VILLAGE VOICE

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2003

NUMBER 119
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2003

Another New Year to celebrate. And 2003 will be quite a special year for Village Voice - for two reasons. First, as you will note from the foot of this page, your community magazine comes of age this year as we mark our twenty-first year of publication. Reaching this milestone is largely due to the efforts of **Dudley Drabble**, the former clerk to the Parish Council, who first had the idea, vision, and determination to get it started, and subsequently to the skilful management of **Kendall and Penny McDonald**, who took it on and ran it without any other help for nine years until 1995. Nor must we forget the sterling work of **Peter Bromfield**, who kindly delivered the magazine on his milk round throughout the parish.

Since 1995 we have been fortunate enough to have the involvement of a stalwart team of producers and distributors (listed opposite) whose early Village Voice issues had to be inkily coaxed from an ancient Roneo. We have been very well served, too, by a loyal team of regular contributors, in particular **Len Hubbard**, whose front covers have steadily revealed local treasures and places - and his own abundant talent.

Those early "Inkspot" days are now happily behind us, thanks to the technology of PCs and Risograph machines, and for our 21st birthday (and our second cause for celebration) we are treating ourselves to a new second-generation Ricoh printer to replace our ageing Risograph, which is now a bit weary after churning out some 2 million pages. So we offer this first issue of 2003 - hot off our new machine - not only as a symbol of our new-found maturity, but also in tribute to those pioneers whose high vision for Village Voice we are attempting to maintain.

Front Cover : Coastal erosion near Yarmer beach

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Published Bi-monthly

A HALL FOR ALL

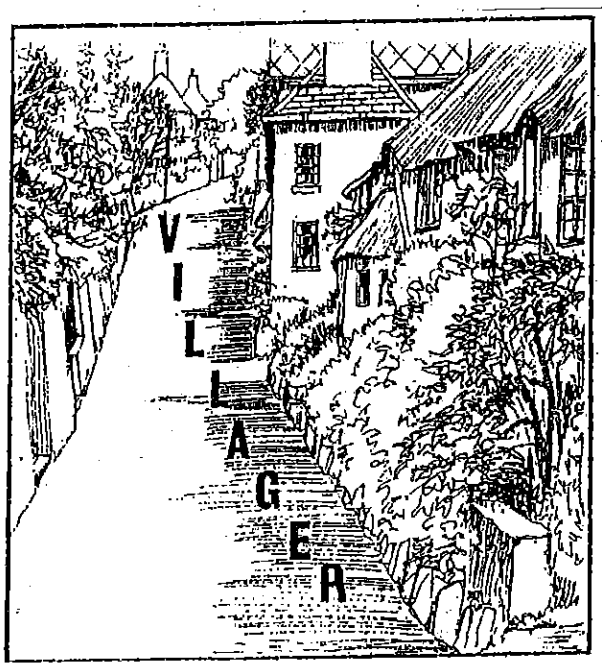
I've heard it said, and it's true I'm sure, that all sorts of miserable things are bound to engulf us in the coming year. But let us not join our ministerial moaners in giving in to the bad times. Here in the parish let the good times roll!

Let's not make the mistake of substituting top-level conferences for badly-needed action. You know we are always being told that some particular year has been declared the Year of No Waiting Lists, the Year to be Kind to Criminals, the Year of the Con Man, the Year of the Mobile Muggers, the Year of Guns on our Streets, or any other horrible thing. Declaring a year special doesn't create a cure for evil. So away with all of them! Let's create a decent happy year.

Let's make 2003 the Year of the Thurlestone Super New Parish Hall. Well, why not?

You may have read depressing news about grants for village halls, but despair not, it merely means that we shall have to get back to the good old days and bridge that gap by raising most of the money ourselves.

The Oldest Inhabitant of the Parish has been telling me of the days when if you needed £250,000 for some parish project, all you had to do was walk down Millionaires' Row and up along the big houses in Bantham asking for help with the fund-raising, and by golly, you'd have all the money that afternoon! Alas, said the O.I., such days are gone. But I cannot believe him. Are there no millionaires left in the Row? Are there no brave hearts on the Mead? Are the new Thurlestonians not a



patch on the Old ones? Are the new ones today willing to use the hall, but not contribute mightily to the new one? As I said before, I just don't believe it.

Look at the money raised by the Bantham Sailing Club's Jubilee Bash last summer, half of which went to St Luke's Hospice and half to our new parish hall. Thanks to that £13,000 is in the kitty already. A long way to the £250,000 which is the sort of figure experts think we shall have to find, but what a great start.

Do you know any big spenders who would like to see their names on the hall? Please tell them that a really handsome donation would give them that immortality.

One drawback to raising money for the hall is said to be that if you ask for money, the reply comes back as "Why do you want two halls in the village, the Church is

building one down in the graveyard, surely that's enough?" Once again I cannot believe that the Church building will stop people giving money for a real Parish Hall. In a recent referendum asking parishioners whereabouts they want their new parish hall, a big majority voted for the present position. A good choice - once the new starter homes are built across the road the heart of the village will have moved up to the top.

In fact so important is this that I wonder why the Church don't abandon their hall in Lower Thurlestone and donate the funds (which they say they already have) to make the new Parish Hall the hall for all.

We need a new parish hall and we are going to have to pay for it. Remember this is the **Year of the New Parish Hall for All**. To find out how to make sure we get it, read Rowland Cole, Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee, elsewhere in this edition of Village Voice.

* * *

"Shabby Chic", according to the appalling presenters of a recent appalling TV travel programme, is the decor most sought after by those who travel as opposed to those dreadful tourists who will ruin every spot on the globe they take a fancy to by insisting on going there mob-handed.

As we are teetering on the brink of a new tourist year for the West Country, I wondered if our parish has anything to learn from the cult of Shabby Chic.

At first, as most of the shabby chic settings were understandably in Jamaica, I disregarded shabby chic as applying in any way to our parish. But the Second Oldest Inhabitant tells me I am wrong. He says that old cottages with thatched roofs are the height of Shabby Chic and any sign of them falling into rack and ruin should be encouraged by their owners, who will then be able to charge hideous prices for letting them. And give it all to the Parish Hall!

* * *

Though we live down here in paradise, everything is not perfect. Two complaints are dominating the list of niggles in the parish.

First.....Why can't we get Channel Five? We pay our licence fee and if you can get C5 at the top of the hill at Modbury, why can't we get it in the far more important Parish of Thurlestone.

No Channel Five, no licence fee, says Villager.

And second cause for complaint... Soggy, ghastly, gluey bread. So bad is the bread we are offered that it seems certain that the EU must have issued some new directive about the ingredients. The only other conclusion is that some bakers must be saving a fortune on their ovens.

The stuff is just not baked. Squeeze the bread and the dents stay in. Cut it with a sharp knife and the pressure makes it compress into half size and only delicate stretching can restore it to something on which you might be able to spread your butter. Rolls are just uncooked lumps of nearly raw dough. No wonder many of us feel crusty about non-crusty bread.

There are some exceptions, of course, but only a few, which is why supermarkets are becoming the best places in South Devon to buy real bread. Who'd ever have thought that?

Villager

Parish Council Meetings

December 2002 & January 2003

News and Views by Citizen

Parish Hall

Following recent attempts to break into parked cars at the Parish Hall, the chairman of the Parish Hall committee, Rowland Cole, reminded us that any car on the hall car park was left at the owner's risk.

The quiz held on the 7th December raised over £300 for hall funds.

Representatives of regular hall users went to see the new hall at Stoke Fleming. It is very similar to that proposed for Thurlestone. The visit proved very useful, as many of their ideas could be used for our proposed hall. The total cost of the new hall was £230,000 - which means that we must set about some very serious fund-raising if we are to renew ours before it falls down.

Village School

The total number of children attending the school this term is 116, a considerable increase on last term. It is hoped that those parents bringing pupils by car will take serious note of **the head teacher's advice** regarding dropping-off their children, as the situation in the hall car park can be chaotic at times - and will become more so as the development in Seaview gains momentum. It will also get the parents used to the new dropping-off point which will become necessary when the hall car park is closed during the re-building. ***As some two-thirds of the pupils attending the school come from outside the parish, it is hoped that this message will be relayed to them by readers of Village Voice.***

Recreational Area

The legal arguments have now been received by the parish council and it was agreed they would be discussed in detail at the next meeting (17th February), so as to give Councillors time to absorb the documents and to allow time to cost our commitments, particularly in respect of the car park and approach road. This is only on a licence and can be terminated at any time by giving some months' notice.

Police Business

Our local policeman was not able to attend the meeting but wanted residents informed that a number of budding gardeners are entering into the business, obtaining their equipment from **insecure garden sheds**. If this is the case with your garden equipment he advises that you arrange for valuable tools to be **locked away** in a garage.

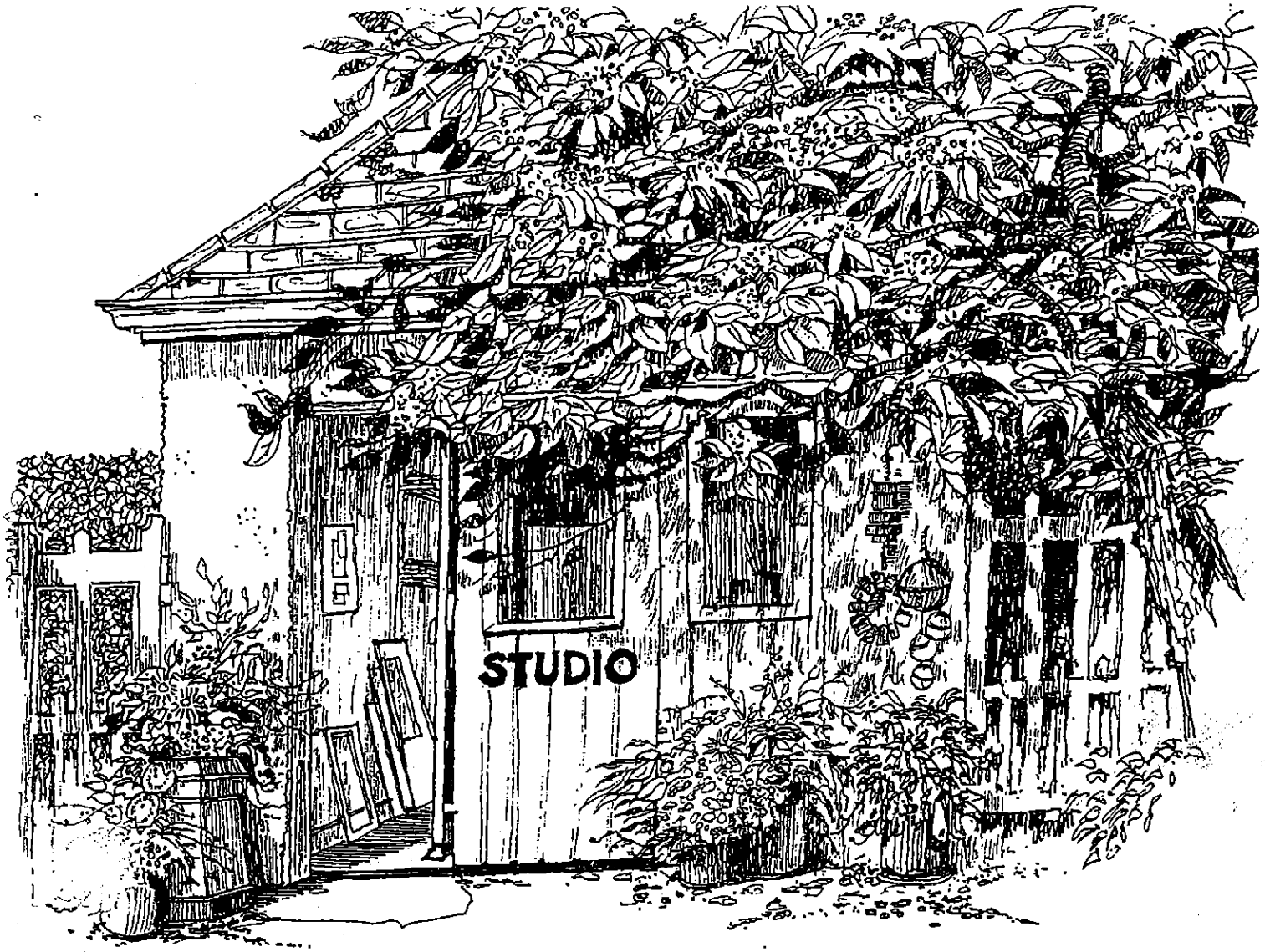
Seaview Development

A further close look was required at how the points system for allocating houses works, as the original intention of "parish first and outsiders last" seems to have become a little blurred. Mrs Steen, our District Councillor, promised to take the matter up urgently to try and ensure that local applicants with a genuine need are not left out.

Parking Charges in Kingsbridge

The opportunity was taken to inform Mrs Steen how local people felt over the **considerable increase** in charges and particularly the **overnight extension**. Damage to the local economy could be considerable, with the cinema and restaurants suffering particularly as motorists would object strongly to a heavy overnight parking charge on their evening's outing. Her attention was drawn to various meetings held locally with interested groups that specifically stated an increase in parking charges would not be kindly received, and that **a better alternative would be to increase the council tax.** It had been widely stated in the press that the Government has cut the amount given to **rural areas** in favour of the inner city areas. This could be explained when sending out the demands.

Everyone is asked to write to the Council's **Chief Customer Relations Officer, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes TQ9 5NE,** and express their views before 7th February. Details are available at the Village Store.



