

VILLAGE VOICE



JUNE - JULY 2004



NUMBER 127
JUNE - JULY 2004

There's good news.....and there's bad news.

First, the bad news. Well, it does seem that Broadband availability is not a foregone conclusion - even with Sutton Cross exchange now enabled. Chris White reports inside. Even worse, we have just learned that our application for Lottery Funding for a new Parish Hall has been turned down. This is gut-wrenching for the team which has worked so hard to prepare and steer our application along - and quite a setback to the aspirations of the whole parish.

The good news, however, is that the Dunkirk spirit is already surging through the community as the decision becomes known. Encouraged by the fundraising efforts to date, which have now topped £100,000, the Parish Hall committee is resolved that Plan B (raising the required funds for the new hall without Lottery assistance) will begin in earnest - and immediately. The date for the completion of the new Parish Hall may now be a little further off, but with the church meeting room ready to open, the whole community can now unite and concentrate with redoubled energy on the attainment of this goal.

A real community spirit has been forged by the fundraising events of the past eighteen months. With this spirit - and renewed determination - Thurlestone will not be denied its new Parish Hall

Founder Dudley Drabble

Editor PATRICIA MACDONALD
25 Mead Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3PB
01548-560436

Advertising
& Accounts
Manager JO PARKIN
Ardentigh
Court Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3ND
01548-561215

Production
Manager AL PARKER

Production Team

JOHN & MAUREEN BAKER
PAT CRAWFORD
MARGARET CULLUM
IAN & JANET FRASER
ANNE GROSE
NORMA KENDALL
JUDITH LE GRICE
ROSEMARY MACKAY
SHEILA PARKER
JUDITH REYNOLDS
JAN & TOM TRENDER
CHRIS WHITE

Distribution Organisers

LINDA CHILCOTT
PETER HURRELL
DEREK & SALLY YEOMAN

Mail
Order
Copies JUDITH REYNOLDS
Pilgrim Cottage
Post Office Lane
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TQ7 3PB
01548-560330

Covers LEN HUBBARD

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NO NEED TO ASK "Who wants to be a millionaire?" - WE ALL ARE!

*The time has come, the Villager says,
To talk of many things,
Of golf - and gifts - and Council tax -
Of millionaires - and things.
And why house prices keep going up -
And why no church bells ring.*

All of which is just another way of saying that not since the screw-top replaced the wine cork has there been such a change in the life of our parish. Things in rural areas have a nasty habit of sneaking up on one, as The Queen often remarks to me. So it was not until I was accosted by one of those civilian mail-order delivery men, carrying a parcel that I instantly recognised as containing two extra large pairs of Jollimans Lovat green corduroy trousers (which, as you can buy one and get one free, are now standard wear among all elderly parishioners of both sexes), that I realised just how much things have changed around here.

The delivery man asked me for Ilbert Road. "Millionaires' Row", I said. "Don't know, mate" he replied "they're all millionaires round here".

It was only then that I realised how right he was. Today every road in the parish is Millionaires' Row. The soaring prices of property has made millionaires of us all. And I don't



exclude the new starter home owners. It will take them a little longer, that's all.

At the same time I recalled something about the last bank holiday Middle England mob. Did you notice how these second home owners looked more than a teeny weeny bit more prosperous when they swept down upon us in their highly-polished Chelsea Tractors at Easter? Didn't you think they also looked a little more confident now that they know they will be able to remortgage their cottages to meet the demands for 90% Council tax? *Mind you, most of them tell me they'd willingly pay the full tax rather*

than be known as "Ten Percenters".

While on the subject of rich parishioners, I am reliably informed that some tales about millionaire golfers have slipped past the normally sealed lips at the Golf Club. It seems that while undertaking some reorganisation of the committee and such like supreme beings, the bigwigs' attention focussed on the large house in Thurlestone which is owned by the Golf Club and often occupied by a paid employee. Should they sell it now before the much-forecast property crash?

And what, once having eyed that property, said one member flexing his newly-created millionaire status, about all the land the Golf Club owned around their clubhouse? Surely a block or two of flats would go down well with the members, if not with the tennis players. There could hardly be any planning problems as flats were springing up on the site of the old Fellowship building on the road to South Milton, and close by along the coast near Thurlestone Rock more 'apartment' conversions were well under way.

One member recalled how his old friend General Franco, whom he had taken on a trip in his yacht, had been so shocked by the sight of concrete monstrosities covering the once-beautiful coves on the Spanish Med coast, that he had immediately banned all such sea-shore building. Would it not be a good idea to get to work on the Golf Club blocks of flats before

some similar ban hit the South Hams?

For a while it looked as though mayhem would break out over the disappearance under concrete of the putting green and tennis courts, but the new millionaire golfers wisely decided to do nothing so rash and voted to leave their property unspoiled to those who would follow after. Golfers are such nice millionaires, don't you think?

Yes, we are all millionaires now. Mind you, there are some drawbacks. Second home owners, who let their properties to the slightly less rich down from Up Country for holiday breaks, have found to their consternation that those who wish to rent from them are only ever so slightly poorer than the owners themselves. As a result, the renters positively refuse to part with the rent money until the somewhat basic interiors are upgraded to the swanky standards of comfort they allege they have at home. It is truly tough at times being a millionaire.

Riches, of course, are said to bring responsibilities. Millionaires are not generally tight-wads and usually give generously to charity. One such is obviously a man or woman whom we millionaires have named the Parish Phantom Giver of Gifts. The PPGOG first struck shortly after eight on a fine morn recently. When a long-time resident returned to her home after collecting her newspapers, there on the doorstep were two boxes and three slabs of Belgian chocolate.

No name was on the wrappings. Who would do such a thing?

Her puzzlement redoubled two weeks later when the next gift arrived - a sack of wood cuts this time. Once again, no name. "What a lucky girl I am" said the gifted resident, before enlisting Villager's help to track down the PPGOG. So come on, Phantom Giver, ring the lucky girl and tell her what she has done to deserve all this. She is so embarrassed.....

Readers who felt that the last Villager article "I'm a Nonentity.....Get Me Out Of Here" was all an April Fools' Day joke, and that the drive by the BBC to produce a whole series of Thurlestone-based TV programmes was just a figment of old Villager's fertile imagination, should also take pause and look back at the recent news pages of the 'Old Astonisher' (which is what the Kingsbridge Gazette used to be called).

Shortly after I revealed that among the forthcoming new BBC programmes were "A Place in Bantham", "A Third

Place in the Sun", and "Are You Tough Enough to Live Round here?" the Gazette followed up with this news item:

"To Buy or not to Buy on TV?"

