

VILLAGE VOICE



FEBRUARY - MARCH 2004



NUMBER 125
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2004

In the previous issue of Village Voice, published on 1st December 2003, we included an insert about the Broadband campaign. This exhorted readers to lend their support, register their interest, and assist the attempt to reach the 500-registration "trigger" figure which BT have set for the up-rating of our Sutton Cross exchange.

Amazingly, it took only another fifteen days for this target requirement to be achieved, and if BT are as good as their word we can look forward to having our Broadband connection in place within a matter of months.

Of course, it did not cost anything to put one's name forward in support of this scheme, and the tangible benefits it offers only come with a price-tag if one chooses to make use of them.

The new Parish Hall, however, needs not only the kind of overwhelming nominal support demonstrated for Broadband, but also a determined and sustained level of financial support from everyone in the parish. We are getting well on the way with our fund-raising, and great things are being done, but there is still a long way to go.

We make no apologies for banging this drum. We are totally committed to the cause, and will continue to urge support in every way possible until we have actually got - and paid for - the kind of Community Hall that our parish deserves.

And if our new Hall can have a Broadband connection for its own IT facility, so much the better.

Front Cover : Fallen Tree on S.W. Coast Path

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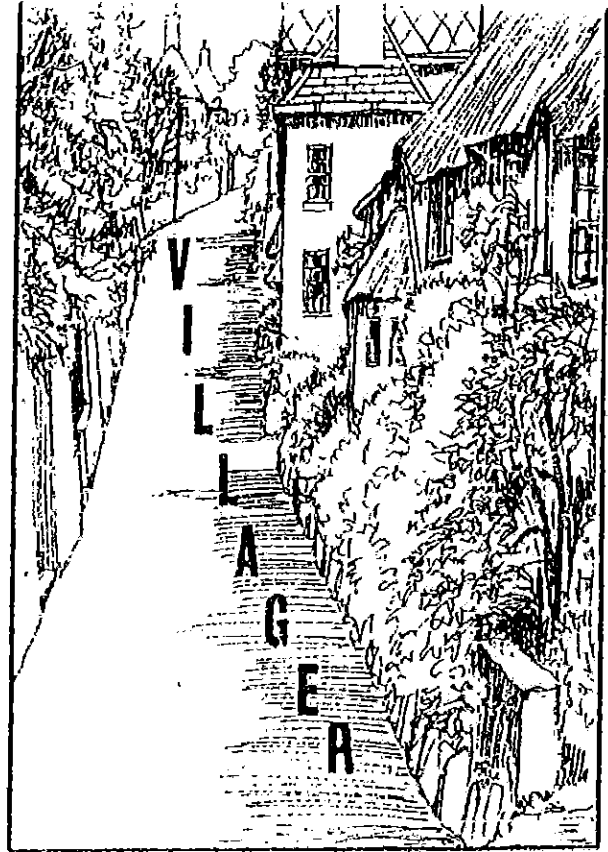
Published Bi-monthly

THE INSIDE STORY

LOR LUMME - AND HIS LONG POLICE RECORD

Many devoted readers have asked for more details of the late "Lor Lumme" Hill, the "patron saint" of our new Parish Hall, whose example during his lifetime has encouraged today's residents to make some remarkable contributions to the new hall's building costs.

By dint of much research and with the co-operation of Scotland Yard's Records Branch, Villager has been able to uncover not only details of some of the best tales from PC Hill's beats, but also two photographs of "Lor Lumme" himself.



PC 447 William Kendall Hill

One in uniform shows him as PC 447 of the Met's "S" Division just before his retirement in 1907. The other, in "best bib and tucker", was taken after his return to his Thurlestone roots and his new role as a very senior citizen, a strong voice on the parish council, and guardian of all local rights and the funds raised at Church fetes and the like.

Soon after his return, villagers started to pick up on his habit of saying "Lord Love Me" when anything pleased or surprised him. It always came out in a rich Devon burr as "Lor Lumme" and so his police nickname was quickly transferred to Thurlestone.

Police Constable William Kendall Hill, Warrant No. 66652, joined London's Metropolitan Police on June 5, 1882, when he was just 30. His family had the police in their blood.

He was born in Frogmore, in the now non-existent Quarry Cottages, shortly before his father was killed in a huge collapse of a wall of slate at Winslade Quarry. When his mother returned to her family in Thurlestone and married again, William was looked after by his aunts, two of whom were married to police inspectors in Plymouth. A police career was an obvious choice for young William.

In his teens he sailed to America and set about joining the New York Police, but after some dalliance with young American belles, his uncles finally called him home to take up a vacancy in the London Met.

He married Elizabeth Wales of Croydon, London, soon after joining "N" Division and then served for 25 years all over London, pounding beats in at least five divisions in the capital. Victorian London's underworld was a tough training ground for the blue-eyed six footer, but he soon learned. In their turn the pickpockets, ruffians, thugs, footpads, hooligans, and hoodlums also learned (the hard way) not to break the law on Constable Hill's beat.

In those days the constables of the Met were real policemen, relying on truncheons, bulls-eye lanterns, whistles and foot-power to enforce the law but, even so, certain areas were so rough that they always patrolled in pairs.

Lor Lumme's heavy truncheons have been hanging on the wall of a Thurlestone cottage since his retirement to the quieter life of this parish. Hanging close to them is a kind of "knobkerrie", the knob at the head of its short shaft drilled out and filled with lead.

It was his "souvenir" of a savage attack on him as he paced around the narrow streets and alleys of Soho's Chinatown. He suddenly came upon two footpads who, having felled a Chinaman, were busy rifling his pockets. As one of them leapt up and raised his lead-loaded weapon high, PC Hill's truncheon met it, or rather the elbow of the man swinging it. The elbow cracked and the man screamed and then ran into one of the narrow passageways nearby. The other thug jumped up, but fled empty-handed as Lor Lumme's whistle blasts were answered by other police whistles from the dark nearby.

When Lor Lumme told visitors this story in his primus-lamp-lit Thurlestone kitchen, he would punctuate the action with great sips of Bantham farm cider from the huge mug which doubled as his special tea cup, so big it needed a plate for a saucer. Though Lor Lumme never said whether either of the men was caught, he had a better end to the story than that. He told how he found the Chinaman waiting for him at his police station two days later. "And, Lor lumme," Lor Lumme would say, "he gave me a little box, and inside that box was this!" Then, with a triumphant flourish, Lor Lumme would open his hand to reveal in his palm a solid gold signet ring, shaped as the coils of a

snake, with two splendid little diamonds in its head as eyes. That ring is still in the family and a great granddaughter of Lor Lumme wears it on special occasions today.

But the Case of the Chinaman's Snake was not the closest PC William Kendall Hill ever came to police fame. He nearly caught Jack the Ripper! The Case of Jack the Ripper, from PC Hill's notebook, began early one night in a pea-souper of a fog. Lor Lumme and his partner were patrolling, in pairs as instructed, around the stews of Whitechapel. On that foggy night the other PC remarked that it was a waste of time for both of them to go right round one little square which had a tired collection of bushes at its centre.

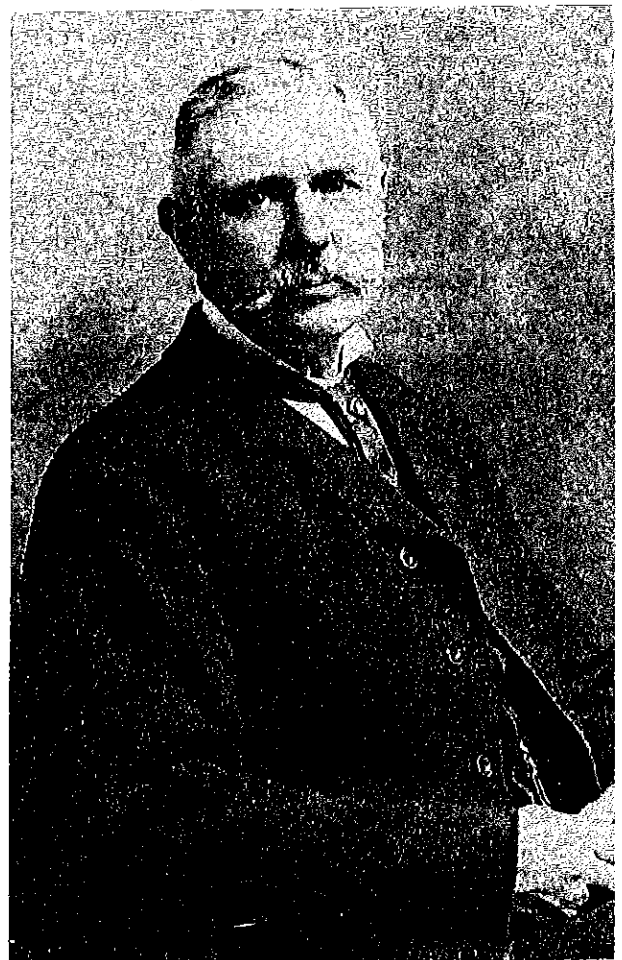
Lor Lumme didn't argue, though later he was to say that at the time he didn't think it a good idea to split up. He had only completed half of his solitary patrol when shouts came out of the dark. A police whistle shrilled alarm from the other side of the bushes. Lor Lumme ran towards the sound. As he did so a "shape", he couldn't call it anything else, came out of the fog, almost brushed past him, and disappeared into the pea soup. Hill tried to follow, but the runner made no sound and was soon just a swirl in the fog.

Back in the square, Lor Lumme found his partner, still sending out whistle blasts, standing over the mutilated and very dead form of an apparently middle-aged woman.

Lor Lumme always insisted that he knew at that moment that Jack the

Ripper was from the upper class - because his shoes made no sound as he made off in the fog. Shoes or boots, he said, as worn by the lesser classes, always made a noise when their nails met cobbles. No matter how much his friends in later life would press him he would never describe the knife work on the woman's body, not even after a few mugs of cider.

William Kendall Hill died in 1938 at the age of 87 and is buried in Thurstlestone Churchyard. Next to him is his wife, Elizabeth, who followed him in 1943, aged 80. Both, like everyone in the parish, were regular churchgoers. After church Lor Lumme held cider tastings in a tumbledown cottage containing two huge floor-to-ceiling barrels of cider at the back of his



William Kendall Hill

house. Women, rightly, in those days were not invited. Anyway, Elizabeth Hill did not approve.

What Lor Lumme Hill would make of the policemen of today is open to little doubt. You could never have called him politically correct. His names for so-called "ethnic minorities" would give any racial equality campaigners a series of heart attacks, but he was a good policeman of his time - and many readers of Villager feel we could do with fifty thousand more like him today.

While thinking about Lor Lumme just after Christmas, Villager tried to imagine the sort of New Year Resolutions he would make. One that would certainly appeal to him is to resolve never to buy Christmas cards

from any charity which dodges using the words "Merry Christmas" inside. "Festive greetings" is just a cop-out, and is only there because they hope it won't upset any ethnic customer. And that's the reason, of course, for not putting any nativity scenes on the cards.

Lor Lumme would certainly say it was time we reclaimed Christmas and stopped being scared of what a tiny minority of a tiny minority might think. The same thing should go for those charity shops that won't allow cribs and Christmas decorations in their windows. Don't buy from them and don't send their cards. As Lor Lumme would say, "Lord Love Us, Christmas is nothing to be ashamed of!"

Villager

Scam phone calls

Readers are warned to be on their guard against these insidious phone calls, which purport to advise you that you have won a cash prize, and that all you need to do is dial 0, or some other number, just to confirm your good fortune!

Be warned! You may think it can not do any harm to dial the number, but it can. You can be drawn into the scam without realising it, and find yourself landed with an horrific phone bill, charged at premium rates per minute. Village Voice is aware of one local victim of this kind of phone scam already.

The piece in the next column has been taken from the Trading Standards Office website on the internet, which underlines the threat. Don't become the next victim. Hang up!

Telephone Scams

There is a phone scam operating in the Grampian area at the moment which can cost victims hundreds of pounds. Victims receive a call saying they have won a holiday and asking them to press 9 for more details. The remainder of the call can take anything up to 20 minutes - charged to your bill at £20/minute. The simple way to avoid this is to hang up before you are prompted to press 9.

If you receive a call that you believe to be bogus please contact the Council's Trading Standards Team on 0141 578 8235. If your pet hate is telesales calls rather than market researchers you could consider registering with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707.

