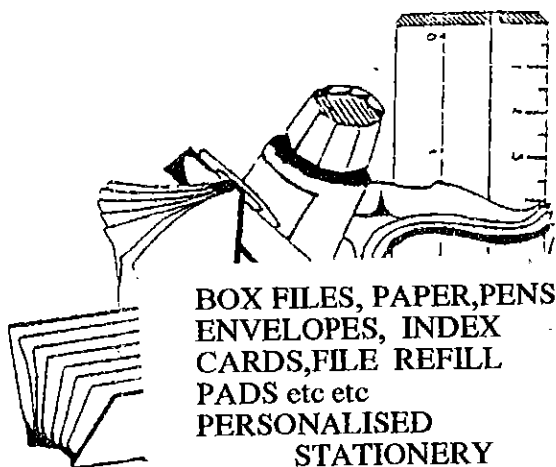
"The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - Corinthian, Doric and Ionic. They also had myths. A myth is a female moth. One myth says that the mother of Achilles dipped him in the River Styx until he became intolerable. Achilles appears in "The Iliad" by Homer. Homer also wrote the "Oddity", in which Penelope was the last hardship that Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.

Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. In the Olympian Games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. The government of Athens was democratic because the people took the law into their own hands. There were no wars in Greece, as the mountains were so high that they couldn't climb over to see what their neighbours were doing. When they fought the Parisians, the Greeks were outnumbered because the Persians had more men."

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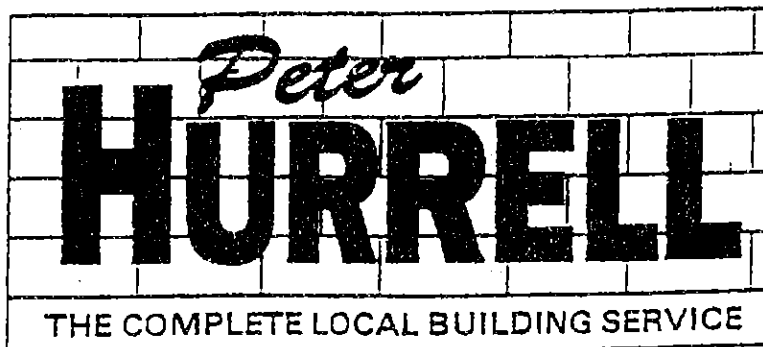


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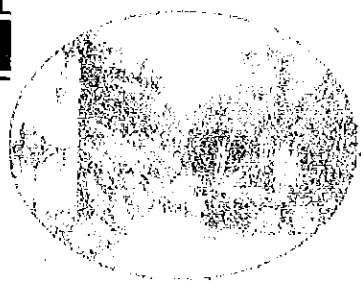


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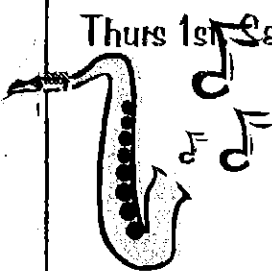
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MAY DATES

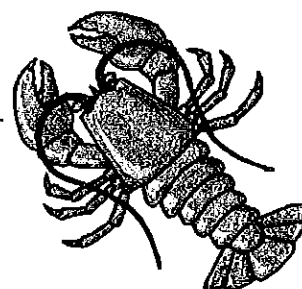
Live Music with Howard Jones - Thurs 6th, 20th & 27th

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The following is a copy of a report by the SOUTH WEST MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AGENCY to the Arts Council of England dated 3.2.99

THURLESTONE MILLENNIUM VIDEO PROJECT

The South West Media Development Agency has been involved in the Parish of Thurlestone video project since its inception. We provided advice on the original A4E Express [Arts Council] application, and have since received regular updates on the project from the organisers and provided both artistic and technical advice.

In our opinion, this is an exemplary community video project. The original artistic vision was both clear and creative, and the planning and budgeting were thorough and effective. Since the success of the A4E Express [Arts Council] application, the quality of the progress reports which we have received has been excellent and we have been able to gain a very good overview of the project and provide effective advice. I should stress that these progress reports have been supplied to us by the project on a voluntary basis as SWMDA is not providing financial support for the project.

