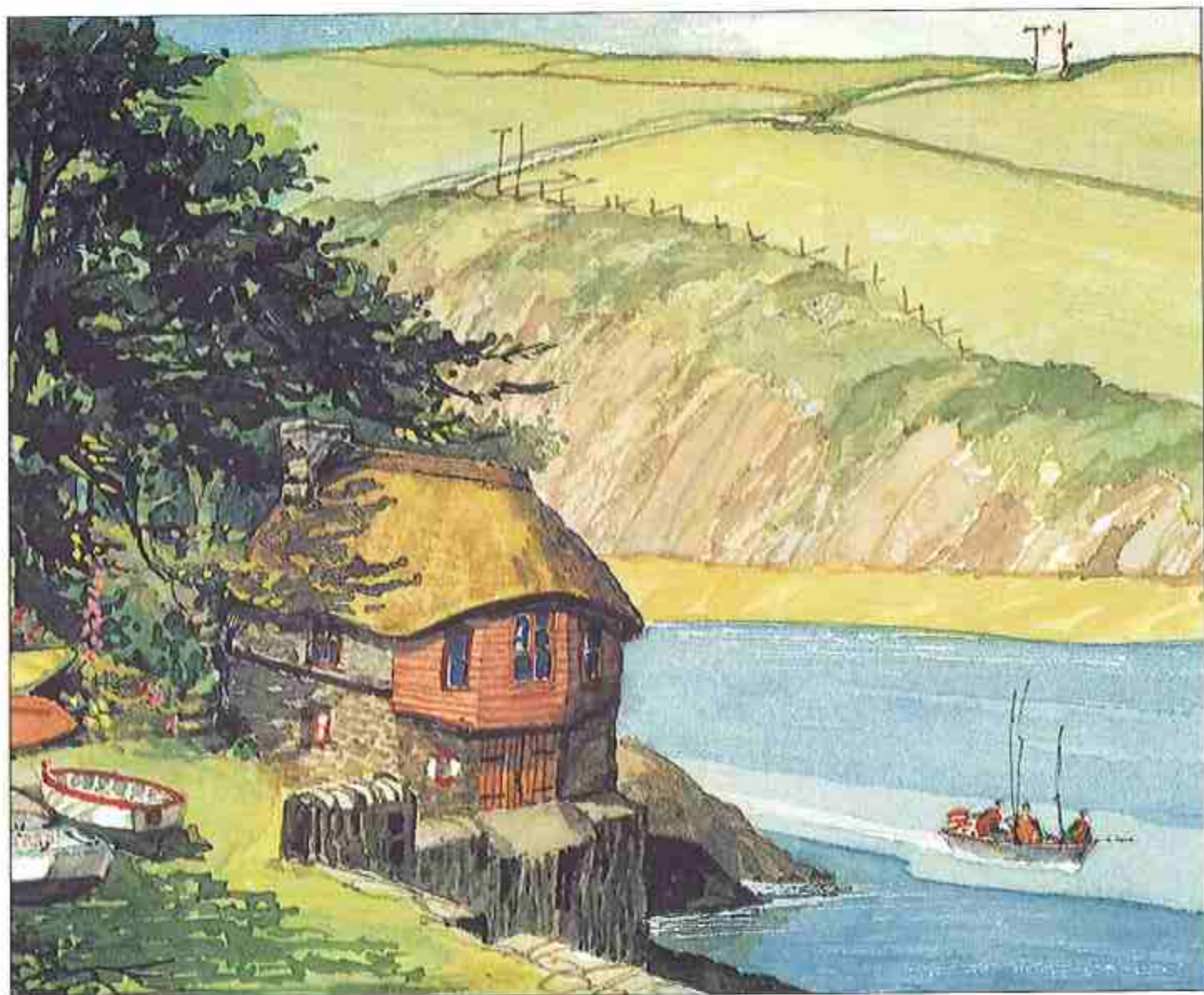


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VILLAGE VOICE



DECEMBER
2002

JANUARY
2003

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



NUMBER 118
DECEMBER 2002 - JANUARY 2003

**A
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
GOOD CHEER
AND A REALLY
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO
ALL
OUR READERS**

Front Cover: View of Jenkins' Quay, Bantham

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PLEASE, PLEASE, DON'T COME DOWN HERE

Villager has been most surprised to find that new residents Arabella and Henry have placed him on their Christmas card list. Their decision has given him an early sight of the 'round-robin' which Arabella has enclosed with each card. As all villagers in the parish will be interested in her views on our life, here is what she wrote this time...

"The Wombles"
Thurlestone
TQ7 0AP

Dear All

My, doesn't time fly! Can it really be more than a year since they put down those double yellow lines to make sure that cars can really whizz down through the village? Is it really two years since Henry and I turned our 'second home' into our only home? Is it really all that time ago since in fact we both became that most desired of all things, Real Residents? Well, yes, it really is.

And while on the subject of time flying, you won't remember - but you should - that in my last note to you all I did say not to come down to see us as we should not be at home, like all real residents, at Easter, Christmas, and all the days of any school holidays (including every half-term).

But some of you did come down, didn't you? Fancy shouting through The Wombles letter box: "Let us in...we know you're in there..." Well really!



It was just like Hallowe'en when all real residents switch off the lights, lock the doors and think what treat they would really like to administer to the little thugs on the doorstep. No, we weren't inside when you came down. How do we know you shouted through the letterbox? 'Cos our neighbours told us, that's why. Letting us down in front of the other real residents. We denied we knew you, of course, and hoped that they'd reported it to Neighbourhood Watch.

Henry laughed about it, but then Henry laughs about lots of things. It's a habit of his that is always getting him into trouble. Take the conkerless conker tree that they're planting down on the village green. It's designed to save those nasty accidents that Social Services say happen under conker

Talking of "Main Street", we're having terrible trouble with our address. Some real residents, who should know better, keep on referring to the village street as "Main Street, Thurlestone". Henry rather likes it, he says it's an Americanism which fits well into our Wild West. I have absolutely forbidden him to put it on our letter heads.

Well, as you can see, our life as Real Residents is becoming very parochial. Remember I told you about the village football pitch? Well, they're still talking about it, have been for years, but nothing's happened. Henry says it never will, now that the church has got planning permission to build their own hall at the back of the church and will need the parking space. That's the kind of remark that got him thrown out of the Parish Council, the Football Club, the Golf Club, his Sunday Lunch Club, and now the Bishop of Exeter has asked him to tea. Which, I am told, is a very bad sign.

Gosh, I was just about to stop this note when I realised I had forgotten all the family news. Don't know what's come over me! The kids are all doing terribly well. William, our eldest, has given up his job with the gardening company. It seems that the big girl on tv - you know, the one without a bra - didn't take kindly to one of his suggestions. William says it was only a joke about gardening, but even so has moved to a job selling reconditioned refrigerators to Zimbabwe (he says President Mugabwe is so nice that he pretends to be William's assistant whenever they fly around the world to visit the main fridge recyclers).

Emily? Well, she's out of the Army

now. No, she never did get her green beret. She goes all quiet when you ask about it and says they, whoever "they" are, made much too many demands on her. She is going into recycling too. Apparently she's heard that they are going to make all of us in Devon put our rubbish in different coloured sacks and she's formed a Devon Colour Waste company to supply the sacks. She reckons to be a millionairess soon after we get our red, white and blue sacks. And green ones of course.

That leaves young Charles. He's got some huge grant at the moment for him to go back to university. They say that failing him last time was a terrible mistake and now guarantee an Honours degree for him. I sometimes think he's doing best of all our kids.

It's very quiet here on the Western front. You wouldn't enjoy it after all the excitement I read about you having in Princess Tony's London Town, so, please, don't try and come down and see us, we're bound to be out. Added to that, it's still raining and what the real locals call the "buddleholes" (to let the water drain off the roads into the fields) are blocked again, so you won't get through the floods.

Never mind. Here's to a Very Merry Christmas from

ARABELLA & HENRY

P.S. Henry keeps calling himself "The Quiet Man". How I wish he were!



trees when the conkers fall on old people's heads. But Henry has to go on about it and say that we'll all be playing virtual conkers next autumn.

"Virtual" is Henry's favourite word ever since they painted a 'virtual pavement' with a white line dribbling down the village street. Henry says he had them all in fits in the Village Inn (you mustn't call it the "V.I." - only Grockles do that) as he took a virtual conker, drilled a virtual hole with a virtual skewer and then threaded it on a virtual string and played a virtual game of conkers with it. Apparently everyone joined in and they went walloping imaginary conkers all round the pub. Well, it was virtually closing time.

Yes, I do worry about Henry. I really do. He's virtually destroyed his smart new Barbour coat by rubbing it with steel wool to make it look old and worn. All real residents, says Henry, have battered Barbours. It's the same with his flat hat. I caught him playing rugby with it in the field at the back. He dropped five 'Jonny Wilkinson' goals with it before it finally got stuck up a real conker tree.

Henry - well you know Henry - has never learnt not to say the wrong thing on all occasions. That's what got us thrown out of the All England Club when, all those years ago, we lived up in dear old Wimbledon. It took us oodles of dosh and years of flattery to get in the Club, and then Henry goes and says something about you-know-who's sexual orientation and suddenly, before you could say deuce, we're out with only one green and purple towel between the two of us. And the things they said about Henry.

Talk about what the butler saw - tennis-players are far worse!

Mind you, you have to be jolly careful what you say down here in this neck of the woods. Despite the incredible prices, houses change hands almost monthly - a local estate agent chap told Henry to ask half a million for The Wombles if he moves - but you never know who you may be talking to. You've got to know, when you say "Thurlestone", which Thurlestone you're talking about. There are at least four Thurlestons - Thurlestone village (very old and very posh), Thurlestone Mead (very much house-swapping territory) and Thurlestone Yarmer Estate (Millionaires' Row and all that). Then there's Thurlestone Golf Club. Hold on, Henry's saying something.....Henry says you can't count the Golf Club, they don't have much to do with Thurlestone proper - they're just golfers who come from any old place.

Don't know if you ever came down here at a weekend, but if you did I expect you had hell trying to find somewhere to eat a proper Sunday lunch. Bit late to tell you now, but it's always like that around here on a Sunday.

Tradition, you see. Each area has its own Sunday Lunch Club and sometimes they book hotel, pubs and carvery tables for months ahead. Some pubs have two sittings on a Sunday lunchtime. Some are thinking about three. These SLCs have odd names - the Mead Expats, the Buckland Battlers, the Bantham Bashers, the Black Campbells, the Barbour Boys, the Rolls Boys, the Sorley Bumpers, the Roundabout Bantham, the Furlongers, the Happy Hunters and the Main Street Munchers.

Village News Round-Up

Special Birthdays

Congratulations to our imminent new ninety-year-olds in the parish, who, all within a week during December, will celebrate this special milestone - **May Campbell, Kate Crowther, and Winnie Nash**. May you all have much peace and happiness in the coming year.

Charity Bridge

The NSPCC is delighted to report it raised £400 at its recent Bridge Evening and wants to thank all those who took part and other friends who helped to make this a successful event.

We're the tops

Thurlestone parish is one of only eighteen places in Britain which are listed in the official handbook of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Summer Party as having staged the full four events asked for by the national organisers. Quite an achievement to come in the top twenty out of over 1800 towns and villages countrywide taking part! In the official listings, Thurlestone is noted as: (1) lighting a beacon (2) staging a street party (3) holding a garden party (4) having a ram roast.

New Captains

The lady members of Thurlestone Golf Club said a fond farewell and warm "thank you" to **Val Brown** as she finished her busy year as Lady Captain. **Mary Tregelles** and **Gill Durdon** were welcomed as the new Lady Captain and Lady Vice-Captain, and we offer congratulations and best wishes to both for a successful year ahead.

Thurlestone Bridge Clubs

Officers for the coming year are:

WEDNESDAY CLUB

Chairman	David Cooke
Secretary	Jan Patrick
Treasurer	Dorothy Stone

FRIDAY CLUB

Chairman	Alan Crook
Secretary	Sheila Tootill
Treasurer	Pat Crook

The telephone contact for both clubs is **Dorothy Stone** on 560708.