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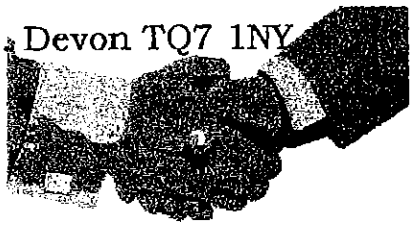

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Village News Round-Up

A New baby!

Welcome to **Harry Storm Durant**, who arrived in the late afternoon of Tuesday, 10th December, after a day of high winds, snow and rain - hence his second name. Congratulations go to **Sue** and **Adrian Durant**, **Lewis** and **Tilly.**

John Lonsdale

It is with considerable sadness that we have to report in this issue of **John Lonsdale's** intention to retire from his role as our Parish Clerk. He is understandably seeking a well-earned 'retirement' in order to give himself more leisure time. We are really very lucky in this parish that he has been able to give us eight years in a job well and conscientiously done. Always efficient, calm, and good humoured even in the most trying situations, he brought cheerfulness and a fund of local government knowledge to the position. The good thing is that John and Pauline will be continuing to live here and we can carry on enjoying their company! Lots of good wishes and our grateful thanks. (See the notice for a new Parish Clerk elsewhere in this issue).

District & Parish Council Elections 1st May 2003

An election has not been held in this parish for eight years (two elections) which puts us, quite wrongly, in the 'barely active' category of parishes, according to a report prepared last year for the Government by the Countryside Agency. Whether you agree or disagree with this conclusion, the fact remains that it is desirable in a democracy for electors to have the opportunity to cast their votes. Without candidates this is not possible. Anyone wishing to stand for election should contact the Parish Clerk for details of how to proceed.

Car Parking in Kingsbridge

It is important that as many people as possible write to the South Hams District Council before 7th February 2003, giving their views about the proposed changes - see on another page a copy of our Parish Council's response. Write to the Council's Chief Customer Operations Officer at Follaton House, quoting reference T/Car Parks. Copies of a fact sheet are available at the village Shop.

Don't forget the Moon Bears

As you will see from an advert in this issue, there will be a Barn Dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, 22nd February to raise funds to rescue Asian Black (or Moon) Bears who are held captive in dreadful conditions and daily milked, very painfully, of their bile. This is an ingredient of traditional Chinese medicine but is no longer necessary as cheaper substitutes exist. If you are concerned about animal welfare this is a charity to support while at the same time enjoying a hoe-down!

Return to Thurlestone

Ian and Janet Fraser are delighted that they are returning to Thurlestone after several years of living near Bath. Janet said "It's just like coming home!" Along with a lot of other Thurlestonians, all of us at Village Voice who remember their able assistance in the production team are pleased to see them back in residence again.

Village Voice Birthday Lunch

To mark the special milestone of our 21st birthday, the Village Voice team were joined by all the regular contributors to the magazine for a celebratory lunch at the

Parish Hall recently. **Val Brown** composed and recited a special poem for the occasion on behalf of the hardy band of distributors, who go out in all weathers to bring the magazine to you at home! Here it is:

There used to be a milkman
Who delivered Village Voice
Now there's an *army* of deliverers
All volunteers.....by choice.
The co-ordinator rings us
Seems like every other week
To tell us to be ready
Put the right shoes on our feet.
We gather up our bundle
And with such cheerful smiles
We set off to walk for ages
And miles...and miles...and miles.
Up the paths and up the steps
And up the steepest drives
Chatting to the husbands
Chatting to the wives.
In rain, in gales, in sunshine
You see this happy band
Yearly getting older
Stiffer in the joints
But knowing up in heaven
They're gaining Brownie points.
We salute contributors and editors
For years of news and views and wit
But most of all we thank you
FOR KEEPING US SO FIT!

Silver Anniversary for the Coast Footpath

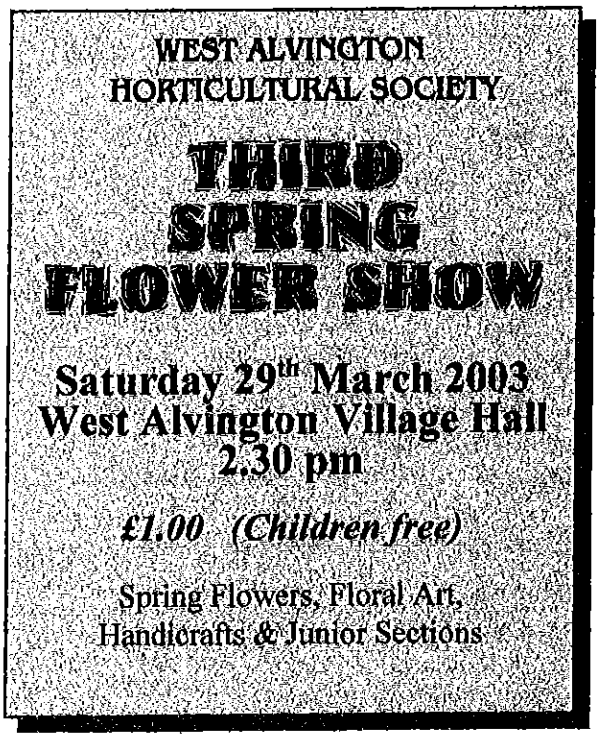
It is twenty-five years since the opening of the South West coast path, and the event will not go unnoticed or unmarked. The parish has been invited by the coast path team to join in the celebrations, and so the Parish of Thurlestone Society (P.O.T.S.) has started to plan for a "do" during the weekend of the 6th & 7th September. Details will come later. The Horticultural Show in August will also include (in the children's and photographic sections) some special classes for paintings and photographs taken of, or from, the Coast Footpath.

Quiz Night at the Hall

You will read under the Parish Hall news page that this very enjoyable event raised more than £350 for the new hall fund. After picnic suppers and wine, fifteen tables of six people battled noisily through the tricky questions posed by Mike Jones, ably accompanied by Brenda. At the end of the evening, after a highly competitive and closely-fought contest, the **Village Voice** team emerged as the winners, followed by the **Nil Desperandum** team in second place, and the **McWellies** in third position.

Interested in Computers?

With the new IT suite at the school now up and running, and a technical classroom assistant appointed, arrangements to enable **community group use** of this facility are now being considered, and it is hoped that these may be given approval in the near future. In order to clarify the likely level of demand, anyone interested in learning about computers, or developing their computer literacy, is invited to contact **Robin Macdonald** (560436) or **Chris White** (560505). No previous knowledge or experience is necessary.



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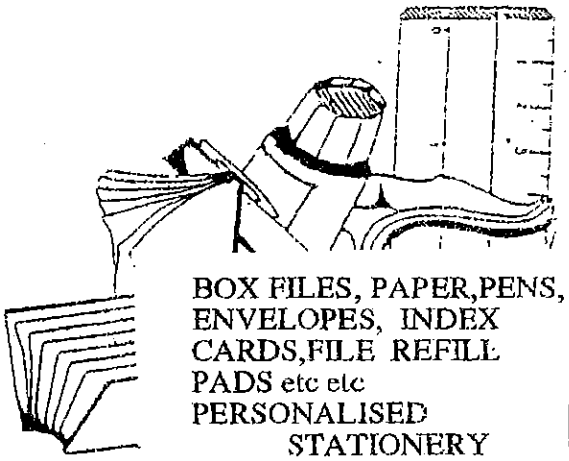

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OVERNIGHT PARKING CHARGES
Parish Council Takes up the Cudgels

[We set out below a copy of the letter sent by Thurlestone Parish Council to the South Hams District Council protesting against the proposed overnight parking charges in Kingsbridge. Any Readers wishing to object to the proposals should write personally to the Chief Customer Operations Officer at Follaton House, quoting reference T/Car Parks, by 7th February 2003.]

Ms Ruth Bagley
Chief Executive
South Hams District Council

16th January 2003

DISTRICT OF SOUTH HAMS (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2003

At the meeting of Thurlestone Parish Council held on Monday 13th January 2003 attended by our District Councillor, Cllr Steen, Councillors and members of the public unanimously objected in the strongest possible terms to the changes in parking fees proposed by SHDC.

It is considered that the new fees will adversely affect local residents, who are dependent on private cars for their everyday life, tourists who are already angered by the high charges made in the South Hams (as against national norms), and boat owners, most of whom are local residents. In particular we see the implementation of overnight charges as being especially harmful to local businesses. For those going to the local cinema, restaurants, pubs, leisure centre, churches and community education, when faced with the extra parking charges will be driven elsewhere.

The knock-on effect caused by any reduction in spending in the area will affect local businesses and the tourist industry which are the life blood of the South Hams and with the current problems experienced through the present government's bias against rural areas they need every help not hindrance in their struggle to maintain an effective level of feasibility.

The government has been heaping extra requirements and responsibilities on the District Council thus contributing to a shortfall of £650,000 in the budget. This deficit covers all aspects of local government affecting all residents and, indirectly, visitors. So why does the SHDC deem it necessary to place the onus of the shortfall on motorists and boat owners? Why not be honest and charge it through the council tax and defend this action by pointing out to the public that the increases are caused by government interference. The SHDC should not try to make up the shortfall through stealth, but by honestly stating that the government has pre-empted part of this income and that the local community through Council Tax must make up the difference. At the end of the day this will be far less unacceptable than the psychologically emotive subject of parking fees.

On a parallel subject - the recent series of consultative forums to which residents, businesses and Parish Councils were invited - the two councillors from our parish who attended reported back that the forum had been very well conceived and run and felt that the initiative by the SHDC in consulting a cross section of the community would benefit everybody. The findings at this particular forum, which they were told was a virtual mirror of the other two, showed that the one thing that nobody wanted was an increase in parking fees. In view of subsequent events the forums proved to be a waste of everybody's time and a PR sham on the part of the SHDC.

We would strongly urge you to reconsider the whole matter of parking charges and also would appreciate your comments as to the purpose of holding the misleading forums the timing of which was particularly unfortunate in view of the impending local elections.

Yours sincerely
J R Lonsdale
Clerk.to the Parish Council

NEWS FROM THE PARISH HALL

Stoke Fleming Visit

Veronica White, who represents the parish Council on our Parish Hall committee, learnt that the village of Stoke Fleming, just to the west of Dartmouth, have built a new village hall in the last year or so. She arranged for us to go and look round it, and to meet and discuss relevant points with some of their committee members.

Two separate visits took place - one just before Christmas and the second just after the New Year - which included our fund-raising members and representatives from most of our user groups. It was a most interesting experience, as there was much common ground between us, for example:

- Their hall requirements were not dissimilar to ours, and the completed building - although slightly larger than the one we plan - has many of the same facilities that we hope to provide.
- In 1999 they were in a similar situation to the one we currently face, that is an estimated cost which seemed to be way beyond the reach of funds available from grant-rewarding bodies and local sources.

Benefits

From the range of discussions that took place, in which they were exceedingly informative and helpful, we have picked up some very useful ideas and suggestions which we now plan to apply to our own project activity.

Forward Plans

One immediate outcome is that we will not, at this stage, be amending the design of the new hall, for which we have planning permission, to accommodate a lower financial expectation.

Fund Raising

(a) Tax-saving on donations

On the question of fund raising, it has been mentioned that some potential donors to the new hall may require clarification as to how to make donations. **Bill Clarke**, our Treasurer, has suggested that, in the first instance, donors might like to contact him so that he can advise them the most effective method so that we may maximise any donations under the Gift Aid tax-saving scheme. Bill's telephone number is 561982.

(b) Quiz Night

Very many thanks to all those who supported a hugely successful Quiz Evening we held in the hall on 7th December and also, of course, grateful thanks to **Mike and Brenda Jones** for both organising and compering it so efficiently. Over £350 was raised for hall funds!

Annual General Meeting

Lastly, may I ask you to make a diary note that the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Hall will be on Monday 28th April, at 7.30 pm in the hall.

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Puzzle Page

by Keith Farrelly

NINE-LETTER WORD-SEARCH

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

1. He fought in the Coliseum
2. Very funny
3. Famous for Horse Trials
4. Has a 'nose' for a story
5. An Autumnal month
6. A temporary fortification
7. Used when making a cake
8. The people's government
9. Lives a debauched life
10. Collection of investments
11. An hors d'oeuvre
12. A strong aversion
13. A Charlie Chaplin film
14. Musical "------ Express"
15. Not quick off the mark
16. Othello choked her off
17. A small orange
18. Not in "The Sopranos"?
19. A bus traveller
20. A fruity rock?
21. ???

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TEM	LIM	GLA	INE	UND	CON	EGG
ACY	LIM	DEM	BAR	TOR	LIB	ANT
BEA	TFO	TRA	SEP	PAS	SLO	NEW
RIC	DIA	ACH	EST	BAD	ELI	HIL
GHT	ERT	SEN	POR	OCR	ERA	GHT
STA	SHO	GER	ANT	LTO	TOR	DES
OUS	THY	ONE	RLI	ADE	BER	TAN
DEM	ONA	MIN	IPA	GEN	TER	INE

TEN TEASERS

1. What was the first capital city of the USA?
2. Who wrote the novel "Where Eagles Dare"?
3. Which English newspaper first appeared in 1900?
4. Which language other than Finnish is spoken in Finland?
5. What is the name of the world's largest fish?
6. When was the first Royal Christmas message broadcast?
7. Of which art is St. Cecilia the patron saint?
8. Which renowned poet lived in the Lake District?
9. Which was the first "talkie" motion picture?
10. Who was the author of "Robinson Crusoe"?

