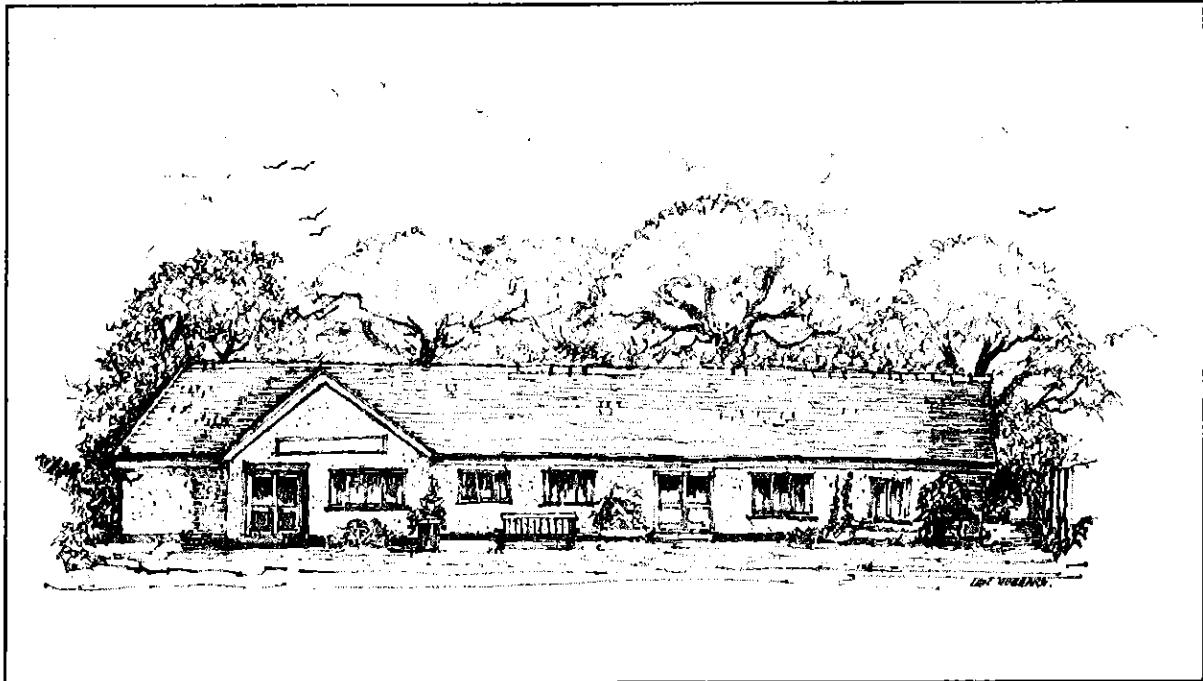


VILLAGE VOICE

APRIL - MAY 2003



THE 2003 NEW PARISH HALL



FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN



NEW CAMPAIGN SPEARHEADS FUND-RAISING IN AID OF THE NEW PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall committee has acquired 624 tubes of Smarties. These will be delivered with this issue of Village Voice to all the homes in the parish. You are invited to open the package, enjoy the sweets, then

FILL THE EMPTY TUBE WITH YOUR SPARE 20p PIECES

If all the tubes are filled in this way, the new Parish Hall fund will benefit by over £8,000

When your tube is filled, please secure both ends with Sellotape and hand it to any of the collectors named below. We can let you have a second tube to fill if you wish. You can watch the weekly progress on the *Smartimeter* barometer at the Post Office!

Please help us reach this target

A BIG "THANK YOU" IN ANTICIPATION
(and we hope you enjoy the Smarties!)

PARISH HALL COMMITTEE COLLECTORS

Rowland Cole
Bill Clarke
Gillian Marshall
John Dayment
Joan Mackenzie
Liz Worrall
Louise Boxhall
Pat Macdonald
Jo Parkin
Peter Hurrell
Jeanne Barton
Pat Crawford

Joseph's Garden
22 Meadcombe Road
Leaside Ilbert Road
The Paddock Aune Cross
7 Old Rectory Gardens
Beech Lawn Cross Park
Cedar Rose Court Park Lane
25 Mead Lane
Ardentigh Court Lane
Woodlands
4 Old Rectory Gardens
Baidland Downs Road

West Buckland
Thurlestone
Thurlestone
Bantham
Thurlestone
Thurlestone
Thurlestone
Thurlestone
Thurlestone
West Buckland
Thurlestone
Thurlestone





NUMBER 120
APRIL - MAY 2003

The waiting is over. The campaign is at last underway. It was probably the visits to Stoke Fleming's magnificent new hall that clinched it. After all the discussion and debate, and the short term patching options, the Parish Hall Committee has decided to bite the bullet and go for the kind of hall that this parish deserves. Hurrah! Hurrah!

We shall all have to dig deep to pay for it. That means you - and me. All of us. And with Council Tax weighing in with an 18.5% increase, biting the bullet in support of the Parish Hall committee's boldness is going to be a bit tough on the teeth.

The campaign - as you can see - is setting out to get us all involved and engaged in this project, with everyone being given their own Parish Hall piggy-bank in the form of a tube of Smarties®. **Village Voice fully endorses and supports this plan, and all the members of our team will be busy saving their 20p pieces and racing to get on to a second tube!** We encourage all our readers to do the same - it will be fun, and relatively painless - and the cause is one we can all wholeheartedly support.

Whatever the outcome of the international crisis over Iraq, in this Parish we can be united - and committed - in our focus on this purely local issue. So again it's "*Come on, Delson!*" Let's see how quickly we can smash that *Smartimeter* target figure.

Now, where did I put my small change.....?

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Founder Dudley Drabble

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A HALL FOR ALL

(continued)

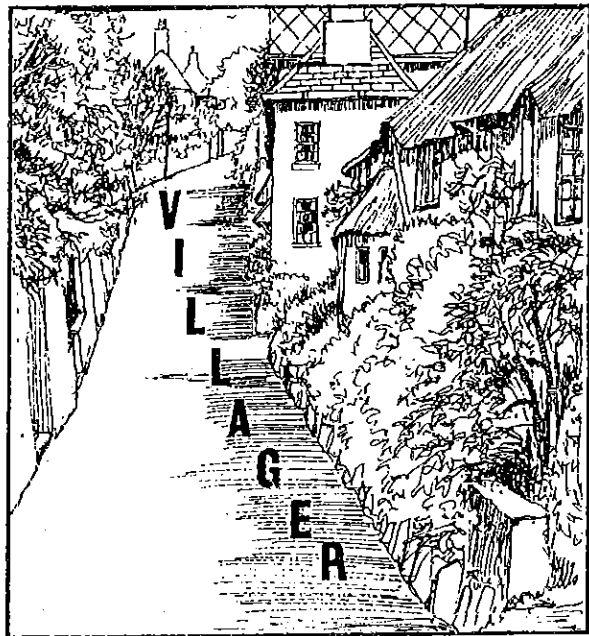
The idea that this should be the Year of the Parish Hall has been taken up with much acclaim by all parishioners. So that is what this year is, the year of the Hall for All in Thurlestone Parish.

When I suggested in the last issue that the Church Hall builders had all the money they needed, and hinted that they should donate it all to the Parish Hall so that we could truly build one hall for everyone in the parish, I was, they tell me, grossly misled.

Far from the Church having all the necessary spondulicks, they were so shocked by the rising building costs of their proposed hall in the graveyard that (I am now told) they will soon embark on a major fundraising drive - on the parish regular churchgoers, and other less religious sources of funds in more distant parts of the kingdom.

Hearing, however, that they had abandoned having a Church Fête this summer, with its attendant major raffle, I assumed that this was the first step in concentrating all fundraising on the parish hall, particularly as the PCC had officially handed over, in writing, the fête and raffle to the Parish Hall Committee. Commonsense, I thought, had prevailed.

Alas, some people were swift to inform me that once again I was wrong. The



reason given for no Church fête was that "they couldn't find anyone to organise it". That doesn't say much for all the retired kings of industry living round about! There is an old saying that some people find it difficult to organise a drinks party in a brewery, but surely the same thing does not apply to organising a Church fête? We shall be watching the organisers of this summer's parish fête very carefully with that old adage much in mind.

Anyway, it will certainly be a splendid opportunity to raise funds for our new parish hall, and all parishioners should be grateful to the Church for giving us this opportunity.

Of course, the Fête Organising Committee (FOC in short, but not to be confused with trade-union-speak

for Father of the Chapel) are facing a tough task. The FOC will first have to decide on the venue.

For many years after 1836, when the Rev. Peregrine Arthur Ilbert, who was Rector of Thurlestone for 55 years, built a new Rectory for his family to replace the tumble-down building of the 1500s, the Thurlestone fête was held in the grounds there. And on those magnificent lawns, it was held each year until at least the start of the war in 1939. It was also held there for a while after the end of the war, before being transferred to the grounds of what was then the latest new Rectory, today the private house called Toyes Orchard.

Though even bigger celebrations like Queen Victoria's Golden and Diamond Jubilees were celebrated in the village with parades of decorated carts, and sports and games, and singing and dancing round maypoles, these usually took place up in Balls Park. But the yearly fêtes held in the Old Rectory gardens ran them close. Everyone was there from the whole parish, and the fêtes were financially a winner too.

I know the fête made a good profit, certainly in the years just before the war. You see, my grandfather, William Hill, lived in the village and was known to one and all (though not of course to little me!) as "Lor Lumme", from his habit of muttering, in Devon burr, "Lord Love Me" at anything which pleased or surprised him.

He was set to guard the funds raised on the day. I remember him standing behind the table just inside the entrance door in the big wall of the

Old Rectory, holding a stout walking stick which for all the world looked like an enlarged police truncheon. No one got past him without paying; the village children didn't even try.

"Lor Lumme" was given this task because he had been a policeman up in London where he took part in the hunt for Jack the Ripper. He had the dubious distinction of being one of the first to find one of the Ripper's victims. Quite what thinking compared his near encounter with Jack the Ripper while on the beat in the stews of Whitechapel with the need to guard the fête's monies in Thurlestone, it is difficult to see. But then perhaps the Parish Council, on which Lor Lumme served, knew more about the people in the parish than immediately met the eye!

The evening of the fête was the time when the big shape of retired PC William Kendall Hill would empty a large clinking bag of coins into the ring of bright yellow light from a lamp on the kitchen table in "Woodbine", just up the village. And then, before a front row audience of three (my two sisters and me), he would count the take, coin by coin, between sips from a huge mug of local cider, muttering happily "Lor Lumme, one... Lor Lumme, two....".

Let's hope we need more than one policeman to protect the huge funds which will be raised by the village fête this year in aid of the new Parish Hall. Not that I'm casting aspersions about the honesty of anyone in the parish..... Lor Lumme, not for one moment!

Villager

Parish Council Meeting

17th February 2003

News and Views by Citizen

The Parish Council Chairman, **Peter Hurrell**, refreshed after his holiday in Australia, thanked everyone for sending him a Christmas card whilst he was 'down under'.

Parish Hall

Councillor **Mrs White** thanked 'Villager' for the article in the last edition of Village Voice which had prompted 'The Kingsmen' to offer to give a concert in the Hall on 21st June as a fund-raiser for the new building.. The 2003 appeal will shortly be launched with a 600-tube Smartie campaign. *[See elsewhere in this issue for details]*

Footpaths & Heritage Coast

After Parish Council representatives met the Golf Club and the Coast & Countryside Service about cliff erosion at Leasfoot (the 8th tee and 3rd green), it was thought there were two options regarding Leasfoot, namely (i) let nature takes its course ; (ii) seek professional advice. Devon County Council and the Heritage Coast are to consult together and will keep the Parish Council advised. The owners of 'Lockslea' had applied, unsuccessfully, for planning permission to widen and use the old road as their alternative access route. This has gone to appeal.

Recreational Area

On legal advice, the newly-received draft lease and licence were not discussed in public, and were held over to a Parish Council closed session - which came as a bit of a disappointment to the attending members of the public! Later in the meeting **Mr Charles Mitchelmore** sought, and received, assurance that progress was being made with this project.

Annual Parish Meeting, 14th April 2003

The following will be invited to attend:

Sir Simon Day (Devon County Councillor);

Mrs Carolyn Steen (District Councillor);

Inspector Singer (Police); and a representative from the South West Coastal Path team, which is celebrating its 25th birthday this year.

District Councillor's Report

Alas, once more **Mrs Steen** could not be with us and unfortunately she did not send a written report. Could no news be good news?

Starter Homes in Seaview Road

A possible problem was highlighted with regard to starter homes, which involved local people exchanging their homes with people from outside the area - as had happened in a nearby parish. The local Housing Officer is to be alerted and invited to take pre-emptive action. Some excellent news was reported from local resident **Miss Denise Yeoman** regarding 'housing points' and her own application for one of these new starter homes. She had been advised to "keep knocking on the door" and, as a result of doing so, had shifted up from 16 points initially to 52 now.

GM Free

Attention was drawn to the fact that the District Council was applying to Europe to have the South Hams declared a GM Free Zone.

