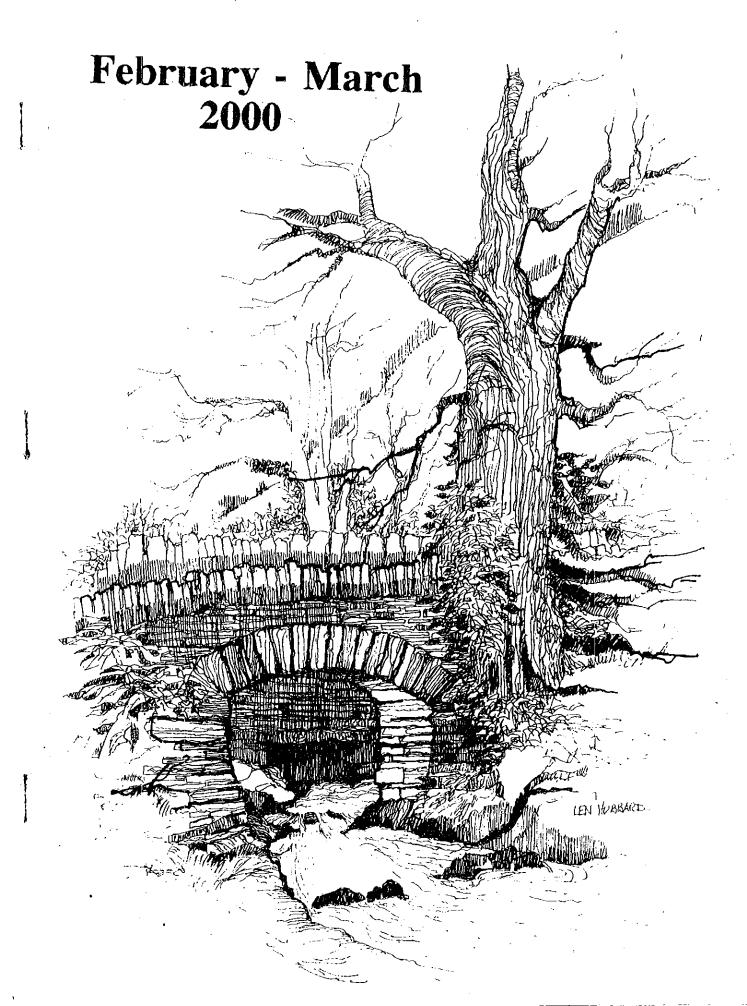
VILLAGE VOICE



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NUMBER 101

FEBRUARY 2000 - MARCH 2000

As we set out to voyage across the doubtless stormy seas of the year 2000, we are determined to get more of our readers involved in the writing of their magazine.

Of course, we couldn't do without our regular columnists - whom we thank once again - but we do need to capture the spirit of the Five Beaches video and the collaboration which made it so possible and so successful. In short, we need more of you to write more for us more often.

We need, for example, more letters from you to make our Postbag more representative of what you think and to give us a more comprehensive idea of local feelings. Put your whinges on to paper and leave the rest to us!

Village Voice, you tell us, is your favourite magazine. But we know we can make it even better with your help.

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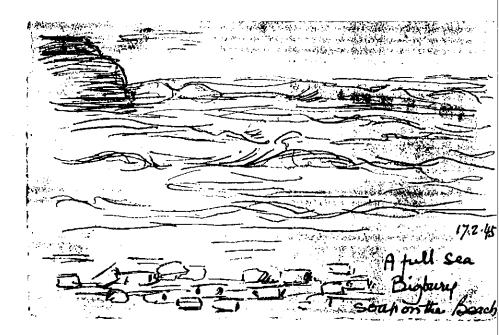
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Covers

LEN HUBBARD

Published Bi-monthly

V L L G E



Yes, it's a different picture at the top of your Villager this time, but it's for this edition only. Actually it's a very historic rough sketch, made by the wife of Lt.Colonel Jerram, who was commanding the Royal Marines OCTU at the Thurlestone Hotel in 1945.

Mrs Sybil Jerram, who lived in Home Cottage during her husband's command of the Marine officer cadets, carried her sketch-book with her wherever she went. And she was no mean artist as I hope you will see when other pages from her sketchpad appear in later editions of the Voice.

if you look closely at the sketch above you'll see that Sybil Jerram noted that she had made the sketch at Bigbury on February 17, 1945 of "Soap on the Beach".

The soap is clearly part of the cargo of the steamer Persier which sank unseen off Challaborough in the night of February 12,1945, after being torpedoed the day before off the Eddystone. It is interesting to note that Sybil Jerram's evidence tells us that the soap was on the beach five days after the ship sank with 2,200 tons of soap in her holds. It is even more interesting that the soap in her sketch looks remarkably like big chunks of Sunlight.

Will the discovery of this historic piece of artwork make any difference to the Battle of the Soaps? For that is how local newspapers have headlined stories making much of the disagreement between South Milton (who claim they have some of the original Fairy GREEN soap) and Thurlestone veterans (who are quite clear that the soap they found on their beaches was YELLOW Sunlight). I will keep you informed.

Now for something completely different. I hereby give the Villager Award for Commonsense to Mr.Peter Hookham, a Devon County Council Highways Engineer. He told the Parish Council when everyone was getting steamed up about installing traffic signs and traffic calming measures: "Be gentle with your villages. Remember that whatever you do you will have to live with it for a long long time".

Grose To Head New Fund-Raising Drive For Parish Hall

By Our Property Editor

Martyn Grose has been appointed fund-raiser-in-chief for the new extensions and improvements to Thurlestone Parish Hall.

Announcing this, Rowland Cole, Parish Hall Chairman, said that the scale of capital expenditure envisaged would need major fund-raising and the Hall committee had agreed that it would be beneficial to have a dedicated fundraiser to co-ordinate applications, approaches and policy. Mr Martyn Grose had agreed to fulfil this role.

"Fund-raising on such a large scale will involve applications to the National Lottery, County and District Councils and similar bodies," said Mr.Cole.

Plans for extending, initially, the front door or west end of the Hall are shortly to be submitted to the District Council for approval.

Other proposals include resiting the kitchen, new toilets, moving the stage back some ten feet, converting the old football room into a storage area with a separate new committee room with its own entrance and lobby. A disabled toilet and ramps for wheelchair access have been included.

"Despite the many rumours, and speculation regarding the land adjoining the east end of the Hall," adds Mr.Cole, "we have, as yet, been unable to negotiate a purchase agreement, but hope that a successful conclusion will eventually be reached."

TRIP WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR TRIPS

As you will see from the questionaire included with your copy of Village Voice all the residents of the Parish are being quizzed by TRIP, which stands for Kingsbridge Transport Research and Information Project. Aim is "to look at the transport needs of local people" in the hope of improving services.

IT'S A SELL-OUT! POTS ORDERS 500 MORE!

The Parish video has been such a best-seller that the Parish Of Thurlestone Society has had to order another 500 copies to keep up with demand. The inside story of the making of the video and the money needed and what you think - see That Video pages in this edition.

Big Launch for Devon Ladies Golf Centenary



1900 Centenary 2000

Thurlestone's Joan Mackenzie sets style
By Our Sports Editor

The Devonshire Ladies Golf Association have announced major plans for celebrating their centenary during 2000. A small centenary committee under the direction of Mrs.Joan Mackenzie of Thurlestone, a former County President and County Captain, have launched a centenary calendar specially designed to fit in with clubs' fixture lists across the county.

A centenary book of records has been produced with the history of each ladies section of 34 golf clubs in Devon. This shows that the world's oldest ladies golf club is the Royal North Devon founded in 1868, playing on England's oldest golf links at Westward Ho, which has been played on since 1855.

Of the 35 affiliated clubs in the county 13 have had their own centenaries. They are Axe Cliff, Churston, Exeter, Ilfracombe, Honiton, Royal North Devon, Saunton, Sidmouth, Tavistock, Thurlestone, Torrington, The Warren and Wrangaton.

The centenary programme starts with the Inaugural Lunch on March 24 at Exeter Golf and Country Club. Guests of honour are Lord and Lady Churston and Sir Ian and Lady Amory and 130 special Devon guests have been invited.

Thurlestone takes part in the Shot-Gun Start on Saturday June 3 at 8 a.m. when ladies teeing off there and across the county will be wearing period golfing dress in honour of the first President, the Hon.Lois Yarde-Buller, who founded the Devonshire Country Golf Club.

A buffet lunch and concert, staged by Val Brown of Thurlestone, will bring the centenary celebrations to a close on October 28 in the Great Hall of Exeter University.

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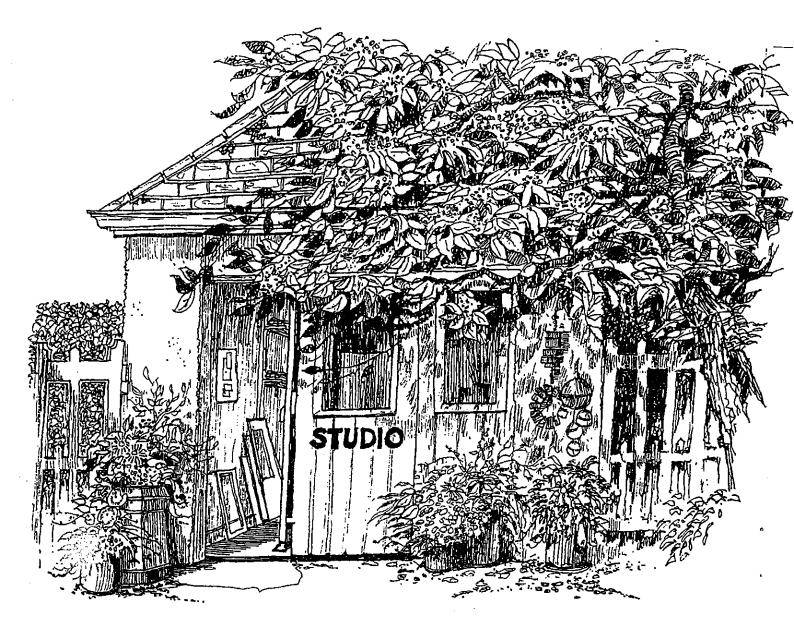


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That Video...

The Making and the Money (David Smeeton, Len Hubbard, Phil Deare):

It all began back at the end of 1996 when a small group of local people met in a bar and talked over the possibilities of stringing together some video that had been taken of village events. It was not long before someone suggested that additional filming might be needed. Then someone else produced the back of an envelope and wrote down: 'The History, Life and Times of the Parish of Thurlestone with Bantham and West Buckland'.

That was the moment when everyone sobered up and realised that such a project needed planning. So back in November/December 1996 a deliberate decision was taken to spend a year on research, working out what, and who, might be filmed when, and finding out who might be involved in the actual filming. We planned to spend 1998 filming, so that we could cover as many events and activities as possible. We left 1999 for editing and production, and pencilled in the first week in December for issuing the video in time for the Millennium.

We began by asking around for old photographs, old film of the parish, for ideas on who might be interviewed, and what local people thought ought to be in the film. Pulling down the History of Thurlestone we drafted an outline script - the first of many before we finally completed the project.

We found cameramen in the village prepared to help ~ Keith Millman and David Cullum; and since we knew there would be some strenuous locations we asked the Plymouth College of Art Media Studies Dept if any of their students might like to gain some 'real' experience. Mansel Nott and Chris Mann arrived on the scene. At the same time we had sent out a press release describing our Project. That brought a telephone call from Derek Fairhead, the former Westward and TSW film editor and director offering his help. We also made contact with John Bartlett, the Westcountry film maker. His advice has been invaluable.