No change of address

Local residents will be pleased to know that, although having recently given up farming, **Vic Adams** and his family will continue to live at Buckland Farm house, their home for the past 43 years, so no change of address cards will be going out! Having given up agriculture, Vic will be keeping busy on the local horticultural scene.

Mike the Bike

You may have seen a photo in the local paper recently showing **Michael Allen** of Salcombe presenting a £4112 cheque to the British Heart Foundation regional director. This sum was raised by Michael's 2002 marathon ride round the SW peninsula and he wants to thank Thurlestonians for their usual wonderful support. Since 1991 he has raised £37,285 for charity from these rides. He's working on something special for a 2004 ride so "watch this space" he says!





CHRISTMAS POSTBAG

Dear Editor

I am dismayed that the Thurlestone Parish Council is content to leave the inaccurate WEST BUCKLAND village sign sited on Clanacombe Hill. Of the members of the Parish Council who voted, following their September meeting, against an alteration to BUCKLAND (neither East nor West) only one of the participating councillors lives in Buckland - all the others are resident in Thurlestone, so possibly the matter under discussion was of little concern or interest to the latter.

As to dithering over where East Buckland starts and finishes - well, it starts at the junction of Burnt House property with the Clanacombe estate, i.e., at the copse at the end of the long meadow. This is where a Buckland sign should stand. East Buckland joins with West Buckland at the public telephone box where the New Road starts. The Old Road, downhill past what used to be Julians Court and Harrises Farm, to Rose Cottage, Seven Steps, Langmans, Brook Cottage, all these are West Buckland as are many other dwellings across Chapel Hill, including Grove Cottages.

Presumably Thurlestone Parish Council is happy to ignore local history and the existence of Eas'on Town and Wes'on Town.

**Anne Jenkins
East Buckland**

Dear Editor

Anyone looking at an Ordnance Survey map, especially the 1:25000 variety, cannot but notice, if studying this area, that there is an East Buckland and a West Buckland. Indeed, a visit to the County Record Office in Exeter to look at old maps will, if anything, emphasise the existence of the two settlements.

Consequently it is, to someone with 'roots' in

the parish, an extraordinary happening when a sign appears way to the east of East Buckland announcing that the reader of the sign, presumably a visitor, has arrived in West Buckland when in reality

- a. The location of the sign is on the Clanacombe estate, which is neither East nor West Buckland
- b. West Buckland is actually a further half mile along the road, past East Buckland.

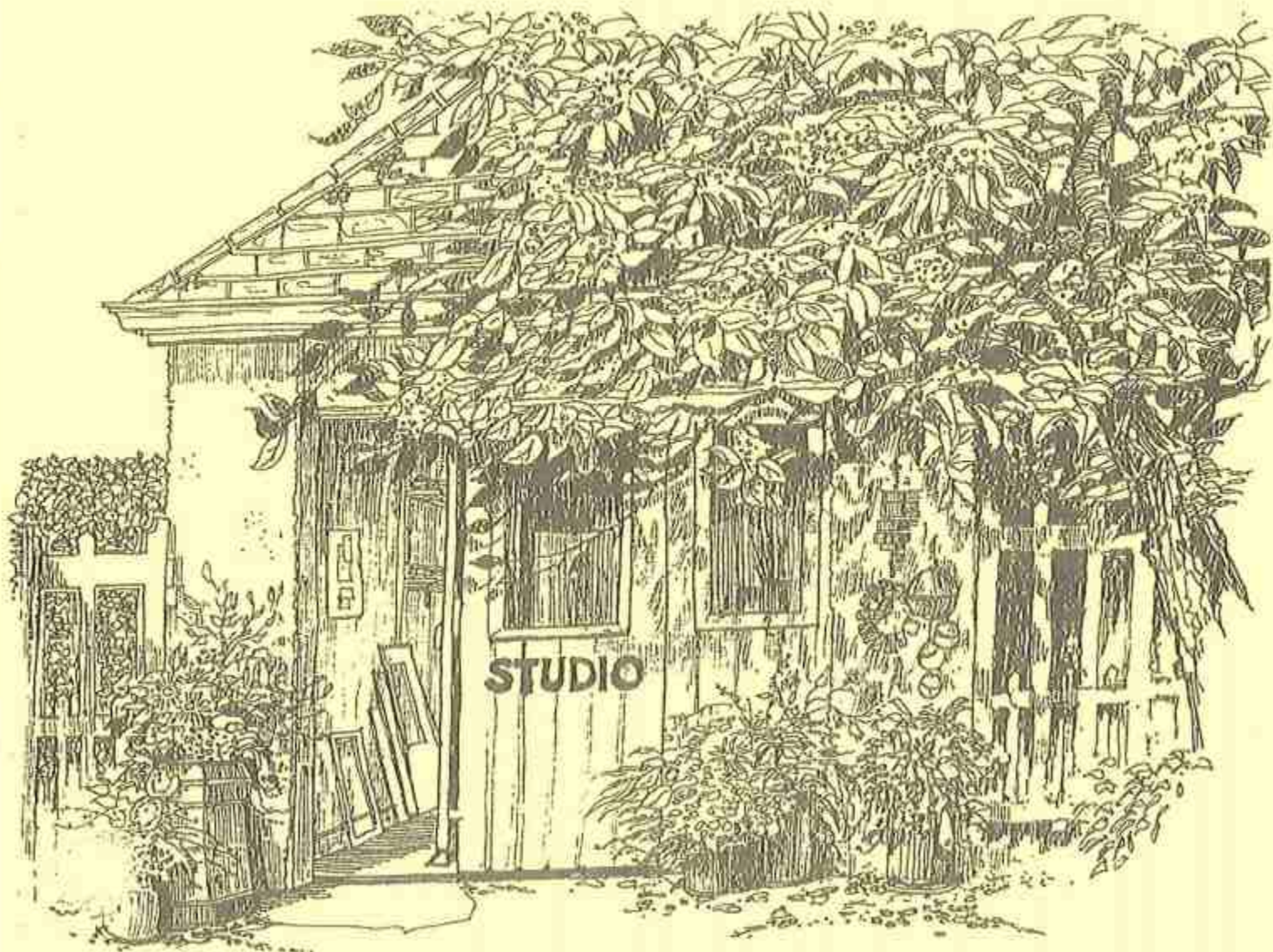
Attempts were made at the last two Parish Council meetings to point out the profound inaccuracy of the aforementioned sign - such attempts being backed up by a letter from Mr Halliday of the County Council Highways department, who erected the offending sign in the first place, saying that although the sign was put up at the direction of the Parish Council, if the Council so requested then the sign could be re-worded and re-located.

Honour would be satisfied, it was agreed, if the sign simply stated "BUCKLAND", ignoring the East or West description, and was relocated to the point where East Buckland is believed to begin. However, at the Parish Council meeting on the 7th October, it was announced that the Council did not propose to ask the County Highways to intervene but that the subject would be brought up at the Annual Parish Meeting, some six months hence.

It is a sad day when arbitrary decisions ignore historical fact and I would like to think that all parishioners - and particularly residents and property-owners of Buckland (East and West) - will seek to keep alive the geographical and separate identity of these two settlements by either writing direct to the parish Council, or contacting me on 561006 or by e-mail to

<Rowland@coie 380.fsnet.co.uk>
to register their views.

**Rowland Cole
West Buckland**



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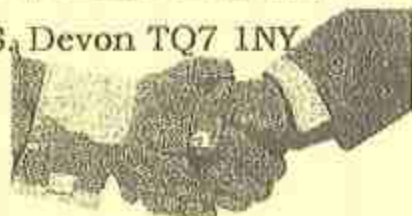
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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting held on 7th October 2002



Citizen joins the Battle of Buckland

Every Council Meeting has a **hot spot**. That's the time when the heat inside the Parish Hall has nothing to do with the temperature outside. Actually when the 7th October hot spot burst into life, it was, as I recall, rather chilly outside. Dark too. Winter is with us.

This hot spot appeared in the meeting's Open Forum session. It concerned the placing of "Buckland" road signs in the wrong places. This touchy subject was touched upon in the last 'Citizen' report about September's Parish Council meeting, when a short discussion took place about these Buckland signs which named the whole of East and West Buckland just West Buckland. Then it was said that some of the residents objected well, wouldn't any true East Bucklander feel the same?

Back into the fray this time was **Miss Anne Jenkins**. She led a renewed charge in what will surely become known as the Battle of Buckland, where East is East and West is West and clearly never the twain shall meet. Miss Jenkins certainly didn't want to be transported to West Buckland and reported that she had received a letter from Devon County Council which said that the West Buckland sign near her home would only be altered (and presumably put in the right place) if the Parish Council requested it. She therefore asked, nay verily demanded, that the sign be altered.

Our gallant Chairman tried to call a truce between West and East by saying that it would cost the parish a lot of money to alter the sign. And he seemed to indicate that getting the money would be difficult, and so the sign was likely to stay as it was. This seemed to Citizen rather unfair. After all, if

the DCC made the mistake, *they* should pay to put it right. However, Miss Jenkins was clearly not in the mood to accept any shabby compromise and launched another wave of East Buckland protests.

Finally the hot spot died down to a glowing ember when our Chairman (surely a Middle Bucklander?) agreed to put the question of the siting of the signs to the whole parish at the Annual Parish Meeting - though he failed to detail the wording of the actual question in any such contentious referendum. Watch out for my next hot spot report from the Battlefield of Buckland.

OFF TO A BAD START?

Another potentially very serious hot spot was raised by the Chairman who told us that local people who applied for the new Sea View starter homes were not being given much hope by the Housing Association. For example, a Bantam resident had been told to live in the parish first and then apply! Another couple had been told to have a large family first and then apply.

Our understanding was that local people would be given priority. Clearly this was not happening and so a stern letter is on its way to **Andrew Fiske**, SHDC's Housing Resources and Development Manager. *When you think that the land had only been made available on the clear understanding that the homes were intended for local young people, well, there seems to be a clear misunderstanding somewhere.*

RHYMES WITH US

There were, of course, other warm spots at

the meeting, not all fiery perhaps but no less important. For example, we applauded **Mr Andrew Rhymes** of Thurlestone into his seat as the second of our new Parish Councillors, where he joined the other new boy, **Neil Girling** from Bantam, who had been seated at a previous meeting.

CAREFUL CROCODILE

The safety of Thurlestone school-children is always much in the parish's mind and **Councillor Veronica White** pointed out that Loddiswell children assembled away from the traffic before being escorted through their village to school, while wearing luminous safety jackets. This was thought a sensible precaution, worth adopting in Thurlestone, particularly when heavy construction vehicles for the Sea View housing project are using the roads.

KERSE THOSE LORRIES

A linked safety thought then came from parishioner **George Hubbard**, who asked whether a mirror could be put up, perhaps temporarily, for traffic joining the village street from Rock Hill, Thurlestone. He feared that all the extra building lorries

emerging from this junction during the building work at Sea View would add to the dangers of the poor visibility at this point.

Though the subject was not explored further at this time (no doubt it will be at a later meeting) there is clearly a need during this building work on the starter homes for there to be an alternative exit from the site higher up the village. Surely there is no need for heavily laden lorries to come down from Sea View and up the village street past the school, when they could emerge at Kerse Cross after a short trip across a field from the site?

SLICE THE MAIN PLACE

One irritating hot spot which is bound to erupt again soon is the increasing use by certain Councillors of the Americanism "Main Street". Citizen lives not in Main Street, Thurlestone, but high up in the village street of Thurlestone. Why don't they talk about Main Street, Bantam? Is there a Main Street, West Buckland? Or even, whisper who dares, Main Street, East Buckland?

Citizen

CHURCH HALL REPORT - A DISCLAIMER

In the issue dated 8th November 2002 the Kingsbridge Gazette carried a report about the planning application for the proposed Thurlestone church meeting room under the headline "**Church to get its new hall**".