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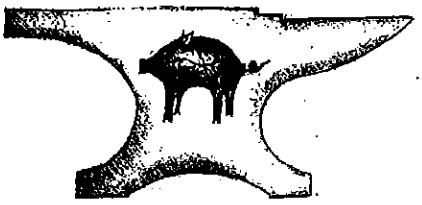

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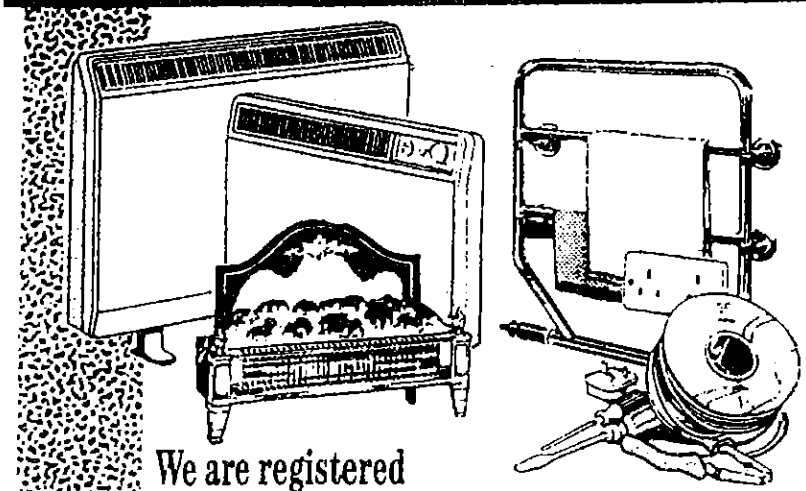

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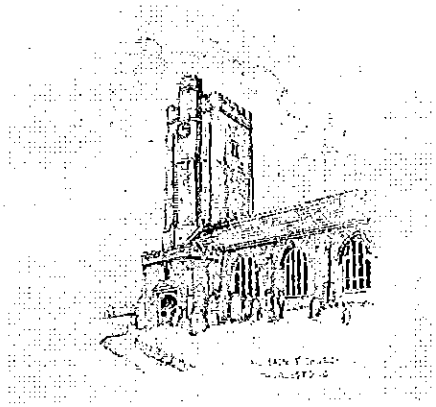


Rector: Revd. Andrew Girling 562219
Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

ANDREW GIRLING WRITES:

An ingenious Mass of Portable Plumbing

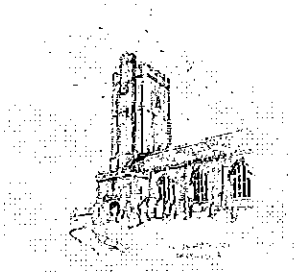
Open almost any newspaper or magazine these days and sooner or later you will come across a page headed 'Body, Mind and Spirit'. There is an ever increasing recognition that our health and happiness depend to some extent on our spiritual well being. Just what is meant by spiritual well being remains undefined. Certainly there is a growing number of people who are feeling their way towards a spiritual understanding of life, who recognise that materialism and science do not have all the answers, but yet who do not feel at ease with a great deal of traditional Church worship and teaching.

The result has been an explosion of spiritualities often gathered under the umbrella of New Age: meditation, yoga, aromatherapy and massage, astrology and the rest. Indeed it is reported that in the last two decades no fewer than 500 new religions have been created. A recent poll has revealed that while in 1987, 48% of people in Britain said they had had a spiritual or religious experience, in 2000, the figure had increased to 76%. It is hard to define, and the poll does not attempt to, what is meant by spiritual experience. Presumably, for example, it includes a profound experience of great music or art or literature. What is certain, however, is that there is a reaction against the reductionist philosophy which defines humanity solely in terms of biology and psychology. I always smiled at Mark Twain's dictum: 'Man is just an ingenious mass of portable plumbing'. Faith or no faith we all have spiritual needs.

At the centre of much of this so-called new spirituality is a search for personal fulfilment, finding my true self, getting in touch with my inner feelings, finding deep peace and contentment. Who can blame anyone for undertaking that search? But I remain unhappy, because those very goals appear not just individualistic but self-centred. This certainly reflects the spirit of our age where 'I' and 'my needs and happiness' are deemed to be of paramount importance. Here lies the real contrast between new age religion and Christianity. To be sure many men and women have found themselves and a profound happiness through their faith, but it is a by-product rather than a goal. The focus of Christianity is the person of Jesus who challenged our natural priorities of self-interest with some quite paradoxical teaching. 'He who seeks to gain his life shall lose it'. 'It is in giving that you receive', and most challenging of all, 'Anyone who wants to be a follower of mine must take up his cross and follow me'. Christianity teaches that the other person's needs are of paramount importance. Jesus himself went on to show the way of self sacrificing love and to found a community which, when it is true to itself (and all too often it isn't), has as its primary purpose the expression of that self-sacrificing love in the world.

The failures of the institutional church, which are many, should never blind us to what Jesus offers. The only place I can find the answers to the human predicament, the only person who has ever expressed the full potential of human nature and lived the perfect life, was also the one who called God his Father and claimed to be speaking for Him. He once said 'I have come that you may have life, life abundant'. He can fulfil all our spiritual needs and inspire us to build a community where everyone's value is recognised.

Andrew



All Saints Diary

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

Church Services

Sundays You would be welcome at all services

FEBRUARY 2ND	**CANDLEMAS**	**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (BCP) **11.10 a.m.** Parish Eucharist* (CW) **6.00 p.m.** Benefice Christingle Service at South Milton
FEBRUARY 9TH		**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (CW) **11.10 a.m.** Matins (BCP)
FEBRUARY 16TH		**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (BCP) **11.10 a.m.** Parish Eucharist* (CW) **6.00 p.m.** Benefice Evensong at Churchstow
FEBRUARY 23RD		**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (CW) **11.10 a.m.** Family Communion* (CW)
MARCH 2ND		**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (BCP) **11.10 a.m.** Morning Worship for All Ages
MARCH 9TH	**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**	**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (BCP) **11.10 a.m.** Matins (BCP)
MARCH 16TH		**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (BCP) **11.10 a.m.** Family Communion (CW) **6.00 p.m.** Benefice Evensong at South Milton
MARCH 23RD		**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (CW) **11.10 a.m.** Parish Eucharist (CW)
MARCH 30TH	**MOTHERING SUNDAY**	**8.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (BCP) **11.10 a.m.** Family Communion (CW) **6.00 p.m.** Benefice Praise Service at Thurlestone

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship * = Change from normal pattern

Weekdays

MARCH 5TH	**ASH WEDNESDAY**	**6.00 p.m.** Benefice Eucharist at Churchstow
THURSDAY FEB 6 & MARCH 6		**10.00 a.m.** Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham
OTHER THURSDAYS		**8.30 a.m.** Holy Communion (said) (CW)
THURSDAYS FEB 27 & MARCH 27		**8.00 a.m.** Informal Prayer

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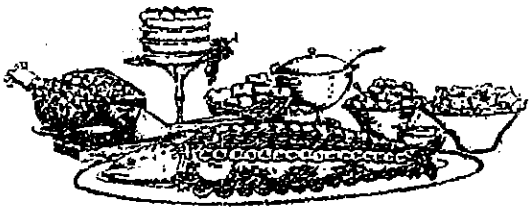

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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

In March 2000 my family and I had a bench placed on the cliff-top above Broadsands beach in memory of my husband who died there.

For two and three-quarter years the bench has stood there, attacked (lovingly) by the elements, but never by humans.

After Christmas, I visited the bench and discovered that a certain "Archie" and "Amy" had incised their names deeply, and in large letters, into both bench arms. I stared in anger and disbelief at the damage that has been inflicted on this memorial. It sickens me to think that this couple actually took delight in gouging into it.

I know of course that it is common for public benches to be damaged deliberately by vandals, but I had hoped that the sort of people who walk the coastal path would have more respect for a lovely bench in a stunningly beautiful spot.

I suspect that this senseless act has been carried out by people from 'up-country', but if by any chance "Archie" and "Amy" live in our villages I would be very pleased to hear from any reader who can supply their address(es).

I know that the bench, and the views from it, have given many people great pleasure. Sadly, none of us will derive quite the same degree of pleasure from sitting there any more.

Yvonne Bennett
Langmans Quarry
West Buckland

Dear Editor

I am sure many other residents have noticed the increasing amount of oil on our local beaches. My son Lewis and his father were walking on the beach at Thurlestone Sands prior to Christmas, and saw a guillemot swimming in the sea that was covered in oil. The sea was very rough and prevented them from saving the bird. Whilst walking back over the sand they found another seabird that had died because again it was covered in oil. There were large lumps of oil in all the plastic rubbish washed up on the shore.

Lewis was so upset by this that he decided to write a letter to the government asking Tony Blair to do something about the oil tankers washing out their tanks at sea.

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter which my 8-year old son received in response to a letter he sent to Mr Blair. We will keep you up-dated on any further correspondence we receive in connection with this very disturbing subject.

Sue Durant
21 Mead Drive
Thurlestone

[We should like to thank Lewis for kindly letting us have a copy of the reply he received from the Prime Minister's office at 10 Downing Street, and for giving us his permission to reproduce it in this issue of Village Voice. I am sure that all our readers will welcome the news of Lewis's initiative on this matter, and be interested to read Tony Blair's response to it, which you will find reproduced overleaf. **Ed.**]

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From the Direct Communications Unit

2 January 2003

Lewis Durant
21 Mead Drive
Thurlestone
Kingsbridge
Devon
TQ7 3TA

Dear Lewis

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your recent letter. He was pleased that you were able to share your concerns with him and will take careful note of what you say.

Mr Blair has asked that your letter be passed to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who have responsibility for this subject so that they, too, are aware of your concerns and can send you any comments they may have direct.

Yours sincerely

MR J O'CONNELL

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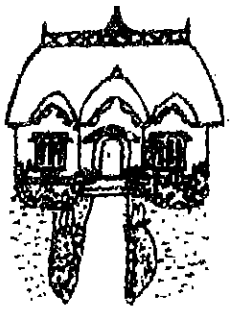

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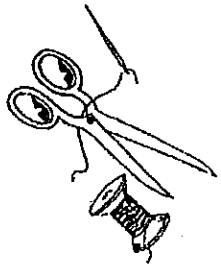

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THURLESTONE IN WAR TIME

(Lilianne Hale first came to Thurlestone in 1941, when she was a young member of the WRNS and had been posted to serve at the Royal Marine Military School based in the Thurlestone Hotel. She fell in love with the place then, over 60 years ago, and it was here she met and married her husband, a member of the Royal Marines, in December 1942. Here is her account of that first visit.)

I travelled on a crowded train from Crewe to Plymouth, it was packed with sailors. I was in my teens and in civilian clothing then, and the only female. I had no problems with that as I was treated with the utmost respect and courtesy. The journey from my home town of Preston, Lancashire, took fourteen hours. There were no refreshments on the train.

I was the only passenger to alight at South Brent, the only passenger to board the Kingsbridge train. We eventually arrived at the terminus, Kingsbridge, but it was pitch black about 11 pm and there was absolutely no sign of life. You can imagine my sheer terror. I then spotted a light approaching, a storm-lantern borne by a porter at an otherwise dark and empty station. When he said "Where be 'ee goin', maid?", never having heard a true Devon dialect, I thought I had arrived on Mars! I doubt if he had come across my Lancashire accent before, but he took me into the station office and he knew exactly what to do, apparently having been faced with the regular appearance of stray young WRNS ladies arriving intermittently. He phoned 'Broadsands' at Thurlestone, where he had a good relationship with the Petty Officer in charge - Christian name terms! Wrens also occupied 'Lower Goosewell' and later 'Dormers' and 'Yarmer' on Ilbert Road, known collectively as "Wrenneries"!

For me, arriving at Thurlestone had been a daunting task - even discovering where it actually was. I had received a letter from the Admiralty on Friday 5th December 1941 which contained a railway warrant and instructions to report to the RMMS at Thurlestone the following Monday.....but where *was* Thurlestone? After many searches I traced it through an entry in, of all things, Encyclopaedia Britannica, which went as follows "Thurlestone is a small hamlet in South Hams, Devon. Main occupation duck rearing. Population 479. Nearest railway station, Kingsbridge - single track, branch line from Brent, via Avonwick".

It was far too dark for me to see anything on my journey to the village, and when we arrived all that I could hear was the crunch of the car wheels going over shale - and the noise of the sea. I was immediately plunged into the routine - no period of 'breaking the ice' - for at 6.30 am the next morning I joined other Wrens to walk from Broadsands to the Hotel. This was for me another slightly frightening experience. The rain fell in torrents, a strong cold wind was blowing, and in those days passing the dark churchyard was a harrowing experience - massive trees over the churchyard wall creaked and swayed in the wind, making all sorts of ghostly noises. We arrived at the Guard House, to the left of the Village Inn and long-since demolished. We were greeted by ferocious-looking males in uniform, carrying guns at the ready. "Halt, who goes there?". Little voice, "Friend". "Advance friend and be recognised". We got used to it eventually, but it was a shock at first!

One of my most pleasant and lasting memories is of walking down the lane to the Sloop Inn at Bantham to play table skittles. Usually it was dark and the hedgerows were absolutely shining with glow-worms. It was an unforgettable sight but they appear to be no longer in evidence for we have since

made efforts to find them.

Some time ago Village Voice carried an article which mentions Mr Jack Broad. My memories of him go back to when I first arrived in Thurlestone. He was a well-known figure, very well acquainted with the establishment personnel, especially the drivers who would do him favours by delivering parcels occasionally when a transport was going to Plymouth Barracks. What are my own memories of Mr Broad's generosity? He would take out of his jacket pocket the odd tomato or packet of dried egg. Although we were fed adequately, the last meal of the day was supper at 6 pm, so a late snack was more than welcome. He was also the coal merchant.

