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#### NUMBER 110 AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2001

Well, about half of us went to the polls in June, and Antony Steen was re-elected as our MP. The earth didn't move, however, except to accommodate the unfortunate victims of the Foot & Mouth slaughter.

MAFF itself became a victim of the virus, which has proved a remarkably resilient pest in the face of everything that modern democratic bureaucracy, science, technology, and military muscle could throw against it rather like Saddam Hussein.

While only three or four new cases are now confirmed each week, the fact that <u>any</u> new cases are still being identified leaves us little room for complacency or self-satisfaction. And we have hardly begun to count the cost.

One way or another, we shall have to foot the bill for the damage to our farming and livestock industry, and tourism. The farmer, the humble B & B, and the four star hotel have suffered alike and will not quickly recoup their loss of trade. Eventually, our taxes, food prices, and rates - all these (and more) - may have to reflect the burden of their re-imbursement,

Meantime, there are more parochial matters afoot to intrigue, delight, and occasionally arouse us. You will find most of them covered within our pages. Many of them, too, may be nibbling at the edges of your pocket. Fortunately, there is an easy way out. Just pay up - and look cheerful! It's usually all in a good cause (with the odd noticeable exception).

Founder

**Dudley Drabble** 

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## SIGN HERE?



Can you visualise just how big the road sign in the picture above is in real life?

Well, all you have to do is to stand eight Village Voices side-by-side in a row against a wall and you'll have some idea. It is, in fact, some 58 inches long by approximately 12 inches high (or 147cm x 29cm for those who have gone metric).

Thanks to people-power this particular sign will not now be put up. You, the parishioners, kicked up such merry hell about this insult to the parish that Devon County Council chiefs and their not-quite-joined-up highway planners backed down.

You see the trouble with this sign is more than just its size - the sort of thing you would see outside a police station, complete with Devon County Council crest at one end and Devon County Constabulary crest at the other - it is the fact that it was dumped on the parish without any consultation with Parish Council or parishioners. It was presented

as a *fait accompli* which we were all expected to accept tamely. But the arrogance of it raises other even more important questions.

Why was this expensive sign produced without consultation in the first place? What was the notice for....weren't there double yellow lines there already? Yes, indeed there are, but it seems that naughty visitors can squeeze a car in behind them in one place. And do.

However, this size of notice was like using an Italian riot squad to stop a minor protest. But before we say farewell to the notice (the locals call it 'The Beast of Bantham') we hear the police are now asking for a meeting with the Parish Council "to solve the problem". They should be told to forget it.

Of course, those who dumped the notice on the parish had no intention of drawing attention to the fact that double yellow lines are easy to put down but impossible to police in the summer in villages any distance from Kingsbridge. They are only effective when car drivers are prepared to conform.

But the whole matter raises an even bigger question. Are Devon County Council planning to put these monstrosities as back-up in all yellow-outlined villages throughout Devon? That would explain the crests, the size and the extravagant expenditure. Will Thurlestone, for example, be subjected to these signs once the yellow perils (to be sloshed down in September) have failed to work?

Now to happier things. Villager has obtained the results of the recent parish survey of housing needs which show that 538 households completed questionnaires. These homes contained 1126 people, and this is what also emerged from their replies:

- # 48% of all residents were aged over 60
- # 50% of residents had lived in the parish for more than six years
- # Over 80% of dwellings are worth more than £100,000
- # 92% of households are owner-occupied
- # 17 households wished to be on the Housing Register
- # Over 85% of households did not consider there to be enough affordable housing for local people
- # 65% of households considered there to be a good range of facilities with the following facilities identified as being required:

Local shops (121)

hall car park during their stay.

Visitors are good for us at any time. They save us getting stuck in the mud in many ways. For example, **Barbara J. Buresh** of Winter Springs, Florida, was over earlier this year to try and fill gaps in her family tree. It was the **Smeardons** who were in this area in the early 1800s she was after. We were able to help her a little. There is a record of a marriage between 25-year-old **Samuel Smeardon** and **Amy Phillips** in Thurlestone Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1826. And that was all. Barbara filled in a bit more - Samuel had emigrated with Amy to Canada in 1842.

We hadn't done much but Barbara said she had some old Thurlestone parish photographs and when she got home she would send them to us. And she did. The photographs she sent mostly dated from the late 1800s and are taken by Kingsbridge photographer Sarah Haynes, much of whose work survives because she delighted in giving her pictures to her friends in Thurlestone.

Sarah Haynes was more than just a snapper. She was one of the first photo-journalists in Britain. She took pictures of local shipwrecks, the Great Fire of Buckland of 1887, Thurlestone in the Great Blizzard of March 1891, and many of the folk and the villages which make up our parish.

#### PARISH HALL NEWS

The fact that the last edition of Village Voice (June/July) did not mention the Parish Hall should not be taken as an indication that the Parish Hall committee are all on holiday (perish the thought). If anything, the pace has been more frenetic and demanding!

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Following the report in the April/May edition of Village Voice our Designer / Surveyor,
Thurlestone resident Malcolm Northmore, drew new plans for a replacement hall to be placed on the site of the existing hall. The Hall committee met and discussed these plans and decided that in principle they met the desired requirements.

However, the question of under-utilised roof space and possible facilities for the youth of the parish were raised, and a proposal was accepted that we ask Malcolm Northmore to suggest possible designs to incorporate the roof space into the hall's facilities.

Malcolm produced new plans in record time for which he deserves many thanks. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Hall committee was called for 26 June to discuss, exclusively, these plans and the related factors. After a lengthy and constructive discussion it was decided that to develop "upstairs" facilities could not he justified. The additional and significant extra cost, the stringent fire safety requirements,

metre, particularly when viewed against the availability of the new facilities to be created, and their suitability for youth club activities.

Malcolm Northmore was therefore asked by the Parish Hall committee to submit a planning application to the South Hams District Council for a new hall, very similar to the layout on display in the Parish Hall, to be sited where the existing hall is located. The proposed new hall will have a large hall area, long enough to satisfy the short mat bowlers, high enough for badminton to be played and generally large enough for a good sized gathering. A separate meeting room, or pool/table tennis room (depending upon availability of equipment) will also be available for concurrent use if the main hall is being utilised. Equally, the latest requirements relating to disabled access, fire regulations and health and safety regulations will, of course, be met. Additionally, best building practice regarding insulation, minimum maintenance, user convenience etc., will also be incorporated.

The District Council planning department is now the key to forward movement. Once our planning application is approved we can approach contractors for quotations and with quotations we will know how much money we will need to raise. In the meantime, the schematic drawing hereunder, whilst not to scale.

## Ro

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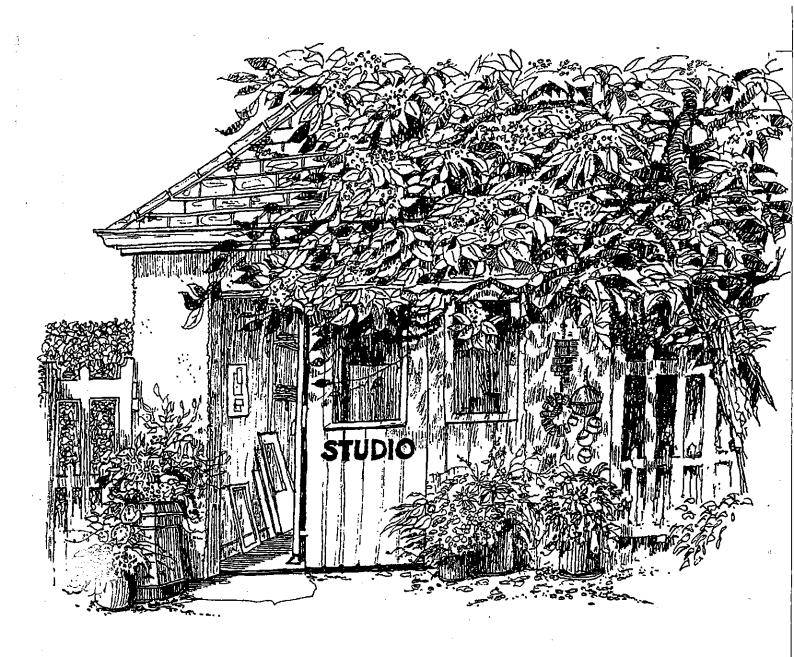


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# Village News Round-Up

#### **Anniversary Celebrations**

Congratulations to **Doug and Doreen Peach** of Seaview, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Doreen said it seemed just like yesterday - and she was game for another fifty years!

Congratulations also to George and Muriel Handley, formerly of Hope Cove and now resident at Thurlestone Court Retirement Home, on reaching their seventieth wedding anniversary - with never a cross word!

#### Not so Retiring?

Marilyn Cater of West Buckland has just retired from full-time work for the National Health Service after 32 years, finishing her career as Manager of the South Hams Hospital in Kingsbridge, where she attended to the smooth-running of the hospital and its outpatient clinics, physiotherapy, dentistry and chiropody departments. But you can't keep a good girl down and Marilyn, reluctant to put her feet up completely, will continue with part time management work with the South Hams and West Devon Primary Care Trust.

#### Jungle Expedition

Belize is where 21-year old Jess Holloway of Thurlestone has just been on a 5-month expedition with the conservation charity Trekforce Expeditions. During their first two months the 80 volunteers who were in the group with Jess had the task of cutting trails for scientists from an important local research centre to use in the Central American jungle. This allows easier access to the deep jungle and, by keeping to specific sign-posted trails, limits human damage. The work proved extremely tiring as they were walking and

cutting each day, and stringing hammocks between two trees for the night underneath a canvas sheet and mosquito netting.

After trail-blazing the group then spent a week helping to build a primary school in a Mayan Indian village before moving to Guatemala for a month to learn Spanish. They then took up teaching placements at primary schools in rural villages around Belize to help the children to learn English, so giving them a better chance of finding employment outside their villages.