Trees

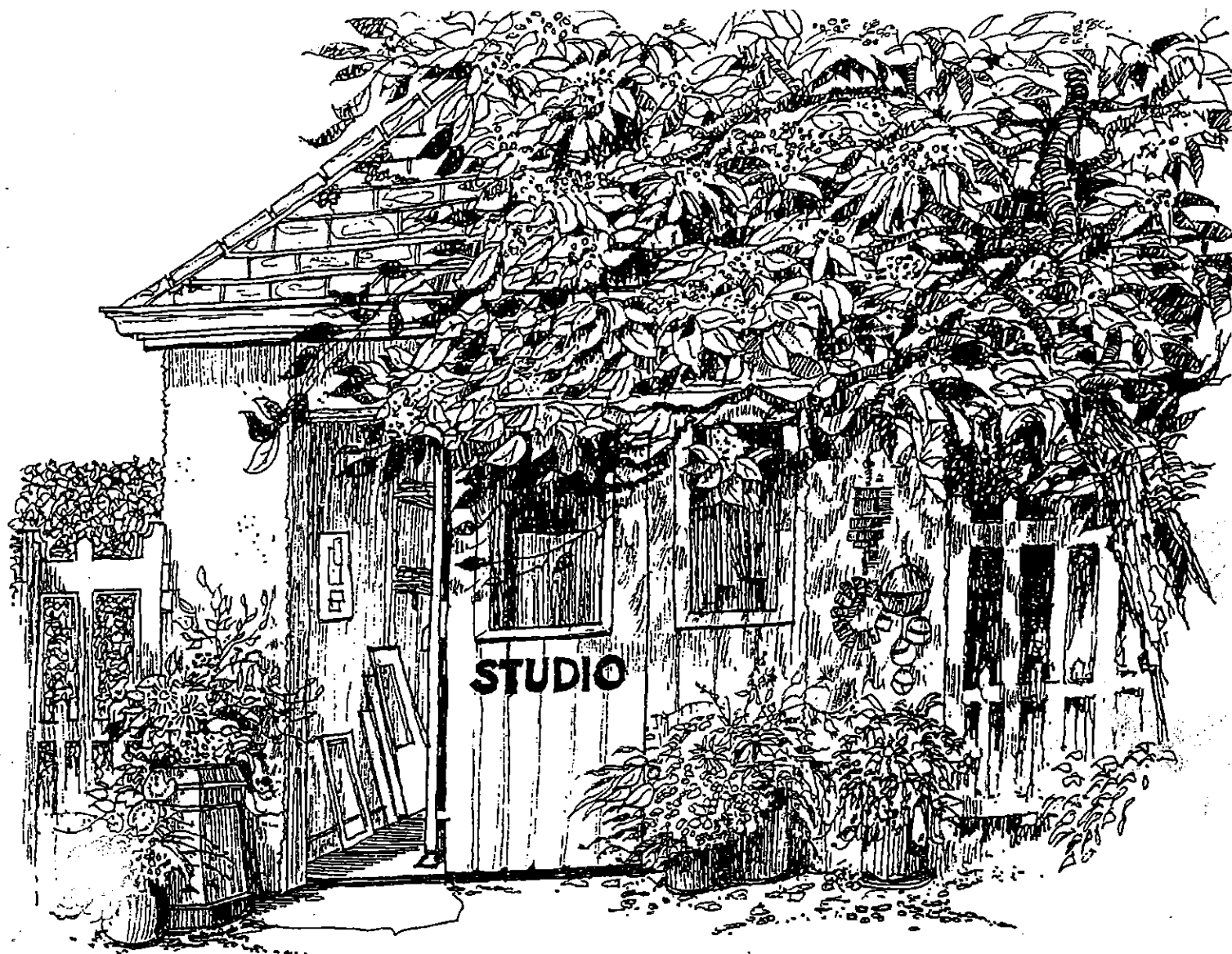
Tree Preservation Order 2002 on land in the vicinity of Merchant's Garden has superseded the old Order which was considered to be both inaccurate and out of date. Councillors **David Grose** and **Geoffrey Stidston** declared an interest in this matter. Tree Warden **Mr John Crawford** said that Evans Estates will be holding a meeting with **Mr G Seagar-Berry** and himself at Stiddicombe Wood on Wednesday, 21st May, 10.30 am, to which anyone wishing to walk the new path and be informed of planting schemes would be welcomed..

Car parking charges in Kingsbridge

Councillor **Mrs White** thanked all the parishioners who took the time and trouble to write objecting to these proposals. The overnight parking idea had been withdrawn, although there would be Sunday charges.

Post-Meeting note - Audibility

The public would be grateful if Parish Councillors would **speak up** at meetings. There is too much *sotto voce*, as though Parish Councillors do not wish the public to hear what they are talking about. Do have some feeling for the hard of hearing! This request will be put to the test at the next meeting which is on **Monday 24th March 2003, 7.30 pm at the Parish Hall.**



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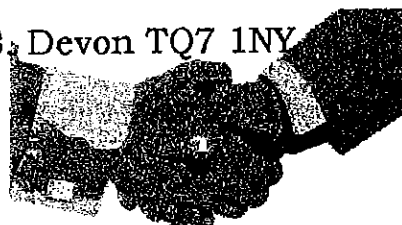
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Parish Council Meeting

24th March 2003

News and Views by Citizen

PROPOSED PLAYING FIELD & CAR PARK NOW A DEAD DUCK?

One extremely important matter came out of a well-attended Parish Council meeting on the 24th March.

Council Chairman, Peter Hurrell announced, subject to the approval of those present and ratified by Council members in closed session following the meeting, that the projected playing field and car park were to be considered a “dead duck”. He explained the situation as follows.

When the prospect of a playing field behind the church originally came up (this was before the Planning approval was given for the redevelopment of Home Farm/Church Farm) the impression was that Evans Estates would be ‘gifting’ the field at the rear of the church to the parish as a playing field, something which the Chairman, amongst others, had been hoping would happen somewhere in the parish for many years.

As time passed, the imagined ‘gift’ turned into a lease for the field and a licence for a car park. This in itself presented a number of problems but the Council persevered until very recently, when *Evans Estates included a number of conditions into the lease to which, morally, the Council could not agree.* Details of these were not given in open session as the Council are still in discussion with solicitors, but one point was released - *the Council had to undertake not to oppose any Planning applications made in the future in respect of Evans Estates land.*

Needless to say, there was great disappointment expressed by all of those present, **particularly the Chairman who, along with Councillors past and present, had worked so hard for the past twenty years on the project.** Common sense prevailed, and the meeting agreed unanimously that the project should be shelved. The result of the meeting in closed session is not known at the time of writing this report, but the outcome seemed pretty certain.

A complication in respect of the proposed Church Meeting Room will arise from this decision as Planning permission for this building is conditional on the car park being completed before building work commences. It would now seem that the church will have to take up the car park matter with Evans Estates.

Village News Round-Up

Church Meeting Room Update

The architect is finalising the working drawings, which in the near future will be submitted to local building contractors to obtain firm prices for the construction and associated work connected with the meeting room

With regard to financing the new meeting room, and Villager's impression (as stated in the last issue of Village Voice) that the church already had the funds required, Village Voice has subsequently been advised that this is not the case.

It has, we are told, always been recognised that the church would have to seek support for a proportion of the total cost but, as the **Reverend Andrew Girling** made clear in the February/March 2002 issue of Village Voice, "**We do not envisage an appeal to the parish at large for funding the Church Meeting Room**". Any approach for local financial support will only be made to church members.

New arrivals

Congratulations to **Betty and Jack Rhymes** on the birth of their daughter **Kate Olivia**, (another baby born during a snowstorm), who arrived on 4th February, 2003. Also to **Mark and Angie Callard** on the birth of their son **Oakley George** on 16th February, in sunshine. Welcome, best wishes and much happiness to all concerned!

Bear Hugs All Round

Linda Chilcott is delighted that the Barn Dance in aid of China Bear Rescue was another good evening at the Parish Hall on the 22nd February. In excess of £800 was

raised for the cause. She sends a big bear hug to Village Voice for advertising the event and very many thanks to all her helpers and those who supported her by coming along and dancing! [See Postbag]

Lamb Rescue

Two newly born lambs were rescued, unharmed, by **Eric Palmer** of Whitley Farm. After digging with a spade around a disused badger sett, into which the lambs had fallen, he had to slide head-first into a twelve foot deep hole to reach the trapped youngsters. Helping friends grasped his ankles and held on whilst he managed, with effort, to bring out both unscathed. Latest reports are that all is well with ewes and lambs.

NSPCC

If you have got your diary handy, the NSPCC would like all their supporters to make a note of the following events they have planned at the Parish Hall: **Spring Clearance Sale**, Saturday 12th April, 2 pm; **Bridge Evening**, on a Saturday in October (date to follow); **Christmas Bazaar**, Saturday 15th November, 2 pm. There will also be a **Coffee Morning** on Thursday 17th July - details later.

Summer Leisure

Have you ever watched a game of bowls and thought that looks a nice game? Do you like good company, gentle exercise and a friendly atmosphere? If the answers are "yes", then you might think about joining Kingsbridge Park Bowls Club. They tell us that *"....experience is not necessary as both newcomers and experienced bowlers are welcome. Free instruction by qualified instructors is available for those who want it,*

and there is no age limit! There are lots of opportunities to play informally, and also competitively, and many new friendships have been made on the green. It is a game where men and women can compete against each other on a level playing field (or green!) - a rarity these days in any sport".

The Club is actively seeking new members for this coming summer season and a warm welcome awaits anyone who is interested. A phone call to the General Secretary on 01548-531526 will give you further information.

Parish of Thurlestone Society

To avoid a clash with the date of the Kingsbridge Show (6th September), the 25th celebrations for the Coastal Path will now take place over the weekend of SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER and SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2003 and not as stated in the last issue.

Over that weekend the Parish Hall will be the venue for a super two-day art exhibition, "Aspects of the Parish" [see elsewhere in this issue for further details] the work from local artists, amateur and professional, the original black-and-white line drawings for Village Voice front covers, photographs and children's art. On both evenings there will be slide showings of **Peter Hurrell's** unique collection of archive photographs of this parish through the ages and, for the first time, showings of brilliant film material of flights around the local coast which were made for the parish millennium video - but too much to include in the film.

Guided walks around parts of the Coastal Path will take place, with specially discounted lunches at The Village Inn for participants. Light refreshments will be available at the Hall on both days. As the old saying goes "Keep watching this space" because we are sure to have lots more to add in the coming months!

Local treasure!

Caroline Crawford (John and Pat's daughter), when lunching as a birthday celebration at the Oyster Shack recently, chose grilled oysters. Suddenly she clapped her hand to her mouth and recovered a *tiny, perfectly-formed, pearl*. She presented proprietor Peter Lewis with her find and visitors can see the pearl in his cabinet of curiosities. Said John "We all knew that our Avon was tin and gold-bearing, but pearls are now on the estuary's list of treasures!"

Rene Miller

Tom Gilkes has kindly sent us this report about **Rene Miller**, who died on Wednesday, 12th March, just short of her 96th birthday.

"She had lived in Thurlestone since 1952 when she and her husband, Sid, came to work as cook and gardener respectively for the Constantine family at Lower Goosewell.

Subsequently, after a short spell living over the butcher's shop which was then in West Buckland, they built and moved to the first residential property in Glebefield in 1957. Widowed for some 17 years, Rene continued to live there reclusively but remained active for her age until she had a fall in January this year.

A character, she will be much missed by the small number of people who still had contact with her".

School Computer Suite

Following the official opening by **Richard Marchand** on Wednesday 19th March, arrangements have now been completed for the use of this facility by the community computer group "**Teamakers**".

The group will be holding training sessions for both existing and new members on Wednesdays, after school, between 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm. Enquiries to **Chris White** (560505) or **Robin Macdonald** (560436).

Thurlestone School in 1939 - Spot the Pupils

Charles Mitchelmore has kindly let us have this copy of a photograph of Thurlestone School in 1939, showing 29 pupils and two teachers. Today there are 116 children at the school. We are assured by Charles that there are six of these youngsters of almost 64 years ago living today in the parish. The three boys you will be able to identify from their surnames, but how about the girls?



Back row, left to right

Percy Robins, Tom Tyler, Audrey Mitchelmore, Audrey Ingram,
Marjorie Gutsell, Willy Dufty, David Fulford

Miss Tapper (Schoolmistress)

Mrs Tyler (Headmistress)

Middle row (girls) left to right

Joan Clissold, Eileen Prettyjohns, Peggy Tapper, Beryl Robins,
Jean Robins, Joyce Prettyjohns, Josephine Ingram, Barbara Callard,
Ruth Blank, Elsie Robins

Middle row (boys) left to right

Clarence Riley, Derrick Yeoman, Stanley Weir, George Dyer,
Samuel March, John Fulford.

Front row, left to right

Charles Mitchelmore, Russell Doidge, Tom Yeoman,
Peter Doidge, Francis Robins, Douglas Prettyjohns



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PARISH HALL NEWS

from the Chairman



The Parish Hall committee is dedicated to seeing a new Hall built as soon as possible. The Committee has wrestled with the ways and means of achieving this goal - initially by consulting the user groups to ascertain requirements - then getting our designer **Malcolm Northmore** to translate those thoughts into plans. This was followed by negotiations, eventually satisfactory, with the planning authorities.

For some time we have been fund-raising, too, as any regular Village Voice reader will know and, with very generous support from parishioners and visitors alike, we really have been very successful, to the extent that we have already raised about 20% of the likely cost of a new Hall.

It has always been our intention to apply to the community fund of the National Lottery to make up the required balance but, as recent press reports have indicated, grants for village/parish halls from Lottery sources are no longer quite so generous, and are becoming much harder to obtain. This means that **our fund-raising efforts must now be redoubled.**

We urge you, therefore, to support our new "**Smarties**" campaign, which has been master-minded by **Veronica White** and is being so enthusiastically supported by Village Voice and their distributors (who must have been sorely tempted by the packets of sweets they have carried round when distributing the magazine!).