And so to 1998 and the filming! We began with interviews with older residents - Ida Smith and Gert Burns. Then as the weather improved we were out and about. But it was not that easy. For a start there is nearly always a wind blowing in the Land of the Five Beaches and that plays havoc with microphones, especially with interviews in the open air. 1998 was also a year of very overcast skies, the bane of film-makers! We often had to go back and 're-shoot'. It's one of the reasons why we ended up with 30 hours of film footage.

We filmed extensively for a reason. This has not been a project just to produce a video, but also to create an archive of village events and our environment. Three people connected with the parish came up with the old black and white footage of the Louis Sheid and early holiday -making. In addition to the filming we now have 250 stills on CD disc.

As filming continued every shot had to be 'logged', and every word of the forty interviews. transcribed. Pat Macdonald, Carolyn Taylor and John Crawford will remember hours spent at the typewriter or word processor stopping and starting a tape recorder.

Editing and production are the most expensive parts of any film production. To cut editing costs we acquired our own equipment and set up an edit suite in a house on the Yarmer. Many thanks Peter Stanier! With original film transferred to VHS, Derek Fairhead set about editing. Few realise that he spent eight hours a day, two days a week, throughout most of 1999, sitting in front of two TV screens choosing shots, and building the film. When it was finished we took it to Free Range TV, Plympton, and they produced the final master copy, which was then sent to a company in Cheshire for duplicating the first run of a thousand copies.

Originally, we had planned to make a one hour video, but when it came to editing the cry went up: 'We can't throw that out!' So we went for two hours. We have been fortunate. The Tate Gallery, The Bodleian Library in Oxford, the Imperial War, and the National Maritime Museums, the TSW Regional Film and TV Archive and Film Archive, in Plymouth, and the Cookworthy Museum have all helped us with marvellous stills, and historic film footage, such as the first world war and farming scenes. And the stirring music that opened and closed the video? Well, we have John Bartlett to thank for finding that! Nothing is wasted. Copies of <u>all</u> that we filmed and recorded are in archives.

Our first fund raising attempt was an application to the Arts Council of England for one of their Arts for Everyone Awards. We received £3,125, and that got us started. We kept fund raising throughout the project. It was essential, for it became apparent from early on that it was going to cost a lot. Just under £10,000 came from national and regional grant giving bodies - the Arts Council, Villages in Action, Millennium Festival Awards, Devon Rural Action, the Shell Better Britain Campaign, the Jo Clarke Charitable Trust, and the Bullough Tompson Charitiable Trust. More than half came from the local sponsors. From Evans Estate, Bantham Sailing Club, Village Voice, Amel and Ash Mill Developments, Stodgells Construction, McDonald/Girling/Hurrell Book sales, and the Thurlestone Hotel. While Nick Walker, the Kingsbridge Printer, produced the first 1,000 covers for free. But the largest sum of all, over £6,600, came to us from 550 Parish 'Angels', who contributed £12 in advance to the project. Without the support of the people of the parish themselves the video could not have been completed.

Overall it has cost around £22,000. We have matched national grants with our local fund raising. We have had to pay for film stock, for copying original film, for film and editing equipment, for final editing and production, and copyright for stills, archive film, and music. Made commercially it would have cost twice as much; but our 'secret weapon' was all the volunteer effort that went into it. All the professionals involved gave their expertise free.

It has been a Community effort. We directly involved some 300 parishioners. Local people became researchers, cameramen, administrators, fund raisers, and production assistants. Our artists provided the pictures, or designed the covers for the cases. Others provided props, boats, and horses, or gave interviews, old film and photos, and help of all kinds, We kept a log of the hours they put in. Five thousand five hundred! At a community service rate of £5.75 an hour that equals £33,000. So the true cost of the production is really over £55,000 Since launching the video we have sold close on 800 copies, and demand is so strong we have ordered up another 500. Project for project we seem to have done better than that 'Dome'. But then we knew what our project was for! A sense of place for future generations to share.

That Video...

The View from Bantham (Marilyn Cater):

Take my tip - you must watch this video at least twice to get the best out of it. It was on my second viewing that I discovered lots of interesting bits I had missed the first time round, probably because I was looking at the scenery or pointing out something or someone I knew.

What an interesting parish! And what a diverse history...Bronze Age traders, Roman outposts, Bantham as a major trading port, the Elizabethan manor at Clanacombe, Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library at Oxford. I have sent many reports there, but never realised that some of the money funding that world-famous library came from the sale of pilchards caught off Bantham!

I particularly enjoyed the charming contributions of Ida Smith and Gert Burns about their early lives in the villages of Buckland and Bantham. And I was reminded when I watched the story of the soap on the beaches from a shipwreck of local man Sam Moffat, who some may remember as the local rat-catcher. I used to see him come back to the Kingsbridge Rural District Offices in the 1960s with armsful of Sunlight soap and tins of dried egg powder which he had found in the roof spaces of cottages in this parish.

So what of the modern parish? The video clearly demonstrated the vision of Commander Evans and the role he and his family have played in maintaining and preserving the natural beauty of our area and long may that continue. The wealth of talent that abounds round here in both old crafts and modern ones means that we are still able to keep a thriving school, the Surf Lifesaving Club, sailing, surfboards, golf or just messing about in boats, that's not to mention walking the cliff paths and tiny byways - all things we tend to take for granted - come to the fore in the video, a salutary reminder of how lucky we are to live here.

My congratulations and thanks to all those people who put such time and effort into producing a very comprehensive record of the life and times of our parish. I thought it was all absolutely splendid. I have only one slightly puzzled comment: though I have lived in Buckland for 22 years I have never heard it called "Little Switzerland" before. Does this mean that I am not yet a local?

That Video...

The View from Thurlestone (Rosemary MacKay):

At last, it's out! After nearly two years of seeing mysterious groups of people lurking about with cameras and microphones and helicopters hovering above us just like the filming of a new James Bond movie, the Millenium video has arrived.

What a splendid record it is of life in and around Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland for the last hundred years of living memory and the history of more ancient times. This has all been most vividly brought to light with artefacts and re-enactments by young and old.

How marvellous to see and hear from some really old people reminiscing of times early in the century. Our throwaway society could learn a lot from their simple way of life which has enabled them to live to a ripe old age. My only slight concern was that the W.I. did not feature very much, which is a pity as it is one of the strengths of village life.

We must give our most grateful thanks to all those who have given so much of their time, energy and thought, particularly David Smeeton, for a video with such a professional finish.

We ought to put the video with a copy of Village Voice's 100th edition into a time capsule (suggestions for other additions from readers please) and leave it for generations to come to discover it as a record of our Millennium year.

PARISH COUNCIL: NEWS IN BRIEF

Parish Council Meeting held on 11th January 2000

PRIORITY SIGNS

A site meeting had been held to look at the suggested placing of priority and give way signs in an application by Ashmill Developments to D.C.C.for traffic calming measures in the narrow road in front of the Rectory and Homefield. The Parish Council had recommended against the application as, among other things, a bend in the road obstructs the view of oncoming traffic from both ends.

ORANGE MAST

The Council had been told that the proposed "Orange" mobile phone mast must be resited in a more suitable position near the village or South Hams District Council would refuse planning permission.

POTHOLES

Road repairs had been poorly carried out with many large holes left and would have to be done again.

CLEAN MEMORIAL

No grants appeared to be available for cleaning and maintenance of the War Memorial as it is not a listed building.

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Evans Estates agent has asked for a site meeting to discuss levelling the proposed playing field behind the Church. Council approved spending of £300 plus VAT for a survey

VANDALS HIT BUS SHELTER

Bus shelter in need of repairs following damage by vandals. Police ask residents to dial 999 immediately if they see anything suspicious. Notice to be placed in Village Inn asking customers to report anything out of usual near the shelter.

CITIZEN

AN APOLOGY

Mrs. Anne Grose has asked the Editor for an apology to Mrs. Jean Hyde for an item in Village Voice's 100th edition in Citizen's Parish Council News in Brief column about the Parish Council Meeting of October 19,1999. This item gave the impression that Mrs. Hyde and Mrs. Lane had been monitoring the speed of traffic in Thurlestone with a hand-held radar machine. The Editor thanks Mrs. Grose for drawing attention to this matter and unreservedly apologises to both Mrs. Hyde and Mrs. Lane, accepts that neither lady possesses or has ever used a radar gun, and deeply regrets any inconvenience or embarrassment caused.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE SHOP by ADRIAN MASTERS

Each period of the year has been a new experience for us, but we are fast approaching the end of our first year. We opened on March 15th and have enjoyed a really good first year, far better than I had guessed and I fully expect our shop to do even better as we grow in experience.

A worrying turn of events has been the publicity surrounding the change in the way benefits will be paid in 2003. I say will be paid because unless there is sufficient pressure put on the Government this change will happen. I am grateful to all those who have signed our petition. After you have worked so hard to ensure your village retained its village store, it would be a great shame to have central government cause it to reduce its operation.

Just a tip: Postal rates are about to go up for inland and overseas mail. However, books of stamps are marked First and Second Class and are valid whatever the postal rate may be.

Prunella Dart's

HORSWELL DIARY

All the hype over the Millennium celebrations has produced a plethora of statistics: the number of visitors to the Millennium Dome; the number of hours they had to wait for entry; the size of the crowds lining the Thames to watch the fireworks; the number of hot dogs consumed and the millions of pounds spent/wasted on the whole event.

But what interests me is how many zillions and squillions of microbes were transferred in that one ecstatic inter-millennial kiss? For in that single moment of New Year euphoria the much vaunted, although clearly misunderstood, Millennium Bug seized the day and infiltrated the unguarded systems of the nation. With D Day precision and computers as their decoy, they swarmed through the people's unmanned defences to seize the country quite literally by the throat. Under cover of fatigue and hangovers the vile intruders made good their initial assault, digging in and preparing their artillery. By day two of the new Millennium the country awoke to the full extent of the takeover, finding themselves under attack and behind enemy lines.

A full scale alert, but "not an epidemic" was announced, igniting our Bulldog spirit. The counter attack got under way. Hospitals opened their doors to the most serious cases, pharmacists dispensed tinctures and tablets, whilst the nation hacked and wheezed, coughed and spluttered, groaned and moaned, gazing at one another with rhumey eyes and discussed symptoms with voices hoarse and cracked. With communication severely impaired by these viral intruders, seasonal greetings became scrambled and incoherent. "Habby Dew Year!", "Habby Middeddium!", Like a drink? "Yeb please." "Lemsip or cough mixture?" "Would you dike dat shaken or stirred?" As before when faced with a common enemy we found ourselves marching shoulder to shoulder to defeat the foe, united in our misery.

Of course, I do not get anything as common as a cold or as unsociable as flu. I cannot be seen to be ill or I will not be allowed to visit my husband in hospital. So, I blame my lack of voice on too many carols, my pink ferret-y eyes and feverish brow on an allergy to dust or hair of the cat. I tell myself I'm fine and soldier on, determined not to give house room to a vagrant virus looking for a cosy billet. Why "hair of the cat" you may wonder? A new addition to the Horswell menagerie? Well, no. To enable me to visit my ailing husband, my mother and I have swapped houses. In doing so, she has acquired three well behaved dogs (Well, give or take the odd incident. More of that later!) and I have inherited one handsome, unbiddable, autocratic cat. No comment about animals taking after their owners allowed. I am allergic to cats. He knows that, waits until I'm asleep and then curls up on my head like Davey Crocket's hat. If I banish him from the room he takes revenge by clawing up the carpet outside my door, a sound that sears my nerves. If I put him outside he bides his time, waits until I'm asleep then jumps through an open window with a noisy thud and rewards me with a dead mouse.