The Chairman of Thurlestone Parish Council, Mr Peter Hurrell, wishes it to be known that he did not speak to the Gazette, and that the comments quoted under his name were wrongly attributed to him.

They should in fact have been attributed to the Parish Clerk, Mr John Lonsdale.

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CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGE



NINE-LETTER CHRISTMAS WORD-SEARCH

The answers to the clues can be made up by combining three sets of three letters from the grid to make words with something of a "Christmas" flavour. When complete, three sets of three letters should remain. Combine these letters to find another 9-letter seasonal word.

1. Prickly US President?
2. Seasonal ebb and flow?
3. Enjoy!
4. Christmas crackers?
5. Rudolf's kind
6. Those little tarts!
7. What presents come in
8. Hung up and filled
9. Old tanners in the pud
10. The festive papers
11. University of carols
12. One of the three
13. Wickedly illuminated
14. No room here
15. No more, thanks
16. Philosophy of Wise Men
17. Post-prandial fire?
18. Out at night
19. See-house
20. Supply with food
21. ???

HOL	TIV	ERS	IST	PEN	DGE	MAG
HLE	URN	NOC	LYB	ITY	REI	TWR
CES	CAM	THA	LIT	SAT	HED	ION
YUL	MAS	IES	STO	EAM	ZAR	CAN
ISF	RAL	PRO	ETI	RKS	MIN	CKI
ERS	BAL	DLE	IED	CAT	VIS	DES
FIR	CEP	NGS	STR	BRI	ISM	BET
RTB	NAL	USH	FES	NDE	APS	SIX
IAN	HEM	HEA	CHR	TUR	EWO	GIF

ONE-TO-TEN "WOTSISNAMES"

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Name the first European Footballer of the Year (1956) | 6. Name the old " Six Counties" of Northern Ireland |
| 2. Name the Two Fat Ladies of television culinary fame | 7. Name the seven dwarfs of Walt Disney's "Snow White" |
| 3. Name the Three Wise Men who travelled to Bethlehem | 8. Name the eight USA states beginning with the letter "M" |
| 4. Name the four poems within T.S.Eliot's "Four Quartets" | 9. Name the nine Muses of classical mythology |
| 5. Name the five Great Lakes of the US / Canadian border | 10. Name the ten disciplines of the Olympic decathlon |

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGE

FIND THE MISSING LETTERS - AND THE TITLES!

All the titles below refer to classic books and plays - test your literary deductive powers!

(Example : * * * * E * * * * * J * * * * E = PRIDE AND PREJUDICE)

1. * L * * E * * * * S *
2. * * R * * A * I * *
3. * * * H * * * * * B * * * * * I * *
4. * * N * * * * A * R
5. * H * * * * * N * * * H * * *
6. * * * * E * * * * * I * * T *
7. * Y * * * * * E
8. * * * A * * * R * * R
9. * * * L * * * T * * * * * S
10. * * * * T
11. * * * * * S * * * S * * * O *
12. * * * * H * * * * * B * * *
13. * H * * * * * I * * * A *
14. * * * D * * * A * * H
15. * A * * * * * T * * * * * N * * * O * *
16. * * * * M * * * * * E * H * * *
17. * * C * * * *
18. * * D * * * * S * * R *
19. * * I * * * * U * * * * M * * *
20. * * R * * * * E
21. * * * * * R * * * * * P *
22. * * L * * * * * R * * * *
23. * R * * * U * * * * * N *
24. * * * R * * L * * O *
25. * * E * * * P * * * * * *
26. * * * * * T * * * * D * * * * H * * *
27. * O * * O * * *
28. * * * K * * * * * I * *
29. * * * A
30. * * R * * * * A * *
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38. * * * * L * * * R * * * * * H * *
39. * * * * R * * * * K * * * R *
40. K * * * * * *





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Parish Hall News

A report by Rowland Cole, Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee

"It never rains but it pours" goes the saying. For Thurlestone Parish Hall these words seem to have more meaning than usual at the moment. Certainly we can suffer when it rains with a vengeance because, somewhere, water gets through the fragile and weak Hall roof. We are very fortunate in having as our caretaker **Ray Tavender**, who swoops on any of the building's imperfections at the slightest sign of failure, and mends and patches with commendable efficiency. All the time, however, one is reminded of the need to see a new hall built that will not require such nursing.

There were reports in some newspapers of a demonstration in White hall on 29th October by representatives of village and parish halls from all over the country, protesting at the reduction of funds available for the development of such halls. One newspaper reported that funding for halls had been reduced from £32 million to £17 million, while £18 million has been directed towards asylum seekers and refugee groups.

At the same time, the Community Fund of the National Lottery - whose local office is in Bristol - has indicated that the size of the grant we were hoping we might be awarded is extremely unlikely to be realised and we would be advised to reduce it by two-thirds.

With all these factors in mind, the Parish Hall Committee has had some pretty severe thinking to do, the outcome being broadly as follows :

1. **Martyn Grose**, our fund-raising co-ordinator, should recruit some expert help to assist with the endless forms and mounds of paper work.. To this end, we are happy to report that **David Houghton** and **Veronica**

White (who both have extensive experience of fund-raising from Lottery and other sources) have agreed to join Martyn's fund-raising team.

2. It is felt essential that our approach must change from deciding what we feel is best for the Parish, and expecting to be able to raise the funds to finance such aspirations, to deciding how much money we think we can reasonably expect to raise, and designing the best hall we can for that sum.

It is with regret that these constraints force us first, to consider a reduction in the height of the original building planned, and secondly to revert to a rectangular configuration. The implications are, of course, that badminton and similar sports will not be possible, and also that we will lose the planned "porch" effect that would have been a nice design feature.

Timing of the whole exercise is, of course, thrown into disarray, but it seems sensible to think that we will be looking to apply to the Lottery and other funds late next spring or early summer. As Parishioners will appreciate, Christmas is nearly upon us, and there is much re-drawing and re-planning work to be done as well as the inevitable form-filling when it comes to making the actual application. All this has to be fitted around the existing commitments of the volunteers who give their time so generously to ensure that our new Parish Hall becomes a reality as opposed to a perpetual dream.

Let us hope that the downpours of the past few weeks will soon give way to some drier weather!

Rowland Cole



All Saints



Rector: Revd. Andrew Girling 562219

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

ANDREW GIRLING WRITES:

God at the Checkout

December's preparations for Christmas compel me to join the mixed rugger scrum at the Supermarket. I try to sidestep my way through the opposition, but am caught behind the knees by one person with a wire basket and on the back of the heels by another with a trolley.

The frustration of being unable to push my own trolley in the direction I want because it has a mind of its own, is matched only by the cold sweat that overwhelms me when I look at the prices of the goodies on offer. I wonder if the beguiling plastic card in my wallet can really be brought into play again.

At half time I sneak a longing glance at the shelves of drink. Can you get the Christmas spirit out of a bottle? But then back to the fray and hard strategic decisions. Will my mother actually like that scarf? Will my wife want to read that book? Whom have I forgotten? Where on earth have they put the stuffing?

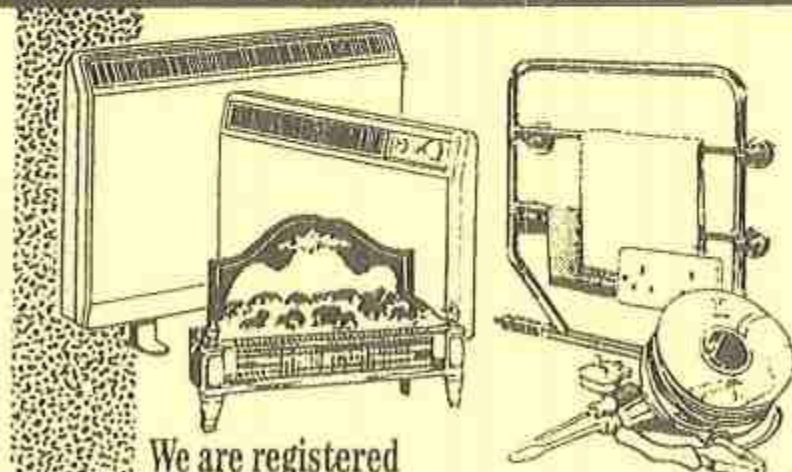
Then above the clatter and chatter and the beep-beep of the checkout, I can just hear the strains of a Christmas carol 'Hark the herald angels sing'. How incongruous! What has the baby in a manger got to do with all this cut and thrust materialism. It's a completely different world. But hang on. Isn't that just the point? In the baby Jesus two separate worlds are brought together. The divine invades the secular. Jesus is born right into the heart of the world of commercialism, politics and scandal.

Everyone in the Christmas story is facing situations which make my shopping spree look like a picnic. It all took place in an occupied country. Herod, in order to get himself out of a threatening situation, initiates his own form of infant terrorism. The shepherds were cold and lonely doing a thankless task on the night shift. Joseph faced a family scandal – had his fiancée been unfaithful to him? Should he break off the engagement? Mary was expecting a baby away from home, surrounded by strangers and unable to find even the most basic comforts. There were no beds available. She had not been on the waiting list long enough. This is the sort of world into which Jesus was born. It is our world.

Listen then all of you who for whatever reason are going to struggle to enjoy Christmas with all its strain and stress. The Christmas story tells us that wherever in the world there are problems or pain, whenever you may hurt, God is there in it with you right up to his neck. He is saying 'I understand, I share, I will never leave you'. While the rest of us might try to escape for a few days from such harsh realities with our crazy commercial celebrations, if we listen, we too may hear above the hectic rush of it all the song of the angels: 'Glory to a newborn King'. We may also realise that his life and love is the real world and kneel in praise and adoration.

Andrew

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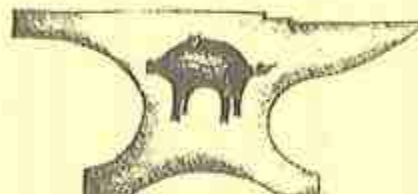
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All Saints Diary

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

Church Services

Sundays, Christmas & New Year You would be welcome at all services

DECEMBER 1ST – ADVENT SUNDAY	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship for All Ages 6.00 p.m. Benefice Advent Carol Service at West Alvington
DECEMBER 8TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Matins (BCP)
DECEMBER 15TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist* (CW)
DECEMBER 22ND	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion* (CW) & Crib Service
DECEMBER 23RD	5.00 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
CHRISTMAS EVE	11.30 p.m. First Eucharist of Christmas (CW)
CHRISTMAS DAY	11.10 a.m. Family Service followed by Holy Communion
DECEMBER 29TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 10.00 a.m. Benefice Eucharist at South Milton*
DECEMBER 31ST	6.00 p.m. Benefice New Year's Eve Service at Thurlestone
JANUARY 5TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 10.30 a.m. Searchlight & Sunday Club Epiphany Play & Service*
JANUARY 12TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Matins (BCP)
JANUARY 19TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW)
JANUARY 26TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship

* = Change from normal pattern

Weekdays

THURSDAY DEC 5TH & JAN 2ND	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham
OTHER THURS EXCEPT DEC 26TH	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW)
THURSDAY JANUARY 30TH	8.00 a.m. Informal Prayer

Please note that the church has a loop system & a wheelchair is available

Homemade Soup & Ploughman's Lunch

MONDAYS DECEMBER 2ND & JANUARY 6TH
NOON – 1.30 P.M.

in the Parish Hall

In aid of *Children in Distress* (December) & (January)

Everyone is welcome ~ Ring Rosemary Chipman (562013) if you need a lift

Coffee-Time

ALL OTHER MONDAYS
10.30–11.30 A.M.

Church Meeting Room Update

from the P.C.C.

As readers will know the P.C.C. has felt for some time that it was important, for the future development of the Church's work and ministry, to replace the barn and we have spent several years trying to find a suitable site, until it became evident that the unused part of the churchyard was the only option available.

At the meeting of the Planning Committee on 30th October, the planning application for the building of the Church Meeting Room was approved. A Faculty for this building from the Diocesan Advisory Committee has also been granted.