A word about our application for Lottery funding and the **blue questionnaire** you will find in this issue. The relevance of our proposed new Hall's facilities to the

community's requirements - both current and envisaged - is an important aspect of the adjudication process. By filling in and returning this form you will enable **Martyn Grose** and **David Houghton**, who are completing the application paperwork, to collate and include the results.

We are asking for the forms to be completed and returned quickly (by 10th April) because we plan to send our application off before Easter, and that does not leave too much time for us to process the questionnaires.

It is very encouraging to have so much support from so many people and groups within our community in our efforts to get a new Hall and, I would thank everyone who, in a variety of different ways, is involved in helping us to achieve our goal.

The Annual General Meeting of the Hall is on Monday 28th April - notice of this meeting and the agenda are overleaf. I hope you will be able to attend and raise any relevant points or questions you may have.

There are two other fund-raising dates for your diary:

Saturday 31st May
6.30 - 8.30 pm Parish Hall
Exhibition by the Thursday Art Group

Saturday 21st June
Evening Concert at the Parish Hall
"The Kingsmen"
details later

Rowland Cole

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

**Notice of Annual General Meeting to be held at the Parish Hall, Thurlestone
on Monday 28th April, 2003, at 7.30 pm**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM 2002
3. Matters arising from the AGM 2002 Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Receive and approve Accounts for calendar year 2002
6. Election of Auditor
7. Election of Officers (Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)
8. Any other business

Note : Nominations for any of the above offices must be delivered to the Secretary before the start of the meeting and nominees, if not attending the AGM, must have given their written consent to be proposed.

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION

Spring Coaching Programmes

On Sunday 6th April weekly junior coaching sessions begin at Thurlestone.

Jonathan Howie (LTA qualified) is running the courses. For further details please contact Jonathan on telephone number 01395-265726 or at Cranford Sports Club, 42 Salterton Road Exmouth EX8 2EQ.

Thurlestone will be entering a team in the South Hams Junior League.

Over the Easter and May bank holidays Janet Richardson is running junior coaching sessions and for information please contact her on telephone number 01548-856007 (mobile 07950-002265). **Non-members can join in the programmes.**

The popular **Ladies morning group coaching** starts on Thursday 1st May and continues through until 10th July. Please contact Janet for further details.

The **Ladies Tuesday afternoon social tennis** starts up again at Thurlestone on Tuesday, 22nd April from 1.30 pm. **Non-members are welcome.** There is a £3.00 playing fee.

For club membership information, please contact the Thurlestone Golf Club secretary on telephone number 01548-560405.

Non-members can hire a court by booking at the Thurlestone Golf Club's professional shop, telephone number 01548-560715. Cost £10.00 for a one-and-a-half hour session.

**The summer holiday tournament and coaching programmes
will be published in the next edition of Village Voice**

THE NEW PARISH HALL QUESTIONNAIRE

We are in the process of submitting a claim to the National Lottery for funds to build a new Parish Hall. To give ourselves the best chance of success we need to demonstrate:

- (a) Widespread support from all sections of the community for a new building
- (b) Identification of new activities or services that the community would like to see provided in a new hall, which are not possible at present due to the age, size, condition, and constraints of the existing building

This questionnaire provides an opportunity for everyone to express support for the project and submit ideas about additional benefits to the community which could be provided.

It is of the utmost importance that we have a good response to the questionnaire since this will form the basis of the most significant section of our Lottery submission. PLEASE therefore take a few minutes to complete the form and play your part in providing for the benefit of the existing and future users of the Parish Hall.

Set out below are some ideas for additional activities which might be provided in a new building. Please indicate, by ticking the box, which of these is of interest to you.

(1) SERVICES

(a) Advice/counselling sessions regarding:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Medical matters | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Veterinary matters | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pensions and Benefits (Citizens' Advice Bureau) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Matters important to the elderly and their carers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chiropody treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- (b) An IT facility offering Internet access and computer training advice on the lines of the existing 'Teamakers' Club ☐

(2) SPORTS

The enlarged Hall will have better facilities for indoor sports. Which of the following would you find of interest?

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Badminton | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Five-a-side football | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor cricket | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Table tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Soft-ball tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify) | |

(3) SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

The new Hall will have full modern facilities for disabled people and the capacity for catering for larger numbers. Would you like to see the Hall used for:

A regular luncheon club with talks from experts
on matters of interest, particularly to senior citizens
and the disabled?

☐

More use of the Hall for social and family events e.g.,

Birthday Parties
Wedding Receptions
Anniversaries
Christening Parties
Harvest Suppers

☐☐☐☐☐

Additional educational courses run by Kingsbridge Community
College on the lines of the existing course on drawing and painting?

☐

(4) ENTERTAINMENT

The Hall, with increased seating capacity will have an improved stage, good acoustics, and a loop system for those hard of hearing. Would you like to see:

Performances (plays etc.) by local drama groups
Musical / choral events
Film shows
Pantomimes
Quiz evenings
Whist Drives

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Talks on:

Topical matters
Family, local, and natural history
Gardening

☐☐☐

(5) OTHER EVENTS/ACTIVITIES NOT COVERED ABOVE (please specify below)

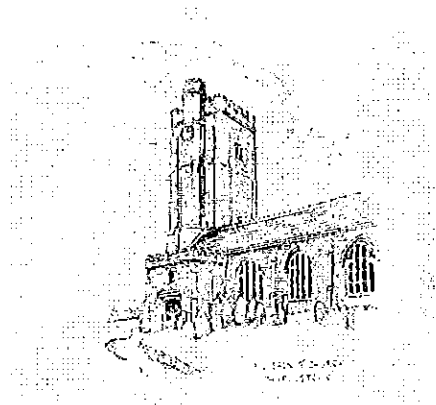
It should be made clear that this questionnaire is designed to identify **new or improved** activities not undertaken at present. Subject to continuing demand, all the current activities (WI, Bridge, Bowls, Keep Fit, etc.) will continue as at present.

Please complete this form as quickly as possible and have it ready for collection by Parish Hall committee representatives. Alternatively, please place it in the box provided at Thurlestone Village Shop or the Sloop Inn, Bantham, by **10th April 2003**.

It is not necessary to sign this form but if you are willing to help with fund-raising, or any of the proposed activities, please print your name and telephone number below:

Name.....Phone no.....

All Saints



Rector: Revd. Andrew Girling 562219

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

ANDREW GIRLING WRITES:

Spring's New Life

Rain, cold, wind, mist and yet more rain. It has been a long and trying winter. Our spirits dampened like the soil. Only the virus flourishes.

But tentatively at first, then with renewed confidence, as the harsh barren ground relents in the first warmth of the sun, the small green shoot bravely pushes its way through the soil, defying the deadness of winter. The earth is coming to life again. The shoots, drawn inevitably by the warmth and the light, go on to burst into triumphant colour and splendour. 'We are alive' they say, inviting us to come alive with them.

As nature re-awakens, so it seems, does the spirit of man. There is a new lightness in his step, a lifting of the heart. As the lambs gambol in the fields, so the young couple sparkle in joyful awareness of each other. The old man's dreams seem a little nearer. The weary traveller looks out of the window and draws strength from the world outside.

Each year it is life and not death that has the last word, and the miracle of nature reflects the truth at the heart of everything: that God's life is one where hate and violence, war and anxiety will give way to peace and joy, to love and vitality. This is the life abundant which Jesus promises, which in the end, triumphs over all attempts to destroy or stifle it, even war. The life that is available to us now. The life which proved stronger than death itself as it burst defiantly out of the cold rock tomb.

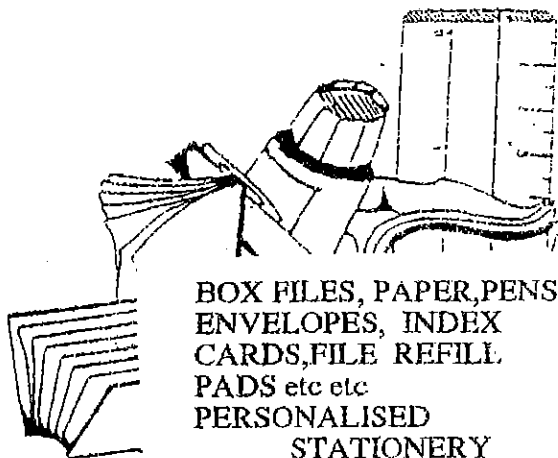
This is Christ's life and it is ours too if we share it with him. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. We are raised to new life with him and he is the Prince of Peace.

Andrew

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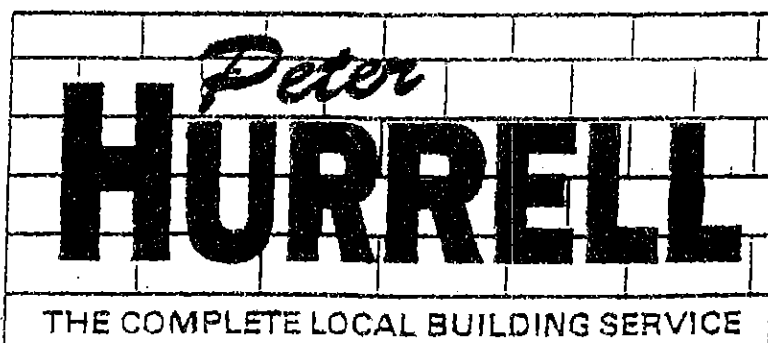
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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

Who wants to be a millionaire?

I am regularly intrigued by Villager's reference to "Millionaires' Row". I have looked at ancient and modern Ordnance Survey maps, road maps, old parish records, etc., but can find no reference to this highway. Is it perhaps recorded in the Domesday Book?

Your, or Villager's, advice would be greatly appreciated

**Jonathan D Rockefeller, jnr., VIII
Standard Oil House
Thurlestone**

Dear Editor

Bread

I am dismayed. I did not believe I would see this day; the day that Village Voice encouraged readers to boycott the Village Shop and trundle off to Somerfields! "Villager" seems to believe in covert criticism, hide behind a made-up name and attack from the bushes.

I say come out and speak to me in person, tell me what you think of our bread and I will try to help. The fact is the only bread we are able to sell is from Cumber Bakery, one of a very few remaining independent bakers. Our sliced bread is fairly pasteurised in form, I agree, and mass-produced bread has been of a similar standard since well before mother lost her pride.

The vitriolic remarks are a product of

'spin' - throw-away comments not intended to cause offence I'm sure, but they did. If any customer has a complaint we take it seriously and will always offer a refund; after all, we will get a refund from our supplier. We have no problem with criticism, but sniping from the picket fence is and always will be wrong. So come out and show yourself, in person.

**Adrian Masters & The Team
PO Stores
Thurlestone**

Dear Editor

Black Bears

The barn dance in the Parish Hall in February raised £827 in support of the Animal Asia Foundation which rescues moon bears in China. As reported in the last edition of Village Voice, these bears are hunted in the wild, caged, and their bile removed daily (and very painfully) as an ingredient for traditional medicine. A cheap modern alternative exists.

Ticket sales were supported by all wards of the parish, and by a group from South Milton. Revellers danced the night away to the strains of Mrs Crotty's band and their patient caller kept us laughing as we gyrated. We must thank all those who provided copious food and raffle prizes, as well as wild-life artist David Shepherd, who supplied a signed print, and Swannie who donated an oil painting of Burgh Island for the auction.

Above all we must thank Linda Chilcott of Bantham. The dance was her initiative and she was tireless in

organising the detail and in eliciting donations in cash and kind for the cause of these hapless moon bears.

Barn dance enthusiasts will be happy to learn that South Milton are offering a 'return match' on Hallowe'en!

