

# VILLAGE VOICE



FEBRUARY - MARCH 2001





NUMBER 107  
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2001

At last the bullet is to be bitten. The plan is to go for a brand new Parish Hall. The Parish Hall Annual General Meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March will reveal the proposed designs (and presumably the cost estimates), and all parishioners are invited to attend, discuss, and approve the proposals. Rowland Cole, Parish Hall chairman, explains in this issue how the plans have come to fruition.

Elsewhere in our 107<sup>th</sup> edition Villager expounds on the capabilities of the parish to raise funds for good causes, and proffers his own proposal. This magazine has often highlighted both the response to specific charitable appeals, and the way in which challenges (like the Millennium Video project) have drawn some extraordinary efforts from the human resources within the parish.

Every one of those individual and group energies will now need to be motivated and channelled to assist the new collective community cause; for a brand new Parish Hall would require the biggest single fund-raising effort EVER from the whole parish. It will be a case of (a la Eton boating song) :

"Pull, pull together - to pay for our Parish Hall,"

The Parish Hall committee is taking a bold stand, and throwing down a real fund-raising gauntlet. It will now be up to everyone to take up this challenge, in a cause which all local groups can wholeheartedly support.

***After all, charity begins at home.***

Founder Dudley Drabble

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# Baring Gifts for Charity

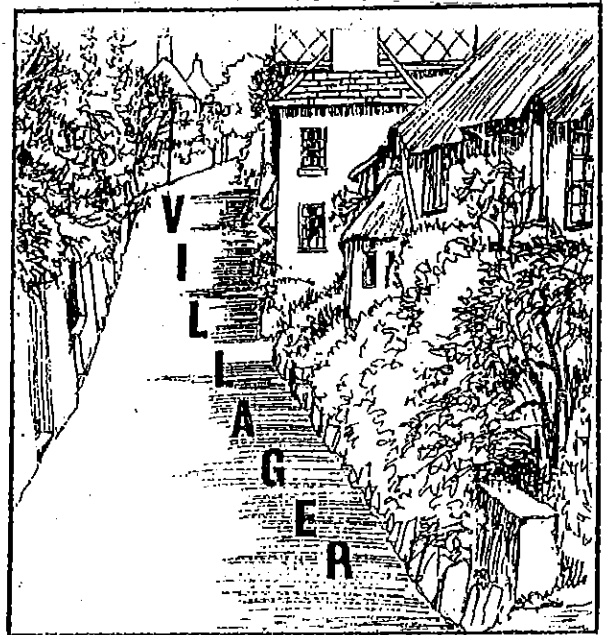
This parish must be the home of Devon's champion fund-raisers. Our soft hearts and open wallets and purses are renowned wherever charities meet. Our efforts are praised to the skies. For an example of our generosity, you had only to go up to the parish hall one morning before Christmas. There you would have seen grandmas and grand-daddies, mothers and dads, parents and teachers, get a typical parish fund-raising surprise.

Occasion was the Friends of Thurlestone School fete when the Friends funds were suddenly boosted by a gift of £500 - that's in addition to the £355 raised by the fete itself! The extra money came from sales of **'The Story of Thurlestone, Bantham and West Buckland'**, which is crammed with old photographs of the parish.

Thousands of people have bought copies of the book since it was first published in 1993. But most of the buyers probably never noticed a line in the book credits. *"Proceeds from this book, after deduction of royalties and costs, will be donated to Thurlestone Parish"*.

The book, which was written by **Kendall McDonald**, funded by **Neil Girling**, owner of Bantham's Sloop Inn, and had as its picture editor **Peter Hurrell**, chairman of the parish council, turned out to be a local best-seller.

This has enabled 'good works' in the parish to receive grants from the book's sales. Among those groups which have benefited financially are the **Parish of Thurlestone Society** (help with the parish millennium video), **Bantham Surf Life-Saving Club** (towards their new HQ), the **Friends of Thurlestone Church** (mugs for re-sale to raise funds), and now the **Friends of Thurlestone School** (to buy musical



instruments for after-school lessons).

The book, which is always on the look-out for parish good causes to fund, is only one of the money-raising operations in our villages. Practically every charity or good cause you can think of has money raised for it by this parish. You would think that there weren't any money-raising tricks that hadn't been tried at the fund-raising events - guess the weight of the cake, the bottle stall (with cards or numbers), bric-a-brac, guess the number of coins in a bottle, clothes stalls, and so on.

A second-hand book stall is always there of course - so much so that old hands say they have read every book on show at every fete's book stall! Indeed, the contents of a fete rarely change; ice-creams, plants in pots, veg from locals, cake sales, jewellery, various kind of bowling, or throwing - rings, mops, or wellies (though chuck-a-child was banned after silly complaints by its parents). You name it, we've fund-raised with it.

But now we need something totally new, and at last **Villager** thinks he's found it. A

brilliant and modern idea for further fund-raising in Thurlestone parish.

You may have noticed recently the huge sales of nearly-nude (not quite the full Monty - but close!) calendars. Top sellers locally have been the nude farmers, and farmers' wives and daughters in the nudie-bare. All are in the best possible taste of course. They have raised enormous sums to "Support British Farmers" and other good causes; reprinting again and again. Thurlestone must now get in on this act.

So what about a **Mead Maidens** undress calendar and another special version for the **Mead Men**? These could be sold at the same time as daring issues showing the **Bantham & Buckland Babes** and the **Bantham Blokes**.

We must act soon to have these super-sellers ready for 2002. Applications to take part in these huge fund-raisers should be sent in the first instance to *Villager* at Village Voice.

All applications will be kept confidential. Mead Maiden and Bantham Babe auditions will be held first, and will be strictly private at a mutually convenient time and place.

Local photographers need not offer their services. Two official photographers have already been selected. Sponsorship from local shops, firms, and hotels has already been offered and the highest bids will secure the advertising spots closest to the January to December page models. The Editor of Village voice, no less, is already on the lookout for suitable settings for the heroines of each month and would welcome suggestions.

*Will the Mead Maidens calendar beat the parish charity record of £31,000 raised in 1999 by Bantham Sailing Club? Or will the Bantham Babes set another record?*

*Who knows? After all, they have nothing to lose but their clothes!*

*Villager*

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## REPORT ON RECENT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

(Apart from the Parish Hall issue (see next page) nothing new has arisen since the report in the December-January issue of Village Voice. However, there are two items calling for an update:)

### 1. STARTER HOMES

Enquiries made by people interested in the development found the reply from the South Hams District Council was, to say the least, discouraging. *It is of the utmost importance that anyone interested in acquiring a Starter Home contacts the SHDC without delay*, thus ensuring that the need for such homes in Thurlestone is registered as a fact.

At present the feeling being relayed by Totnes is that the demand in Thurlestone is insufficient to warrant treating the development seriously! It is the general feeling that these homes, if built, will not be available for about three years so there is no

harm in anybody, who might be considering a home of their own in three years' or so time, applying now.

### 2. DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

By the time Village Voice goes into print, an advertisement should have been placed in the South Hams Gazette detailing the extent of the lining and the effect that such lining will have on those parking in Main Street.

*It cannot be emphasised enough that anyone with strong feelings on this subject should put their views in writing to the South Hams District Council.*

**Citizen**

# THURLESTONE PARISH HALL NEWS

by Rowland Cole, Chairman

## Background

Readers may recall that the December 1997 edition of Village Voice contained a questionnaire relating to the future of the Parish Hall. The Parish Hall Committee, faced with four identified options, asked parishioners for their views and the result of this 'referendum', which was announced at the Parish Hall AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1998 and reported in the June 1998 Village Voice, was that the Parish Hall **should remain on the present site and be refurbished**. A further complicating factor which arose was the possibility of purchasing land at the rear of the hall (which had originally been part of the Parish Hall site) but had been sold, with vehicular right of way over the car park, early in the 1980s.

*Nearly three years on from the 'referendum' parishioners can be forgiven for wondering what, if anything, has been going on and the purpose of this article is to answer that question.*

## Progress

After exceedingly lengthy negotiations - too involved to detail here - we have not been able to effect the re-purchase of the land, either in full or in part. Consequently, a limited right of way over the hall's car park remains. Because of this delay, it was not until about a year ago that our consultant surveyor, **Malcolm Northmore**, was able to start the ball rolling by producing an initial design to improve the hall. This would incorporate facilities required by our users - e.g. the bridge clubs, the WI, the bowls club etc., and also the Health & Safety Executive. Most importantly, we also have to satisfy the stipulations of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which come into effect in 2004.

Having submitted a planning application to the District Council, we were finally given approval in June 2000. Immediately we had planning approval we turned our attention to the subject of fund-raising and it was here that our best-laid plans started to be undermined. As had previously been reported, former District Councillor **Martyn Grose** agreed to be the committee's dedicated

fund-raiser. It will be understood, I am sure, that fund-raising from the Lottery and other grant-awarding bodies and trusts requires a concentrated and, most importantly, co-ordinated approach. We are very grateful to Martyn for taking on this task.

One of the first steps was to obtain an estimate of the likely cost of the works we had planned and, at current costs, this turned out to be a little over £130,000. Armed with this information, a meeting was arranged for 30<sup>th</sup> October 2000 at the Parish Hall, which was attended by the District Council's Support Services Manager, **Mrs Gill Gray**, and civil engineer **Brian Halsey**, together with **Martyn Grose** and **Malcolm Northmore** for the parish Hall Committee.

The outcome of this meeting was quite clearcut. We were told, unequivocally, that if we were spending the sort of money we had in mind - £130,000 - **it should be spent on a new hall**. It was further emphasised that grant-awarding bodies were most unlikely to look kindly on our plans because, at the end of the day, we would still be left with the original hall structure which, although reasonably sound, does not have a very long life expectancy. At the ensuing Parish Hall Committee meeting in December the above facts were discussed and it was agreed they were justified.

*It was decided to abandon the plans already prepared and start again with a plan for a new hall on the existing site.*

## The Future

The Parish Hall Committee now wish to ensure the approval and support of the parish for the proposal so it is planned to have a copy of the design for a new Parish Hall available at the Parish Hall's AGM on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2001**. The Committee very much hope that this meeting will be well attended by parishioners so that the need and design requirements for a new Parish Hall will be fully aired and discussed. Please come and make known any views you may have. Meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me on 561006.

Rowland Cole

# **Roger Hind**

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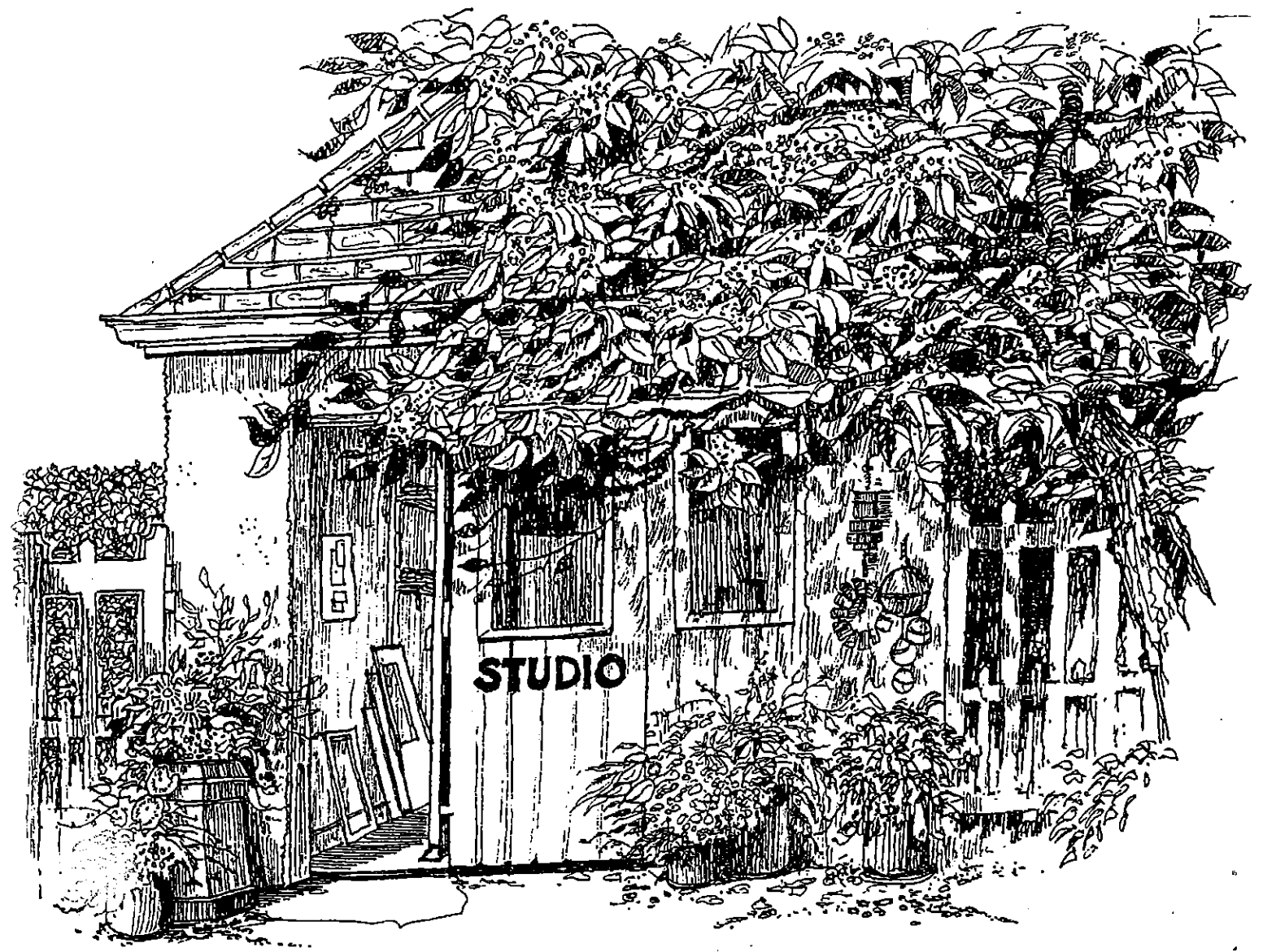
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# Village News Round-Up

## Pat the Puzzler

It is with sadness we have to report that our Puzzler-in-Chief, **Pat Machin**, has decided that this issue's puzzle will be the last from his pen as far as Village Voice is concerned. (Please see Postbag for his letter). He had a great following of fans - we know because if the occasional typographical error crept in the Editor would have a hard time of it! His contributions were much enjoyed and to keep the puzzlers happy we are looking for a contributor to replace him. [Is there someone out there amongst our readership who could come to our aid, please? Ed.]