Jess spent a year raising enough money to go on the expedition. She approached various sources for funding, worked for the Royal Mail, and even spent part of Christmas Day doing a sponsored swim in the sea! [We're hoping Jess will write an account of her adventures for VillageVoice. Ed]

#### Schubert

Professor Basil Smallman is giving a further ten WEA Tuesday lectures in Dodbrooke Church Hall, Church Street, Kingsbridge, commencing on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October, from 2.15 to 3.45 pm. This series has the title SCHUBERT & HIS AGE (1797 to 1828).

Some of the composer's best-known compositions will be studied, such as the *Unfinished Symphony*, the 'Trout' Quintet, the 'Death & the Maiden' Quartet, and various well-loved songs. Comparisons will be drawn with works by other composers of his time, including Beethoven (1770-1827) and Hummel (1778-1837).

Discussion of the music will be illustrated in live performances and by good-quality recordings. Basil assures us that no previous knowledge is necessary, all comers are welcome, and enjoyment is guaranteed!

#### League of Friends

Jeanne Barton and Eileen Perraton report that the morning was fair and sunny as they set up their Bathroom Stall at the South Hams Hospital's Fayre on the Square at Kingsbridge Quay on 30<sup>th</sup> June. "The organ was playing and lots of people were in a happy mood to buy and support our local hospital".

The ladies say they would like to send a big 'thank you' to all the friends and neighbours who gave them goods to sell and donations, which enabled their stall to hand over £238 towards the grand total of £1400 raised. Congratulations and thanks to you both!

#### Fish 'n Chips

Double D, our visiting fish & chip providers, are disappointed that they are not getting more support from residents, and say it is not worth their while continuing to come to Thurlestone beyond the end of 2001. Sadly, it looks like being a case of "use them or lose them". This is a reminder that they are stationed, alternate Wednesdays, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside the school. A helpful way of remembering which Wednesday: they do not call in the weeks when we do have a green bins collection.

#### MAKING CARDS DAY

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September West Charleton Village Hall 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

#### Tutor: Jean Orford

Tickets £5:00

Take your own packed lunch

Phone enquiries to 560614

#### **House Hunter**

Do you have a house to sell? A recently retired couple from the Home Counties are urgently seeking to buy a freehold property in Thurlestone. They are looking for a detached, three-bedroomed house (or bungalow) with a double garage, and are prepared to pay up to £265,000 for a suitable property.

If you think you could help, please telephone them directly on 01442 - 827502.

#### Of interest to Round Tablers?

Jim Williams, of 8 Court Park, wonders if any readers share his interest in King Arthur and his association with the Grail stories. He refers to the window in All Saints church depicting Galahad, Percival, and Tristram (or should that be Bors?), and speculates that as Arthur's castle was at Tintagel, then Bors' castle could have been at Boscastle.

Any Arthurian romantics with equally harebrained ideas are invited to contact Jim on 560542.

#### **Notes Taken**

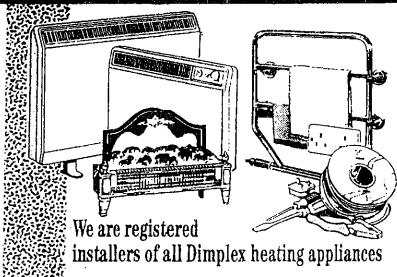
The evening of songs and entertainment provided by **Take Note** at the Parish Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June was a sell-out, and voted by many the best evening's local entertainment for many a year.

Jo Parkin and Lindy Price, who organised the event in aid of St Luke's Hospice, were delighted with the way the village turned out to support the occasion, which netted over £700 for the charity's funds. Quite a lot of notes for one evening!

#### NSPCC

The local committee would like to thank Malcolm and Judith Le Grice for kindly lending their garden at Rockhill for a coffee morning in July, which raised £400.

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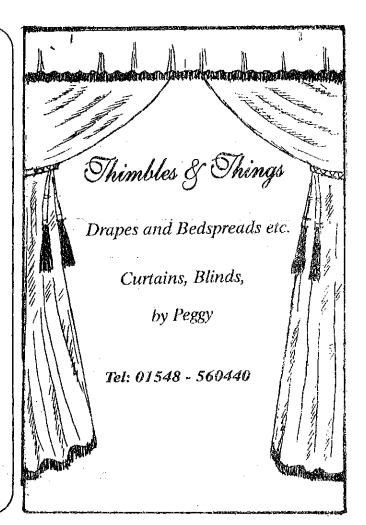
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#### PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting of 25th June 2001

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors David Grose, Derrick Yeoman, District Councillor Carolyn Steen and Inspector Lilburn of Kingsbridge Police.

#### **BANTHAM ROAD SIGN**

They missed a near-riot about a huge road sign, which the official minutes record as follows:

#### **Highways**

"The proposed sign for positioning outside 'Dog Watches', Bantham, was presented for examination. It measures 147cm x 29cm (approximately 58 inches x 12 inches) and bears white lettering, on a blue background, which reads:

## DO NOT PARK HERE you will cause an obstruction

Everyone, Parish Councillors and the Parishioners present at the meeting, thought the sign to be out of keeping with Bantham and inappropriate for such a sensitive location....."

That's what the official minutes say, but all present used stronger language than that about having this huge sign - complete with the crests of Devon County Council at one end and Devon Police at the other - dumped on the parish by Devon County Council planners.

It didn't help to be told that it had all cost a great deal of money already and that Devon planners didn't need planning permission no matter what monstrosity they created!

In the end, with great reluctance and after great argument, the Councillors present voted three to two in favour of the sign being put up by DCC, but only until the end of September. Inspector Lilburn had agreed in writing that if it was not a complete success it would be taken down.

Councillors recognise that there is a traffic problem at this location, but doubted if this was the way to deal with it.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Late into Open Forum the Bantham sign reared its head again, when Councillor Mrs Veronica White stressed that the DCC should be told that the meeting was unanimous in objecting to the sign as being unsuitable for the location - being opposite listed cottages in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. She added that those who lived opposite the sign would be horrified by it and would have to look at it every day.

#### **SEAVIEW HOUSING**

Mr Peter Hurrell, chairman, reported that South Hams District Council had written to him to say that the survey of the parish in May had received such a good response that, when the returns were considered, the Environmental Health & Housing Committee had recommended that the Seaview scheme should be progressed in partnership with West Country Housing.

In her written report, Mrs Carolyn Steen thought the housing would now proceed in the "not too distant future"

Citizen

#### PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting of 23rd July 2001

#### **HIGHWAYS**

The proposed sign at Dog Watches, Bantham (see previous report) will <u>not</u> now be erected as the District Council did not feel the cost involved in erecting it for the summer period only was justified. It was also announced that the yellow lines for Thurlestone, together with the 'virtual footpath', will be painted during September. I feel it worth mentioning here that unless the hedges are trimmed in the area of the footpath, together with those on the raised footpath opposite the old Post Office, there will be very little space left for those on foot.

#### RECREATION GROUND

Slow progress is being made, but the District Council want the football pitch to be lowered by one metre. This will not only mean prohibitive extra costs but will also cause problems for the pitch surface as digging down that far will encroach upon the shillet layer. This will mean additional expense to provide an acceptable playing surface. To be discussed with the District Council and if necessary an appeal made against their requirements.

## SEAVIEW TERRACE HOUSING PROJECT

At last something appears to be moving! Contractors have been seen taking soil samples and subject to the results being positive - which seems certain - then, hopefully, during 2002 we should actually see some evidence of construction. Don't hold your breath, but there is reason for optimism.

#### **NEW PARISH HALL**

Plans are now being up-dated for submission

to Totnes for planning approval.

#### **JUBILEE**

The Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2002, and the Parish Council is applying for a grant so as to ensure that it will be a special occasion in the parish, particularly for the children.

#### PROPOSED NEW CHURCH MEETING ROOM

The major topic of the evening, regarding which all the Parish Councillors as well as the parishioners present were of one accord, related to the proposed development, in All Saints graveyard, of a small church hall to be used for meetings, cream teas and office facilities. [See also the note at the foot of All Saints Diary].

Without exception, everybody was very much against the proposal, particularly those whose association with the parish goes back many generations. The feeling was so strong that a request was being made to the Rector that he and, say, two members of the Parochial Church Council attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss their proposals and answer the many concerns being raised. Meanwhile, a letter (with a copy to Mr Jonathan Aylett, agent for Evans Estates) would be sent to the Parochial Church Council saying that at no time had the Parish Council stated that they had no objections to the plan - as suggested in a letter sent by a Churchwarden to Mr Aylett.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting is fixed for Monday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss it.

Citizen



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#### by Keith Farrelly

#### **NINE-LETTER WORD-SEARCH**

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.

2. Good Health
3. Card game
4. The Reel Cinema has one
5. Causes a real stir
6. 10 x 8
7. No harmony here
8. Unequal
9. A morning preserve
10. Very generous
11. Not on the inside
12. The person at the top
13. City in British Columbia
14. Obvious exaggeration
15. Backbone of Italy

16. Should keep you dry

18. "---- to accumulate"19. A huge gathering20. Starry Heavens

17. Go global

21. ???

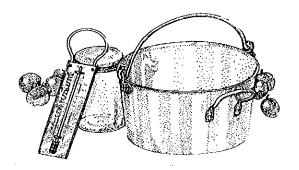
1. Too many words

FOU	PRO	HYP	MAR	SPE	NEW	VER
ION	WEL	IDE	TER	UMB	ATE	PRE
BOU	CUL	VER	CEL	LDW	JEC	APE
MAR	SID	IME	RSC	GER	NTE	TAT
DIS	ERB	MAL	UDE	EST	LBE	REL
TOR	SON	NNI	BIN	BOS	ATE	DIS
ous	COU	AGI	ING	IAL	OLE	PAR
LAS	ITY	HAR	PER	ADE	TIT	NES
ANT	WOR	ORE	VAN	MUL	KET	ENT

#### **TEN TEASERS**

1. What is the fastest flying bird? 6. What is the largest city in India? 2. Where was "The Beatles" last 7. Where is the S.A.S. performance? headquarters? 3. Who wrote the novel "Moli 8. In the animal world what is a Flanders"? "Monarch"? 4. In which country was 9. Which fruit is crossed with Mendelssohn born? tangerine to produce Ugli? 5. Who took 19 wickets in a Test Where are the 2002 Winter 10. match? Olympics to be held?