Claire Robertson, Trading Standards Office (0141 578 8032)

Parish Council Meeting

12th January 2004

News and Views by Citizen

Parish Hall

The tender forms for the building of the new Parish Hall were a little late in being returned, but Citizen has subsequently learnt that a number have come in and now every effort will be put into completing and submitting the lottery grant application forms. At least things seem to be moving forward, and much has gone on 'behind the scenes' to reach this stage in the parish effort for a new hall. We thank those people who are working so hard on the project.

A new 'Smarties' campaign will start again from the 1st February - it was very successful last time - particularly as we can now see real progress. After you have enjoyed the Smarties in the free tube which comes with this issue of Village Voice, it is time to start collecting your 20p pieces again - every tube filled makes £15 for our new hall fund! Further tubes for this purpose free on request (ring 560436).

Warren Hill footpath

The path is now some eighteen inches narrower than originally, mainly due to heavy lorries carving it away and surface water completing the job. It was agreed another load of chippings should be laid on top to make it less slippery, and that a meeting be arranged with South Hams District Council to discuss ways by which the steady erosion of the path can be stopped.

School

Concern was again expressed at the number of cars being driven into the village twice a day, particularly because as the plans for rebuilding the hall progress there will be no place for car parking. Although drivers seem loath at present to use the much safer alternative of parking in Court Park they will soon have no alternative. Numbers at the

school continue to increase with something like 75% coming from outside the parish and it was reported that the school may soon have 136 pupils.

West Buckland sewerage

Although no progress can be reported from either South West Water or the Environment Agency, it was reported that at least one resident has taken steps to improve their 'disposal situation'. Perhaps if everybody was as considerate, the need for a new sewer would not be so important.

Waste Management

With the impending problems arising over the disposal of garden refuse in future, the chairman felt that a parish Compost Centre may be the answer. The composted matter could be sold off to cover running costs. **Verity Palk** of South Hams Council is hoping to attend the next Parish Council meeting - 7.30 pm, Monday 16th February, Parish Hall - to discuss the subject.

The District Council has said that if second home owners contact the Waste Management Section at Follaton House (01803-862200) refuse bags can be collected within a day or two. This could help to cut out problems with seagulls and badgers when refuse has to be put out perhaps five days before the official collection.

Dog Fouling

Every effort is being made to get further containers for the disposal of dog faeces. A special request was made to those dog owners who, feeling that they have done their duty by using a dog poop bag, merely dump the bag into the hedge, sometimes hanging it from tree branches and using many other ways to save them the trouble of carrying it home for disposal. This is just as

great an offence as not tidying up at all.

Seaview Play Area

The District Council has agreed in principle to this idea and have asked the Parish Council to write officially to them outlining their plans. A sub-committee will be set up, to include a representative of Seaview residents if possible, to look at the idea, assess responsibilities, facilities, insurance cover, effect on nearby properties, and any restrictions on use that may be felt necessary.

Golf Club

Thanks to Thurlestone Golf Club were recorded for repairing the steps at Leasfoot Beach and also for successfully negotiating with the District Council over beach cleaning.

Brown Water

Finally, it was reported that parts of the parish suffered from 'brown water' during the Christmas period. One resident's discussion with South West Water indicated that it will be many years yet before water pipes throughout the parish are renewed - probably 2009 - which is a backward step from the promise, made some time ago, that they were scheduled to be done in 2007. Perhaps it is now getting a little too close for budget comfort, and they are beginning to panic!

In the meantime, it was suggested that anyone suffering with this discoloured water coming from their taps on a regular basis should write to SWW and request that a filter be fitted. A number of houses already have them and they are quite successful.

GIFT AID

Following our appeal in the June 2003 issue, **53** of our tax-paying readers have kindly completed a Gift Aid declaration, which has the effect of boosting ALL their contributions to the Parish Hall funds by **28%**. This generosity by the Inland Revenue is just too good to miss! We urge anyone else who pays income tax (or capital gains tax) not to let this great chance go begging - just complete the form below and return it to the Treasurer : Bill Clarke, 22 Meadcombe Road, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3TB.



GIFT AID DECLARATION

I am a UK tax payer, and I would like **THURLESTONE PARISH HALL** (registered charity number 282906) to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2002, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Full Name (block capitals).....

Signature..... Date.....

Address.....

.....Post Code

Village News Round-Up

Teresa Bryan-Brown

Thurlestone has lost one of its well-known, well-loved and indomitable residents, **Teresa Bryan-Brown**, whose funeral took place on 16th January. Aged 99, she was the wife of the late **Armitage Bryan-Brown**, Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford.

Teresa Bryan-Brown first came to Thurlestone on a family holiday at the age of eight, and this was her home, in part, from 1926 until she came to live here permanently. She was a devoted supporter of our parish church. A good tennis player and keen golfer, she was made a life member of Thurlestone Golf Club in the 70th year of her association with the club. Altogether she was a club member for eighty-four years and had a handicap up to the age of 88. When she first joined the golf club, she recalled, membership was £2.00 for women and £4.00 for men. Some years ago she presented a silver trophy for Seniors to the tennis section of the club, which she took much pleasure in presenting personally every year, the last such occasion being in 2003. She took a lively interest in the world and everything going on round her and that, coupled with her good sense of humour, made a chat with her always a rewarding experience.

She will be missed by her many friends. We extend to her son **Dr Chris Bryan-Brown**, and his wife, **Susan**, our condolences.

Sporting Golds

Two South Hams sports clubs have each received £750 towards the cost of new equipment. Both have Thurlestone parish connections - **Bantham Surf Life Saving Club**, which will now buy some new surf skis for their juniors, and **Kingsbridge Gymnastics Club** whose chairman is

Adrian Masters from the Village PO Store in Thurlestone. The gymnasts are putting their windfall towards some new mats.

Both clubs are Gold members of Sport South Hams. This is a new South Hams District Council initiative, launched in 2003, with standards of Gold, Silver, and Bronze, according to how well the club is run. Clubs that are 'Gold' can apply for £1000 a year in funding. Annual membership of Sport South Hams costs £10.00. Ring **Janet Little** on 01803-861219 for more information.

New Arrival

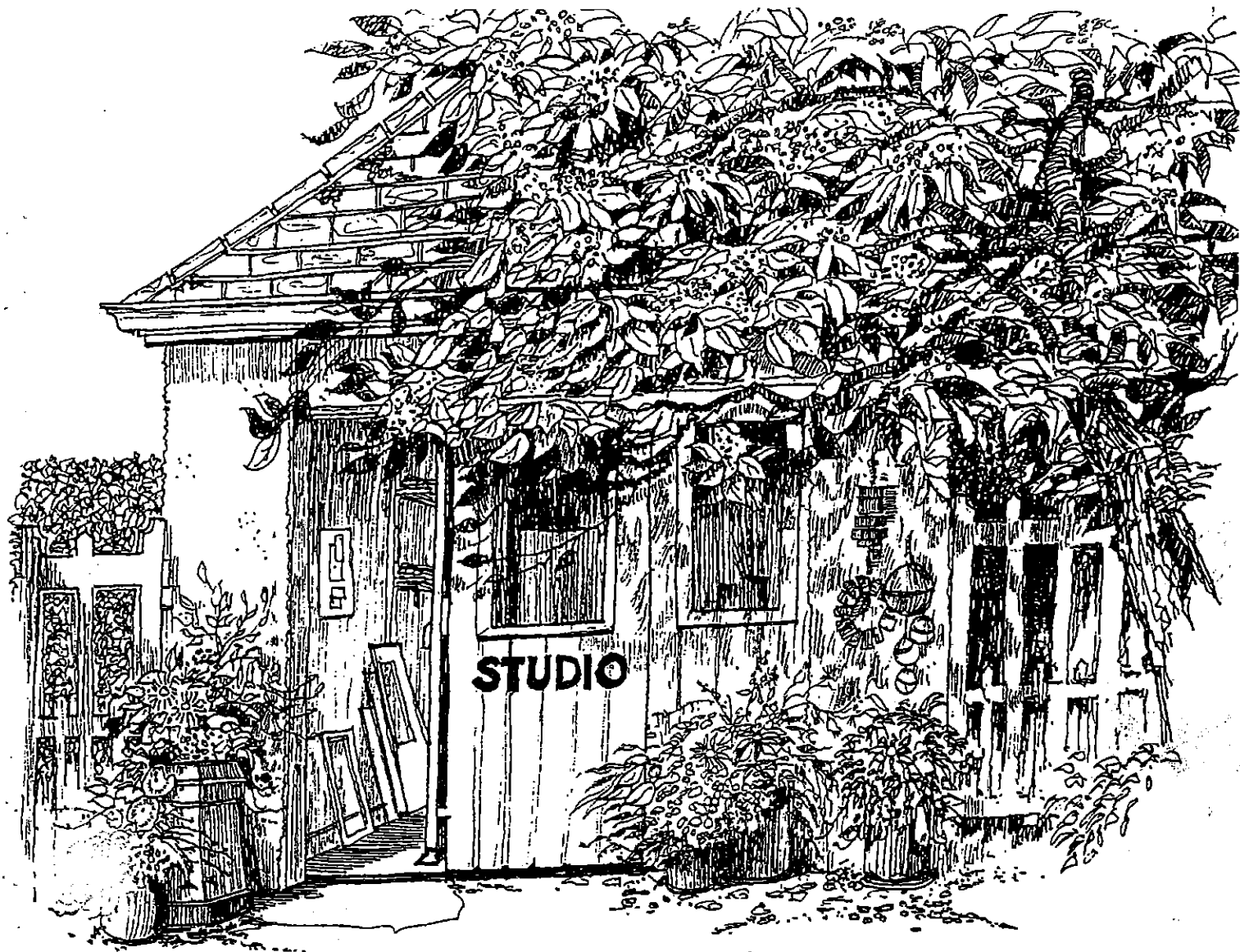
Congratulations to **Caroline and Andrea** of Cutaway Cottage on the arrival of their daughter, **Nicoletta** - a sister for Maisie.

Quiz Night

The second of the Parish Hall fund-raising quiz-nights took place on the 7th December, when the participants ate their picnic suppers and drank their fill before getting down to the business. **Mike and Brenda Jones** again drew up good questions and conducted events in a very professional style, keeping friendly control of a sometimes noisy gathering. The Parish Hall committee is extremely grateful to the quiz-masters, and as a result of the evening £387 was raised. Two teams having the same score at the end of the evening resulted in a final play-off between '**Bakers Half Dozen**' and the '**Optimists**', which saw '**Bakers Half Dozen**' victorious!

Beatle Drive

The years were rolled back on the evening of Saturday 17th January, when the Parish Hall throbbed to the sound of the Beatles, and some 50 residents and friends enjoyed the frantic fun of an old-time Beetle Drive.



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Hosted by **Roger and Carole Cole**, who dusted the cobwebs off the players' memory of how actually to play "Beetle", the session was quickly under way. Enthusiasm and competition soon had the rattling of dice, the frenzied marking of cards, and the swishing of a Caribbean-style maraca (Roger Cole's device for attempting to keep things under control), all adding to the general hubbub of sound.

After a breathless first half, there was a quiet pause for everyone to tuck into their picnic suppers, though the decibel level didn't seem to drop all that much. Then it was clear the decks for the second half, played at an even more enthusiastic and frenetic tempo, until the last "Beetle!" had been shrieked, and the scores were then totted up.

First prize on offer (the booby) went to **Ron Parkin**. The highest score of the evening was achieved by **Margaret Illingworth**, closely followed by **Ian Fraser**. Everyone agreed that the evening had been an enjoyable romp, and **Bill Clarke's** vote of thanks to the hosts included a demand for a repeat performance.

A raffle organised by **Pat Macdonald** raised £72, and altogether the evening produced £279 for the new Parish Hall fund. It also set a new "high" for local fun and entertainment. Are we now going to see Beetlemania sweeping the parish?

Parish Clerk appointed

Thurlestone Parish Council is pleased to report that **Cathie Tavender** has been recruited to fill the vacancy for a Parish Clerk, and that she is already hard at work. Cathie moved to the South Hams from Surrey some seven years ago, and works in Kingsbridge during the day at the Ropewalk Centre for adults with learning difficulties.

Speaking to Village Voice, she commented "*I am slowly finding my way about in the Clerk's job, and realising that there is rather*

more to the role than first meets the eye!"

Cathie can be contacted during the day on 853163 and in the evening on 852139.

Good luck, Cathie!

Waste Management

If you have not already thought up a good use for your old 'green' bin, an excellent idea for keeping it in service has been devised by **Nina Coward** of Buckland. This idea also helps to solve the problem of how best to handle two of those three (orange, white and blue) bags as they fill up and you are waiting patiently for the salvage collection to come!