John Crawford
Baidland
Thurlestone

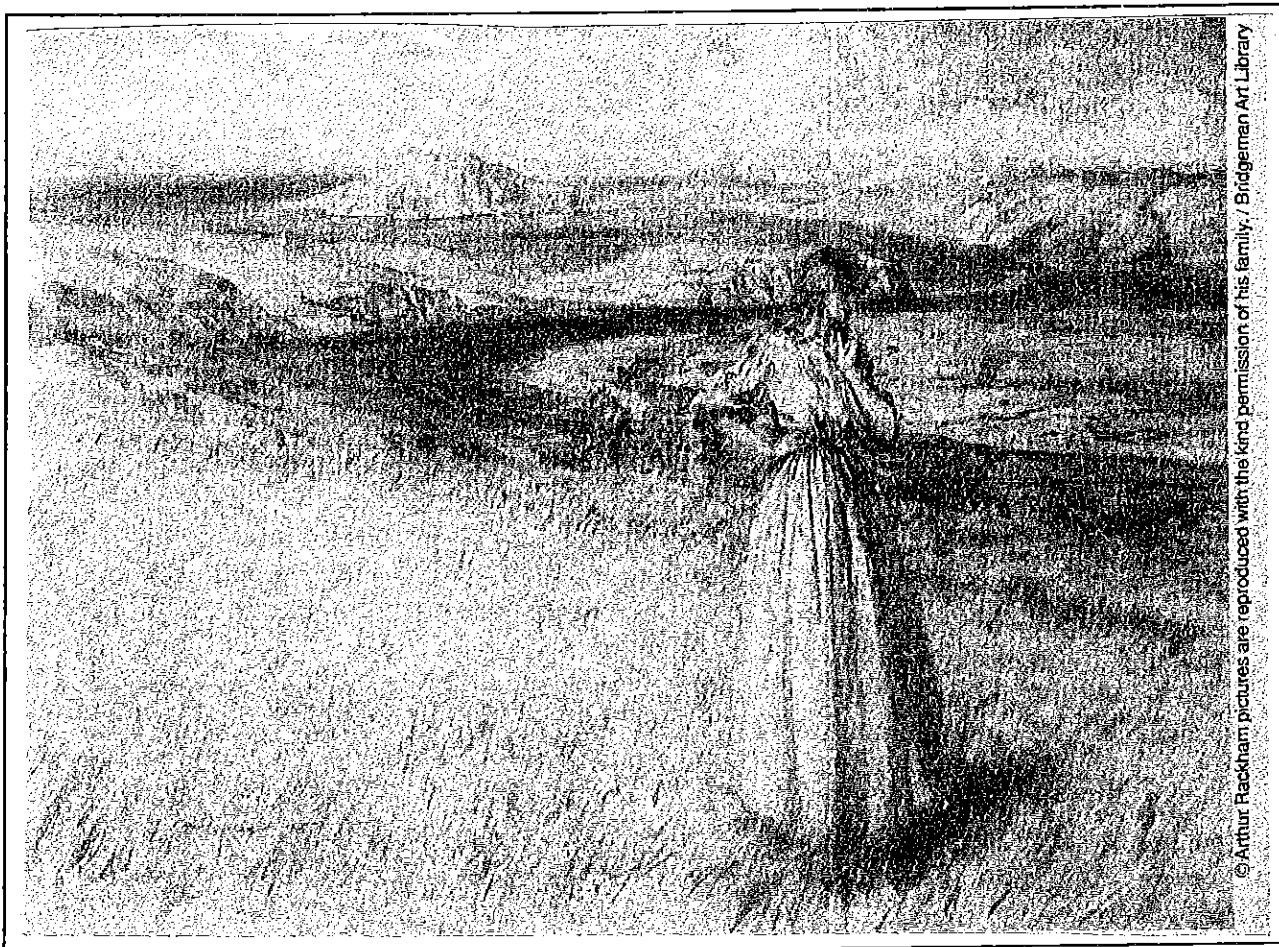
Dear Editor

I have recently visited the very interesting exhibition of the work of Arthur Rackham at the Dulwich Art Gallery in London. There was a striking landscape watercolour picture entitled

"Bigbury Bay, Devon" on display. This was painted in 1915. The notes indicate that Rackham painted other pictures at Thurlestone at this time.

I am writing to see if any of your readers might know more about this picture or of any others painted in the Thurlestone area at the time. I have attached a copy from the catalogue. My interest is purely one of the history and topography associated with Thurlestone as my family have been residents in the village for many years.

Nick Hide
58 Chandos Avenue
Whetstone, London N20 9DX
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Bigbury Bay, Devon

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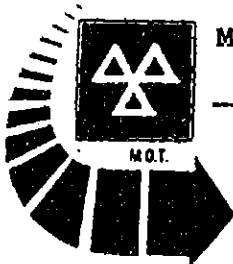
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STIDDICOMBE RESURGENT

A Report from the Parish Tree Warden

Evans Estates has kindly agreed to a meeting of South Hams Tree Wardens in Stiddicombe Wood on WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2003, at 10.30 am, to view the progress in regenerating the wood and to meet the forester responsible for the work, **Mr George Segar Berry**. If any parishioner would like to join the meeting, they would be made most welcome. Please telephone me on 01548-560688 in advance so that I will know what numbers are involved.

Stiddicombe wood was, and still is, a jewel in the parish crown. It was planted as a mixed woodland, including sweet chestnut and Scots pine, about 100 years ago and stands astride the Avon way, about half an hour's walk from Bantham on the route to Aveton Gifford. It also marks a half-way point for sailors on the estuary, opposite a recently-restored lime kiln. The public footpath passes directly through the wood.

Although the wood is a plantation, it was not thinned when the trees matured about sixty years ago, and during the great gales of 1989 /90 it suffered severe 'wind-blow', losing most of the Scots pines - and alas the heronry for which it was much admired. Because it is a small property (about 10 acres) on a steep slope and not accessible from the road, it is unsuitable for commercial exploitation. Two years ago the Estate decided it should be regenerated in order to conserve the estuary landscape. This involves:

Felling a number of sweet chestnuts to reduce the canopy and to provide the stakes needed to fence the wood from incursions by cattle (a condition of Forestry Commission grants).

Replanting in four 'coupes' (selected areas most damaged by 'wind blow') with a mixture of oak, ash, willow, pine and holly.

Provision of self-closing gates at the footpath exits.

The Aune Conservation Association is contributing to the cost of the work in return for benefits for the public from the Estate. These include two 'permissive' footpaths and the implementation of a management plan drawn up by the well-know ecologist, **Dr Peter Beale**. One of these footpaths runs along the shore of the wood from which walkers can observe, from cover, the shelduck and the egrets which are such a feature of the estuary. Most of the felling and clearance work has been undertaken by Terence Lane.

We hope that Stiddicombe will provide a model for forest regeneration in the parish, and attract parishioners to enjoy the bird-song, the bluebells and the flowering chestnuts, for which it was once famous, for many years to come.

John Crawford

Puzzle Page

by Keith Farrelly

(for  only)

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. A revolting act
2. The original model
3. Smallest Continent
4. All Sorts
5. Hang it!
6. An associate
7. Families live in them
8. Hot stuff!
9. Purple rockery flower
10. Hearth
11. Debt or obligation
12. Jewish place of worship
13. On-stage actions
14. Pleads at the bar
15. Christ's Apostles
16. Worth more than a pound
17. Herriot county
18. Kiss-cost bird?
19. World's busiest port
20. Take flight up this
21. ???

EST	STA	LPA	GUE	CIP	GUE	LIA
ALL	TRA	TER	REB	IRE	ITY	DIS
COL	ACE	KSH	FIR	ROT	DWE	THE
TOT	ORM	AGO	IRC	BIL	ILL	PER
UOR	LES	ELL	RIS	AUB	TER	AUS
SOV	LLI	ATR	LIQ	TEH	PRO	FIR
RIE	LEA	ASE	SYN	ERE	ICS	NGS
BAR	YPE	ONB	TIA	WHI	ION	YOR
DAM	ICE	IGN	EPL	WAL	SPO	LIA

TEN TEASERS

1. Of which island is Port Louis the capital?
2. How many tricks are needed for "Abundance" in Solo Whist?
3. In which county would you find Chatsworth?
4. Who wrote, and appeared in, "The Vortex" in 1924?
5. How many days are there in a Mercury Year?
6. How many books are there in the New Testament?
7. What is the largest land animal in the world?
8. What would a German do with "Die Welt"?
9. Who wrote "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"?
10. What kind of creature is a blenny?

LOOKING DOWN THE STREET

by Hubert Snowdon

A niece, to whom I am a great-great-uncle, requested that I painted a little picture booklet with a story attached for her eighth birthday. I had compiled one or two previously, and could not resist. The subject decided on was Thurlestone, where the family holidayed, to include of course Bantham Sands which are enjoyed by children.

The first picture was Thurlestone - the famous down-the-village view which has appeared on a hundred postcards and thousands of photos, picturesque and unique, especially since the elm trees were downed and the sea is viewed beyond the church. Unique yet with the thatch, whitewash, trees and flowers inter-mingled, expected of a beautiful typical Devon village.

As recently as two years ago I stopped outside Len Hubbard's, whom I visit occasionally. It was a beautiful warm day, the view was exceptional with the sea and the sky hardly separated in a rare warm, but soft, forget-me-not blue. I wanted to stop and paint it!

Going back to the postcards, and my schooldays - days of horses - it was usual to see Mr A E Stidston, or other horse-rider, or a farm cart in the street. It put me to thinking that we saw that view every day when coming out of school and took it for granted along with normal goings-on down the village street. But the days particularly recalled are those when something 'different' happened.

One day a group of people was gathered outside the Pumphouse, where a boy

called Freeman from Aunecross had attempted to climb on the back of a moving horse and cart, as boys were wont to do, and caught and broke a leg in the wheel. Same place, another day, I heard a boy yell and looked down to see Ronald Edgecombe holding his thigh. A black-and-tan bobtail sheepdog had bitten him.

Mr Jack Broad had bought a huge ex-war horse, branded on the neck with a broad arrow. This giant was named Hector and we boys gaped as he was reported as being able to pull a ton up through the village. Canvas-hooded horse delivery vans hawked goods, maybe butcher A Moore with meat, or Henry Sheriff with bread from Bantham Bakery. There's a photo of Henry's van stopped at Rockhill corner. If it was a Saturday he may have had Miss Dibshaw in the van.

Miss Dibshaw was engaged as a young junior teacher at Thurlestone church school at the same time my elder sisters were at the school - just before I started there. Henry Sheriff was then the tall, strong, young blood of the parish and apparently Miss Dibshaw fell for him. On Saturdays she helped him on his round by sitting in the covered van and handing him the loaves for each stop. But tongues wagged that this was not a suitable alliance for a young church school teacher. Very meanly, I think, she was obliged to leave the school by orders of the church school authority or by her own resignation. I hope she had better luck elsewhere.

Henry remained a bachelor with strength and bravery enough to rescue drowning

Major Hoare from the strong current at Bantham. He was rewarded with a gold watch but, sadly, Henry eventually had the bad luck to strike his head and die, having fallen off a bicycle that broke on Thurlestone's steep hill.

A more remarkably thing in those days was to see six horses pulling a very heavy wagon. My father as a boy lived with his parents at Rockhill - in the part that later became the Post Office. They worked with horses. One day, father told me he was amazed to see arrive at Rockhill corner six smart horses hauling a huge furniture van with a load to be delivered at Ilbert's Rockhill or possibly Inchbold's Grey House (now The Downs) - I forget which. Father watched with interest. The horses were 'vanners', lighter and faster for distant road work than heavy horses.

The men spoke with upcountry accents, enquiring an address. Three pairs of horses and a large van are of considerable length to turn up the Buckland road and straighten up in line again before they could pull the heavy load up the slope. Father was further amazed at, on command, how fast the leading pair

whipped round the corner and pulled the rest into line to set off up the slope. A very smart team of men and horses who knew their job. (That's a piece of old history - probably the first time its been recorded!)

The stones for Grey House were railed to Kingsbridge then horse-and-carted to Thurlestone. Other stones were brought by boat from Plymouth, dumped on the beach, then carted to Rock House lime kiln, or road sides to be broken up for road mending.

At night there was sometimes an unbelievable sight, noticed annually looking out to sea about November time - if no south-west gale was blowing. I remember coming out from school after evening practise for the school play we put on each year at the Thurlestone Hotel. In a cold east wind hundreds of lights twinkled out on the sea from the herring fishing fleet. It was just as if the city of Plymouth had moved south.

Sadly there are no herrings - penny each - any more!

Hubert Snowdon

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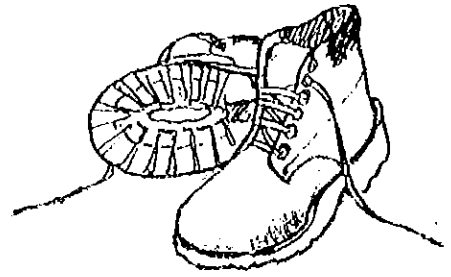
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TRAMP



1 After parking at Torcross on the 12th February, twelve of us set out, in fine weather, to walk towards Slapton. A keen birdwatcher in our group pointed out a Goldeneye as we passed by the Ley. In Slapton village a camellia and a mimosa in bloom made splashes of colour. We walked up the hill from the village, keeping to the lanes because the wet weather during the previous week had made other paths too muddy to use. At Deer Bridge, where the water was very high, we had a short coffee break.

On we went to Frittscombe down an old lane. We admired some poultry roaming in a field as we made our way in bright sunshine on towards Stokenham. We stopped for lunch at the Church House Inn at Stokenham, and there we were joined by another walker for the afternoon. After lunch we set off up the hill and through Widewell Plantation. There were superb views across country and over to the sea all the time during the afternoon walk.

Next, to Widecombe House, following tracks to join the Coastal Path above Beesands. The final part of our expedition took us back to Torcross to the cars. It was yet another enjoyable walk in good weather!

SW

2 My first walk as a 'Tramp' leader - was I up to the job? Prior reconnaissances led me to think that this walk was not going to be a great success (because of the poor weather and lots and lots of mud!) but luckily the previous few days were dry and the day itself was sunny, if a trifle cold with the prevailing east wind.

So on the 12th March ten walkers - including

two new converts - plus one dog met at the parish hall car park and two more joined us at Lee Mill where the walk started. We set off as quickly as possible to leave behind the incessant noise of the A38 traffic and were soon deep in the quiet of the rolling Devon countryside.

As we progressed higher, glorious views of the moors appeared and, when we stopped for breathers, equally glorious views of the distant sea were enjoyed. With a mixture of minor roads, field footpaths and woodland paths, we progressed through Sparkwell and eventually reached, all too briefly, our only stretch of moorland.

We had lunch at the Mountain Inn at Lutton, where we all enjoyed a very splendid and inexpensive meal. The afternoon's walk consisted of a gentle ramble back to Lee Mill again through more of the beautiful Devon countryside.

At the end of this walk everyone seemed to have really enjoyed themselves - so I could award myself a pat on the back!

RH



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EASTER SPRING LAMB

England, Wales and Scotland are renowned for their lamb in season and our animals have the advantage of being free range. Moreover, lamb is one of the most easily digestible of meats and therefore particularly suitable for the young and the old. April is the traditional time for the arrival of West Country lamb in the shops so, with Easter approaching and the probability of many of us having seasonal visitors, and so quite a number of extra mouths to feed, here is a simple-to-prepare but deliciously different recipe for this Easter classic. It uses boned leg of lamb which the butcher will do for you if you ask him nicely!