The project has used its A4E Express [Arts Council] funding to produce a creative documentary video about the past, present and future of Thurlestone, a small rural community in the South Hams in Devon. The initial motivators of the project are a group of mainly retired local people, who prior to this project had worked on a number of local arts and heritage initiatives. This was their first community video production. In many years of working with community video projects I have seldom encountered an organisation which achieved such an effective level of community participation as the Thurlestone project.

In addition to the local primary school, pensioner groups, youth groups, and the WI have all been involved in the project. From our observations it seems that most of the inhabitants of Thurlestone have been offered the opportunity to participate in the project in a well thought out, intelligent and creative manner.

The collaboration with the primary school has been particularly effective, with the video project linking well with broader arts work and other areas of the curriculum. We have also been very impressed by the inclusion of older people, who are frequently excluded from regional arts provision.

The project organisers have drawn on their own experience and advice from SWMDA and local media practitioners, and have created very good working relationships with the professional media sector in South Devon and Plymouth. This has resulted in considerable "in-kind" professional support for the project and valuable training placements offered to local film and media students.

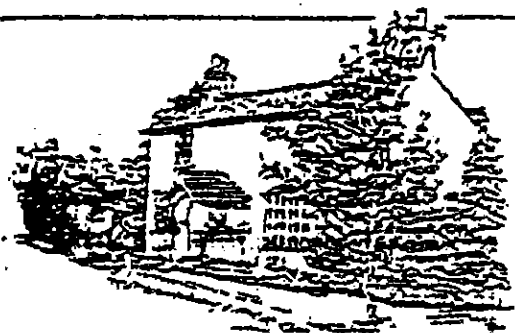
The project organisers have raised their matching funding with a great degree of skill and flair. A considerable amount of this funding has been secured through appeals and local fund-raising events, which have also acted as good publicity for the project. In our experience many "first time" community video projects find this aspect of their work very difficult, but the expertise of the organising committee in this case was most impressive and was used to very good effect.

Through its fund-raising, press and PR work, the project has made a lot of friends. Working with the Parish of Thurlestone video project has at all times been a pleasant experience for SWMDA.

Work on the video is progressing well and we are looking forward to seeing the completed project. We anticipate that not only will it be enjoyable in its own right but it will also be of great local educational and historical importance.

Judith Higginbottom
Director

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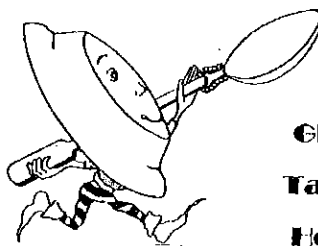
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RIGHT TO ROAM

The debate hots up after the statement made by Michael Meacher in the House of Commons recently, and no doubt will be in the forefront of country dwellers' concerns. The ramifications are far-reaching.

The question of 'dog fouling' remains with us, however. I see that the length of pavement from Lamb's Close to the crest of the hill is as bad as ever again. The dog-owner culprits (who appear to be unaware of the existence of pooper-scoops and plastic bags) are being "*observed with interest*", so I am told. Be warned!

OWLS

It was good to hear on the radio that a considerable stretch of the M6 in the north-west of England is being re-surfaced at a cost of £2.5 million pounds. All this to placate the resident barn owls who are considered to be at risk from thundering heavy goods vehicles.

We understand that our parish council have no plans, or recommendations to make, about the re-surfacing of Post Office Lane for its resident wild life!

CORAL REEFS

How nice that the Deputy Prime Minister should be concerned about the coral reefs of the Indian Ocean, the *El Niño* phenomenon, the apparent hole in the ozone layer and the effects of man's activities which contribute to global warming. Many of us would like to see him, with the same concern, deliberate again on the planning effects consequential to proposed government action in

the South Hams.

In France and Spain resident nationals are discouraged from buying second homes by incurring local, district, and county rates **IN FULL**. They also have supplementary taxes to pay when these same holiday homes are let.

Concern about coral reefs is one thing if it is mirrored in like concern for local scenic landscape, ie the Devon fields and woodlands. After all, these cannot be replaced in the aftermath of unnecessary concrete construction any more than coral reefs!