On the upright rim of the bin, saw down a short slit - as far as the main body of the bin. Do the same directly opposite. Select and open out two of your three bags and, one at a time, slide the handles through the cuts, letting the bags hang down into the bin, back-to-back. Turn the outer edge of each bag over the bin rim on each side, to anchor. You can then fill the bags, inside the bin, and keep them dry and secure under the bin lid until ready to put them out. Then tie up the bags when you remove them.

Thank you, Nina, for a very bright and practical idea!

New Golf Club Secretary

Following the departure of **John Scott** at the end of December 2003, the post of Secretary / Manager was advertised nationally, and a shortlist of candidates drawn up from the numerous applications.

The successful candidate proved to be **Terry Gibbons**, currently the secretary at Sleaford, in Lincolnshire, who will be taking up his new appointment at Thurlestone with effect from 1st April 2004.

We hope to be able to tell you a little more about him in our next issue.

Puzzle Page

by Keith Farrelly

NINE-LETTER WORD-SEARCH

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

1. He comes from abroad
2. Going aboard ship
3. A raging inferno
4. Prominent or projecting
5. Going quickly down cliff-face
6. Bellows-driven music-maker
7. Of insurance calculation
8. Distasteful
9. No boundaries
10. Openings
11. They're expected to lose
12. A villain
13. Made with the entire grain
14. Totally impotent
15. How you pluck strings
16. Make it worse
17. To determine a settlement
18. End
19. Without equal
20. Playwright
21. ???

ORM	ARB	IAL	FOR	ANT	NON	ING
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EIG	UGN	MAT	OBT	ITR	REP	WHO
ACC	ATE	UAR	ITL	CRE	NER	PIZ
RTU	EST	DRA	POW	EMB	PAR	ABS
ERD	ZIC	RUS	ATE	TER	RAV	ORD
ARK	ARD	EAL	MIN	LIM	EIL	LEM
AGG	EIL	ESS	BOU	IVE	RES	UND
ANT	LEV	MIS	IAN	IST	ATO	ACT

TEN TEASERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the largest city in Europe? 2. Who was the founder of the Salvation Army? 3. Which is the oldest university in the United States? 4. How many bones are there in the average adult body? 5. Who was the inventor of the Hovercraft? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Where in an atlas would you find the Atlas mountains? 7. Who was the composer of the suite "The Planets"? 8. Which is the oldest rowing club in England? 9. Which animal's fur is known as ermine? 10. When was the musical "West Side Story" first performed? |
|--|---|

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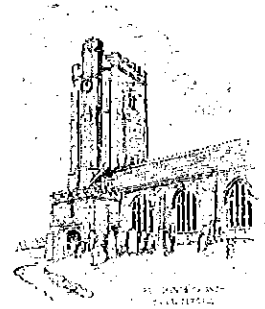
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Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

Andrew Girling writes:

DO WE HAVE A FUTURE?

We are privileged to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty. But for how long?

A recent article in the journal *Nature* predicts that climate change will cause the extinction of a quarter of all species of plants and animals by 2050. A conclusion reached by a group of distinguished international scientists.

There is now, they suggest, conclusive evidence that global warming is affecting natural ecosystems and human environments in many places.

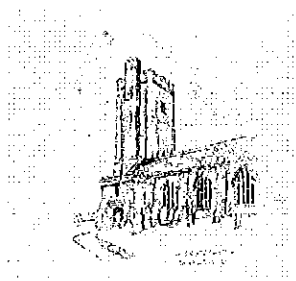
It would appear that the greatest threat to the future of the world is not so much that of terrorism but the total failure of many governments seriously to address this problem, especially the United States who refused to sign up to the Kyoto Protocol for the reduction of greenhouse gases and who produce more than 25% of their total emissions.

Many low-lying islands are already threatened by rising sea levels, including the Maldives. Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, Director of Kew Gardens, has pointed out that many species of plants are flowering six or more days earlier than 30 years ago. Migratory birds are arriving earlier and leaving later. He concludes: *We are heading for a massive wave of extinction comparable to the one that wiped out the dinosaurs.*

All of us are implicated in this terrible threat. We may moan at having to sort our rubbish into coloured sacks and make regular trips to the bottle bank or feel guilty that we drive cars which consume vast quantities of fuel and pollute the atmosphere, but that irritation is as nothing compared to the danger we face. It is essential that we promote energy conservation and develop non-polluting forms of energy. Our very existence depends upon it. Those wind farms may not look particularly beautiful on the hills but they may well help to save them and ourselves.

Whatever our religious views, we all recognise the fact that mankind has a responsibility for the creation. It is time we took that responsibility more seriously.

Andrew



All Saints Diary

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

Church Services

All Services are at Thurlestone unless indicated otherwise

You would be welcome at any services

FEBRUARY 1ST	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW) * 6.00 p.m. Benefice Christingle Service at West Alvington
FEBRUARY 8TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Matins (BCP)
FEBRUARY 15TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW) 6.00 p.m. Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Thurlestone
FEBRUARY 22ND	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)
FEBRUARY 25TH ASH WEDNESDAY	8.00 a.m. Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Thurlestone
FEBRUARY 29TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)
MARCH 7TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship for All Ages
MARCH 14TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW) 6.00 p.m. Benefice Evensong (BCP) at Churchstow
MARCH 21ST MOTHERING SUNDAY	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)
MARCH 28TH	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship * = Change from normal pattern

Regular Weekday Services

THURSDAY FEB 5 & MARCH 4	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham
OTHER THURSDAYS	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW)
THURSDAYS FEB 26 & MARCH 25	8.00 a.m. Informal Prayer

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PARISH HALL NEWS

By Rowland Cole

Annual General Meeting

The Hall's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd March 2004, 7.30 pm at the Hall. All the Officers have to be re-elected annually by the meeting and they are keen that readers should know this and want to encourage other nominations. If you have a nominee in mind, you must first obtain his or her consent and then submit the nomination, in writing, to the Parish Hall secretary by no later than 8th March 2004.

Try and make the effort to come along - by then we may have more exciting news!

New Hall

The building work has been put out to tender and, with the completed tenders now returned, our application for Lottery funding can be finalised and submitted.

Fund-raising

You will see reports of the latest fund-raising activities on behalf of the new building elsewhere in this issue. We never cease to be amazed by parishioners' generosity and their willingness to organise, join in, and contribute to whatever is going on. It is so very encouraging and important to have this kind of enthusiastic support.

It provides a nice opportunity, too, to meet other residents in a good social atmosphere. As more than one person has commented *"These special events we are having to raise*



money for a new hall make such good nights out, I will be sorry when they finish."

But why should we stop having them?

With the increased facilities of a new hall there should be even more encouragement to continue with them!

This time we have to thank **Mike and Brenda Jones** for the Quiz Night on the 6th December and **Roger and Carole Cole** for the 'Beatle' Drive on the 17th January. Both highly enjoyable and a lot of fun. In prospect is **Pat and John Crawford's** Barn Dance (Mrs Crottie's Ceilidh band) on Saturday, 14th February. Contact Pat on 560688.

Smarties

Having had such a successful response to the Smarties campaign (over £3000 to date) we think the time has come for another issue of tubes. So with this Village Voice, if you live in the parish, you should have some sweeties through your letter-box.

You know what the drill is - enjoy them then fill the empty tube with 20p coins which, when completed, can be sealed over and given to any member of the Parish Hall committee. We are absolutely delighted to say that two residents of the parish have kindly donated enough packets of Smarties for us to undertake this second campaign at no cost. They wish to remain anonymous but THANK YOU. Let us repay their generosity by doing really well with this second effort!



PARISH HALL FUNDS

By Bill Clarke



TOTAL FUNDS UPDATE

The Funds now stand at

£87,131.48

The following contributions were received in 2003:

Individual donations (62)	£18,406.50	
Bantham Bash 2002 (Bantham Sailing Club)	£13,500.00	
Smarties Tubes (Parish Hall Committee)	3,260.80	
Summer Fete at Swallows (Parish Hall Committee)	2,372.35	
Sponsored Walk (David Houghton)	1,726.00	
Big Raffle (Parish Hall Committee)	944.50	
Piano Recital (P.C.C.)	744.00	
Bridge Club Evening	505.30	
Village Voice	500.00	
20 th Century Quiz (Mary Hugo/Friday Bridge Club)	412.00	
Kingsmen Concert	398.00	
Quiz Night	387.00	
Lunch & Sweepstake (W.I.)	320.00	
Film Shows (P.O.T.S.)	300.00	
Thursday Art Group exhibition	237.60	
Coffee Morning (18 October)	217.50	
Keep Fit Club (Arthur Livett's Bird Talk)	207.38	
Catering at Coast Path Weekend (W.I.)	83.00	
Coffee Mornings August (P.C.C.)	40.19	
Sale of goods	7.00	£44,569.12

Contributions received in 2004 to date :

Beatle Drive (Roger and Carole Cole)	279.00	
Smarties Tubes	85.20	
Treasure Hunt (Gillian Marshall)	50.00	£414.20

Grand Total to date **£87,131.48**

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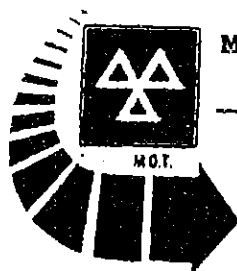
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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

Well Done

May I express my grateful thanks through the columns of Village Voice to the management and groundsmen of Thurlestone Golf Club for repairing the steps down to the beach at Leasfoot. They have done an excellent job and it will be much appreciated by the thousands who will use the steps later in the year.

Geoff Wilkinson
19 Mead Lane
Thurlestone

Dear Editor

Cybercafé?

One of the drop-off points for Aune Conservation Association mail is the mini-market / shop at St. Anne's Chapel, near Bigbury. Whilst on my rounds recently I found the shop installing a Cybercafé.

St. Anne's has an electoral roll of 70, compared with about 800 in the parish of Thurlestone.

Perhaps this is an innovation we should monitor?

John Crawford
Baidlands
Thurlestone

Dear Editor

Some Solutions?

I feel I may have all the answers to your disgruntled Buckland resident (Postbag last issue). Firstly, if she were to cut the now decaying weed in her own paddock the said voracious insects would be considerably

diminished, especially those lurking beneath the bramble leaves now straddling the public footpath crossing her property.

Regarding her motoring problems. If by chance her car is a large Mercedes with personalised number plate, I suggest she flogs it and buys a Mini which has a letter 'R' on the gear stick, as having followed her present car to town at a very respectful distance I have concluded there is no reverse gear on her large limousine.

Your correspondent must realise that the whole of the South West peninsula relies on the influx of visitors for its financial existence, and we must learn to assimilate the fact.

My final word of advice? Return to India, but a word of warning.. The fang of the cobra and the tooth of the tiger may be less tolerable than the insectivorous population of West Buckland.

Peter Giles
Belle Vue
West Buckland

Dear Editor

The Royal Yacht

If any reader is in the vicinity of Leith (Edinburgh) I can thoroughly recommend a visit to the Royal Yacht, now in permanent residence there. It is moored in the ancient dock area, and has been thoughtfully and conveniently prepared for tourists.

Via a lift or stairs you can enter at three different levels - top deck, middle deck, and engine deck - while a hand-held spoken commentary tells you all you want to know (including the fact that you may well smell cooking, as it is now regularly used for corporate entertaining).

Rosemary Mackay
Glen Lyon, Landpath

BOOKSHELF

The Blood Doctor

by Barbara Vine

(Penguin £6.99)

Although the title sounds gruesome it is actually an intriguing tale operating on three levels. The physician of the title is Lord Henry Nanther, a haematologist and, in his later years, Physician-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria.

Lord Martin Nanther is a biographer who has become intrigued by his great-grandfather's life, times, and his total obsession with blood. As the title indicates, this novel examines the subject of blood in all its implications - diseases, heritage, rights, and family relationships. Martin is researching this history during the time that hereditary peers are under threat in the House of Lords and there is many an amusing and informative insight into that Chamber.

The third strand of the novel is his wife's inability to carry a child to term, again illustrating the "power of the blood". As Martin delves into his family's history he meets many hitherto unknown relations - you will be grateful for the genealogical charts that appear at the front of the novel. Frankly he does not emerge as a very sympathetic character but the skilful unravelling of his subject's secret is gripping and the outcome, though hardly unexpected, is not as horrifying or ghoulish as Barbara Vine can be

The book is elegantly written and brilliantly researched. Although I did not personally sympathise with either of the Nanther peers, the subject-matter was gripping enough to hold the interest.

The Little Friend

by Donna Tartt

(Bloomsbury £7.99)

This is Donna Tartt's second novel, published ten years after her first *"The Secret History"* which achieved great critical acclaim.