Michael, meanwhile, lies in his hospital bed. Beneath his oxygen mask he looks like a tired traveller from outer space. Coloured liquirs enter and leave his pale body through clear tubes coiled like tentacles around him. Monitors blip and scan. Nurses observe and record. I ask him about his journey and weary eyes signal that it is, at this stage, simply enough to have returned. The surgeon regards my cough with disdain, accepting my dust/cat's hair explanation with a withering look of despair. He considers me completely unscientific. As one of the country's most eminent Orthopaedic surgeons, I suppose that is his prerogative, although I do play up to it a bit. Perhaps I did go a little too far in my last thank you letter to him when, having performed a miraculous bone graft and hip replacement on my husband I remarked that "it was amazing what could be achieved these days with wing of bat and eye of newt."

I also made the mistake of telling him about my forays into the world of Chinese medicine. How, having been given 7 brown bags containing a collection of funghi, herbs, bark and other unidentifiable bits of skin and bone to boil up into the most foetid, rancid stew it occurred to me that having just paid my annual subscription to the Save the Tiger fund I was probably undermining my own contribution by boiling up the very bones of my adopted tiger! This proved too much for the poor man who, with a look at his Registrar that said "You see the kind of cranks I have to deal with", swept off to see his next patient. It was, perhaps, a good thing that I did not complete my story, for having been unable to stomach the vile brew for more than a day, the remaining 6 bags of dry ingredients were left untouched on the dresser in the kitchen. When I last spoke to my mother on the telephone, towards the end of our conversation she added "Oh by the way, I saw you'd bought that special compost so I've reported the 6 orchids in the hall".

Christmas preparations were a mixed blessing for the Horswell hounds. A constant stream of visitors denied them their usual place in front of the Aga or an open fire. Tinsel collars and Bonios did little to relieve their gloom when banished to their baskets. However, on Christmas morning they joined us in front of a blazing fire to open presents. A wonderful dog-loving friend had made all of the dogs a Christmas Stocking, each with it's own card and special message! e.g., to Dear Abo with love from Auntie Marge, See you soon so don't run away! Flossie's pointed nose meant she could dive straight in and retreive a new ball with her name on it. Abo's greed meant he ripped the whole stocking apart in his haste to gobble down the Chummy Chew lurking in the toe, and Bertie's bewinderment at being given anything so exciting sent him running around the room tossing the whole thing repeatedly in the air, delighting in every treat as it tumbled out on to the floor.

Bertie is not really a party animal. Crackers terrify him; fireworks are his idea of hell. To get him through the Millennium celebrations the Vet prescribed sedatives to calm him. This necessitated a visit to the surgery, so off we went. It was like walking into a scene from Doctor Doolittle, the room so crowded the people and animals seemed piled up on top of one another, a chaotic jumble of dogs and cats, rabbits, guineapigs, a parrot in a cage and an oil covered guillemot. Bertie behaved impeccably. Well, that's if you discount attacking the Vet, biting his stethoscope and refusing to be examined. Suffice to say our departure was hasty and the pills worked, but poor Bertie's New Year hangover looked even worse than ours.

For me, the party atmosphere of the last few weeks has kicked off the new year to a flying start. I'm full of hope and expectations for the year ahead, excited by the sheer pleasure of being alive. What greater gift can their be than a whole new year of opportunities? It's so great you cannot measure it, so diverse you cannot quantify it, so variable you cannot contain it, the potential for transformation endless and unimaginable. It's so precious you cannot estimate it's value. It even comes gift wrapped with snopdrops and aconites, birdsong and moonbeams, starlight and twinkling hoar frost, early daffodils and rich camellias. It's priceless, available to everyone and, amazingly, it's free! As with any gift, although given with the greatest love and optimism, the donor cannot be sure that it will be fully appreciated. There is always the fear it may be considered worthless: treated with contempt. But this year especially, at the start of a new Millennium, He must surely hope that we recognise our exceptional good fortune. Happy New Year!

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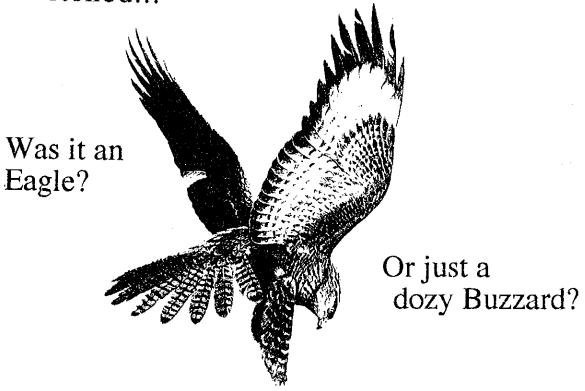
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Harry Huggins Looked

Out of His Mead Window And Almost Twitched...



During our sailing days we belonged for some time to the cruiser class of our club. This, in those far-off days, consisted of twenty or so "li'l ole tore-outs". Most of us could afford nothing better. Many, including ours, had no engine; this was not the relative disadvantage it might seem because engines seldom worked. No two vessels were alike. We sailed port to port races on handicap. There was no proper formula for calculating handicaps: these were decided at meetings of the class members, and he who made the most noise got the best handicap.

Because our moorings dried out at low tide and we could leave them for only about two hours on either side of high water there were never more than about eight races in each summer season. Yet there were some owners who would not go sailing unless it was to race. There are some birders like that - they won't go out unless they think they are going to get something for their life list or their British year list.

Twitchers are what they are. Please, we try not to be like that. We enjoy seeing all, well, most birds - we do get just a little exasperated with our pet Crows when they come in the porch and eat all the sunflower hearts and porridge oats put out for the little birds.

But we enjoy a good twitch if there is one going. We think there are two requirements: one, it mustn't be too far away, so that if you dip out, which is usual, you haven't wasted too much time and petrol. And two, it must be something worth seeing. Not some grotty little warbler skulking in a bush.

At the end of last October there was a twitch which had everything. It was a Crane, at Staverton. Bird crane, not dock crane nor builders' crane. Our magnetic friend Wal suggested it, he who has the mysterious ability to attract rare birds; the Osprey at Thurlestone, the Bittern at Lopwell Dam, the Goshawk at, well, not too far away. These were fortuitous; neither he nor anyone else knew we were going to see them, and anyway he didn't see them first.

He didn't actually ask us to take him to see the Crane. He is far too polite for that. But he wondered whether we were going, we knew his aversion to driving down little lanes, and that he wanted to be conveyed there. So we piled him and Mary into the car and went.

Over that very narrow bridge which crosses the railway. Past the Sea Trout. Wal didn't care for passing that, until it was pointed out that this was Sunday, it would be stuffed to the gills with Sunday lunchers, and if he wanted to eat there we would have to come again some time.

A bit past the Sea Trout we turned down a lane towards the church. We parked and walked. Coming away were twitchers festooned with binoculars and telescopes. Had they seen it? Oh yes, but it had gone now. That was par for the course, but we went on, to explore a place where we had never been before. The churchyard itself made the journey worthwhile. There is a magnificent yew tree. It was covered with fruits and gobbling them down were Blackbirds, Songthrushes, Mistlethrushes, and our first Redwings of the winter. If you or I ate those berries we would hand in our dinner pails in double quick time. But these birds are able to gorge without ill effect.

The lane took us over the railway and a mill leat. We found more disconsolate twitchers, including a lady and her daughter - her son was away, but he told them to see the bird so he could tick it by proxy. We stood just outside someone's front garden and, dare I confess, sometimes in it.

Then June chirped "Here it comes" and it dropped into a wet meadow between the railway and the river. Now that was a tick worth going for. Crane is a big bird, a good deal bigger than a Grey Heron. Like the heron it is pale grey with very dark flight feathers. It has similar long legs. But unlike the heron it stands tall, with its long thin neck straight up, and when it flies it doesn't reef its neck in, as does a heron, but sticks it straight out in front like a swan. It looked enormous.

It was a good way off, but we had telescopes. Although we didn't pick out the red on its head, we could see its black throat and wonderful bustle - a huge bunch of feathers over its rear end, not a tail, that is quite small, but much enlarged wing feathers. They breed on the bogs of northern Europe and winter in Spain; I suppose this one was on its way.

That must have been the highlight of our year, but there were others. Mid-March found us at Torcross with other members of Devon Bird Society. We went really to see our friends, but the day was fantastic for watching birds on the sea. Usually there are ripples and a swell. This day there were neither; the sea was like a sheet of plate glass. So you didn't keep losing sight of birds behind waves. There were Great Northern Divers, big goose-like things, and Black-throated Divers, a bit smaller. There were Red-necked Grebes in summer plumage - almost never do we see them like this, usually if we see one at all, which is seldom, it is in its grey and white winter dress.

Likewise in summer plumage were Slavonian Grebes, much smaller than the red-necked and with the yellow plumes showing on their heads. We do see them off Thurlestone sometimes in winter. Or rather we did, until Operation Clean Sweep clean swept. They are just little black and white things then. You wouldn't call any of these a twitcher's bird. A lister's, yes, because if you are doing a year list you have to see them, each counts one. So do Blackbirds and Black-headed Gulls. I was going to write Starling and Sparrows; too late, they are rapidly becoming endangered species. But all these things were nice to see.

In June we had another twitch. A Rose-coloured Starling. If you go to the airfield at Soar - you drive as for Soar Mill Cove Hotel, but turn left before going down to the hotel - there is a row of what were coastguards' residences, now sold off. The good souls in the end one put out masses of food for the birds. With other Starlings and Blackbirds there appeared this Rosy Starling. It is an east European species. They do arrive here from time to time, but previous ones have been just brown juveniles. This one was in full summer plumage - shocking pink body, black upper breast and head (with a little crest), black wings and tail. This is typical crow pattern, Hooded Crows (the northern and eastern version of our Carrion Crow) and Magpies are like this. Starlings and Magpies are both crow family.

I am not sure the folks knew what they had. But painting the house next door was a very fine birder known to all as Crinkle. I believe that in fact he has Christian and surnames, just like anyone else. But if he has no one knows what they are and I sometimes wonder if he himself has forgotten. He identified the bird and told the grapevine. We went. We found two or three other twitchers leaning on the garden gate. So we did the same and I took some photographs. A much better one appeared in Bird Watching magazine: there are some twitchers who endeavour to pay for their hobby by taking pictures and trying to sell them to other twitchers or to magazines.

Birds come, and then they go. This one went. But in the middle of August it reappeared. You couldn't be sure it was the same bird. But it must have been. You could get two adult Rose-coloured Starlings feeding at bird tables in this area in the same summer. But they are rare birds and the odds must be against it. This time it was on bushes, small trees really, in Cookworthy Road in Kingsbridge, opposite where you turn in to go to the top car park. They were having a kids' party on the little bit of open ground at Trebble Park. Making a fearful din. But the bird didn't mind, nor did the ordinary Starlings it was with.

It seemed that close by a gentleman had a bird table. This Rosy Starling turned up. He was so struck by its remarkable colours that he told a friend, whose son is a fanatical birder, source of much of our information about local happenings. He told us, and we went. We like to go if possible, otherwise he might think we are ungrateful and not tell us about some future event. It was showing well at the top of the bushes. But I got no photograph - there was too much traffic for me to cross the road.

Each month Bird Watching magazine has nearly twenty pages devoted to what birders say they have seen during the month before publication. Some of what is reported is very rare, more is just interesting. There are usually pictures taken by the afore-mentioned photographer twitchers. Now and then someone tells of something very rare indeed. At the start of last October there was a Short-toed Eagle on the Isles of Scilly. The first ever for Britain, and a real cosmic mind-bender. Short-toed Eagles are big. Not as big as Golden Eagles, but a lot larger than our familiar Buzzards. They summer in southern and eastern

Europe and live on snakes. There are plenty of those in warm dry rocky places. What this one ate, if anything, in the Isles of Scilly I do not know, but it stayed five days and then flew off out to sea, going towards France.