## Kate's Kitchen



#### **Fruit Chutneys**

Already we are heading for the season of mellow fruitfulness and what can be more redolent of late summer than the smell of chutney as it bubbles on the stove? Apple and green tomato chutneys seem to put in a regular appearance at fairs and fetes but this may be more to do with surplus crops than popularity. Chutney is very easy to make but takes time to cook, so care must be taken to make sure that the sugar does not stick to the bottom of the pan. Frequent stirring is essential as it thickens. The mixture of apricots and dates is delicious but damson is perhaps the best of all. It is worth every moment spent poring over the hot pan trying to fish out that last damson stone!

#### APRICOT AND DATE CHUTNEY

1 lb.dried apricots (soaked) or 2 lbs. fresh apricots (stoned) 2 lbs. dates (stoned) 1/2 lb. stem ginger 3 cloves of garlic 1 lb. sultanas1 lb. soft brown sugar1 tablespoonful of salt white wine vinegar

Chop the apricots and dates into fairly large pieces and slice the ginger finely. Crush the garlic and put all the ingredients into a preserving pan with just enough vinegar to cover everything. Simmer the chutney gently for about two hours.

#### DAMSON OR PLUM CHUTNEY

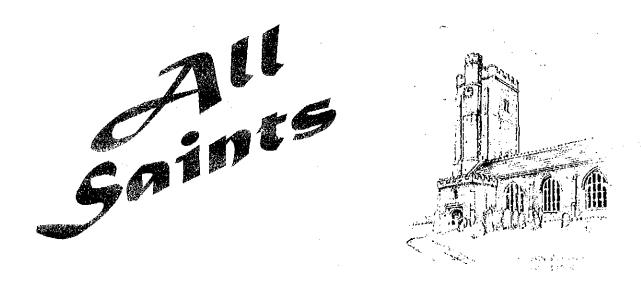
2 lbs.damsons or stoned plums 1/2 lb. peeled apples cut into chunks l lb raisins 11/2 lbs. soft brown sugar 2 chopped onions

1 tablespoonful of salt 2 cloves of crushed garlic 1/2 oz. allspice 1/2 oz. ground ginger 1 1/2 pints of malt vinegar

(You may put in some chopped fresh chilli if you want to add a bit of heat)

Put the onions into the preserving pan with the fruit, raisins, garlic, spices and salt. If you are using damsons you will need to catch as many stones as you can while the chutney is cooking. Pour one pint of the vinegar over the mixture and simmer it until the fruit is thoroughly cooked. Pour the remaining vinegar over the sugar and leave it in a warm place until the sugar is dissolved. When the fruit is cooked add the vinegar and sugar and continue to cook the chutney uncovered until it is thick. Put the chutneys into clean, warm jam-jars. Vinegar may cause metal lids to rust so it's advisable to use jam-pot covers. Keep the chutney for 3 months or so before eating as that will give it a chance to thicken and mature.

If you want to buy new, twist-top, jam-jar lids which are fully "vinegar proof" please contact Pat Macdonald on 560436. The standard size (63 mm) costs 58 p for 10 lids. Other sizes are also available (58 mm, 66 mm, and 70 mm).



Priest in Charge: Revd. Andrew Girling 562219

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

#### **ANDREW GIRLING WRITES:**

#### **HOLIDAYS**

When I was young, we always came to South Devon for our family holidays, so when the weather is fine I find it very difficult to do any work. The holiday-makers have suddenly filled the villages with life and laughter (as well as motor cars). They spill out of the Village Inn onto the road, relaxed and keen for recreation. I have an almost irresistible urge to join them. I think deep in my subconscious is the feeling that if its August and sunny and South Devon, I'm on holiday.

Indeed holidays are very important for all sorts of reasons: a break from the routine pressures, time for the family, an opportunity to recharge the batteries. Space to take a step back, to enjoy and really appreciate all the beauty of this part of the world.

Not to be totally left out, the other day I left all the jobs that needed doing and went for a walk along the coastal path, now, thankfully, open again. It was the most glorious morning, hot and sunny but with that cooling breeze you usually find on the cliff edge. There was a clear blue sky. The sea was calm and I could see the pattern of the rocks under the surface. There were yachts and motor craft setting out from the quayside, families playing on the beach with the heart warming sound of children's distant cries of delight as they splashed through the waves or discovered a crab in a rock pool. And all along there were the majestic and ever changing views of the coastline. It was a clear day and I could see the Eddystone lighthouse and the beginnings of the Cornish coast.

As I came over the hill towards Hope Cove, I saw the seat with the inscription 'Be still and know that I am God', so I sat for a while and did just that. I drank in the scene, drawing spiritual refreshment from the sheer beauty and happiness of all around me.

That too is what holidays are for: to get in touch with the spiritual. To see, behind the beauty of creation, the life-giving creator and to draw refreshment and peace and joy from being with Him and thanking Him for His gift to us.

Holiday-makers, you are most welcome. Have a great time. Find refreshment of body mind and spirit.



## All Saints Diary

#### Church Services

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AUGUST 5TH	8.00 a.m. 11.10 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion (said) (Book of Common Prayer) Morning Worship Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
August 12 <sup>™</sup>	8.00 a.m. 11.10 a.m.	Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship) Matins (Book of Common Prayer)
AUGUST 19 <sup>TH</sup>	8.00 a.m. 11.10 a.m.	Holy Communion (sald) (Book of Common Prayer) Family Communion (Common Worship)
AUGUST 26 <sup>™</sup>	8.00 a.m. 11.10 a.m.	Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship) Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)
SEPTEMBER 2 <sup>ND</sup>	8.00 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (said) (Book of Common Prayer) Benefice Morning Worship at South Milton
SEPTEMBER 9TH	8.00 a.m. 11.10 a.m.	Holy Communion (sald) (Common Worship) Matins (Book of Common Prayer)
SEPTEMBER 16TH	8.00 a.m. 11.10 a.m.	Holy Communion (said) (Book of Common Prayer) Family Communion (Common Worship)
SEPTEMBER 23 <sup>RD</sup>	8.00 a.m. 11.10 a.m.	Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship) Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)
SEPTEMBER V30TH	8.00 a.m. 11.10 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship) Parish Eucharist Benefice Praise Service at South Milton

#### Meekdays

**E**VERY THURSDAY

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (Common Worship)

You would be welcome at any of these services ~ Please note that the church has a loop system

Homemade Soup & a Ploughman's

Coffee-Time

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

Noon ~ 1.30 p.m.

ALL OTHER MONDAYS

10.30 ~ 11.30

a.m.

#### THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

Everyone is welcome ~ Donations in aid of charity

<><><><><><><><><><><><>

#### Proposed Church Meeting Room

During the past three years, the Churchwardens on behalf of the Parochial Church Council have been seeking alternative accommodation to replace the Barn in the previous Rectory garden.

After exploring various sites we have been strongly recommended by church & local authority officers to seek planning permission for a Church Meeting Room in the north east corner of the churchyard. This would be adjacent to the proposed Car Park/Recreation Ground from which there would be access.

The PCC has now appointed an architect and we hope to submit plans for approval in the near future.

The building will provide urgently needed storage space, toilets, parish office, kitchen and small meeting room. The design will ensure easy access for people with disabilities. There will also be sufficient space to recommence cream teas!

Various church activities that have been held long-term in the Parish Hall will continue and will not be affected by the proposed new meeting room.

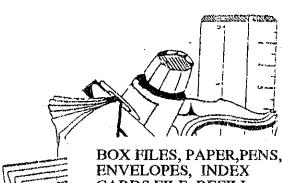
Although this would reduce the area of the graveyard, there would still be room for the immediate future. A survey of the whole area will be carried out to assess the situation.

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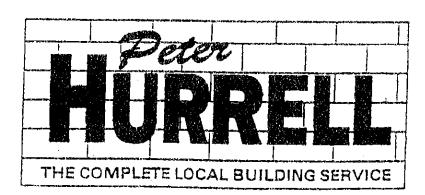
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Commendably restraining our joy at the resumption of more-or-less normal walks, fourteen of us, this time dogless, met in mid-June at Malborough. On the way down through the village we made a slight detour to look at a spring of, it is claimed, unpolluted water, still trickling cheerfully away despite weeks of little rain.

Following tracks for the most part, we went on to Combe and from there to North Sands. To reach South Sands it is impossible to avoid the road but there was little traffic to bother us. We paused briefly along the path below Overbeck's to take note of the house where one of our group had once lived (not, sadly, the "Historic House" marked on the map where Tennyson stayed and, it is said, wrote that memorable poem 'Crossing the Bar').

Then we were out on the cliff path, relatively civilised and user-friendly compared to how it was a few years back. Though it was very pleasant down by Starehole Cove, it was decided that it would be better for our health to climb up the other side before having our lunch. At the top it was possible to find places sheltered from the wind for those who wanted. It was sunnier by now and there was no need to hurry.

We did not go down into Soar Mill Cove, (written Sewer Mill on older maps) which was covered in seaweed, but went straight up to the hotel. This, too, bears little resemblance to the rather primitive wooden structure of fifty years ago where you could have a good cream tea to build up your strength on your walk from Salcombe to Thurlestone. We did not pause but went fairly resolutely on (it was quite hot and perhaps, too, we were a bit out of practice), using lanes, tracks and even field paths which

brought us back to Malborough.