We had a reasonable social life, organised within our own establishment. A monthly dance in the Hotel or, occasionally, in the Links Hotel. There were the odd birthday celebrations or an evening meal at 'Barton Brow', a local bed and breakfast. Walks across the cliff tops to Hope Cove for tea, and crab and lettuce sandwiches at the Hope & Anchor. On our walks to Bantham sometimes, when the tide permitted, we crossed to Bigbury by rowing boat. We had tea in the tea-rooms there, returned by boat and then walked back over the cliff tops and across the golf links. Golfers were a rare sight in those days. The Golf Club was designated as a NAAFI. Tea was a penny a cup with occasional entertainment. Mrs Dent and Betty, our hosts, would encourage impromptu concerts and Mrs Dent would 'give us a song'. There was a cinema show once a week in the Hotel ballroom and on Saturday evening transport was provided to take us to Kingsbridge to the pictures. We also had a very good Wren hockey team and played against the Marines with some success!

Despite the presence of barbed wire and notices, very sadly there was a tragedy on the beach when a young Wren driver accidentally trod on a land mine and was killed whilst collecting driftwood. The church played quite a part in the RM and WRNS service life in the village. There were regular church parades, and choir members. Susan Pentecost, a Wren, was the organist. She struck a very small figure on a very large organ. Such memories are brought back with the sight in the church of silver candlesticks and the dedication plaque to the Marines when they finally left the village.

Broad's Dairy was a landmark - now gone. I remember Mattie, Mr Broad's niece, with affection. She used to run the dairy shop. The Post Office was run by the postmistress and her daughter from a wooden hut in the garden of their home at the top of the village. There was no paper-shop, a van delivered to the village each morning but the vendor did leave daily and Sunday papers at the Hotel.

Mr and Mrs Johns who lived somewhere near the top of the village, would accommodate visiting friends or relatives on a bed and breakfast basis. There were two elderly brothers who ran the Village Inn. It had a small bar and snug, but no food, and it was out-of-bounds to the Wrens! The Sick Quarters were at Furzey Close, now turned into apartments. If we wanted to go into Kingsbridge we usually had to walk. A bus ran into the town on three afternoons a week, but a return bus was practically non-existent.

I retain a host of warm and happy memories of our long association with Thurlestone. Despite the new housing developments the village has not really shown any drastic changes over the years.

[**Footnote:** Mr & Mrs Hale celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary at the Thurlestone Hotel and planned to celebrate their 60th year of marriage there in December 2002 . Very sadly, Mr Hale had a fatal heart attack in January 2002. In Mrs Hale's words, "so our special visit was not to be". We are most grateful to her for this wonderful account of her memories on coming to Thurlestone for the first time so many years ago. **Ed.**]

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NEWS FROM THE WI

New Year

President **Dorothy Candy** wished everyone a happy New Year and welcomed our new member **Joan Gillan** and visitor **Lindy Price**. January got us off to a tremendous start with 47 members present, and guest speaker **Steve Melia's** talk and slides of old Hallsands were excellent. He told us of the final destruction of the village by a storm in 1917, the terrible result of the shingle dredging which had gone on there from the 1890s to the early 1900s and which had removed the village's natural coastal protection. He described the disaster as ***"a village betrayed"***, which is also the title of his book on the subject giving a new insight into this very sad story.

Rounding off the old year

Christmas luncheon and the Sea Coast Group carol service at South Milton had both been thoroughly enjoyed in December. £450 had been donated to the Devon Air Ambulance as a result of our fund-raising during 2002.

2003 Resolutions

Eight members went to Charleton village hall on 10th January to help choose a national short-list of resolutions to be voted on at the June General Meeting, which this year would be held on old familiar territory at the Albert Hall. Four were chosen. These were:

1. Calling on the Government to promote a modern apprenticeship scheme for young people
2. Urging a reduction in salt in manufactured food and for the labelling of salt content
3. Viewing with concern the increasing obesity and diet-related health problems in children
4. Calling for compulsory wearing of protective headgear by all cyclists.

Payment of Pensions & Allowances

Whilst at the Charleton meeting an opportunity was taken for an up-date on the new arrangements for the payment of these benefits and the dangers this posed to the viability of many small post offices. The WI already has a resolution on this topic and if people want to continue collecting their allowances at the post office, they are strongly advised not to divulge their bank account details to the Department of Works & Pensions. Particular concern was also expressed that all post offices have been forbidden by the Department to recommend this course of action to recipients who, it is believed, will be pressed into having this money paid into a bank account.

Overnight Car Parking charges

Members were urged to write as soon as possible, before 7th February, to register objection to the proposed £2.00 charge for overnight parking in Kingsbridge (6 pm to 8 am) directing their letters to the Councils's **Chief Customer Operations Officer** at Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5NE, quoting reference T/Car parks.

Body Shop social coffee morning

This was enjoyed by members and friends, thanks to the efforts of **Linda Quinn** the local representative.

Lined Up

A Skittles & Supper evening will be held at the California Inn on 17th February (contact **Pat Clarke**) and a pub lunch at the Port Light on 20th March (contact **Pat Crawford**). February's speaker will be **Janice Dennis** of South Milton, talking about her years as a Purser on the QE II.

TRAMPS 2003 - WALK SCHEDULE

This year's schedule includes, as well as the regular Wednesday walks, some additional **shorter walks** (at various times and days of the week) during the period April to September.

Wednesday Walks

Jan/Feb/March/Nov/Dec = 2nd Wednesday April to October = 2nd & 4th Wednesday

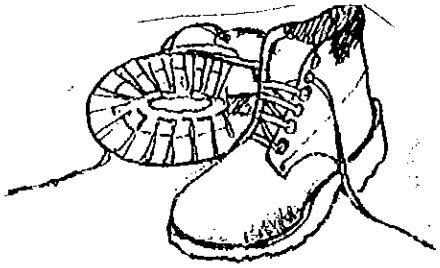
Date	Walk	Leader	Phone
Jan 8	East Allington	Derek Yeoman	560300
Feb 12	Stokenham / Slapton	Tony & Sheila Ward	560544
March 12	Lee Mill and Lutton	Rodney Horn	560889
April 9	Plym Trail	Graham Durant	560007
April 23	Burrator / Dartmoor	Ron Parkin	561215
May 14	Dart Valley Trail	Trisha Wilson	561328
May 28	Dartmoor (TBA)	Graham Durant	560007
June 11	Kingston / Ringmore	Richard & Heather Swann	560892
June 25	Capton	Derek Yeoman	560300
July 9	To be arranged	Mary Chudleigh	01566 - 777995
July 23	Walk / Swim !	R. MacKay & C. Hammer	560194
Aug 13	To be arranged	John & Christine Wilson	01752 - 872775
Aug 27	Malborough	Trisha Wilson	561328
Sept 10	Hound Tor / Bekka Falls	Tony & Sheila Ward	560544
Sept 24	Gidley Bridge / Holne	Derek Yeoman	560300
Oct 8	Erme Valley	Rodney Horn	560889
Oct 22	Lannacombe	Ron Parkin	561215
Nov 12	Bigbury	Richard & Heather Swann	560892
Dec 10	Christmas Walk (TBA)	Graham Durant	560007

Shorter Walks

Day	Date	Walk	Leader	Phone
Monday	Apr 14	East Soar	Derek Yeoman	560300
Thursday	May 8	Loddiswell	Bob Nicholls	560876
Friday	May 23	Dartington	Tony & Sheila Ward	560544
Friday	June 20	Noss Mayo	Joy & Don Hailey	561011
Monday	July 14	Dartmouth Castle	Trisha Wilson	561328
Thursday	Aug 21	East Prawle	Tony & Sheila Ward	560544
Wednesday	Sept 17	Evening Walk	Ron Parkin	561215

Notes
1. Walkers meet at Thurlestone Parish Hall car-park, or at start-point designated on walk notice.
2. Walk leaders are responsible for posting a notice with walk details in the village store / PO one week prior to the walk, and for sending a write-up to Village Voice afterwards.
3. Walk leaders should ensure that a First Aid kit is carried on all walks.
4. Visitors should inform the walk leader of their intention to participate in the walk.
5. All walkers participate at their own risk.
6. For any general queries, please contact the 2003 Tramps Co-ordinator, Graham Durant (560007)

TRAMP



18th January 2003. Who would be a weather forecaster? At 8.30 am I rang two of our regular walkers in Newton Ferrers and suggested that as it was snowing quite hard I felt that the journey to East Allington might be a waste of time if the local walkers decided to cancel.

By 9.30 am, when we were all due to meet at the Parish Hall car park, the weather had improved considerably and the eight of us, plus one dog, decided it was worth going. By the time we reached East Allington the weather had improved even further and before long the sun came out - which helped us to forget the rather wet going.

The route for this walk took us mainly across fields to Blackawton. We passed through a number of villages well off the beaten track, and new to most of the walkers. The cold weather and good going meant that we were eating up the miles and I was getting very worried that we would reach the Normandy Arms before opening time, but at 12.02 pm we arrived at the door to a warm welcome. Soup and/or sandwiches had been prepared for us in advance and, as we subsequently discovered, supplied at a discounted rate. What a sensible pub with an eye to future trade!

After lunch we continued on our way again, in perfect sunshine, via Hutcherleigh to East Allington. The going that afternoon was considerably wetter than the morning and in one place we had to leave the footpath and stay on a road. However, all agreed that it was well worth keeping to the New Year resolution of one good walk a week.

One new walker joined us and helped to make up for those 'regulars' who for one reason or another failed to come along.

D.Y.

HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK IF ALONE

Let's say it is 6.15 pm and you're driving home (alone of course) after an unusually hard day working or playing. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you experience very severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate into your arm and up into your jaw.

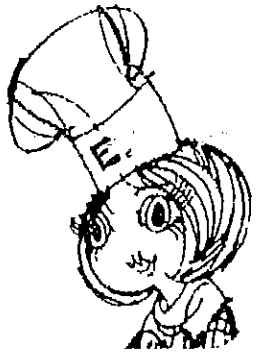
You are only 5 miles from the hospital nearest your home. Unfortunately you do not know whether you will be able to make it that far. What can you do? You've attended a course on resuscitation but your tutor did not tell you how to perform it on yourself. Without help, the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel faint has only about ten minutes left before losing consciousness.

Here is what you should do. You can help yourself by **coughing - repeatedly** and **vigorously**. A **deep breath** should be taken before each cough. The cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. The cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it to regain normal rhythm. In this way heart attack victims can get to hospital. **Tell as many people as you can about this. It could save their lives!**

[*With acknowledgements to The Mended Hearts Inc. publication "Heart Response"*]

KATE'S KITCHEN



FISH PIE - TO SERVE 4

Many of us have a family fish pie recipe. This one is a little different - instead of potato topping, this lighter version is finished off with fresh breadcrumbs and toasted almonds. This pie makes an excellent lunch or supper dish. It could also be served in individual dishes or deep scallop shells as a starter. It can be made in advance - just chill and re-heat when needed - and it also freezes well and, like any favourite outfit, it may be dressed up or down to suit ordinary or grander occasions!

1. Ingredients

FISH	1kg (2 lbs) fish, skinned, cut into small pieces. Juice of half a lemon
SAUCE	75g (3ozs) butter 50g (2ozs) plain flour Three quarters to 1 pint milk; freshly ground salt and pepper Quarter pint double cream (special occasions only!)
TOPPING	Approximately 100g (4ozs) freshly made breadcrumbs 50g (2ozs) freshly grated Cheddar cheese 50g (2ozs) flaked almonds
GARNISH	Lemon slices, tomato slices, parsley sprigs 4 prawns in shells for special occasions

2. Preparation

1. Place the **uncooked** fish in a greased ovenproof dish and drizzle over lemon juice. Cover and keep chilled.
2. Melt butter in a pan, add flour and cook over a lower heat for 1-2 minutes
3. Add milk slowly and mix well. Stir continuously over moderate heat until sauce thickens. It should be fairly thick - the fish juices will thin it down a bit.
4. Add seasoning (and cream - if using) and pour sauce over fish
5. Sprinkle top with breadcrumbs, grated cheese and finally the almonds
6. Bake in a pre-heated moderate oven (180C/Gas 4) for half to three quarters of an hour. Crumbs and almonds should be golden brown.

Note : If you are preparing the pie **a little in advance**, follow steps 1 to 4, having first cooled the sauce by standing it in a bowl of cold water. Put a piece of greaseproof paper or cling-film directly on to the surface of the sauce to prevent skin formation.. Allow sauce to cool, pour it over fish, and refrigerate. When it is required, then follow steps 5 & 6. **If you intend to freeze it,** cook and then cool as quickly as possible before putting it into the freezer.

Just before serving, garnish with a line of alternate slices of lemon and tomato and sprigs of parsley. Add the prawns in shells if you are using them. Serve with a selection of vegetables.

HORSWELL DIARY

Several years ago I was invited by a wealthy Indian client to inspect the new "Queen Anne-style manor house" that he was building for his family. The house, he told me, was to be completed in time for his son's wedding, three weeks hence. He asked me if I would advise him on the placement of his furniture and household possessions. These were due to be flown in, by chartered aeroplane from Singapore, arriving just twenty-four hours before the wedding!

When I arrived on site, I was shocked to discover that the house was still at the breeze-block stage of construction, with neither staircase nor doors and window-frames yet in place. It was a large house, on three floors. A mansion. Although now surrounded by the usual chaos of busy building site, it would undoubtedly be an extremely handsome house when eventually completed.

"What do you think?" he asked.