Ingredients

A large **boned** leg of new season's English lamb (not rolled)
6 slices of good quality ham
3 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
2 tablespoon clear honey
Salt and ground black pepper

Method

1. Spread crushed garlic on all the ham slices and pile them, one on top of the other.
2. Place the lamb on a board, skin side down, then season.
3. Form the ham into a 'sausage' and place it inside the lamb cavity. Roll and tie with string
4. Trickle the honey over and roast in the usual way - but do not overcook!

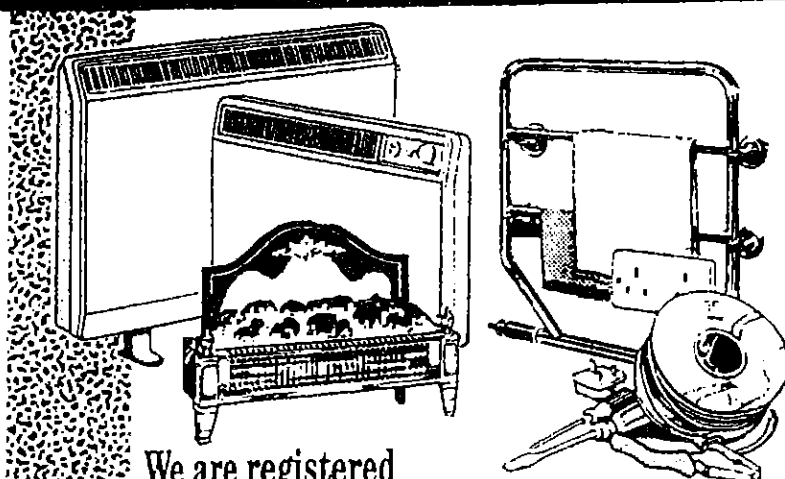
What could be simpler? This dish looks pretty when sliced, tastes delicious and has the added advantage of being very easy to carve!

Kitchen Tips - Freezing Eggs

To freeze **egg whites**, pack them in a lidded container leaving head-space. No beating or addition of a stabiliser is needed. Return to room temperature before using, especially for meringues.

To freeze **egg yolks**, stir them lightly before the addition of half a teaspoon salt or three-quarters of a teaspoon sugar to each five yolks. Pack in lidded containers, leaving head-space, labelled for **sweet** or **savoury** use. One tablespoon of egg white and one tablespoon of yolk, which have been frozen, will equal one whole egg when combined.

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HORSWELL DIARY

Clothes festoon the walls and cupboards of our dressing room, the hastily discarded costume changes of the past few weeks waiting to be put away. Wedding outfits, hats and shoes mingle with evening dresses, party frocks, morning suits and white tie and tails, reminding us of special friends and elegant events. It has been a hectic time, blurred by frantic journeys up and down the M5. If it were possible to collect air miles by travelling on a Motorway, we would have earned a free trip to the moon by now.

Meanwhile, on the home front, endless visitors have left us with heaps of laundry that resemble the snow-capped ranges of the Himalayas, and larders and cellars that look distinctly bare. Not that I am down-hearted by all the ironing that lies ahead. On the contrary, I am expecting a rush of energy at any moment. Nor am I unduly worried about our depleted booze supplies (my husband has a tame bat that guards those anyway!). Why am I so insouciant, so uncomplaining?

Well, having been screened for food sensitivities and vitamin and mineral deficiencies, I am now on a new regime. According to my diagnosis I am, for three whole months, to avoid: wheat, yeast, tea, coffee, dairy products, sugar, beef, peanuts and, as if that were not bad enough, alcohol as well! In exchange for this appalling deprivation I am assured that I will have organs that work perfectly, a squeaky-clean liver and a much-needed surge in my energy levels.

The consultant is a nice, intelligent woman. I want to believe her. Besides, her fees would have bought us a decent meal at the Savoy and I don't want to go hungry for nothing. I think I could have managed a wheat-free diet, or a sugar-free diet, perhaps even an alcohol-free diet, but *everything* (or rather nothing) all at the same time? What is there left, for heaven's sake? I now stand peering into the recesses of fridge and larder desperate to find something I can eat.

I ask you: "Is it possible to survive for three months on rice-cakes and elderflower tea?"

In the garden the air is alive with the song of birds staking out their territory. Already they are in pairs and busy ferrying twigs to build their nests. Blackbirds, a robin, blue tits, a wren, and a pheasant join our peacocks for breakfast outside the French windows. On the other side of the glass, the dogs Bertie and Flossie watch with interest without scaring them away. Meanwhile, I swallow another handful of vitamins and munch on an oatcake, trying not to envy them their peanuts and breadcrumbs.

The ducks are making nests all around the garden, some hidden under bushes, others behind trees or tucked into grassy hollows. With Monsieur Renard taking nightly strolls up the driveway, they will need all the cover and camouflage they can find. Goldfish - a generous present from Sally and her daughter Alice - now swim in the large pond. On sunny days we can see a glimpse of silver or gold amongst the green weed as Flash and Jaws swim with their friends, exploring their new home.

The snowdrops are nearly over now but there are violets, primroses and daffodils to take their place. They look wonderful beneath the camellias, spreading up into the woods. I read somewhere that daffodils are edible, primroses too. So, if I get really hungry I can forgo the tofu and soya milk and rely on flower-power instead!

Thinking of flower-power reminds me of the hippy days of the early seventies. My sister and I drifted footloose and fancy-free across America, driving the slow route from New York on the east coast to San Francisco on the west. Hawaii was to be the next stop. I remember clearly our arrival in Honolulu airport. The baggage hall was crowded with groups of young boys in uniform. They appeared tense, uncertain, with pale faces and eyes round with fear. Summer school, I thought, or maybe the first day of term. Their anxiety haunted me. It was several

days later that I discovered they were not school boys, but the latest intake of conscripts drafted in to fight the Vietnam war. To me, at twenty years old, they looked like children.

My sister and I shared a large rambling house on St Louis Heights, overlooking Honolulu, with eight other young people - five girls and five boys between the ages of 20 and 23. All of we girls worked to pay the rent, while the boys were all Vietnam veterans on final Rest and Recuperation, waiting to be sent 'home'. During the day the boys stayed at the house or went to the beach to smoke dope and reminisce. In the evenings, we would take it in turns to cook and then eat dinner together as a 'family'. The conversation would start with 'surfing' but always ended with 'war'. Again and again they would go over the details of every battle, every manoeuvre, trying to rationalise their actions and expunge the cruellest memories from their minds.

All remembered in graphic detail their first 'kill', especially the civilians: the mother with her baby strapped to her back, planting rice in a paddy field, caught in the crossfire between North and South Vietnamese; the child sent into their camp to beg for food, volatile explosives hidden under his clothes. None could forget the horrors they had witnessed and none felt able to move on.

They had been plucked from their loving families and gentle, civilised lifestyles to be dropped, after negligible training, into the hell of war. Afterwards, they felt unable to return to their 'apple-pie' mothers and neat suburban homes. They were changed men, their lives damaged or destroyed by their call to arms. Of our five house-mates, only two ever made it home.

As yet, the men we are sending to Iraq are not conscripts but trained men who have chosen the armed forces for a career, but when I see their young brave faces on the television the memories come flooding back. Above all, I pray for their safe homecoming, and that the welcome they receive makes the battles they have fought worthwhile. I have seen how important it is that the difficulties of re-integration with their families and friends are understood and made easier to bear. Like Vietnam, war with Iraq is an 'unpopular' war; it lacks the full support of the nation. But whether or not war is ever justified, the men who make up that fighting force deserve every ounce of our admiration and respect.

As civilians we have the luxury of our opinions and the freedom of our actions. The armed forces have orders to follow and lives that will be changed forever.

Prunella Dart

Conservative Women's Constituency Committee

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HAND BAITING ON THE BANTHAM AVON

by Peter-John Dixon

It's the summer of 1945; there is a VJ Day bonfire on the Ham.

Pleasure boating or rather "messin' around in boats" is once more a possibility, except that my grandfather's (Surgeon-Captain T.B.Dixon) re-launched 'Celandine' had "worms in her bottom" as I apparently put it. How she was returned to her original builders, Cove of Salcombe, I don't know, but she was rebuilt/refitted there for full use in 1946. She was a small half-decked general purpose sloop with inboard Stuart-Turner.

Thus came my first experience of spinning for mackerel and, one exciting evening, being late with getting my line in, catching a five-pound bass in the Salmon Pool. (Note: not that ignorant title '*sea-bass*' so beloved of restaurants and supermarkets - *sea-bass* are a different genus and live off the American east coast).

How to catch more bass? Apparently I would need proper live sand eels as baitbut how to go about it? I had the efforts of professionals like Jim Elliott and Jim Steere pointed out to me so I copied them - with little success until Mr Steere, the 'weskitted' and gaitered ex-Navy CPO and then ferryman, put me right.

After that I spent many a year bass fishing from 'Celandine' and my aunt's (Dr Mary Dixon) dinghy 'Coot' using self-caught bait. (Half of 'Coot' [portside] now forms part of the bar in the Sloop Inn). Then came the use of cheap monofilament nets with their generous owners, and the old skills disappeared.

Last summer, more than fifty-six years since I'd first learnt, I thought I'd give hand baiting another go after a twenty-five year break. It all came back. I caught six sand

eels, and with them three bass. Here's how - the sand eel part that is.

Wear shorts or tight trousers and suitable footwear against the real possibility of stinging weaver fish. Have an old-fashioned tin biscuit box gripped between the knees. The box should have small holes in its base and contain some seaweed, plus a few pebbles for weight balance. Cover the palm of the left hand (assuming you are right-handed) with a piece of old inner tube approximately 4" x 4", preferably Dunlop but Englebert* would do, kept in place by a slot for the thumb. In the right hand have an old and deliberately blunted bread knife - the type with a wooden handle with the word 'Bread' and some corn husks carved on it.

Walk against the river current in knee-deep low tide water where the sand is loose. Plunge the knife vertically into the sand and draw it towards the opposite hand, taking about two seconds. Every now and then resistance will be felt. Sometimes it will be a flat pebble but every now and then it'll be a sand eel. Move the knife too fast or use too sharp a blade and you'll cut the bait-to-be in half. Get it right and you'll trap a wriggling fish against your palm to be quickly popped into your biscuit tin and from there, if you have a boat that stays afloat at low tide, into one of those wedge-shaped bait boxes that are still used by the netters. A dead sand eel is no use as bait. If you cannot store them live, use immediately. Easy, always provided your spine is in good condition!

Enquiring grockles can usually be persuaded that you're panning for gold.

** As was the case in 1952 for my ex-works class winning R1 Jowett Jupiter at Le Mans.*

PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (POTS)

Calling all Artists

POTS is organising an **Exhibition of Work** by local artists,
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2. **Size** As a guideline, if you do a painting or photograph it should not be larger than A3 or about 20 inches by 16 inches when mounted
3. **Mounting** The work must be securely mounted or framed ready for exhibition. POTS will hang the work, but will not be responsible for providing frames or plinths

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The organising group from POTS will NOT make any quality judgements and will try to show at least one work from everybody, provided there is room.

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WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 9th SEPTEMBER 2003

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HARRY HUGGINS

TAKES TO THE BOATS

In our bit of Devon we are lucky in having three places which are pretty good for wildfowl and wading birds - the estuary at Kingsbridge and those of the Tamar and the Exe. Well, the thing at Kingsbridge is not really an estuary because what flow into it are no more than rivulets - the water coming from those pipes under the loos by the car park could hardly be called a river, and as far as I know that is the biggest input it gets. In fact it is a ria, a drowned valley.

Experts say that once upon a time the Avon went out to sea through the gap at Salcombe (long, long ago); that made the estuary. Later the river was diverted, probably by ice. The other two estuaries, Tamar and Exe, have proper rivers, rivers which have come a long way through the Devon countryside. On the way they pick up silt, to be deposited as the flow meets the sea. That makes nice big, oozy mudflats, rich in all the things wildfowl and wading birds like. Make no mistake, Kingsbridge gets a lot of birds and there are other animals and plants which are extremely interesting, but nowhere round these parts gets the birds that the Exe estuary does.

Various entrepreneurs (Tony Soper used to be one) take people on boats to see the birds (usually in winter because that is when the birds are there). We did one with him up the river from Dartmouth. This must have been in early autumn, because we hoped to see an Osprey - we didn't. We did see a Kingfisher, sitting on a branch over the water. First they nosed the boat in so the people at the bow saw it. They then turned the boat round so those at the stern saw it. The Kingfisher stayed, folks thought it was a stuffed one Tony had put there. Then it flew away.

For years Tony did what he called "Avocet cruises", up the Tamar. Looking at my Avocet record card (no computer - I am

computer illiterate), I see we went five times from 1983 to 1991. The Avocets increased from 76 to 202. They were Avocet cruises because this was at that time a very rare bird, breeding in Britain only on Havergate Island and at Minsmere, both on the Suffolk coast. There were more in Holland. Since then, protection has helped them and they have done well, but I don't see their ever becoming garbage birds.

A Canadian journalist called Joey Slinger wrote a book entitled *Down and Dirty Birding*. It is a very thoughtful book, rather rude at times, but birds are rather rude at times. He refers to garbage birds, ones which are so common that they get in the way and you never look at them. For many people in Britain Starling was a garbage bird (I always liked them). But not any more, they have got too rare for that. In fact it is hard now to think of a species - maybe Herring Gull. But that has all sorts of different races and plumages, and is far too interesting to be a garbage bird - except when the so-and-sos nest on our roofs.