The BBC is making a series about finding your ideal home and is looking for participants from the South Hams.

"To Buy or not to Buy" is a new series where participants will have three properties chosen for them. Anyone interested in taking part should e-mail tobuy@bbc.co.uk, or call hotline 00121 432 8145

Remember, you read it here first!

Finally, don't you think a village without the sound of church bells is a dreary place? Maybe some of our parish millionaires should buy us a premier team of pealers.

Villager

In aid of the new Thurlestone Parish Hall

A Musical Evening

of numbers by

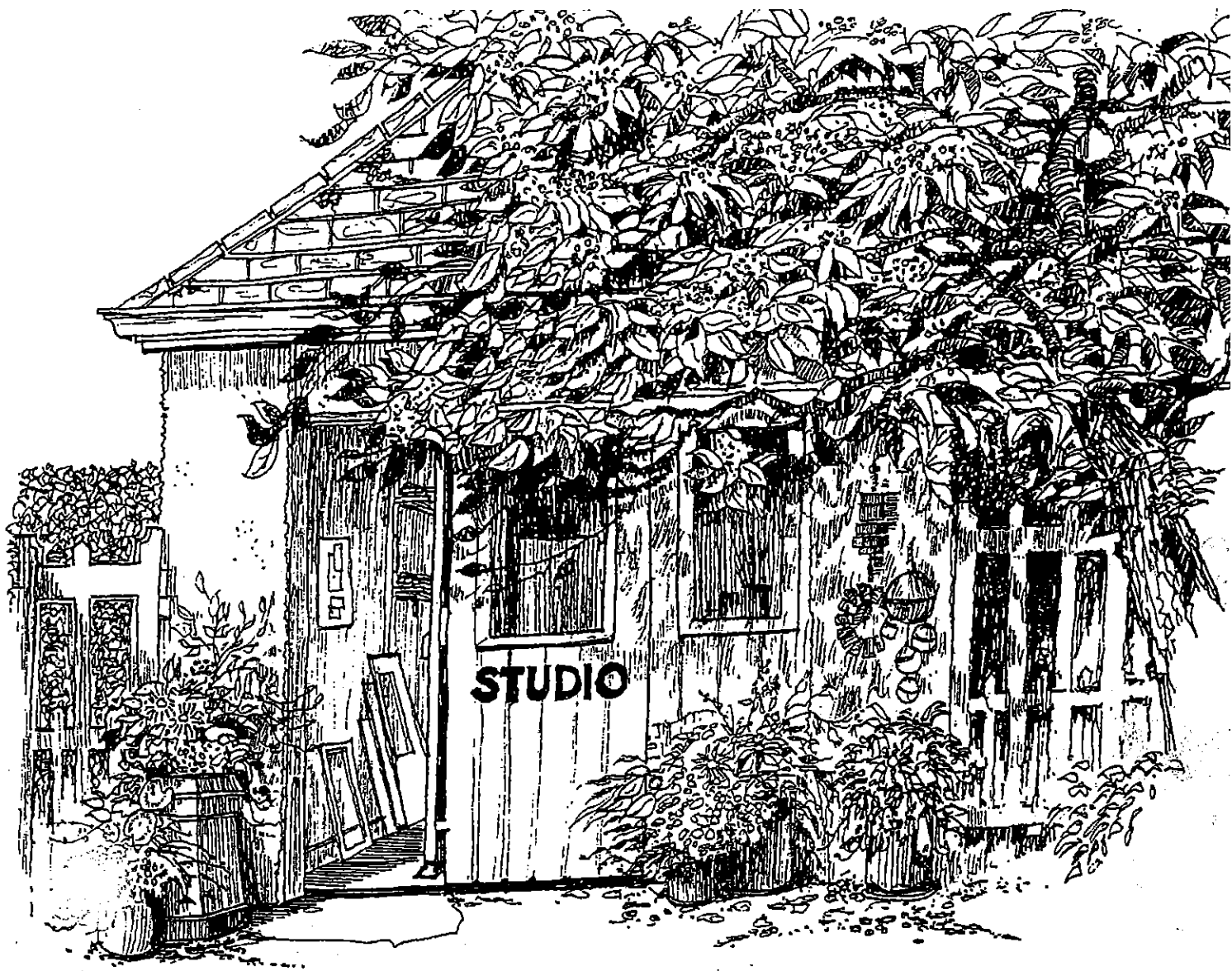
FLANDERS & SWANN

performed by

Alastair Durden & Alun Williams

Saturday 3rd July 2004 7.30 pm Thurlestone Parish Hall

Wine Bar Tickets £5.00 from Chris White 560505 or Gillian Marshall 560214



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PARISH HALL FUNDS

By Bill Clarke
Treasurer



TOTAL FUNDS UPDATE

The Funds now stand at

£101,227.51

The following contributions have been received in 2004:

Treasure Hunt (Gillian Marshall)	£ 50.00
Beatle Drive (Roger & Carol Cole)	£ 279.00
Barn Dance (Pat Crawford)	£ 560.50
Smarties campaign	£1023.80
Ladies Bridge (Joan Mackenzie)	£ 200.00
Picture Sales (Thurlestone Rock - Peter Stafford)	£ 255.00
W. Alvington Singers Concert	<u>£ 508.50</u>
	2,876.80
Donations (10 in number)	<u>10,645.00</u>
Total in 2004 to date (mid-May)	£13,521.80

Grand Total to date **£101,241.76**

FORTHCOMING FUND-RAISING EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

5 JUNE
CREAM TEAS
WARREN HOUSE

3 JULY
"FLANDERS
& SWANN"

6 AUGUST
TENNIS
TOURNAMENT

Join the Sergeants' Mess.....



.....become a triple-tuber!

PARISH HALL NEWS



By Rowland Cole

We May Have Lost A Battle....

To receive a letter from the Community Fund of the National Lottery totally rejecting our application for funds for the new Parish Hall is a real disappointment.

Nevertheless, the Parish Hall Committee is not downhearted. We always knew that we were in a competitive environment, and would be up against other applicants whose profiles might well mirror more closely the priorities of the current Funding Strategy, and this has proved to be the case at this time.

However, Funding Strategies change over time and there are many instances where applicants for funds have had to submit more than one application before being successful.

The Parish Hall Committee has met to discuss the implications of the letter (relevant extracts from which are shown overleaf), and agreed that the situation is perfectly clear. We have already raised a significant proportion of the funds required, with the total to date now exceeding £100,000, but we must continue with our efforts and raise even more in the immediate future. We shall vigorously re-investigate other funding sources, and at the same time keep abreast of Community Fund policy priorities in preparation for our submission of a second application to the National Lottery.