## Booking the Parish Hall

**Joan Lane** has decided it is time to retire from looking after the Hall bookings, after performing the function for over ten years. This is a very important role and we must all thank her for selflessly devoting herself to this (at times) ticklish task. Have a happy retirement Joan, free of ringing telephones and would-be Hall bookers who sometimes seemed to think that you had a handy crystal ball and a facility for mind-reading! A presentation was made to Joan at the Parish Hall committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Pat Crawford** has very kindly agreed to take Joan's place as Hall Booker (see Directory at back). Please contact her on 560688 to confirm all bookings for 2001.

## Overgrown Hedges

At a recent Parish Council meeting concern was expressed at the number of hedges in Thurlestone village, and in West Buckland, which are becoming a positive nuisance to pedestrians - and sometimes traffic - because, particularly where they overhang a path, they

are being left overgrown and untrimmed by householders. The Parish Council therefore wishes, through Village Voice, to issue a reminder to parishioners that they have a *"legal duty to cut hedges which border footpaths or roadways at least once a year."* If the offending herbage becomes a nuisance and the householder does not take action, *"the County Council will attend to it and recover their costs from the householder."* Be warned!

The Parish Council suggest that should the householder find it a problem to do this trimming, it might be a solution to contact **Geoff Stidston** (560695) or **Vic Adams** (560247) whose flail hedge-trimmers could make short work of the problem for an appropriate consideration.

If you are concerned as to whether this refers to YOUR hedges please ring **John Lonsdale** (560742) who will tell you the whereabouts of problem areas.

## Bantham Boaters

Our special correspondent '**Sheldrake**' reports: "Readers of Village Voice can now benefit from astute and penetrative under-cover work which allows me to reveal the existence of a select group which on November 24<sup>th</sup> last - by personal invitation only - sat down to an exclusive supper-party at the Sloop Inn, Bantham.

Known to only a few, including myself, as the "Laying-up Supper", this gathering (which was restricted to full-time local residents who are berth or mooring holders at Bantham, and their guests) sat down to an excellent meal, complete with 'festive flavour' in the Wardroom at the Sloop, where they swapped yarns and stories of boatin', fishin' and sailin' on the Avon estuary and in Bigbury Bay.

No doubt this tradition - *which, would you believe, has been going for over five years before being leaked to Village Voice* - will occur again later this year, so if any readers feel they have been wrongly excluded from receiving an invitation, they should contact the Editor who will pass on their names to the appropriate body."

## Poppies

The Royal British Legion has written to **Derrick Yeoman** to thank him and the collectors in the Thurlestone area for their important contribution to the 2000 Poppy Appeal. A total of £462 was taken by **Mrs J. Yeoman, Mr I. Yeoman, Mrs N. Dent, Mrs E. Webb, Mr Holloway, the Thurlestone Hotel and the Thurlestone Golf Club**. This helped to make the

Kingsbridge total around £8600, and is the second highest collection after the 1999 record figure.

## School Schemes

The Friends of Thurlestone School are fundraising with a fresh idea at the start of 2001. They will get commission on **summer bulb** sales through a local catalogue. If you receive this catalogue do **buy something** for your garden and help the school's purchase of more IT equipment and other little extras. *Daily Telegraph* readers, please note that the school also would like the **Free Software for Schools** vouchers - published daily during February, and also in the *Sunday Telegraph*. **Save them**, and hand them in to the P.O., the W.I., the Churchwardens (either Thurlestone or South Milton).

# NEW KNEELERS HIGHLIGHT ALL SAINTS THOUSAND YEARS

Major events in the one-thousand year history of Thurlestone church are depicted on a colourful new set of kneelers which were put in place before the Altar at All Saints in January. **Penny McDonald** organised the project, and her team comprised **Anna Awdrey, Pam Brewster, Angela Ford, Joan Galloway, Gillian Marshall, Jo Parkin, Shirley Pope, Terry Woodrow, and Jean Yeoman**. All are members of the regular congregation and have been doing the needlework for more than a year, aiming to have the kneelers in place for use from the start of the third millennium. Ten of the thirteen kneelers, each one dated and based on pictures by local artist **Len Hubbard**, highlight events in the church's story. From left to right facing the altar they are:

**1068:** The thatched church, recorded in the Domesday Book after William the Conqueror had given "Torlestan" with its priest and church to Juhel, his great military commander.

**1230:** First stone-built church - long and narrow with a small tower. Rector called Henry.

**1327:** A murder inside the church. Who killed whom, and why, is not recorded. Villagers threatened with ex-communication when they refuse to pay for the service of purification. Then they pay and the church resumes normal service.

**1400:** New tower built on the base of the old one up to its present height.

**1509:** South porch added to the church. Documents say Henry VIII approved of it, but there is no evidence that he visited the church.

**1536:** Rector Richard Worth gives land for Church House to be built in the village, so that merrymaking and unseemly behaviour on fete days can be moved away from the church and churchyard.

**1800:** Smuggling is so rife in the village that the south porch roof is used as a regular hiding place for kegs of brandy.

**1842:** Reverend Peregrine Ilbert founds the first church school in the village.

**1941:** The church is used by Royal Marines for worship after the Thurlestone Hotel had been taken over for an officer cadet training unit.

**1999:** The church and village is shown as it appears at this time..

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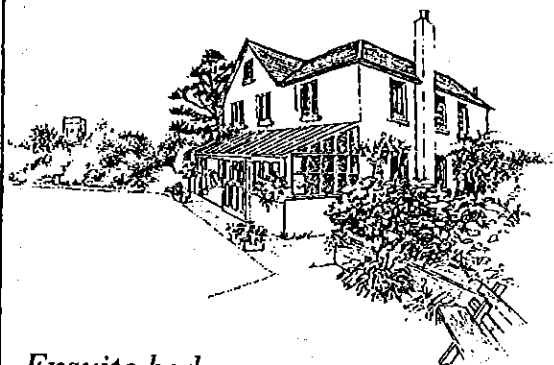
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# Pat Machin's

# Last Puzzle Corner

## WORD-SEARCH ONE

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

1. American State
2. Sign of the Zodiac
3. Muse of tragedy
4. A girl's name
5. An order of importance
6. Pickwick Papers character
7. A steep cliff
8. A volcanic island
9. A native Australian
10. A sea-bird
11. A dog
12. Item of furniture
13. A Devon town
14. An Italian artist
15. A colourless gas
16. A pain killer
17. A musical instrument
18. A Venetian boatman
19. A Spanish soup
20. A sharp rebuke
21. ??????

OTA	LGE	AND	IER	SID	HIE	STR
TYL	ICE	TTO	DRA	TAV	TIF	ORN
GRA	SND	TIN	ONE	RIG	NES	REP
EBO	HUA	MEL	PRE	CAN	AKE	OCK
OMB	RIC	IED	GAZ	CHY	GON	CHI
XAN	PAC	OPH	KIT	ENE	XYL	POM
SICO	IST	ABO	MIN	HUA	ALE	ACE
ALE	ENE	DER	ANA	CAP	CIP	OLI
DOL	ASS	RIM	RAR	ARD	HOS	INE

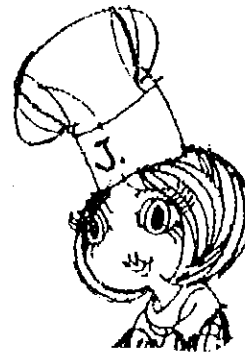
## WORD-SEARCH TWO

Find the places (listed on the right) in the grid below. Their names may be found written up, down, to the left, to the right, or even diagonally. Some letters will be used in more than one place-name. Once all the names have been found the remaining (unused) letters (reading left to right and down) will give a short personal message.

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

ASH, BOW, REW, COTT, FORD,  
 HOPE, SOAR, VENN, COMBE,  
 HATCH, HUISH, START, THORN,  
 UPTON, STRETE, SUTTON,  
 TOTNES, WORTHY, BANTHAM,  
 BRIXTON, HALWELL, MODBURY,  
 SLAPTON, BOLBERRY, FALLAPIT,  
 FROGMORE, SALCOMBE,  
 TORCROSS, DITTISHAM,  
 STAVERTON, YEALMPTON,  
 BLACKAWTON, LODDISWELL,  
 MALBOROUGH, THURLESTONE,  
 EAST ALLINGTON

# KATE'S KITCHEN



## **Cheeses from the Continent**

With the opening up of the European markets, we now have a much wider choice of cheeses and returning holiday-makers are also bringing home new recipes for using them. Our English cheese recipes, such as Macaroni Cheese and Pears with Stilton begin to look a little old-fashioned in the face of more glamorous dishes from all over the continent.

Below are recipes from Greece and France each using local cheeses, all of which are available on our supermarket shelves. Try to find Greek feta - the Danish copy is no substitute - but Swiss **gruyere** will be as good as **graviera**. As for the goats' cheese, a French "**chevre**" shaped in a roll will be the easiest to slice.

### **Electra's Cheese Pie**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 4 ounces of margarine                  | 4 beaten eggs                       |
| 5 fluid ounces of yoghurt              | 4 ounces of S.R. flour              |
| 1 chopped sauteed onion                | 1/2 teaspoonful bicarbonate of soda |
| 12 ounces of feta, crumbled            | oregano and thyme to taste          |
| 4 ounces of graviera ( Greek gruyere ) |                                     |

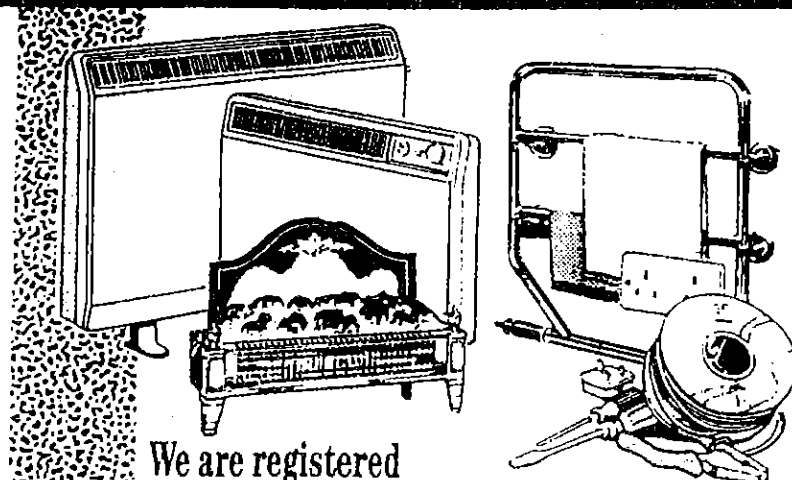
Mix everything together very thoroughly and pour the mixture into a shallow, greased baking tin. Bake for 45 minutes at 180° C ( 350° F, gas 4 ) until risen and golden brown.

### **Goat Cheese Tart**

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 cooked pastry case                  | 6 ounces of sliced goat cheese |
| 2 large, chopped cloves of garlic     | 4 ounces of single cream       |
| 8 ounces of sliced onions             | 4 ounces of milk               |
| 1 and a half tins of chopped tomatoes | 2 eggs                         |
| 1 teaspoonful of thyme                |                                |

Soften the onions in the oil. Add the garlic, tomatoes and thyme. Cook the mixture until it reduces and thickens. When cool, spread it over the pastry case. Lay the cheese on top, beat the eggs with the cream and milk and pour the custard carefully over the cheese. Cook the tart for 30 minutes at 220° C ( 450° F, Gas 7 ).