#### **Pam Brewster**

The walk on 26th June was really designed for those who felt they needed just a gentle walk, after the four month lay-off as a result of the Foot & Mouth crisis, to ease their legs and minds back into the more serious walks to come later.

We decided on a seven-and-a-half mile walk from the Stoke Beach car park, over the fields to Bridgend, Newton Ferrers. Some of those who had omitted to read the details of the walk wished they had heeded the suggestions that trousers should be worn, as one of the paths was overgrown with stinging nettles. Perhaps in future they will be guided by the leader's suggestions!

From Bridgend we followed the side of Noss Creek, through Noss Mayo, to the coastal path. From there we followed the path round the headland and back to Stoke Beach.

Lunch was taken on the cliff top in very pleasant conditions - until a cold wind got up and the party opted to move on. (Or was the impatience due to the fact that Wimbledon was on tv that afternoon?). Anyhow, the walk speeded up so much that our two guests were heard to comment "In our walking group at least they stop to admire the view" and from our own experience of walking with them in Wales they often stop to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee! But such indulgences are not tolerated in TRAMP.

We returned to the car park around 2.15 pm, in plenty of time for those wishing to watch their favourite sports television of the year.

Derek Yeoman

## **NEWS FROM THE WI**

#### **Dancing in June**

Alexandra Pickford came over from Torquay to tell us about her life as a ballet dancer. Starting off at the Royal Ballet School she transferred to the corps de ballet and became part of their touring company. From there she joined Festival Ballet, later to become English National Ballet, and was given more solo work. Wanderlust overcame her and when she heard, via a friend, that the Zagreb Ballet were seeking to recruit more dancers with international experience, off she went, unable to speak the language, auditioned and was accepted. This was the move that gave her the chance she had been seeking - to extend her repertoire of dance even further. She stayed with them for some 12 years before returning home to settle in Torquay, where she gives various exercise and body care classes at the Riviera Centre.

#### Eden

Mary Tregelles arranged a superb outing to the Eden Project, which a coach-load of members and friends throughly enjoyed on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Mary was warmly thanked for master-minding such a wonderful day with weather to match! Photographs of the expedition were on display at the July meeting.

#### Summer Lunch

The 2<sup>nd</sup> July Garden Lunch, now a firm fixture in the summer programme, had its title hastily changed to Summer Lunch when rain made it impossible to enjoy the surroundings of **Rosemary MacKay's** pleasant garden. We did very nicely in the house judging by the noise level and the consumption of food and drink, and thank our hostess for her warm hospitality. The profit of £80 made on the lunch will be donated to Parish Hall funds. We hope our dripping umbrellas didn't

cause damage. [While mentioning umbrellas, did anyone mistakenly pick up Jo Parkin's black silk umbrella at the end of the June meeting? There was an umbrella left, but it was not Jo's!]

#### July Meeting

Our speaker, Thurlestone resident John Crawford, very sensibly said he would talk for just 15-20 minutes and then ask for questions concerning his topic "The Prince's Trust". The Trust, set up in 1976, aims to help fund young people under 25 to find selfemployment, in particular those who have been refused a bank loan. A loan of £5000, with a low rate of interest, and repayable over five years, is available to applicants. A 'mentor' is appointed to be on hand with advice and business aid each month so that any possible crises can be picked up quickly. John is such a 'mentor' and says that many thousands of young people have been helped since its formation. After 3 years some 60% remain in business. "The Trust found a unique formula and it works" John added. The open forum session kept him busy!

#### Cream Tea for the Parish Hall

This will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2.30 to 5.30 pm at the Hall. There will be in addition a cake stall, demonstrations, and a display of crafts. The WI invite everyone to come along and enjoy the tea and the displays, while at the same time helping to raise funds towards a very worthy cause, our Parish Hall, without which many community activities could not take place.

#### September 13th Meeting

Wren Loasby will be on hand to give ideas for making small fabric items which would be suitable for giving and keeping - even selling for our favourite charity!

## You are invited to a

# CREAN

in aid of Parish Hall funds by Thurlestone & West Buckland WI

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August Thurlestone Parish Hall 2.30 - 5.30 pm

Cakes Stall
Display of Craft Work
Demonstrations

Come along - and bring a friend!

## POSTBAG

Dear Editor

In your last edition you published a letter from seven of our village children complaining of malign neglect on the part of the village community and invited a response.

The situation last year was, in my opinion. pretty bad. Pat and I, with the enthusiastic support of the Parish of Thurlestone Society and Mr & Mrs Sparrow, organised a children's Millennium Picnic because no initiative was forthcoming either from the Parish Council or the Parochial Church Council.

In the event, the people of Thurlestone contributed generously and we had excellent cooperation from the Church (and Jupiter Pluvius). Since then I observe that things have got a whole heap better for the youngsters.

The problem is with our teenagers who have grown up in a frankly hostile environment. In the "good old days" - ah! I remember them well - the teenagers were employed by the Golf Club as caddies and some of them went on to become excellent artisan golfers. But 'progress' has made the humble caddy redundant and so we have disaffected skate-boarders. In turn, those of us old folks who read the Telegraph believe that the worst excesses of North London are reenacted nightly in the bus shelter.

The Parish Hall, which used to provide a changing room for the Thurlestone & South Milton Football Club, no longer has a youth representative on its committee which is (apparently) designing a new Hall which will exclude the noisy brats altogether.

Every village gets the youth it deserves and I venture to suggest we will be no exception.

> John F. Crawford Thurlestone

Dear Editor

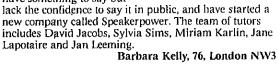
Those of your readers who do not take 'The Thunderer' will be unaware that the paper has a smaller insert that comes with the paper once a week in which there is a column "Not dead yet" to which readers are invited to contribute if they have an anti-ageist comment to make.

Below is a photocopy of a letter I sent appearing just under one from Barbara Kelly. It received much favourable comment from far and near and I thought you might like to include it in Village Voice some time!

The column that challenges ageism and celebrates being 50-plus

My late husband Bernard Braden used to say: "The human brain is the most sophisticated and complex computer in the world - it only ceases to function when you get up to speak in public."

I have become increasingly aware that there are many people who have something to say but



At a Royal Air Force reunion an octogenarian, who was an ace pilot during the Second World War, asked me if I remembered the bromide that was put in the tea when we were young trainees and, at my affirmative, he went on: "Well, I think it is beginning to work."

Wing Commander DO Luke, Thurlestone, Devon

Dennis Luke Glebe Field

[With acknowledgements to "The Times" - Ed.]

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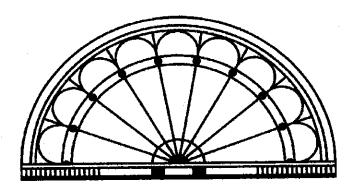
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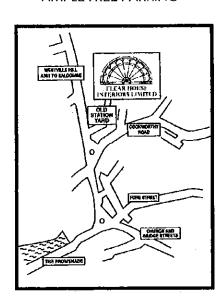
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## Weather Wag

Today is July 15th - St Swithin's Day.

Joy of joys it has been superb all day, not a drop of rain to be felt! Is there going to be a hot, dry spell even now? The forecast is not too hopeful but prolonged poor weather does not seem imminent! The reservoirs are all full in the West Country and in most of the rest of the land. However, as always when there is a long spell of dry weather, the vegetation gets tinder-dry and the chance of fire more acute.

Where water is stored in surface reservoirs there is also the risk of "nasties" forming in the warm top layers. I was interested to read in The Times (6th July) that more than 12,000 people were without running water because of a bloom of toxic blue algae. Kent and Sussex were the main areas affected. People were told not to wash themselves or their clothes, nor to drink or use the water for cooking or cleaning. The Gurkhas were called in to deliver bottled water to about 6,000 householders in Kent alone.

The next paragraph reported floods in Scotland, Wales and the West country. In the latter thousands of people were without power as the storms raged northwards. The Electricity Supply Company monitors flashes of lightning and recorded around 31,000 strikes. It really is a wonder that more people didn't get struck. Thankfully, those who did this time were not seriously injured, but very frightened I guess.

The same article reported that the River Ouse in Sussex, and the River Medway in Kent, (both of which had caused serious flooding earlier in the year) were so low that water abstraction was a problem. In fact the authorities are topping up the rivers from underground aquifers to keep them running. At Chichester the River Lavant is now so low that it is in danger of drying up all together.



Before Christmas a relief flood channel was built to prevent the town from being inundated! It really is almost a fantasy world where conditions can be so varied. GLOBAL WARMING, DO YOU THINK? Something is definitely not quite normal or right.

Today the wind is in the north west quarter. This gives a very clear, crisp air-stream and is actually quite cool. It is also characteristic of short sharp showers. Early today, when Geoff Baines was cutting thistles on a piece of land near Moreleigh, he said that there was a really heavy shower. The clouds have looked black enough over the last couple of days but they have skirted around us and gone inland. I've written about this little quirk before. It really does happen.

I hope that you will look at the figures for the first six months of the year. There is a monthly set for 2000 in last August's issue, and over the page you will find a table giving details of the first six months of 2001, together with comparative cumulative totals for the six months of both 2000 and 2001.

There are some interesting facts and trends (e.g., rainfall and sunshine show the most striking differences). We keep the west winds and the speed is not too bad either. Actually, this first half has been relatively uneventful weather-wise. The easterlies in March produced some very large swells and the sea has waged war against our cliffs. There has been quite a fall on the southern side of the caves in the sandstone at Links Cliff. The course that the Ley took has been a disaster for the sand-dune at its mouth. The same heavy seas, with an easterly wind, have removed about 30 years of gradual dune development. The marram grass is no match for such ferocity. However, it will recover. There will be another series of gales and the sand will return again to be reunited with its anchor.