I know that we can count on the support of all Residents (and Visitors alike) for our fund-raising campaign, because a new, improved Parish Hall will be of immense benefit to us all.

Please, therefore come along to the upcoming planned events : Cream Teas on 5th June at Warren House, in Warren Road, Thurlestone : the "Flanders & Swann" Musical Evening at the Parish Hall on 3rd July : and - if you are a tennis player (or a spectator) - the Tennis Tournament on 6th August at Thurlestone Golf Club. You will find further details on all these events on other pages of this issue of Village Voice.

Our campaign goes on. We may have lost a battle, but we still intend to win the war.

Rowland Cole
Chairman
Parish Hall



Lottery money making a difference

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Beaufort House
51 New North Road
Exeter EX4 4EQ

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Minicom
01392 490633
Fax
01392 491134

Website
www.community-fund.org.uk
Email
enquiries.sw@community-fund.org.uk

Mr David Houghton
Thurlestone Parish Hall

18th May 2004

Dear Mr Houghton

Large Grants Programme - MK/1/010103313

Thank you for your organisation's application for a grant from the Community Fund. I am sorry that we have decided not to make a grant for your project on this occasion.

As you are probably aware, the South West Regional Office of the Community Fund gets many more applications than it can fund. This, together with the high quality of many of the applications, makes choosing between competing bids very difficult. Although your application was recommended for a grant, I'm afraid the level of competition from other applications was such that there were insufficient funds to meet the costs of your project. The total amount being requested was £4,322,991 but we only had £1,369,333 available.

The paragraph below summarises the main reasons why your application was not successful:

We felt that your application was very well planned and we were impressed with your fund raising record and we recognise the need for community facilities and the hard work of your committee. However, it is very difficult for an application such as yours to score highly under our main aim of addressing disadvantage or our local regional priorities criterion and in fact, these areas were not strongly addressed in your application. We enclose our Funding Strategy 2003 - 04 which explains our priorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pippa Warin".

Pippa Warin
Regional Manager

Parish Council Meeting

29th March 2004

News and Views by Citizen

This is a very short account of proceedings as most of the matters discussed have been adequately covered by the Parish Council Chairman in his Annual Report which appears further on in this issue. I would highlight here just these two items:

School Buildings

Considerable disappointment was expressed at the number of huts currently being erected in the school grounds, due to the present overcrowding. On the Council chairman's casting vote it was decided to approve the school's latest Planning application, but also to recommend to the District Council that it should be for a limited period only, and that the school should be requested to consider the impact on the local residents before erecting any further eyesores.

Police

PC Mullens, a well known figure in Salcombe where he has been constable for some time, is now incorporating Thurlestone into his patch. He will be a welcome addition to the security and well being of the parish. Among his duties will be to look into parking congestion (this will be of particular importance when redevelopments are taking place on the Parish Hall site), occasional speeding (not only by youngsters), and other unsociable behaviour.

Parish Council Meeting

17th May 2004

Report from the Chairman

Play Area at Seaview

The area in question is currently owned and administered by the South Hams District Council. They have offered to pass on ownership and responsibility to Thurlestone Parish Council - but without any funding towards its upkeep. Councillors would like to hear parishioners' views on the following three suggestions for Thurlestone Parish Council to take the matter forward:

1. To take over the area, fence it and turn it into a children's play area, with some basic play equipment
2. To take over the area, fence it but merely tidy it up and leave it as a small park, perhaps with some benches
3. To reject the offer and leave it in the hands of the District Council to continue administering it as at present.

Have parishioners any other suggestions on this subject?

An Open Forum to discuss this will be the first item on the agenda at the Parish Council meeting of the 14th June, 7.30 pm at the Parish Hall. Later in the meeting Councillors will debate the issue "in session". If you have any queries please contact any Parish Councillor.

Kit Marshall, Chairman

Village News Round-Up

Photo Archives

The Parish of Thurlestone Society, as reported in the last issue, has started a new project working with **Peter Hurrell** to put all his historic photographs of the parish into digital form. This is partly to provide him with a more secure archival base for his pictures, and also to make it easier for him to give presentations using a computer and video projector. *(Yes, Peter Hurrell will be embracing the very latest technology - no more slides jamming in the projector and having to be prised out with the Parish Hall carving knife!)*

The project is now already well under way. **Keith Millman** has been burning the midnight oil scanning pictures into the computer, with the able assistance of Peter who gives him valuable local knowledge on locations and personalities. To date about 100 of the pictures have been completed. What is exciting is that the process of transferring the photos to digital form has allowed them to be 'enhanced' so that things that were not noticeable in the original have suddenly become visible on the computer screen. A washing line stretched across the road, the number plate of an old car parked in the road, the writing on a poster, have all become evident with a "zoom" facility.

Since starting the project a number of unexpected collections of photographs has begun to come to light. At our most recent meeting, **Chris White**, the new chairman of POTS, showed up with a plastic bag full of old postcards and ancient photo-albums that had been given to him, and members of the committee are exploring other avenues and sources. As a result of discovering other historic pictures, POTS is expanding its digital archiving project to include material beyond Peter's own major collection.

If you have any pictures or albums that you think it would be interesting to preserve - pictures that may be faded or marked, or perhaps old postcards - please let us have a look at them and make a copy for the collection. We do not need to keep your original pictures - we would just like the opportunity to copy them into the computer and then your pictures would be returned to you. If you could help us in this way, please phone **Chris White** on 560505 or **Malcolm Le Grice** on 562135.

Music for St George

The birthday of England's patron saint was well marked recently when the Alvington Singers gave a concert at All Saints parish church in aid of the new Parish Hall fund. The title for the event was "*Music in Celebration of St George*". Under the expert musical direction of **Alastair Durden**, the choir sang to an appreciative and capacity audience from a repertoire which ranged through English folk songs, sacred pieces, and extracts from Gilbert & Sullivan.

Alastair himself contributed Walton's *Coronation March : Crown Imperial* on the organ, and young A-level music student, **Joe Dawson**, accompanied by **Patricia Gange**, played the first movement from *Sonata for Clarinet & Piano* by Saint-Saens and *Three Dance Preludes* by Witold Lutoslawski. The audience were also given a chance to exercise their vocal chords by joining in the rousing patriotic chorus of "*There'll Always be an England*" followed by Elgar's "*Land of Hope & Glory*" to round off a most enjoyable evening.