The story is set in the American South and opens with the account of the senseless death of a nine-year-old boy found hanging in his garden on Mothers Day in the early 1960s. Robin had two younger sisters: Alison was four and Harriet a

baby when the tragedy occurred, and the novel traces the disintegration of a close-knit Southern family from that moment.

The story leaps ahead ten years, and Harriet is now a clever and personable twelve-year-old, who is determined to break the family's silence about her brother's death and discover how and why he died. The aftermath of his death and its pervasive effect on his family show that one cruel moment can bring an entire family to the edge of destruction. Harriett, however, is made of sterner stuff - she is determined, plucky and strong-willed and it is not surprising that her favourite characters are Robert Scott, Sherlock Holmes and Nancy Drew, and her favourite books *"Treasure Island"*, *"Oliver Twist"* and *"The Jungle Book"*, tales that somewhat reflect the framework of her own life.

Donna Tartt has written a carefully-crafted and literate novel which is in part a mystery, a Southern cultural history, a family saga, and a tale of good and evil. But it is above all the story of a young girl coming to terms with this imperfect world in which we all can only do our best.

MCH

Very Simple Food

by Jill Dupleix

(Quadrille £20 or Times Books First £26.95)

Once again there appears to be a dearth of good new fiction so I decided to venture into new fields and review a cookery book for a change. Jill Dupleix writes in *The Times* five days a week, so I am conversant with some of her recipes and have generally found them both innovative and appetising.

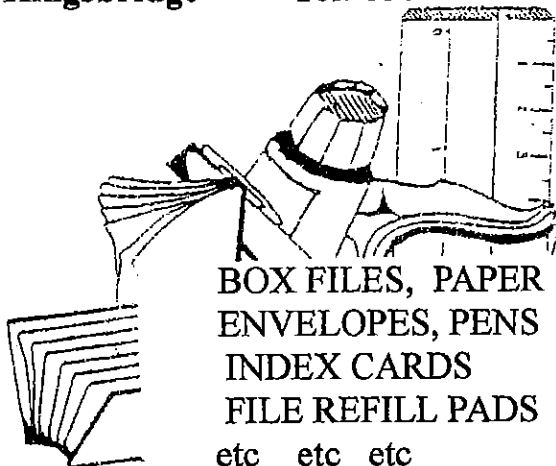
When I went to stay with my daughter-in-law, who is a very good cook, I took the book with me as a present, but had a good look at it first. It was very attractively produced with delightful illustration and tempting recipes. She seemed thrilled with the book and kept ringing me to tell me of the delectable dishes she had prepared. She particularly recommended the excellent selection of delicious sweets.

GW

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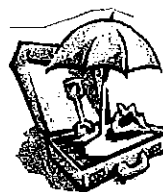
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AMONG MY SOUVENIRS

by Hubert Snowdon

The brief history of the local WI you printed in the October 2003 issue is interesting. At the time Thurlestone & West Buckland WI was founded, there was a great need for something more 'cultural' in our villages and within touch of rural lives which, with few exceptions, were unenlightened and still influenced by old established ways. The WI's worth is proved by its still being in existence and flourishing despite the passage of time. We knew there was more than the 'Jam & Jerusalem' label the sceptics tried to hang round the neck of the WI.

Instigated here by Mrs Radcliffe of Clanacombe, (aunt of Miss Anne Jenkins), who was the first WI President. Well I remember my mother, excited and keen to attend that first meeting in 1928 at the Rifle Club room at West Buckland. By 1931 the Bantham Hall had been built, and the WI met there. (You referred, in the article about the WI, to the Rifle Club room being in *Bantham* but, for the record, I must point out that it was in *West Buckland*!).

Mention of jams brings me to Prunella Dart's mouth-watering account of jam-making sessions at Horswell House. It brought back memories for me of such activities in our kitchen at Langmans Farm - mother surrounded by blackberries, apples, damsons and so on all steaming their sugary scents away on the air. I've kept up the tradition to date.

In 1914 recruiting officer Colonel Frank Hewitt, with a volunteer force, was responsible for building a rifle range and butt in Buckland meadow, along by the stream. The purpose was

to train the parish youth in the art of rifle-shooting. After the war, he, being public-spirited, was responsible for the Rifle Club room, as it was always known, being built for indoor games and as an evening meeting place for the parish's young men. It was let out for functions otherwise.

Eventually the Rifle Club room was demolished and the Bantham Hall converted into a dwelling-house. Both meeting places had served their purpose but the great changes the Second World War brought helped to bring about their demise. Our present Parish Hall in Thurlestone then took over the role of parish meeting-place.

I enclose a drawing of how I remember the Rifle Club room - built on the bank opposite Hewitt's house (since named 'Peep o' Day') and next to Mrs Hearsey's 'Tiddly Cot'. This had one room up and one room down and had interesting connections with the Club room during her lifetime. I've also made a drawing of the rifle range in Buckland Meadow, entered near the gate near Mill Corner. Tiddly Cot was sadly demolished by fire.



HARRY HUGGINS

IS STILL AFTER BIRDS FOR FUN

Each year our nonagenarian friend gives a party for his friends and relations. That is in February, to celebrate his birthday, and there is an interim dividend each summer. When we went to his ninetieth, three years ago, he greeted us at the door of the hotel, announced "Here are Harry and June. She is a better birdwatcher than he is". Why he added the latter statement I do not know. The assembled company thought it was a joke and laughed. I knew it was true. So did he!

There are things that a couple cannot do together. Like playing rugby. There are plenty of others they can - walk, sail, botanise, watch birds. And a man has to face it that if his wife goes along, there is a chance she will be better at it than he is. Birdwatching is spotting things and June has always been quicker at it than I. A good memory and super eyesight have been her stock-in-trade. I won't say she is quicker than the professionals who lead birding holidays - if they can't find birds they don't eat - but in her heyday she ran them close.

For some fanatical twitchers birdwatching is fiercely competitive - the ones who strive to have the longest list of sightings each year, the ones who have seen the biggest number of birds in Britain - somewhere around 550 species. There are some who have life lists running into thousands. One such was Phoebe Snettlinger, an American lady (I hope her shade will forgive me if I have not got the spelling of her name right).

They seem to get bigger numbers than we do on this side of the pond. For one thing, there are many more species in the Americas than there are in Europe. For another, they appear to have a fashion for huge life lists. If memory serves, Phoebe got to well over 7000 birds out of a world total of between 9000 and 10000 species. Opinions differ as to how many there are. Then she was killed in a motor accident. A friend who met her said she was a very nice lady. But twitching, if you take it seriously enough, can be disastrous for employment and relationships.

However, these fanatics are the few and most

birdwatchers are not competitive. We have been to dozens - no, hundreds - of field meetings with various societies and no one ever tries to see more than the others. It has never concerned me that June finds birds quicker than I do (it is just jolly useful) nor that some of our friends have problems in seeing things. Poor old chap, his eyes are not what they were!

Each issue of "Birds", the RSPB magazine, has a piece by Simon Barnes. The biographical note says he writes on the environment and sport. In a recent column he wrote "*Transcribe my field notebook into my diary. Send in my sightings of the Golden-winged Warbler (a very unusual American vagrant) to the rarities committee. Recognise a Pectoral Sandpiper (a rather more likely American vagrant) in a crowd of Dunlins, thanks to my acute eye and long familiarity with both.....*"

He writes not to describe nor to instruct but, with his tongue firmly in his cheek, to entertain. He admits of course that he has not done any of these things. He reckons there are good birdwatchers, which he does not define, and bad birdwatchers, which he does not define either. He makes a plea for the latter, feels there is a growing tendency that you can't go out and do something unless you are a real expert at it. I don't think I agree with that - because here at Thurlestone you see a lot of people playing golf who can hardly aspire to be Tigers. But they must be enjoying themselves or they wouldn't be doing it.

To most of us, a good bird watcher is one who sees most things and can identify them. Just as important, one who brings his telescope and tripod so you do not have to carry yours. Perhaps his good bird watcher is one like Humphrey who compiled the Devon Tetrad Atlas of Breeding Birds - published fifteen years ago after nine years' fieldwork and now out of date. People are now working on another. The county is divided into about 1800 tetrads, which are little squares of land two kilometres by two kilometres. He inveigled enough people -

around 300 of them - to visit every tetrad and record the birds breeding there.

Usually one visit was not enough and they had to make several. One man did over 350. Humphrey and his wife did nearly 300. We did 20 - we didn't come on the scene until the work was half done. Some of us were deputed to write articles about individual species, otherwise Humphrey completed the whole project himself. You could call him a good bird watcher. In fact he is a superb bird watcher. But in some stage of the production of the atlas, he lent me his binoculars. They were so dirty you could not see through them. Which showed how little watching he had been able to do.

Simon Barnes' "bad bird watcher"? He doesn't mean the one who identifies everything wrongly, nor frightens away the bird everyone is trying to look at (yes, you do come across them). He means someone whose knowledge is maybe limited, but enjoys birds. He calls himself, for the purpose of this article a "good bad birdwatcher". He says the point of bird watching is not making lists, nor seeking rarities, nor making a contribution to science. The point of birdwatching is watching birds, and we can all do that.

But it is not all that easy. You need binoculars. You don't need those fancy Leicas which Bill Oddie has been wearing in his recent tv series - little change out of £1000. Fifty pounds worth will do. But, on my knees, I implore you not to buy the zoom things advertised in the Telegraph - weight about 12 ounces, zoom 8 times to 100 times magnification. About £130 straight down the drain. The 8 times might be all right but when you zoom to greater magnification you won't hold them steady and so little light will get through that you will see nothing.

You will need a field guide. In our car we carry the *Pocket Guide to the Birds of Britain & NW Europe*, published in 1998 by Pica Press. Chris Kightley and Steve Madge wrote the words - both vastly experienced at leading bird tours. I don't know Kightley, but I do know Steve, and birds just come to give themselves up for him. Dave Nurney did the pictures - he does a lot for *Birdwatching* magazine. Don't buy a book illustrated with photographs - an artist can show far more of what you need to know. But this book only covers a bit of Europe and if you see

something which does not appear to be in it you think it must be some rarity from foreign parts.

But if you get a book which shows everything, or nearly everything, like the Collins Bird Guide, published 1999, you are likely to be even more baffled. In Hope Cove we had a friend, sadly no longer with us, who saw in his garden a Tristram's Grackle. It must have been. He went



An Israeli postage stamp of Tristram's Grackle

right through the book and that was the only bird which fitted. Tristram's Grackle (the Collins Guide calls it Tristram's Starling) looks like a Blackbird with orange outer flight feathers.



Tristram's Grackle

It lives in the mountains and wadis of Sinai and southern Israel. We saw them fluttering and yodelling at the top of buildings in Eilat. Never

seen in Britain, as far as I know. Our friend, who knew a little about philately and painted a good watercolour but knew nothing about birds, was distinctly peeved when we were sceptical.

When you have got the book it is still not easy. Most field guides list the birds in much the same order, and right weird it seems to be. The people who think about these things have decided birds should be set out in what is thought to be the order of their original development, starting with the most primitive and ending with the most advanced. So they begin with Ostrich (you won't find one of those wild in Europe), go on to divers (what the Americans call Loons) and finish with buntings and finches. Some books have tried to list their contents by size, or by where you are likely to find them. It hasn't worked and you just have to memorise the list. Not as hard as it might seem because nearly all birds are grouped in families. Mind you, once you know the list they will change it again. They haven't done so lately but DNA studies have convinced some folk there ought to be a change.

So you have your binoculars and book. But it still seems appallingly difficult. Find a buddy who can help you get started. If you can't find one, go to classes, like those at Slapton Ley field centre, or join the local group of the RSPB at Exeter or Plymouth. They take people on field outings, and so does Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society.

As Simon Barnes says, you will discover that Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff are more or less identical; so are Marsh Tit and Willow Tit; so are Common Terns and Arctic Terns. There are those people who can tell all of these apart just by looking at them. It is easier if they make a noise - that helps. As he says, it is just too hard to be a good bird watcher. But the answer is to be a bad bird watcher. You don't have to identify everything. Steve Madge, already mentioned, and an acknowledged world leader at identifying birds, showed us a slide once and said he had not the slightest idea what bird it was. He knew it was a Shrike, and that was as far as he could get.