Just as I thought that there might be a nice spell last night saw 29mm of rainfall, all from the east. It gets into the stonework of buildings and shows up leaks that people never knew were there, churches being the favourite, our builder said. Well, the sun is shining again this evening but it is quite lively out in the bay. The depression has been a classic one for the summer:- warm front, heavy rain overnight and up to mid-day, then warm, quiet, and muggy for about three hours, and finally the cold front by about six this evening. So far not many showers, but blustery, cooler, and clearer. The weather system has tracked up the country, probably

missing the eastern areas - absolutely typical and quite undesirable!

As far as weather lore is concerned, nothing much is written about these months. This is because the weather is so variable (being the two wettest months of the year), and my little book says 'there isn't much that rhymes with July and August'. 'Flowers and showers' make up so many of the quotes for earlier months. And there you have it. Our summer remains as unpredictable as ever, but we are always hopeful that "perhaps tomorrow it'll be better".

Jan Turner

[The table of weather statistics for the first six months of 2001 appears on the next page.]

#### **SEASIDE GOLF**

An experience at the 13th hole at St Enodoc

1. (The Original) by Sir John Betjeman 2. (The Parody) by Sir Robin Butler

And down the fairway, far along It glowed a lonely white; I played an iron sure and strong And clipped it out of sight. And spite of grassy banks between I knew I'd find it on the green

And so I did. It lay content
Two paces from the pin;
A steady putt and then it went
Oh, most securely in.
The very turf rejoiced to see
That quite unprecedented three.

And up the fairway, steep and long, I mourned my gloomy plight; I played an iron sure and strong, A fraction to the right.

I knew that when I reached my ball I'd find it underneath the wall.

And so I did. I chipped it low And thinned it past the pin, And to and fro, and to and fro, I tried to get it in; Until, intoning oaths obscene, I holed it out in seventeen.

[With acknowledgements to the authors, and to Al Parker who submitted the above.]

>	eathe	r Statis	tics fo	r the F	irst H	Weather Statistics for the First Half of 2001	100	
	Jan	Month <b>Feb</b>	Month <b>Mar</b>	타 <b>Apr</b>	May	Month / Jun	Tot 2001	Totals 2000
Rainfall mm Monthly Total Days of Rain Wettest Day A Rain Day = 0.2 mm	167.6 9 10th	68.4 19 6th	175.3 21 20th	85.9 16 26th	20.7 8 16th	52.9 7 15th	570.8 84 10th Jan 47.4 mm	353.93 86 3rd April 19.62 mm
Temperature C Monthly Average Highest Temperature Lowest Temperature	6.8 12.7 -3.4	7.5 13.8 -1.7	8.3 15.0 -1.8	10.0 16.3 0.9	13.8 25.4 4.5	15.6 26.9 3.2	10.3 26.9 June -3.2	10.6 28.0 June - 3.0
Wind Direction West East North South	17 14 0 0	12 13 1	16 15 0 0	22 7 1 0	12 19 0	21 9 0	100 77 2 2	102 71 2 5
Wind Speed mph Strongest Gust Days below 5 mph	0 89	59	0	55	51	44 0	0 0	64
<b>Sunniest Day</b> Number of Hours Date Cumulative Total	3.98 8th 33.32	8.28 25th 57.91	6.67 4th 47.03	9.49 11th 100.4	12.32 12th 186.3	11.6 21st 176.8	12.32 12th May 595.76 hrs.	15.55 26 June 824.44 hrs.

## IN YOUR GARDEN

Most local gardens have by now gone through a mad rush of growth and seem to be settling back, allowing us a short time in which to enjoy a slight easing of the load and to catch our breath. Following the bulbs and flowering shrubs of spring and early summer, as well as the paconies, iris, lilies, oriental poppies and other short-lived but irresistible beauties, we are sometimes faced with "well, what now?" in the flower department. A well-planned mixed border of hardy perennials with some late-flowering bulbs and shrubs to give colour and variety further on in the year - from August into November - is the answer.

The golds and bright yellows of coreopsis. rudbeckia and heleniums, the brilliant orange and red of late-flowering red-hot pokers and dahlias (particularly Bishop of Llandaff with its dark red foliage), the cooler blues of the mildew-resistant aster-frikartii, eryngiums and echinops (globe thistle), the many-hued but easy-going penstemon - from white and pale mauve to the brightest red could provide you with a great palette of colours. In addition, there are the 'bulbous' plants such as sugar-pink nerines, belladonna lilies, and schizostylus (kaffir lilies), and the purple of lowgrowing, wiry liriope, which also does well in shade. Small shrubs such as blue caryopteris, loved by butterflies, and deeper blue ceratostigma add further welcome patches of colour in the advancing season. The magnificent Garden House at Buckland Monachorum, near Yelverton, open seven days a week, is just the place to visit in late summer to seek ideas and additions for your own garden next year.

I saw a wonderful myrtle recently, in full blossom, in a garden at West Buckland. About twelve feet in height it was tree-like rather than a bushy shrub, and its multi-stems were of a rich cinnamon hue. The small shiny evergreen leaves, and glistening clusters of tiny white cup-shaped flowers with golden stamens, made it appear to glow from its roadside site. A traffic stopper!

For gardeners new to this part of the world the good news is that there is no necessity to dig up dahlias or gladiolus, as they survive winter quite happily if left in the ground. Pelargoniums, and

even cannas, sometimes survive our winters outdoors! In May a kind family member gave us a very nice terracotta pot planted up with aeoniums - handsome succulents which have rosettes of very dark red fleshy leaves - quite exotic looking, but tender. I've hankered after these since seeing them at Overbecks. Now that is a pot of something I won't leave to chance, but will smartly move under cover in the autumn! If you have any pots of lilies, cut the stems down when they've finished flowering. Leave them in their pots, cover the surface soil in gravel or grit and place in a shady spot ready for next year.

Usually, there are plenty of butterflies flitting and bees humming lazily around the summer flower heads, but there do not seem to be as many this year. Since 1994 I have recorded butterflies and day-flying moths which have visited our garden. In 1996 numbers were high - particularly of the Painted Lady. The Orange Tip butterfly is one that usually comes early on my list, flying in May, but I haven't seen one this year and all the others seem a bit shy. Maybe August and September will bring more, as butterflies particularly like sedum and Michaelmas daisies.

Pick material for dried flower arrangements on a dry day, when the flowers are half-open. Secure with elastic bands in small bunches and hang up to dry somewhere airy and warm but not in direct sunlight. Straw-flowers, delphinium and larkspur, achillea, statice, sea-holly and globe thistle are some that dry well. Seed heads from love-in-a-mist, honesty, Chinese lanterns and aquilegia also dry well.

By late September it's time to think about preparing the vegetable patch, ready for winter. Start by removing spent crops, digging over the ground and putting in some organic matter such as compost or well-rotted manure. Vegetables prefer being planted into soil that has weathered and been 'fortified' earlier rather than just before planting. Continue dead-heading, hoeing, cutting back and trimming when flowering is over, and keep any garden containers fed and watered.

Ladybird

## Thurlestone & South Milton



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# HORSWELL DIARY

We had no sooner decided to escape the doom and gloom of pre-election England than summer arrived and bathed the country in glorious sunshine, making us wonder why we were leaving. But, with house-sitters arranged, we headed South, taking the inaugural flight with Go airlines from Bristol to Nice. Champagne flowed and a carnival atmosphere prevailed, with stilt walkers, jugglers, fire-eaters and clowns to entertain us and wish us "Bon voyage".

An hour and a half later we arrived in the South of France, thankfully every bit as sunny as England and considerably hotter, and picked up our hire car. Soon we were cruising along the Promenade des Anglais in a snazzy black convertible, heading for lunch in the old port at Villefranche.

One of the things I like most about the French Riviera is how little it changes. I love the architecture, the impatient traffic, the pace, the congestion, the style. Happily, all the archetypes are still there:

- # The dapper old man in cream jacket and cravat, walking an aged miniature poodle on a Hermes lead.
- # The wrinkled old lady, heavily rouged and immaculately coiffed, clutching the latest Gucci handbag in a red taloned claw.
- # The pretty young girls riding pillion on scooters that burp and whine recklessly through the traffic.
- # The dashing young man in the open Porsche, who eyes the girls then checks his own appearance in the rearview mirror, smiling at what he sees.
- # The lime-washed buildings in ice cream colours; pistachio, lime, citron and melon, honey and butterscotch, peaches and cream.
- # Geraniums spilling from ironwork balconies.

# Tall shuttered windows enfolding the secrets of cool dark interiors. The whiff of intrigue and forbidden romance.

And all the theatre of it played out against a backdrop of the bluest sea and the largest, most magnificent yachts imaginable.

From Villefranche to the glorious mansions of Cap Ferrat, then on to Monaco to crawl gridlocked around the Grand Prix circuit to see the preparations for the race the following day. From there, inland to the sun-drenched villages of the Alpes Maritimes, the Luberon and Vaucluse, for two weeks of good food and sensational scenery, enchanting architecture and fascinating discoveries.

I shall never again be able to smell the scent of lavender without conjuring in my mind's eye the acres of lavender grown in the Luberon. With snow capped mountains in the distance etched against a sharp blue sky, field upon field of mauvey blue stripes create a herringbone weave over rolling foothills as far as the eye can see. At the end of July when it is fully in flower the scent will fill the air, attracting swarms of honey bees and tourists too. Beside the neat rows of lavender, sunflowers are grown for seed and oil, their brilliant yellow vibrant against the lavender blue.

With cherry orchards, almonds, olives and vines the scenery changes dramatically with the seasons and offers sumptuous produce for the market stalls - homemade soaps, olive oils, beeswax candles, jars of honey, sacks of herbs, local jams, sugared fruits, toasted almonds, bars of nougat, not to mention the infinite variety of flowers and plants, vegetables, cheeses, meat and fish.

We returned from Provence intoxicated by the sights and smells, enriched by the colours and the light that have inspired so many artists to capture them on canvas. It was hard to leave it all behind. We wondered if our homecoming would seem drab and dull in comparison.