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# POSTBAG

Dear Editor

As I mentioned in our last phone chat, I shall be resigning from my post as official puzzler with this issue of Village Voice. I have done it for fifteen years and have enjoyed it but feel it's now time to halt. I'm sure you will be able to find someone to fill the gap.

We've fitted in nicely here and everything is so convenient. Rosemary plays skittles once a month and has joined the Townswomen's Guild. I've found a Bridge Club and joined Probus. We have also joined a Theatre Club.

Give my love and regards to all fellow-puzzlers and keep up the good work!

Pat Machin  
27 Mason's Ryde  
Persnore  
Worcs. WR10 1JG

P.S. I shall still look forward to my free copy of Village Voice!

Dear Editor

## NSPCC

The members of the NSPCC committee would like to thank all the residents of Thurlestone who contributed to and participated in their various fund-raising events which brought in £4,000 for the Millennium year.

Our next NSPCC event will be an Old Time Music evening on St. Patrick's Day, the 17<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. We hope you will join us there.

Pat Crawford  
Hon. Secretary  
NSPCC

Dear Editor

## MUGS

On behalf of All Saints' School, Thurlestone, I should like to record our thanks to those responsible for presenting the Millennium Mugs to the children of the parish - and especially to those attending school. It was an excellent idea and the mugs are beautiful.

Alun Williams  
Headmaster  
All Saints School

P.S. The mince pies were superb!

## **Parish Council Meetings**

All Parish Council Meetings during 2001 will take place on **Mondays at 7.30pm** in Thurlestone Parish Hall. Here are the dates:

18<sup>th</sup> January  
12<sup>th</sup> February  
19<sup>th</sup> March  
23<sup>rd</sup> April (Annual Parish Meeting)  
14<sup>th</sup> May (Annual Council Meeting)  
25<sup>th</sup> June  
23<sup>rd</sup> July  
10<sup>th</sup> September  
8<sup>th</sup> October  
12<sup>th</sup> November  
10<sup>th</sup> December

# PRESIDENTIAL CONNECTIONS

*A very strange set of co-incidences link together two of America's most famous presidents, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, across an interval of exactly one hundred years.*

Did you know that:

1. Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846  
John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946
2. Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860  
John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960
3. The names of Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters  
Both were particularly concerned with civil rights
4. Both wives lost children while living in the White House
5. Both Presidents were shot on a Friday
6. Both Presidents were shot in the head
7. Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy  
Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln
8. Both were assassinated by Southerners, both were succeeded by Southerners,  
both their successors were named Johnson
9. Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln was born in 1808  
Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908
10. Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, was born in 1839  
Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was born in 1939
11. Both assassins were known by their three names, and both their names  
comprised fifteen letters
12. Lincoln was shot in a theatre named Kennedy  
Kennedy was shot in a car called a Lincoln
13. Booth ran from a theatre and was caught in a warehouse  
Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theatre
14. Booth and Oswald were both assassinated before their trials could take place

**[Thanks to Dennis Luke who sent us the above. He received it from a friend who, knowing that he been on an exchange to the States with the US Air Force, suggested it would make a change from "US Presidential Electionitis" which was then current! Ed.]**

  
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# WHY HARRY HUGGINS WENT OFF THE RAILS

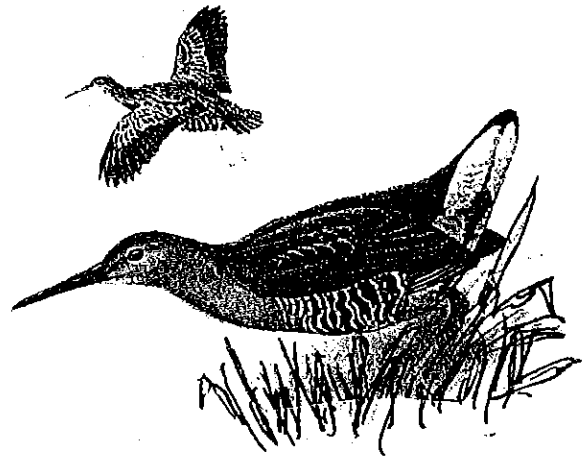
This column has told before of its visit once a month to the Erme estuary to count the wildfowl, wading birds and gulls. Compared to what people do on other estuaries our contribution is minimal, but it fills in a gap and we enjoy doing it. We pity the folks who totter round muddy and windswept sea walls doing places like the Tamar and the Exe estuaries. We have trees to shelter behind, it takes only a couple of hours, and then we can beetle off for fish and chips.

Just occasionally a rarity adds spice to our researches. Last October there were two **Water Rails**, at different ponds. That really pleased us.

Each year the people who organise the **Wetland Bird Survey**, which our doings are part of, send us a fancy book. This lists all the birds which have been counted in previous years, with numbers and places. Sometimes we think it is **too** fancy, but it is our only recompense, apart from enjoyment, for what we do, and we accept it gratefully.

The latest one, for 1998-9 (most of the birds appear only in winter) shows that in that year just over five hundred Water Rails were counted. Not many for all the estuaries and wet places in Great Britain and Ireland, but of course these counts are done on only one day each month and for all we know the Erme might teem with Water Rails on the days we are not there. Might, but we can be fairly sure it doesn't.

A Water Rail is rather like a tiny chicken - same family - with long legs and long neck and bill. About the size of a Blackbird, but the extremities make it look bigger. That is, until it turns end on. Then it is so thin you can hardly see it. Its life is spent in tall vegetation, reeds and rushes mostly. Being



so narrow it can just slip through. That is the sort of place where they breed. There are no tracks to and from the nest, and people seldom find one.

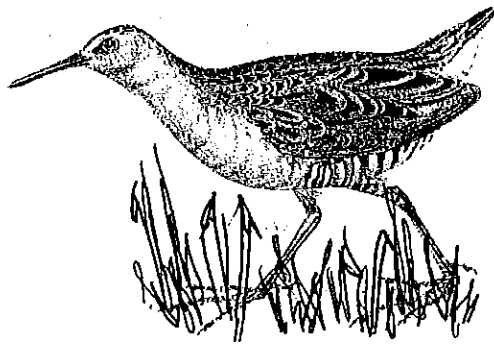
No one has any real idea of how many there are. The **Breeding Atlas** of 1976 thought there could not be more than about four thousand pairs. In the last year covered by the fancy book, people recorded on count days maxima of sixty-one at Rye Harbour and adjacent wetlands, forty-two at Chew Valley Lake, and thirty-eight on the Somerset levels.

Normally one almost never sees one. They just skulk in the herbage. So how did these counters know they were there? For that matter, how did we find our two? Easy! You *hear* them. Water Rails are highly vocal. The old books describe the noises they make as "sharming". To you and me it sounds exactly like a pig being killed and is just as loud. I know we don't often hear a pig being killed. But you can guess what it sounds like.

If you go to Slapton Ley, walk round Ireland Bay, follow the board walk and take the path to Deer Bridge (I imagine impassable, with

all this winter's wet, except in thigh boots), you will hear about three calling between the sewerage works and the road at Deer Bridge.

The Devon Bird Report for 1998 (1999 has not appeared yet) thought there was a maximum of about fifty birds in the county. In the breeding season the people who haunt Slapton Ley counted eight calling adults and saw two lots of chicks, so at least two pairs must have bred and probably several more did. So it is reasonable to guess that a bird which it is so difficult to locate might be commoner than the four thousand pairs the Atlas talked about.



Folks reckon they eat just about anything - fish, beetles, dragon fly larvae, snails - you name it, they will eat it if small enough, and at times will even tuck into things much bigger. When we went to Eilat, in Israel, some years back the people who were netting birds at the ringing station were trying hard to trap Water Rails. The catching of the birds was part of a long-term study of migration to try to find out whence birds came and whither they went. Little birds, mostly. The catchers cut a narrow corridor in tamarisk bushes. Down this they stretched a long net, about eight feet high. Birds crossing the corridor flew into the net and were caught there until released.

It started at dawn (around 6.00 am when we were there) and was all over in an hour-and-a-half, at which point we, who had been watching proceedings, retreated to our hotel for breakfast. They were happy for us to watch, especially if we crossed their palms with silver - buying nets and rings is rather expensive. Having fished the first batch of

birds out of they net, they took them to their shed to measure and weigh and put rings on their legs. Then they let them go. All that didn't take long, and meanwhile another lot of little birds would be getting themselves into the net. Which is where the Water Rails came in - eating the birds in the net - and hence the attempts to trap them.

Water Rail is only one sort of rail. There are lots. Moorhens are rails, and are much more common. We see them swimming about on "Lake Stidston" in the Thurlestone Valley. In fact, they reared young there in 2000 - we saw them.

**When I was an early teenager I resolved to exterminate the species.** For this reason. For several years we holidayed at Barton Turf, on the Norfolk Broads, so that my father could collect moths and butterflies. He never went anywhere on holiday except to collect moths and butterflies. The rivers and broads were surrounded by miles of rough marshland where we gathered caterpillars of the beautiful Swallowtail butterflies. He then took them home and hatched out the adult insects for his collection.

He also collected caterpillars of the Reed Wainscot moth. That is the English name. It was never ever referred to as such. No proper entomologist ever used an English name. The Reed Wainscot moth was always *cannae*, the scientific name being *Nonagria cannae*. All scientific names are two words (three if there is a sub-species involved). The first word is the generic name (surname if you like), and **always** has a capital letter. The second is the specific name (Christian name as it were), and **never** has a capital letter. Entomologists only ever used the specific name when talking about a moth, so what he wanted to collect was *cannae*.

The lady laid her eggs low down in the stems of reed mace - the flower heads are those brown sausage-shaped things which most of us call **bulrushes**. There the caterpillar bored its way into the middle of the stem. It

chewed away through its dinner and eventually turned into a pupa at about water level, having thoughtfully made an exit hole covered with just a very thin layer of reed. The adult moth would eventually emerge through this.

My father armed himself with a few old knives - lean and hungry knives we always called them. They had once graced the dining table, and were the sort that were polished with emery powder on a lino-covered board. Thus they were very sharp, unlike the new-fangled stainless knives which replaced them. We used them when my mother cooked something which we couldn't cut with the new knives.

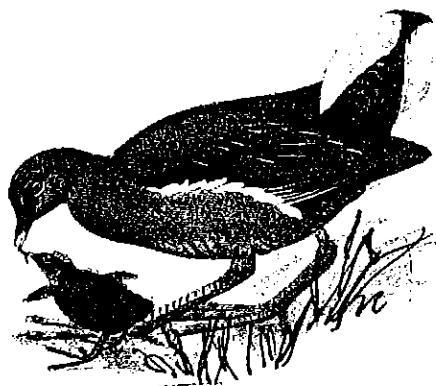
We rowed about in the heavy old rowing boat we hired until he found what he thought was a suitable patch of reeds. The boat was driven into the reeds as far as it would go. He then laid on his stomach in the bows with his head and arms outboard while my mother and I cringed in the stern. His object was to find the little window - a dark patch about a quarter of an inch across - which the larva had made for the adult moth to come out of. He cut the reed stem off about six inches *above* the window, and then hacked it off about six inches *below*. As the window was at water level this meant plunging about with his hands under water. The part containing the insect was taken home, and in due course the adult moth would emerge to receive undying glory in his collection. Eventually they all went to South Kensington Museum, where I assume they still are.

As he toiled the profane language started to flow - and my mother held her hands over my ears. His shirt sleeve came unrolled and fell into the water. He dropped a knife, and - far, far worse - when he found a window (and there weren't many) a Moorhen had found it first, and had used its pickaxe beak to dig through the reed stem. A few nice fat juicy caterpillars went a long way to satisfying a Moorhen's hunger. Needless to say the bird was much more expert at finding caterpillars

than he was and had much more time to do so. So for every insect he found, the Moorhen had found ten. **Hence my juvenile resolve to do away with them.**

He rented some rough shooting in Essex near where we lived - you got a lot for £10 in the 1930s. I used to go along with my little pop gun (for the technically-minded a single barrelled smooth bore .303 shotgun which fired a fraction of an ounce of dust shot). If Moorhens were to be exterminated I might as well begin there. There were usually one or two around the farm pond.