When you go to the theatre it is to enjoy the opera. When you go to a gallery it is to enjoy the pictures. So with bird watching - enjoy the birds. We spent many an hour, and quite a lot of petrol, chasing round the countryside looking at

tetrads for Humphrey's atlas. Then someone did an atlas of wintering birds and we surveyed for that, followed by Buzzards and Skylarks. We count Herons nesting at Orcheton and once a month we totter along the Erme estuary to count the birds on the river. We enjoy all that. But time tells, and we can't walk like we did, we have got slower in most things we do and the day-to-day effort of living takes us longer. But we are lucky in where we live. We have a garden. During the past winter we have seen Goldcrests, Long-tailed Tits, Blackcaps - yes, summer warblers, but some of them, thought to be eastern European birds, winter with us. Goldfinches nested in the garden, so did Robins and Blackbirds, and once or twice we have seen a Song-thrush.

In the flooded valley below there have been Moorhens, over twenty at times, Coots, Mallards, Wigeons, Teals by the hundred, Lapwings ditto. Our greatest joy was a roost of Starlings. During the day these scatter about the fields to feed but on winter nights they gather in thousands to roost together. Beginning about the end of November they chose the reeds and rushes in our valley. They had never done so before to our knowledge and may never do so again. At around four p.m. they started to arrive from the west, sometimes a dozen at a time, sometimes several hundreds. Numbers built up to so many thousands that we could not begin to guess how many. Backwards and forwards the flock flew, looking like smoke in the sky. We think this is a defensive ploy to baffle birds of prey which might try to seize one. We saw a Sparrowhawk after them and one night when it was almost dark there was a Peregrine prowling - though I imagine he would have preferred a Lapwing, being bigger. As night fell the Starlings all plunged into the reeds, a dozen or so to a stem. In the morning, about eight a.m. while we were drinking our tea in bed, they all surged off, over Thurlestone and on we know not whither.

But the weight of so many birds broke down the vegetation. After the heavy rains at the end of December the water level rose, the reeds had too little freeboard to support so many and the roost went elsewhere but, in the words of the song, it was swell while it lasted. All this we saw without going outdoors. *That is enjoying birds!*

Harry Huggins

KATE'S KITCHEN



Happy New Year to you all - and as there's nothing like a good beef casserole to keep out winter's cold, here is a rather special one!

I was reminded recently of a Mary Berry recipe called "Thurlestone Beef". We ate this years ago with Kay and Bob Morley, the owners of what used to be the old Village Stores in Thurlestone (now Cob Cottage). Mary Berry used to take holidays in the village and stayed at Heathfield, the home of Mr & Mrs Darby.

The quantities from Mary Berry's recipe given below are for twelve servings, but the quantities shown can be halved or quartered for smaller groups. She would actually bring one half of the casserole to Thurlestone for the first evening's dinner, and keep the remaining half for use on her return home.

Kay Morley has very kindly reproduced the recipe for use in Village Voice!

THURLESTONE BEEF

Ingredients

4lb stewing steak cut into 1" cubes	2 onions, chopped
3 rashers streaky bacon, snipped	2 cloves garlic, crushed
3 tablespoonsful sunflower oil	1 lb carrots, cut into thin strips
3oz flour	Quarter pint Port wine
Heaped teaspoonful curry powder	1½ pints Beef stock
8 pieces celery	2 x 14oz cans chopped tomatoes
Salt and freshly ground black pepper	

Method

- * Heat oil in large flameproof casserole and brown meat and bacon in batches.
- * Sprinkle in flour and curry powder and mix well
- * Add remaining ingredients and bring to the boil
- * Cover casserole dish and place it in a pre-heated oven set at 160C.
After two hours check that meat is tender
- * Sprinkle with freshly chopped parsley
- * Serve with noodles

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IN YOUR GARDEN

I was delighted when a beautiful, large, planted basket arrived on Christmas Eve but my face fell a little when I realised what a mix of plants it contained, most requiring different growing conditions to sustain their lives. I have my lovely Christmas present in a coolish place and applied a small quantity of water. Here's hoping! If it is not too late, a few notes on some Christmas plants' likes and dislikes follow.

Poinsettias don't like to be too cold - not less than about 55F - and they like to be near the light. They don't like draughts. Do not over-water but when the compost becomes dry, give it a good soaking with tepid water, and remember not let it stand in water. On the other hand, Peace Lilies (*Spathyphyllum*) like to be kept moist and lightly shaded. Cyclamen should not be over-watered - wait until their leaves wilt before watering them from the base, not from the top. Standing the pot in a bowl of water for about 15 minutes is a good idea (but you can't do that if they are planted in a basket with other things).

Winter cherry and Ivy are fairly easy-going. Coping with Azaleas indoors can be difficult as they very much dislike central heating - they relish cool and humid conditions. Stand the pot on a dish of gravel or pebbles which is kept moist. Better still, if you have a cool greenhouse put the pot in there. Don't forget, too, that spent Hyacinths can be placed in a garden border, in a deepish hole, and they will flower for you outdoors next year.

One of the loveliest of plant families is probably at its best as I write - Hellebores. If you want to pick them so you can admire their beauty in the comfort of your own home remember it is sometimes difficult to stop them from flagging once they are cut. The secret is to take a jar of water out with you as you pick, cut the stalk on the diagonal and, *without a second's hesitation*, plunge the flower into the water. This prevents an air-block from forming which stops the

moisture travelling up the stem to keep the flower going. If you are really into Hellebores, Carol Klein has a 'Hellebore Open Day' on Sunday 22nd February, at Glebe Cottage Plants, Pixie Lane, Warkleigh, Umberleigh, EX37 9DH (phone 01769-540554 to check before you travel). What a good excuse for a jaunt up-county!

Look at winter-flowering Pansies in your outdoor pots, particularly when they are under the cover of a porch, against a wall or overshadowed by the house eaves, and don't let them dry out. Keep a watch for greenflies too on the growing tips - give them the old 'finger and thumb' treatment, or spray. Firm new shrubs and plants in the ground as frost often lifts them.

What used to be called *Iris stylosa* and now *Iris unguicularis* - winter flowering or Algerian iris - are going well this year as, along with all the members of their tribe, they enjoyed getting baked in last year's sunshine. At the start of winter, remember to give them a bit of a brush up by removing dead leaves which are swept into their clumps by winter winds, thus providing a cosy home for the nasties that love to eat them when they are in bud. Drop a slug pellet or two into the clump. Pick them when they are in tight bud and enjoy their unfurling in the house. Don't give them over-rich soil, but a weak solution of liquid fertiliser in about August does them good.

When buying new plants look for the label 'AGM' which some will bear ('Award of Garden Merit', the Royal Horticultural Society's assessment for excellence).

I am sure you are all filled with enthusiasm for the beautiful new things you are going to grow in 2004. If you haven't made your plans yet, do so without delay!

Ladybird



At the Bridge Table



As mentioned in my previous article, the order of precedence for defensive signals when partner leads to a trick is in general to show **attitude** first, then **length**, and when either of these messages seems appropriate, it is **suit preference**. However, partner's main interest will often be in the number of cards you hold in a particular suit. The normal method of showing "count" is to play high-low for an even number of cards, and low-high for an odd number. It will usually be obvious when a defender is showing length rather than attitude. For example :

Partner's opening lead is the Ace and East plays the 7. West can easily interpret this card as showing suit length, as clearly his partner holds no high cards. In practice West will also have little difficulty (from sight of his own hand and dummy, combined with the bidding), in reading the 7 as being from four cards rather than two.

	QJx	
AKxxx		9752
	x	

	KQxxx	
64		Axx
	Jxx	

Count is particularly useful in telling a defender how long he needs to hold up a stopper. In the hand shown on the left, whichever way South tackles the suit, West must play high-low (an "echo") to show an even number of cards. East can then see that he must hold up his Ace until the third round.

In the case of the suit shown on the right, on the lead of the King from the South hand, West plays the 2 and East ducks, knowing that he can safely win the next round.

	QJ10x	
982		Axxxx
	K4	

	AKx	
x		9752
	QJ10xx	

Similarly, when declarer is running a long suit a defender can tell his partner how many discards he will have to make. On the left, when South leads Ace & King from dummy (North), East echoes to give West the important information that he has to find four discards.

As always the use of attitude and length signals is very much a matter for agreement between partners. Some prefer to show attitude only on the opening lead and count thereafter. Commonsense is the key and clearly you do not signal with a high spot card that may be needed later.

Here by way of light relief is the famous deal used by Ian Fleming in "Moonraker". Some of you may remember that James Bond (South) fixed the deal so as to set up Drax (East). The bidding was very short. Bond opened 7 Clubs and understandably Drax with 31 high card points doubled. Bond then went well over the top by redoubling and surely Drax should have smelled the proverbial rat. Perhaps the greed of this villain would not allow him to try 7 Hearts, which only goes one down on a Diamond lead. I leave you to work out how Bond made his contract. But there is a message here for those who place too much value on points and have too little regard for shape.

Victor

N/ S Vulnerable		Dealer South																					
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HORSWELL DIARY

Dear Earthlings,

After the excitement of the past few weeks and the slow but perfectly executed touch down to post-Christmas normality, it was tempting to remain immobile on my landing module and enjoy a well-earned rest. But Mission Control would have none of it. *"Now is the time...."* came the signal, between mouthfuls of champagne and much back-slapping and self-congratulation, *".....to let the wagons roll! Let the exploration begin!"*

And so, slowly, I have been unfolding from my turbid post-turkey inertia and taking stock of my preparedness to launch into the unknown and potentially hostile terrain of the year 2004. Looking down at my pallid, partially deflated airbag I fear there is much work to be done. However, after twelve days of self-assessment, spatial gymnastics and gradual re-alignment, here I am rolling down the exit ramp of the year 2003 to sample the alien landscape of the world around me.

First, it is not as cold as I had expected. In fact, it is surprisingly mild for the time of year. Camellias and snowdrops are already in bloom, and the buds on daffodils and rhododendrons look fat and full of promise. Guinea fowl mingle happily with the ducks, and peacocks preen their gleaming feathers on sun-warmed steps. So far, so good! Oh, but bear with me a moment whilst I re-adjust my main antenna and turn it towards Earth. Ah yes, that must be it. I can still hear them cheering at Mission Control. Call me sentimental if you will, but after the recent negativity of war and politics (and not forgetting the sad demise of my dear friend Beagle), the sound of success reverberating through my microphones makes me blush with pride.

Stretching upwards through the rare Horswellian atmosphere with my 'thermal emissions spectrometer' I search unsuccessfully for other hot-spots of joy in the universe. The best I can find for the moment is the admission by Jacques Delors, the architect of a united Europe and a single currency, that Britain was indeed correct to take the decision to stay out of the Euro. Ha! It doesn't require a digital brain to see the logic in that! Otherwise things seem little changed: Osama Bin Laden is still issuing threats, Prime Minister Blair is still issuing promises, and his government is still issuing automatic penalties for any misdemeanour that can be milked for revenue.

The sight of a man in Kingsbridge bent beside his vehicle holding a ruler nearly stops me in my tracks. Adjusting the focus on my micro-scanner I can clearly see him measuring the distance between the kerb and the wheels of his car to check whether or not he has infringed the 50cm gap allowed! I immediately deploy my speed sensors to ensure that my forward velocity remains at a steady 4cm per second. If the long tentacles of government intervention have already reached South Devon it can't be long before a fixed penalty fine is delivered with the next orbit of the 'Mars Express'.

Picking my way carefully between the rocks, lest they conceal hidden speed cameras, I turn my detectors towards the increasingly prevalent thought police: I find myself in a crazy world where prison warders are afraid to use the term 'black' coffee for fear of being labelled racist and Prime Time television presenters are ousted for words made inflammatory by their lack of context. And yet it is the same world where British Home Secretary David Blunkett, with a misjudged sense of gravity,

confided that his first thought on hearing the news that mass murderer Harold Shipman had "topped himself" was to "open a bottle" by way of celebration! It makes my logical robotic brain whirr at the iniquity.

Hold on! Mission Control are sending me a signal. Apparently they have selected specific rocks for me to test for signs of liquid water. I'll head towards the one they have nick-named 'Sashimi'. As I approach with my 'rock abrasion tool' extended my cameras tell me that the name is almost prophetic. It is not a rock, but a dead fish. A salmon, clearly stamped with the words "Polluted in Scotland". Half of it has been consumed, suggesting that life pre-salmon may indeed have been a possibility.

pre-programmed robot can get depressed at times.....

But there are some things even I can't take too seriously. One is Britney Spears' assurance, after 55 hours of a marriage that was later annulled, that she "Still believes in the sanctity of marriage." The other is Geordie Greig, editor of Tatler Magazine, who says, "Plastic surgery has become an essential part of society. It is quite common at this time of year for a woman to come into a surgery with a cheque for £5,000 from her husband for cosmetic surgery for her Christmas present." Now what kind of woman, in what kind of world, would take a gift like that as a compliment?