As three senior members of the Singers were retiring - **Barry Brooks**, **Roger Edmonds** and **Tony Maunder** - an opportunity was

taken to present them with engraved glass tankards as a gesture of thanks from their fellow choristers. Parish Hall chairman, **Rowland Cole**, thanked **Rosemary Mackay** and the WI for providing a delicious supper in the interval, **Ron Parkin** for the wine bar, and in particular the PCC for the use of the church and for making everyone feel so welcome. The sum of £508 was raised.

South Hams Hospital League of Friends

Jeanne Barton and **Eileen Perraton** are once more running their successful Bathroom Stall at the hospital's **Summer Fete on Saturday 26th June, 10 - 12.30pm** in **Kingsbridge Town Square**. They report :

"During 2003 the League contributed £72,503 towards services and equipment for patients and staff in the South Hams. In March this year we agreed to purchase a machine for the ENT clinic at the hospital. This will provide the latest in digital hearing aid technology. Costing some £9000, this invaluable equipment will be particularly useful in testing the hearing of young children and babies. These are only some of the things we have done over the years and we thought we would tell you so that you know where some of your money goes".

The ladies are again appealing for anything to sell that could be used in the bathroom. Please do your best to help them - as you will see from above, the League does such great fund-raising work to help our local hospital from which we all benefit. Ring Jeanne on 560864 or Eileen on 560407.

On Show

Sue Dwyer has had one of her handwoven scarves accepted for the South West Academy of Fine & Applied Arts summer exhibition, which is to be held jointly at the Exeter Museum and the nearby Exeter Phoenix from the 17th to the 19th July. This

is the third time Sue has had a piece accepted for this prestigious show which includes work from all over Britain as well as from internationally known craftspeople and artists.

Sue, a keen spinner and weaver, is also on the organising committee of the Association of Guilds of Weavers Spinners & Dyers' biennial national exhibition which will be held at The Bishop's Palace, Wells, from the 1st to the 20th August. The exhibition is open from 10 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday, and noon to 5 pm on Sundays, but is closed on Saturdays. This is another exhibition which has an extremely high standard of work, so if you are in the area of either of these events they will be well worth a visit. Several other local spinners & weavers are also taking part.

Stiddicombe Wood Update

Earlier this year **Gill Goddard** of Evans Estates cut the tape to open the new permissive (and very scenic) pathway along the water-front. Scots pines were planted in the wood last November by **Mrs Goddard**, **George Seager Berry** (consultant forester), **Charles Mitchelmore** (parish tree warden) and **John Crawford** (Aune Conservation Association). This planting replaced the heronry lost in the gales of 1989/90.

Since then, most of the trees in the regeneration plan (mainly oak, ash, willow and rowan), a copper beech presented by **Len Hubbard**, and two walnuts have been planted. Bird and bat boxes are being installed and soon it is hoped there will be two benches in place - one in the centre of the wood where a visitor can sit and enjoy the bird song and one beside (but screened from) the water's edge, from which egrets and the odd shelduck can be admired. Consideration is being given to the idea of building an otter holt in the creek.

The Aune Conservation Association will continue to monitor the progress of regeneration and, as **John Crawford** says

".....the parish should be grateful to Evans Estates, the South Hams District Council's Coast & Countryside Service, who provided the 'kissing gates' and repaired the stiles, the Forestry Commission for financing the tree saplings and to Terry Lane who has enthusiastically done all the hard work in managing the woodland scenery".

The wood can be reached on foot along the Avon Way (about half an hour's walk from the access point opposite the Sloop in Bantham). If you haven't yet ventured that far, why not treat yourself to a delightful walk, and take a look for yourself at what has been done.

Road Closure

Spotted in the *Kingsbridge Gazette* for 14th May - a Public Notice - reference DH16971 - saying that Devon County Council intends to apply for an order under the Highways Act 1980, Section 116, to stop up the highway at Cliff Road, also known as Sands Road,

Thurlestone and South Milton, on the grounds that it is unnecessary. The effect of the Order sought would be to prevent all vehicular traffic passing over the land described as above (Leasfoot Road to Links on seashore - Grid references SX67482 42074 and SX67569 419778). The application will be heard on 18th June 2004, 11 am at The Court House, Ashburton Road, Totnes.

"Just Children" Charities

Angela Ford visited Harare earlier this year, and was able to distribute money to four charities there which help desperately poor AIDS victims - the orphans and the sick and dying. She wants to thank all the kind people who supported the fund-raising for this cause, especially the Zimba Evening held in September in the Perratons' wedding marquee. Angela has written moving accounts of her visits to these four places, which we hope to include in future issues of *Village Voice*.



**SOUTH MILTON
FESTIVAL OF GARDENS**

Saturday 17th July. Sunday 18th July.

1.00p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Light lunches and
Cream Teas available in the
Village Hall from 12 noon.

*New gardens as well as old
favourites.*

**Map and Starting point:
South Milton Village Hall,
near Kingsbridge**

In aid of South Milton Village Hall - Registered Charity
No. 201969

*South Milton
Parish Church
Annual*

FETE

**Saturday
31st. July, 2.30pm**

In the grounds of Brook House
(by the kind invitation of the owners)
If wet, in the Village Hall

STALLS:

Bakery - Produce - Fancy Goods - Books
Beauty Box - Gardening - Tombola -
Wine or Water Chance -
White Elephant - etc.

Raffles - Side Shows - Bouncy Castle -
Competitions - Home Made Teas -
Lucky Dip etc.

Admission: Adults 50p. Children under 16, FREE

HE WON A TURPENTINE COMPETITION?

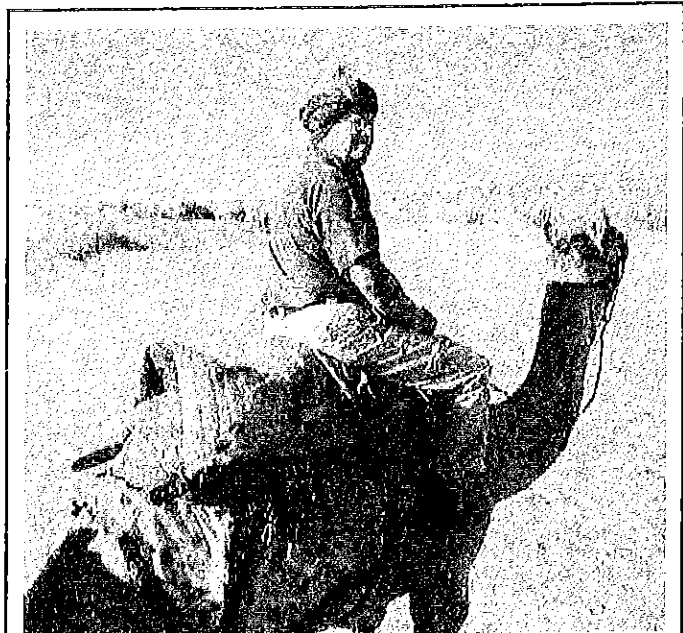
[Readers will recall that in the last issue we promised to look into a report that our Parish Council Chairman, Kit Marshall, had won a strangely-named competition whilst on holiday. On investigation our correspondent realised the title had been misheard; for it turned out to be a Turban-Tying competition. Gillian Marshall now gives us a true account of events.]