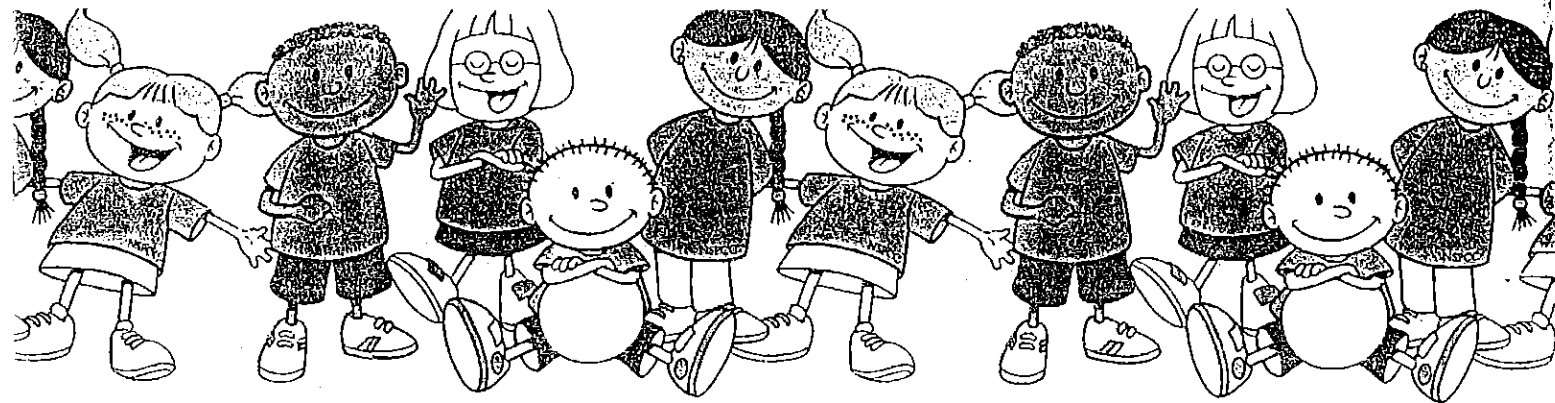
The slaughter began. Of course, I ate them. I was properly taught. Whilst one shot things for sport, you ate what you shot and didn't shoot anything you couldn't eat, except for Crows and Magpies. I plucked the Moorhens. Under their ordinary feathers they have a covering of very fine black down which caused me all sorts of problems to pull out. I think I resorted to singeing in the end. Then my mother cooked them and I ate them. They were plump and quite good eating.



After I had disposed of about two, it was pointed out to me that honour must now be considered satisfied and that in any case anything I did with the Moorhens of South Essex would have no impact on those in Norfolk nor on the future of *cannae* caterpillars. So I stopped shooting Moorhens.

*I wonder whether any cannae still exist on the Norfolk Broads, or whether pollution has now wiped them out?*

**Harry Huggins**



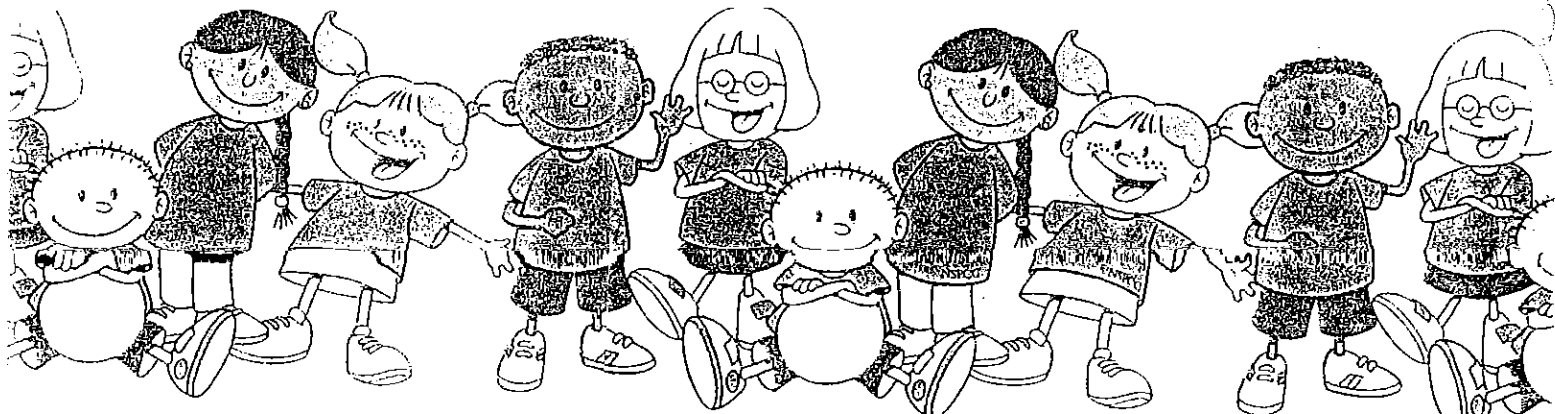
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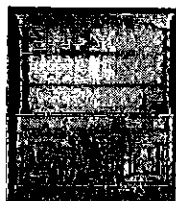
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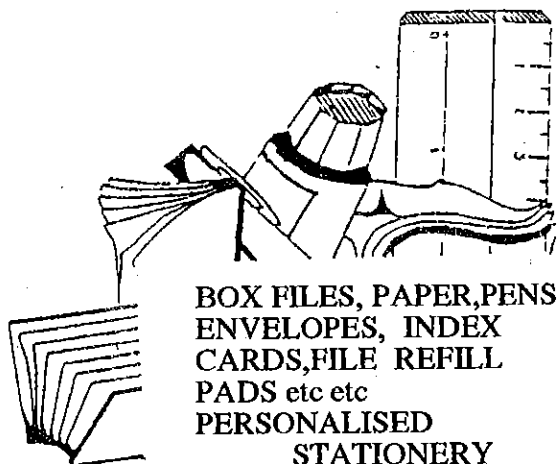
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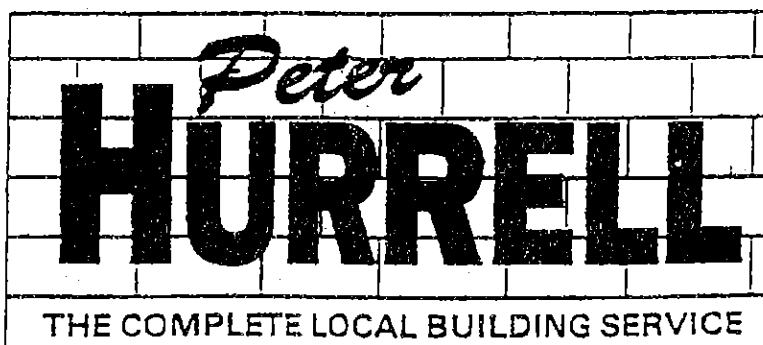


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# 50 YEARS AGO

## HOLIDAY WORK AT BROADS FARM

*Peter Stanier recalls the time, during the 1950s, when he worked in the holidays at Broads Farm dairy, on the site of what is now the new Village Shop and Post Office.*

I was very interested to read in Village Voice **Tim Pearce's** account of Thurlestone in 1925, and the mention of **Jack Broad**, as I worked for Jack for a very short time in the late 1950s, covering for **Michael Robbins** and **Raymond Jeffery** while they took their summer holiday.

My duties entailed arriving at the farm about 6.00 am, when milking was about to begin, to start in the dairy. The cows were normally milked by **Fred Watts** and the milk was brought straight to the dairy, tipped into a tank at the top of the cooler (which looked like a giant washboard with cold water running through it) and from there into a tank at the bottom.

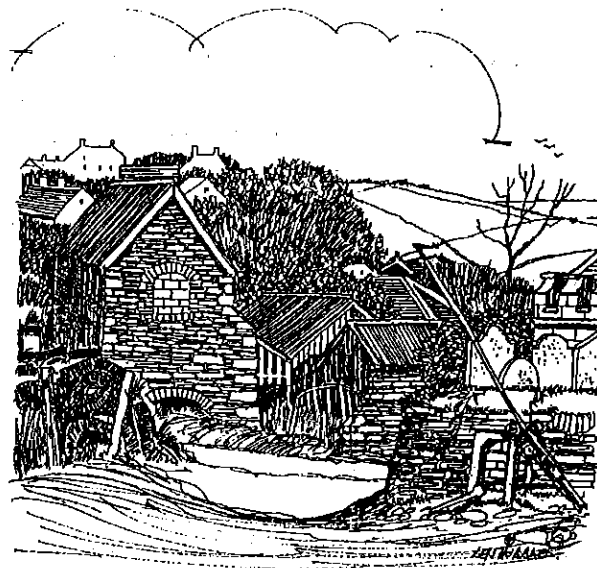
I would take the bung out of the trough and fill each bottle individually, stick a top on it and then put it in a metal milk-bottle crate ready for delivery. In those days there were no different-coloured tops or sending all the milk to Totnes to be pasteurised. Nobody suffered any ill-effects. The **Grose** family also had a herd of Jersey cows which were milked over on the other side of the yard by **Roger Jackman** and **John Batchelor**, and their milk was tipped into the same cooler.

The milk was delivered in two vehicles - an Austin van (which doubled up for delivering coal(!) and an Austin A55 car. **Jack Broad** would take the van and deliver milk in the Cross Parks area, while we would take the car with the milk crates in the boot. Our first port of call was the old Leaside where **Vivian Marshall**, having made his own tea, would leave the teapot on the Aga, so we could help ourselves to a quick cuppa! We then delivered milk to all the houses in Ilbert Road, which was then a dead end and only

went as far as Upper Goosewell.

I was surprised at how much knowledge of his customers the regular milkman had, as I would be told that a certain house had people staying so I had better take an extra pint. When we came to our house, Lower Goosewell, I was told to take two pints. I grabbed a quart bottle only to be told that they didn't fit into our fridge and to take two pint bottles instead.

My second cup of tea came at Grey Gables, now Leaside, where **Geoff and Janet Stocks** were then living. The middle road (or Prowse Road as we used to call it) didn't stretch very far in those days and Eddystone Road didn't exist. We then went back to the dairy to replenish stocks and deliver to the rest of the village. **Mrs McCarthy** delivered papers from her van at the same time we were doing the milk round - there used to be a lot of backchat! After the round was completed it was time for breakfast. I would go home in one of the farm vehicles, either the A55 car or a Fordson Major tractor, seldom the van.



After breakfast came the other jobs, mostly delivering coal or coke to local houses. I used to pull **Jack Broad's** leg, saying he obviously bought the coke when it was dry and bagged it up when it was wet so it weighed more. I don't think he appreciated my sense of humour.

I did my first delivery of coal to **June and Jimmy Meakin's** house (I think it was Shincliffe in Prowse Road) when they first moved to the village. They were later very surprised to see their coalman drinking in the Golf Club on Sunday morning. Of course it wouldn't be so surprising today. I believe the steward and stewardess are referred to by their Christian names, something my father would never have allowed when he was President of the Golf Club.

Another of my farming jobs was to take a tractor and trailer-load of stone to **Harry Moore** who was rebuilding a wall by the old 12<sup>th</sup> hole, now the 13<sup>th</sup> hole. We also had to take tractor and trailer over to Shute Farm in South Milton, which **Jack Broad** also owned, and take sugar-beet to Kingsbridge Station where two open wagons had been left for us in the bay platform, next to the branch line engine shed which normally housed a 4500 2-6-2 tank engine.

At that time the road between Thurlestone and South Milton had a two-ton weight limit where it went between the Links Hotel and the Cliffs. This meant we had to go via Kerse, and it used to scare me coming back down the very steep hill with the only brakes being on the back wheels of the tractor. We always seemed to end up at the bottom in one piece and we seldom met anything.

My reason for putting pen to paper was to try and put the names of families mentioned in **Tim Pierce's** article to their respective houses. **Miss Newton's** is now our house, Lower Goosewell, and **Mallens** is the house next door on the other side of the path to Yarmer. **Dudleys** is Links Cottage (my maternal grandfather who had the cottage

built). He was a great friend of **Sir Toby Pidditch** who had first built Yellow Sands. At that time they were able to choose their sites.

My parents used the cottage for their summer holidays, before the Second World War, and my father was referred to as "**Honor Dudley's** husband" .... which upset him a bit. **Riseleys** is Greenways near the top of Ilbert Road. **Matthews** is Seacombe, now divided into three separate homes.

Talking of **Lady Matthews**, I happened to phone home once, and must have dialled the wrong number. Thinking that I was talking to someone in our house whose voice I did not recognise I said "*Who the bloody hell is that?*" Back came the answer "*I am Lady Matthews. Who are you?*" I apologised and rang off, not disclosing who I was.

**Edens** is still the same today, now divided into two. **Yeos** is probably the first house in Ilbert Road, Dormers - but it could have been The Old Rectory because they lived there as well. **Prowses** were the two houses on the left at the beginning of the middle road. **Sally Prowse** used to take us back there [Thurle House] - Prowse House as it was known - after the dances at the Links and Thurlestone Hotels. I don't know who owned the other houses. Perhaps someone else can provide that information.

Incidentally, the field between Ilbert Road and the eighteenth fairway was called "Goosewell", hence the names Upper and Lower Goosewell.