The next stage is for the Architect to finalise working drawings, then to obtain several estimates from Building Contractors which it is anticipated will be early in the New Year.

We recognise that this decision will be a disappointment to some people and the P.C.C. has tried to accommodate the concerns expressed by some of the parishioners about this development, especially over future burial space in the Church yard.



All Saints' Carol Singers

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH

MEET OUTSIDE WEST BUCKLAND FARM AT 5.00 P.M.

TO SING ROUND BUCKLAND

Children are especially welcome

Wear warm clothes - Bring a torch - Carol sheets provided

Collection in aid of Children in Distress

In recent years it has been increasingly difficult to 'Carol Sing' round the whole parish due to lack of man (& woman) power! We now have an evening Carol Service in church to which everyone is invited and both pubs usually have carol singing evenings.

Therefore we have decided to limit our door-to-door singing to one evening. This will be an early evening event to allow as many children as possible to come and we hope all the regular singers will also join us.

If anyone could offer refreshments at about 6.30 p.m., we should be very pleased to accept!

For more information please contact Liz Webb (560090).

Church Members wish you all

a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**We hope that you will be able to join us at some of the services
over Christmas and the New Year.**

(See All Saints' Diary for details)

CHRISTMAS NEWS FROM THE WI

New Committee

The re-election of **Dorothy Candy** as President for a further twelve months was warmly received by the members at the Annual Meeting in November. The new committee for the coming year will be made up of **Dorothy Abel, Pat Crawford, Rosemary Durant, Pam Knight, Judith Le Grice (Secretary), Karen Livett, Pat Macdonald, Judith Reynolds, Carolyn Taylor, Jan Trender and Jean Yeoman (Treasurer)**. The Secretary made a comprehensive summing-up of a very active and involved year for our WI, during which time we've enjoyed interesting speakers at monthly meetings and the companionship and fun of learning, working and playing together at many events. The President expressed her gratitude to the committee for their co-operation and support in 2002 which had resulted in a happy WI year for Thurlestone's fifty-nine members.

Coming Events

We were reminded that the Home Economics area had fixed two events in the immediate future at Charleton village hall. There would be a demonstration of tassel-making on Wednesday 27th November, at 2.30 pm, and on Thursday 5th December there would be a Mince-pie Coffee Morning, 10.30 am to noon, when there would be Christmas demonstrations - cookery, using fresh material in making festive wreaths and various crafts. **Joan Booth** and **Pat Clarke** would be amongst the tutors. The eagerly-awaited Christmas Lunch would take place on 6th December.

Good progress by Joan

Everyone was pleased to hear that **Joan Batchelor** had now returned from Ireland, where she had been taken ill, and was at

Mount Gould making a slow but steady recovery. A card and flowers had been sent to her. *[Later: Dorothy Candy received a note of thanks from Joan]*

Nothing Changes

The social supper evening 'Nothing Changes' was a sell-out success. Comic sketches involved **Mesdames Booth, Brown, Candy, Clarke, Crawford, Macdonald, Neukirchen, Parkin and White, Messrs Parker, Parkin and Tregelles** with music by **Judith Le Grice** (piano) and **Judith Reynolds** (violin). The evening was much enjoyed - if happy faces are anything to go by!

New Programme

2003 promises to be another active year, judging by the new programme of speakers and events which have been fixed. Our first speaker of the New Year would be **Steve Melia** on Thursday 9th January and his subject will be "Old Hallsands".

Body Shop

On Monday 20th January there will be a Coffee Morning at the Parish Hall, from 10.30 am until noon, when local Body Shop agent **Linda Quinn** will be showing us the company's latest products and also giving us a chance to participate in her January Sale! This is open to everyone who would like to come along, so, members, bring your friends and enjoy the morning.

WE WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES
PEACE AND HAPPINESS
FOR CHRISTMAS
AND GOOD HEALTH
IN THE COMING YEAR



PAYMENT OF PENSIONS & BENEFITS

*Postmaster Adrian Masters
explains the new system*

As you will have heard, from April 2003 the Benefits Agency payments and some tax credits will change to automated credits paid directly to a bank account. This means that pension books will no longer be available. **It is important that people are aware that they will still be able to collect cash for these benefits at Post Offices. But they will need to choose one of the three following ways to access that money.**

(1) Introductory or Basic Account

Provided by banks and some other financial institutions, this will allow customers to access cash at any P.O. or at the bank branch issuing the account. It may also be used via cash machines.

(2) Current Account

Allows customers to access cash at any P.O. if they bank with one of our banking partners. May also be used at the cash machines and other branches of their bank.

(3) Post Office Card Account

A new type of account allowing customers to collect their benefits, pensions and tax credits in cash from Post Offices (this directly replaces the pension book method).

Whilst we are unable to advise which account best suits an individual, **we would encourage customers to continue to use the P.O. to access their cash as this will ensure the viability of the Post Office network as a whole and local offices in particular.** The various agencies will contact everyone in the coming months. Read their letter carefully and if you need any more information we will be pleased to help at Thurlstone P.O.

The Post Office Card Account is a major investment and will involve some alterations at our Post Office counter. We hope this will not cause too many problems for customers.

*The NFWI weighs in
on behalf of the Post Office network*

The National Federation of Women's Institutes tells its members that these changes : *"will also have important implications for the Post Office network as these transactions generate over one-third of its income. Not all bank and building societies have agreed to make their current accounts accessible at Post offices.....we are concerned that people should not be pushed into being paid through accounts that are not best for them".*

In July the NFWI, with Postwatch, Age Concern and other organisations, wrote to the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, including the following statement:

"We welcome the Government's assurance that people will be able to continue to collect their pension and benefit free of charge at a Post Office. We believe that many people, given full information about the options, would continue to collect their benefit at a Post Office, particularly if they knew that not doing so was likely to lead to more Post Offices closing."

The NFWI also goes on to say to its own members : *"For all the Government's fine words about free choice for customers and commitment to a Post Office-based solution to the change in payment method, it seems quite clear that there is a not-so-hidden agenda of 'actively managing' pension and benefit recipients into opting for payment via a bank or building society current account wherever this is an option. This may be the least cost option for the Government, but may not be in the best interests of customers or the Post Office network."*

The NFWI is writing to those banks that have not yet agreed to make their current accounts accessible through Post Offices, to press upon them the importance of doing so. This is all part of the WI's ongoing national campaign to save the Post Office network.

Thurlestone Post Office & Stores

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

Adrian & Alison Masters (Phone 01548 - 561917)

Over the Festive period the shop, and the Post Office in particular, will change its usual times of operation. The times and days listed below are guaranteed. While the shop opening hours may be increased to meet demand, the Post Office hours will remain as shown.

DATE	SHOP	POST OFFICE
23 Monday	8.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
24 Tuesday Christmas Eve	8.00 - 3.30	9.00 - 12.30
25 Wednesday Christmas Day	CLOSED	CLOSED
26 Thursday Boxing Day	8.00 - 1.00	CLOSED
27 Friday	8.00 - 5.00	9.00 - 4.30
28 Saturday	8.00 - 1.00	9.00 - 1.00
29 Sunday	8.30 - 1.00	CLOSED
30 Monday	8.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
31 Tuesday New Year's Eve	8.00 - 4.00	9.00 - 4.00
1 Wednesday New Year's Day	8.00 - 1.00	CLOSED
2 Thursday	8.00 - 5.30	9.00 - 5.30
3 Friday	8.00 - 5.00	9.00 - 4.30



Normal Opening Hours resume on Saturday 4th January 2003

The Christmas edition of the Radio and TV Times will be available shortly, and you can reserve your copy at the counter or by telephone. Vegetables, drinks, mince pies, bread, etc., should be ordered well in advance and will be available for collection or delivery during Christmas week.

Sarah and Christine, Eric and Margaret, together with Alison and I thank you for your support over the past year and we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

You are cordially invited to attend
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CHRISTMAS SMILES

A Fairy Story

Did you know that the tradition of putting a fairy on the top of the Christmas tree has an interesting origin? It seems that Santa thought he had the 'flu, his wife had been nagging him, the reindeer had taken the hump and were not pulling together, while the elves were threatening to strike and had refused to fix a loose runner on the sleigh.

And then, right after he learned that Mrs Claus's mother was coming unexpectedly to stay, there was a knock at the door. When the old gent opened it, he saw a little fairy standing outside. "Hi Santa", piped the visitor cheerily. "I've brought your Christmas tree, C.O.D. Where shall I put it?"



Village Voice is delighted to reproduce below the Christmas card received from **Mollie and Neville Oswald**. It is an original, drawn and hand-coloured by Neville. Unfortunately, we can only show it in monochrome.

A Christmas Surprise



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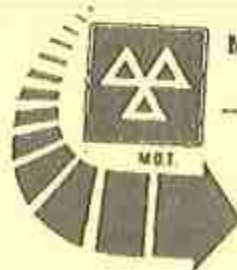
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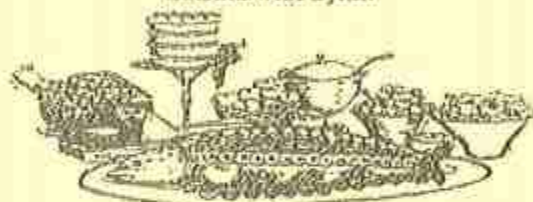
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ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

ICT SUITE AND SCHOOL COMPUTER NETWORK

An update from Tony Ward - School ICT Governor



The accommodation for the ICT Suite has been created from the central space previously used as a cloakroom and throughway. It is secure and centrally accessible from all classrooms.

The Suite will contain **eleven networked systems**, with one workstation (with a second hard-disk and higher specification) doubling up as a shared central data file-server providing access to shared data and children's saved work-in-progress from any system, and also from individual systems in each classroom.

The Suite will also contain a fast shared **monochrome laser printer** for end-of-session bulk printing, and two photo-quality **colour inkjet printers** for selective use (and back-up should the laser printer be unavailable). Also provided will be a **scanner** for input of pictures and documents; standard 3.5 inch diskette drives; a CD-writer; three **graphics tablets** (for drawn/hand-written input), and a **voice input** system. The last two items will enable children who are slow at keyboard input to handwrite in or dictate their data.

The classroom systems also have local printers and other input/output devices appropriate to the curriculum needs and skill levels of each class.

Access to the Internet will be available from all systems. This will be 'filtered' to prevent access to unsuitable material. A Thurstone School Website has also been set up. The school has existing ISDN network access to the Internet from all classroom systems and the school office.

The ICT Suite will also be provided with a wall-mounted 'Smartboard' (electronic

whiteboard) and projector linked to the eleventh system which will also incorporate **DVD projection** facilities. This will provide for class-teaching demonstrations prior to individual work on the computers.

Initially the network will run under the MS Windows 98 release 2 operating system to ensure full compatibility with the existing hardware and education software in the school and widely available in the market place. This will also enable mutual support with other local schools and provide a compatible introduction for year 6 to the MS Windows 2000 network which students will encounter upon moving to Kingsbridge Community College.

At an appropriate point in the future, when school curriculum software and support is widely available and robust, the operating system may be upgraded to **MS XP Professional**. The hardware system being purchased now will support this operating system. Effective use of the systems for class-sessions, small group, and individual work will be ensured by a programme of staff-training. **A part-time specialist ICT Classroom Assistant/Technician** will be employed, based in the Suite, who will also supervise an after-school Computer Club for children who wish to use the systems for any curriculum homework.

External dial-in access to the school network from home computers will NOT be provided, due to virus infection and data security reasons. A single **non-networked** system dedicated to 'brought-in-from-home' diskette virus-checking will also be provided.

Educational Software network licences will be extended for MS Office - Word & Excel (already in use), anti-virus defence, e-mail,

and other curriculum software to be identified by the School ICT Co-ordinator.

An extension to the (Eclipse) Internet Service Provider agreement will also allow occasional out-of-school hours use by community groups as well as staff/pupils.