Around that time I was gazing out of the window - I spend a lot of time doing just that - when a large bird of prey started to fly up the Thurlestone valley from the sea. It was pale under its wings and body and had a darker bib on its chin and upper breast. Which fitted for Short-toed Eagle. Before it got near enough for me to have a proper look it was set upon by Crows, retreated over the golf course in the direction of the sea and I saw it no more. Could it have been the eagle?

Some of our Buzzards are almost pure white below. Some years ago there was one at Prawle which birders from elsewhere, used to totally brown Buzzards if they were used to them at all, used to report as a Short-toed Eagle. Or sometimes as an Osprey. I expect my bird was just a Buzzard, although the Crows do not normally go for something quite so vigorously unless it is a stranger to the area. I will never know. But might-have-beens are always fun.

TRAMP EXTRA

Due to the short hours of daylight in January, our first walk of the year invariably takes place locally and this year was no exception.

Fourteen walkers met at the Hall car park in reasonable weather for January and set off on an eight mile walk up the Avon Valley.

We went via Bantham before joining the river path via Lower Aunemouth and Stidicombe Wood, crossing a creek which now has a wooden footbridge and climbing the steep hill up to Stadbury Manor. We paused for breath on two occasions to admire the view and to allow the two dogs with us to regain their breath as we didn't want the RSPCA complaining. From here we walked on to South Efford House before crossing the narrow bridge leading to Aveton Gifford. I am pleased to report we lost no one either going or coming back, although one or two drivers did their best.

It was at Aveton Gifford that a great tragedy occurred. The Leader arrived at the Fisherman's Rest ten minutes before opening time! This meant, despite a short detour to waste time, that we had two or three minutes to wait until the doors opened, which caused an 18-year-old walking with us to suggest it looked like a pensioners' outing. I had the feeling that he hoped none of his friends saw him.

After a warming snack, excellent soup, we started our return via Osborne Newton, Worthy and Clanacombe back to Thurlestone. A shortish walk, but one which got the winter limbs back into the walking mode.

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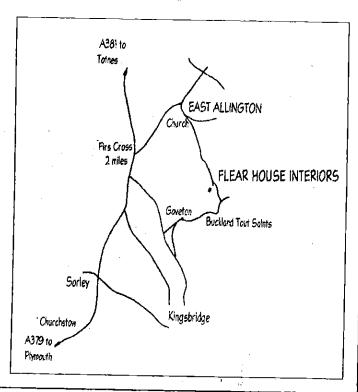
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NOVEMBER:A sunny if breezy day, a local and relatively easy walk and the prospect of a pub lunch in Hope Cove, were possibly the three factors that attracted so many this time. The impression this might give, that we are just tine weather walkers, lazy and greedy, is not, of course, true.

When we left our meeting place. Thurlestone Parish Hall, there were 14 of us but soon two more appeared and thereafter our numbers continued to increase and decrease in the most amazing way. We managed to go down across the fields to Whitlocksworthy, over the bridge through Southwest Water's purifying reed-beds and up the other side without further additions, but then, at the entrance to Horswell House drive, suddenly there were two more and a dog.

More fields and stilles - this was certainly the Walk of the Stille as the dog would confirm - and we were climbing up to the ridge. It was easy walking along there, past S. Huish and Gaimpton with its church down on our right, breezier but with a lovely sunny view over the sea.

Then, coming down into Hope beside the Cottage Hotel we were met by yet another walker who had walked along the cliffs, having left his car at the nearest point on the Thurlestone side, because, he claimed, he had run short of time. In the Hope and Anchor good, hot soup was enjoyed by all those who had not more ambitious ideas.

It was on the way back to Thurlestone that numbers decreased quite amazingly; only one at first but after we had crossed the Ley people disappeared faster and faster, some to S.Milton, some by the path to the lower end of the Mead, until it was a mere handful that arrived back at the Parish Hall. However, all reached home content and without mishap to start training for the next

DECEMBER: The main memory of our decadent December tramp is of rain and, following close second, is of mud. The weather forecast was not good. Nevertheless 24 raving maniacs - and three dogs - set off from the assembly point at Ashprington, in pouring rain driven by a gale, clad in sensible waterproofs and sturdy boots and in cheerful mood. One exception perhaps was Number 24, who, still struggling with boots, remarked somewhat sourly that if they didn't wait they wouldn't have their special elevenses. The leader made some jovial riposte and strode on. However, a gallant lady walker insisted on taking one of the rucksacks, the heavier, thus resolving the problem.

Rounding the first bend the rearguard realised that the vanguard had vanished. Had they gone straight on or taken the left-hand track? Luckily someone remembered that the creek had been mentioned and then a famillar figure was spotted on the further bank. When we got down to the stepping stones foolish Number 24 started to walk down the silme-covered, concrete slipway (well-named) and crashed flat on her back, which did not improve her mood or the polystyrene beakers in her backpack. It was just as well that she was not carrying the bottles.

On the other side the muddy paths began, breaking us in fairly gently to begin with but becoming more ambitious. Soon there was no choice but to slosh through the mud-thick puddles and the soft, deep, cloggy mud. The men discoursed seriously about the state of the stock market, the women, possibly, about the state of their Christmas cakes. Number 24 wished she had worn her wellies. After a while the rain slackened and someone remarked that the forecast said that it would clear after two hours. However, by the time we reached the road down to Beenleigh and the bridge appointed for elevenses the rain was lashing down again.

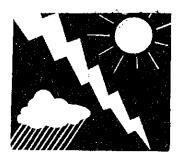
Our leader pointed out a large, empty, Dutch barn where we were able to take shelter. The men found the strength to open the bottles of sherry, plastic beakers appeared magically, and in no time the two bottles were empty and 29 mince pies had been devoured.

The party set off again, leaving the women to take charge of the rucksacks; after all the bottles were lighter now and the mince pies had gone.

Whether it was the influence of alcohol or the prospect of a good lunch, but the pace certainly quickened and soon we left the last muddy track and joined the road leading up to Ashprington. It was still raining. After a hearty and merry meal, it was decided that further walking would be foolish. Some went down to Totnes to see the potentially world-record-breaking boat being built there; some went home.

WEATHER WAG

by Jan Turner



Thank goodness our computer did not misbehave over the Millennium. So here we are with the first of the new century proper accounts of the weather. Over the page are the figures for the last 6 years, which you can peruse at your leisure. However I'll make a few observations of interest (well I think they are!!)

RAINFALL. We seem to hear about little else these days, still we are way below the total for 1994 = 1107mm, this year 820mm 1995 was a little higher. In 1994 Feb. May and September were much wetter than usual. So it was exceptional that year. Over the 6 years the average here is 835.67mm or 32.67ins. This is close to what would be recognised as an average for this area. Plymouth is higher than us. Over the 6 years no one-month has had a repeated max rainfall ie. Feb. Jan. Nov. Aug. Oct. and Dec. Such are the vagaries of the North Atlantic Lows and the Jet Stream.

WIND – Direction. Good to see a reversal of the predominance of Easterly winds. However it has meant more and stronger Westerly winds and rain. Associated with these are the high tides with coastal flooding and with excess surface water and waterlogged ground, leading to inland flooding as well. Harbertonford has been badly hit on more than one occasion this year. Christmas being the last and very unfortunate time. A friend of mine living there has never been flooded before, even this year it was not the normal inundation from outside but the water table raised so high that the water just surfaced in the house, raising a newly laid wood floor. So water came in through the floor and out of the door. The strength and direction has led us to close our shutters and leave them closed for several days at a time. (but I wouldn't live anywhere else.)

TEMPERATURE. 1999 was warmer than 1998 but not as warm as 1997. There was, surprisingly more sunshine in 1999 than in 1998 but not as much as 1997. The rain seemed to come in short bursts of very heavy showers or short periods of very heavy rain, as recent events have proved.

How about CHRISTMAS EVE.!! The wind registered 85mph on my machine, what must it have been on the top of our church towers. If the noise was anything to go by 100mph, but that may be an exaggeration! Coming down Broad Rd and on to Links Court we think there was almost tornado conditions. Branches of trees and general debris threatened the windscreen and we nearly (not quite) made it to Beach Cottage on 2 wheels as the westerly tried hard to upend us. No lasting damage though.

On November 23rd we went to Totnes to visit the Goss Challenge project. The 'Team Philips' yacht is nearing completion and very impressive it is too. On the way home we witnessed, as did many of you I'm sure, a stunning sunset. I don't think I have ever seen a more impressive one. The Met. Office defines sunrise and sunset as 'the instant at which the upper limb of the sun appears in contact with the horizon, it being assumed that the observer and horizon are at sea level. The duration of daylight or length of day are terms used for the interval between sunrise and sunset.

Occasionally, if conditions are right a Green Flash may be observed at sunset. It lasts for only a few seconds and occurs just as the last limb of the sun disappears below a clear horizon. The light appears as a vivid green flash across the sky. An explanation for this: - air can bend and split light like a glass prism. As the sun sinks below the horizon its last rays are teased apart into its component colours like a rainbow. Red is the usual colour followed by the blues and purples, which tend to be scattered leaving just green behind.

Well, here's to many a wonderful sunset, keep looking for the green flash, sun dogs are more common though, ask Derrick Yeoman!

A Weather lore saying for February, of which there is abundance,

If it rains in February every day,

In June you'll be sure of plenty of hay.

Feb 2nd – Candlemas Day.

If Candlemas Day be cloudy and black Twill carry cold winter away on its back: But if Candlemas Day be fine and clear Then half the winter's to come this year.

	YEARLY COMPAR	YEARLY COMPARISON OF WEATHER STATISTICS	STATISTICS		
RAINFALL mm	1995	1996	1997	4008	
Total Wettest Month Highest Daily Rainfall Driest Month	858.87 Jan. 137 Sept. 11/12 38.12 June 10.6	679 Nov. 109 May. 18/19 29.63 June 9.12	783.89 Aug. 144 June 2/3 28.73 April 20.68	758.25 Oct. 96.27 Sept. 4/5 22.85 Feb. 8.43	1999 820.56 Dec. 129.7 Dec 18th 29.22 July 15.23
Westerly Easterly Northerly Southerly Highest Gust mph.	168 Days=46.01% 173 Days=47.39% 12 Days = 3.28% 11 Days = 3. % Jan. 22nd 80	127 Days=34.79% 209Days=57.26% 6 Days = 1.64% 3 Days = 0.82% Oct. 29th 84	152 Days=41.64% 177Days=48.5% 8 Days =2.19% 27 Days=7.4% Dec. 25th 78	189 Days=51.78% 150 Days=41.91% 6 Days = 1.6% 19 Days= 5.2% Jan. 6th 88	211Days 57.8% 126Days 34.52% 6Days 1.6% 20Days 5.2% Dec. 25th 85
Hottest Month Highest Daily Average Highest Maximum Lowest Daily Average Lowest Minimum Average for the Year	Aug. 20.07 Aug. 3rd 25.6 Aug. 1st 32 Dec. 6th 0.5 Dec. 26th -3.8 13.06	July 17.46 July 29th 20.05 July 20th 26.8 Jan. 27th -1.3 Jan. 27th -3.5	Aug. 18.6 Aug. 23/24th 21.5. July 9th 28.1 Jan. 4th1.7 Jan. 4th -4.4	July 16.7 Jun.&Jul.20th 21.0 May 17th 26.8 Dec. 21st 2.2 Dec. 21st -2.2 11.9	July 18.4 July 12th 22.6 July 27th 29.2 Jan. 11th -0.1 Dec. 20th -3.4 12.35
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	N/A	1573	1937	1662.36	1668.32

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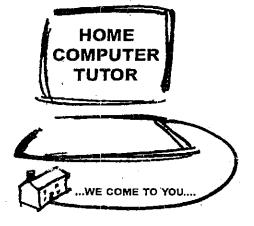
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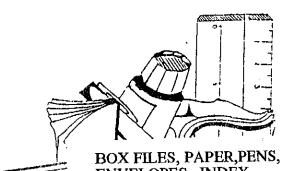
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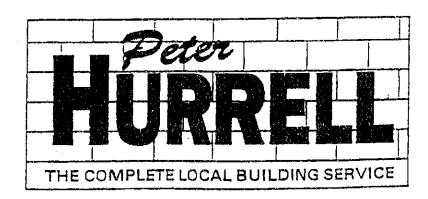
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Dear V.V.,

Robin and I would like to thank most warmly all our friends in Thurlestone for the loving thoughts that have been sent to us during the past three months of Robin's illness.