"Amazing" I replied, absorbing the vast scale of the project, then added *'But there is no way it can be finished in three weeks - that would be impossible".*

"It will be ready" he pronounced, without a quiver of doubt. "There is a hefty penalty clause written into the contract. The builder knows it must be ready on time". I shook my head in astonishment, pitying the builder.
"You will see it when you come to help with the furniture" he said.
"It will be ready, I promise you".

I thought his faith in British workmen was admirable, to say the very least. "Now", he continued, "tell me. Do you not think it is very beautiful?". I have always found it very hard to tell a lie. He was watching me closely. *'I think it is going to be very beautiful.....",* I began, trying to choose my words carefully. "Except?" he asked tartly, picking up on my hesitation. *'Except",* I continued, *'the sills of the windows are all too high; the proportion is wrong and from the inside it must be hard to enjoy the views of the surrounding countryside. They would look much better if they were lowered by one course of block-work".*

My client called a man towards him and introduced him to me: "This is my builder". He turned to the builder and to my intense embarrassment said "My interior designer says that the windows all need lowering. Please remove one course of block-work from each and alter the windows accordingly". The builder was a large man. He had hands the size of shovels. How he restrained himself from snapping me in two I shall never know. He must have been paralysed with rage. I can still feel the shockwaves of murderous intention that emanated from him like steam from a pressure-cooker.

I am reminded of this now because, as I write, kitchen plans and lighting circuits are arriving by e-mail from our younger daughter, who is anxious about various aspect of the work currently in progress at her home. It has become something of a Sunday habit. After weekends of lengthy telephone discussions and reciprocal e-mailing, it is guaranteed that there will be certain *"adjustments"* to be made in the week ahead. Her builder must hate Mondays!

Is it really possible that Christmas can have come and gone so fast? It seemed to race upon us like a tidal wave and then subside all too quickly in a tumultuous backwash of used wrapping-paper and wilting decorations. Suddenly, here we are in the New Year, not knowing whether to greet its new opportunities with our usual vigour, or whether to regard the number of troops massing on the borders of Iraq as grains of sand in an hourglass, counting us down to the end of time.

Optimism, under the present circumstances, is hard to find. The media bombard us daily with their doubts and fears. Those who have already experienced the horrors of earlier wars pray for peace, while young men and women in the armed forces say fond farewells to their families, unsure of what will be required of them; to engage in battle or to retreat. Somehow I do not see President Bush in the role of the Grand Old Duke of York. Having 'Marched his men to the top of the hill' I think it will be almost impossible to 'March them down again' without a fight.

The house looks so bare now that the Christmas trees have been removed, and the days are losing their colour as we resume our routines and try to appease our indignant, overfed digestive systems. A new year's resolution sees me swimming half a mile before breakfast then sitting all day at my computer. I am determined to finish **'the novel'** which has proved to be a considerable log-jam in our lives over the past two years. All socialising is banned for the month of January. I am in self-imposed 'book purdah' and, despite the tempting brochures strewn round my desk, unable to even contemplate an escape to the sun until I've written the last word of the final chapter.

And then, even when the actual writing is finished, it is still only the beginning of another long and painful process of finding a publisher. I have days when I could throw it all, happily, into the waste basket, and other days when I see it splashed across our cinema screens and me, congratulating Nicole Kidman at the Oscars presentation for her portrayal of my leading character! Who can tell what may happen? But one thing is for sure.....if I don't give it a try, I will never know.

To ease my solitary confinement I have made my office as comfortable as possible, with flowers, a heater, music, and plenty of light. With the dark frosty days we've been having it has undoubtedly become the nicest place in the house to be. Initially my long-suffering husband had imagined having to mount a guard to prevent me from escaping. Instead, he is now frequently to be found with the two dogs, scratching at the door and whimpering to come in! So here we are, the four of us who live in this great big house, jammed in a room no bigger than a dog kennel; the dogs stretched out in front of the fire, my husband on the sofa having a post-meridian nap, and me at the keyboard!

My pre-breakfast forays into the outside world have given me a new perspective on life. 6.30 am has never been my finest hour! But now, clothed in a damp swimsuit and a woolly scarf, I set off into the cold dark mornings like Captain Oates, scaring the owls and startling half-frozen pigeons from their roosts. In the headlights I see the ducks still sleeping on the island with their heads tucked under one wing, and beside the drive the spiky silhouettes of emerging snowdrops. As the air lightens to a steely grey, I enjoy the black lace of leafless trees etched against a cold sky, and see the watchful eye of a blackbird as she flies ahead of me across the lane. I can see the distinctive shape of magpies as they chatter in the hedgerows looking for carrion. They fly to the ground as soon as I have passed, scavenging for food in my tracks.

At that hour of the day there is a stillness, a purity, a special peace. It is a world untouched by man, where ice holds nature in its iron grip and frost glistens in the morning light. Half awake I may be, but there is still a wealth of beauty to be found. And on my return, weak-limbed and red-faced from exertion, there is warmth and breakfast and newspapers to enjoy, and a whole perfect day ahead of me.

So, whatever lies ahead, be it peace or war, let us be thankful for today and make the most of every moment. In the words of Horace: *'Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero"* - **"Seize the day! having only the smallest trust in tomorrow".**

Prunella Dart

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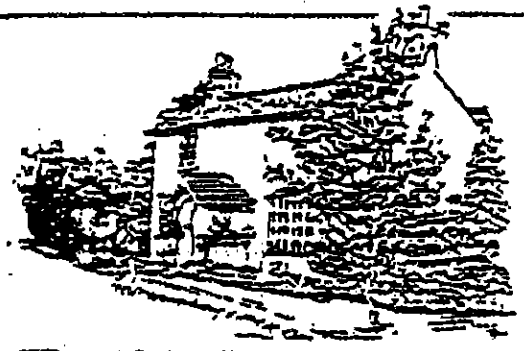

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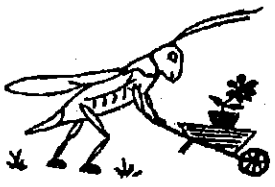

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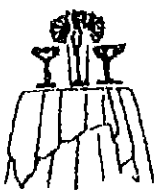

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BOOKSHELF

The Virgin Blue
by Tracy Chevalier
(Harper Collins £6.99)

This book is by the author of ***Girl with a Pearl Earring*** and those of you who read that will know already that Tracy Chevalier is a first-rate novelist.

This is a much more complex book, however, describing the adventures of a young American woman in France and her efforts to trace her ancestors. Interwoven with that is her spell-binding story of the lives of her ancestors from the 16th century onwards. Coupled with an intriguing romance, it succeeds in being an enchanting and sometimes heart-wrenching novel. Not to be missed!

G.W.

Carter Beats the Devil
by Glen David Gold
(Hodder & Stoughton £6.99)

This is the author's first novel and was short-listed for the Guardian first book award. It is an amazing mystery tour from the turn of the twentieth century to the end of the roaring twenties. The novel weaves biography and fiction with seamless ease.

Charles Carter was a famous American magician of the 1920s and this novel takes the bare bones of his story and turns them into something as enchanting as the tricks that once baffled his audiences. The characters are wonderfully eccentric but never lose their credibility or sense of humour. This is a long book, but reads quickly because of the pace and power of Gold's writing. If you want something to brighten your winter evenings, this is for you.

M.H.

Grasshopper
by Barbara Vine
(Penguin £5.99)

This novel is both original and superb. It centres on Clodagh, who was 19 when she arrived in Maida Vale to lodge in an elderly relative's basement flat. Her parents have despatched her there to attend a Poly (now a university), in order to recover from a traumatic experience which had happened to her when she was 17.

Clodagh meets a group of young people headed by a young man called Michael Silverman, known to everyone as Silver. He was generous, kind and thoughtful, and played host to a strange group of young drop-outs in the top floor flat in his parents' house. These youngsters enjoyed ranging the rooftops. It was a happy and exhilarating time - until they saw a scene that was to lead to a tragedy as great as the one that had brought Clodagh there in the first place.

The story is related by Clodagh in flashbacks from her position of happy and mature young woman of 31.

M.H.

Golden Afternoon
by M M Kaye
(Penguin £8.99)

An autobiography from the distinguished author of ***The Far Pavilions***, this is a very far-reaching history and reminiscence of India from her late childhood onwards. I learned so much of Cawnpore and its horrors, about the beauty of the Taj Mahal - seen in her early days with no people crowding round - and of the magic India weaves on its visitors. A really absorbing, illuminating read.

R.M.

O CANADA!

Rosemary MacKay's impressions of a recent trip to Toronto

I have been visiting Canada for the past twenty-five years - ever since our son settled there. It is now five years since I was last there, so I believe it was with fresh eyes that I saw the country again and the huge metropolis that is Toronto. The plane and the car (they are very courteous drivers) are the lifeblood of this enormous country - second only in size to the former USSR - and this vast city. Why are we worried about CFCs in our fridges when one sees the amount of heat generated by transport? As you would say at a conference "Discuss"!

The city is a complete mix of all the countries of the world but, judging by the names of the streets and districts, it was originally colonised by the British - a lot of them Scots. I would say that most of the inhabitants of the more rural areas are mainly descended from the original immigrants. The thousands and thousands of lakes - some of them incredibly large - are usually surrounded by 'cottages', many of which would classify as desirable homes. Houses are larger on the whole and, mostly, on minuscule plots.

Canadians shop in much larger quantities than we do, but as they all have basements (the utilities have to come in below frost level) things are more easily stored. Our present-day homes hardly even have a pantry.

I was reminded constantly of how much people give up to emigrate. My son's cleaner is a bright young girl who has no word of English. I asked my way of a young woman with a baby and discovered she was Russian and hadn't seen her family for six years, but their chances of progress and success in Canada are greater than back in their native country.

The 'growth industry' seems to be golf clubs, many very recently constructed. My son and his wife belong to an organisation called "Club Link", and from their home club of choice, also have thirty other clubs at which they can play. I was taken to nine, all more impressive than the last, with trees, lakes, rocks and beautiful natural features, and with names from Rattlesnake to Rocky Crest. I don't really play golf but I got a birdie at one hole (the rest of my shots were more like Robin Redbreasts). Note for Harry: I saw masses of sparrows!

I was there for the anniversary of 9/11 and I was most impressed when I saw, on tv, the dignity with which President Bush walked into Ground Zero with his wife, where he spent over an hour quietly talking to all the relatives of the lost ones, shaking a hand here, signing a photograph there, giving a kiss or a hug, or posing with someone when the photographers asked. As the commentator said "He is a stickler for punctuality and here he is, running very late".

Something I learnt was that his nickname "Dubya" is not meant to be "dumb cluck", but it's how a W is pronounced in Texas!

HARRY HUGGINS SPOTS A CRANE AT HIS HOTEL

Channel 4 has done a weekly series called "A Place in the Sun". A very attractive young lady ("a comely wench" would be an excellent description) takes couples to Spain, Turkey, or wherever and shows them the houses they might buy. I think some do.

At the beginning of December she went with two people to what she said was "the Spanish Algarve". We watched with eyes wide open. We had only just come back from there. No one called it the Spanish Algarve. It is the Costa de la Luz, the Coast of Light. For that matter I cannot find any mention of Algarve on the map of Portugal. Where she took her people, and where we went, is just across the river from the Algarve. The boundary is the Rio Guadiano, near its mouth a wide and mighty stream. It seems odd that the country is all sandy and dried up, yet there are big rivers which are fed, no doubt, from the snow off the sierras inland. Beside the river is the town of Ayamonte. She showed them a town house there, and after that an apartment at the Canela golf course just beyond the town. Later there were a couple of places way down the coast, beyond Cadiz. They bought one of those.

She said prices (she always knows all about prices) were less than half of those in the Algarve, and of course far cheaper than in Britain. But there is the political risk, and until you have severed all links with the UK, you must use Faro airport in Portugal. Behind the Algarve and running into Spain is a fine new motorway. I suppose it goes all the way to Madrid. At all events it goes to Seville and then Cordoba, which is as far as my map goes. To cross the Rio Guadiano is a handsome new bridge. I thought guess who paid for motorway and bridge! There are neither border controls nor Customs, you just drive across. We did so several times during the fortnight we were there - the best birds are in Portugal. But if the Spanish, or the Portuguese, got peevish (recently they were squabbling over an island in the river which is the border at the north end of Portugal) and closed the frontier, or made it difficult - as with Gibraltar - owning a house in this part of Spain would not be so clever.

We picked a hotel, Riu Canela, about five kilometres south of Ayamonte town. Isla de Canela is a low marshy area at the mouth of the river. We had stayed before at a Riu hotel, on the Algarve. There is a chain of them. The history, so we read, was that the Riu family (Riu was the Christian name of one of them) had a hotel in Mallorca. Small - eighty bedrooms. I suppose that is small by the standard of present-day hotels which have three hundred or so. Tui, the huge German travel company, looked and liked what they saw, said we will put up the cash if you can do the managing. I don't know how many there are now, they seem to be all over. The Portuguese one, and the Spanish one, were very well run.

We were going to Spain, but flew Exeter to Faro and took a taxi, scheduled to take one hour and fifteen minutes, to the hotel. For once the driver spoke English, usually communication is out. He told us (1) the Portuguese and the Spanish loathed one another, which we knew; (2) Portuguese people went to Spain for their holidays and vice-versa; (3) twenty Portuguese traffic policemen had just been arrested, in batches, for extortion; (4) driving through Ayamonte town, which we had to do to get to and from the hotel, was a menace on account of motor scooters (which he called vacuum cleaners). We arrived at the hotel in just over an hour.