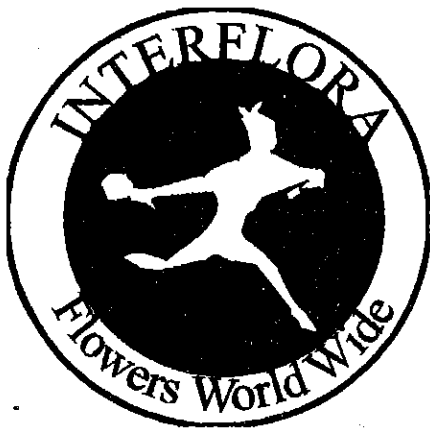
*[As recently as the late 1970s or early 1980s Gordon Bromfield's old farm milk-bottling plant was called into action once more when the roads into the parish were "snowed up". Milk with green tops again made an appearance on our doorsteps due to Peter Bromfield's endeavours on the icy roads. We were all most grateful, the milk was delicious, and as far as I know there were no ill-effects! Ed.]*

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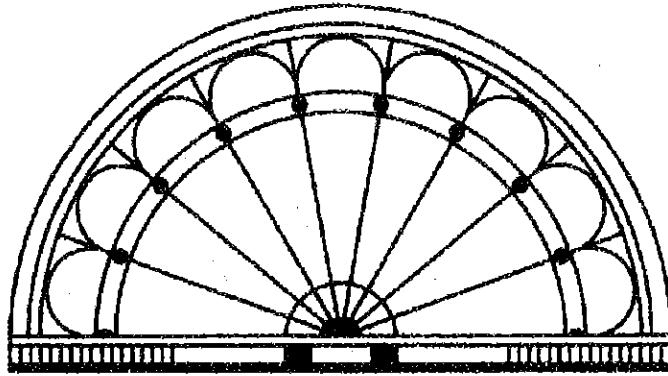
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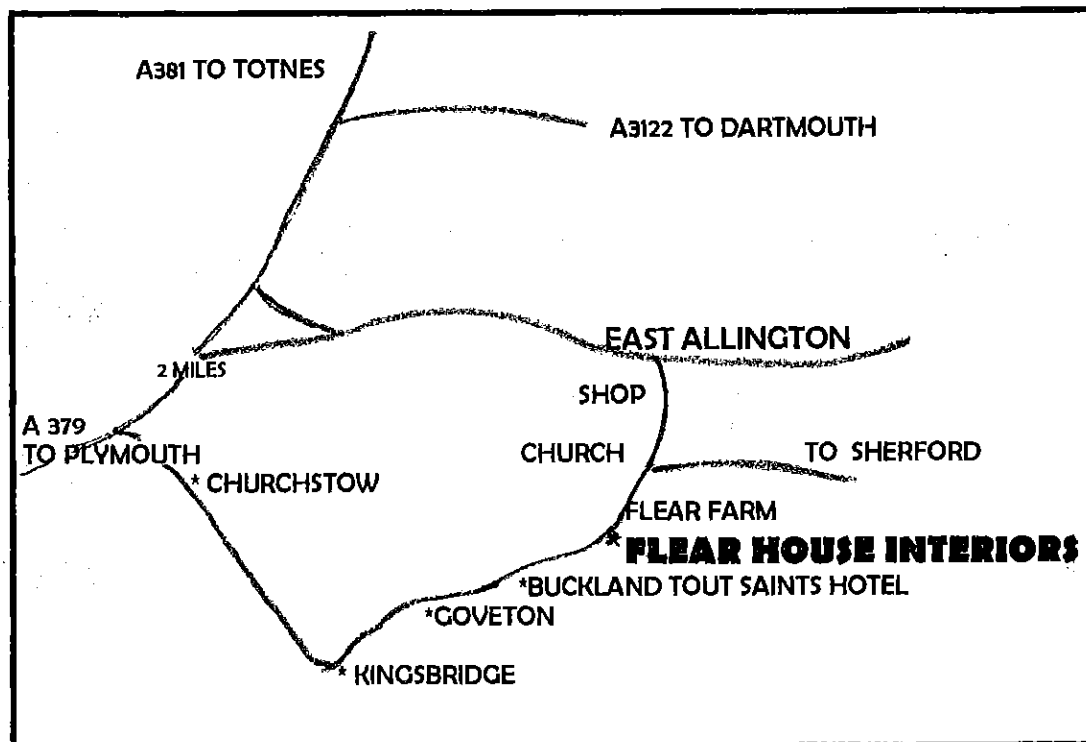
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# 100 YEARS AGO

## A YOUNG MAN GOES TO THE BOER WAR

*Francis Jenkins was born in 1877, the son of H.L. Jenkins of Clanacombe. Educated at Harrow and Sandhurst, when he wrote the following letter he was a young Coldstream Guards officer, aged 23, en route for South Africa to fight in the Boer War. He was Anne Jenkins' father, and she is kindly allowing Village Voice to publish extracts from his letters home. Here is the first, written on board RMS Majestic and dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 1900:*

"My dear Father

We are only just into the Bay but still I'd better begin to write while I can, though of course this cannot be posted till we get to St Vincent.

Well I hope you got my wire from Southampton. I hadn't a moment to write and not even time to wait for my change when I wired.

The Embarkation was shockingly badly managed, however we got 'em all aboard and we are off all right now, passed Ushant an hour or two ago.

They stuck me for officer of the watch from 12 to 4 am this morning and going round the troop decks and visiting the sentries every hour. There was really no motion at all until about 3 this morning but when I went round at 4 every sentry was lying back catting and the NCOs on duty were all too bad to get round and have them relieved so there was nothing to be done. I turned out the next Officer at 4 and turned in myself till 8 then got a bath and breakfast - "they give very good fare on these steamers".

I have been round the Coldstream messes with the Captain of the ship. I don't think there could be a worse sight or smell but although we are doing a nice little roll now I have not begun to turn colour yet. I got drenched to the skin trying to cut along the weather side of the deck just now and had to go down and change. I found Dick Dawson catting in the cabin like a good 'un.

This is a most palatial ship. Dick and I have got a large four-berth cabin amidships. There is another officer with us for the present, a Horse Gunner and a very good

chap, but he is going to shift out and leave us to ourselves.

Of the other fellows on board, I haven't seen much, there are swarms of Militia officers and a lot of civilian doctors from the Yeomanry. I have not bothered about inoculations yet, as if Dick is going to be bad I must be well. I am rather proud of myself as it is - I will continue this later, it's four days to St Vincent I believe, so there will be lots of time to write

Friday 16th February

We are supposed to reach St V. on Sunday morning. I am just going to have some sewage squirted into me so I may be laid up till then so will wind up this now.

We had a knocking about in the Bay for six hours or so and had to steam slowly against it, losing some time, but now it is simply splendid, sunny and jolly, everything has shaken down and goes like clockwork. The Captain told me that my troop decks were far and away the best kept and cleanest in the ship.

Nothing interesting has happened and there's not much to do except bask in the sun, which is jolly.

My love to Mother and yourself

Your affectionate son

Francis Jenkins

P.S. Got through inoculation alright, quite well in 36 hours, was the only fellow who kept a normal temperature, showing I suppose that the typhoid microbe has not much of a liking for me."

# IN YOUR GARDEN

*The early-flowering and long-awaited snowdrops appeared above the ground at the beginning of December and by Christmas were bursting into flower.* Despite the frosts we have had since then they are still flawlessly white and cheering to the eye. What a good start to 2001!

The best way to increase your stocks of these delightful little flowers is to divide the clumps soon after they have stopped flowering - but still carrying their green leaves. If you haven't got any, this is the time to beg a spadeful from a friend. Split them up and *plant them right away.* After several years of planting dry snowdrop bulbs to no avail, I eventually discovered that planting 'in the green' is a much more reliable way of establishing them in the garden!

If you have been enjoying pots of 'prepared' hyacinths in the house, don't discard them when the flowering is over. Cut off the old flower stems, retaining the leaves, and plant the bulbs in the garden. They should give you some flowers outdoors the following year.

Keen to have early sowings of vegetables? Try covering up the beds with polythene, or cloches, to start warming up the soil in advance. First-early potato seeds can be bought now and 'chitted'. I find old egg cartons useful for this - just stand the potatoes on end in the cartons and place in a cool light place to sprout. Turn the cartons every few days to ensure even growth.

Pampas grass (not my favourite plant I hasten to add, but a lot of people in the parish seem to love them!) can at this time of year look very battered, especially if the flower stems have been knocked and bent by the wind. If these stems are cut down and the plant tidied up a bit things look so much better. If I were forced to have a garden containing a

pampas grass - they're almost impossible to get rid of - I would not let it flower. They make quite an interesting-looking grassy feature without the 'feather dusters' atop.

Don't go too hard with stringent 'tidying up' until the spring, as beneficial insects such as ladybirds and lacewings over-winter in the sanctuary of dense plants. Roses should not be pruned too soon - early March is time enough. If pruned before this there is a danger that the new growths the pruning produces could get frost-bitten.

The birds are appreciating their dietary supplements judging by the rate at which the nuts and seeds are disappearing from feeders! I discovered at Kingsbridge Farmers Market recently a local firm called Soar Mill Seeds, which specialises in guaranteed atofloxin-free peanuts and an excellent wild bird feed called 'Winter Stubbles'.

They are based at the National Trust's South Down Farm at Marlborough - 01548-560947. The bird food is a mixture of 'kibbled' wheat plus oil and high carbohydrate weed seeds grown naturally amongst the normal sorts of farm harvests at South Down. Free of pesticides these weeds include traditional sources of energy for birds - such things as fat hen, poppy, shepherd's purse and speedwell. It contains no imported grain or seed. Help to support the Devon farming landscape and the wildlife that lives in it!

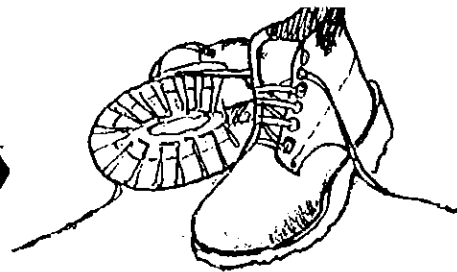
*With these first signs of approaching spring the right balance has to be struck between enthusiasm for early planting-out and pruning and the prospect of frosts yet to come.*

*Err on the side of caution - there's plenty of time to catch up!*

**Ladybird**



# TRAMP



**1** The decision, for various reasons, to postpone by a week the November tramp proved to be a happy one, since 17 of us (plus one dog) gathered at Wonwell beach; moreover it didn't rain, apart from one very brief shower after lunch, although it was a grey day and windy out on the cliffs. First we walked through the woods along by the Erme estuary and then up to the cliff path which is more than merely undulating. The first steep downward slope was muddy and therefore slippery, but to compensate the path up the other side had been provided with rustic-looking steps by a kind National Trust.

We did not turn inland until we had reached the track to Ringmore. Here at the Journey's End we had ordered our soup but it took a prodigious time in coming: "real" (almost) home-made tomato and basil soup, it was delicious and worth waiting for.

It was soon after lunch that the short shower of rain caught us, inevitably at the top of an unsheltered field. By the time we had gone down the next field it had stopped. It was muddy at the bottom and one of our leaders fell victim and made a good job of it. Otherwise the rest of the walk passed without mishap, over fields, mainly, to Kingston and then back to Wonwell but not, boringly, along the road all the way; fields are far more interesting - and muddier. Finally we came down through the woods to where our cars were neatly parked.

**2** Teeming rain, a wild wind, thunder and lightning greeted the dawn of the day of the decadent "Christmas" tramp but *despite* this (and a shameful number of defections) eight eager walkers set off from the Parish Hall for the agreed meeting place on Slapton sands. The sun came out as we parked the cars and we wished we had a camera to record the fact. After the track alongside the Ley to Torcross our route was almost entirely on lanes, on account of the decidedly damp weather for the past few weeks, going first in the general direction of

Stokenham. Nevertheless, there were lovely views back over the Ley.

However, so that it would not be too easy, and to present some sort of a challenge, we took the muddy track down to the village instead of the road. If it was mud we were seeking we need not have bothered because at the end of the track the lane had been efficiently dug up by workmen laying telephone cables and was a mass of gooeey red mud, much better than any track could provide. Anyway it helped to make our point: we were now muddy enough to satisfy most people.

Beyond Stokenham there were a couple of fields to cross and then it was straight down the road to Deer Bridge, where the normally tranquil stream had become a rushing torrent. There we paused for our traditional December aperitif and the eight of us made quite a considerable hole in a bottle of sherry and mince pies originally intended for 24. A motorist wanting to cross the bridge was a trifle disconcerted by the sight of us revellers merrily blocking her way.

The pathway leading towards the Ley showing clear signs of being under water, we decided, despite our cheerful state, to walk straight up to Slapton by way of the road. At our lunch-time destination, the Tower Inn, convincingly mud-bespattered we met the other 15 (one never found the Tower), looking incongruously clean and neatly dressed for the previously booked turkey lunch. This was artistically presented, copious and delicious.

The hardy and undaunted eight spoke enthusiastically (and tediously) about the delights of their walk, the lovely views, the bracing breeze, and the total lack of rain, whilst the others tried unsuccessfully to defend their own defection.

Conveniently it rained a little during lunch but this had more or less stopped by the time we set off down the road back to the cars, all very satisfied with how it had all worked out.