We are truly touched by everyone's kindness which both sustained and comforted us. What wonderful support they gave us during our enforced absence from Devon!

Yours sincerely, PAT MACDONALD.

On behalf of Thurlestone NSPCC Committee, may I thank everyone for their generous support over the past year.

The Bridge evening and Christmas Bazaar together raised over £1,400. The quilt raised £1,000 and was won by Mrs.Irene Fox of Meadcombe Road.

All the money raised goes towards work in Devon with ill-treated and abused children.

Sincerely, MONICA DICKINS.

Will the Editor please ban any further use of the word "Millennium" in our magazine. I write this after having seen the worst pun ever on a block of Cadbury's milk chocolate - "Millenni - Yum". I kid you not! NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

I felt I must write and congratulate the POTS team especially David Smeeton for producing such an excellent video.

The only disappointment I experienced was to hear the two young people at the end speak so critically about life in the village, accusing the "old folk" of giving up on the youngsters. They said they feel "there is nothing here for them" and that "they are being pushed out".

I would have thought that Thurlestone has more than most villages for a young active person. They can have use of the Golf Club with lessons for a modest sum, as many do. There is a thriving Life Saving Club in Bantham with an active social life and only a cyle ride away is the Kingsbridge Leisure Centre. What do the young folk want - and what are they prepared to do towards it?

Yours truly, CONCERNED OLDIE.
Name and address supplied.

"Every village should have an Albert," said the Rector of Modbury in his farewell to the Avon Estuary's beachcomber and boat-dweller.

Dr.Mary Dixon and I represented the Aune Conservation Association at the memorial service for Albert, which drew over 120 people into Aveton Gifford Church. Albert attracted national notoriety when he refused to pay the poli tax on the reasonable grounds that his life style made no used of the Council's services.

A well-subscribed collection will be used to place a seat on the Tidal Road and the patrons of the King of Prussia have raised £90 for the Heart Foundation in his memory, JOHN F.CRAWFORD, THURLESTONE.



FROM THE BIRD ON THE ROOF

What comes in.... goes out....

Environmental issues predominate these days in local and national debates, both in the press and television reports. 'Rubbish Disposal' varies widely from locality to locality. This was brought home to us when spending the Xmas and the New Year vacation with our family, first in York and then in East Sussex. We, in the South Hams, are well ahead in the re-cycling game compared with the afore-mentioned regions. But then perhaps they have never been accustomed to the discipline of S.Hams Council's encouragement.

However, compared with German and Austrian authorities we still have time to catch up! In those countries segregated rubbish is the responsibility of the house owner who is provided with five (5) bins and woe betide the house owner who doesn't conform. It is not unusual for the dust-bin collector to empty the bins on the pavement immediately outside the property - just as a lesson - should there be something in the wrong bins!

Recently we were approaching London, by train, passing the Deptford area where docklands used to be a hive of activity in our student days, when we noticed a very impressive building in the heart of a vast wasteland.. (NO... not the millennium dome!) This was a rubbish incineration plant proudly declaiming on its frontage "Here, our rubbish is contributing to the local electricity supply"

It doesn't seem all that long ago that Devon's only incineration plant, in Exeter, was closed for "environmental reasons"--- What criteria have the 'powers to be' when considering crematoria fall-out on the lee-ward side of the prevailing South West wind? Surely, we need a rational strategy across the U.K.?

Feathers tattered and oiled.....

Over Xmas, the Maltese-registered tanker " Erika " broke up in a storm off the West Coast of Brittany spilling many thousands tons of oil in the sea. The cost to birdlife and shellfish cannot be overestimated.

TotalFina, the oil company, which charted the ageing 25yrs old tanker has, so far, pledged \$6 million to help in the clean-up operation. But is it enough?

An increasingly sceptical public wonders whether 'shipping lines' with boats registered under flags of convenience could be morally culpable, also the maritime agencies who then licence those same vessels plying from port to port.

Already some 40,000 oil covered sea birds (guillemots, razorbills, puffins etc) have been pulled from the sea without any hope of life. Sadly, many breeding birds, who usually nest in colonies in the U.K. and Ireland, are also reported to be the most affected.

When will the lessons from the Torrey Canyon disaster off the Cornish coast so many years ago be learned? Latest reports from Brittany suggest that 20,000 tons of crude oil remain in the wreck of the "Erika" and must be addressed without undue delay.

Sobering thoughts as we contemplate 'Our Land of the Five Beaches'



Tailpiece

"Provencal residents in the Camargue (France) took the matter in their own hands during the latter days of September. All heavy vehicles were blocked and only light vans were let through into this outstanding zone of scenic beauty...."

What a difference in attitude to juggernauts in the South Hams! Even a blocking vehicle, causing two-way traffic to be held up for several hours, merits only a whisper in the 'local thundere'

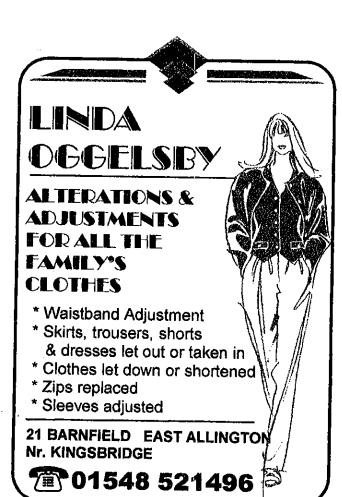
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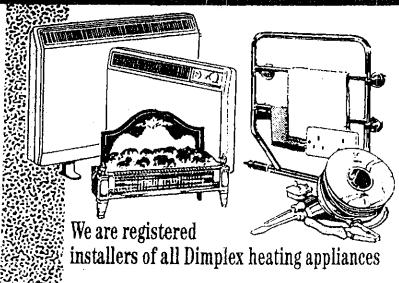
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Pat Machin's PUZZLE CORNER

Word Search One

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

	T	Ι	Ι		1	
BID	TED	INB	ISE	CHI	ORE	ATE
HAR	EME	BUN	YBE	TAL	CKE	GON
AIN	TOR	BLA	MAD	STE	NCY	ROD
AGG	MEL	BUC	KIL	PEN	EST	PRO
CAR	ITE	ACQ	INE	AST	FOR	CLE
URN	АРР	CRI	AIT	ELE	СНА	TAN
IAL	DEN	LBL	RGE	TER	скв	EDI
NEY	DRA	RAK	APH	REG	WHI	ECK
тот	TAL	EON	LAR	LED	HAN	UIT

- 1. A sudden state of danger
- 2. Total or crushed gravel
- 3. A curly fleece
- 4. A Lancashire town
- 5. Not allowed
- 6. Process of being freed
- 7. A small fish food
- 8. An American author
- 9. N. Devon shipyard
- 10. An original design
- 11. A type of lizard
- 12. An Irish town and lake
- 13. An itchy swelling
- 14. Greek goddess of love
- 15. A newspaper leader
- 16. An ancient prince
- 17. A sportsman
- 18. An abscess or red gem
- 19. A girls name
- 20. A European capital
- 21, ????

Word Search Two

Find the drinks (listed) in the grid below. Their names may be found written up, down, to the left or right, or diagonally. Once all the drinks have been found the remaining letters left to right and downwards will give another drink.

R	E	G	Α	L	1	Α	T	K	C	0	C
S	Α	L	L	ı	T	N	0	M	U	Н	ļ
H	I	K	Α	R	E	С	Α	Z	Α	Ν	D
E	C	D	Α	E	M	N	0	M	I	0	E
R	0	N	F	В	Н	1	P	T	N	I	R
R	Е	F	U	A	R	A	R	R		S	L
Y	0	E	T	Р	G	Α	Е	Ν	G	Α	Ī
C	T	1	В	N	M	Ρ	N	R	l	U	R
I	Α	R	E		Е	C	0	D	E	Q	٧
N	Α	Α	L	Е	D	G	R	-	Y	S	0
0	Ε	K	H	С	0	0	Н	S	S	Α	B
T	E	R	Α	L	С	Н	I	Α	N	T	1

Ale, Gin, Rum, Tea,
Bass, Beer, Grog,
Mead, Milk, Ouzo,
Raki, Cider, Hooch, Lager,
Medoc, Punch, Tonic,
Bovril, Brandy, Claret,
Coffee, Pernod, Sherry,
Squash, Chanti, Cordial,
Martini,
Cocktail, Montilla,
Champagne,
Manhatten.

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BOOKSMELF

DAUGHTER OF FORTUNE by Isabel Allende

This author is described as one of the world's best selling authors, so she must be far better known outside the U.K. I have seen only one review of this book and it has not yet appeared in the charts.

Her style is very reminiscent of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and this is a wonderful enchanting novel, beautifully translated from the Spanish, and by far the best book I read in 1999.

A newly born baby girl was left, in 1843, on the steps of the house of wealthy English family in Valparaiso, Chile. She was named Eliza and raised by Rose Summers and her brother Jeremy. Later she falls in love with a charismatic but unsuitable young man, who afer a whirlwind love affair, goes off to the Californian gold rush of '49, leaving Eliza pregnant. With the help of a young Chinese doctor she follows him, enduring the most terrible privations on the way. The entrancing story, rich in character, history, violence and compassion, depicts her motley existence searching a burgeoning and vice-ridden San Francisco for her former love.

Order it from the library, or better still buy it, but make sure you read it.G.W.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE John Humphrys

Known to everyone who listens to the Today programme, this is a summing up of all the changes that he has observed in 40 years as a journalist, not all of which have given us the contentment and happiness they should. His own profession has had a good many minuses to give to modern life as he readily admits. It is right up to date and reads as if it was written last week. **R.M.**

HIGH FLYER Susan Howatch

I do not usually review books which I do not like, but as this is by an author of high repute I thoughtI should offer an opinion. I was a fan of Susan Howatch when she wrote Penmarric and similar books, but as she has grown older she appears to have become obsessed with religion, occult, psychoanalysis, sex and sexual pervision. This book is a mishmash of those, together with blackmail and murder and much breast-beating and soulsearching. After 584 pages of it, I was heartily sick of it and, to summarise, I found it revolting and repulsive. The story is about the bizarre love life of a high-powered female lawyer, but I considered it so implausible as to be ridiculous. Hope I haven't put you off it. G.M.

Down to God's River

Tim Pearce goes back to his early childhood in 1925 to start this trip down Memory lane, better known in this case as Thurlestone's village street.

"The sea! The sea! I can see the sea" is the perennial cry of children getting near their holiday destination. So it was with us as we passed Kerse Lane and came to Stanley Dent's Bantham Garage. I can still see that drooping, slightly melancholy figure with matching cigarette. I guess his prowess as a motor-mechanic matched that of his sister. Betty, as a golfer. Soon we would pass the turning to Stidston's Farm and I recall the names of Arthur and Eric, and later Barn Dances; but we were really Broad's Farm devotees, as I will explain when I reach there on this memory-guided tour. We pass the Post Office run by Mr and Mrs Lancey who, as I recall, sold nothing but stamps. The next landmark is a very important one to me and must have a good paragraph or two to itself.