BLOSSOM

During the first eighteen years of our residence in Thurlestone we rarely saw even one flower on our *Prunus Serrulata Sachalinensis*. Every year the tree delighted us with an abundance of bronze / purple foliage but no blossom. Over the past two years, however, our tree has been covered with a wonderful profusion of these delicate, early flowering, single pink flowers. But have you noticed that the bullfinch with its reputation for destroying fruit blossom buds does not visit us as it did in other times?

A lifelong resident recently assured me that time was when minnows and sticklebacks abounded in the Buckland stream. As our agricultural methods have changed over the past twenty or so years, so has the abundance and variety of wildlife seen in our parish.

Perhaps it is right that we should pause for thought!

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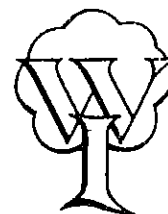
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NEWS FROM THE WI



DECORATIONS

A sparkling newly-decorated parish hall greeted our arrival for the February meeting and all agreed that the hall now looks very smart indeed.

SPEAKER

Child psychologist, **Carolyn Steen**, was an excellent speaker. The first few years of a child's life are most important and can have a great influence on its future development. Much of her present work involves the complex assessments which need to be made when deciding if a child should be put into care or remain with parents. Her allotted time as a speaker and the questions and answers session seemed to pass too quickly!

COOKERY

February was the season of culinary arts, as proved by **Sue Vickery's** Chinese cookery with a difference in Kingsbridge early in the month, followed by **Helen Rhymes'** pasta cookery session at Thurlestone. Some new and tasty recipes, including the unlikely-sounding use of lasagne as the basis of a pudding, were produced. The outcome was absolutely delicious as those members and friends who attended will verify.

STORY SACK

We are waiting with keen interest to know which children's book Thurlestone WI has been allocated by the Devon library service's children's literacy campaign. A "story sack" has to be compiled, based on the book.....but **Pam Brewster** will be telling us later.

COUNTY EVENTS

The annual Spring Council Meeting of the Devon Federation of WIs will take place at Exeter University on 22nd April. Always an interesting day, several members hope to be on the special coach going from Kingsbridge

Quay. On 26th April, at Charleton, there will be a discussion on, and a choosing of, public affairs resolutions submitted by WIs from all over the country and which are of particular interest to women and their families.

Experts will be on hand to provide information. On 5th May there will be a visit to the Wilton carpet factory near Salisbury (coach from Kingsbridge). A "*behind the scenes at Sainsbury's*" evening, held recently at The Willows, was an interesting event which threw light on a side of food trading the general public rarely sees or hears about. The store has made extensive plans to cope with the expected Total Eclipse invasion.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION 1999

Sheila Ward managed to get "volunteers" in the shapes of Mesdames **Brown, Cullum, Fraser, Grose, Knight, Illingworth, Kendall, Lane, Macdonald, MacKay, and Parkin** to enter for the *WI Triennial Craft and Produce Show* at Malborough. It was a very impressive event which bore the colourful title of "Rainbows". Thurlestone WI obtained some good scores!

GROUP MEETING

Every April the five WIs comprising the Sea Coast Group, of which we are one, have a get-together, each taking a turn to be hostess. This time we are all off to Salcombe on the 12th for a fun evening. "**Rocky**" of line-dancing fame will provide entertainment, so take your stomping shoes with you, girls!

COMING EVENTS

Our next monthly meeting will take place on 8th April, when **Hilary Firminger** talks about stained glass making. On 20th May we aim to go to Plymouth Aquarium and later in the year to Coletton Fishacre. Keep looking at the information table! Visitors welcome to any of our events.

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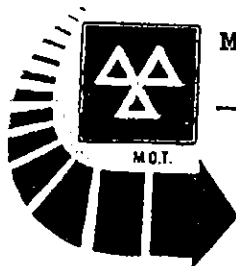
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"PEOPLE OF THE LAND"

I write in praise of Village Voice's variety and the style of its articles.

First, to a good piece last year "Who Are Devonians" [Neville Oswald]. At the time of reading that, I was attempting to write, from the different angle of ancient history, about who we are. Secondly, I enjoy reading about the long walks (excellently described) on Dartmoor, all of which ground I know so well having been a Dartmoor guide for fifteen years. Thirdly, the finding of a Bronze Age spear head on Bantham beach links up with Dartmoor, a stronghold of Bronze Age dwellers some three or four thousand years ago. They've left us, in granite, some of the greatest archaeological remains of that period in the world.