We spent three weeks touring fascinating and colourful Rajasthan, in north-west India. The highlight of our trip was undoubtedly the Desert Festival in Jaisalmer which is held annually during the Hindu month of Magh (February). Jaisalmer is also known as the Golden City and lies on the edge of the Great Thar Desert. The town is dominated by an amazing fort which looks like a series of sandcastles.

The festival lasts for three days and, amid the music and dancing, various competitions take place such as finding Mr Desert, Miss Jaisalmer, Mr Moustache and which Foreigner does the best Turban Tying. The second day was dedicated to camels - camel racing, camel polo, camel dressing and camel tattoo. The third and final day ended with a closing ceremony and glorious fireworks in the sand dunes on the outskirts of the town, to which we rode on (you've guessed it!).....camels.

Our Indian host, Gazi, was most insistent that Kit should take part in the Turban Tying competition for Foreigners which was to be held on the first day of the festival. To this end he engaged a local camel-driver to teach Kit how to tie a turban! A turban is about eight or nine metres long, and it can be tied in a huge range of different styles. But style was not the issue in this case - **speed** was important.

Fifteen foreigners took part (including four women) in front of an audience of at least ten thousand people, mainly Indians, in the local stadium with the fort as a magnificent backdrop. The organisers provided the turbans and the participants had to sit/kneel on a platform, then stand once their turban was tied. It was only at the end of the day that the winners were announced, and Kit almost fell over when he heard he had won. He was presented with a huge wall-hanging and was interviewed over and over - and made to re-tie his turban - for television interviews.



Turpentine Champion - Kit on Camel

Kit refuses to comment, but I reckon that a certain amount of "baksheesh" changed hands.....and the judge was staying in our hotel!

TOM GANGE

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(1/2 portion £9)**

SCOOBY DOO 2 (PG)

**FRI MAY 28th/SAT 29th 5.45pm
MON 31st/ TUES JUN 1st/
WED 2nd/ THUR 3rd/FRI 4th
3.30pm & 5.45pm**

**ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF
THE SPOTLESS MIND (15)**

**FRI MAY 28th/SAT 29th/
MON 31st /TUES JUN1st/
WED2nd/ THUR 3rd 8.00pm**

VAN HELSING (12A)

**FRI JUN 4th/SAT 5th/MON 7th
8.30pm**

**TUES 8th/WED 9th/THUR 10th
5.45pm & 8.30pm**

SECRET WINDOW (12A)

**FRI JUN 11th/SAT12th/MON 14th
8.00pm**

**TUES 15th/WED 16th/THUR 17th
5.45pm & 8.00pm**

HIDALGO (12A)

**FRI JUN18th/SAT19th/MON 21st
5.45pm**

**TUES22nd/WED 23rd/THUR 24th
5.45pm & 8.30pm**

TROY (15)

**FRI JUN125th/SAT26th/MON 28th
8.00pm**

**TUES 29th/WED 30th/THUR 1st
4.30pm & 8.00pm**

**THE DAY AFTER
TOMORROW (12A)**

FRI JULY 2nd-THUR 8th

**HARRY POTTER JULY 16th
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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

19th APRIL 2004

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During the past twelve months there have been eleven full Council Meetings with an average 85% attendance by Councillors. In addition there have been several other meetings to deal with such matters as planning applications and other business where time limitations required decisions before the next official meeting. Councillors have also attended meetings of general interest at the District Council, Saltstone Meetings, maritime pollution, finance, police, etc. as well as individual meetings with officers from different public sectors and also, importantly, private individuals who come to us with their problems.

We started the year with a new Parish Clerk, **Gill Calvert**, who unfortunately had to resign after a few months. She has been succeeded by **Cathy Tavender**, who has certainly 'grasped the nettle' with both hands - and has hopefully not been stung too badly. I would like to thank them both for their sterling efforts on behalf of the Parish Council and the parish.

We also welcomed our new District Councillor, **Shonaugh Rankin**. She has attended most of our meetings and given us full support on District Council matters. Thank you, Shonaugh.

The final nail was put in the coffin of the **Recreation Field Project**. This was a difficult decision, but in the end the Council felt that the scheme, as originally envisaged, was no longer viable and the costs would far outweigh any benefit. This also meant that the Council relinquished the idea of a public car park behind the church, and passed this responsibility over to the Parochial Church Council.

Although not directly involved, the Council was forced to intervene in the general protest by parishioners as a whole over the building by the PCC of their **Meeting Room**. In the face of strong public opinion, the PCC went ahead with their project and Councillors individually and as a whole became sounding boards. I would like to thank them all for their efforts and diplomacy in dealing with this difficult matter. Hopefully the building will be finished shortly and misgivings will disappear.

The Parish Hall committee and all their supporters are to be congratulated on putting together a scheme for a **New Parish Hall** which has done marvels for bringing parishioners together and working to produce (so far) an amazing £90,000. They have now put in their application to the National Lottery for a grant to cover the balance of their requirements, and I am sure everyone would like to join me in wishing them success.

Perhaps the highlight of the year for the parish was the opening of the **Seaview Terrace** affordable home project. This has provided ten local families, including around twenty children, with very pleasant housing and will be a great asset to the parish.

The **cleaning of beaches**, which was previously the responsibility of the District Council, is now in the hands of the individual owners. Both Evans Estates and the Golf Club - the latter after some encouragement by our District Councillor and this Council - have taken over the mantle and their hard work is much appreciated.

Footpaths and cliff tops are giving some concern, mainly due to an acceleration of

erosion, and your Council has been prodding the responsible entities to make sure they do not create a danger to the many users of our coastal walks. We thank **John Crawford** for his help with the Countryside and other Agencies about public access paths, plus his work with the Avon Conservation Society.

The footpath going down the side of Warren Hill is slowly being narrowed and damaged by a combination of surface water off the road and vehicle wheels running into the sides of the path. The Council and Devon County Council, have now come to an agreement to build up the side of the path with stone and put in a proper water channel.