We went on three trips either at the end of November or the beginning of December, started from Saltash at low water, and motored up slowly with the tide. It had to be a low water, when the mudflats were exposed - when the tide was higher the birds were too far away. I suppose there were Godwits and Redshanks and things as well as Avocets, but the latter are all I remember.

In the bow the boat had an open deck, good views but no protection from the weather. There was a large cabin, out of which you saw little, and an upper deck: we went up there and tucked ourselves behind the wheelhouse. You know you remember the summers of childhood as unbroken sunshine from April to the end of October. Well, we remember these Avocet trips as icy cold, so

we froze, or incessant rain, so we drowned. After about 1991 Tony announced he had done it for some twenty years and gave up - in any case he was starting to spend a lot of time away as resident bird expert on cruise ships going to the Antarctic and wherever.

We knew the RSPB did bird cruises on the Exe. But they started from Exmouth and it seemed too far to drive round there, do a trip, and drive back again. However, in February this year we decided to give it a try. Not with the RSPB - what they do usually gets pretty crowded. There is an outfit called Stuart Line Cruises which does things out of Exmouth Marina (what used to be the old commercial harbour, surrounded now by yuppie houses painted in psychedelic colours). I rang - 01395-222144 if you are interested - said I would call nearer the date we wanted to go, when we might have some idea what the weather was likely to be, was told they were nearly fully booked already - this was a month before our proposed date - and I had better book at once if we wanted to get in. So we booked and took a chance on the weather. It was brilliant on the day we went.

Getting there was a bit easier than expected. We allowed two-and-a-half hours and it took one-and-a-half. There are brown signs saying "Stuart Line Cruises" to tell you which way to go. The boat looks exactly like a floating double-decker bus. The lower cabin is heated, there are loos and a little bar where the crew-lass sells rolls, hot drinks, and glasses of wine. Most people piled into the upper cabin whence they thought they might see more. True, probably, because although there is a roof there are no windows. Below there were rather grubby perspex screens; with the heating they kept the cabin warm. Being wimps, we went there, had plenty of room to spread out and saw just as much as those above. It was one of those sunny days when the temperature got barely above freezing and when the people up above came down for a warm they looked blue.

We set off. The skipper gave us a little talk

about safety. I think that, like aeroplanes, they are obliged to do that. He was brief: there were 194 life jackets (he didn't say where) and if the boat sank we could get out and walk, the estuary was so shallow. Commentary was by one Rod Lawrence. I don't know how often he does it, probably three or four times a week in winter. Birds stick usually to the same places and he knew exactly where to find them. Could no doubt do it with his eyes shut.

The tide was low, of course, when we started - this is a very wide estuary and once the flood really gets going birds are far too far away to see from the water. In fact when the tide is high and they cannot feed, many sit it out on surrounding fields. The RSPB reserve at Bowling Green Marsh, behind Topsham, is a favourite place, a grassy meadow and a lot of water. To get to it you drive through Topsham as though going to Exmouth, turn right just before the level crossing, park in the Holman Way car park and walk the short distance through to the reserve. There is a hide with a couple of parking places by it, where I confess we have usually gone, but the natives are apt to be hostile.

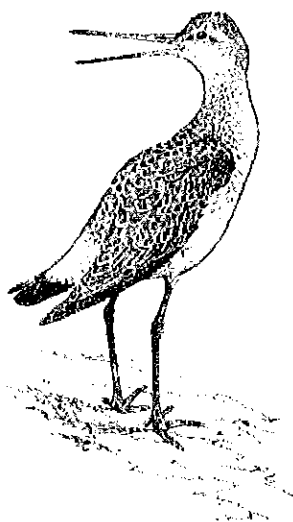
Swimming and diving everywhere were Red-breasted Mergansers - the winter-time ducks you can see from the Crabshell when the tide is in. They have punk hairstyles. The ladies are greyish with reddish-brown heads. The gents are splendid fellows - grey, black and white bodies, reddish breasts, their heads look black, green actually, their bills red, long and thin.

There were hundreds of Oystercatchers, big waders, black and white with red bills and legs. They open mussels; hanging around were Herring Gulls which make a living by seizing the mussels the Oystercatcher has just opened. Standing about on the mudflats were Great Black-backed Gulls, ready to join in when the Shags and Cormorants started to fish. When a bird got a fish it had to surface to swallow it and if it was a flatfish which took some swallowing, a gull would grab it.

As we went upriver we stuck sometimes and

had to wait for the rising water to lift us off again. On the edge of the mud were Grey Plovers, solitary miserable-looking things, dull grey with big black eyes. Very different from when they are in summer plumage. Then their backs are spangled black and silver and their throats and bellies are black.

In the lower part of the estuary were Bar-tailed Godwits, grey-brown with quite plain wings (in summer their heads and bodies turn brick red). Higher up were Black-tailed Godwits, longer necks and legs, and when they flew their wings and tails were patterned black and white. Rod Lawrence reckoned



BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

these were now the rarest birds on the estuary (we saw 150 or so), rarer than the Avocets which in winter now number around 600 - the greatest number anywhere in Britain except on Brownsea Island in Poole harbour, where they get 1100. I suppose two species of Godwit were separated because their feedings requirements differ, and the mudflats are not the same everywhere.

We saw a little group of Sanderlings, small, silver-white waders. They must have found a patch of pure sand - this is what they like. Go and look on Yarmer beach in August, which is when they are migrating through, and you will see them scampering about just above where the waves are surging up the beach.

There were quite a lot of Shelducks, big, black and white with chestnut breast bands. Lawrence remarked that these feed on *hydrobia*, snails like tiny winkles, about an eighth of an inch long. The Avocets eat them too. They live on the surface of the mud and a Shelduck will consume about 40,000 every day. They say that mudflats which the tide flows over are the most fertile places there are, that an acre of mussel bed produces far more protein than does an acre of grass with farm animals. Fertile it needs to be to feed all those birds!

There was a flock of Golden Plovers, close relatives of the Grey Plovers but far more gregarious. Also a few Lapwings. We have had them all winter in the valley at Thurlestone. They have looked black and white. In the bright sunshine these on the Exe looked vivid green, which is why at one time they called them Green Plovers.

A lot of Brent Geese (black nearly all over and quite small for geese) winter on the Exe. Gordon Waterhouse said in the Gazette that he and his helpers counted 81 on the Kingsbridge estuary in February. Here on the Exe was a flock which the man said totalled about 900 - we didn't try to count them for ourselves, but, intriguingly, two had red rings on their legs. You don't catch an adult Brent Goose easily, so most likely the rings were put on when they were goslings. They breed on the most northerly land there is - in Arctic Russia and Siberia. Had some Russian scientists been busy?

Someone asked Rod Lawrence why so many of the big waders were standing on one leg. Easy, he said - it is cold and birds lose heat through their legs. So to minimise heat loss they stand on one and stick the other up their jumpers!

At Topsham the boat turned round and churned back against the flood to Exmouth. Still plenty of Mergansers to see but the mudflats were covered now and the rest of the birds were very distant.

Harry Huggins

IN YOUR GARDEN

Everything is slowly starting to grow and green up again as winter draws to an end. It is now, particularly, that we need to guard against slugs and snails, two of a gardener's worst enemies, before they make inroads into those succulent newly emerging shoots!

A solution of ground coffee in water is now being put forward as an excellent slug killer. Save your old coffee and coffee grounds, add a little water (as I understand it works with as little as a 2% solution of coffee), then dampen the ground with the coffee liquid. This will, they say, kill the slugs lurking underground with a 75% success rate.

As far as the snails are concerned, a good old-fashioned after-dark torch-lit search and collection, particularly following rain, is one of the surest ways of tackling this problem. How you dispose of them I leave to you, but bear in mind that if you merely 'toss them over the fence', as it were, they will be back in your garden again fairly soon.



Going on to more pleasant garden tasks, if you did not get round to sorting out any badly overgrown bearded iris last September, it can be done now, although you may not have too many flowers. Cut back the leaves to about 6 inches, remove the old woody parts of the rhizome, replant the small newer growth, not too deep, and put in a sprinkle of plant food as you do it. If bearded iris are left to their own devices they eventually stop flowering.

Once you see some fat buds on your hydrangeas (about now), you can remove the tops of the stems which held last year's flowers. Don't cut down too hard or you may lose this year's flowers. Cut penstemons down to the ground now, split up if the clump is large enough, but discard the old woody bits.

Another plant that benefits from being cut right down now is lavatera,. Although it is not a long-lived plant it provides invaluable colour and requires no fussing. Cut back buddleias (*dauidii*) now too.

At this time your garden will benefit from a dose of a general fertiliser and a good hoeing to work it in help keep weeds at bay. If you have any home-made compost, spread it as a mulch after rain. Do not be tempted to cut hedges too drastically once the song-birds start to nest. I will never forget cutting back a thick bushy stem of euonymus only to come eye-to-eye with a hen black-bird sitting on her nest. I can't think who was the more surprised, me or the bird, but she did not stir. Apologising profusely to her, I hastily repositioned the branch into the space from where it had been cut. All went well, thank goodness!

Although the daffodils and other bulbs are just beginning to come into their own, by the time you read this they will probably be in their most full and beautiful bloom - a promise of longer and warmer days ahead! Sadly, the daffodils have only a fairly brief season, and it will not be long before they are over and done with in a lot of gardens. Please don't be in a hurry to 'tidy up' - six weeks from end of flowering to cutting back is the golden rule for disposing of bulb leaves.

And don't be tempted to buy bedding plants or take seedlings out of the greenhouse too soon. Remember that the dangers of frost are by no means over yet!

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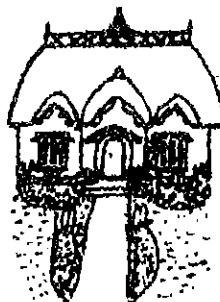
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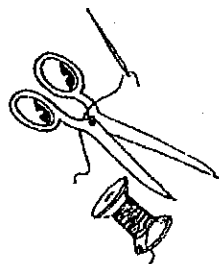
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BOOKSHELF

The Great Blizzard of 1891

Kingsbridge History Society

I'm writing this book review on the exact day that Thurtestone, Buckland and Bantham came to an abrupt halt, cut off by walls of snow. And I'm writing it at 12 noon, the exact time that the first dump of snow smothered our villages 112 years ago. Tempting fate, you might well say. But then the Great Blizzard of March 9th, 1891, seems to have been something of a one-off, and so far this year we have had nothing more than the merest sprinkle of snowflakes.

All right, all right, the Ides of March are next week and I'll be beware of them, but I don't think any harm will come from drawing your attention to the story of the Great Blizzard of '91 as told in a splendid booklet, just republished by the Kingsbridge History Society and available in local shops at £2.95.

The original little book was published by local historian and author James Fairweather, shortly after the Blizzard had finally melted away. Much of the content had already appeared in editions of the Kingsbridge Journal and the Salcombe Times, which were printed as soon as possible after the snow stopped. In the reprinted booklet, which has photographs of the time added, you will read of 26 feet high drifts, of farmers walking along hedgetops to try and rescue their sheep and lambs, and that the road to Bantham alone was blocked by walls of snow of over 15 feet high.

Thurlestone was cut off from both Buckland, and Bantham for five days by 36 hours of continuous snow. Kingsbridge was cut off from everywhere for four days and the road to Sorley was buried 12 feet down. No phones worked, with most telegraph poles blown down by the huge winds. Roofs

collapsed under the weight of snow and ice. A stagecoach from Kingsbridge was snowblocked in - a mile from the California Inn - by eight foot drifts for ten days, much to the concern of a young lady on board who thought she was going elsewhere on her honeymoon!

Farmer Sam Broad of Thurlestone lost 100 sheep. The next door farm had 40 motherless lambs rescued from the drifts. A Bigbury farmer had 400 sheep missing, many, he said, blown into the sea. London trains were marooned out in the countryside for days; no one reached Kingsbridge Station on foot for 16 days. Six trains were snowed up between Newton Abbot and Plymouth for two days, and the snow on the line at Bittaford Bridge between Ivybridge and South Brent was 26 feet deep in places. A steamer and a sailing barque were sunk in the whiteout at the Start with 45 sailors drowned. More men died when a schooner was smashed ashore at Beesands and another at Hallsands.

Mr John Foale of Thurlestone Mill, who had run the mill since 1854, said he had never known anything like it:

"In my capacity as baker, and the only one in the parish for a week, I tried to take bread to Milton, but could not possibly get there. But three men and myself managed to serve the three villages in this parish, carrying it in bags on our backs....a great difficulty was to avoid strangulation in the curling, eddying mixture of wind and snow on the more exposed parts. While going to Bantham one of our party became for a time nearly helpless through inhaling snow, so on the return journey we fitted ourselves out with 'snow screens' to be held over the mouth, made from a loosely made light sack cut up.

Early next day, Wednesday, the view down the Buckland valley from Thurlestone Hill was such as must ever live in the

memory, nevertheless one could not shut his eyes to the great destruction to apple trees and other property.

We started out, four men with spades, two horses and an empty cart, to see if it were possible to open a track a good part of the way to Thurlestone, but after some hours of toil we had to give it up, having at some risk to both vehicle and horses managed to get but little more than half way up the hill, or say a quarter of a mile.