Earliest human occupation (as we were taught at Thurlestone School) was by cave-dwellers and nomads who lived by hunting and gathering. No doubt they worked our coastline and stumbled through our wooded hills and boggy valleys before Thurlestone had a name. Then, according to Lady Aileen Fox's "South West England" there came from France five thousand years ago a Neolithic people who had knowledge of pottery, animal husbandry, and cultivation of grain. To these early settlers who chanced into Bigbury Bay the green land before them would have been very attractive.

They were considered our first farmers and different from their predecessors in that, by growing crops, fixed dwellings became necessary. Following them, before the Bronze Age, were Megalithic people who left gallery graves such as Coringdon Ball on Dartmoor. I learned as a guide that these immigrants, including the Bronze Age, sailed across the Channel in dug-out canoes with their animals. Seeing the grassy hills of the moors above the forest line they followed the rivers up to dwell there. Apparently the forests were too dangerous to live in because of predatory wild animals. We know that there were trading posts set up at the mouths of rivers. There were probably two ways of landing. In fine weather Bigbury Bay is very attractive, but in the fury of a South West gale, and trapped, to be wrecked was the alternative. Which way did that Bronze Age spear head arrive - by sea or down from the moor?

The discovery of iron, resulting in much improved tools, advanced culture considerably. It was the Iron Age people who cut down the forest to farm the more fertile lowlands - much less acid than Dartmoor. Just over two thousand years ago these were the people the invading Romans challenged.

According to Professor W.G.Hoskins, the great Devon historian, the West Country inhabitants the Romans encountered became known as *Dumnonii*. This word, derived from the Celtic, became our county name, Devon, and means 'People of the land'. Other early evidence of our forebears is the excavated site in the dunes at Bantham and the Romano-British look-out post at Clanacombe Head that I discovered. Professor Hoskins wrote that with the *Dumnonii* we reach the first beginnings of documented records. So it's back to "Who are Devonians?". Well, a pretty mixture of the foregoing, adding Saxon and Norman invaders and any other immigrants since!

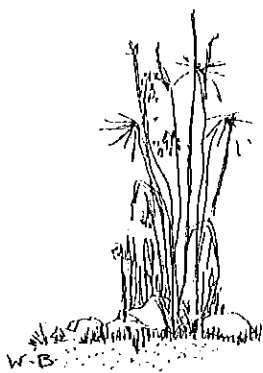
Great changes are taking place worldwide and I express sentiments for my days of farming in Thurlestone parish. Remembrances of the village way of life long gone haunt me still. Ever since the first human cleared a patch, ploughed it, and fenced a meadow for grazing, Thurlestone's fertile loam soil dictated that agriculture should become paramount. That was how it remained for centuries until recently.

Thurlestone's fate is that environmentally it's a good place to live but sadly today without the farming. In the present political and social climate agriculture is almost a dirty word. It saddens me that our essential and wholesome former way of existence is being usurped for tourism and retirement. Not so long ago Plymouth and Torquay were also small fishing villages with fertile hinterlands - now built over.

The debt that each of us owes the good earth for our living cannot be paid for with our inflated currency. Nature does not work with it.

I shall always think of Thurlestonians as they were - as 'People of the land'!

Hubert Snowden



A BUCKLAND POND IN SPRING



The new pond is a constant delight now that spring has really arrived.

Over the past nine months it has slowly undergone a complete transformation. From a boggy, untidy bramble patch, where only the poisonous water hemlock, dropwort, flourished, there is now a shining expanse of water with a 'Swallows and Amazons' island.

With its constantly-changing patterns of dappled sunlight and shadows as the wind ruffles the surface, its lovely to look at from the cottage. On frosty mornings a breath of vapour rises like a sea mist as the sun gradually warms the water.

It's the first thing I look at when the curtains are drawn back - to see if the mallards are busily swimming around and up-ending to seek tasty titbits. Mr and Mrs Duck explored the island early one morning. They landed on the pond with a splash and swam around in a leisurely fashion examining all the nooks and crannies. They sampled the overhanging foliage and then clambered awkwardly up the stepping-stone on to the flat area. Mrs D poked her head into a large upturned willow basket, perhaps with nest-building in mind, but sadly the pair didn't consider it a particularly *des. res.*

On still sunny days there is an almost mirror-image of plants and tree trunks in the water. Soon the new spring growth will add to the kaleidoscope. Already there is a soft grey haze of furry buds bursting on the willow. The pond edge and marginal plants are awakening from their winter dormancy and there are fat yellow buds opening on a clump of marsh marigolds.