Spirit of Horswell investigates Thurlestone Sands by moonlight

I trundle on through the barren landscape towards another interesting rock formation shaped like a pyramid. I scan it carefully with my 'microscopic imager' sending video footage back to Mission Control for interpretation. My voice detector picks up a long embarrassed silence and then, at last, the confirmation that the 'rocks' are actually a pile of unused military body armour mislaid, according to Mr. Hoon, "due to problems with the army's asset-tracking system." Oh dear. Even a

Humans make life so complicated. Remind me to thank Mission Control that they made me a mere machine, or as Chris Lewicki, my flight director once said "a bucket of bolts and parts". You have to be tough in my line of work. Just give 'em the facts.

What good is emotion anyway? Who cares if you care? Look what happened to poor Beagle. He just couldn't hack it. Too sensitive.

That's all for now. 2004 certainly looks like being an eventful year..... I think I'll just turn right at the next crater and re-charge my batteries....

Yours ever,

Spirit of Horswell

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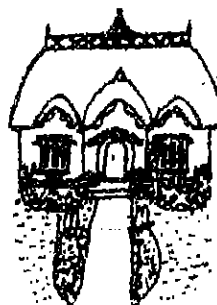
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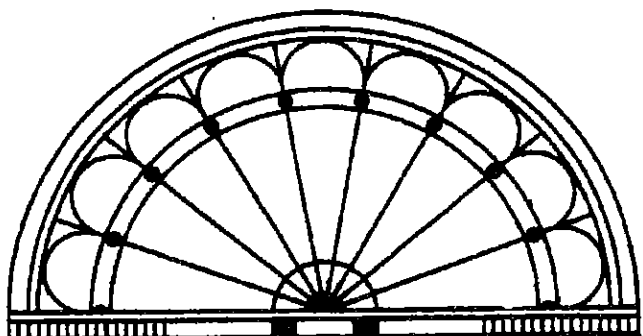
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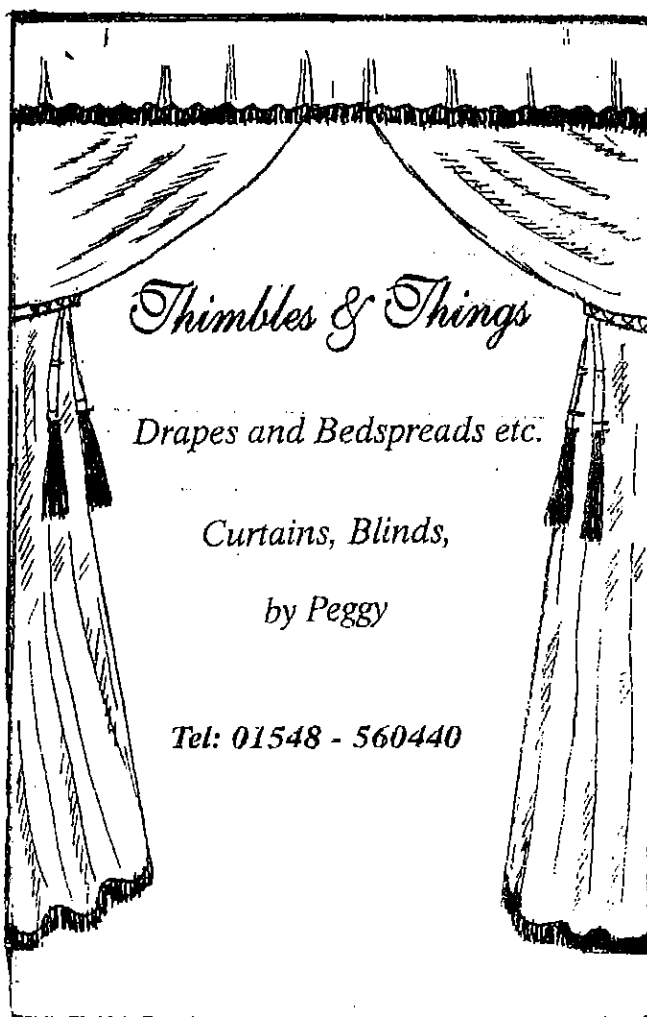
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NEWS FROM THE WI

December

We had a very successful Christmas Carol Service at Thurlestone church on the 12th December and thank **Reverend Andrew Girling** for conducting it for us. Our ad hoc choir performed well and there were readings by **Dorothy Abel, Dorothy Candy, Pat Clarke, Pat Crawford, Judith Le Grice, Pat Macdonald and Sheila Ward**. Some 50 members, including some from nearby WIs, attended and a church collection raised £67 for the Children's Hospice South West. Tea and mince pies at the Parish Hall followed and the small profit made on the raffle was donated to the Parish Hall.

The following week saw members sitting down to a delicious Christmas lunch, prepared by **Joan Booth**, at which outgoing President, **Dorothy Candy**, gave us a marvellous reading of "Keep Yer Clothes on, Ada" (reproduced overleaf).

January

This was the time our new President, **Judith Le Grice**, chaired her first official meeting, and she presented Dorothy with a gift from the members in thanks for the considerable work she had undertaken on their behalf during her term of office. New member, **Sybil Williams** was welcomed.

David Snelling came over from Ivybridge and told us a wonderful story of his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela accompanied by his hinny (father horse, mother donkey), who carried the baggage whilst David walked alongside on foot - over 2000 miles! They started in the Massif Central in France and followed the ancient pilgrim paths until reaching their goal, the north-west coast of Spain and Santiago.

What a story! He has recorded it in detail as an heirloom to pass on to his family in the hope that his descendants will also undertake, in different ways, their own journey and adventures and record them. The duo also raise money and hope that by the time they 'retire' their charities will have benefited to the tune of £40,000.

Jerusalem

At the request of **Val Brown** a vote was taken, which was carried, to bring back the singing of Jerusalem at the start of meetings, as we now have several pianists in our membership. The singing of the WI's 'signature tune' had been dropped some ten years ago but it was felt that it was time to restore the status quo!

Annual Resolutions

Five members attended the county WI meeting at Charleton on the 9th January, where the following Resolutions received the greatest number of votes.

(1) to extend the law on trafficking of women and children,

(2) to oppose the growing of genetically-modified crops in the UK

(3) to oppose future building on flood plains,

It was hoped these would be included on the agenda for the national WI meeting in June at Sheffield. **Stella Fernyhough** the WI's county chairman was present and reported that two earlier meetings in Devon had also chosen number (1) as of most concern.

Coming Events

23rd February: A Skittles & Supper evening at the California Inn.

29th April : A West Alvington bluebell walk, with supper to follow at the Ring O' Bells.

A list was circulated on which members interested in forming a book-reading club and a play-reading group were asked to put their names.

The February meeting will have **Bob and Sheila Mousley** as guest speakers and their subject will be 'Five Gardens'. If non-members, including gentlemen, would like to hear the talk, please come along at 3 pm and then stay and have a cup of tea with us. You will be welcome.

"Keep yer clothes on, Ada"

(The recent showing of the film 'Calendar Girls' caused Jan to give his wife, Ada, the following advice.)

"Ere boy", said Jan "Did 'ee read 'bout they women up the line
Strippin' down to nothin' fer a calender design?
I 'ad to lay the law down an' I done 'um bye 'n' bye
I said 'Keep yer clothes on, Ada, down the local WI'
"Oh don't be daft" says Ada, "They ain't gettin' me undressed
Why, even bathroom mirrors don't see me without me vest"
"Thass true" says I "You was never one that ventured off the path,
You're the only woman I da know that dress to take a bath".
"But I'm frightened you'm be tempted, down at one o' they affairs.
I wouldn't trust that Mildred Potts, fer all 'er fancy airs.
I seen 'er 'usband swimmin' once, down off the Golden Mile,
An' all that 'e was wearin' was a trilby and a smile".
"You keep yer clothes on, Ada, as a decent woman do.
If they're lookin' fer a dolly-bird, make sure i'tidn't you.
An' when you sing *Jerusalem*, don't close yer eyes no more,
Or you'll be in the *Daily Star* on pages 3 and 4'.

"See, there's some thass 'igh and mighty, an' dainty as you wish,
But when they get together, 'tis a different plate of fish.
Yer mother 'ad it right, dear maid, remember what she said.
You keep yer clothes on Ada, an' don't ever nod yer 'ead'.
"You stick to makin' chutney, and when you 'and 'um in
You button up your overcoat right underneath yer chin.
An' if they're takin' photographs an' wantin' you to pose,
You be a lady, all refined, and punch 'em on the nose".
"Imagine down the paper shop, the stick there'd be fer me
If you was on a calendar fer all the world to see.
They'd stand there starin' goggle-eyed, like pixies down the dell".
"Yer lookin' peaky, Jan" they'd say "But Ada's lookin' well!"
"So keep yer clothes on, Ada, your spring-chicken days are gone
The sands of time 'ave shifted, and continue movin' on.
Every picture tells a story, so the sayin' goes of old
But there's such a thing as stories that are better off not told!"

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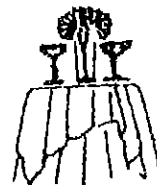
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New Year Programme

2004 classes began on Monday 12 January at the new time of 4.30 pm, with more than sixty people on the register for one or more of the subjects shown in the accompanying timetable. Inevitably this has made it difficult to provide regular dates and continuity for everyone, and some priority has therefore been given to beginners and less experienced learners.

It is hoped that by helping these beginners through their early learning curve we will gradually but steadily diminish the need for beginners classes, and be able in due course to provide more classes for those wanting to improve their skills in special applications.

Holidays, illness, and emergencies quite often result in unexpected vacancies arising in any of the classes provided. Anyone wishing to go on a "sudden vacancy" list for any of the subjects shown is invited to contact **Robin Macdonald** on 560436.

Likewise, anyone uncertain whether they are scheduled to attend a particular class on a given date should phone 560436 to confirm the position.

Computers for Hire

Teamakers still have **four computers** for short-term loan to **beginners** wishing to gain hands-on experience of computers before deciding whether or not to purchase their own equipment. Anyone wishing to try one of these computer units on loan should contact **Robin Macdonald** on 560436. All hire fees are donated to the New Parish Hall Fund to assist with the provision of an IT facility in the New Hall. These computers

NEW YEAR CLASSES

	Monday	Wednesday
Wk. Com	Beginners	Improvers
12 Jan	CB 1	CB 1
19 Jan	CB 2	CB 2
26 Jan	WP	I & E
2 Feb	WP	Dig. Im
9 Feb	CB 3	CB 3
16 Feb	HALF - TERM - HOLIDAY	
23 Feb	CB 4	CB 4
1 Mar	WP	Spr
8 Mar	WP	Spr
15 Mar	CB 5	CB 5
22 Mar	CB 6	CB 6
29 Mar	FH	I & E
5 Apr	EASTER	
12 Apr	HOLIDAY	

Class Key: CB = Computer Basics
 WP = Word Processing
 I & E = Internet & E-mail
 Spr = Spreadsheets
 Dig. Im = Digital Imaging
 FH = Family History

Anyone wishing to **CONTINUE** or **START** any of these classes after the **EASTER HOLIDAY** is requested to contact **Robin Macdonald** on 560436 or e-mail [<Teamakersclub@aol.com>](mailto:Teamakersclub@aol.com) giving details of the classes they would like to attend, and an indication of their level of experience to date.

There is an attendance fee of just **£3.00** per two-hour session, and any course materials provided are charged at cost.

have so far provided £200 towards the fund. Thanks to the generosity of some residents three of these computers are now also equipped with printers. **Is there anyone out there willing to kindly provide a fourth?**

Broadband Update

A Report by Chris White,
Campaign Manager



Well, what a wonderful lot you are. We reached our trigger level of 500 registrations with breathtaking speed, and now we just have to wait for BT to enable the exchange.

There are unfortunately going to be some disappointed people in parts of West Buckland, Bantham, and Hope Cove, who are just too far from the Exchange to be able to get Broadband at the moment. If you want to know how it affects the situation at your house, go to < www.bt.com/broadband > and put your telephone number into the "Can I get it?" box. BT have recently extended the distance that the signal will reach, and hopefully improvements in technology will enable them to do it again in the future. Either way, don't initially accept "no" for an answer. Request an individual line test from BT.