We got to Milton on Saturday, the 14th, six of us, sack-a-back. Just before reaching that village we met a small boy who saluted us with, "Mother's looking for some of they loaves," and sure enough she was. Some few families had fared worse than any in Thurlestone, but they accepted the situation with genuine practical philosophy. Our work thence-forward was easier, but the direct cart-path from here to Kingsbridge was not opened until Lady Day."

There is much, much more of the same, which will fascinate those of us who today expect a winter here to be pretty nearly snowless. So beware the next Ides of March, which might just be the date of the Great Blizzard of '04. Well, you never know with this global warming stuff do you?

Other freezers in the past:

Snow storms in the South Hams are noted in a Ringmore farmer's diary on 10th January 1814, when snow fell in huge quantities, continuing on and off for the next three weeks with roads to Thurlestone, Bantham, Buckland, Bigbury and Modbury impassable and hundreds of lambs lost in the drifts in the fields.

Over a century later, 1947 in the parish was recorded as "heavy with snow". In 1963, Arctic conditions lasted from December to Easter, a period during which weathermen then said was the coldest January for 150 years. And February 1978 brought blizzards again to the whole of Devon.

KM

Enemy Women

by Paulette Jiles

(Fourth Estate £10.00)

This book does not, as yet, seem to have made the charts - goodness knows why as it is a wonderful, vibrant, beautifully-written novel. As soon as I had finished it, I started to re-read it and even then the end came too soon! I am always attracted by books about the American Civil War - but this one is unusual as its author is female.

It does not describe the battles, but deals with the misery of the women whose homesteads were pillaged and menfolk imprisoned or shot. The heroine, young Adair Colley, whose father was arrested and their farm burned, was separated from her sisters and imprisoned. The story of her eventual escape and the high-spirited manner in which she overcame her many misfortunes is gripping. A meticulous and colourful pen picture of the many characters she meets and the brilliant descriptions of the differing countryside she passes through on her long journey home make it a joy to read.

GW

Dilemma

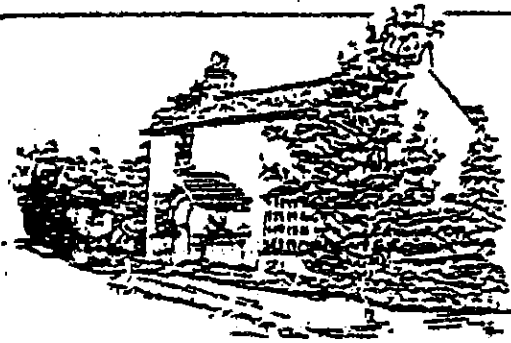
by John Cleary

(Harper-Collins paperback published 2000 now out of print, but a large-print version is available, published by Chivers £12.00)

When Inspector Scobie Malone, Sydney's answer to Inspector Wexford, receives a call from up-country that the suspect of a four year old unresolved murder has been spotted, it is but a start to his dilemma! At the same time a small child, made famous by over-exposure to the media promoting children's products, has been kidnapped and her body subsequently discovered at the foot of a cliff.

Scobie has no doubts about the killer of the child but is placed in a very difficult position with the unsolved killing - which puts him in direct conflict with the Crown Prosecutor.

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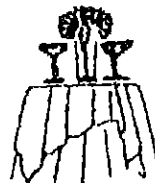


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All is of course successfully resolved, but not without many twists and turns during the investigations.

John Cleary is always a good read, and his stories of the Sydney Homicide Division and Inspector Malone and his team are some of his best. Well worth a try.

MC

Betty Boothroyd

The Autobiography
(Arrow Books £6.99)

There must be few people, irrespective of their political persuasion, who did not enjoy seeing Betty Boothroyd in action over eight years, on the television, as Madam Speaker in the House of Commons.

By the time she was 25 she had tried, and abandoned, a career in dancing, won a national speaking award, stood for election and won a seat on the local council in Dewsbury, and become a full-time worker for the Labour Party. Helping in the US presidential election of John F Kennedy in 1960 she learned much about political campaigning which was to stand her in good stead when she was back home, working in the Commons, and aiming to become a Member of Parliament.

It was not until 1973 that she was eventually elected as MP for West Bromwich, and by then she was deeply conversant with the House, its procedure, traditions and customs. Almost twenty years later, in 1992, she was appointed Speaker of the House by a Conservative government, the first woman to hold the job. She retired in 2000.

This is an uncomplicated and extremely enjoyable book about a courageous woman who succeeded brilliantly in tackling one of the most difficult parliamentary jobs. She comes over as frank, fun, astute, and as generous with her views about politicians from other parties as Alan Clark was often not! She was always concerned to be

scrupulously fair and, above all, exceedingly keen on the survival of parliamentary democracy. A delightful autobiography.

South Milton - The story of a village

Daphne Julian

(Phone 01616-367102 : £7.00 delivered)

Daphne Julian's parents came to live in South Milton in 1935, when she was ten years old. It was love at first sight for Daphne, who went on to record what she observed, and what she found out, about the village where she lived for sixty years.

She describes in loving detail the events, houses, people, customs, and all the things that made up life in her village and, by interviewing the elders through the intervening years, tells us about a way of rural life that had all but vanished by 1960.

It is a treasure-house, full of the sort of local things you wish you had asked your own parents or grandparents about. If you are interested in the South Hams get a copy of this book, which Daphne has now had printed in limited edition. It is well-illustrated and sturdily bound in A4 size.

PM

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NEWS FROM THE WI

February Speakers

It was with fascination and enjoyment members heard **Janice Dennis's** account of her shipboard experiences on QE2, first as a junior lady officer at the age of 21 and, for the next seven years, by now well up the promotional ladder, steaming round the world amongst the rich and often famous. Startling sets of catering and other statistics emerged as her talk progressed!

Adrian Masters of Thurlestone PO Stores up-dated us about the government's new scheme for paying pensions and allowances. When existing pension and allowance book holders are sent letters from the Department of Pensions in the coming year, the WI urges recipients not to disclose details of their bank accounts but to insist on a Post Office Card account.

Village post offices/stores are dependent on people going in to collect pensions and allowances, and do some shopping at the same time. Without this support, many would no longer find it viable to remain in business. "We fought hard to retain our post office/store at Thurlestone, so do not let it down now" was the rallying cry!

March Speaker

In March art historian **Tessa Aimes** discussed four great English painters - Constable, Gainsborough, Reynolds and Turner - of the 18th and early 19th centuries, examining their works in an historical and sociological context. Members chose which of the paintings shown on Tessa's slides they would most like to own, with very interesting results. Turner's painting of the Port of London, 1824, was one of those most favoured to hang on their walls.

Beer, skittles and other entertainments

The skittles supper in February was enjoyed at the California Inn. **Pat and Bill Clarke** were victorious. Seventeen went on the lunch outing to the Port Light on the 20th March. **Val Brown** had attended Denman College on our bursary and came back to regale us with tales of her experiences on the course "Painting for the Petrified" - and showed us the excellent results of what can be achieved by someone who, in her own words "could not draw a straight line" before she went.

What's next?

On 22nd May the County Federation is running a Jacobean history day, based on Forde House, Newton Abbot, and several members hoped to attend. There would be a visit on 29th May to the Chocolate Factory at Salcombe, where there will be a viewing of the work process and a talk by a chocolateer, followed, no doubt, by a meaningful visit to the choccie shop!

New Parish Hall

Jo Parkin told members of the launch of serious fund-raising for a new parish hall, and the result of the WI's yearly vote as to which charity we would support very happily turned out to be the new parish hall!

Elsie and Pam Brewster

The parish church has put up a carved wooden plaque to the memory of **Elsie Brewster** and her daughter **Pam**, who were also much-loved members of Thurlestone WI. President **Dorothy Candy** urged members to seek it out.

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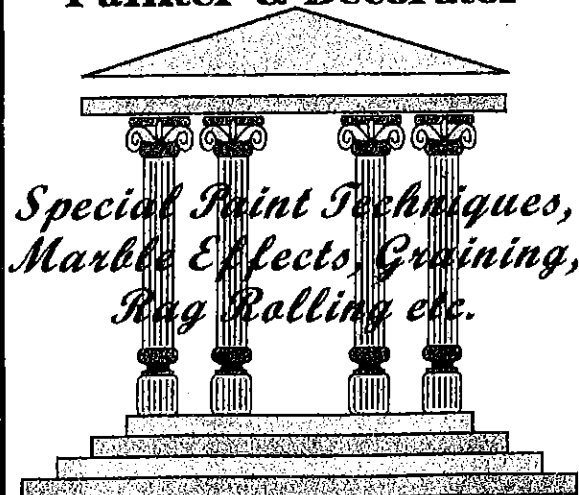


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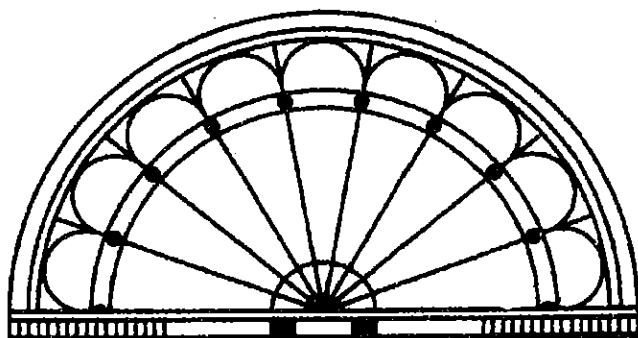
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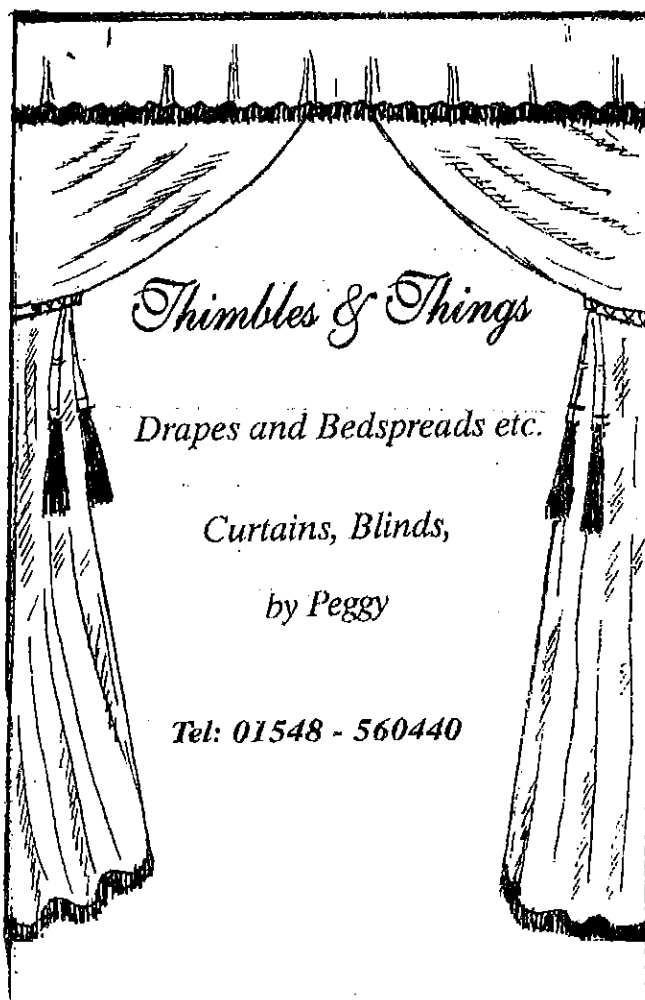
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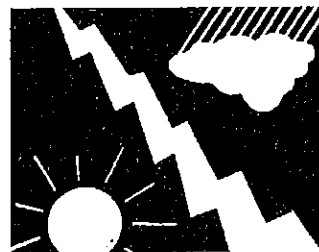
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner



'If only the east wind would go, it would be lovely'. I've had that comment made to me countless times in the last three weeks. Well, yes, but then it would probably be warm and wet, and that wouldn't be any good either. The weather can never get it right! Still, it has been quite a respite from the damp and drizzly days of late winter. Twelve days without any measurable precipitation, another two and it will constitute a drought!

The gardens are lovely and the ground is good to work, so we can't really complain. The countryside actually looks very attractive, the east winds have not been so searing that they have burned everything up, and the wild flowers are in wonderful condition. The rainfall to date will not match the year 2000, when there was only 35.15 mm. We are almost up to that with another week to go, and showers forecast possibly at the end of the week. I was interested to read two articles in my daily paper, they alluded to the weather in very different aspects, and I'd like to share them with you. Apologies if you have read them, but lots won't have!

The high pressure area which has been sitting over us for some time now, has also been sitting over the Alps in central Europe. It has brought superb weather to the ski slopes, with sunshine and temperatures of over 20C in the valleys. This is lovely but the lower slopes are becoming soft and slushy by day, and as you know clear skies at night means frost at this time of the year. The slushy ground is freezing over so that no skiing is possible and folks are having to move up the mountains to find good snow.

The article continues, *'In the long run, heat-waves like this look ominous. Local people talk of snow steadily disappearing from the mountainside, and satellites confirm that the Alps had one month's less snow cover in the 1990s than in previous decades, and that the glaciers have been shrinking at an alarming rate. If this pattern continues, the impact will be great. Obviously skiing will be hit hard as the season shrinks, although experts are not quite sure how snowfall will be affected.'*

In recent years the lower slopes have had declining snowfalls, while the higher altitude ski resorts have enjoyed snow well into April and even May. Far worse, entire mountains are defrosting because the permafrost is melting, setting off more landslides and weakening the foundations of buildings and ski lifts. Added to that, rainfall in the Alps is growing heavier and causing further landslides as well as flash floods'

This makes quite interesting reading doesn't it? I have to say, that I find it quite worrying. Is it once more evidence of a gradual warming of the climate in our European area? And how much are we to blame? And what can we do, if anything, at what I believe is almost too late a date. Our children's children will not thank us, as we perhaps don't thank the Industrial Revolution for all the pollution produced then.