On the island a nodding group of daffodils waits for the right day to burst into a cascade of gold.

They are grouped round a dainty willow-leaved pear with its tightly folded leaves gradually uncurling. Later, all being well, there should be a profusion of pure white blossom hanging in small clusters as the tree celebrates its first spring.

There are spears of water iris with razor-sharp acid-green leaves spiking the surface, like Excalibur, in complete contrast to the flat discs of water lilies that are struggling to reach the surface. The flowers that they will hopefully produce in the summer will be a pleasant surprise. These were given to me by kind friends. "Pond people", like keen gardeners, are always swapping plants and it's a good way to increase variety and help disguise the bareness of a newly-cultivated area.

One is impatient to fill all the pond edges with the luxuriant growth that summer brings in order to create a pond that looks mature and is inviting for wildlife.

But wild creatures have the amazing ability to find and colonise a new area of water and its surroundings. Peering into the depths one can see tadpoles wriggling around free of their little jelly "sacks". There are curious water beetles, acrobatic pond-skaters, and even a rare glimpse of a fresh-water eel that must have found its way from the stream via the inflow pipe.

The therapeutic effect of water is well known, and it is very pleasant to ignore all the weeding and grass-cutting and just sit on the new wooden seat in the sun. You can marvel at a tiny wren, poised on a fragile stem, as it snatches a passing insect, or pass a pleasant drowsy afternoon watching reflections and the never-ending frenzied dance of the midges just above the shimmering water.

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"TWO FOR TEA"

Easter spells spring with summer to come, lighter evenings, a lifting of the spirits. Tea by the fire will be a thing of the past, but a slice of cake now and again surely will not come amiss?

1. CHOCOLATE CAKE

6 ozs butter
6 ozs good dark chocolate
3 ozs of self-raising flour
1 teaspoonful baking powder
4 eggs, yolks and whites separated
5 ozs caster sugar

Mix flour and baking powder. Put broken-up chocolate and butter into a bowl and place to melt over a pan of simmering water. When melted, remove from heat and beat in the egg yolks one by one. Add the sugar and then fold in the flour mixture and finally the stiffly-beaten egg whites. Grease and line the base of a 28cm (11") tin and bake the cake for 25 minutes at 200° C (400° F - Gas 6)

2. ALMOND & CHERRY CAKE

8 ozs butter
8 ozs caster sugar
8 ozs self-raising flour
2 ozs ground almonds
2 eggs
4 ozs chopped glace cherries
1 teaspoonful almond essence
A few flaked almonds

Melt the butter and sugar. Put all the ingredients, except the cherries, into a large mixing bowl. Stir in the butter mixture and beat until smooth and creamy. Add the cherries and put the mixture into a greased and lined Swiss Roll tin. Sprinkle a few flaked almonds over and bake at 160° C (325° F - Gas 3) for about 30 minutes or until golden brown.

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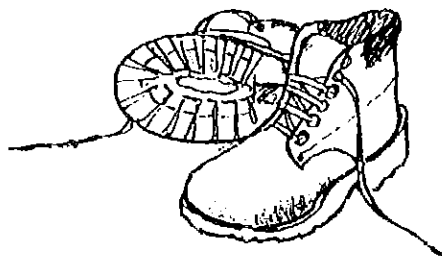
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TRAMP



1 It had snowed during the night. Notwithstanding, fourteen eager trampers and three equally eager dogs contrived, after a somewhat hazardous journey, to gather at Ivybridge at the start of the February walk. Our leader, having obtained the menu from our lunch-time pub, went off to phone through our choices while the rest of us waited in the warm sun for the party to be complete.

The slight scattering of snow on the fields that we crossed to begin with did not in the least impede our progress, but merely lent a pleasing crunch to the tread. After a while we reached the road where it runs beside the railway. Two men, rather strangely considering the driving conditions, appeared to be train-spotting. We were lucky; an important-looking train came and we waved, of course.