The School ICT Co-ordinator is also purchasing integrated packages of teaching/learning resources to link with the software and provide teachers' and pupils' materials covering all aspects of the ICT National Curriculum.

Maintenance and trouble-shooting services will be put in place.

Timescale

By 29.11.02

Hardware and network installation complete

By 13.12.02

Software installation and testing complete
Systems ready for use for staff training and familiarisation

6.1.03

Systems ready for use by pupils

T E A M A K E R S

(Thurlestone Enthusiasts At Mouse And Keyboard Exercises for Recreational Satisfaction)

E-mail address : Teamakersclub@aol.com

The computer users club has been meeting fortnightly during the year - with a summer recess when precedence is yielded to golf and other outdoor pursuits - and numbers have grown steadily.

The club is made up of both novices and more experienced users, with the result that members are able to help each other, and everyone is able to benefit from the knowledge of individual members with expertise in particular areas.

During the year there have been some basic tutorial sessions dealing with Windows, Word processing, Spreadsheets, e-mail and the Internet, and also the use of computers in family history research.

The scope of such tutorials is somewhat limited by the constraints of a domestic environment, and the use of a single PC. However, this has not proved an insuperable problem, and the enthusiasm of the members and the conviviality of the sessions has ensured an encouraging start to the group's activities.

It is hoped that arrangements can be made in the early part of the New Year, once the school ICT suite facilities have completed their "running-in" period, for the Teamakers group to be allowed to use the facilities for its meetings in after-school hours.

This would enable up to eleven members simultaneously to follow a tutorial using their own work-station for hands-on activity and practice. It will also enable novice members to familiarise with the industry-standard Microsoft software programmes that they will most probably encounter when they acquire their own home PC packages.

New members are welcome (no previous experience necessary!), and are invited to contact **Robin Macdonald** at the e-mail address above, or on 560436.



HARRY HUGGINS IS ON THE NEST AGAIN

More about those rare breeding birds. The October issue of Bird Watching magazine reported the family party of Choughs wandering about on the Lizard. So they did all right. For the Bee-eaters in County Durham the magazine said two out of four young had survived to fly off, no doubt back to Africa, with their parents. A farmer made a temporary car park in a field; they reckoned over 15,000 people used it. I hope he charged them £1 each, more profitable than farming. They said a number of well-known egg-collectors attended, one of whom had the nerve to sign the visitors' book!

Hardly had I filed my last copy (i.e., stuffed it through the door of our highly-esteemed Editor), when news came of other unusual nesters. BBC Spotlight reported that Hen Harriers bred in Cornwall. Successfully, it seemed, because there were pictures of young almost ready to fly. The magazine said people had stuck radio tags on them, so their movements could be traced.

In winter you can see Hen Harriers on Dartmoor if you are very lucky and if you can find where at dusk they come in to roost. Near Warren House Inn, I believe - we haven't looked lately. The prospect of being out on Dartmoor as a winter's night falls appeals no longer to one who doesn't like driving in the dark and would rather be at home deciding whether to have a gin & tonic or gin & Martini before dinner that evening.

When we lived in north Essex we saw one sometimes, no doubt wintering in the area - as far as I knew it never nested. Around that coast are vast areas of fresh marshes. Once these were saltings, reclaimed from the sea by the building of sea walls (here and there the walls have been breached and they have gone back to saltings again). In our day these fresh marshes were grazed, or used for cereal crops. I suppose they are still. No hedges, but reedy, weedy, ditches to divide the fields and provide some drainage.

The Harriers used to drift along these, low over

the ground, wings angled slightly upward, dropping now and then on a mouse or small bird. I don't know why they are called Harriers - no way could one take a hare, only a Golden Eagle or an Eagle Owl can do that. We saw few males, these are silvery grey, with a white rump patch and black wing tips. More common, though still not very, were what bird-watchers call "ringtails" - brown with prominent white on their rumps and darker brown bars across their tails - hence "ringtail". These were the females, larger than the males, a bit smaller than our familiar Buzzards and less bulky, but with much longer tails; young males are ringtails, too, until they get their adult plumage. Ringtails because female and immature Hen and Montagu's Harriers are very, very similar and unless you are highly experienced you can never be sure which you are looking at.



Hen Harriers nest on the ground in rough vegetation. Heather on moors, in Wales, Scotland, the Orkneys, is what they love. They have had a thin time. So often such places are grouse moors. Grouse moors have gamekeepers and if there is one thing a gamekeeper cannot stand it is anything with a hooked beak - Buzzard, Harrier, Eagle. So when he finds a Harrier's nest - not difficult as the birds are obvious going to and fro - he stamps on it, crushing eggs or young birds. Also, the spread of conifer plantations has been bad for those which might breed in places where gamekeepers are not so active.

When plantations are first set out the trees are small and surrounded by weeds - good nesting

sites. When the trees get bigger plantations are pretty barren, but make excellent bases for foxes, stoats and polecats. The owner of the nice little hotel in mid-Wales where we used to stay (now retired, good for him, bad for us) told us there were more polecats in those parts than foxes and that was saying something. If you are a bird nesting on the ground you are a sitting duck, or Harrier, for a hungry fox or polecat.

Where the Harriers have had some protection, from the RSPB or a bird-minded landlord, (I don't suppose there are many of them, the birds they mind are grouse, from which they can get an income- there is no money in Harriers) they have started to do well. Let us hope they will succeed in Cornwall and maybe spread to Dartmoor. The related Marsh Harrier has prospered. It lives, and nests, in reed beds. South Milton Ley could provide nicely for a pair - but it doesn't! When in the early 1970s we went to the RSPB's Minsmere Reserve on the Suffolk coast, a vast area of reeds, it held the total British population, three birds, a male and his two wives. Feeding their young on Bittern chicks, they said, which put the RSPB people into a quandary, one rare bird eating another rare bird.



The Bitterns are suffering now, the Marsh Harriers have flourished with maybe a hundred pairs in Britain. Not as common as are our Buzzards, but even they are far from common compared with, say, Herring Gulls and Woodpigeons.

In early September the Daily Telegraph had a report that Corncrakes, a bit like little brown Moorhens, had bred at a secret place in the Yorkshire Dales. I think they used to be widespread. In the 1950s we heard them at Waldringfield, north of Ipswich, on the River

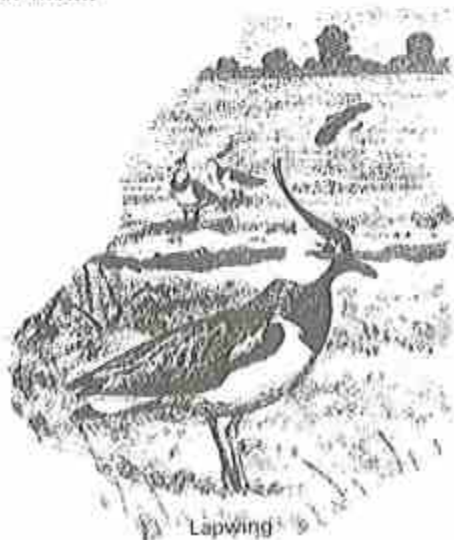
Deben - most famous now, I think, as the river beside which they dug up the Sutton Hoo treasure. We sailed there, no motor car then, quite exciting as the mouth of the river was shallow and encumbered by shingly knolls which changed from year to year which, if you got in, could change again before you got out. Our little cruising boat had no engine; you signalled for the pilot who came out in his motor boat and you followed him in, praying that the wind would not fail or change direction while you were in the nasty narrow rough bit. Then you gave him ten shillings - 50p. I don't suppose there is a pilot now. But if there is, he would want ten pounds, or perhaps twenty.

We anchored and went ashore - if we wanted meat we waited in the pub until the travelling butcher came in for his pint. We walked in the fields, and heard the Corncrakes - "crex crex" is what they say and that is their scientific name. They are not heard much in the British Isles any more, just a few places in Scotland and the islands. They nest in thick vegetation, especially hay fields. Over a hundred years ago they started to decline. It was all right when men cut hay with scythes. I don't suppose they had any great affection for Corncrakes, but the birds could run away from a scythe. No doubt the hay harvest took a fairly long time so they had time to bring off their broods. Mechanical mowers, even if pulled by a horse, spelled the writing on the wall. Crops were cut quicker and earlier, before the young could look after themselves. Now they take three or four crops for silage, Corncrakes have become extinct except in outlying and backward places.

They are migrants. You might think that a bird which spends its time running about in long grass could not fly any distance. But fly they can. In 1990 Bob Burrage brought us one found dead near the then Decca station at Bolberry. He thought a bird of prey had killed it. This was in October. I suppose it was going back to Africa. So the ones which summer and breed in north-west Scotland must pass over England and there is the chance that some might come down and nest, as they have in Yorkshire and as the Harriers have in Cornwall.

Birds will try to nest in what seem now to be unlikely places. Sixty-odd years ago we stayed sometimes on a farm north of Dartmoor. My mother was living there during the time an

invasion was feared. She and a lot of other people were turned out of the town on the Essex coast where we then lived. It never seemed to occur to anyone that if there was a landing it would be somewhere in the west where there is deep water close to the shore - and not across the sandbanks of the Thames estuary. When we walked in the fields we found Lapwings' nests. You wouldn't now - more intensive farming methods see to that. The Devon Bird report says a few breed on Dartmoor and some on the Exminster marshes where the RSPB can provide for them.



But in 1984 a pair decided to nest in the valley here at Thurstlestone. It was far less grassy and rushy than it is now. In its wisdom, Eagle Developments, when building the Mead estate, removed most of the topsoil (landscaping I suppose they called it) leaving us to garden in the shillet underneath. They carted the topsoil down into the valley and buried it, along with the odd dead motor car, under the soil of the valley bottom. For years nothing grew there and the Lapwings thought it was just the place for them.

We could see them from here, at home, as there were no houses below us then. She laid eggs, they incubated (the book says they both do this but she does most....even among birds the female nearly always works hardest). Remarkably they kept the predators at bay. A Lapwing has neither an aggressive beak nor legs but it can be determined in defence of its nest and they fended everything off until the eggs hatched. We saw little fluffy young ones running about, but so did others - Crows, Herons - and they were quickly gobbled up. End of story.

But some nesting birds thrive. Take Little Egrets. Twenty years ago a rare bird in Devon. We saw one on the Erne in 1983. Our first. One was also there in 1984. One came into the Thurstlestone valley (flooded) in April 1986 and then we waited until 1989 before we saw another. For each of these we solemnly wrote out a report for the British Birds Rarities Committee. Now, at the end of August, we went with a lot of other people on Rivermaid (to raise lolly for the Friends of Norton Brook Medical Centre). We counted over fifty Little Egrets in trees at Snape's Point and there must have been more - deeper in the wood - which we could not see. I believe they have nested in several places, certainly on Brownsea Island in Poole harbour and somewhere in southern Ireland.

There was a visiting bird group in the party. Over the public address system Gordon Waterhouse gave his commentary in his usual dulcet tones. Because of the extra people he had an assistant, Jim Bennett, who did some of the talking. He, too, used the p.a. system. But he needn't have done. I don't know whether Jim used to be a Regimental Sergeant Major, but he sounds like one. He announced that Little Egrets had bred at Snape's Point. People must have heard him from Torcross to Soar Mill Cove. Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society makes a practice of keeping things secret. Not this time!

A few days later we saw in the valley at Thurstlestone a group of four Little Egrets which appeared to be a family party. I wonder if these were Salcombe birds or whether they came from Brittany where they have nested for years.

The Egrets have thrived. Unless we have a wickedly severe winter which wipes them out, as it did the Lapwings in 1986, no doubt they will continue to thrive.

Let us hope the Hen Harriers and Corncrakes thrive also.

Harry Huggins



KATES CHRISTMAS KITCHEN



Liver Paté

This is a dish that can be made well in advance for Christmas entertaining as it freezes well, or it will keep in the refrigerator for about four days. Paté is very versatile and may be used as a starter, a buffet dish or served on small biscuits as 'nibbles' at a drinks party. Why not make some to give as a Christmas present? It is much superior to the commercially-made product! The following quantities will make enough for six people.