**Pam Brewster**

# TRAMP

## Programme of Walks and Directory for 2001

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WALK AREA</u>	<u>LEADER(S)</u>
10 January	Hembury Woods/Dart/Holne	Bob Nicholls
14 February	Lee Mill/Lutton (Mountain Inn)	Tony & Sheila Ward
14 March	Loddiswell/Chantry	Pam Brewster
11 April	Cadover Bridge	Ron Parkin
25 April	Lydford Gorge	Derek Yeoman
9 May	Dartington River Valley	Richard & Heather Swan
3 May	Mary Tavy	Mary Chudleigh
13 June	Dartmoor - Burrator	Pam Brewster
27 June	Malborough	Trisha Wilson
11 July	East Prawle	Tony & Sheila Ward
25 July	Aveton Gifford/Ringmore	Trisha Wilson
8 August	Noss Mayo	John & Christine Wilson
22 August	Stepping Stones	Ron Parkin
12 September	Slapton/Pittaford/Strete	Bob Nicholls
26 September	Haytor	Richard & Heather Swan
10 October	Coleton Fishacre	Derek Yeoman
24 October	South Moors	Roy Travis
14 November	Bigbury (Royal Oak)	John & Christine Wilson
12 December	Cornworthy (Hunters Arms)	Tony & Sheila Ward

### Walk Leaders

Pam Brewster  
 Mary Chudleigh  
 Bob Nicholls  
 Ron Parkin  
 Richard & Heather Swan  
 Roy Travis  
 Tony & Sheila Ward  
 John & Christine Wilson  
 Trisha Wilson  
 Derek Yeoman

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 April - October ---- Second and Fourth Wednesday  
 Notice to be taken to Village Shop/P.O. by the leader one week before each walk  
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 First Aid kit to be carried on all walks

2001 Walks Co-ordinator : Tony Ward

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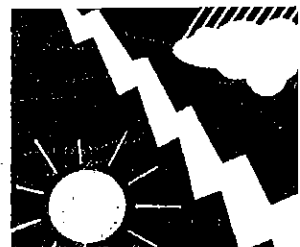
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# Weather Wag

By Jan Turner



*I can't believe that the year 2000 has come and gone already.*

Come down to earth WW and be real, as the modern saying goes. Looking out of the window today 9th January, I'd rather not, thank you. Just how contrary can the wretched weather be? Not content to obscure the eclipse of the sun, now it aims to do the same with the moon. Still maybe there will be a little break in the cloud to allow a brief glimpse of the spectacle.

It is interesting that the colour is going to be so bright a red. If there had been a large scale volcanic eruption and there was lots of dust in the high atmosphere the moon would have looked bluer, but as there is none at the moment it will look bright red. Just the normal pollution to enhance the colour. Well the clouds did their best, I did see a few glimpses of the red moon but sadly it was mostly obscured for most of the time.

I hope that the Editor will be able to adjust the figures for the Year's statistics and fit them into the page. [See overleaf. Ed.] If anyone would like a copy of them please let me know (560354) and I'll do the honours. Amazingly, last year was not the wettest that I have seen. 1994 was even worse with 1107.46mm, then Jan, Feb, May, Sept and Dec all had over 100mm each. We haven't had a wetter May or Sept since then. The amount of sunshine has generally decreased too, well it would, wouldn't it with so much cloud cover to give the rain.

Thankfully there has been little snowfall since 1996, when the February half term holiday was a joy for all the young at heart. I have said before that I have a secret liking for snow, it is so beautiful, so powerful, so paralysing and so fascinating to record. I have to keep an eye on the rain gauge to note when it is full, well the top of the funnel. Out into the tempest I go, jug and spoon in hand to scoop the snow out of the funnel and into a jug. There it is allowed to melt with an airtight cover to prevent evaporation and later measured in the gauge when the snow has stopped or when the next recording time has come. It pays

to have two gauges at such a time. One foot of snow equals one inch of rain (30mm of snow equals 2.5mm of rain).

It is good to see that the winds are still in their normal quarter for this country (ie., Westerly instead of Easterly). See how dry 1996 was with the 57% easterly winds, and how much lower the annual average temperature was. Overall I favour the westerlies even if they are wetter. The flooding has been horrific though hasn't it? We have a son living in Burkina Faso in Africa (sub Sahara) and he E-mailed us to know if we were OK as he'd noted on the WWW News that Harbertonford was flooded. We hadn't heard about it at that time. Small world, isn't it?!!

How about the temperature then? Well, it is still on the up overall though not as hot as 1997, but the world as a whole is getting warmer. The British Isles generally is warming up, but there are such variations which is the joy of our climate. Have you been watching the series on television about Longitude. I haven't seen them all but isn't it a fascinating programme. We have so much to thank these innovative and enquiring minds of the past, to say nothing of their fearless explorations of the unknown. In years to come someone will write in the Village Voice about the fearless scientists and brave astronauts who plumbed the depths of space. Much has been learned about our world weather patterns from the scientists watching the earth below them as they whirled through space.

For the future of the winter, well I still think that we will have a cold snap with some snow at some time before spring. I also think that the incidence of periods of snow are going to become fewer as we move through this period of global warming, and the frequency of flooding will increase. Perhaps now the planners will take notice of the natural way of water and NOT build on the flood plains any more. *The ancient Egyptians didn't build near the Nile, did they?*

Happy New Year Weather Watching!

# YEARLY COMPARISON OF WEATHER STATISTICS

		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>RAINFALL mm</b>							
Total		858.87	679	783.89	758.25	820.56	1027.64
Wettest Month		Jan. 137	Nov. 109	Aug. 144	Oct. 96.27	Dec. 129.7	Oct. 185.8
Highest Daily Rainfall		Sept. 11/12 38.12	May. 18/19 29.63	June 2/3 28.73	Sept. 4/5 22.85	Dec. 18th 29.22	Dec. 7/8 31.8
Driest Month		June 10.6	June 9.12	April 20.68	Feb. 8.43	July 15.23	Mar. 35.11
<b>WIND</b>							
Westerly		168 Days=46.01%	127 Days=34.79%	152 Days=41.64%	189 Days=51.78%	211 Days 57.8%	235 = 65.27%
Easterly		173 Days=47.39%	209 Days=57.26%	177 Days=48.5%	150 Days=41.91%	126 Days 34.52%	108 = 30%
Northerly		12 Days = 3.28%	6 Days = 1.64%	8 Days =2.19%	6 Days = 1.6%	6 Days 1.6%	2 = .5%
Southerly		11 Days = 3. %	3 Days = 0.82%	27 Days=7.4%	19 Days= 5.2%	20 Days 5.2%	17 = 4.6%
Highest Gust mph.		Jan. 22nd 80	Oct. 29th 84	Dec. 25th 78	Jan. 6th 88	Dec. 25th 85	Nov. 26th. 95
<b>TEMPERATURE C.</b>							
Hottest Month		Aug. 20.07	July 17.46	Aug. 18.6	July 16.7	July 18.4	July 19.53
Highest Daily Average		Aug. 3rd 25.6	July 29th 20.05	Aug. 23/24th 21.5	Jun.&Jul.20th 21.0	July 12th 22.6	June 17th. 21.3
Highest Maximum		Aug. 1st 32	July 20th 26.8	July 9th 28.1	May 17th 26.8	July 27th 29.2	June 17th. 28
Lowest Daily Average		Dec. 6th 0.5	Jan. 27th -1.3	Jan. 4th. -1.7	Dec. 21st 2.2	Jan. 11th -0.1	Dec. 31st 1.9
Lowest Minimum		Dec. 26th -3.8	Jan. 27th -3.5	Jan. 4th -4.4	Dec. 21st -2.2	Dec. 20th -3.4	Dec. 29th. -3.1
Average for the Year		13.06	10.11	14.02	11.9	12.35	12.25
<b>HOURS OF SUNSHINE</b>		N/A	1573	1937	1662.36	1668.32	1378.83

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# SWEET GEORGIA

by Alun Williams

## *Part 1 - Man of Steel encased in marble*

**The little republic of Georgia, roughly the size of Scotland, imposes itself totally on those who visit it.** To the traveller from England, the experience is overwhelming, the contrast especially stark; for the imposition is at every level. Gone is the *via media* of the west. Here everything is in excess and is robust: drinking, hospitality, affection, smoking, poverty, the landscape and the nation's evolution. Beside this we, in our modern incarnation, must seem prissy, nanny-ish, and addicted to every new idea (preferably backed up by statute) that will make us safe, cosseted, dull and easily accessed by counsellors.

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August I visited the Stalin Museum in Gori, Georgia. I was travelling with friends: an Englishman, a woman who teaches at Moscow State University, and a Georgian colonel. We were the only visitors and were easily outnumbered by the concierge, guides, cleaners and postcard sales ladies. We heard that at one time martial strains had infused the air, making it seem like a military temple. But on this day all was silent and echoing. The Red Army and its officers had departed and Stalin was among ghosts.

The town of Gori (population 69,000) boasts the one and only museum in memory of its most famous son, Joseph Stalin - a man of excess and imposition if ever there was one. To the children playing in the fountains nearby, Stalin is as remote as are Ivan the Terrible or the False Dmitri. Yet his heavy presence seems to subject the town to perpetual sobriety as if a malignant and menacing shroud of invisibility hung above the

people, threatening to suffocate their hopes and stifle their laughter.

Our small party were the only visitors at this fearful mausoleum. There our guide - a little elegant lady, greying and obedient - painstakingly interpreted the events as revealed to us in photographs, charts, models and written records. She spoke to us only in Georgian and her remarks were addressed to our friend, the colonel. He translated them into Russian and Nadia, our learned doctor and teacher from MSU, gave us the English.

First there was Stalin the wide-eyed and passionate revolutionary. There is a famous photograph showing him with wild careless hair and wispy beard; he is Byronic (he actually wrote poetry), the visionary young leader who had sprung loose from the shackles of the Orthodox priesthood for which he was training at a seminary in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi. He had traded religious fantasy for crude, materialistic realism. Christian mysticism had yielded to political idealism and social emancipation: these were swiftly and seamlessly downgraded to political intrigue and social manipulation and repression.

Then we were presented with Stalin the chairman of the Politburo and later the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party; he who had transformed medieval and superstitious Russia into the modern industrialised Soviet Union. His country was to be an ocean of ferment, the waves of which would ripple round the world inspiring revolution and universal fraternity.

In a third room we were presented with, the *Vozhd*, with Stalin the Great Leader - the greatest of all the leaders during World War Two, whose red heel had bruised the Nazi serpent's head. He had saved Russia and her neighbours and, by the sheer scale of suffering that his people were forced to endure and by the magnificence and effectiveness of his Red Army, had redeemed Britain and France as well.

This all seemed to lead quite naturally to the final accolade: Stalin the world statesman. Here he occupied centre stage and in the historic camera-calls at Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam, was the Generalissimus, appearing to be flattered by a dying, cigarette-smoking Roosevelt, and an object of inscrutability to a complacent yet wary Churchill. And in this congenial and spurious habitat Stalin is indeed tsar, flanked not only by Beria and Molotov but also by Eden and then Bevin; he was supreme among Truman and Attlee, they having survived the now dead Roosevelt and usurped the defeated Churchill. The self-appointed leader of the anti-Nazi alliance sat as if shrouded in godly vestments in an air of distant and tyrannical holiness.

The entire presentation was a hallowed deception; a quiet, sanctified and sinister manipulation of understanding and experience. When we asked about Trotsky (of whom not a shred of evidence was visible) we were told, politely but uncompromisingly "*Out of respect for Stalin's memory, he [Trotsky] is not mentioned here*". Nor are the purges mentioned: the systematic elimination of Stalin's opponents, the twenty-five million who starved to death in the Ukraine, the Siberian Gulag, the naked unscrupulousness of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, the genocide of the Kulaks and all the undocumented, cynical and unspeakable crimes that fill the blood-soaked pages of his long period of

tyranny. They are not even hinted at in this grandiloquent *curriculum vitae*.

The cries of those who suffered are silent, their lachrymal eyes dreamy and remote within the sanctity of this temple of perversion. There is no hint of irony, no pretence at objectivity; every artefact, every subdued step, each hallowed cornice and fragment of stained glass conspires to bestow on its subject a contemplative and reverent oration. Of Stalin's dissident daughter, Svetlana, we were told "*She now lives in America*". Until recently she did not merit a mention.

It may be considered a dangerous outrage that such a place is permitted to propagate such mendacity. Should a museum commemorating Hitler's life and times be built at Braunau, it would almost certainly become a shrine, a magnet for fierce pilgrimage where neo-Nazi bone-heads could gather to bolster their own ignorant and miserable fabrications. Yet at Gori there is no such propagation.

The museum - striking, Italianate, painstaking - celebrates the elevation of the host from the cobbler's cottage nearby. It remains, nevertheless, a polite, unacknowledged fiction. The people of Gori may forget or dismiss his crimes; they may even praise his strength and resolution, preferring to view his achievements in the dim light of nostalgia rather than in the full blaze of critical scrutiny. In reality, however, he is neither worshipped nor loathed. To the world, he is a demon; within the holy hush of the museum he is simply a fact.

*The most significant event in the town's history is his birth in 1879. That is all.*

**[The second part of Alun Williams's story of his visit to Georgia "Life on the Balcony" will appear in April-May]**

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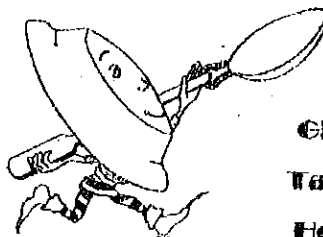
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# NEWS FROM THE WI

## January Meeting

A very happy January meeting with 45 members present was new President **Pam Brewster's** welcome to office, and it was a particular pleasure to have **Harry Huggins** as the guest speaker on birds of the Algarve. **Jo Parkin** thanked him for a much enjoyed talk and slides.