Ken and I have had some solar panels fitted in an effort to help with reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. So far it is very impressive. I'll report back next winter with our conclusions.

JT

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At the Bridge Table



Here are two more examples of thinking in defensive situations. In the first, in which you as East hold a heap of rubbish, the bidding goes as follows :

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
1 Heart	Double	Pass	1 Spade
2 Hearts	2 Spades	Pass	3 Spades
Pass	4 Spades	All Pass	

Your partner starts with the King and Ace of Hearts. You need to find two more tricks. Clearly there are no winners in Spades and Diamonds and you cannot over-ruff dummy on another Heart lead. The only hope is that West has two Club tricks and if so it is vital that the Club lead comes from your side. **So ruff your partner's Ace of Hearts and switch to a Club.** In reality West held the Ace and Queen of Clubs and on this defence the contract was defeated by one trick. If you don't ruff, declarer will get home by ruffing his heart losers in dummy and pitching club losers on the dummy's top Diamonds.

But don't ruff your partner's tricks too often!

This was the bidding in the second example :

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
		1 Spade	4 Hearts
4 Spades	5 Hearts	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Given that his partner had opened the bidding, East with two Aces had good reason to double, but the defence is not easy. Happily he avoided the first pitfall of leading the Ace of Spades, which would have been his only trick apart from the Ace of Trumps. [It is not uncommon for partner's bid suit to be disappointing and here the lead of the Ace would have set up declarer's King of Spades.] East made the safer lead of the Jack of Diamonds, taken by South, who put East back in again with the Ace of Trumps. The fact that declarer had not played on Diamonds indicated that he could not discard losing Spades (on the bidding South must have at least two cards in Spades) on this suit. East simply led another Diamond and waited for his Spade winners. The important message of this hand is that where you can see that defensive winners **cannot go away** you can take a relaxed view and wait for your tricks. Here the waiting game paid off, and North did not succeed with his "pushy" bid of 5 Hearts.

In defence there are a number of **discard systems** for indicating to partner your preference for a suit-lead from him. I will cover some examples in future articles, as it seems to me that all partnerships should have an agreed system for the meaning of discards - and understand it!

Victor

N/ S Vulnerable		Dealer West	
		<div><div>NORTH</div><div>S A K J 10</div><div>H Q J</div><div>D A K Q 8</div><div>C 6 4 2</div></div>	
<div>WEST</div>		<div>EAST</div> <div>S 7 6 2</div> <div>H 5</div> <div>D J 9 7 4 3</div> <div>C 10 8 7 3</div>	
		<div>SOUTH</div>	

N/S Vulnerable		Dealer East	
<div><div>NORTH</div><div>S 6 5</div><div>H 9 4 3 2</div><div>D K Q 7</div><div>C Q 5 4 3</div></div>			
<div><div>WEST</div><div>S A 10 4</div><div>H A</div><div>D J 10 9 8 6</div><div>C J 9 6 2</div></div>	<div><div>EAST</div><div>S Q J 7 3 2</div><div>H Q</div><div>D 5 4</div><div>C A K 10 8 7</div></div>		
<div><div>SOUTH</div><div>S K 9 8</div><div>H K J 10 8 7 6 5</div><div>D A 3 2</div><div>C Void</div></div>			

Meal-time Assistants

Can you help the school?

The Headmaster and the Chairman of Governors have recently written a joint letter to all the parents of the children at All Saints School as follows:

MEAL-TIME ASSISTANTS

Despite our continuous efforts to obtain assistance in the school's recurrent struggle to recruit people to fulfil this mandatory role (Health & Safety requirements), we have for the last few months been relying on the dedication and goodwill of a diminishing team of ladies to supervise pupils during the lunch period. This source has now reached an unworkable number.

Do you know of anybody (friends, relatives, etc.) who would be prepared to take on this vital commitment, or to become part of a rota of dedicated people who would undertake one duty per week/fortnight, or who would be available for inclusion on an 'emergency' list to cover for illness/absence etc.?

Unless we are able to find more adults/willing recruits to undertake this role, it could prove necessary to give notice to the Governors that the health and safety of pupils cannot be guaranteed. The repercussions of this are obvious.

We need a minimum of two adults to supervise daily, five days a week, between 12.15 pm and 1.30 pm. In addition there is always a teacher on duty. It is a paid position. If you have any suggestions and/or would like to talk to either or both of us, please let us know.

Alun Williams (Headmaster)

Veronica White (Chairman of Governors)

Puzzle Page - Answers (for not so)

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. REBELLION | 2. PROTOTYPE | 3. AUSTRALIA | 4. LIQUORICE |
| 5. WALLPAPER | 6. COLLEAGUE | 7. DWELLINGS | 8. FIRESTORM |
| 9. AUBRIETIA | 10. FIREPLACE | 11. LIABILITY | 12. SYNAGOGUE |
| 13. THEATRICALS | 14. BARRISTER | 15. DISCIPLES | 16. SOVEREIGN |
| 17. YORKSHIRE | 18. SPOONBILL | 19. ROTTERDAM | 20. STAIRCASE |
| 21. WHITEHALL | | | |

TEN TEASERS

- | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Mauritius | 3. Derbyshire | 5. Eighty-eight | 7. Elephant | 9. Victor Hugo |
| 2. Nine | 4. Noel Coward | 6. Twenty-seven | 8. Read it | 10. A small fish |



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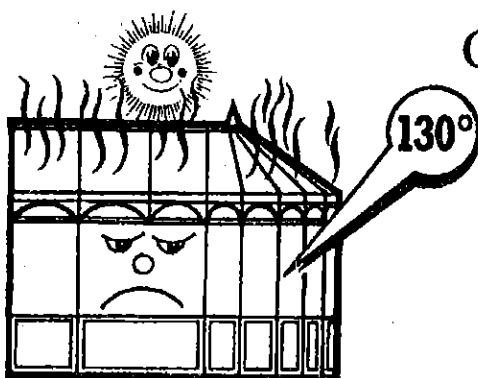
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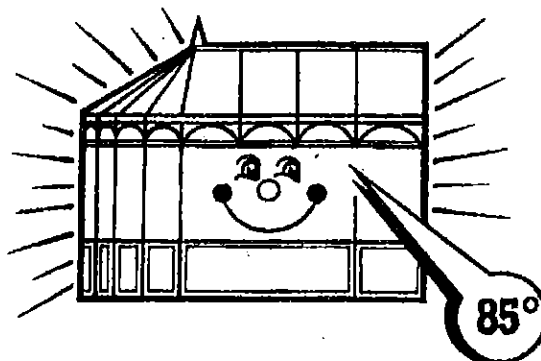
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DIARY DATES

APRIL

Thur 3rd Conservative Antiques Evening, Thurlestone Hotel, 6.30 pm
 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)
 Sat 12th NSPCC Spring Clearance Sale, Parish Hall, 2.00 pm
 Mon 14th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Mon 14th TRAMP Short Walk, East Soar
 Wed 23rd TRAMP, Burrator / Dartmoor
 Sat 26th St. Luke's Bridge Evening, Parish Hall, 6.30 pm
 Mon 28th **PARISH HALL AGM, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm**

MAY

Thur 8th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Annual Resolutions)
 Thur 8th TRAMP Short Walk, Loddiswell
 Fri 9th PROBUS Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel (Devon Air Ambulance)
 Mon 12th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 14th TRAMP, Dart Valley Trail
 Wed 28th TRAMP, Dartmoor
 Sat 31st Art Exhibition, Parish Hall, 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

JUNE

Wed 11th TRAMP, Kingston / Ringmore
 Thur 12th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Fri 13th PROBUS Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel (Antarctica)
 Mon 16th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Fri 20th TRAMP Short Walk, Noss Mayo
 Sat 21st KINGSMEN CONCERT, Parish Hall (TBA)
 Wed 25th TRAMP, Capton

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 MAY 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 or RbnMacd@aol.com)

PARISH

BANTHAM SURE 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 Worrell Liz Webb		562016 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		560583
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	Mobile	01752 - 691212
Members	Neil Girling		560489
	David Grose		560375
	Kit Marshall		560214
	Andrew Rhyms		560564
	Geoffrey Stilson		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 Salcombe	833551 842284
MILK DELIVERY	R. Bruckler & Son	01803 - 832801
VILLAGE SHOP Thurlestone Village Shop	M. I. Th. F. Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday,	8.00 am - 5.30 pm 8.00 am - 3.00 pm 8.00 am - 2.00 pm 8.30 am - 2.00 pm
PARISH HALL Chairman Bookings	Rowland Cole Pai Crawford	561006 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
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Green (recyclable) bins alternate Thursdays from 3 rd April 2003		
PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE		
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GARAGE (Blight Engineering)	Maurice Blight	560220
KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 9 th April)		852315
	11.15 - 11.30am Bantam	
	11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel	
	12.20 - 12.30pm Thurlestone Church	
	11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall	
	12.35 - 12.45pm Thurlestone Sands	
MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN		

Calls alternate Wednesdays from 9th April 2003, from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, outside All Saints Primary school.



The Village Inn

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April / May Diary

Friday 18th April

Live Music with
"Nick the Fish"

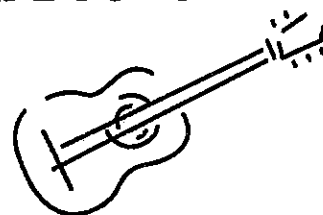
Thursday 24th April and 8th May

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Thursday 15th May

music from
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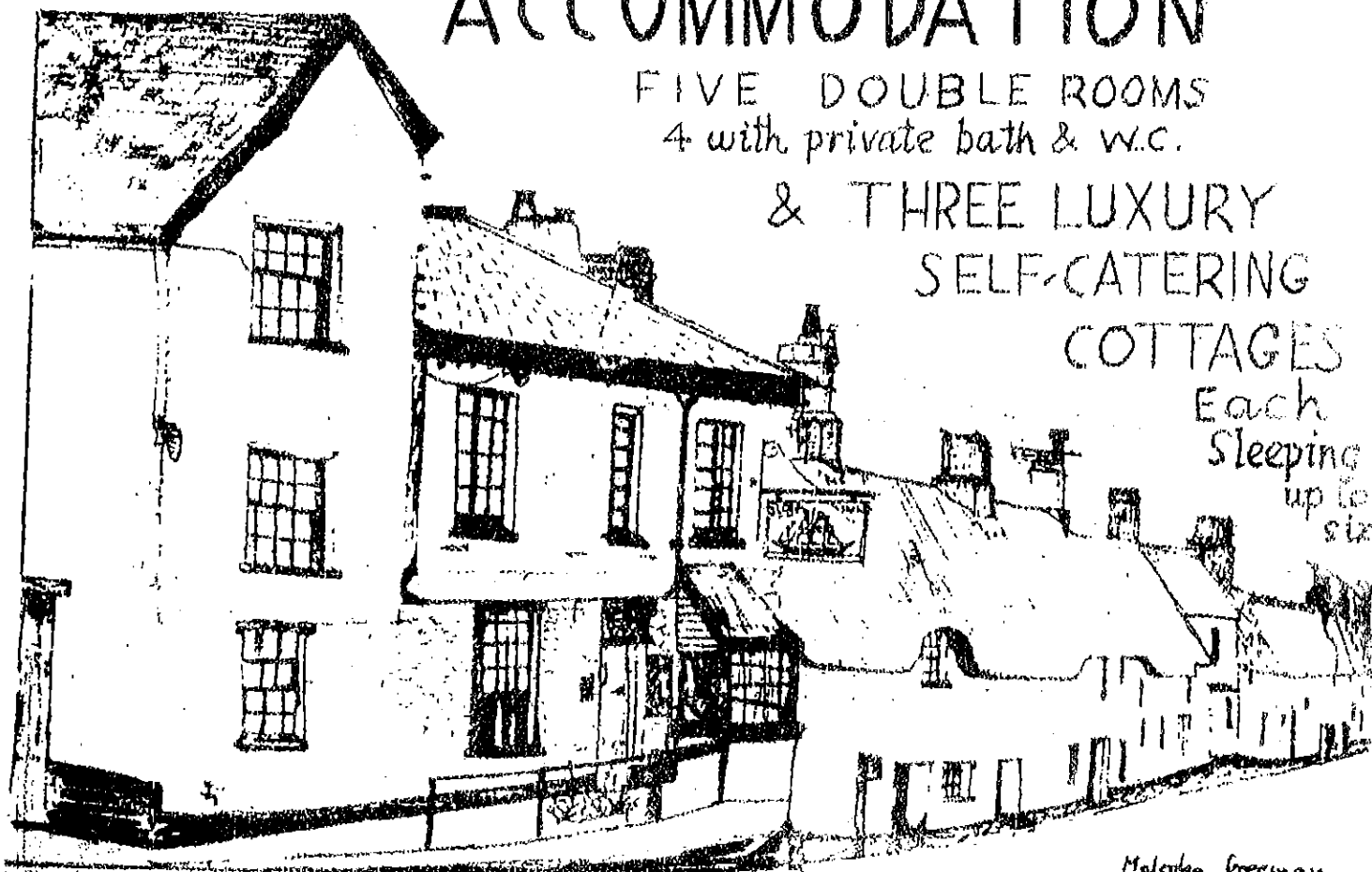
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