Ingredients

- 1 oz (25g) butter
- 2 cloves garlic and half a small onion, chopped finely
- 10 ozs (250g) lamb's liver, rinsed and chopped into small pieces
- 10 ozs (250g) streaky bacon, cut into small strips
- Half to one oz plain flour
- Tablespoonful brandy or dry sherry
- Freshly ground black pepper and a little salt (take care with salt - bacon contains a lot)

Method

- * Melt butter and cook garlic and onion over a low heat (lid on) until soft
- * Add liver and bacon and cook, with heat slightly raised, turning quickly over and over.
- * Reduce heat, cover pan and cook for further 5 minutes
- * Add flour to pan, stir quickly to absorb juices and thicken mixture
- * Add brandy or sherry and, stirring continuously, cook for a further 2 minutes
- * Season to taste
- * Blitz all in a food processor until smooth
- * Place into a serving dish and cool
- * Cover with cling film and refrigerate at least two hours. Even better, leave it overnight

As a first course

Serve in small ramekin dishes and garnish with parsley and half a slice of tomato. If you don't have ramekins, spoon on top of a small arrangement of salad leaves. Hot toast, warm bread, or ready-made melba toast are a good accompaniment.

For a drinks party

Spread thinly on small biscuits or pieces of good bread and garnish.

For a buffet

Serve in a larger dish and garnish with tomato, cucumber and parsley. It should be spooned out.

Have a lovely Festive Season!

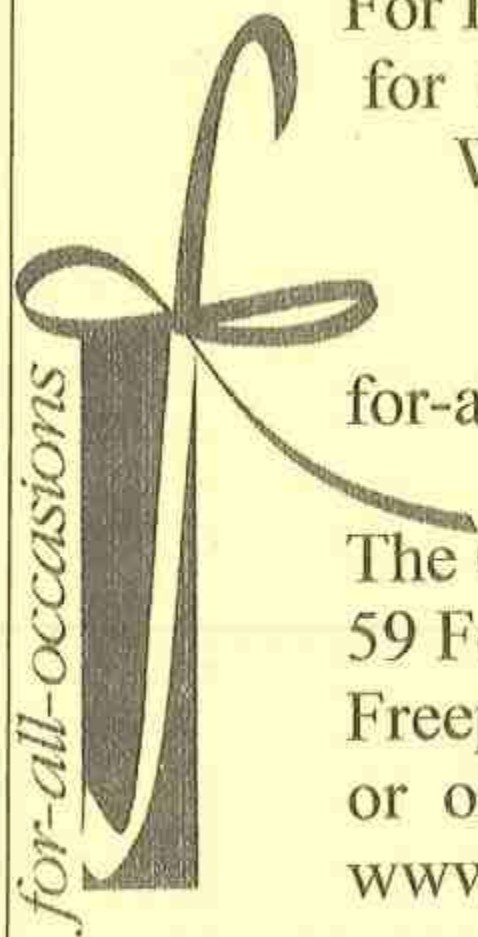
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HORSWELL DIARY

One way and another it has been a colourful autumn, with drama, tantrums and storms rampaging through the real world of nature and the artificial creations of the media. In both cases individuals have been undermined by the onslaught, with their strength and credentials being severely tested.

It is not over yet. Look out for further startling revelations to the press. Bertie is preparing to release his diaries, charting his life since leaving the sanctuary of Davidson & Prosser's veterinary establishment (the Priory Clinic of the canine world) where he was being treated for abandonment and abuse by an unnamed aggressor, and his subsequent rise to a position of privilege and favour within 'The Household'.

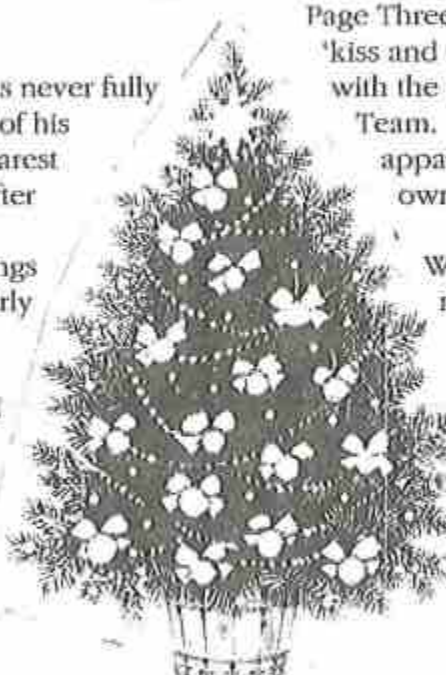
Entitled "What the Briard Saw", it is expected to reveal tantalising gossip of an intimate nature. Having turned down substantial offers from the West Alvington Weekly, the Chillington Chin-Wag and Woof! Magazine, he has negotiated an undisclosed sum for his memoirs by exploiting his owner's connection with Village Voice. Needless to say, fear of betrayal is sending shock-waves through 'The Family'.

It is thought that Bertie has never fully recovered from the death of his favourite Labrador and dearest friend, Abo. Only now, after years of sharing the same basket, have his true feelings been made known. Unfairly accused of stealing Abo's personal items, including his bowl, rubber ball, lead and blanket in the emotional aftermath of his hero's death, Bertie is expected to use his diaries to clear his name.

"What the Briard Saw" will contain a number of allegations which neither 'The Family' nor the deceased can now disprove, casting an unpleasant light on the behaviour of a dog once widely respected and admired. Disclosures regarding night-time assignations and unsuitable liaisons could easily be verified by the many kind-hearted people who, finding him wandering the streets without money or identification, discreetly returned him to 'The Household'. Observations that the deceased once went out for a 'night on the tiles' wearing only a black fur coat could prove particularly difficult to deny. The testimony of the local dog catcher will confirm that it was still being worn when he visited the miscreant at the Ipplepen Dog Pound & Remand Centre the following morning.

'The Family' are hoping to halt further embarrassing revelations by offering the Editor of Village Voice substantial enticements to cancel publication. The terms of the deal are expected to include a promise to try even harder to meet editorial deadlines!

Meanwhile, Flossie the Sheepdog has been seen lying in her basket in a provocative Page Three manner, preparing for her 'kiss and tell' exposé of lust and licks with the manager of the Canine Football Team. A book and film deal are apparently imminent (dependent on owner's commission).



While 'The Family' have been nursing the fragile egos of minor celebrity, the garden has been facing storms of a different kind. Lightning strikes and gale-force winds have left their mark. On the basis that lightning never strikes twice in the same place, my husband has ordered a further 1000 bulbs and resumed his

bluebell planting in the woods. His previous efforts were abruptly curtailed when an enormous ash tree was struck to the ground on the very spot where he had been working only seconds before. The timing of this catastrophic descent and my husband's narrow escape proves that God does indeed work in mysterious ways. The call of nature should never be ignored!

Obviously the preservation of a husband is considerably more important than the loss of a tree, but that is not to under-estimate our sadness at losing such a venerable giant. After two days of valiant battle, another tree, an ancient sycamore, was also defeated, its huge trunk wrenched in two by the brute force of the wind. It crashed down on to the pond, scattering a flurry of terrified ducks into the sky as its branches disappeared beneath the water.

"Plenty of good firewood", a visitor remarked, bringing a necessary practicality to our sense of bereavement.

And so, whilst elsewhere the air is full of gossip and dissent, talk of war, and threats to the monarchy, here the air is abuzz with the sound of chainsaws and the clattering, snapping metal jaws of the shredder devouring brushwood and splitting it into woodchips. With aching limbs and heavy hearts we watch the mighty trees reduced to mulch for the garden and logs for the woodshed.

Either way, here or in London, history is being destroyed; giants are picked over by the little people and reduced to ash.

It is not only the monarchy under attack. It is all forms of tradition, from the Inns of

Court and the Opening of Parliament, to private education and country pursuits. Pomp and ceremony are decried in favour of sleek modernity, while technical advances outweigh inter-personal relationships. And who can stop the tide?

With an uncertain future of suicide bombers, snipers, dirty bombs and anthrax scares to look forward to, however, one thing remains unchanged. The halls of Horswell will be decked with holly, fir trees will bristle with tinsel and bows, and the spirit of Christmas, of peace, love and fellowship, will do its utmost to prevail.

In the words of Sir Walter Scott:

*'Heap on more wood! The wind is chill,
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.'*

Prunella Dart



Unfortunately, due to pressures of space, we have been unable to include in this Christmas issue every contribution that we have received. We apologise to those contributors whose articles have had to be held over, and hope to be able to include them in subsequent issues of Village Voice.

Editor

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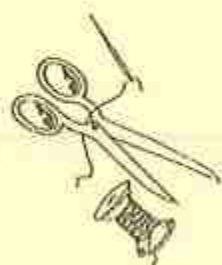
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RESCUE THE CHINESE "MOON BEARS"!



In farms across China there are, officially, almost 7000 Asiatic Black Bears - often known as "Moon Bears" because of a characteristic crescent of golden fur on their chests - being milked of their bile twice daily through rusting metal catheters implanted deep in their gall bladders. They lie in tiny cages, many having been imprisoned in these circumstances for over 22 years. The bears live this life of torture before dying, agonisingly slowly, as a result of chronic infection. Bear bile is used in traditional Chinese medicine, but today Chinese doctors agree that bear bile can be easily replaced with herbal and synthetic alternatives which are both effective and much cheaper. The barbaric practice of bear farming is entirely needless.

Following her horrific discovery of such bear farming in 1993, **Jill Robinson, MBE**, of the Animals Asia Foundation (AAF), began her tireless work within China of building relationships and negotiating with the government departments to help bring to an end this cruel practice. By the year 2000 the China Wildlife Conservation Association and the Sichuan Forestry department had pledged to free 500 bears in Sichuan, a move which was sanctioned by the Central Government Department in Beijing. *This has been the first accord between the Chinese government and any outside animal welfare organisation.* Many of us, earlier this year, will have seen Stephen Fry's television programme about the "Moon Bear" rescue operations going on in China.

In just two years, 30 farms have been closed down by the Chinese government and over 70 bears released into the care of AAF at their rescue centre in Chengdu. No one at the centre was quite prepared for what was to

come for the animals arrived in the most shocking condition - bone thin, desperately ill and terrified. All were in need of veterinary attention, extensive surgery and tender loving care. First, they have to undergo surgery to remove the catheters, and have their physical state checked. Then they need physiotherapy to rebuild wasted muscles which may not have been used, nutritious food to restore health and a permanent safe sanctuary. Later, they are gradually and carefully integrated with others.

By 2002 there were 68 happy healthy "Moon Bears" at the centre. A permanent semi-natural sanctuary is being built for them in a bamboo forest where they will live out the rest of their lives. They cannot be released into the wild as many are defenceless or disabled. Others were bred in captivity or snared as cubs and have thus not learnt survival skills from their mothers.

The bears are inspirational with their will to live and their ability to forgive. Please help to nurse these beautiful creatures back to health and to allow them to live out their lives free from pain and fear. Please help AAF to realise its dream of putting an end to bear-bile farming.

On Saturday 22nd February 2003, Thurstone parish will be given a chance to lend a helping hand in this direction. There will be a Barn Dance in the Parish Hall to raise funds for this cause. If you would like tickets (£7.00 each) they are available by phoning Linda Chilcott on 560346. If you cannot get to the Barn Dance, but would still like to help with a contribution to this cause, please have a word with her.

CHRISTMAS TRAMP



1 The weather was glorious for late September! Twelve walkers and one dog set off from Gara Bridge, along the Avon river to Bickley Bridge. We passed the dismantled railway, that used to run the Primrose Line, now partly built on and partly overgrown. After passing by Buttercombe Mill we came to Combe House where, in the grounds, we saw two very bewildered small llamas who were no doubt wondering who we were!

Corrie the dog not only found a little vole by the path, but very bravely kept some frisky bullocks away from us in the farmer's field. Just below Coarsewell Farm we found a tranquil spot for our picnic and from there we took the path back, on the other side of the Avon, to our cars parked near Gara Bridge. Only about six or seven miles but most enjoyable.