The hotel was in one block, but all different heights, even a tower, and looked like a

village, a narrow bit on the north side, where you go in and two arms which enclosed much of the garden. Ten years ago, when it was built, it must have stood by itself, but going on around was frantic building. Sovereign warned us there was an apartment block going up next door - they had to tell us that to cover themselves. It dwarfed our six floor hotel but didn't worry us as we reckon to go out all day. Some of the guests enjoyed watching the cranes, five of them. The taxi driver told us all the apartments were sold. Someone has some money.

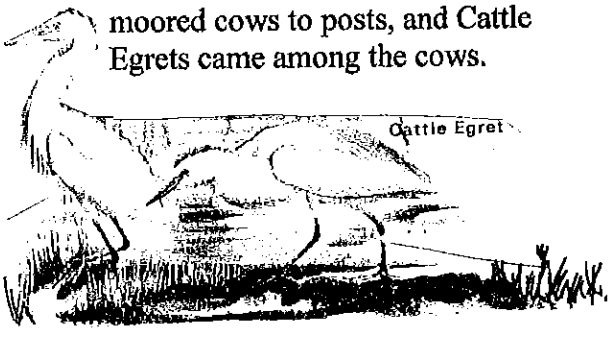
When we arrived, reception greeted us with a glass of bubbly. Later we were accosted by a young lady - very slim, tight trousers, even tighter jersey; she had dark eyes, a nose of which any parrot would have been proud, short bobbed hair - most attractive she was. Told us her name was Este (as in Lauder), short for something, Estralita I think. She said she was the manager, please tell her if there was anything we wanted. She looked 17, I suppose she was 35. We spent some time trying to work out who was her husband - we decided on a gentleman with a snazzy haircut, fancy suit and fancy car.

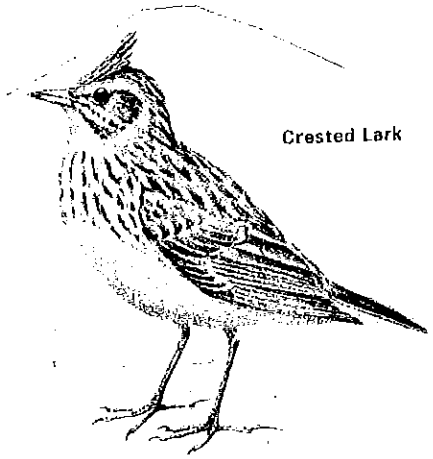
The Kingsbridge travel agent fixed a car for us. In Mallorca we get one through the hotel, but in a strange place local hirers might be silly, like saying I was too old, or we mustn't take it out of the country - we knew we would want to cross into Portugal. Before it was delivered, though, we were supposed to telephone to confirm the booking, Difficult, the number was one in Seville, my Spanish is non-existent, and the hotel desk didn't seem able to help (we had not met up with Este at that time). I was wandering disconsolately about when the desk grabbed me and said the man wanted to bring his car that evening instead of the following day as arranged. Most helpful. It was supposed to be a VW Polo or similar. I hoped it would be similar; the Polo we had in Mallorca once had the habit of tipping up the driver's seat every time the handbrake was put on. But not to worry - "similar" turned out to be a Renault Clio, diesel, a smashing little car. We drove it something like 500 miles and used little more fuel than our Citroen automatic takes to get to Exeter and back.

To get anywhere except just local, we had to go through Ayamonte town. Hair-raising to start with. There are about six roundabouts - not so bad once I got into my head to look left instead of right when going in. Also sleeping policemen, metal bars about five feet apart. The boys on the scooters usually wove round them. One solved the matter by leaping both wheels at once into the air. Don't know how he did it but it was quite spectacular.

A puzzle as to what the other hotel guests did. Some loafed about on sun loungers - it was hot sun nearly all the time. Some walked to the next place, Punta del Moral, about four kilometres along the coast, had a coffee somewhere and walked back again. Others played golf. There was a party of four British battleaxes on a golfing holiday. I consulted one about the local course, said it didn't seem very hilly. She replied no, but it was very watery and you had to be a long hitter - which she was not. I think she was over-awed by her companions. A new course at Islantilla, about ten kilometres to the east, was said to be suitable for mountain goats, but I never asked how they got on there.

We birded of course. On the seaward side of the hotel was the widest, sandiest beach we have ever seen. On it were lots of little Kentish Plovers, which dug themselves holes in the sand and sat with their heads sticking out. Inland from the hotel was a large area of rushy grass intersected with gullies into which the sea came at high tide. Farmers moored cows to posts, and Cattle Egrets came among the cows.



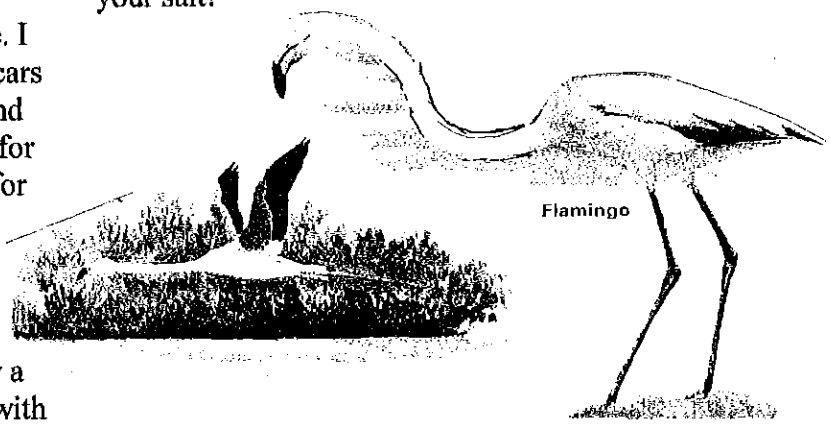


Crested Lark

There were larks, Crested Larks I believe. I tried to photograph them. Men came in cars and set nets to catch them. Later we found out why. They could have been doing it for the local equivalent of our British Trust for Ornithology (if there is one), but I didn't think so. Pies or kebabs are what those larks were destined for. Near Punta del Moral was a big patch of scrub - it will be under huge hotels soon. There we saw a big flock of Goldfinches. And also men with little traps, no doubt each with a decoy bird, trapping the Goldfinches to sell as cage birds. I wanted to photograph them but did not dare.

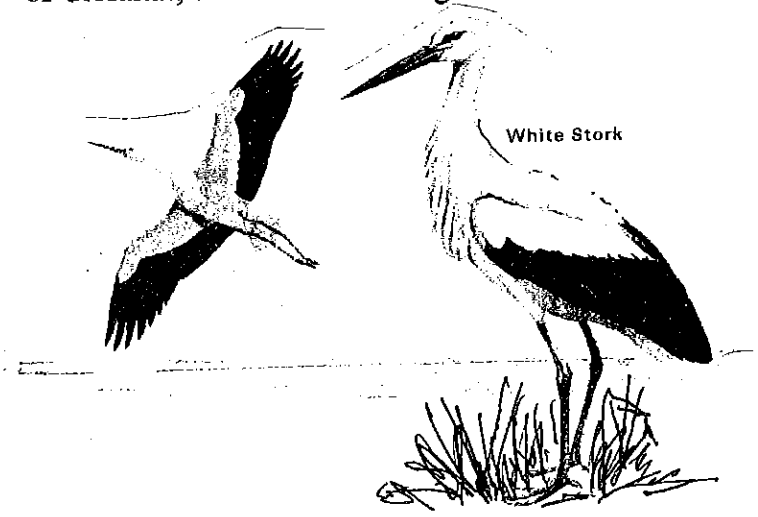
The great Coto Donana, probably the finest bird reserve in Europe (the Spanish kings used to hunt there) was about 100 kilometres down the coast to the south-east. Nearer than Thurlestone to Bristol. We had wondered about going there. But a long drive, over unknown roads (though most of them seemed pretty good) and, of course, there and back in a day. So we didn't. The only other bird-watchers we met in Spain, a very pleasant German couple, said that they had been and it wasn't worth it. I believe there are parts where you can do your own thing - have read about people at a picnic spot surrounded by the jolly little Azure-winged Magpies, which I would love to photograph. If you go to the organised part, the locals convey you about in four-track vehicles (they were the local hunters and when they were stopped from hunting were allowed to drive visitors around). You are raced along and see very little. The German folks said it was a waste of money.

Our best birding place was in Portugal, on the huge Castro Marim reserve beside the Guadiana river - we just drove across the new bridge and there it was. It was salt pans; they let the sea water in and gradually evaporated it until there was just salt left - the sun did it all for them. Part was still in use: there was a mountain of salt with a tractor crawling about on top, pushing it around. I wonder how much oil you get in your salt!



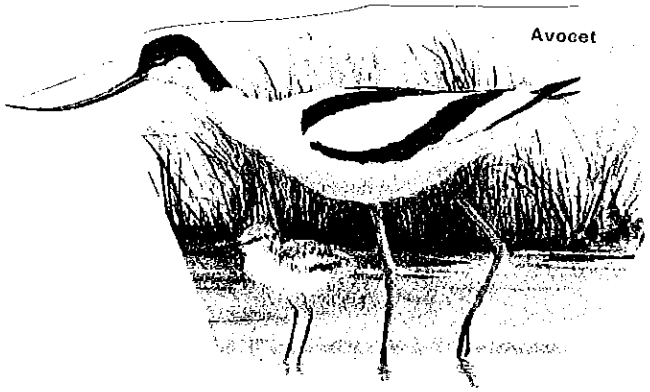
Flamingo

There were two or three hundred Flamingoes, a flock of several hundred Avocets, Cattle Egrets everywhere, and forty or so White Storks. They put metal rings the size of bicycle wheels on the top of high poles and the Storks, make nests on them. June saw a little party of them, half a dozen or so, which caught a rising air current - the hot sun made lots of those. They circled in the rising air until she could no longer see them, even in her binoculars. A stork is some seven feet across the wings. Which shows how high they went. Then they would glide off south towards the Straits of Gibraltar, on their autumn migration.



White Stork

Time to go. Our flight was at 7.30 in the morning. Check in at 5.30. The Sovereign rep told us our taxi would come at 5.30. Sounded odd, but there was an hour's time difference between Spain and Portugal.



At 5.10 we tottered down with our cases - the night porter had disappeared. The hotel was to close in a couple of days, they said, for refurbishment. It looked smart enough to us, but maybe they wanted to compete with the marble palace we went into at Punta del Moral to spend a penny. Our driver was waiting. If ever he goes into Formula One, Michael Schumacher had better watch out. He did Ayamonte to the airport in 48 minutes flat - not bad for a journey scheduled to take one-and-a-quarter hours.

By 7.30 we were roaring down the runway. These early morning departures are a bind but at least if you get the first flight of the day you avoid the delays which seem to mount up later. We reached England in brilliant sunshine - people told us that the previous day the weather had been ghastly (and the following day was worse). Usually coming in to land you dive through cloud and have to hope the pilot knows where the ground is. We were early and the captain decided on a sight-seeing tour - the plane was based in the Azores and maybe he had not seen these parts in good visibility before. June suddenly announced she could see our house, the Mead and the Thurlestone Hotel. We often have helicopters over our parish, but I don't ever recall a Boeing 737 circling low. We flew along the coast, Salcombe, Slapton Ley, the Exe estuary, Budleigh Salterton, and in to land. It was all over.

Harry Huggins

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In addition, it holds a golf day at the Thurlestone Golf Club in the autumn, and also organises occasional functions which include members wives/partners.

The programme for the next six months is as follows:

February 14th	The Queen's Yeoman Bodyguard
March 14th	Annual General Meeting - no speaker
April 11th	The history of London's Underground
May 9th	The Devon Air Ambulance
June 13th	A visit to Antarctica
July 11th	Oceans and the future of mankind

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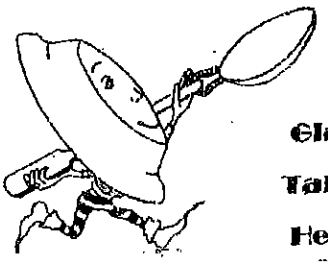

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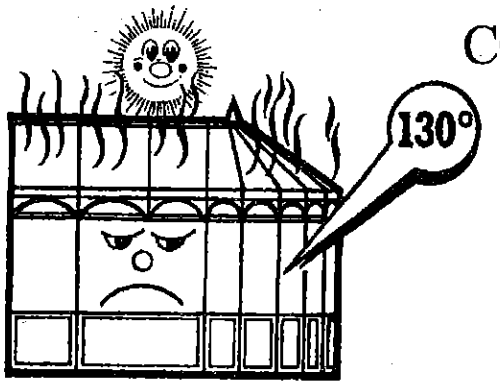

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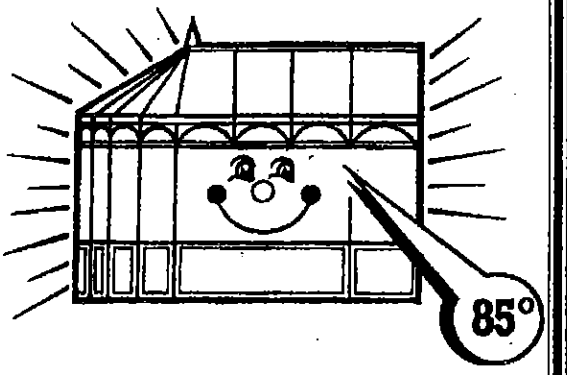

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IN YOUR GARDEN

The much loved snowdrops near our front door have been in flower since before Christmas, ensuring a pleasing start to the 2003 garden year! This particular group of flowers always seems to do well and blooms without fail long before the other clumps of snowdrops in the garden. It is on a very well drained south-facing site which becomes parched in the summer, quite unlike the kind of situation which I heard Chris Beardshaw recommending for snowdrops on his tv helicopter gardening programme recently. So it's well worth experimenting when siting snowdrops - you don't always have to go by the book.