## Programme

Some of the extra events in addition to monthly meetings were briefly discussed. There would be a Skittles & Supper evening at the California Inn on 30<sup>th</sup> January - ring **Pam Brewster** for information.

Lists for various events would be on the Information Table in February, including the pub lunch outing at the end of February and a walk through West Alvington woods at bluebell time, probably late April, with supper to follow at the Ring o' Bells.

One date already firmly booked would be a coach outing to the Eden Project on June 21<sup>st</sup> - ask **Mary Tregelles** for details. **Chris Riley** from Slapton Ley will be the March speaker when a date for an evening walk round the Ley would be arranged.

## Elsie Brewster Cup

The competition for the cup this year would be held at the March meeting, when everyone would be asked to make either a small fancy decorated cake or a larger decorated cake from which a slice could be cut and judged, for appearance only, as the cakes would later be consumed with a cup of tea!

## Stitchers

The sewing group would recommence their

Monday sessions at **Val Brown's** home starting 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 11 am. Members who had not participated before were urged to drop in any time during the day to see what was going on, with or without any handiwork.

The Home Economics Area's two workshops on "*Know Your Sewing Machine*" were already fully booked and several members would attend the Fabric Decoupage day at Strete on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

The annual lunch would be held at the Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove, on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the menu would be available in February.

## Resolutions

**Pat Clarke** had attended the discussion on a short list of Resolutions submitted to the National Federation, and would tell us, also at the February meeting, about the ones which local WIs had chosen. Fair trading, water conservation, cannabis, prostate cancer, health of school children, abuse of the elderly, second homes, and small abattoirs were the subjects.

## Kingsbridge Show

Agreed that we should try and support the Show again this year, which is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September, by entering the Collective competition.

## February Meeting

The meeting would be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, when the speaker would be **Elena Bell** on the the Play Scheme for children in Romanian orphanages. Even if you are not a member, but would care to hear this speaker, you would be most welcome to attend.

---

# BOOKSHELF

---

## **Bread & Chocolate**

by Philippa Gregory  
(Harper Collins £9.99)

Many of you will already know this author as an accomplished story-teller from her outstanding historical novels, but this time she has revealed her expertise in short story-writing. This is a wonderful varied selection of intriguing tales which are the product of a most fertile imagination and cover a wide range of human emotions. Not to be missed.

## **Morgan's Rum**

by Colleen McCullough  
(Century £17.99)

I have always had a high regard for this author's work, and the list of books she has written is remarkable. She is perhaps best known as the author of *Thorn Birds*, but her series about Rome is captivating, particularly *The Song of Troy*.

In *Morgan's Rum* she returns to Australia for the story, and it is the account of a decent, God-fearing Bristol man, wrongly convicted in 1785 and ultimately despatched as a convict to Botany Bay.

Her dedicated research enables her to depict accurately the horrors and privations the convicts of both sexes suffered on the long journey, which covered 17,300 miles and lasted 251 days, and the terrible existence they endured once they had arrived.

I did not realise that Botany Bay was an almost barren area, unpopulated apart from a few natives, and the convicts, guards and sailors had to exist on what food and supplies they brought with them - until they could grow their own food. Some of them were moved to Norfolk Island, 1,000 miles away,

and had a somewhat better existence as it was fertile. It's an amazing story.

It is interesting to note that Colleen McCullough now lives on Norfolk Island, and her husband is a direct descendant of both Richard Morgan, the convict, and Fletcher Christian the '*Bounty*' mutineer.

This book is available to order from Kingsbridge Library.

## **That Summer**

by Andrew Greig  
(Faber & Faber, £9.99)

A wonderful novel about the Battle of Britain, all the more so because the author could not have experienced it himself. If you are looking for nostalgia, there are bucketsful in this book!

The narrators are the pilot of a Hurricane and his girl-friend, who is a plotter in the Ops Room. It is very tenderly and imaginatively written, yet so realistic it seems to be autobiographical. The style is reminiscent of H.E. Bates. Unputdownable!

G.W.

## **Longitude**

by Dava Sobel  
(Fourth Estate £5.99)

The "longitude problem" was the thorniest dilemma of the eighteenth century. Lacking the ability to measure longitude accurately, sailors were often lost at sea. Forward John Harrison, Yorkshire clockmaker, who for forty years battled to perfect a seagoing timepiece and claim the £20,000 reward. Now a television drama starring Michael Gambon and Jeremy Irons.

P.M.

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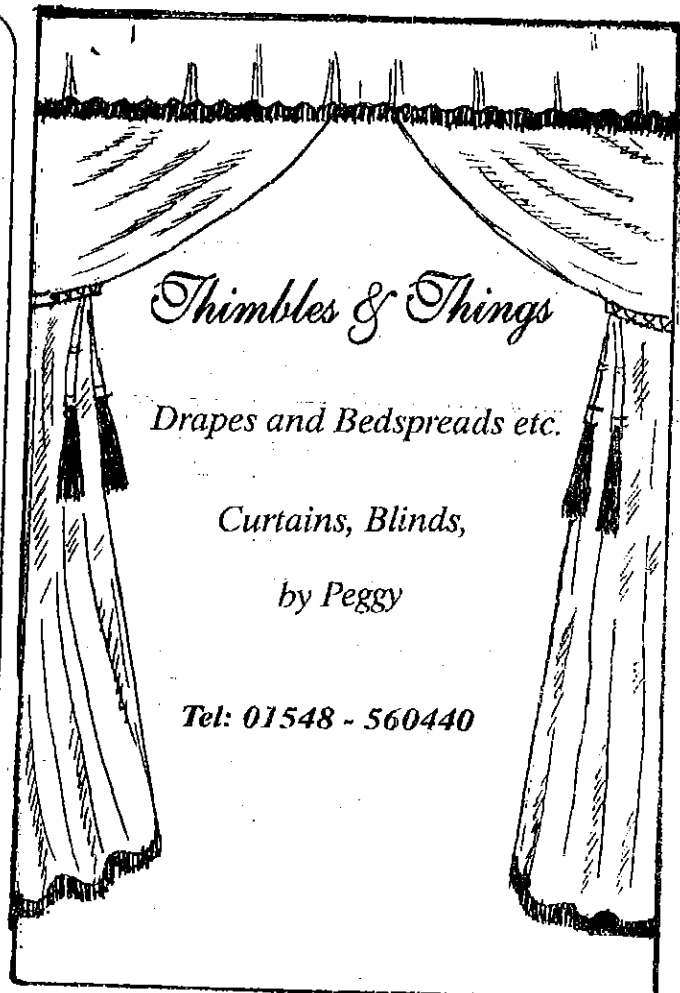
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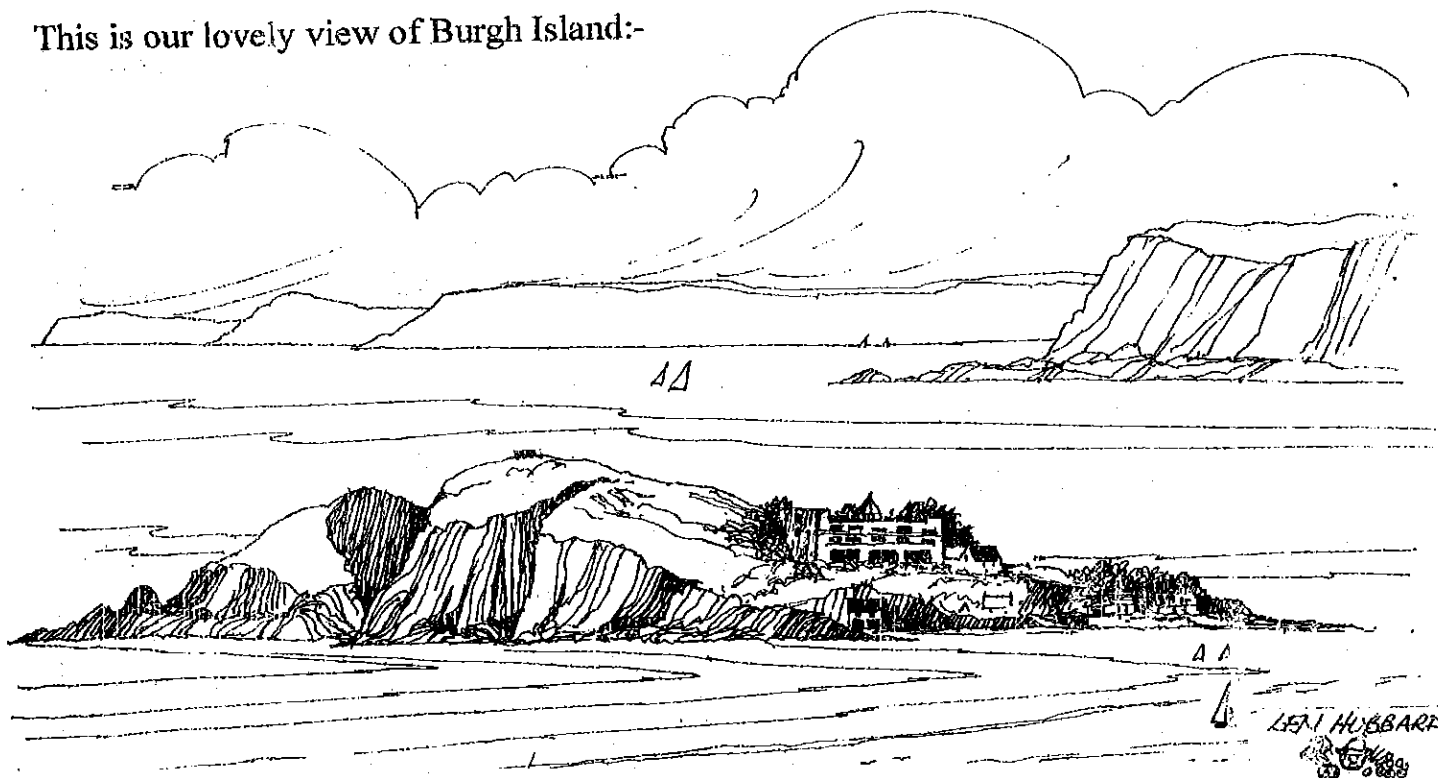
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# HORSWELL DIARY

We've tried it in every position; in the bedroom, the bathroom, even in the kitchen. We've tried holding our breath and balancing on one toe but STILL the scales point accusingly at an alarming increase in our body weight. Mince pies and Christmas pudding may have played their part, but the growing heap of empty bottles seemed directly proportional to the increase in our girth. So suddenly, with our long-awaited holiday looming, it was time to shake off hibernal sloth and tackle our seasonal *avoir du poids*.

Eating lean, healthy food is not difficult. Indeed it provides a welcome respite from Christmas indulgence, but having suffered an excess of water over the last months through both deluge and flood, to have to consume the wretched stuff as well seems particularly unfair. Especially as a bottle of wine is relatively easy to consume and, dare I say it, even pleasurable, whilst the daily two litres (minimum) of mineral water prescribed for a healthy diet presents an almost insurmountable challenge. It is, quite simply, too wet!

We had rather hoped that my husband's furtive night-time visits to the bottle bank might have gone unnoticed. After all, a rosy-cheeked fellow with a false beard and a sack slung over his shoulder should hardly attract undue attention during the Christmas season. But, alas, we can only assume that our sinful forays have been exposed; for not one, but three, different religious groups have visited us in the last week offering to show us the folly of our ways and the path to salvation.

I had imagined that missionaries would be far too busy hacking their way through some Amazonian jungle to think of coming to Horswell. Busy persuading devout tree-worshippers to become reluctant Christians. Or paddling up the Congo hell-bent on proving that the white man's medicine is superior to that of the local witch-doctor. I suppose with all the water rushing down our driveway recently they could be forgiven for thinking they'd stumbled on

some lost tributary of the Orinoco - but I am not certain they have signs saying 'Strictly Private' in the rainforest. Our sinful habits, it would appear, are not a private matter but up for grabs, with Seventh Day Adventists, Born Again Christians and Jehovah's Witnesses battling for our souls.

Their leaflets spoke of damnation and redemption, preaching hope for the world to come and ringside seats for the followers of their particular church. A bit like a party-political manifesto - '*Send your subscription and join us. We look after our own*'. That is not for me. What I want to hear is that He will continue to exert the considerable forbearance and protection He has shown me in the past, and that the road to salvation is via Heathrow Airport and a holiday in Kenyan sunshine. After which the daffodils and camellias will be in full bloom, the tedium of gales and grey skies will be a distant memory and life in all its complexity will once again be a source of wonder and delight.

Nevertheless, I admire their determination to battle through wind and rain to bring enlightenment to two sinners, three dogs and a transvestite peahen. Looking tired and oppressed by the burden of their mission they were unlikely to persuade me to join them. Whereas if a loose-limbed, bronze-skinned, re-born Aztec limboed into my life and tried to sell me the benefits of sun worship, he just might get a convert!