The District Council's Waste Management introduced a new **re-cycling scheme** which, by and large, has been successful. There is still a problem, mainly by holiday lets, where garbage bags are left out in the street on non-collection days. They should be encouraged to contact Waste Management, who assure me that they will make extra pick-ups when necessary.

Whilst on the subject of waste management, there is growing concern about the increase in **dog fouling** on public footpaths and, perhaps even worse, the proliferation of plastic bags of dog poo which are thrown into hedges and verges. We are now in consultation with the Dog Warden at the District Council over how best to tackle this problem and educate dog owners.

Happily **police business** has been relatively quiet, with only a couple of burglaries and some minor vandalism of property and vehicles which, hopefully, have been dealt with. I would urge everyone to be vigilant now that the warmer weather is approaching and windows and doors are left open - an invitation to the opportunist burglar.

To cover our costs, the **parish precept** has been increased for the next financial year from £5327 to £6525. Because second home owners are now paying 90% council tax, the

resultant individual household contribution towards this precept has fallen marginally. The increase, in the main, is to cover the costs of our Parish Clerk and also an unexpected bill from the District Council to cover election expenses.

In the pipeline. We are exploring the idea of Community Composting, finding out why our picture map by the bus shelter was removed, and getting the dry stone wall by Island View rebuilt. We have problems of helicopter pollution, and car parking (around the school area, and especially in Bantham). We are addressing concerns about the level of intake in the school and its resultant problems of (a) catering for local children, (b) inappropriate buildings, and (c) parking. We have been offered the green land in Island View as a **recreation area**, which will be discussed later. Over the coming months there will no doubt be many topics cropping up which your Council will do its best to sort out. Still officially in the pipeline is first-time **sewerage in West Buckland** and we are given to understand that after many years the go-ahead for the scheme has had the green light.

I would like to close by thanking, first of all, all the **Councillors** who have given much time and effort for the benefit of the community. (Thanks is not their usual reward!). In particular I must thank **Cathy**, our **Parish Clerk**, for keeping us all on the straight and narrow.

Village Voice must also be thanked for their outstanding publication - of which the parish can be justly proud - and for publishing public notices and reports on our meetings.

Last but not least our thanks must go to all our parishioners - who collectively make this parish what it is!

Kit Marshall
Chairman
Thurlestone Parish Council

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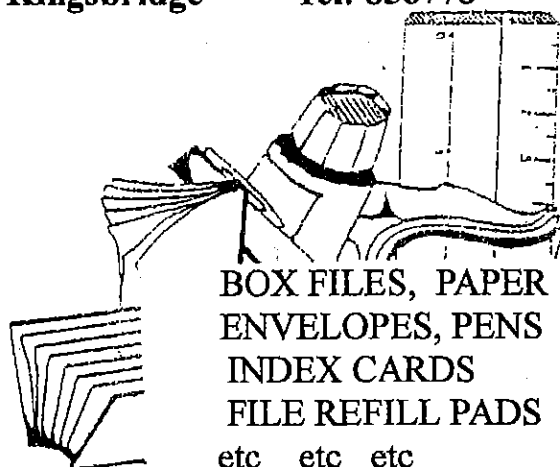
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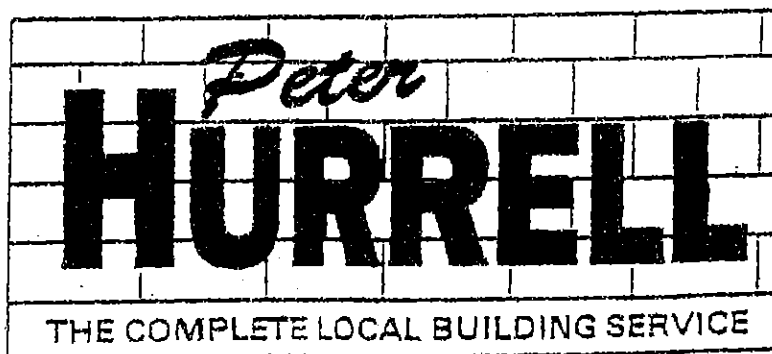
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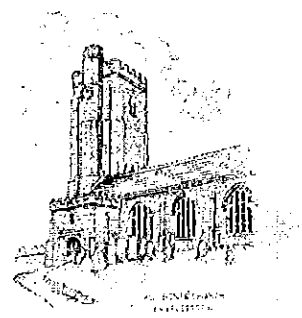
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All Saints



Rector: Revd. Andrew Girling 562219

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

Andrew Girling writes:

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TRUTH?

Piers Morgan has lost his job. He published faked photographs which have done immeasurable damage to those seeking reconciliation in Iraq and to the credibility of The Mirror.

Members of the anti-war movement have suggested that it did not really matter that the photographs were faked. After all, they argued, it now seems clear that British soldiers have, in a few isolated cases, handled Iraqi prisoners with unnecessary violence. The photographs therefore tell a poetic truth, if not a literal one.

This is, of course, nonsense. If the photographs are real, they are evidence of wrongdoing. If they are not, they are a travesty of the truth. If journalists do not communicate the truth, they will very quickly lose all respect.

So it is with our politicians, where it seems generally accepted that truth is something that can be bent and buckled by the agents of spin. We shrug and say 'that's politicians for you'. We do not rise up and protest. We just sit back and moan. So we lose faith and respect for those in authority because we feel we have lost touch with the truth. The result is disillusionment and apathy. Fewer and fewer people bothering to vote or even to take an active interest in politics. Then follows the breakdown of respect for authority at all levels society.

In a recent and much publicised sermon in Cambridge, the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of a growing distrust in the political system. He said this:

Credible claims on our political loyalty have something to do with the demonstrable attention to truth, even unwelcome truth.

On the whole politicians do not go in for unwelcome truths. They tend to be bad for votes. Rather no vote than a vote in the wrong direction. How wrong they are. To rediscover our faith and trust in society, we need, above all else, journalists and politicians, who, however unpalatable it may be, will speak the truth. Truth, trust and respect are inseparable and in desperately short supply. It is the confident who are prepared to admit mistakes and who are therefore most respected and trusted.

As Jesus said: **If you know the truth, the truth will set you free.**

Andrew

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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

JUNE 6TH	TRINITY SUNDAY	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship for All
JUNE 13TH		8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Matins (BCP)
JUNE 20TH		8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW) 6.00 p.m. Benefice Evensong (BCP) at South Milton
JUNE 27TH		8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)
JULY 4TH		8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship for All led by <i>Searchlight</i>
JULY 11TH		8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Matins (BCP)
JULY 18TH		8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW)
JULY 25TH		8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship

Regular Weekday Services

THURSDAY JUNE 3RD & JULY 1ST	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham
OTHER THURSDAYS	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW)
THURSDAYS JUNE 24TH & JULY 29TH	8.00 a.m. Informal Prayer

Church Meeting Room

The new Church Meeting Room will be in use from June 21st and we shall at last be able to extend the mission of the church to the community, particularly the elderly and those living alone, in offering a place to meet regularly for company, a chat and a cup of coffee.