If you want to divide them, do it soon after they have flowered, whilst the leaves are still green - this pretty well ensures they will 'take' - for planting their little brown shrivelled bulbs in the autumn is more often than not disappointingly unsuccessful, as I am sure many of you will have found.

Our garden is not having an early spring this year. Last year at the same time (mid-January) the daffodils were in flower, particularly those lovely little multi-headed wonderfully scented jonquils that seem to do so well round here. I call them 'Thurlestone narcissus' as there seem to be loads in the older gardens of the parish. A friend gave me mine (a plastic carrier bag full) from her 'older' garden some years ago and they are spreading out nicely in my more modern plot. White hellebores, however, are having a stunning flowering season.

Bulbs can give such wonderful results in a garden, but we tend to think of them as being planted in autumn and flowering in spring - or at least I do - the daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinth etc. But there is a whole host of bulbs and corms we can plant among the herbaceous perennials to flower spectacularly in the borders through the summer - such things as galtonia (summer hyacinth), alliums, camassia, watsonia, brodiaea, eucomis (pineapple lily), scilla peruviana, small gladiolus, dierama (angel's fishing rod), and lots of members of the lily family. Look in garden centres and have a go at something new for 2003.

Shallots are easily grown, much favoured by cooks, and keep well once harvested. Buy a pound or two of bulbs (sets) and plant them in February, 6" apart, with 12" between the rows. Just push the bulbs into the prepared ground until almost buried. Check in a couple of days because worms, or birds, may have pushed, or pulled, them up - if so, firm them down again.

Although not having spotted any in our garden so far this year, I was delighted to see a small family of long-tailed tits making use of the trees and shrubs surrounding the Somerfield overflow car park, just before Christmas and again more recently. There is also what I take to be a resident song-thrush in the same place who has been 'tuning up' for the breeding season.

Two very colourful male bullfinches were sitting, in bright sunshine against a backcloth of a brilliant blue sky, on my winter-flowering cherry the other day - busily eating the buds! But then I could not begrudge them. What a picture they made! I only hope that there are some nice lady bullfinches about to keep them company and help to increase their numbers. I haven't spied any so far.

Ladybird

Galtonia candicans

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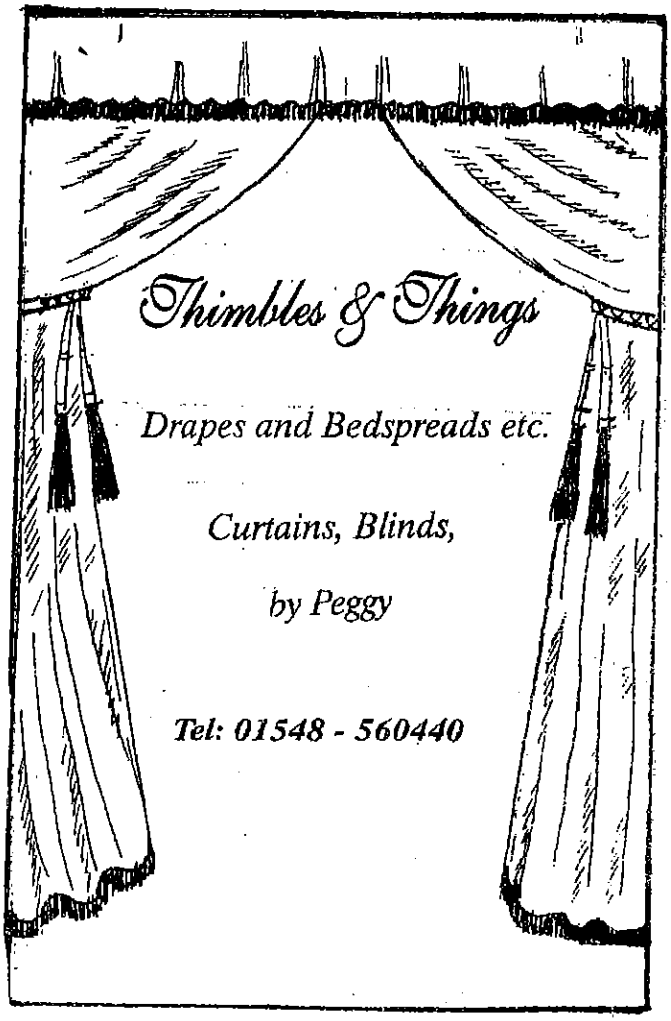


A MEMORABLE DARTMOOR DAY

by Hubert Snowdon

I read the reports in Village Voice on Dartmoor 'tramps' with interest. Both my wife, Peggy, and I were keen walkers and became official Dartmoor Guides for several years - until a previously injured knee turned arthritic and stopped me. Now we drive there at any opportunity if only to refresh the spirit. There is no better place for this or for putting a better perspective on life. Peggy enjoys lone walking - though they have become very short ones now - whilst I sit and paint a water-colour sketch; a favourite hobby.

As supporters of the West of England Heavy Horse Society, we were invited to a picnic in July at Corndon Farm, near Widecombe. The farm, outside Duchy bounds, is owned by two retired but very active members, Will and Anne Williams, who keep a few magnificent Shires and attend ploughing matches and many events with them, winning prizes. They also do waggon trips round the moor. Their farmhouse is a very large, fine example of a Dartmoor granite long-house with a central porch dated 1718.

We arrived mid-morning and parked in an adjoining field, where already two horse-boxes were being unloaded of animals and vehicles. At the house Anne brought us out coffee to tables set in the cobbled yard, where we enjoyed the warm sunshine. I noticed that the cattle end of the long-house had a sign saying "Exhibition Room" over the door. It contained a large collection of prize cards and rosettes, shining brasses and harness that smelt strongly of dubbin.

I found Will in a barn sorting out waggons and ploughs for display. We were early, few friends had yet arrived, so Peggy booked in for the first five-mile waggon ride round the moor. Although the waggons have motor tyres now, I declined, having had sufficient shaking in my young days on iron-tyred waggons!

Intrigued by the old house, now adorned with hanging baskets and a pretty garden in front of the living end, I sat to sketch it. But soon the field and yard were full of members and their fine horses. The sketching had to stop when friends came to talk over old times. Some I hadn't seen for years. Right through our long picnic lunch we chatted. In the afternoon a sister of a previous owner and farmer came and sat to tell of her brother's death a year or so past.

It happened I knew him as a bachelor, Allen Turner, living at Corndon with his aged mother. He was a hard, tough, man to deal with, especially in business. He was well-known in the Kingsbridge area where, for several years, he bought fields of swedes as winter keep for his sheep which came down to South Hams farms.

Some years ago Peggy and I called in at Corndon Farm, fancying some scalded cream. Old arthritic Mrs Turner was kicking an empty bucket across the yard in order to fetch water from a spring that ran into a trough. I carried the filled bucket back into the kitchen for her, where pots of cooking were hung on crooks over the log fire in the hearth ....

including a pan of cream, scalding. We chatted and learned much about that type of cooking and other tales about living on Dartmoor. She had a Calor gas cooker nearby, but didn't feel safe using it.

They have both gone on now. As his sister and I sat talking, swallows were flitting in and out of the barns in the afternoon sunshine. She told me that her brother loved to see them each summer, hard man that he was. Good to see them still there. Ours at home have been gone for years.

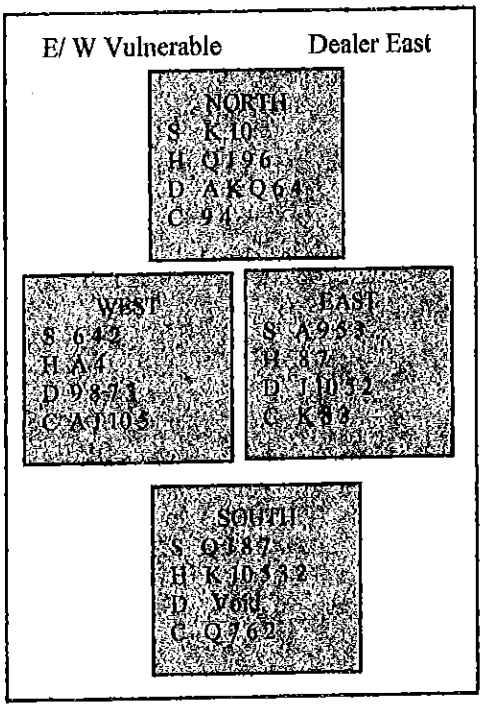
The sister lives at Ponsworthy, which reminded me of a parallel story with connections to Thurlestone.

When I was a very small boy there was an old farmer, called Caunter, from Sweaton Farm, at Ponsworthy, who bought fields of swedes from my father at Langmans Farm. He brought his sheep down each winter for a few years, lodged in our house and looked after the sheep himself, leaving two sons at Sweaton to manage their farm. He spent all hours of winter daylight in the field with his sheep whatever the weather. I seldom saw him except in the field on visits with my father, or at supper. He must have been tough but, as I recall, soft spoken and pleasant. In return for his lodging my mother was given a holiday at Sweaton after harvest each year. They attended, on Sundays, the little Poundsgate Chapel which still has occasional services.

Back at Corndon I never left the yard all day, saw none of the field events, but reports stated the day was enjoyed by all. Anne supplied us all with a cream tea, after which we finally drifted away. My watercolour sketch, reproduced below, was finished at home from memory and later presented to Will and Anne.

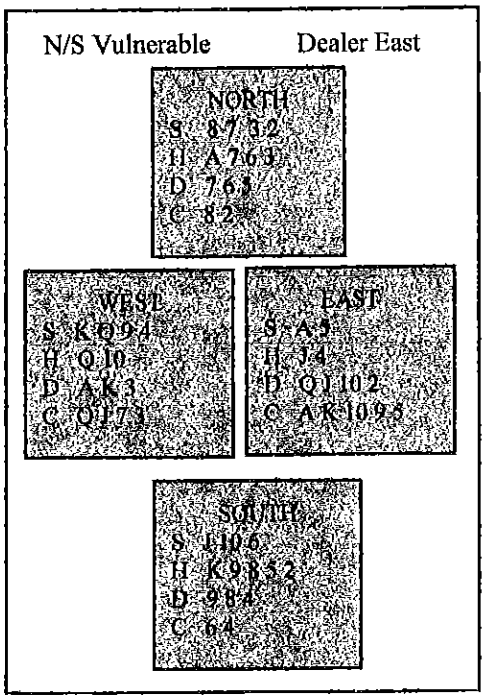
It had been a memorable day for myself and my wife.

♥ *At the Bridge Table* ♣



Here, to start the New Year, is another example of thinking in defensive situations. The bidding started with 1 Diamond from North and, after 1 Heart from South, proceeded to game in 4 Hearts. West leads the four of Spades, declarer plays the King, and you (playing East) win with the Ace. Now cover up the West and South hands and decide how you would continue. The essential point is that the play of the King of Spades is highly suspicious. If South does not hold the Queen he would have played the ten from dummy. Conversely, if he does hold the Queen, why play the King? The answer, of course, is to tempt you into returning a Spade rather than making the switch to a Club, which would have been obvious if the King of Spades had remained in dummy. Indeed, a Spade continuation would be fatal to the defence as declarer would than be able to discard Club losers on the Diamonds.

It follows that after taking the Ace of Spades you should switch to a Club - ideally the King, followed by another Club so that partner is in no doubt how to play the suit. The tip here is that when declarer makes an unusual play you can generally assume that it is for his or her benefit - and not just an error to help the defence.



Towards the end of last year my wife and I played in the Plymouth Congress Pairs competition and met the interesting hand shown here. We bid as follows :

East	West
1 Club	2 Spades (16+ points)
3 Diamonds	4 Clubs
6 Clubs	

Unfortunately for us South started with a small Heart to her partner's Ace and the return of the suit to South's King defeated the contract by one trick. True, we could have identified the gap in Hearts by cue bidding, and stopped at the four or five level, but there are often advantages in the fast arrival route. Indeed, on the lead of any other suit 7 Clubs can be made in straightforward fashion, and looking at the results we saw that five E/W pairs had landed the slam.....and given us a bottom score! South did well to find the Heart lead - perhaps indicated by our bidding - but not many players have the courage to lead away from a King against a slam contract. In sum, I think this hand illustrates the element of luck which is needed for successful bridge.

On the domestic scene, three teams of ladies played three teams of gentlemen (sic) at Kingsbridge last year in the annual November match, many of the players coming from the Thurlestone clubs. The men - of course (!) - scraped home by a single point.

Victor

Puzzle Page - Answers

WORDSEARCH

1. GLADIATOR	2. HILARIOUS	3. BADMINTON	4. NEWSHOUND
5. SEPTEMBER	6. BARRICADE	7. EGGBEATER	8. DEMOCRACY
9. LIBERTINE	10. PORTFOLIO	11. ANTIPASTO	12. ANTIPATHY
13. LIMELIGHT	14. STARLIGHT	15. SLOWCOACH	16. DESDEMONA
17. TANGERINE	18. CONTRALTO	19. PASSENGER	20. LIMESTONE
21. **GENERATOR**			

TEN TEASERS

1. Philadelphia	3. Daily Express	5. Whale Shark	7. Music	9. Jolson Story
2. Alistair McLean	4. Swedish	6. 1932	8. Wordsworth	10. Daniel Defoe

Valentines Night Singers & Swingers Evening

South Milton Village Hall
Friday 14th February
from 8.00 pm

Come & listen or dance to the music of the likes of Sinatra and Nat King Cole

Music By
SOUNDS ANON-E-MOUS

Tickets £2.50 at the door

Make a note
in your diary
today
about these two
special events

In aid of the Radio Devon and Derriford Hospital appeal to raise £1 million towards a new PROSTATE CANCER UNIT

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 15th February
South Milton Village Hall
10.30 am to noon

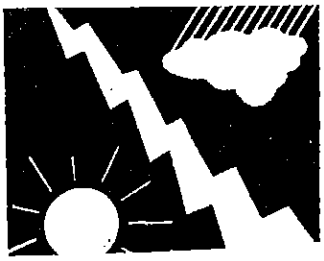
Stalls and raffle

to be run by the WI, the Village Hall Committee, Thursday Club, Play Group, & Bowls Club

so that
you will
not forget
- and be disappointed!