The originator of this walk had skilfully devised a route which largely avoided roads, so it was across fields and along tracks that we arrived at Luton on time (unlike the train which seemingly was forty minutes late). There we ate copiously: deep bowls of delicious, most substantial soups or, for the greedier, something delectable with plenty of crispy chips. Two sat outside on dog-watch to eat their frugal sandwich.

Thus regaled, we set off again downhill fortunately (well-planned walk this) over the fields in the direction of the sewage works. Onward past Slade and beneath Slade viaduct of admirable construction, where we just missed seeing another train. We were soon approaching Ivybridge again - and the sun was still shining.

Pam Brewster

2 Tramp was very lucky to have a lovely sunny day for the third walk of the year, which took place on Wednesday, 10th March.

There was a super turn-out of seventeen people and five dogs for a walk based on Ugborough. Although not a spectacular walk, it was new to most members and we had some lovely views of the surrounding hills. In the morning we looked towards Wrangaton and the moors, and later on in the afternoon towards Modbury.

We managed to keep out of the mud as far as possible by staying off the waterlogged footpaths and using the lanes and fields.

The morning session was made a bit tougher because we had to climb so many stiles (thirteen I believe) which proved to be of varying degrees of difficulty. Still, everyone coped very well, including the dogs who had to be pushed and shoved over some of them!

Nevertheless, despite all these little inconveniences, we were very fortunate that the sun shone on us all day long, and it was a pretty happy and contented bunch of walkers who finished back in Ugborough at 3.30 pm.

Audrey Reynolds

The report on the second March walk, to **Hallsands** on 24th March, will appear in the next issue of Village Voice!

In April there will be walks to **Stiddicombe Wood**, **Aveton Gifford**, and to **Kingston**. You will read about these two, and also the May walks, in the next edition.

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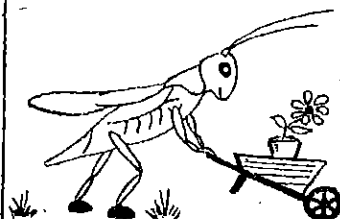
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WEATHER WAG

by Jan Turner

Well, we did fly to Scotland on January 4th.

Listening to the forecast before we went I began to think "Is this a good idea?" There were Force 9-10 gales expected in Scotland, the north of England and in northern Ireland. We set off and arrived in Glasgow a little later than scheduled, due not to the weather but the lack of a bus at Birmingham to facilitate a ride to the aircraft!

The pilot on the flight said that there may be a bumpy landing but he would do his best! In the event all was well and a reasonably good landing achieved. We learned that the airport had been closed earlier in the day due to severe crosswinds and that the city was littered with the resulting debris from the gales. Lorries were lying on their sides on Motorways and at one point on the M8 a lorry was forced into the parapet of a bridge and hung there while the traffic continued along underneath. The Erskine and Tay bridges were closed and we were told on no account should we go over the former to get to Clydebank.

So it was into the horrors of Glasgow in a strange car, in the dark, to find our way to Auntie Anne's home. All was well eventually, and we enjoyed a break with our 94 (going on 50) year old Aunt. After all the devastation of snow and avalanche deaths in Europe the week before, we saw not a flake of snow or any sign of it on the hills around Glasgow and the Southern Uplands. During the Glasgow gale shortly before we arrived, wind speeds reached 83 mph at the airport and, coinciding with a high spring tide, there was a storm surge up the Firth of Clyde. This led to some flooding on low-lying areas, especially at Largs. Later in the week there was a hard, and quite rare, frost. Auntie said they hadn't had one like that for a couple of years. The surface of the Forth & Clyde Canal was well frozen over, much to the delight of the youngsters, but Glaswegians are not used to very cold weather!

Back to the present in South Devon. Yesterday was St. David's Day, and March roared in like a lion on a full moon, high tides, and a snorting but not extreme south-westerly gale. Mother Nature is reserving rougher stuff I believe for the Equinox later this month! With a cold snap

expected at the end of the week, I do hope that there is not going to be a cut back of all the swathes of daffodils, crocuses, and the shrubs that are coming into leaf.

I was browsing through one of my resource books and came to an article that caught my attention. The avalanches in Europe these last weeks have been devastating for the villagers and their tourist visitors. The snowfall has been excessive and the authorities were perhaps not as prepared as they might have been, but can we prepare for such eventualities or are they Acts of God, so to speak?