"Home Cottage". I shall jump ahead, from 1925 to 1994, to introduce this part of the story. Five years ago my wife and I moved to a bungalow in a retirement development in Henley-on-Thames where we had been living for the previous twenty three years (having resisted any temptation to retire to Thurlestone!). Talking one day to a neighbour, with whom we had struck a particular friendship, we told her we were going down to Thurlestone for a holiday. "Oh", she said, "my father had a cottage down there". "Where exactly?" I asked. She told me it was in the village street and that her father, who had owned a building firm in Henley, had bought it from another Henley couple, Mr and Mrs Peter Beresford. I knew at once where it was, because my father had sold that cottage to the Beresfords in about 1927 or 1928.

Paraffin lamps and sweet-peas are what I remember most about Tree Cottage in which we lived during two or three summers when my father commuted daily to Plymouth, where he was Superintendent of the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital. He shared this run with Russell Yeo, each of them striving to break the record for the twenty-two mile journey, Sunbeam versus Bentley. I believe father claimed the record at 27 minutes, but I must ask Jennifer Yeo if she can corroborate that! Tree Cottage gradually went up in the world and became part of Home Cottage, the star of village photographs which it is today under the ownership of the Frost family.

In about 1927 we moved from Plymouth to Leeds and my father decided to build a house in Thurlestone. While it was being built we spent the summer holidays of 1930 in Mr and Mrs Hill's Woodbine Cottage. My holiday diary has a snapshot of my brother John and me playing clock golf on the lawn of Woodbine Cottage. I remember the thatched barn in the garden where Mr Hill kept his casks of cider and where, Charlie, his son, the village postman, kept old copies of his beloved motor-bike magazine.

I remember, too, the occasion when Mr Hill shared his glass of cider with a wasp which, rather ungratefully, bit him on the lip. It was sixty-two years later that I recounted this event to his grandson, Kendall McDonald. That diary, which I have before me as I write these reminiscences, contains the following entry for Friday, 29 August 1930: "This is

our last day at Thurlestone We have had a lovely time."

Beyond Charlie Hill's "Just-a- Cottage" was Len Jeffery's cottage. Len was the No. 2 driver at the Hotel around 1925 and used to take some of us (notably Peter Grose and perhaps John Prowse and Michael Yeo) into Kingsbridge in the Willys Knight, while the Daimler, chauffeured by Tom Riley, was reserved for more important hotel guests. Mrs Riley, Tom's mother, kept the village shop and always gave us a free sweet or two when we visited the shop. Opposite the now beautifully restored pump I recall a shoe-shop run by a sadly deaf lady, a Miss Moore, where we bought plimsolls for the beach. Whether it was called Jasmine Cottage then I cannot remember.

My earliest memory of The Rectory (before it became The Old Rectory under the Yeo family) was of a fête in the gardens presided over by Canon Majendie and glamourised by Esmé Marshall who was on the London stage. Even very small boys may remember such matters!

The hotel itself, in those days, didn't really feature in our lives (apart from the Willys Knight) except for two activities. One was a Fancy Dress Show for children (maybe adults too) in which we paraded up the village and back to be judged and, if lucky, awarded prizes, probably by Margaret Amelia Grose herself. Dressed as Tom from "The Water Babies" I won my first camera, a Kodak Brownie. The other activity was an ongoing Motor Show. Being friendly with Tom Riley and Len Jeffery those of us boys who were interested in cars had a free pass into the garage. As the hotel became more modish so the variety of interesting motor-cars increased.

I'm now going to run ahead to our new house and will return later to the Church, Broad's Farm (as we knew Church Farm) and the Dairy.

My parents named the house WAYSIDE, because, I imagine, it was just next to the Wayside cross in the Churchyard wall. Of all the houses in which I lived as a boy Wayside was the most loved. One of the subsequent owners changed the name to "Resting Stones" which, of course, they had every right to do; but I grieved when I first saw that name on the wrought-iron gates. I hope the present owners, if they should read this story, will pardon me if I refer to the house as "Wayside". It was a holiday home but a much-used as well as a much-loved one, visited by us at least once a year from 1931 to 1940. My brother and I helped our father create the garden, we played french cricket on the lawn, we had friends to stay, we went down to Yarmer Beach two or three times a day, we played tennis and golf and in later years I remember bringing my tennis partners home to tea or drinks. Often friends from school hearing our talk of Thurlestone would persuade their parents to take them on holiday to the Thurlestone Hotel. It was a magical time and my memories of that house are full of light.

Wayside was ideally placed for all our holiday activities, tennis and golf, beach, village and shop and, last but not least, Broad's Farm. Jack Broad, who had no children of his own, more or less adopted me and my brother and our friends. He gave us the freedom of the farm. We played hide and seek, we collected eggs, we dived into piles of grain, we watched the milking, we baited the bull (fortunately not too successfully) and we helped deliver the milk with Jack Roberts in his pony and cart. We seldom ventured into the dove-cot (destroyed in the 1979 fire) as it was, if I remember, very smelly! We learned to ride with Miss Brinkley in the field behind. So it was with a tinge of sadness that I saw the farm's conversion in full swing this summer; but they seem to be building in a sensitive way, and I hope the new homes will be as well loved as was Wayside.

The dairy was Just-a-Dairy, as Charlie Hill's cottage was Just-a-Cottage. We took bowls along, down the narrow entrance between the road wall and the Broad's house, to collect cream with the rich crust on top. When we called in to say hello to "Mr Broad" he always gave us boys an apple. Bless his heart!

The Church so conveniently close to Wayside was not, I must admit, greatly frequented by us, though after I'd been confirmed at school I would attend Holy Communion once a week. Oddly enough it has been on this last visit that I've spent most time in the Church, entering it for quiet reflection each day of my week's stay. Walking round the graveyard has brought back many names familiar to me of Thurlestone families, Prettyjohn, Michelmore, Bevell, Jeffery, Moore, Broad and Yeo. I find the inscription on the tombstone of Russell Yeo (my father's friend and father of my friend Michael) particularly moving:

"A Blessing he was - God made him so, and deeds of Christlike holiness Fell from him noiseless as the snow".

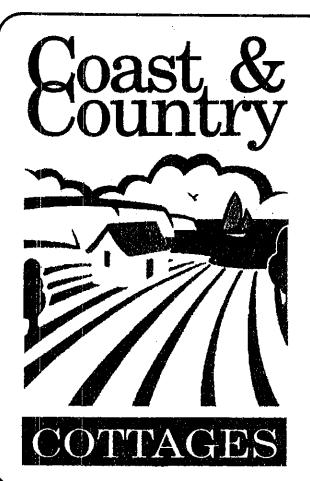
Michael's name is on the War Memorial close by and on the plaque inside the Church.

At some time in the earlier part of my story we occupied Sunny Bank, the first house in what is now Ilbert Road. Whether my father owned or, more likely, rented it I don't know. I think Sir Michael O'Dwyer bought it. It was conveniently placed for the tennis of which he, like my father, was a skilled exponent. I remember a friend, Patrick Gibbs, who lived in Merchants Field over the road, before it was developed. Though doubtless Charlie Hill and his successors were familiar with the names of the houses. and later of the roads when more and more houses sprung up, in the time of my earliest memories the houses were know by the names of the owners - Yeos, Blundells,

Mallams, Tolchers, Prowses, Miss Newton's, Hazelhurts, Dudleys, Riseleys, Mattews, Edens, to name most of them!

While our own family was growing up my wife and I spent most of our holidays abroad with the children, and it was not, I think, until 1977 that we came to Thurlestone for a holiday. Then we rented Upper Goosewell, on the side of the 18th fairway for a family holiday with our daughter and her husband and their two-year old first child. Miss Swallow, the owner, lived in part of the house. Afflicted by severe loss of memory she didn't always know who we were or what we were doing there, but she was very charming and kind. We booked for the following year but in January, I think, Charles Head rang me to say that the house had been burned down. We were relieved to hear that Miss Swallow was unburt and safe in a residential home.

Finally memory lane has led me to Yarmer Beach and the sea. Yarmer and Wayside were the twin jewels in our childhood's crown. Some of the regulars, Prowses, Yeos, Pearces, had tents on Yarmer for changing in and out of bathing costumes. These were set up at the eastern end of the beach opposite Lion Rock. We reached that spot by a narrow path down the cliff which seems still to be used. Our lives were regulated by the tides, swimming, shrimping, climbing and playing in "God's River". There was, and still is, a stream which flows under the 18th and 7th fairways to tumble down the cliff near a life-belt on a post. This stream, which has been a joy to generations of children, was given the name "God's River" in this way. One summer's day in the late 1920s or early 1930s a group of us were engaged in our usual activity of damming the stream with pebbles and sand, creating a childish version of grown-up reservoirs. Suddenly an argument broke out as to which of us was the owner of this hydro-enterprise. Claim followed claim until one of us settled the argument with the words "None of us; it's God's River."



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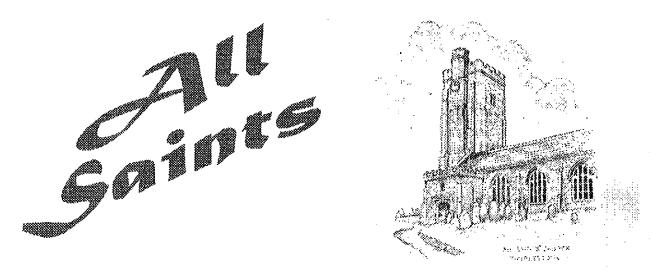
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Churchwardens: Michael Chipman 562013 & Liz Webb 560090

News of the new "Rector"

The licensing of Canon Andrew Girling as Priest-in-Charge of the United Benefice of Thurlestone with South Milton will take place in the Parish Church of All Saints, Thurlestone on Friday February 25th at 7.30 p.m. Unfortunately space will be very limited as there is a large number of invited guests, including members of the congregation from the Andrew's previous parish, his family and friends and the clergy from Woodleigh Deanery and their wives.

On Sunday February 27th: the services will be: Holy Communion in Thurlestone Church at 8.00 a.m. and Parish Eucharist in South Milton Church at 9.30 a.m. and in Thurlestone Church at 11.10 a.m. We should be pleased to see as many of you as possible at any of these services to meet the new "Rector".

Andrew is very keen to meet as many people as possible living in the parish and he has asked that we arrange some small groups for coffee or tea. He would like to have venues in Bantham and Buckland as well as Thurlestone and this will be an excellent chance for you all to meet him informally. If anyone would be happy to host about twelve people in their home, please let me know – this could be morning, afternoon or evening. If you are unable to do this, but would like to be invited, please also let me know so that you can receive an early invitation.

You will be sorry to hear that the Reverend John Delve died on January 8th at the age of 84 after a long illness. He became Rector of Thurlestone in 1969 and Rector of the newly created United Benefice of Thurlestone with South Milton in 1983. He was well-known for cycling everywhere with cassock flying! After his retirement in 1985 he was a regular visitor to the Parish and continued to pop in to see his many friends for a cup of tea. There will be a Thanksgiving Service for his life in Lympstone Parish Church on Saturday February 5th at 12 noon. If anyone would like to go to this service and needs transport, please contact Liz Webb (560090).