2 The 'stepping stones' walk along the west and east branches of the River Dart had been cancelled in the two previous years due to heavy rain affecting the height of the water. After a long dry spell the 9th October was thought to be an appropriate time to try again and fortunately the threatened rain held off for most of the day.

Fourteen walkers and two dogs set off from the Dartmeet car park for an eight-mile walk guided by a write-up provided by Derek Yeoman. The walk took us up the West Dart via Huccaby and Hexworthy to the Swincombe River. Thence across moorland to the old timber and pony-trekking yard at Sherberton and across two sets of stepping stones to reach a quiet spot for a picnic - near the confluence of the Swincombe and West Dart rivers.

After crossing more moorland, a short cut around the woods below Laughter Tor led to

an unexpected bog and, after some negotiation, we eventually reached the stepping stones of the West Dart near Babeny. A further forty minutes' walk along the West Dart brought us back to the Dartmeet car park.

J.W.

3 The trouble with not going to annual general meetings is that you get dumped with a job you would normally refuse. Joy, Christine and I were given the TRAMPS walk for 13th November. Joy duly organised it for us and we did our recce. Then we were told by Joy that she would be away on the day in question.

The first problem was in the car park, where several 'know-alls' told us how best to get to Harlestone (in the back of beyond, above Sherford). We duly set off, ten of us, in bright, sunny weather, in spite of the forecast of "organised" rain - the latest quirky name for what turned out to be a lasting downpour. Nevertheless, and in spite of jeers from the male walkers, Christine and I eventually found the way to the Tower at Slapton for welcome hot soup. We drank a toast to absent Joy, who would no doubt be sitting in her warm hotel, far from the madding crowd.

It's surprising how cold one can get in a warm place when one's clothes are sodden. We quickly set off on the second leg and warmed up again with the exercise, until we reached a raging torrent....only to be fooled as there was a cute little bridge tucked away at the side! No stiles and no gates on the whole trip and a chance to see hidden Devon with its tucked-away houses where no human habitation was expected to be.

Readers, come and join us in TRAMPS - it's all good clean fun!

TIMBER-JACK

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CHRISTMAS BOOKSHELF

Headlong

by Michael Frayn
(Faber & Faber £7.99)

Martin Clay, a young would-be art historian, is trying desperately to outwit the owner of (as Martin thinks) a long-lost painting - by Breugel - which could be worth millions. The owner, Tony, an impoverished, very shady, land-owner, is kept in the dark about the possible Breugel, but is running rings round Martin about some other paintings. Laura, Tony's wife, is busy trying to captivate Martin while Kate, Martin's wife, is patiently and sadly watching her husband apparently going mad.

Martin does a lot of research into 16th century Netherlands and many Breugel works are put neatly into context. We are told much of the terrible history of life under Spanish rule, with some very convincing reasons why Breugel painted as he did.

This book is brilliantly written, full of humour and cliff-hangers...and I couldn't put it down!

J.P.

Traitor to Memory

by Elizabeth George
(New English Library £6.99)

The latest thriller by Elizabeth George, and in my opinion her best for some time, concerns the amnesia of a 28-year old virtuoso violinist, Gideon Davies, who has suddenly and inexplicably lost the ability to play a single note.

His background is carefully traced and many threads gradually come together as her aristocratic policeman, Thomas Lynley, and his foil, Barbara Havers, piece together the

links in the chain from a twenty year old investigation and high profile trial to some immediate crimes.

This is a lengthy book but an absorbing one for lovers of the genre. It gives us time to understand the central characters and appreciate the drama focused on an esoteric and enclosed society. It is clever, well-written and absorbing, but not for the squeamish or faint-hearted!

M.H.

Lady's Maid

by Margaret Forster
(Penguin £5.99)

This book is compulsively readable. It is the story of Robert and Elizabeth Browning, told through the eyes of her lady's maid, Elizabeth Wilson.

The novel charts the maid's story from her arrival in Wimpole Street in 1844 through her complex relationship with her mistress, Elizabeth Barrett, and her dramatic role in their elopement. Wilson's own story, her losses and disappointments, serves as a foil to the grand passions of the major players.

This is a very accomplished tale, skilfully weaving fact and fiction into a moving and dramatic story with a happy ending. What more can we ask for?

M.H.





CHRISTMAS IN YOUR GARDEN

Winter, especially a very severe one, can take its toll of the small wild birds we love to see in our gardens, for the cold coincides with the time of year when their natural food sources become scarce. If they are to survive a critically low night temperature they need to feed continuously for up to 90% of the time during daylight.

A hanging fresh coconut half (but not desiccated coconut), a block of suet, threaded through with string and hung up, chopped apples and pears, bread pieces, soaked in water, crumbled biscuits or stale cake crumbs as well as the more usual holders of seed and nuts, will all help them to make it through the winter. Non-acrobatic species such as blackbirds, chaffinches and dunnocks like their feast spread upon the ground. Remember that salted peanuts and potato crisps should never appear on the birds' menu! And don't forget clean water for both drinking and bathing, keeping a watch to see it doesn't freeze.

As I write, I have today been the fortunate recipient of a 'bird-house' feeder which, within seconds of its being 'fuelled' and positioned outside, was entered first by a great tit, closely followed by a robin and then all my usual garden friends. I had thought it would be at least a week or so before they got used to it!

Mistletoe forms a traditional part of the Christmas decorations but at one time it was feared that the widespread destruction of old orchards would lead to a decline in its availability. All is not lost, however, for a survey by the conservation charity Plantlife shows that distribution is similar to that in a survey done in 1970, with even more sightings than thirty years ago! The counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire are the areas where there is the largest concentration. We import large

quantities of it from the orchards of Brittany and Normandy but it is interesting that, as well as apple trees, today's host trees include elm, ash and sycamore. Its seeds are generally spread by birds but how about trying to grow some of your own? The seeds stick to the branches of the host tree and, because they are parasitic, as they germinate the roots grow through the bark and tap into the sap of the tree, which then provides them with nourishment.

If you are thinking of buying a houseplant for anyone - even yourself - to enjoy inside this Christmas, make sure it is well wrapped or protected before you leave the shop because it has spent all its life up until now in a cosseted environment in which the humidity and temperature have been controlled to suit its needs. Subjecting it to a draught or icy blast during the several hours it may take from purchase point to arriving home can quite often impair a house-plant's chance of survival. Over-watering is another source of danger.

The last bits of colour are lingering on in the garden, particularly penstemons - they must be one of the most valuable plants, going from early summer until well nigh the year end. Alas, I am deprived this year of my annual enjoyment of my beloved *Viburnum farreri* with its early winter flowers and gorgeous scent, because a well-meaning garden helper decided to 'do a trim' in September and cut the bush back hard. As it flowers on the wood made in the summer, all the prospective flowers were lost for this winter! I shall console myself by looking forward to the winter-flowering honeysuckle (which was spared the trim, thank goodness), the first of the Algerian iris in the dry soil at the base of a wall - they do not require moisture or rich soil - and of course my favourite flowers, the snowdrops!

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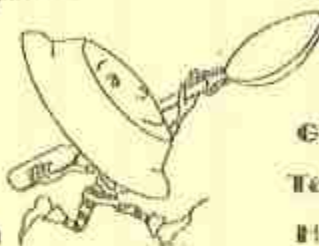
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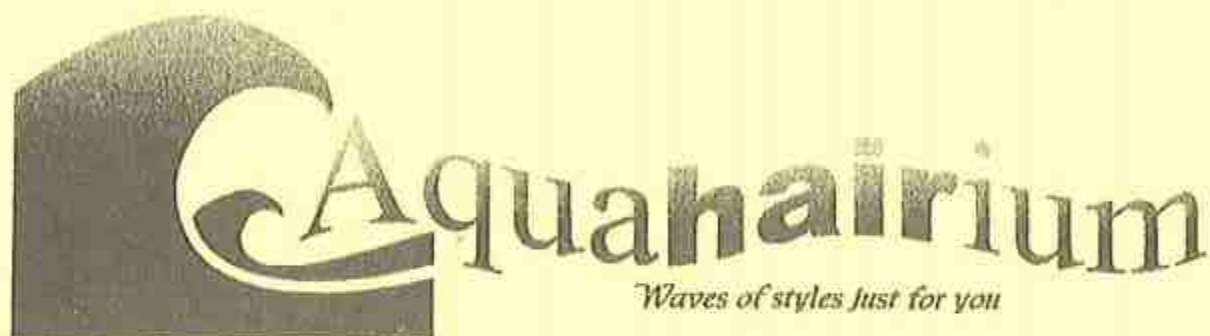


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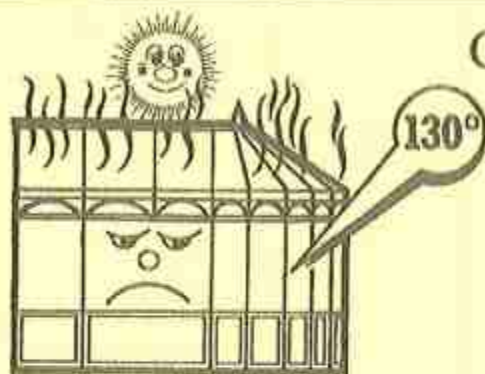
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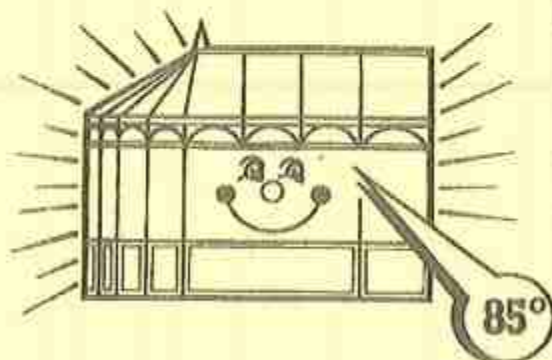
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CHRISTMAS WEATHER WAG

By Jan Turner

What a couple of months we have had in October and November! There have been interesting weather situations - and dire straits for some as a result.

Did you watch with trepidation the high tides earlier last month? I must say that I was quite fearful for those who were obviously at risk because of where they lived or had their work place. I was also wary of our own piece of coastline from Rock House to Bantham. With the wind (what there was) light and easterly, and a calm sea, no harm came to the coastline.

I paced out the distance from the steps (in front of our house leading down to the beach) down to the highest tide-line on that morning. It was just 18 paces. I dread to think what it would have been if there had been a stiff westerly breeze or a gale from that direction. The seas would certainly have broken right up the steps. As it was, the Environment Agency was able to stand down the emergency measures without having to deploy any rescue efforts.

On October 25th the highest gust was 73 mph and there was a fair pounding of the cliff base but not much in the way of severe erosion. Only 8 mm of rain fell during that time so there was no danger of flooding. The leaves certainly parted company with their branches.

Isn't it fascinating that some of our most sophisticated machinery is halted by nature? For instance, trains and salt spray along the Dawlish Line; leaves on the railway lines getting into a sticky morass and the brakes becoming ineffective. Then there's high winds that bring down power lines to the railway tracks and stop the electric trains from

running. This week St. Ives has been flooded after torrential rain. The gas supply to many houses was cut off. We really are dependent, to a large extent, on favourable or seasonal weather.

On the 12th/13th November I recorded 36mm of rain. I guess that people further inland and higher up had more. Fortunately we are not likely to be affected by flooding. Wind? Yes. It does get a little noisy at times. One of our shutters, unbeknown to us had screws that were so rusted they were no larger than a darning needle and it just fell off its housing. Son Stephen soon put it up again with help from John C. armed with sizeable stainless steel screws (we had asked for them to be used in the first place, but!).

October was about average overall, in fact just a bit below in the three main areas. Much of it was sort of calm and gloomy. Sunshine hours (91.48) were below my average but more than the previous two years. Temperatures were very average at 12.9 C, and rainfall at 80.4 mm was well below my average of 93.2 mm. So far November has been exciting, as on 8 days there have been gusts in excess of 40mph (F9) all from the west, so some great seascapes.