Weather Wag

By Jan Turner



Today (January 12) saw the temperature at 0700 hrs at –1.8C and by 0900 hrs it was –4C. Isn't it strange how this drop in temperature often happens as dawn breaks, especially if the skies are absolutely clear with the sun breaking over the eastern horizon? If there is a morning moonrise it can also happen. The key is clear skies and rapid cooling of the surface features. This provides the surfaces on which frost can form. The upper layers of the air warm up, trapping the cold air and any moisture beneath it. Sometimes fog forms like this, but today it was frost. Every droplet of moisture in the air froze on touching the cold surfaces. It looked very pretty, but there was not enough time for the wonderful patterns to form on the car windscreens or the windows. Humidity has to be quite high for this to happen. Last night my monitor registered 90%, hence the hoar frost in the morning.

Several year's figures are displayed this time, showing both yearly and monthly comparisons. If you would like a set of detailed figures please let me know and I'll get a set to you. I suppose we are always most interested in the **rainfall.** It has not disappointed us this last year.

Monthly Rainfall in mm - Year by Year Comparison

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
January	133.90	137.00	88.31	27.62	85.67	78.84	38.2	167.6	128.2
February	154.90	113.00	79.13	70.93	8.43	30.65	64.89	68.4	117
March	53.21	61.85	43.62	32.80	59.82	60.95	35.15	175.3	75.12
April	88.37	46.92	46.04	20.68	79.70	93.07	136.4	85.9	46.8
May	138.60	46.82	77.77	50.00	15.77	40.04	60.56	20.7	107.4
June	22.82	10.60	9.19	86.16	74.38	49.19	18.73	52.9	56.8
July	24.47	51.21	9.38	24.49	63.53	15.23	19.53	89.1	57.6
August	88.80	18.09	96.80	144.00	25.81	115.6	65.74	28.1	73.3
Sept	124.60	110.00	25.00	25.96	85.31	65.67	77.54	41.9	12.1
October	89.08	59.10	52.87	99.70	96.27	70.98	185.8	105.3	80.4
November	85.71	97.50	109.40	118.40	79.80	70.64	149.1	61.42	191
December	103.00	107.00	41.90	84.35	83.76	129.7	176	46.6	167.6
Total	1107.46	859.09	679.41	785.09	758.25	820.56	1027.64	943.22	1113.32

Footnote. Over 30% of the total rainfall for the year can fall in just 3 months

1994 37% fell in February, May and September = 415.1 mm
2000 47% fell in April, October and December = 491.4 mm
2001 45% fell in January, March and July = 432.0 mm

Monthly Sunshine Hours - Year by Year Comparison

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
January	19.00	57.73	75.57	61.15	69.99	33.32	33.02
February	137.00	73.10	93.13	55.80	76.45	136.6	58.76
March	107.00	125.40	115.00	134.00	141.90	47.03	99.9
April	175.00	280.30	153.90	159.90	157.30	100.4	148.9
May	221.00	290.40	241.30	181.30	151.30	180.3	191.2
June	301.00	118.00	194.40	221.40	158.50	176.8	148.4
July	258.00	177.80	175.00	273.70	188.40	197.9	178.1
August	240.75	271.50	235.90	161.40	172.10	163.7	163.9
Sept	215.00	200.70	136.40	182.60	139.90	113.80	180.4
October	120.60	141.20	106.70	125.70	73.71	89.69	91.48
November	112.30	90.77	90.47	90.07	48.13	83.55	71.38
December	63.92	110.80	40.43	57.30	31.15	77.06	41.72
Total	1970.57	1937.70	1658.20	1704.30	1378.83	1400.15	1407.16

Monthly Temperature in C - Year by Year Comparison

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
January	9.62	8.11	4.90	7.90	8.2	7	6.8	8.7
February	10.44	5.58	8.05	8.32	7.6	8.6	7.5	9.1
March	9.12	7.60	9.57	9.60	8.5	8.9	8.3	9.8
April	11.30	10.32	10.79	9.50	10.08	9.8	10	11.1
May	14.00	10.99	13.54	15.30	14.6	14	13.8	13
June	16.73	15.70	15.65	15.60	15.1	15.7	15.6	14.9
July	18.94	17.46	18.60	16.40	18.4	19.53	17.7	16.6
August	20.29	16.72	17.12	16.70	18.2	17.7	18.3	17.6
September	15.20	15.50	14.70	16.00	16.1	15	15.5	16.1
October	15.20	12.71	12.90	12.70	12.4	12.5	14.9	12.9
November	10.90	8.40	11.41	8.70	9.9	9.5	9.3	11.3
December	6.30	5.97	8.60	8.10	8.3	8.8	7	8.8
Year's Avg	17.53	11.25	12.74	12.07	12.34	12.25	12.05	12.49

The warmest year by far was 1995, with an average temperature of 17.53C

Bed and Breakfast

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Lucille Tomlinson, BSc (Hons), MSCh.

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DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

Wed 12th	TRAMP, Stokenham / Slapton
Thur 13th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Janice Dennis - Purser on QE2)
Fri 14th	PROBUS Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel (Queen's Yeoman Guard)
Fri 14th	Valentine's Night, S.Milton Village Hall, 8.00 pm
Sat 15th	Coffee Morning, S.Milton Village Hall, 10.30 am
Mon 17th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Sat 22nd	BARN DANCE, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm (China Bear Rescue)

MARCH

Wed 12th	TRAMP, Lee Mill & Lutton
Thur 13th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (English Painters 1700-1900)
Fri 14th	PROBUS Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel, (AGM)
Mon 24th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Sat 29th	Spring Flower Show, West Alvington Village Hall, 2.30 pm

APRIL

Wed 9th	TRAMP, Plym Trail
Thur 10th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Digging up my Roots)
Fri 11th	PROBUS Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel (London's Underground)
Mon 14th	TRAMP Short Walk, East Soar
Mon 14th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Mon 23rd	TRAMP, Burrator / Dartmoor

Advertising Rates for Village Voice
12 months (six issues)

Whole Page - £70.00
Half Page - £50.00 Quarter Page - £30.00

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

There is also a **subscription service**, which mails copies to readers at an annual cost of £8.00. Please apply to:

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

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

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 MARCH 2003

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

PARISH

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
BOWLS CLUB (indoor) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	Contact	Eileen Dayment	560295
BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m Parish Hall Wednesdays and Fridays	Contact	Dorothy Stone	560708
CHURCHWARDENS		Graham Worrall	562016
		Liz Webb	560090
COFFEE TIME (Parish Hall) Mondays, 10.30 - 11.30	Contact	Liz Webb	560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Kit Marshall	560214
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary / Manager, John Scott		560405
TENNIS SECTION	Contact	Lindsey Fletcher	560157
KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10.00 - 11.30 am Parish Hall	Contact	Brenda Murch	560487
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact	John Lonsdale	560742
PROBUS	Contact	Tom Trender	560893
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Graham Durant	560007
W. I. Second Thursday monthly (ex. August) 2.30 pm Parish Hall.	Contact	Dorothy Candy	560857
RECTOR	Canon Andrew Girling		562219
PARISH COUNCIL			
Chairman	Peter Hurrell		560496
Vice - Chairman	Veronica White		560236
Parish Clerk	John Lonsdale		560742
District Councillor	Carolyn Steen	Mobile 0370 -	965683
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 -	691212
Member	Neil Girling		560489
	David Grose		560375
	Kit Marshall		560214
	Andrew Rhymes		560564
	Geoffrey Stidston		560695
Parish Tree Warden	John Crawford		560688

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

DIRECTORY

HEALTH CENTRES	Kingsbridge		853551
	Salcombe		842284
MILK DELIVERY	R. Bruckner & Son		01803 - 832801
VILLAGE SHOP Thurlestone Village Shop	M, T, Th, F,	8.00 am - 5.30 pm	561917
	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		560688
POST OFFICE	**Thurlestone P.O.**		561917

Open : Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Postal 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
Minicom users	01392 - 452935	Confidential information	0800-555-111

RUBBISH COLLECTION

Thursday (But **Friday** in Bank Holiday Monday weeks)
Green (recyclable) bins alternate Thursdays from 6th February 2003

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For ALL bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE 0870 608 2 608
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GARAGE (Blight Engineering) Maurice Blight 560220

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 12th February) 852315

11.15 - 11.30am Bantham
11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel 11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall
12.20 - 12.30pm Thurlestone Church 12.35 - 12.45pm Thurlestone Sands

MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN

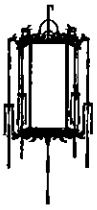
Calls alternate Wednesdays from 12th February 2003, from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, outside All Saints Primary school.

The Village Inn

Thurlestone

Tel: 563525

February / March Diary



Saturday 1st February

Celebrate the CHINESE NEW YEAR

CHINESE MENU - Booking Advisable

Sunday 23rd February

Jazz Night with the ever popular

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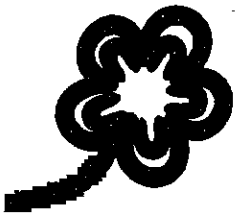
15th / 16th / 17th March

St Patrick's Day Celebrations



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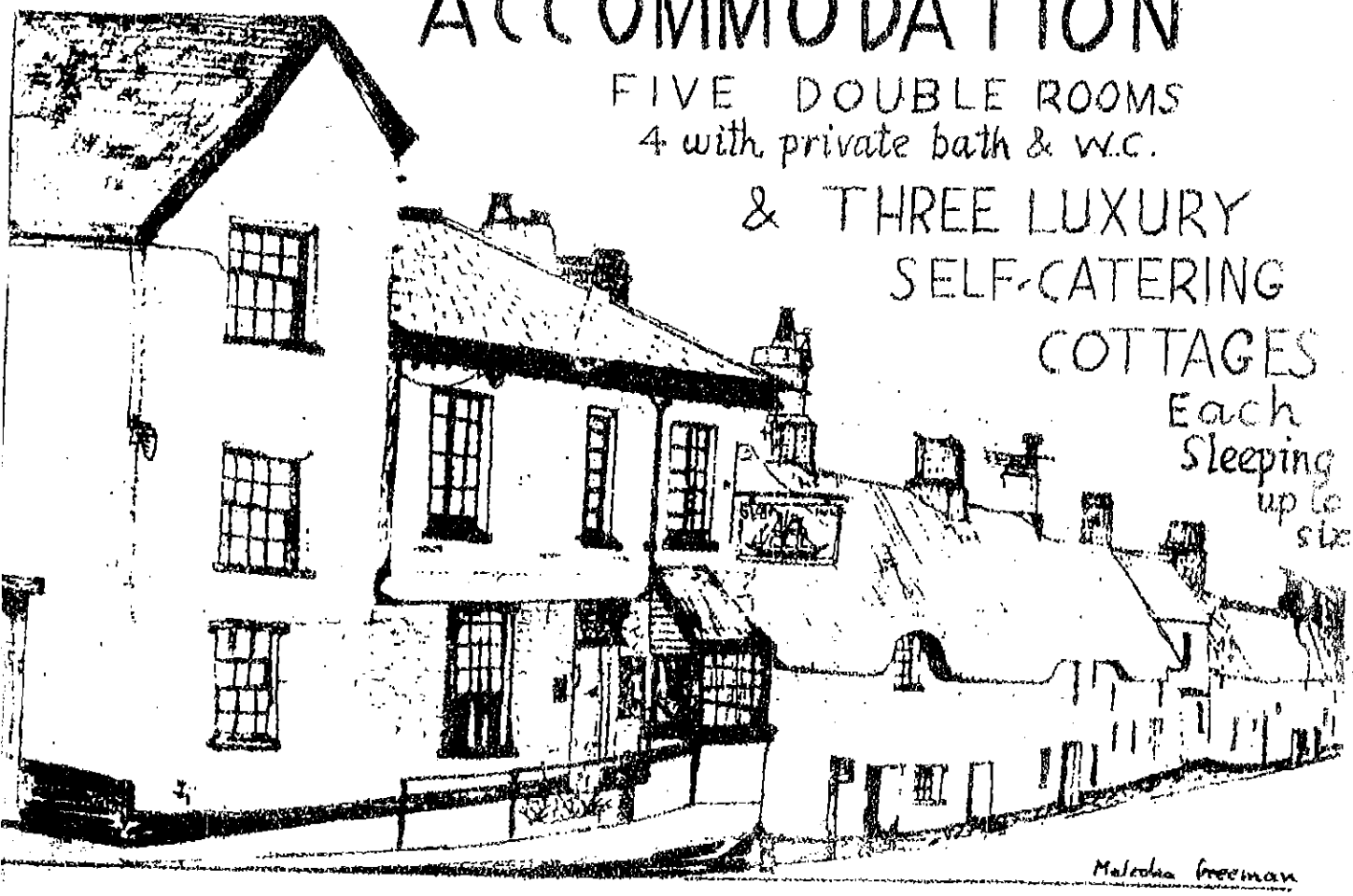

Malcolm Freeman