When the campaign was officially registered, there were already about 70 registrations. A swift response from the members of "Teamakers", and some general interest, quickly took that to 166, at which stage we put the insert into the last issue of Village Voice. 126 of you returned the slip, and a further 57 added their names to lists held by the Village Inn, Teamakers, friends, and neighbours, taking us easily over the 300 mark - a wonderful response, for which many thanks. I had just resigned myself to a winter of knocking on doors to drum up the rest of the registrations, when the cavalry came galloping over the horizon - 200 of you, who registered themselves and brought the campaign to a rapid and successful conclusion. I don't know who you are, or what inspired you (hopefully Village Voice) but many thanks to all of you.

BT have now given us a Ready For Service (RFS) date of 5th May 2004 which means that those that are able and interested can now order a Broadband connection from the Internet Service Provider (ISP) of their choice. There are dozens to choose from, all giving slightly different terms and benefits, and here is not the place to discuss their various merits in detail (a suitable topic for a Teamakers' session), but there are just a couple of points worth mentioning. There is a very useful website < www.ispreview.co.uk > which gives a top ten list, based on users' reviews. Within that list is one ISP called **MetroNet**, which currently operates the only "Pay As You Go" Broadband connection, with charges starting at £10 per month. If it's as good as the reviews say, it's well worth a look for the type of user likely to be found in this area.

Finally, when I see how other campaigns in the country are struggling to reach their trigger levels, I am even more thankful that I decided to live in the South Hams, where community spirit and working for the common good are alive and thriving. On behalf of all those who fully intend to be using Broadband from 5th May, both within the Parish, and elsewhere in the Sutton Cross exchange area, may I say "Thanks" again to everyone who registered, or gave me their permission to be registered - Happy Surfing!

Chris White

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Weather Wag

by Jan Turner

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Judging by the numbers of people on the beach and walking the footpath, the area had a huge influx of visitors over the holiday period. What is more, the weather behaved itself for the most part - even if Boxing Day was a wash-out. There have been some lovely days for being out in the fresh air. How much fresher do we want it here in the South Hams?

At the end of the year I calculate (or try to!) the total figures for the year and compare them with previous years. For my last article I must have pressed the wrong button to arrive at the Average Temperature for the six month period Jan - June over the last 8 years. Thanks to eagle-eyed Geoff Wilkinson I can put that right here and now. The correct average was 10.9°C. I'll try harder in future. Thanks Geoff. I'm glad you spotted the error.

The year has not been the driest ever at this station, but the rainfall can be very localised, with rain in the village but none here. However, this is so right across the country, at all the stations, so in the end it balances out. Temperature is the figure that most people are concerned with, and whether it is warming up or not. No-one knows really, but the signs are definitely tending towards a higher annual temperature for the British Isles. Winds have been a little more balanced between West and East; still a slight westerly trend, but definitely not a convincing majority (185 : 171 days).

Compared with 2002 only June, July and September accumulated more rain, and even then not very much more. Total for the year was 1113.32mm in 2002 versus 800.14mm in 2003. Sunshine hours in 2003 were 1658, more than the previous three years. 1995 still holds the record for me at 1970 hrs. There were many days that were very pleasant, warm, and calm, but the sun was veiled by

high cloud (and therefore hazy) and was not clear enough to be recorded.

I'm glad to say that the reservoirs are at last beginning to fill up and the soil is well watered. But as I was asked only a couple of days ago, "*Where are all the surface springs that indicate a high water table?*" More is still needed to replenish the ground water, and give us a good start - for perhaps another dry year? Yesterday (8th Jan) we had 25mm of rain and winds of 67mph. Worse is forecast for the weekend and early next week (well, it is winter you know). Our eldest is returning from Madagascar next week, so it is bound to be cold, wet and windy!

Looking back to last year's issue I noted that the temperature on Jan 12th was -1.8°C, dropping to -4°C as the day dawned. This year there will not be temperatures like that next week, quite the reverse. The forecast is for 10° to <11° C by day. This last week the night-time temperatures have been almost the same as the day-time. All the figures are available if you would like a copy.

We haven't had any snow to speak of for several years now. I wonder if there is some in the offing this year. Many of us will remember 1947 (we didn't go to school for quite a while!). Between the 22nd Jan and 17th March snow fell somewhere in the country every day. Some places recorded a daily fall of 2ft or 600mm with drifts up to 15ft high occurring frequently. The temperatures remained at or near freezing most of the time, and fresh snowfalls fell on frozen snow so the amounts kept on growing. In our country snow falls mainly between December and March, occasionally as late as May, rarely in June, and so exceptionally in July that reports are suspect.

Some of our real locals may remember a hefty snowfall on 17th May 1935. My

parents had cause to remember that day all their lives. They were due to be married on 8th June in Marazion, Cornwall and, after a holiday, come to Shute Farm to live.

The farm sale for the occupier at the time (a Mr George White) was held on the 17th May. My Mum and her mother were there to help with supplying refreshments for all the prospective buyers. It snowed so hard it was difficult to see across the yard and there was a constant stream of men coming into the kitchen to get warm. It was a dreadful day and well remembered by those who were there. In my book the event is recorded thus,

"17th May 1935, Devon and Cornwall looked like Christmas". Strangely, the next entry is **"17th May 1955, Southern Counties had up to 2 inches of snow".**

So far the gardens are faring well, many have early camellias in flower and the bulbs are growing apace, as is the length of day. I find it quite amazing how quickly the days seem to lengthen after 1st January. One year ends and another begins, with every day a little different. Ain't nature wonderful? Have a good year.

Jan Turner

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Saturday, 29 May 2004, at 10.30 am

at

The Thurlestone Hotel

"Museum in the Pub"

The Cookworthy Museum is holding its second "Museum in the Pub" event in the King of Prussia on Wednesday 3rd March between 11 am and 3 pm.

With the help of a very smart computer and scanner from Actionwest, the museum team of volunteers will be able to scan your old photographs of local places and people to help build up our local archive and increase our knowledge of local history. Your old photographs can be scanned and returned to you on the spot!

Sharon Wellington (853235) of the Cookworthy Museum invites you to come along anytime between 11 am and 3 pm, and bring your old photos and have a chat. She makes the plea **"Don't let our local heritage disappear!"**

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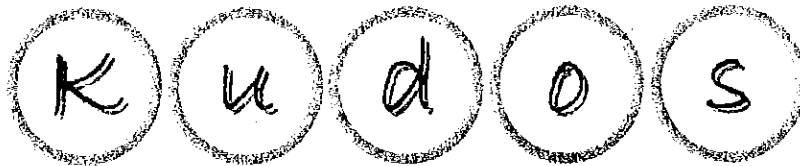
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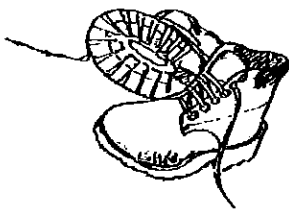
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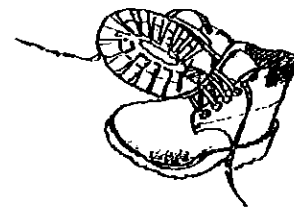
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TRAMP



1 Matters didn't start off right on the 12th November as the walk leader and his wife had to attend hospital on the day, but a substitute leader was soon found and twelve enthusiastic walkers (plus a black labrador) set off from the Royal Oak at Bigbury. The weather was fine and dry (if a little windy) and remained so during the day.

Previous reconnoitring had revealed some monster 'ups-and-downs' in the early miles, so a decision was taken to ease things a little. So, via a gentle stroll through the lanes we reached Bigbury Golf Clubhouse. Using the golf-course right of way, we dropped down to the Avon Estuary beach, opposite the famous boathouse, with the outgoing tide just allowing us to walk over the rocks and sand to Bigbury-on-Sea and on to Challaborough. Then it was a steep climb along the cliffs towards Ayrmer Cove, turning off after a little way to reach Ringmore and on by lane, and huge muddy fields, to reach the Royal Oak and a lovely lunch with an attentive landlord!

We changed the afternoon walk too! Because of a bull encountered on the reconnoitre (and because of the lunch), we drove to the tidal road and simply walked around the creek which extends up to the back road from Bigbury to Aveton Gifford. Everyone went home tired but happy.

RH

2 The Tramp Christmas walk has tended to be an easygoing affair in recent years, with a short morning walk followed by a Christmas lunch at a local hostelry. This year was no exception and, having centred our walk on the pretty village of Ashprington, near Totnes, we were rewarded with a fine day on 10th December. An enjoyable walk was

followed by an excellent Christmas lunch at the Durant Arms. The day had dawned fair despite earlier forecasts of wet weather, and a total of twenty-two and one dog set out from Ashprington. We walked up a quiet lane past the village church as far as the gates of the Sharpham estate, which is mainly renowned for its vineyard and dairy these days.

We joined the recently-opened cycle path for about half a mile before heading off across the fields to join the Dart Valley Trail. This is a generally level and attractive path for walking and, being close to the river, can offer fine views of the Dart Valley. Although our visibility was limited due to patchy fog, breaks in the clouds afforded some tantalising glimpses of the fine scenery.

The Trail finished near the boatyard in Totnes notable as the site where the Pete Goss catamaran, *Team Phillips*, was built. We turned sharp left on leaving the boatyard car park and, a short distance up the hill, we picked up the cycle path for our return to Ashprington.

We soon stopped for our traditional refreshment break and enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine to warm us along the misty trail overlooking the Dart. The remainder of the walk was easy going and uneventful, apart from a friendly encounter with a herd of frisky young bullocks! With the fog lifting we were able to enjoy our last views of the delightful river before leaving the trail.

Six more Tramp colleagues joined us for lunch at the pub, and it was great to have so many of us together to enjoy a splendid Christmas meal with all the trimmings. Fortunately we had not planned any further hiking activities for the remainder of the day!

GD

3 At 9.30 m on the 14th January, despite a doubtful weather forecast, fourteen members were ready and waiting at the Parish Hall car park. The sun was shining so they were all anxious to get going. Wasting no time, the thirteen regulars, one new member and two dogs, headed off towards Shipley Bridge, just north of South Brent.

The clouds became a little darker around Wrangaton but by Shipley Bridge the sun was shining again, so off we set, on a steep and rocky climb, towards Ball Gate. There was quite a lot of water underfoot, and climbing up on to the moor through a wooded gulley was pleasant if tiring. As one of our party was heard to remark "Think of the number of slices of Christmas cake we are working off"!

Coming out of the shelter and on to the moor proper was a bit of a shock - the wind was blowing hard from the north-west and carrying sleety rain. With no cover available we put our heads down and headed for a

distant finger-post where at least we would turn and have the wind on our backs. From there on it was down hill all the way to the track leading to South Brent. Unfortunately water likes flowing down hill and as a result we were walking through thick liquid mud for about a mile.

At last we hit a firm track and, turning left, we had a reasonably comfortable walk to Aish and Lydia Bridge. Here we turned right and headed alongside the Avon- with all the rain it looked very spectacular - and to the Pack Horse for lunch. At lunch we were joined by two further walkers and one puppy who, after lunch, joined us on the afternoon section which was dry and sheltered as we climbed up again through Didworthy and back to our cars.

It had been a very bracing day, hopefully enjoyed by all, and almost as much as the thought of a warm bath and dry clothes waiting at home!