Initially, from June 21st until early September, the Room will be open for:

- ♦ **COFFEE-TIME** 10.00 – 11.30 a.m. on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** excluding the 1st Friday of the month when there will be
- ♦ **PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH** from noon until 1.30 p.m. on **Fridays July 2nd, August 6th & September 3rd** (also on **Monday June 7th** in the Parish Hall).

Why not drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat and have a look at the facilities? You can be assured of a warm welcome. If you need a lift, contact Rosemary Chipman (562013), Eve Gilkes (560973) or Liz Webb (560090).

From early September we hope to offer lunch once a week and a weekly activities morning or afternoon. Watch this space!

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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

To Whom It May Concern

It is so nice to be able to walk our country lanes, use footpaths through the fields, and take in our lovely views.

But stop for a moment and think of those who are having to drive cattle or sheep out of people's gardens, or cattle which have been let into fields of grass which is growing to make winter feed of silage **.....and all because some thoughtless person did not latch the gate.**

Please follow the Country Code by shutting gates and latching them properly (even if it is with binder cord, very much a farmer's friend!). Grown-ups and youngsters will find it so easy to do if they try. Then we will ALL be able to enjoy our country life.

**Eileen Dayment
Lower Aunemouth
Bantham**

Dear Editor

Retirement

I adore the *Village Voice*, which I read avidly the moment it arrives. I am enclosing a poem that I have written (as is my wont) which I thought you might like for a future edition.

[To be included in a future issue. Ed.]

Although, as you will see, I don't live at Thurlestone, I am told by my father that I was conceived in a feather bed in the village! I then lived with the Snowdons together with my sister and nanny in 1939/40 when the Marines were at the Thurlestone Hotel. I knew, when

walking past, if I winked at them they would buy me an ice-cream.....much to my sister's chagrin.

My parents used to own Longstone and both my sisters have properties in The Mead. My son, now aged 43, has never missed a year of spending his summer holidays there - now with his own children.

By the way, I used to play in the junior tennis tournament with Martyn Grose and last year I ran his bottle-stall at the Parish Hall fête. This is just to give you my Thurlestone background.

I have written children's books and other amusing poetry for various occasions. This one seems to have been quite popular - and rather hits home particularly with the ladies!

**Pat Hill (nee Pears)
Pulborough,
West Sussex**

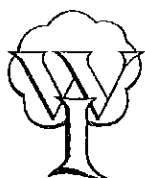
Dear Editor

St Luke's Hospice

A really big **"thank you"** to everyone who supported our coffee morning and raffle on 26th April. The event was very well attended, and Gill Davies from the Hospice gave us a most interesting talk on the new Triangle Centre - which meets every Wednesday at the hospital in Kingsbridge.

Thanks to your generosity we managed to raise **£1050** for St Luke's.

**Lindy Price
Rose Lawn
Thurlestone**



NEWS FROM THE WI

IMPORTANT!

**PLEASE NOTE
THAT OUR JUNE
MEETING
WILL NOW BE
HELD ON**

THURSDAY 17th

**AND NOT
THURSDAY 10th**

April Speaker

Potions and natural remedies were the subject of **Dawn Platten's** talk in April. Simple items from the store cupboard or garden made up many of her compounds and could be as effective as today's expensive commercial equivalents.

Resolutions

We did not have a speaker in May as this is a time for discussion of the resolutions for the big national AGM at Sheffield in June. Members had earlier attended a meeting in Ivybridge and heard expert speakers on the subjects in question. **Karen Livett** will be our delegate, and she was given a discretionary vote on the funding of air ambulances and affirmative votes on those dealing with genetically modified food crops and trafficking in women and children.

Entertainment

After this serious debate **Val Brown** and **Karen Livett** entertained the assembled company with a comic sketch inspired by Victoria Wood.

More of the same was a popular request! **Elaine Treleaven**, Village Voice's 'Kate' and a former member at Thurlestone, came from Kingsbridge and judged the annual competition for the Brewster paper weight. **Julie Hanham** carried off the award with her three fruit scones.

Sea Coast Group

The Group's silver cup will decorate the President's table at our meetings in 2004, courtesy of the skills shown in **Dorothy Abel's** painting, **Margaret Illingworth's** sugar-craft, and **Alice Foster's** flower arranging. Together these three members produced the winning entry of 'Spring Flowers', beating off some serious competition from South Milton, Salcombe and West Alvington WIs.

Bluebells & Lunch

Although it had rained heavily beforehand, and made the going wet and somewhat slippery, participants enjoyed walking through West Alvington bluebell woods and the ensuing lunch at the Ring-o-Bells.

Exeter

University

The WI County Federation's annual April meeting at the University attracted eight of our members. **Anthony Gibson**, the Devon NFU man (whose face became familiar on TV during the Foot & Mouth outbreak) supported Devon's resolution that dairy farmers should be given a fairer share of the selling price of milk. After a full agenda in the morning, members sat back after lunch to enjoy a talk by the celebrated **Kate Adie**, the BBC television reporter, about her career. Her presence as guest speaker guaranteed a capacity audience and ensured another wonderful county 'away day'.

Alvington Singers

The WI were asked to do the catering for the Alvington Singers' fund-raising concert in aid of the parish hall building fund. A very tasty supper was provided by the members, under the able guidance of **Rosemary Mackay**, and a warm letter of appreciation had been received from Parish Hall chairman, **Rowland Cole**.

Area Lunch

Our local Home Economics Area hold an annual lunch at The Cottage Hotel in early May and this year six of our members attended and sat down in the company of 74 other South Hams members to enjoy an excellent meal.

Future Events

We are looking forward to **Meg Horton** being with us again to talk about 'Poetry & Prose' on 17th June. (Remember she came last year and spoke delightfully about John Betjeman?)

On Thursday 1st July we will be having a Garden Lunch with **Rosemary Mackay** at Glen Lyon.