Thank you to all those who supported the All Saints Carollers in any way: the singers and those who gave so generously and provided us with sustenance! A grand total of £340 has been sent to Children in Distress. You will be very sad to hear that the Romanian girl we have sponsored for several years, Miorica Pasca, has died suddenly. She was HiV positive, as a result of mass blood transfusions ordered by the communist regime, and she was therefore very susceptible to the smallest infection and this is what happened in her case. In 1992 Miorica was one of the earliest admissions to St Laurence Hospice in Romania and she died on December 1st, World Aids Day – a tragic loss of a young life. Children in Distress have asked whether we would be willing to sponsor another Romanian girl, Viorica Melinda Sarkadi, who will be 10 in March. She was admitted to the hospice on September 28st 1998, having been abandoned in an orphanage – she has no contact with her family. Within 2 months her weight had increased from 7.9kgs (1st 3lbs) to 10.2kgs (1st 8lbs) and she was able to stand with support. Lately her confidence has increased and she is able to walk holding on to someone's hands. She now likes to explore, plays with toys and interacts with other children. She has a very infectious giggle and she is, on the whole, a happy child. She goes to school with some of the other children in the morning and she enjoys that. Viorica has a huge appetite and never seems to have enough food – she now weighs about 12kg (1st 12lbs). She likes to be cuddled and taken outside. She still likes a lot of encouragement to feed herself and to walk, but she is becoming more independent. We have, of course, agreed to sponsor her.

Searchlight will be holding a Christingle Service for Candlemas in Thurlestone Church on Sunday February 6th at 3.00 p.m. Everyone is very welcome but it would be helpful to know numbers of children coming so that there are enough Christingles! Please let Liz know (560090) if you are coming, however there will be some spares, so you can still just turn up.

There are vacancies for about 6 children at the after school club run by the United Benefice. There is a variety of activities including games, Bible stories, singing and craft. If your child would like to come, please contact Liz for an application and consent form.



All Saints Diary

Thurlestone Church Services

Every Sunday
Thursday February 17th, every Thursday in March
February 6th, 20th & 27th, March 19th
February 13th, March 12th & 26th

8.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION 8.30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION 11.10 a.m. PARISH EUCHARIST

11.10 a.m. MATINS

Family Services

February 6th March 5th April 2nd Candlemas Christingle Service

Canon Andrew Girling's First Family Service

Mothering Sunday Service

3.00 p.m. THURLESTONE

11.10 a.m. THURLESTONE 9.30 a.m. SOUTH MILTON

Special Service

February 25th

Licensing of Canon Andrew Girling as

Priest-in-Charge of the United Benefice

7.30 p.m. THURLESTONE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17th AT 2.30 P.M.

"But it also happens in Hong Kong!"
Peter Frowley in Thurlestone Parish Hall

THURSDAY MARCH 23rd AT 2.30 P.M.

"Musicians, Ghosts and other oddities!"

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KATE'S KITCHEN



Back to our roots

At this time of year, when summer vegetables are a thing of the past, the humbler root vegetables come into their own. How about a winter soufflé, based on a puree of turnips or parsnips? In spite of many opinions to the contrary, a soufflé is not difficult to make provided that you put it into a really hot oven. Try to resist the temptation to look at it before half an hour is up, in case it flops. The best soufflés are well risen, golden on top and still slightly undercooked in the middle. Once cooked, they should be brought immediately to the table as they are inclined to sink quite quickly. This is perfectly natural but looks rather less appealing!

INGREDIENTS

3/4 of a pound of parsnips or turnips

2 ounces of butter

11/2 ounces of flour

1/4 of a pint of milk

4 large eggs

1/2 a teaspoonful of cinnamon (turnips only)

1/2 a teaspoonful of nutmeg (parsnips only)

1 tablespoonful of parsley (all three)

salt and pepper

1 tablespoonful of breadcrumbs mixed with 1 tablespoonful of parmesan

First grease a 21/2 pint soufflé dish, then peel and boil the vegetables. Drain them, saving a 1/4 of a pint of the cooking water, and puree them in a liquidiser. Next, make a thick sauce by melting the butter, adding the flour and stirring in the milk and the reserved cooking water. Remove the pan from the heat, allow the sauce to cool a little, and beat in the puree. Stir in the yolks of the eggs, one by one, and add the seasoning, parsley and either the cinnamon or the nutmeg. Then whip and gently fold in the egg whites and spoon the mixture into the prepared soufflé dish. Sprinkle the breadcrumbs and parmesan on top and bake it for thirty minutes at 200C, 400F, Gas mark 6. Open the oven door gently and make sure it has risen properly - it may need a few more minutes - before you whisk it to the table to the admiration of all those eating with you!

ANSWERS:

WORD SEARCH 1: 1. Emergency; 2.Aggregate; 3.Astrakhan; 4.Blackburn; 5.Forbidden; 6.Acquittal; 7. Whitebalt; 8.Steinbeck; 9.Appledore; 10.Prototype; 11.Chameleon; 12. Killarney; 13. Chilblain; 14. Aphrodite; 15. Editorial; 16. Pendragon; 17.Cricketer; 18. Carbuncie; 19 Madeleine; 20. Bucharest..leaving 21. TANTALISE. WORD SEARCH 2: COINTREAU.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR PLACE? YOU DO? WELL THEN, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU MAKE OF THIS HUGE PARISH QUIZ, SET SPECIALLY FOR VILLAGE VOICE BY THE MAN WHO KNOWS ALL THE ANSWERS - HUBERT SNOWDON, LOCAL AUTHOR, FARMER AND HISTORIAN.

HERE ARE THE FIRST 50 QUESTIONS. RING EACH NUMBER YOU THINK IS THE RIGHT ANSWER. THE OTHER 50 QUESTIONS AND ALL THE 100 ANSWERS WILL BE IN THE APRIL-MAY VOICE. READY, STEADY GO.......

- Where is the highest point in the parish above sea level?
 In North Down. 2. Reynolds Park Fm. 3. North-east of Whitley farm.
- 2. Clanacombe House is
 - 1. Higher, 2. Lower, 3. Same height, as our church?
- 3. How did Plymouth limestone arrive to build Inchbald's Gray House (now the Downs)?

 1. By sea. 2. By steam lorry, 3. Train to Kingsbridge then horse carts.
- 4. The red stone in Clock Cottage, Bantham came from
 - 1. Langmans hill-top quarry. 2. Aunemouth. 3. Ball Park Quarry
- 5. Who dug that red stone?
 - 1. Jim Bevell 2. George Snowdon. 3. Tom Hingston
- 6. What was peculiar about that red stone?
 - 1. It was wet when dug. 2. Odd composition. 3. Contained flints.
- 7. Where did two serious team-threshing accidents occur in successive years?

 1. Bantham 2. Aunemouth 3. Court Park
- 8. What was unusual for one victim on these accidents?
 - 1. Developed a stammer 2. His lost leg given Christian burial 3. He went mental.
- 9. Where did he finally die?
 - 1. Aveton Gifford. 2. Kingsbridge 3. Australia
- 10. An AA enameled sign stating distance to London was fixed
 - 1. at Kerse Cross 2. Outside Thurlestone Hotel 3. Below Dents Bantham Garage
- 11. How many miles stated to London?
 - 1. 202 2. 208 3. 220
- 12. Which roadman lost an eye in WWI?
 - 1. W Crispin 2. J Jeffery 3. T Hingston
- 13. The last section of parish old roads to be rolled and tarmacked were?
 - 1. Brook & Kerse hills 2. Aunemouth & Chapel hills 3. Thurlestone hill & Mill road
- 14. Who drove the steam roller for years which did that work?
 - 1. Bert Batchelor 2. George Break (Bragg) 3. Art Trout
- 15. Before tarmac how was bare slippery wet rock made safer on roads?
 - 1. Spreading grit 2. Grooves dug by hand pick 3. Covered with way soil
- 16. Where was Plymouth limestone landed for burning in kilns or road mending?
 - 1. Thurlestone & Leasfoot sands 2. Bantham quay 3. All three places

- 17. How were the stone barges unloaded?
 - 1. By winches and baskets
 - 2. Baskets carried across planks
 - 3. Lifting lumps over side by hand.
- 18. Where were lime kilns?

İ

- 1. Rock House & Bantham 2. Mollycombe and Bantham 3. Rockhouse, Bantham and Stiddicombe
- 19. Which roadside sites were used by stone breakers?
 - 1. Outside the new P.O. Kerse Cross & Bantham Hamgate.
 - 2. Clanacombe Head, by Buckland Farm Chuck-a-cheese lane and Aune Cross
 - 3. All of these sites
- 20. Who built the new Wesleyan Chapel in Buckland 1908?
 - 1. Roger Moore 2. William Morgan 3. Edgecombe, A Gifford
- 21. Where did the same builder build houses?
 - 1. Buckland, Bantham and Thurlestone
 - 2. Kingsbridge and Hope Cove
 - 3. All five places
- 22. Squire Hubert Brunskill invited, delegated his 14 year old son William to perform stone laying ceremony of the new chapel because he himself was?
 - 1. Ill 2. Abroad 3. C of E
- 23. Where was the previous Wesleyan Chapel
 - 1. At Woodlands above P Hurrell 2. Malthouses. 3. Humps House
- 24. In which field was the ancient reputed chapel before Thurlestone Church?
 - 1. Centry (Sanctuary) 2. Chapel Park 3. Clanacombe Head Cross Park
- 25. Where are other ancient excavated recorded sites?
 - 1. Bantham beach & Clanacombe Head 2. Ball Park 3. All three
- 26. From which quarry was stone carted for Bantham Coastguard houses?
 - 1. Langmans hill-top 2. Aunemouth 3. Clanacombe
- 27. Which was the last quarry worked for developing Thurlestone walls and gardens?
 - 1. Hill-top 2. Ball Park 3. Cross Park
- 28. Who of these supplied water before mains arrived?
 - 1. The old mill and Thurlestone Parish Council
 - 2. Evans Estate and Stidstons
 - 3. Both 1 and 2
- 29. Pumping engines were at
 - 1. Old Mill, Stidstons and Aunemouth
 - 2. Stidstons, Bantham meadows and Aunemouth
 - 3. Leaside and Bantham
- 30. Where were reservoirs?
 - 1. Golf Links water tower and Aune Cross
 - 2. Celts' Corner (former field) and North Down
 - 3. All of these places
- 31. Who commanded mains water to be brought to Thurlestone?
 - 1. Chairman of Water Board 2. Royal Marine O.C.T.U. 3. Devon C.C.
- 32. Who dug the mains in through Buckland and Bantham?
 - 1. The Royal Marines 2. Sth Hams Water Board 3. German POWs
- 33. Who were suppliers of electricity before grid mains came?
 - 1. Thurlestone Hotel and Stidstons 2. Old Mill and Dents garage 3. All four

- 34. Telephone wires were put underground on Thurlestone Hill because
 - 1. School boys constantly stoned china insulators
 - 2. Trees
 - 3.Coastguard importance
- 35. Blacksmith forges were at
 - 1. Whiddons and Buckland and adjoining Humps' House
 - 2. Buckland and Home Farm
 - 3. All of these
- 36. Where was Humps' House?
 - 1. Now Grove Cots 2. Monkey lane 3. Now Wuz Ruin
- 37. What was Humps' House for
 - 1. Church poor house 2. Brewing Church beer 3. Isolation house
- 38. Where was Humps' garden?
 - 1. In field opposite 2. By Langman's quarry 3. Hay gardens
- 39. Who were father and son boot repairers in Thurlestone?
 - 1. Roger and Jack Saunders 2. S and Robert Pound 3. Nat and Bill Moore
- 40. Where was Sherriffs bakehouse and original shop in Bantham?
 - 1. Behind Sloop Inn
 - 2. Between Bantham House & Coastguards
 - 3. Whiddons
- 41. Who later walked from Aveton Gifford daily to bake bread at Bantham?
 - 1. Peter Hurrell's great grandfather 2. His grandfather 3. His Uncle Eddy
- 42. Who last worked the Buckland Mill?
 - 1. John Sherriff 2. John Foale 3. John Robins
- 43. What was the other simultaneous business at the mill?
 - 1. A grocery shop 2. Baking bread 3. Insurance broker
- 44. What happened after the mill businesses ceased?
 - 1. Became a cider pound 2. A Moore's butchery 3. Pumping House
- 45. What was the use of the mill out buildings?
 - 1. Farmyard 2. Slaughter house and garage later 3. All three of these
- 46. Where was cider regularly pounded?
 - 1. Old Mill & Buckland Farm
 - 2. Buckland, Farm, North Upton and Court Park
 - 3. Court Park, Aunemouth and Buckland Farm
- 47. Who used the willows annually from Langmans Grove?
 - 1. Hope Cove fishermen for crab pots 2. Local basket makers 3. Spar makers
- 48. What else grew in the grove that many partook of?
 - 1. Plums 2. Hazelnuts and chestnuts 3. Apples and pears
- 49. Were there granaries on pillars at
 - 1. Langmans Farm, Worthy Farm, Court Park
 - Clanacombe, Cross Park, Home Farm
 - 3. All these farms
- 50. Who was prominent in forming Thurlestone Rifle Club, 1913?
 - 1. Col Frank Hewett 2. Major Hoare 3. Major Harvey