***Prunella Dart***

P.S. I think our resident rodent must have been late for a wedding. When we encountered him he was hurrying through the kitchen, resplendent in his morning-suit grey. From a distance it was hard to tell if he was Italian or not, but the Mafia would have been proud of the speed and efficiency of his furry assassin. Bertie now styles himself 'Bertie the Rat'.

We are hoping to be spared reprisals from the rest of the Mob.

# ***FOSTERING COULD YOU MEET THE CHALLENGE?***

Every year children of all ages in your local area need to spend some time away from their birth families. In many cases such children are looked after by foster carers.

Fostering means looking after someone else's child in your home. The child may need help in coming to terms with separation from their family, or with other problems or difficulties. Foster carers need patience, understanding, and a sense of humour!

In the South Hams area, we have a core group of foster carers who mainly provide care for children needing longer term placements. We always need families such as these. To balance this group, we are also looking for carers who could undertake shorter pieces of work, helping children to return to their birth families. We also need placements for older children who are working towards living independently.

We know of several children locally who would also benefit from a 'shared care' arrangement - spending some time at home with a member of their birth family, and some time with a foster carer. For carers this can be a particularly rewarding task, as they make a longer-term commitment to the child working in partnership with the birth family.

All kinds of people become foster carers. There are no special qualifications required, apart from physical space in your home, time in your lifestyle, and an enjoyment of being with children. Each foster carer has been through a process of training, preparation and assessment before they accept a child into their home. Police checks are routinely taken up. Prospective carers are also asked to provide references from people who know them well, either as an individual, a couple or a family.

*"You need someone who can provide you with stability, who respects the fact that you already have a mum and dad. You need someone who you can talk to. The need to support you in the way your own family would - but accept there is a difference between parents and foster carers." (Nicole)*

## **COULD YOU DO IT?**

For more information about fostering, please contact Glynis Webber on 01803 - 869300

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

#### **WORDSEARCH ONE**

- |               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. MINNESOTA  | 2. CAPRICORN  | 3. MELPOMENE  | 4. ALEXANDRA  |
| 5. HIERARCHY  | 6. SNODGRASS  | 7. PRECIPICE  | 8. STROMBOLI  |
| 9. ABORIGINE  | 10. KITTIWAKE | 11. CHIHUAHUA | 12. SIDEBORD  |
| 13. TAVISTOCK | 14. CANALETTO | 15. ACETYLENE | 16. ANALGESIC |
| 17. XYLOPHONE | 18. GONDOLIER | 19. GAZPACHOS | 20. REPRIMAND |
| 21. GRATIFIED |               |               |               |

#### **WORDSEARCH TWO**

**MESSAGE = FAREWELL AND GOOD CHEER**

# All Saints



**Priest in Charge: Revd. Andrew Girling 562219**

**Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090**

## **ANDREW GIRLING WRITES: I'M NOT A NUMBER, I'M ANDREW**

Information technology they call it, but that is very different from communication. Is it possible to know anything about anyone these days without a computer? Everything we need to know is at the press of a button: our bank balance, our holiday booking, our health records, even this article. Words are fed in, they are processed and printed out or flashed on the screen. It's magic. But is it communication?

We received letters from several old friends at Christmas. They were full of family news and chit-chat. How good to keep up the friendship, I thought. Then I realised that one or two of them were not only reproduced on a word processor but so was the address. Had our friends actually thought of us at all? Is friendship reduced to being on a list to be run off at the press of a button? What is happening to the personal bond, the thought, the love?

I recently joined a music club. 'No correspondence can be entered into without your membership number' the brochure insists. 'Please write your account number on the back of your cheque' urges every account we have to pay. Horror of horrors, on my driving licence, half my name is omitted to make room for those confounded computer digits.

Do I exist without my numbers? My NI number, my account number, my PIN? At our bank we have personal bankers. They come out from behind the glass screens and sit at desks where we can see them. This really looks hopeful. My spirit rises when I see another person smiling at me. Here at last is a face, a human being I can talk to. But what is his first question? 'What is your account number?' Am I not Andrew Girling anymore? Just 80934587?

Who am I? A number on a machine. Information about every aspect of my life fed into computers all over the country. These machines know all about me: but none of them knows me, the real me.

By complete contrast Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me. The sheep hear my voice and I call them all BY NAME'

In an increasingly technical and impersonal society, God, at least, knows us and loves us for who we really are.

*Andrew Girling*



# All Saints Diary

## Church Services

### Sundays

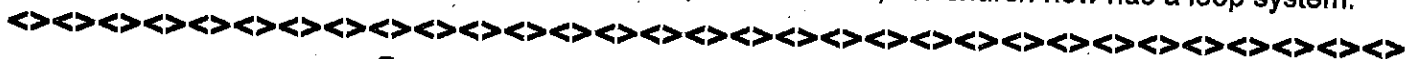
<b>FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Book of Common Prayer)
	<b>10.30 a.m.</b> Family Christingle Service at South Milton (See below) Collection in aid of <i>Children's Hospice South West</i>
	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> No service at Thurlestone
<b>FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b> Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
	<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship)
<b>FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Matins (Book of Common Prayer)
	<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Book of Common Prayer)
<b>FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Family Communion (Common Worship)
	<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship)
<b>MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)
	<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Book of Common Prayer)
<b>MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Family Service
	<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship)
<b>MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Matins (Book of Common Prayer)
	<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Book of Common Prayer)
<b>MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Family Communion (Common Worship)
	<b>8.00 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship)
	<b>11.10 a.m.</b> Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)

### Weekdays

<b>EVERY THURSDAY</b>	<b>8.30 a.m.</b> Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship)
<b>FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b> Ash Wednesday Joint Parishes Eucharist (CW)

You would be welcome at any of these services.

Please note that thanks to Rosemary & Roy's sponsored walk, the church now has a loop system.

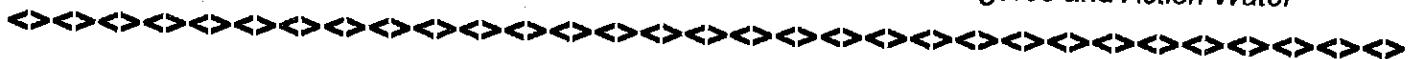


### Somemade Soup & a Ploughman's

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> & MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**NOON ~ 1.30 P.M. PARISH HALL**

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### Coffee-Time

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**THURLESTONE PARISH HALL**

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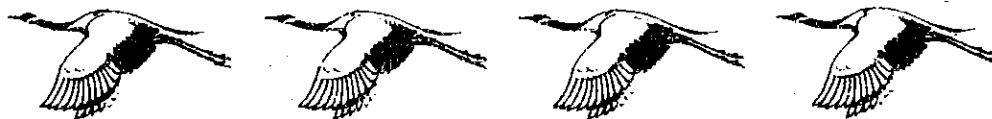
### Christingle Service

**SOUTH MILTON CHURCH**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**10.30 A.M.**

If you haven't been to a Christingle Service before, then make sure you are there this time! If you have, you will know that you don't want to miss it! The Christingle means Christ-Light and is rich in symbol, the orange, cocktail sticks, fruits & sweets, red ribbon and candle all representing something different. It presents a wonderful message as well as a beautiful visual experience. The children will have a special part to play and the collection during the service, as last year, will be in aid of *Children's Hospice South West*.



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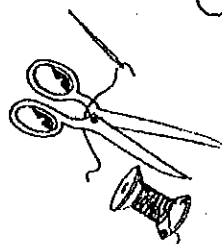
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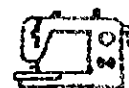
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# DIARY DATES

## FEBRUARY

Thur 8<sup>th</sup> WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Elena Ball - Romanian Orphans)  
 Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm  
 Wed 14<sup>th</sup> TRAMP - Lee Mill / Luton (Mountain Inn)

## MARCH

Thur 8<sup>th</sup> WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Chris Riley - Slapton Ley)  
 Mon 12<sup>th</sup> The **PARISH HALL AGM**, 7.30 pm  
 Wed 14<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Loddiswell / Chantry  
 Sat 17<sup>th</sup> NSPCC Musical Evening, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm  
 Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm

## APRIL

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Cadover Bridge  
 Thur 12<sup>th</sup> WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (South Hams Spinners)  
 Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm  
 Wed 25<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Lydford Gorge

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

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# VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

## PARISH DIRECTORY &

## DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

Village Voice is delivered in Thurlestone by Bill and June van der Welle and Vicki Dent and a team of volunteer helpers. It is delivered by Mrs Jean Hurrell in Bantham and Buckland.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th MARCH 2001**

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

# PARISH

<b>BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB</b>	Clubhouse	560447
<b>BOWLS CLUB (indoor)</b> Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	Contact Eileen Dayment	560295
<b>BRIDGE CLUBS</b> 7 pm Parish Hall Wednesdays Fridays	Contact Mary Fulford-Smith Contact Dorothy Stone	842467 560708
<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b>	Graham Worrall Liz Webb	562016 560090
<b>COFFEE TIME</b> (Parish Hall) Mondays, 10.30 - 11.30	Contact Liz Webb	560090
<b>FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH</b>	Contact Kit Marshall	560214
<b>THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB</b> <b>TENNIS SECTION</b>	Secretary/Manager, John Scott Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560405 560157
<b>KEEP FIT</b> Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30 Parish Hall	Contact Brenda Murch	560487
<b>HORTICULTURAL SHOW</b> (annual)	Contact John Lonsdale	560742
<b>PROBUS</b>	Contact Ron Parkin	561215
<b>TRAMP</b> (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Tony Ward	560544
<b>W. L.</b> Second Thursday monthly (ex August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall.	Contact Jo Parkin	561215
<b>RECTOR</b>	Canon Andrew Girling	562219
<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>		
Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Vice - Chairman	Veronica White	560236
Parish Clerk	John Lonsdale	560742
District Councillor	Carolyn Steen	965 683
County Councillor	Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	David Grose	560375
	Charles Mitchelmore	560602
	Geoffrey Stidston	560695
	Derrick Yeoman	560607
	Kit Marshall	560214
	(Tree Warden)	

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

# DIRECTORY

<b>HEALTH CENTRES</b>	Kingsbridge Salcombe	853551 842284
<b>MILK DELIVERY</b>	R. Bruckner & Son	01803- 832801
<b>VILLAGE SHOP</b> Thurlestone Village Shop	M. T. Th. F. Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday,	8.00 am - 5.30 pm 8.00 am - 3.30 pm 8.00 am - 2.00 pm 8.30 am - 1.00 pm
<b>PARISH HALL</b> Chairman Bookings	Rowland Cole Pat Crawford	561006 560688
<b>POST OFFICE</b>	Thurlestone P.O.	561917
Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri Postal collections 10.30 am and 4.25 pm Monday - Friday 10.30 am Saturday, 11 am Sunday	9.00 am - 5.30pm Wed, Sat, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm	
<b>POLICE</b> Emergency Force Enquiry Centre	999 0990-700-400	Central Switchboard Confidential information 0990-777-444 0800-555-111
<b>RUBBISH COLLECTION</b>		
Thursday (But Friday in Bank Holiday - Monday weeks) Green (recyclable) bins alternate Thursdays from 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2001		
<b>BUSES</b>		
Devon Bus enquiry line provides information on all Devon bus services - Monday to Friday South Hams & West Devon	01392 - 382800 01752 - 402060	0830 am to 5.00 pm
Timetables are available FREE from the Kingsbridge TTC		
<b>GARAGE</b> (Blight Engineering)	Maurice Blight	560220
<b>LIBRARY</b> (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays) Kingsbridge		852315
	11.10 - 11.30am Bantham 11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel 12.20 - 12.35pm Thurlestone Church	11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall 12.40 - 12.50pm Thurlestone Sands
<b>MOBILE FISH &amp; CHIP VAN</b>		
Calls alternate Wednesdays, from 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2001, outside All Saints Primary school.		





# THURLESTONE VILLAGE INN



**ENJOY** freshly prepared traditional  
hot and cold fare  
  
Superb Real Ales  
  
In comfortable stylish surroundings

**CARVERY** delicious Roast Meals  
  
Saturday Evenings & Sunday Lunchtimes

**SPECIALITY** food nights every month

**HOT DISHES** changing daily.....Scallops Thermidor....  
Chilli con Carne....Sirloin Steaks....

Freshly cut sandwiches

Delicious Selection of Salads

**FAMILIES  
WELCOME**

Mon - Sat 11.30 - 3.00  
6 - 11.00  
Sun 12 - 3.00  
7 - 10.30

**Tel: 01 548 563525**

# THE SLOOP INN

## BANTHAM

EGON  
RONAY  
PUB GUIDE

Tel. Kingsbridge  
560489/560215

'WHICH'  
GOOD PUB  
GUIDE

The warm and welcoming 'Inn' Place

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

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

## ACCOMMODATION

FIVE DOUBLE ROOMS  
4 with private bath & w.c.

& THREE LUXURY  
SELF-CATERING  
COTTAGES

Each  
Sleeping  
up to  
six