DY

Puzzle Page Answers

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. FOREIGNER | 2. EMBARKING | 3. FIRESTORM | 4. OBTRUSIVE |
| 5. ABSEILING | 6. ACCORDION | 7. ACTUARIAL | 8. REPUGNANT |
| 9. LIMITLESS | 10. APERTURES | 11. UNDERDOGS | 12. MISCREANT |
| 13. WHOLEMEAL | 14. POWERLESS | 15. PIZZICATO | 16. AGGRAVATE |
| 17. ARBITRATE | 18. TERMINATE | 19. NONPAREIL | 20. DRAMATIST |
| 21. BOULEVARD | | | |

TEN TEASERS

- | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. London | 3. Harvard | 5. Chris Cockerell | 7. Gustav Holst | 9. Stoat |
| 2. Wm. Booth | 4. 205 | 6. North Africa | 8. Leander | 10. Sep 1957 |



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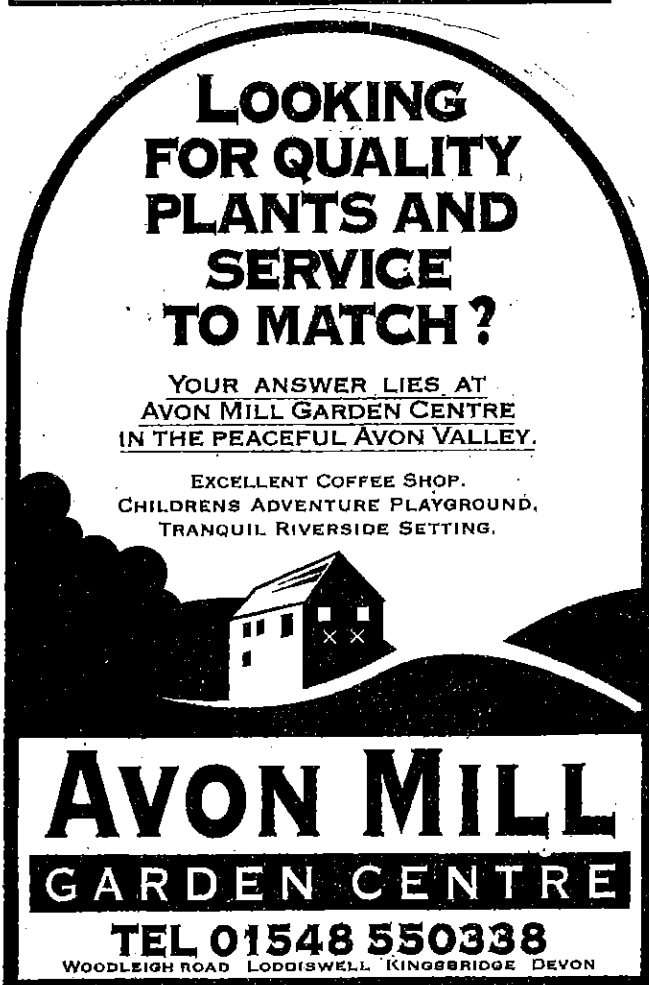
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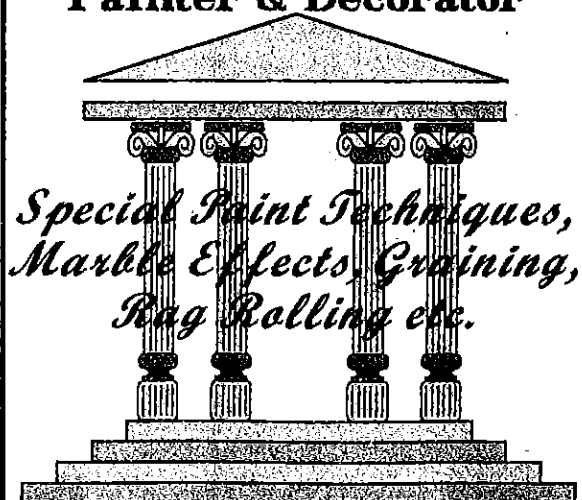


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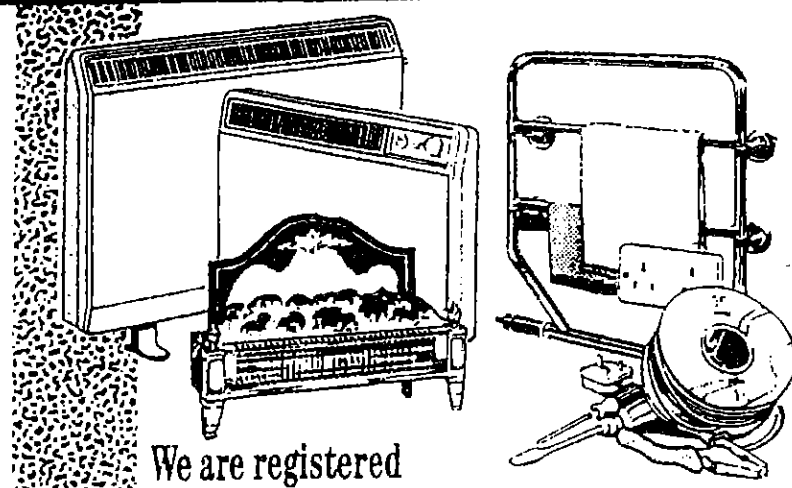


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Emergencies evenings/weekends



TRAMPS 2004 - "LONGER" WALKS SCHEDULE

Wednesday Walks (January/February/March/November/December on the 2nd Wednesday of each month)
(April to October on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month)

Date	Walk	Leader(s)	Phone No.
January 14 th	Shipley Bridge/South Brent	Derek & Sally Yeoman	01548 560300
February 11 th	Avon Valley	Tony & Sheila Ward	01548 560544
March 10 th	Loddiswell/Topsham	Rodney & Louise Horn	01548 560889
April 14 th	Newton Ferrers	John & Christine Wilson	01752 872775
" 28 th	Dart Valley Trail	Trisha Wilson	01548 561328
May 12 th	W. Portlemouth/Inner Hope	Lynn Mansell	01548 561273
" 26 th	Plym Valley Trail	Graham Durant	01548 560007
June 9 th	North Sands/Bolt Head	Lynn Mansell	01548 561273
" 23 rd	Widdecombe	Graham Durant	01548 560007
July 14 th	To be arranged	Mary Chudleigh	01566 777995
" 28 th	Malborough	Trisha Wilson	01548 561328
August 11 th	Wembury	Rosemary Mackay	01548 560194
" 25 th	Burrator Reservoir	Tony & Sheila Ward	01548 560544
September 8 th	Lustleigh Cleave	Richard & Heather Swann	01548 560892
" 22 nd	"Stepping Stones"	Derek & Sally Yeoman	01548 560300
October 13 th	To be arranged	Christine Hammer	01548 560194
" 27 th	To be arranged	Ron & Jo Parkin	01548 561215
November 10 th	Cornworthy	Richard & Heather Swann	01548 560892
December 8 th	Xmas Walk (to be arranged)	Rodney & Louise Horn	01548 560889

"Shorter" Walks - see overleaf

TRAMPS 2004 - "SHORTER" WALKS SCHEDULE

Date	Walk	Leader(s)	Phone No.
Monday, 15 th March	Malborough/Snapes Point (Walk no. 20)	Sylvia Dawkins	01548 560414
Tuesday, 6 th April	East Soar (Walk no. 48)	Derek & Sally Yeoman	01548 560300
Friday, 7 th May	Dartington (Walk no. 28)	Tony & Sheila Ward	01548 560544
Monday, 17 th May	Ayrmer Cove (Walk no. 57)	Derek Yeoman & Co.	01548 560300
Monday, 14 th June	Noss Mayo (Walk no. 63)	Joy Hailey/ Trisha Wilson	01548 561011
Thursday, 1 st July	Bolberry Down (evening) (Walk no. 57)	Trisha Wilson	01548 561328
Monday, 19 th July	Brixham (Walk no. 64)	Tony & Sheila Ward	01548 560544
Friday, 6 th August	Local Walk	Rosemary Mackay	01548 560194
Thursday, 19 th August	Loddiswell/Topsham (Walk no. 60)	Sylvia Dawkins	01548 560414
Monday, 13 th September	To be arranged	Christine Hammer	01548 560194
Monday, 27 th September	Salcombe/Gara Rock (Walk no. 62)	Pam Black	01548 562084
Monday, 18 th October	To be arranged	Lynn Mansell	01548 561273

Notes

- Meet at Thurlestone Parish Hall car park or at walk start point designated on walk notice
- Leaders must put a notice with walk details in the village shop at least one week prior to the walk
- If a leader is unable to lead a walk, please try to arrange an alternative leader yourself before contacting the co-ordinator
- Leaders are responsible for sending a write-up of the walk to the Village Voice
- Any visitors should inform the leaders of their intention to walk with Tramps
- Leaders should ensure that a first-aid kit is carried on the walk
- For any general queries, please contact the TRAMPS 2004 co-ordinator (Rodney or Louise Horn on 01548 560889)

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

Sat 7th Farmers' Market, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm, Kingsbridge Quay
 Wed 11th TRAMP, Avon Estuary
 Thur 12th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Five Gardens)
 Fri 13th PROBUS, Thurlestone Hotel (Pension Service -Pension Credit)
 Sat 14th BARN DANCE, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Mon 16th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm

MARCH

Wed 3rd Museum in a Pub, 11am - 3.30pm, King of Prussia
 Sat 6th Farmers' Market, 9am - 1pm, Kingsbridge Quay
 Wed 10th TRAMP, Loddiswell / Topsham Bridge
 Thur 11th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Fri 12th PROBUS, Thurlestone Hotel, Annual General Meeting
 Mon 15th TRAMP, Malborough / Snapes Point
 Mon 22nd PARISH HALL AGM, 7.30 pm
 Mon 29th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm

APRIL

Sat 3rd Farmers' Market, 9 am - 1 pm, Kingsbridge Quay
 Tues 6th TRAMP, East Soar
 Thur 8th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
 Wed 14th TRAMP, Newton Ferrers
 Mon 19th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Wed 28th TRAMP, Dart Valley Trail

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VILLAGE VOICE

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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 & June van der Welle and Derek & Sally Yeoman**. In Bantham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th MARCH 2004

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 RbnMaed@aol.com)

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL			
Chairman	Kit Marshall		560214
Vice - Chairman	Peter Hurrell		560496
Parish Clerk	Catharine Tavender	853163 (day) - 852139 (evening)	
District Councillor	Shonaugh Rankin		561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 - 691212	
Members	Neil Gilling		560489
	David Grose		560375
	Andrew Rhymes		560564
	Geoffrey Sudston		560695
	Charles Mitchellmore		560602
Trec Warden			
The Parish Council meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf.			
PARISH HALL			
Chairman	Rowland Cole		561006
Bookings	Pat Crawford		560688
PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)			
Chairman	Len Hubbard		560731
RECTOR	Canon Andrew Gilling		562219
CHURCHWARDENS			
	Graham Worrell		562016
	Liz Webb		560090
COFFEE TIME (Parish Hall - Monday, 10.30-11.30 am)	Contact Liz Webb		560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact Kit Marshall		560214
AQUINE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	John Crawford		560688
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Contact Hugh Cater		560593
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse		560447
BOWLS CLUB (indoor) Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	Contact Eileen Dayment		560295
BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m Parish Hall Wednesdays and Fridays	Contact Dorothy Stone		560708
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary / Manager TBA		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 Tyrander		560893
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Rodney Horne		560889

DIRECTORY

W.I.		Contact Judith Le Grice	562165
Second Thursday monthly (ex-August)			
2.30 pm Parish Hall			
SOUTH RAMS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS		Contact Pat Crawford	560688
TEAMMAKERS (Computer Club)		Contacts: Robin Macdonald	560436
Monday's (beginners) & Wednesday's (improvers)		Chris White	560505
4.00 pm - 6.00 pm, All Saints School, during school terms		Graham Durant	560007
HEALTH CENTRES		Kingsbridge	853551
		Salcombe	842284
MILK DELIVERY		R. Bruckner & Son	01803 - 832801
VILLAGE SHOP Thurlestone Village Shop		M. T. Th. F.	8.00 am - 5.30 pm
		Wednesday,	8.00 am - 3.00 pm
		Saturday,	8.00 am - 1.00 pm
		Sunday,	8.30 am - 1.00 pm
THURLESTONE POST OFFICE			561917
Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	9.00 am - 5.30pm	Wed, Sat	9.00 am - 1.00 pm
Postal collections: 4.25 pm	Monday - Friday, 10.30 am	Saturday, 11.00 am	Sunday
POLICE			
Emergency	999	Non-emergency calls	08705-777-444
Mainline users	01392 - 452935	Confidential information	0800-555-111
RUBBISH COLLECTION			
Thursday (But Friday in Bank Holiday Monday weeks)			
Coloured (Orange, White, Blue) Sack collections (recyclables) alternate Thursdays from 5 th February 2004			
RECYCLING CENTRE (Tor Quarry Site, Torces Road)			
Opening Hours (From 1 st October)	Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm	Saturday & Sunday	10.00 am - 4.30 pm
PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE			
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GARAGE (Blight Engineering)		Maurice Blight	560220
KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 11 th February)			852315
	11.15 - 11.30am	Barnham	
	11.35 - 11.45am	Buckland Old Chapel	
	12.20 - 12.30pm	Thurlestone Church	
		12.35 - 12.45pm	Thurlestone Sands
MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN Alternate Wednesdays from 11 th February 2004, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside school.			



The Village Inn

Thurlestone

Tel: 563525

Diary Dates

Friday 30th January

Live Music with

"Hogwash"

Saturday 14th February

We will not be serving food on this
night due to a Private function
but you will be welcome to come in for drinks.

Thursday 26th February and Friday 12th March

Live Music with

"Howard Jones"

Friday 19th March

Our St Patricks Day Celebrations
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"Shri"

Sunday Night is Steak Night

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Tuesday Night is Quiz Night

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Please keep an eye on the Village Inn Notice Boards for
any changes or additions.

I know its late, but I and all the staff at the Village Inn would like
to wish all our customers past and future a
Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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