A little nearer home, I read, a close relation of snow-ice became, in 1776, a much talked about commodity in Bampton, East Devon. By way of explanation, when snow begins to melt in the day time and is situated on a roof or overhang somewhere, little fingers of ice may begin to form when the temperature drops at night. The next day the same thing happens, only this time there is a very cold finger down which the melt-water has to trickle. Gradually, if conditions are right, they get bigger, longer and thicker until some may reach quite enormous sizes. They cling on to the parent supply until gravity, vibration, or a rise in temperature causes them to fall.

In Bampton a huge icicle detached itself from the church tower, plummeted to earth, speared the son of the Parish Clerk and killed the lad. His memorial in the church reads

*"Bless my eyes, here he lies,
In a sad pickle, killed by an icicle"*

This is an "explainable" event, but there is a phenomenon, sometimes called an ice-storm, when huge chunks of ice fall out of the sky for no apparent reason. Canada experienced an ice-storm not long ago when rain fell through a very cold layer of air which caused the drops of water to freeze immediately they touched any obstacle. In this case it was a disaster and caused a great deal of structural damage, particularly to power supplies as the pylons were unable to support the huge weight of ice.

In Chicago in March 1978, huge chunks of ice fell a thousand feet or more into busy streets. Police sealed off the area around the tallest buildings as ice blocks weighing up to 20lbs (9kgs) smashed to the ground. Nobody was injured although several parked cars were *pulverised*. In January of the same year, in Moscow, some giant icicles had been hanging at great heights from the city's high-rise buildings for some time. One decided to detach itself and fell, striking a man walking below. He died later in hospital.

Ice *can* fall from the sky for no apparent reason. In April 1973 a storm struck Manchester. Several witnesses saw a single flash of lightning, while a few miles away hail fell. A short while later a post-graduate student, walking along a street in south Manchester, saw an enormous chunk of ice crash and shatter on the road. The largest piece of ice measured over five inches long and weighed 22ozs. As the ice was melting, this was an underestimate.

Detailed analysis showed it was highly unlikely to have fallen off an aircraft as an icicle, and was probably a frozen collection of hailstones. Aircraft are to blame for ice in some cases. Sometimes it comes off the wings, and at other times it is waste water. This has happened near London on at least two occasions. Once a chunk fell through a roof in Isleworth, where a sleeping family escaped unhurt. On another occasion a lady in Pinner was cleaning her car when a mass of ice, about 18 inches, crashed into and cratered the bonnet of her car. Several more lumps fell nearby. The culprit was a plane and the airline was successfully sued for damages.

My book records this event from America. Venue: Timberland, Virginia, 7th March 1977. The skies were clear and Wilbert Cullers and his family were watching television when, at 8.45 pm, there was a loud crash which shook the house. A block of ice about the size of a basketball had smashed through the thin metal roofing of the house, through the plasterboard ceiling of the living room and fallen on to the floor. No explanation was forthcoming. The water was analysed and found to be tap-water. No aircraft was in the area!

Other times ice falls out of a clear sky - such as on an occasion in California when 50 lumps fell,

some weighing 165lbs. There is no rational explanation for these!

This last account seems to make some of the more recent stories credible. The greatest ever recorded natural chunk of ice to fall out of the sky was in Scotland on 13th August 1849. A Mr Moffat of Balvullich, Ord, Ross-shire, had a large estate there and witnessed a monstrous block of ice fall to the ground. *The Times* reported that it had a beautiful crystalline, almost transparent, appearance, formed of diamond-shaped pieces of ice that had coalesced together. It went on to say **"Immediately after one of the loudest peals of thunder there, a large and irregular-shaped mass of ice, reckoned to be nearly 20 feet in circumference, and of a proportionate thickness, fell near the farmhouse"**. *And of course no aircraft could have been responsible for it!*

There have been other reports of strange objects encased in ice falling from the sky. For example, in the US Monthly Weather Review, May 1894, a gopher turtle measuring 6 inches by 3 inches was reported as falling from the sky, totally encased in ice, along with hail during a severe hailstorm at Boving, Mississippi.

More recently, frozen ducks tumbled out of the sky above Stuttgart, Arkansas. It was thought that they had been caught up in a tornado, pitched high into the sky and become iced over.