But the Horswell ghosts always know when they are on trial. They know our moods too well to risk disappointing us. And sure enough, as we turned up the drive and looked out across the lawn, they had ensured that the house and garden had never looked more beautiful. They seemed to be reaching out to us with their most seductive smile, eager to enfold us in a warm embrace. We agreed it was, after all, good to be home and could feel a collective sigh of relief whisper around us.

As I sit outside and write, Betty (our transvestite peahen) dozes under my chair. Her soft feathers are blown by the wind and tickle my feet. Nearby, the two peacocks, Imran and Ghenghis, lie peacefully together, thoughts of mating and rivalry now forgotten. Their immensely long tails are folded neatly behind them, gleaming in the sun light, tipped with swiris of sapphire and emerald, edged with gold. They are quieter now as they enter their moulting season, gradually discarding feathers one by one. Like the dogs, they enjoy companionship, content to be near us and soak up the warmth of the sun.

Beside me Abo, our adored old
Labrador, sleeps deeply under the cherry
tree, his handsome head cushioned on
silver paws. Flossie the sheepdog is busy in
the orchard helping her master to rake up
hay. Bertie, meanwhile, ever a law unto
himself, is taking a Jacuzzi in the fountain!
Half submerged, he walks round and round

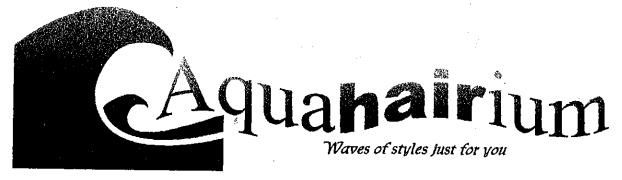
the pond under the sparkling cascade of water, cooling his fur. Having ensured he now has my full attention, he leaps out of the water and zigzags across the lawn in a mad dog run, showering a haze of crystal droplets into the air around him.

We have been privileged this year to be visited for the first time by a pair of swallows. They made their nest on a ledge in the old tack room. Having successfully raised their young they are now busy teaching them to fly. How we love to see them with their long black tails and swooping flight, slicing through the air on invisible curves. They fly so close we could reach out and touch them, then they bank sharply and wheel high into the sky, dark wings flickering against the cloudless blue. They circle overhead in joyous spirals calling to one another "tswee, tswee". Then, with a final triumphant lap of the courtyard, they stream back to their nest with the speed and precision of a flight of arrows hitting their mark.

Could they, I wonder, be from the family of swallows that dive-bombed us in Kenya as we sat outside our safari lodge writing postcards home? At the time we thought we might be sitting too close to their nest. Now I think they may have been trying to memorise our postal address! I have often wondered why birds migrate from Africa to England. Surely our summers can barely be much warmer than African winters?

But like our trip to Kenya and our recent visit to France, maybe it's only by seasonal migration that one fully appreciates the pleasures of being at home.

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# OUR SPRINGS AND WELLS

By Hubert Snowdon

The further finds of another Bronze Age artefact and pottery at Bantham have prompted me to further thoughts about man's early occupation of this area and, in particular, his sources of drinking water.

Imagine the land around us as virgin forest with the first human foot to tread it possibly belonging to an exploring hunter-gatherer. He may have been working along the cliff top, where the trees thinned out, with one eye to the seashore and the other to the forest for a potential food source. Coming down to one of the streams running to the beach, he might have stopped to quench his thirst from the crystal clear water.

Or possibly the first feet came from the sea. Both men would have needed fresh water and, if they found a liking for the place, might well have used a local cave as a safe dwelling for the family. We know that some of the first Stone Age immigrants from the continent had knowledge of agriculture and animal husbandry. They followed the rivers up to Dartmoor to open grazing land visible from the sea, for the dense forest was a dangerous place, full of wild beasts. Here they built wooden and stone huts and water was plentiful. No doubt our cave dwellers learned from them how to grow crops on a patch or two of fertile land, and growing crops meant that they had to settle to look after them.

Trading routes were established between moor and coast. The expanding population in the low lands would have built wooden huts stockaded for safety. Necessity would have dictated that they were near a reliable spring of water. As development increased the main streams probably became sewers and the side springs provided the fresh water. Were any of these springs in Thurlestone parish? Just look at the map to see where the

old farmsteads are - some are still occupied!

It was the Iron Age people who, with their better tools, hastened the clearing of the forest and came down off the acid moor to the more fertile low land. Parish excavations, undertaken for evidence of early occupation, revealed the trading post at Bantham dunes and the Romano-British lookout post at Clanacombe head (which I discovered from crop markings). The water for the Bantham site then could have been the main stream that ran in front of it, in the middle of the beach, which was later piped out on the south side. The only other close spring I know is the one in the meadow under Barn Field from where, in our youth, campers and picnickers filled tea kettles.

The Clanacombe lookout site would have been supplied from the spring below, now taken into Clanacombe garden from the field known as Well Park and the reason for the siting of the house and farm below it. The surplus flow joined the Buckland valley stream. This sheltered valley found favour for settlement and established the little fishing and trading port at Bantham in the nook of the river Avon.

Where was Bantham water? The only spring I know was very small, by the quay undercliff and stoned over like butter wells. Fisherfolk scraped out sufficient water to fill a kettle - while trying to dodge the toads and newts. This appears to be the reason why the early fishing cottages were built at Aunemouth creek where a good spring also supplied Higher and Lower Aunemouth Farms. The other main farms with springs were North Upton, Worthy, Buckland, Whitley, Court Park and Thurlestone. The old Buckland Farm - burnt down about 1885 - had buildings which surrounded the rocky valley known as the Court. I believe that a small

stream once ran down the farm courtvard but has long since dried out. Development and usage lowers the water table.

I also believe that before the new farm was built on Bantham road the stream was traced back by divining to Pond Field, where the spring was located near the surface and would gravitate by pipe down to the new farm, and Buckland village tap, and then on to Langmans Farm. Another rocky gully was at Harris Farm, now demolished, where a spring surfaced and a butter well was built over. These two farmsteads were probably the earliest settlements in Buckland.

A larger area of fertile land, and less sloping than Buckland, surrounded what became Thurlestone village which had even less spring water. Early tracks were always routed round the head of springs - to avoid swampy streams and bridging. The route from the beach headed a spring by the entrance to the Thurlestone Hotel. This

spring was once open to the public - and obviously to passing cattle and horses - to drink, but is now safe-guarded in the hotel grounds. This was one of only two suitable sites for a large farm. The other was at Court Park, with a good spring from the Kerse valley I believe.

The little spring on the golf course that runs down to Yarmer beach would have been too exposed to weather, and raiders, for nearby development. A farm linhay once at old Leaside could have been fed by the hotel stream. Leasfoot stream was too marshy for building. The source of the little spring that probably supplied the first rectory I do not know, but an old tap remains in the road today, against a wall.

"What about wells?" I hear you cry. Well, that will just have to wait until my second 'watery' instalment!

**Hubert Snowdon** 

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#### The Love of Stones

by Tobias Hill (Faber £10.99)

This is a quite incredible book, beautifully written, with an enchanting story which spans two continents and six centuries.

It depicts the lives of three people linked by a famous jewel, known as The Three Brethren, once owned by Elizabeth I, and the amazing adventures into which it leads them.

It is a most enjoyable and fascinating novel and I can strongly recommend it, particularly at the bargain price of £10.99!

GW

### Sharpe's Prey

by Bernard Cornwell (Harper /Collins £16.99)

I always like Bernard Cornwell's books about Sharpe because you can be assured of thrilling action combined with intriguing romance set against a background of a historical episode of the early nineteenth century.

In this case it is the blockade and bombardment of Copenhagen by the British navy in 1807, to prevent the Danes from handing over their valuable fleet to the French, which would have been a huge asset to the latter.

I confess to knowing nothing of this event before I read the book. Its detailed descriptions prove interesting, informative and action-packed and make a splendid novel.

GW

#### Kitchen Confidential

by Alan Bourdain

Wandering into our superb local library on the look-out for an interesting "pick-up" (of reading matter!), I came on this fascinating book. It is an account of the life and training of a chef and contains much inside information.

It's a good thing it is New York-based, otherwise we might be deterred from patronising some well-known and prestigious restaurants - or from attending banquets. Accounts of the traumas taking place behind the scenes, as well as some culinary trade customs, make great reading..... what a life!

The Sunday Telegraph reviewed this book early in July, after I had read it!

**RM** 

### An Italian Affair

by Laura Fraser (Ebury £14.99)

If you are looking for a book for some light holiday reading, this is the one!

It is the story of an American woman who is very depressed after going through a divorce. Fortunately she meets an Italian businessman with whom she embarks upon a passionate relationship. Though he is married he travels extensively and so they are able to meet from time to time in various exotic places all over Europe.

The author combines the story of their assignations with wonderful descriptions of the rendezvous, and I found it to be a delightful and interesting mixture.

**GW** 

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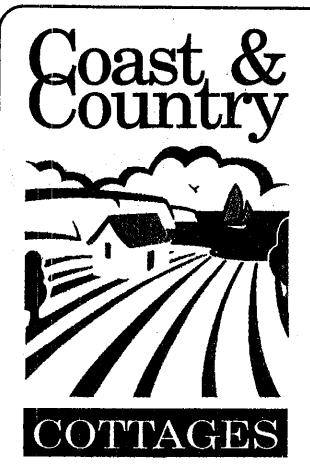
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# THE TALE OF THREE PIGS

# A bed-time story for all ages by Pam Brewster

Once upon a time Kind Lady lent Daddy Pig her nice tidy little house for a little while because he no longer had anywhere else to live. What she didn't know was that he was a naughty, dirty, Daddy Pig and not a nice, clean, Daddy Pig who liked to keep his sty all clean and polished and pretty.