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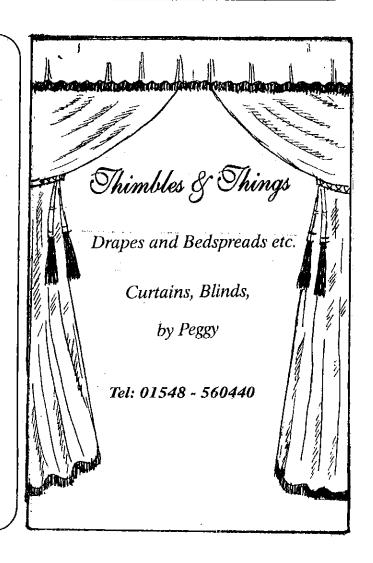
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NEWS FROM THE W.I.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

After the merrymaking and frivolity of the Christmas lunch at the Club House in December, at the January meeting it was necessary to get down to business once again. First though, Mrs.Pat Clarke welcomed three visitors, one of whom, Mrs.Mary Hugo, almost instantly became a member, and she distributed birthday posies.

Among matters discussed were the Elsie Brewster Award in March, for which any craft item could be entered, and the Group Meeting in April.

Mrs Clarke made special mention of the Resolutions Meeting held the previous day at which our area had to choose the six resolutions out of a possible 12 they would like to go forward to be considered for the short list for the Triennial Meeting at Wembley in June. Everyone agreed that our charity for the year should be the Macmillan Nurses.

We arrived rapidly at our main item on the afternoon's agenda: our speakers. First Adrian Masters talked about our village shop, giving to begin with a short account of how he had come to be involved in shopkeeping in a career which began in the Merchant Navy, and the chance which had led him to buy the Thurlestone shop. It had taken him a little while to adjust to our requirements compared to Hope Cove, where his father ran the shop. He made special mention of the Government's proposal to stop the payment of pensions and benefits in cash at Post Offices and pointed out what a disastrous effect this would have on the survival of many smaller Post Offices and consequently village shops. He urged everyone to write to local councillors, M.P.s, and even the Prime Minister to persuade the Government to abandon this proposal.

Finally, Mrs. Crawford, speaking in place of her husband, who had succumbed to the dreaded 'flu, talked about Farmers' Markets, their history, the range and above all the excellence and genuine freshness of their wares, and their importance to the farming community. The Kingsbridge one takes place on the first Saturday of each month.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS:

10th FEBRUARY: Monthly meeting. Mrs.E.Arnold - Lesser-known Historic Gardens

17th FEBRUARY: Lunch out at the Ring O' Bells.

9th MARCH: Monthly meeting. Mrs. Marion Lewis - Swedish massage.

11th MARCH: "Good as New" sale (Not jumble). 23rd MARCH: Visit to the Lost Gardens of Heligan. 3rd APRIL: Sea Coast Group meeting at Thurlestone.

PARISH COUNCIL: TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

The Parish Council Meeting of the 14th. December, 1999, was largely concerned with summer traffic problems in the Parish.

Prior to the meeting a Parish Council sub-committee had put forward certain traffic calming proposals for Thurlestone to the Devon County Council for their consideration and advice. Those suggestions were discussed by Villager in the Village Voice of December 1st. but Village Voice has been asked to give them once again in the hope of obtaining some kind of general agreement among residents about future measures. Here are the suggestions as put to the Devon County Council.

Double yellow lines

To be placed on the north side of the road opposite the Village Inn and to the west of the entrance to Parkfield (this was omitted from the last batch of of parking restrictions two years ago) and continued eastwards to the steps beside Mount Stones garage.

To be placed on the south side of the road, starting at the eastern side of the entrance to Homefield Farm House and continuing eastward to the Rectory, stopping where a cast iron drain pipe issues into the road (on the opposite side of the road there is a B.T. inspection cover set into the road).

No Waiting, 1st.May to 30th.Sept.

On the south side of the road,

From the entrance to the Old Rectory eastwards to the Nook.

From the dividing line between Just a Cottage & Jasmine Cottage eastwards up to the School. From Gleebfield eastwards to Kerse Cross.

On the north side of the road, from the middle of the old Village Stores eastwards to Kerse Cross.

Permitted Parking Areas

On the south side of the road.

From the drain outside the Old Rectory eastwards to the Old Rectory entrance.

From The Nook eastwards and including Just a Cottage.

On the north side of the road,

From Mount Stone steps/garage door eastwards to the middle of the old Village Stores.

Designated parking areas to have broken white lines (as in Fore Street, Kingsbridge) to encourage motorists to park as close to the side of the road as possible.

Other Safety Features

"Concealed Entrance" signs for each end of the narrow stretch which lies between the Thurlestone Hotel garage and the eastern side of the Rectory, in an effort to increase safety in this area and a 20 m.p.h. speed limit through the village.

Alternative to Main Street Parking

We suggest that parking be defined down Court Park Road situated to the east of Thurlestone between Kerse Cross and south westwards to the junction with Court Park Farm. From this area, pedestrians can gain access to the village through three footpaths.

OBITUARIES

DORIS PARNELL (1913 - 1999). Doris was born in Thurlestone, the eldest of a large family, but when a teenager went to London to work. She was in the Red Cross during the war. She met her husband, Henry, in London and they both worked for many years for the Bird's Custard family. In the 1960s she returned to the village with her husband.

Doris lived in the Nook, and was a very visible part of village life, walking up to Thurlestone Court every day to visit her sister and old friends, or down to the Church to put flowers on her husband's memorial. She was a steadfast Church supporter, in

charge of the altar linen and brasses.

HILDA ROSCROW DAVIES (1909 - 1999). At the age of five, Hilda was abandoned and spent the rest of her childhood in Falmouth orphanage. At 18, she came to the Rock House Hotel at Thurlestone Sands as a waitress and chambermaid. Here she met her husband-to-be, Bryn Davies, who worked at the Links Hotel. They were married in South Milton and lived at Clanacombe, then at Rose Cottage, West Buckland, where their three daughters, Bronwen, Jennifer and Yolande, were born, and finally at Celts Corner, which they had built for them near Thurlestone School.

Mrs Davies was a leading player in the Kingsbridge Dramatic Society. In the 60s, she took up oil painting and opened her lounge as an art gallery, selling over 1,000 pictures. In the 80s she gave up painting for poetry and

had two books of verse published.

BEN HORN (1913 - 1999). Ben lived most of his life in South Milton and his first garden work, when he was 14, was at Horswell House. Later he was in charge of the gardens of the Russell-Yeo family at the Old Rectory, Thurlestone. He was in the Yeo family's employ until the day he died. He was a superb gardener, looking after many gardens in Thurlestone and was more a friend than a gardener to their owners.

He was a noted West Country R.H.S judge, was President of the Thurlestone and South Milton joint horicultural society, was chairman of South Milton Parish Council for many years, and was a bellringer, proud to have rung the celebratory peal at the Golden Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. He married Gwen in 1938 and served in the Army "under Monty". His son Jim was born in 1940.

EVELYN SPEAR (1916 - 2000). Evelyn Spear died suddently in hospital after a fall at her home, Query in Downs Road, Thurlestone. She and her husband Jim lived there since moving from their farm in Okehampton in the early 70s. Evelyn was honorary treasurer of the Parish Council for over 15 years, was an expert gardener and cook, a keen member of Thurlestone Bridge Club and an active member of the W.I.

JOHN DELVE (1915 - 2000). John Delve was Rector of Thurlestone from 1969 to 1985. For further details see All Saints pages in this edition.

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DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm Tramp. Beesands and Hallsands walk. Thur 24th Tues 8th Wed 9th

All Saints Fellowship meeting. Parish Hall 2.3()pm. Induction of new Rector. All Saints Church. Fri 25th

Barn Dance. Parish Hall,

MARCH

Parish Council Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm Tramp. Holbeton walk. Tues 14th Wed 8th

APRIL

Annual Parish Meeting. Parish Hall 7.30pm. NSPCC Jumble Sale. Parish Hall. Tramp. Dart Trail walk. Framp Start walk. Wed 12th Tues 18th Wed 26th

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

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 £8.00 Please apply to:

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was these pages are the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council, and they founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council and is delighted to remain under the Conncil's sponsorship. This does not mean that the views and opinions expressed in Sheila Parker, 8 Mead Lane, Thurlestone (01548-560330) 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: MARCH 6th, 2000.

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

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL Chairman Vice - Chairman Parish Clerk District Councillor County Councillor Members (Tree Warden)	RECTOR	W. I. Second Thursday monthly (ex. August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall.	TRAMP (Tourlestone Rambiers)	PROBUS	HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall	THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION	FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	COFFEE TIME (Rectory Barn) Thursdays, 10.30 - 11.30 October-May.	CHURCHWARDENS	BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m. Parish Hall Wednesdays Fridays	BOWLS CLUB (indoor) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB
Peter Hurrell Veronica White John Lorsdale Carolyn Steen Simon Day David Grose Charles Mitchelmore Geoffrey Stidston Derrick Ycoman Kit Marshall	to be announced	Contact Carolyn Taylor	Contact Pam Brewster	Contact Philip Candy	Contact John Lonsdale	Contact Brenda Murch	Secretary/Manager, John Scott Contact Lindsey Fletcher	Contact Kit Marshall	Contact Liz Webb	Michael Chipman Liz Webb	Contact Mary Fulford-Smith Contact Dorothy Stone	Contact Eileen Daymont	Clubhouse
560496 560236 560742 2 - 691212 560375 560602 560607 560607		562033	560345	560857	560742	560487	560405 560157	560214	560090	562013 560090	842467 560708	560295	560447

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

MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN (alternate Wednesdays from 13 Oct) 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm outside school

DIRECTORY

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n Bantham 11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall 12.40 - 12.50pm Thurlestone Sands		Мацгіс	rith the 10.05 (92) and 11.05 (9 ngsbridge 16.54 for the 17.00 t	Bantham 10.30 14.17	ne 10.41	ર્ટ્સ	No. 161 Wed only	New Winter timetable available from TIC Kingsbridge in October	(But Friday in Bank- Holiday - Monday weeks)	Central Switchhoard Confidential information	`	. Wed pm) OPEN SUNDAYS		Thurlestone P.O. Wed, Sat, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm	Joan Lane	Rowland Cole	(See Post Office)		R. Bruckner & Son	Salcombe	Kinochridos
ne Parish Hall ne Sands		Maurice Blight 560220)3) to Plymouth o Thurlestone .	, ,			No. 162 Mon - Sat Mon-Fri	ig 22 April 1999 i October	/- Monday weeks)	0990-777-444 0800-555-111		560645		561917 pm	560158	561006	Sun, 8.30 am-2.00 pm 560645	5.30 pm 561917	01803-832801	842284	023621



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