So you see you never know what is up there. When every raindrop falling today has at its core a minute grain of dust, there's an awful lot of debris up there. Each one also absorbs gases of one sort or another, so we receive quite a cocktail in our rain. Catch some and allow it to evaporate on a clean white dish and see what is left!

I am writing this on the 2nd March. At 15.30 hours there was a humdinger blowing up outside. (Starting at 13.00 hours the wind had reached 60 mph and there had been 3.13 mm of rain). By now, at 16.30 hours, 4.31 mm of rain has fallen but the wind is dropping slightly. South Milton Ley ran out again last night, so it is receiving a good scour out - getting rid of all the rotting seaweed from earlier but probably filling up with a new lot.

But that's the way of things!

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 Thur 6th Parish & District Council Elections
 Tues 11th Annual Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 12th Tramp - Dittisham, Kingswear, Dartmouth
 Thur 13th WI Resolutions meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Thur 17th WI visit to Plymouth Aquarium
 Sat 29th St Luke's Hospice Coffee Morning, Parish Hall, 10.30 am
 Wed 26th Tramp - South Dartmoor

JUNE

Wed 9th Tramp - Frognore
 Thur 10th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Honey Bees)
 Tues 15th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 23rd Tramp - Stepping Stone, South Moor

JULY

Thur 8th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Buckfastleigh Caves)
 Wed 14th Tramp - Postbridge
 Tues 20th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 28th Tramp - Shipley Bridge

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, Thurlestone (01548-560330)

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

Village Voice is delivered in Thurlestone 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 MAY 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 SURE 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 Chipman Liz Webb	562013 560090
COFFEE TIME (Rectory Barn) Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 October-May.	Contact Liz Webb	560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact Kit Marshall	560214
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary, Dick Marston Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560405 560157
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.L. 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	Martyn Grose	560396
County Councillor	Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	John Dayment	560295
	David Grose	560375
	Charles Mitchemore	560602
	Geoffrey Studson	560695
	Derrick Yeaman	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 Bantam Village Shop	Open Mon - Sun 8.30 am - 5.30 pm (Sat / Sun closing times may vary) (See Post Office)
PARISH HALL Chairman Bookings	Rowland Cole Joan Lane	561006 560158
POST OFFICES Open Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri Postal collections 10.30 am and 4.25 pm Monday - Friday	Thurlestone P.O. Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm	561917
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	Bantam P.O. (and Shop) SUNDAYS -	560645
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) Green (recyclable) bins alternate Thursdays starting 22 April 1999	
BUSES (Western National)	NOTE - Summer timetables could bring changes to the times shown here	
162	No. 161 No. 162	No.
Wed only	Mon - Sat	Wed only Mon - Sat Mon-Fri
Bantam 10.30 14.20	- -	Kingsbridge 10.10 13.50 12.15 17.00
Buckland 10.33 14.17	- -	South Milton 10.50 14.00 12.40 17.25
Thurlestone 10.41 14.09 09.45 13.28		Thurlestone 10.41 14.09 12.31 17.16
South Milton 10.50 14.00 09.36 13.19		Buckland 10.33 14.17 - -
Kingsbridge 11.00 14.40 10.02 13.45		Bantam 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 Bantam	Maurice Blight 560720 Kingsbridge 852315
11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel	11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall	
12.20 - 12.35pm Thurlestone Church	12.40 - 12.50pm Thurlestone Sands	



PLEASE SUPPORT



ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE

COFFEE MORNING

at the Parish Hall

THURLESTONE

on

SATURDAY 29 th MAY

10.30 am to Noon

To raise funds to help
our Local Hospice

Gifts for the following stalls would be
greatly appreciated:

Cakes

Plants

Groceries

Raffle

Bottles

Gifts

Vegetables from the Garden

Please ring : Lindy Price 560768

Jo Parkin 560215

for more information

THE SLOOP INN

BANTHAM

EGON
RONAY
PUB GUIDE

Tel. Kingsbridge
560489/560215

'WHICH'
GOOD PUB
GUIDE

The warm and welcoming 'Inn' Place

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

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

ACCOMMODATION

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

& THREE LUXURY
SELF-CATERING
COTTAGES
Each
Sleeping
up to
six