She didn't know, either, that Daddy Pig's two Piglets were going to come with him. Now Mummy Pig had tried very hard to bring up her Piglets to be clean and tidy and well-behaved Piglets but they preferred to be like Daddy Pig because it was easier and more fun. So in the end poor Mummy Pig had to give up and she went away. There was one more thing Kind Lady didn't know: the two Piglets asked all their dirty, untidy, friends to come and have fun with them in Kind Lady's house!

Two or three months passed by and Kind Lady returned with her friend to stay in her little house and she was a bit upset to see her nice little garden all covered in Daddy Pig's toys and there was Boy Piglet, who wasn't supposed to be there, standing in the doorway. Then she discovered that Daddy Pig, his Piglets and their friends had had such fun in her little house that they had turned it into a nasty, dirty, pigsty and had broken lots of things.

Kind lady was very cross with the Pigs and told them to clear it all up and go away. I expect you can guess that they weren't very good at cleaning things - they were much better at making them dirty - so it took them five whole days to clear up all their mess. So now it was Kind Lady and her friend who had nowhere to live because they didn't like living in a dirty pigsty with dirty Pigs. In the end, she spent just two and a bit days in her little house and did not have time to make it really clean again before she had to go away.

A further two or three months passed by and it was the summer now. Kind Lady arrived all by herself to find her little garden just as it was when she left it - except that of course the weeds and the grass were very tall, which was not surprising - and the little house was just as it was, only dustier. Now this wasn't very good really because it meant that Daddy Pig's dirty toys were still all over the garden and the broken chairs had not come back all beautifully mended and the poor rocking chair was still in two pieces on the floor. The stove and the fridge were still all broken and battered in the kitchen.

Now Kind Lady was very upset and very angry. She was tired after her long journey and I am afraid to say she shouted a lot of nasty things about Daddy Pig. Yes, she didn't just SAY them, she SHOUTED them - all sorts of things that a nice Kind Lady shouldn't even know about as she was not really feeling very kind any more. But there were no mice: the greedy little creatures had helped themselves to some special mouse food and they had all

gone away. This made Kind Lady just a bit happier..... until she found out that the Piglets' dog had left behind a lot of tiny, black, hopping friends.

So the next day Kind Lady had to go off and try to find Daddy Pig in his latest pigsty, but only Boy Piglet was there and he was so fast asleep that he didn't hear her call when she went in. She searched in their latest dirty pig trough and found some of her things. She took them home to clean and left a letter for Daddy Pig. Then she went to a shop and looked at a book with shiny pages full of pictures of fridges and cookers and chose herself one of each.

The next day there was no sign of Daddy Pig, which did not surprise Kind Lady, but late on two Nice Gentlemen came and brought the beautiful new fridge and stove, and put the old ones in the garden, which didn't look quite right. Kind Lady gave the two Nice Gentlemen a lot of money and they went away and she tried not to feel poor.

Then, and you will never guess, Kind Lady discovered that her cellar, too, was quite full of Daddy Pig's playthings and she was very cross indeed again - and began to feel an almost Fairly Unkind Lady. This was bad of her, but she couldn't help it. The next morning she got up very early and found Daddy Pig at his latest pigsty before he went to work and told him he must collect all his playthings at once. But he was being a pretty noble Daddy Pig and was taking someone to hospital all that day. So he would come tomorrow.

The Fairly Unkind Lady did not really

believe him but she was sitting on her little terrace in the sun the next afternoon and feeling quite happy (because she had been to a big shop and bought lots of exciting things like flour, vinegar, and lots of sewing cotton and margarine, and she'd spent a long time with a paint-brush and paint-pot making her little bathroom all clean and bright), when along came Daddy Pig, Boy Piglet, and his friend. Just Imagine her surprisel They began to take all Daddy Pig's playthings away.

She even felt just a tiny bit sorry for them as they had to go up and down the path so many times in the hot sun and she did give Boy Piglet a glass of water when he asked for it. At last the cellar was empty and so were the garden and the bread oven and so was the house, a bit, because Daddy Pig had not brought back the chairs that were being mended. But almost Fairly Unkind Lady talked nicely to Daddy Pig and he even promised to take away the old fridge and cooker for her some time, and everyone smiled and they went off in their van.

The almost Fairly Unkind Lady went and looked at her fairly tidy garden and her almost empty cellar and she shouted and sang for joy. She suddenly felt a Kind Lady again.

Now wasn't that a nice happy ending to the story? It was such a happy ending to a rather sad story that the Kind Lady believes there must be a moral there somewhere!

Maybe it's just "C'est la vie!"

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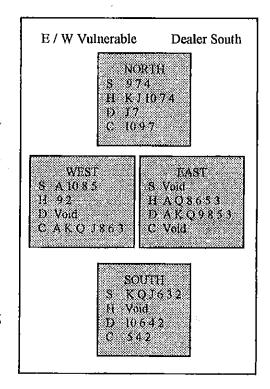


# At the Bridge Table

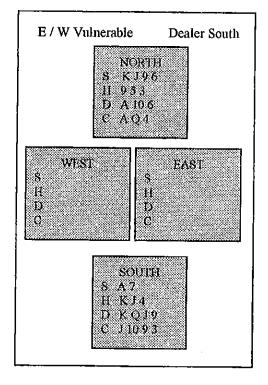


There were only a few replies to the questions set on the hand reproduced on the right, but there was no perfect solution! Starting with the optimum contract for East/West, there is a case to be made for either Seven Clubs or Seven No Trumps. However, because of the lack of communication between the hands, Seven No Trumps will fail if the defenders start with a red card. Seven Clubs by West also fails with a Heart lead being ruffed. Six clubs by West cannot be beaten provided that the Queen is played on a Heart lead from North.

Overall, Six Clubs is the safest high contract, but I would be tempted to Seven No Trumps on the basis that the initial pre-emptive call by South would result in a Spade lead. As to the bidding, Four Clubs by West over South's Two Spades would suggest a solid suit, but North is likely to muddy the waters by raising his partner's bid to Four Spades. Thereafter it will be difficult for East/West to stop below the Seven level. A difficult problem. The £5 prize for the best answer goes - in house, you might say - to Robin Macdonald.



In a recent article Tony Forester said that "understanding is more important than learning" and went on to say that reading the many books about Bridge may only lead to an ability to assess what should have happened <u>after</u> the event. One vital point he made is **the importance of the first trick**, and provided the following example from declarer's point of view.



In the hand shown on the left, South ends up in Three No Trumps. West leads the six of hearts, and declarer win's East's Queen with the King. Counting his winners, South can see eight tricks on top, and thinks that success or failure depends on a winning black suit finesse, with Clubs being the more attractive option. South leads Jack of Clubs, and plays low from dummy. East wins with the King, fires back a Heart, and four tricks later Sound finds himself one down.

The basic error arose on the first trick, where the simple hold-up of letting East's Queen of Hearts win would leave the defence with no chance. If East returns a Heart at trick two, communications with his partner would be severed (assuming a 5-2 division), and the Club finesse would be safe. If Hearts divide 4-3 there would still be only four losers - three Hearts and a Club.

The message of the above example is simply to take time to think and plan before playing to the first trick. All very obvious, but how often do we fail the test?

Victor

Fun for all the Family at the last



# in aid of All Saints' Church Thurlestone

The PCC should like to thank the Parish Council for letting the church use the War Memorial Green for the Barbecue since its inception in 1992. Although this is the last time that we will be allowed to hold the Barbecue-on-the-Green, it will not be the last Barbecue. Next year here will be a Barbecue-on-the-......?

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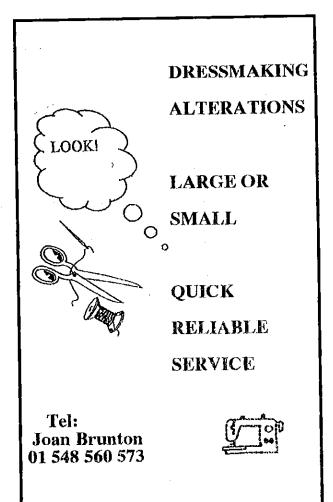
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# HARRY HUGGINS IS OUT FOR A DUCK

In February Foot & Mouth disease struck. Instantly, most of our birding stopped. The RSPB, Wildfowl Trust, Wetlands Trust, etc. shut all their reserves. Closed likewise were Dartmoor (not that we go there much) and all public footpaths - including of course the Coastal Path. It seemed daft that it should include the little bit of path from Lockslea to near the golf club, by the second tee. A closure more honoured in the breach than the observance. But officially shut it was.

We could go to Slapton and walk along the line (though some of that was washed away). We could go to Beesands and look up the ley from the bumpy coast road. In fact, for some weeks the small track which runs from the car park to the Devon Bird Society's hide was left open - not a public path and there were no animals on the other side of the wire fence. But after a while the farmer said he was putting cows in his field (he owns the path and the land the hide stands on) and that was that.

We tried to count the nests in the heronry at Orcheton. Usually we walk down the Flete Estate's path through the woods to reach the top of Orcheton creek. Not this year of course. But if you drive along the narrow lane which runs from Kingston through Orcheton to the A379 near Sequers Bridge, there is a place to park and you can gaze over the heronry from a gate just below Tor Rock.



on the outskirts of Kingston. It is a good half mile, maybe three-quarters, from the little wood where the herons breed, but through a telescope we could see three nests. The people for whom we do this count asked us to see at least if the heronry was still in use. So we could say it was, and our obligation for 2001 was satisfied.

But we were luckier than many other birders. I suppose most have gardens, with brick walls beyond them:

" Wiv a ladder and some glarses You could see to 'Ackney Marshes If it wasn't for the 'ahses in between"

From our windows we look over Thurlestone valley. We can't see all of it - maybe about a third. If we want more we have to toddle down to the vacant plot in Mead Drive. To our great glee, though not to Farmer Stidston's, during last winter the valley was flooded, if not as deeply as we have ever seen it - that happened when they dammed the stream to mend the little bridge by the golf club - but for much longer than ever before. A prolonged wet autumn and winter saw to that. We didn't see many birds elsewhere, but to compensate us they teemed in our valley.