The Ley has been full to the brim for a few days following rain and high tides, and on Friday 15th November it broke through in the morning at about 8.00am. By 12 noon it had emptied itself into the sea. The bed of the main stream has been well and truly scoured and is looking clean and refreshed. We watch with some anxiety at the path it takes because the sand dunes have been affected over the last few years and

much of the well established bank has been eroded. I think that about 30 years of marram grass growth has disappeared in the last two years. So we watch and wait.

I have to say that, just as I have a sneaking liking for heavy snow, so I enjoy the thrill of going out in a gale. Now that Ken and I have the delightful Ayla, our Flat Coated Retriever, there is a very good reason to don our coats and weather the storm!

Changing the subject slightly, did you watch the TV programme about Rogue Waves at sea? It was most interesting and informative, but not really supplying any foolproof solution. During these last couple of weeks we have been having some decorating done. When I was disposing of old newspapers that were under the carpet (you know how it is when you DIY it!) I cast my eye over some of those that were not screwed up. This is what I found in the Western Morning News, Monday 26 November, 1984.

STRICKEN CRUISE SHIP MAY SAIL AGAIN TODAY

The Black Watch passenger liner, with 360 passengers, slipped into Plymouth Sound early on Saturday after a giant wave crippled controls and equipment. The liner was caught up in a 90mph storm when the giant wave hit. No passenger was injured, but many suffered from sea sickness. The bridge windows were smashed and gallons

of water poured in, knocking out the electrics and the satellite navigation system. The wave hit when she was off the coast of Brittany. Her Norwegian skipper Ola Bratting, 48, who suffered a cut nose from flying glass, said "It was the most frightening thing that had happened to me in my sailing career."

I felt that this article could not have come to light at a more appropriate moment, and really we are still, after nearly 20 years, not sure why they occur. I suppose that when we hear about Anglers being washed off rocks on our coastline, they could be victims of a rogue wave that reaches the land, albeit not a very big one by comparison.

Every year in this Issue I express the desire for a good cold snap with some snow - preferably at the weekend, or at Christmas when we go out carol singing. There is something magical about singing with snow falling gently on the children's bright faces. It has happened only twice since I have been out in our village. Rain? YES, deluges, but we've always made it somehow.

Make sure that there are enough logs to see you through the cold snaps, check your outside taps and pipes, insulation, and listen to the forecast. The Met Office is usually fairly accurate. (I'll await your comments on this!)

Jan Turner



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CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGE - ANSWERS

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. HOLLYBUSH | 2. YULETIDES | 3. FESTIVITY | 4. FIREWORKS |
| 5. REINDEERS | 6. MINCEPIES | 7. GIFTWRAPS | 8. STOCKINGS |
| 9. SIXPENCES | 10. STREAMERS | 11. CAMBRIDGE | 12. BALTHAZAR |
| 13. CANDLELIT | 14. BETHLEHEM | 15. SATISFIED | 16. MAGIANISM |
| 17. HEARTBURN | 18. NOCTURNAL | 19. CATHEDRAL | 20. PROVISION |
| 21. CHRISTMAS | | | |

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FIND THE MISSING LETTERS - AND THE TITLES!

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Oliver Twist | 21. The Thirty-Nine Steps |
| 2. Persuasion | 22. Gullivers Travels |
| 3. Much Ado About Nothing | 23. Treasure Island |
| 4. Vanity Fair | 24. Under Milk Wood |
| 5. The Woman In White | 25. Great Expectations |
| 6. Wuthering Heights | 26. The Tenant Of Wildfell Hall |
| 7. Cymbeline | 27. Tom Jones |
| 8. Silas Marner | 28. Huckleberry Finn |
| 9. A Tale Of Two Cities | 29. Emma |
| 10. Hamlet | 30. War And Peace |
| 11. A Christmas Carol | 31. Jane Eyre |
| 12. Northanger Abbey | 32. The Mayor Of Casterbridge |
| 13. Three Men In A Boat | 33. Sense And Sensibility |
| 14. Middlemarch | 34. Romeo And Juliet |
| 15. Far From The Madding Crowd | 35. The Mill On The Floss |
| 16. The Taming Of The Shrew | 36. David Copperfield |
| 17. Macbeth | 37. King Lear |
| 18. Jude The Obscure | 38. The Old Curiosity Shop |
| 19. Crime And Punishment | 39. The Three Musketeers |
| 20. Lorna Doone | 40. Kidnapped |

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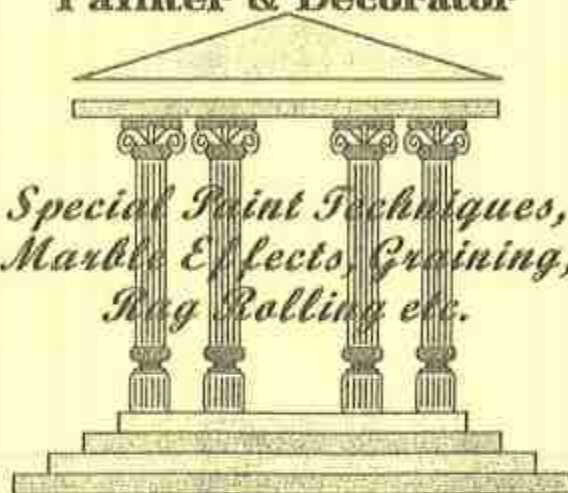
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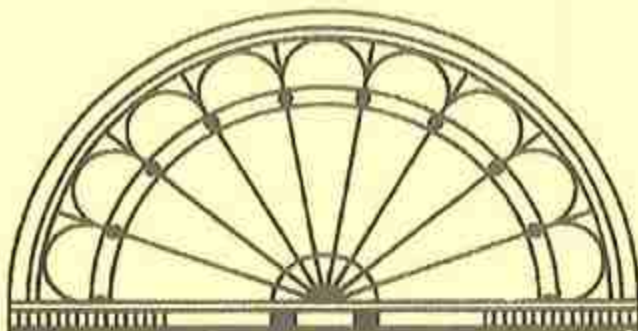
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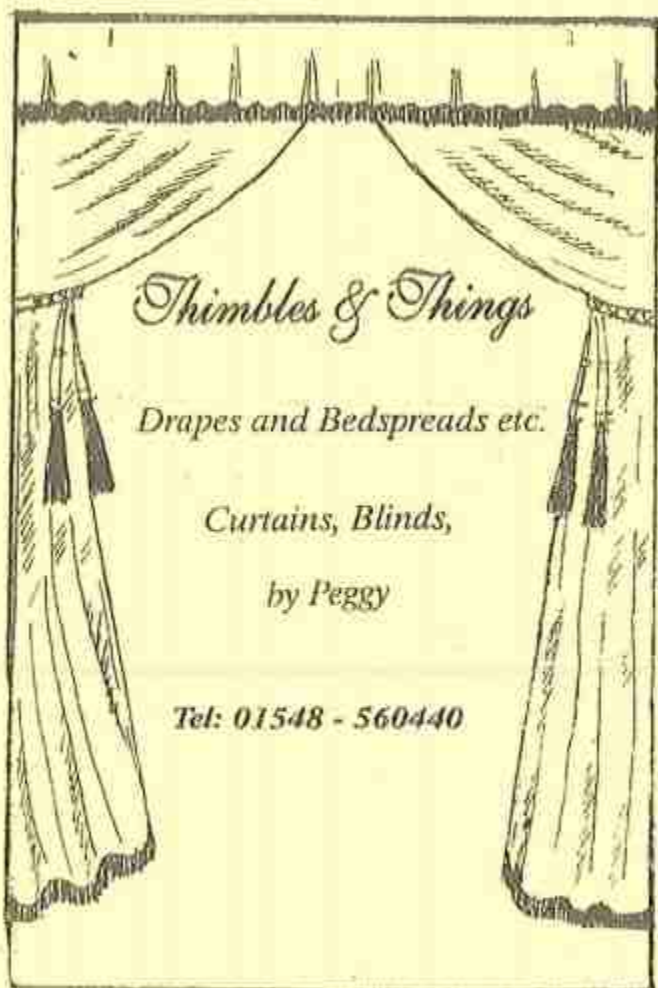
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DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

Fri 6 th	WI Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1.00 pm
Sat 7 th	QUIZ NIGHT, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm
Mon 9 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 11 th	TRAMP, Christmas walk
Wed 11 th	TEAMMAKERS, 3.00 pm, 25 Mead Lane
Sat 14 th	Christmas Cocktail Party, Thurlestone Golf Club
Thurs 19 th	All Saints Carol Singers sing round Buckland
Tues 31 st	Dinner & Disco, Thurlestone Golf Club

JANUARY

Mon 6 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed	TRAMP (TBA) TEAMMAKERS (TBA)
Thurs 9 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm, (Steve Melia - Old Hallslands)
Sat 25 th	Burns Supper, Thurlestone Golf Club

FEBRUARY

Mon 10 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed	TRAMP (TBA) TEAMMAKERS (TBA)
Thurs 13 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm, (Purser QE 2)
Sat 22 nd	BARN DANCE, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm (China Bear Rescue)

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PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES



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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.

In Thurlestone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers organised by Bill and June van der Welle and Vicki Dent. In Bantham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th JANUARY 2003

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

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	KU Marshall	560214
	Andrew Rymos	560564
	Geoffrey Sudson	560695
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The Parish Council meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Duty page overleaf.

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Kingsbridge
Salisbury 823551
842284

MILK DELIVERY

R. Bowdler & Son 01803 - 832801

VILLAGE SHOP

Thurlestone Village Shop
(See advert inside for Christmas opening hours)

M, T, Th, F, 8.00 am - 5.30 pm
Wednesday, 8.00 am - 3.00 pm
Saturday, 8.00 am - 2.00 pm
Sunday, 8.30 am - 2.00 pm

PARISH HALL

Chairman: Rowland Cole 561006
Bookings: Pat Crawford 560658

POST OFFICE

Thurlestone P.O. 561917

Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30 pm
Post: collections 10.30 am and 4.25 pm Monday - Friday
10.30 am Saturday, 11.00 am Sunday

POLICE

Emergency: 999 Non-emergency calls: 08705-777-444
Mentions users: 01392 - 453935 Confidential information: 0800-555-111

RUBBISH COLLECTION

Thursday (But Friday in Bank - Holiday - Monday weeks)
Green (recyclable) bins alternate Thursdays from 31st October 2002

PELIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE

For ALL bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE
Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day) 7.00 am to 9.00 pm (0870 608 2408)

Devonbus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382580 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk

GARAGE (Blight Engineering)

Maurice Blight 560220

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY

(Mobile Library with alternate Wednesdays from 4th December) 832319

MOBILE FINI & CHIP VAN

11.10 - 11.30am Bantian
11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel
11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall
12.30 - 12.55pm Thurlestone Church
12.40 - 12.50pm Thurlestone Sande

Calls alternate Wednesdays from 4th December 2002, from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, outside All Saints Primary school.



The Village Inn

Thurlestone

Tel: 563525

December Diary

Sunday 8th December

Jazz Night

Listen to the sounds of the
Dixie Demons Jazz band



Tuesday 17th December

Join us for the ever popular
Village Inn Christmas Quiz

Mike Jones Quiz night with a Christmas Theme
Fun Starts at 8pm



Thursday 19th December

Sing and Dance along to the one and only
Howard Jones
8.30pm

Monday 23rd December

Join us for Christmas carols and
a pre-christmas drink
from 7.30pm



Christmas Eve 24th December

Enjoy a glass of Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
at the Village Inn

Christmas Day

Open between 11.30am and 1.30pm sharp (no food service)

Friday 27th December

Get rid of those post Christmas Blues
with a night of karaoke.
Just the rehearsal you need for New Years Eve
from 8.30pm



NEW YEARS EVE

Party the night away with friends and family
at your Village Inn
Disco and Late license

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