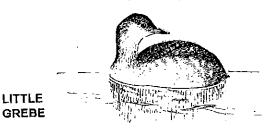
Most striking was Little Egret. To think that not many years ago it was a rarity. The first we saw here was in April 1986. I wrote a whole screed on the record card and sent in a special report to the British Birds Rarity Committee. We didn't see another anywhere for three years, after which one turned up on the Erme estuary. Most birds get scarcer and scarcer. Little Egret has been the opposite. Most of ones we see are supposed to breed in Brittany. But they nest now on Brownsea Island, in Poole harbour, and somewhere in

County Cork, in southern Ireland. Maybe they are nesting in the West Country. But if they are, it is a well-kept secret. In winter our friends who live at West Charleton can watch them from their windows as they go to roost in the woods around Lincombe boatyard, near Salcombe. Dozens of them!

Here at Thurlestone we had one with us for most of the winter. Sometimes two, but usually the incumbent chases away any newcomer - these herons (egret only means heron and vice-versa) defend their feeding patch and won't tolerate the presence of another. As dusk approached each day we would see it, or them, set off to the north over our parish. Going, we assumed, to roost in trees around the Avon estuary.

We did see more. On a couple of occasions there were four or five among cows up the valley. We got excited. Were they Cattle Egrets, much rarer in this country? In tv films of animals in Africa you see them walking about among the creatures' legs, because the Buffaloes or whatever kick up the grasshoppers and things on which they feed. But no. These lacked the yellow bills and heavily-feathered chins of Cattle Egrets. They had Little Egrets' black dagger-like bills. Though one did have a patch of yellow skin at the base of its beak, showing it was in breeding plumage. Maybe, one day, in Stiddicombe Wood....

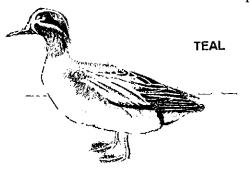
We always like to see the Egrets. But what excited us most was a Little Grebe which decided to live in the valley. Once or twice we saw two - there might have been two for most of the time. Little Grebe is a small diving bird, not much bigger than a man's fist. June always says they look like powderpuffs. Pale brown on top, silvery-white



below (that is in winter, in summer they are much more colourful). There is a sharply pointed head at one end and a very small tail sticking up at the other. The one we saw seemed to live among the flooded rushes. We would point the telescope at it and plop, it would dive, to surface eventually some distance from where it had gone under.

There were ducks. A couple of Shelduck stayed for much of the winter - large, gooselike birds. Two drake Pintails came, quite the most handsome of the ducks. The lady is slender and elegant, but just brown. The gentleman is mostly grey, his head is dark brown with a white strip running up his neck from his white breast. He is black under his stern, with a white patch in front, and he has a long tail, not as extravagant as a Pheasant's but getting on that way. They were there on Boxing Day, but someone was shooting in the valley and they did not stay. But as far as most of the other ducks were concerned, this was home and if they were frightened away they came back again.

Teals. At the end of December there were over 100 of them. They're very small ducks, very lively, and when they fly in a flock you would think they were waders. As with most ducks the ladies are brown. It doesn't apply



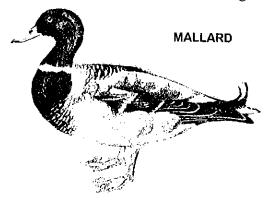
to Shelducks because they nest in holes and so the females do not need the protection of camouflage plumage. As for the real holenesters - Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches - the girls can be as colourful as the boys since they don't need concealment from predators. Teal gentlemen have grey bodies, chestnut heads with a green patch around each eye, and yellow patches on the

sides of their tails.

A few Gadwalls decided to winter with us - up to 10 at the end of January. The male is grey, easy to pick out because, apart from the end of his grey tail, the whole of his after end is black. As usual, the lady is brown. I freely confess I find it very hard to distinguish one female duck from another and just follow the simplest course of finding the man and trying to pair them up!

There were Wigeons. The drake has a grey body, pink breast, chestnut head with a creamy stripe up his forehead, and a black after-end with a patch of white in front. And there were Shovelers, picked out by their enormous beaks. The drake is striking with green head, white breast and chestnut flanks.

I most not omit our Mallards. You tend to ignore them because they live with us all year. By April there were ducks escorting little flotillas of ducklings. We must have seen at least half a dozen lots. Some grew to



maturity, most did not. Many baby birds come into the world to be gobbled up, and Mallard ducklings seem more vulnerable than most. Minks catch them, they make a snack for a Fox, and the Grey Heron, which likes our valley, hunted relentlessly for them. A few ducklings make a good meal, or do nicely to feed a Heron's young.

At the end of November the numbers of Canada Geese reached 160. Think of the grass that lot eat, but most of it was soon submerged anyway. Once there was a Barnacle Goose. In the Middle Ages they were said to develop from those grey barnacles with the long black stalks which you sometimes find attached to big logs washed up on our beaches. Because they were supposed to come from barnacles they were fish - therefore it was permissible to eat goose on Fridays. He was smaller than the Canadas - grey body, black neck, mostly white head. He should have been bred in Greenland or the Arctic islands, and come to western Scotland or the Netherlands for winter. Far more likely that this one had never been further than someone's wildfowl collection.

Spring came and most of the birds departed. The valley began to dry - it had nearly dried and then we had a night's heavy rain in the middle of June. We thought, oh dear, we are back to square one, but it all soon drained away. For us it was nearly all over.

Nearly but not quite! In early June the Berrymans were ploughing in the field beside the Holiday Fellowship. A couple of hundred Herring Gulls came to feed on the worms and things which the plough turned up. Nothing out of the ordinary in that. But more unusual was a flock of Buzzards. We counted fifteen and there could have been more. There are usually Buzzards around the valley - we see one most days, sometimes two, and very occasionally up to four. But that is about the total of the local residents. How did the fifteen know that Mr Berryman was ploughing and that there were worms to be had? (Most things eat worms, they are a staple diet of Badgers and when there was a baby Tawny Owl we fed him on worms). Gulls announce they have found food by screaming, which attracts others. They say that when a Vulture, circling high in the sky, spots a meal it drops down and is seen by other Vultures which descend, which in turn are seen by others. But Buzzards, though they soar, don't usually seem so organised. They mew, but then maybe the others can tell there is food by the way they mew!

**Harry Huggins** 

### **Duzzle Corner - Answers**

#### WORDSEARCH

<ol> <li>VERBOSITY</li> </ol>	2. WELLBEING	3. NEWMARKET	4. PROJECTOR
5. AGITATION	6. FOURSCORE	7. DISSONANT	8. DISPARATE
9. MARMALADE	10. BOUNTEOUS	11. PERIMETER	12. PRESIDENT
13. VANCOUVER	14. HYPERBOLE	15. APENNINES	16. UMBRELLAS
17. WORLDWIDE	18. SPECULATE	19. MULTITUDE	20. CELESTIAL
21. HARBINGER			

#### TEN TEASERS

1. Peregrine	3. Daniel Defoe	5. Jim Laker	<ol><li>Hereford</li></ol>	9. Grapefruit
2. San Francisco	4. Germany	<ol><li>Calcutta</li></ol>	8. Butterfly	10. Salt Lake City

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The following are some other useful phone numbers:

Women's Aid Help Line	01364 644088
Women's Aid Refuge	01803 315154
Benefits Agency	01803 210600
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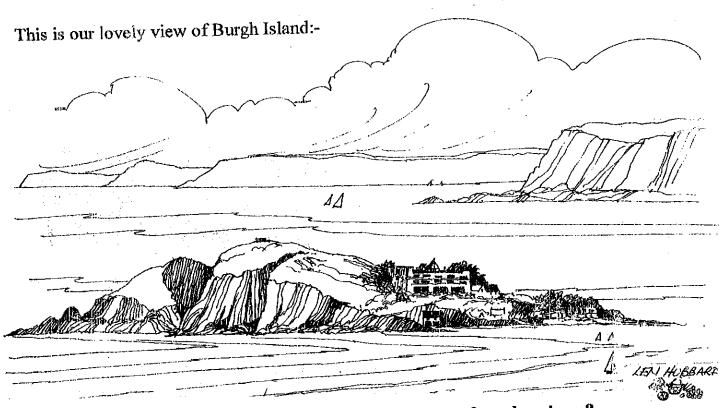
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The Parish Council meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf.

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# DIARY DATES

Sat 4<sup>th</sup>
Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Wed 10<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup>

TRAMP - Stepping Stones Church Barbecue, War Memorial Green, 6.00 pm TRAMP - Noss Mayo Horticultural Show, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm WI, Cream Tea for Parish Hall, Parish Hall, 2.30 - 4.30 pm

# SEPTEMBER

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Thur 13<sup>th</sup> Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Thur 6th

Ŧ. 14<sup>th</sup>

Sat 15<sup>th</sup>

> Parish Hall AUTUMN FAIR, 2.00 pm Harvest Supper, Parish Hall following service

WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (small fabric gifts)

TRAMP - Slapton, Pittaford, Strete

Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm Lions Charity Golf Day at Bigbury (see inside)

TRAMP - Haytor

# Mon 8th OCTOBER

Sat Thur 11th Wed 10<sup>th</sup>

# Wed 20<sup>年</sup> 24<sup>年</sup>

NSPCC Bridge Evening, Parish Hall

TRAMP - South Moors

WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Spice up your dishes!)

TRAMP - Coleton Fishacre

Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm

Mon 12th Thur 8th NOVEMBER

Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm TRAMP - Bigbury (Royal Oak) WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Annual Meeting)

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

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# PARISH DIRECTORY

# DIARY DATES

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

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

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# DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 5th SEPTEMBER 2001

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

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