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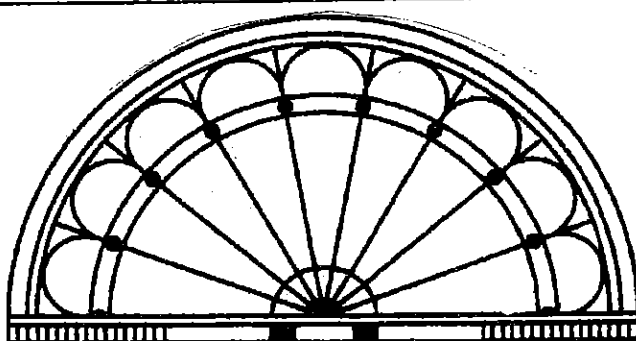
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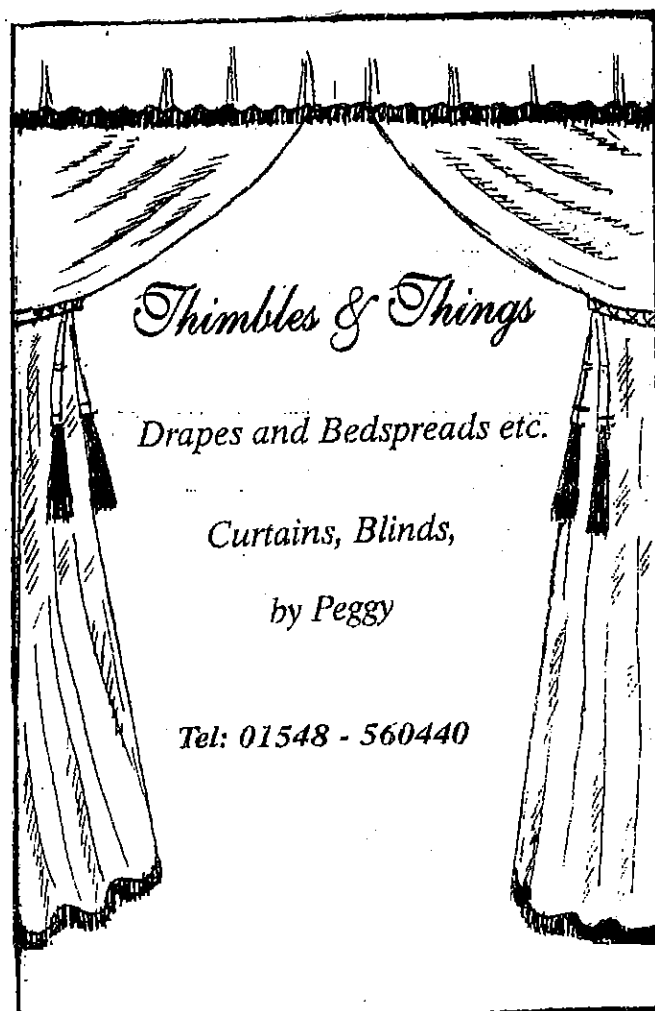
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"MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER"

*David & Diana Smeeton left Thurstone to live in Western Australia in October 2000.
Here is their second report on life 'down under'.*

Believe it or not, more than three years have passed since we came to live by the River Murray in South Yunderup some 80 kilometres, or one hour's drive, south of Perth. We live on one of several 'reaches', or man-made canals, off the main river. Before the Anglo-Saxons arrived in Australia, the Aboriginals walked the river bank to the 'inland sea' at the mouth of the river, where they hunted for fish. They named the area 'Resting or Meeting Place'. In their language it was Yunderup. We have received letters addressed 'Underup', and we have had irreverent friends in England - believing we have become beer-swilling Aussies, asking if we are living in 'Chunderup'.

Unlike the undulating cliff scenery of South Devon, our countryside is flat. The Murray flows down from a line of low hills and winds in great loops through fields of cattle and horses. It is all very open. There are no Devon hedges here - each huge field is edged with posts and wire. There are lots of horses, and the tiny historic township of Pinjarra nearby has tracks for both flat and trotting races.

The trees lining the riverbank and the billabongs - the natural ponds - include myrtle, acacia and a willow that comes from the pittosporum family. There are banksia with their candle-like flowers, and an infinite variety of eucalyptus or 'gums'. In the paddocks, the skeletons and stumps of former trees, that died in past droughts, stand, or lie, in fantastic shapes, gaunt, grey and twisted.

As an 'incomer' you learn to accept the strangeness of the Australian flora. For much of the year it is a dull grey-green but it bursts into life at flowering time - vibrant reds and yellows. But, and for the gardeners here it is

a big 'but', while the towering gums may look magnificent, they deposit countless dried out spear-shaped leaves that defy all brooms and rakes. Once swept up they are totally useless for compost for they contain too much cellulose to break down properly.

With the arrival of suburban man we also have palms littering most gardens. Now palms are considered exotic. Their fronds wave splendidly in the wind but look down below and you will find their roots spread out in the flower bed, depriving all other plants of such nutrients that survive in the sunbaked sandy soil. Palms also carry on growing higher until it becomes a daring exercise to climb the tallest step-ladder up their trunks, and then wave around some twelve foot of trimming gear to cut off the latest dead frond. It's a chore that has to be done once a month somewhere in the garden, for we inherited no fewer than twelve tall palms.

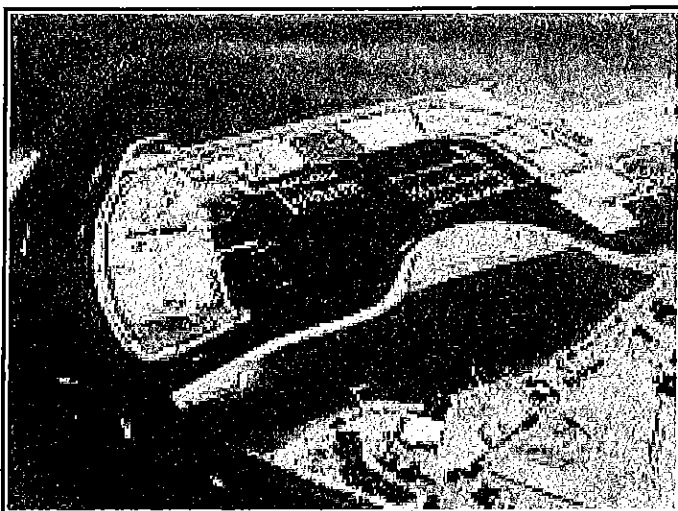
During our first eighteen months here, there was hardly any rain - only some six days-worth in the entire period. This was followed by a more normal winter with strong winds and one rainy day a week. In 2003 we had a real winter which started with local flooding and strong winds in May. It was a wet and long winter; never really cold, but windy.

The rain transformed our usual brown and yellow seared fields to grasslands of startling emerald green. Water filled the billabongs, cattle browsed knee-high in the paddocks, and the vegetation on the roadside verges sprang back to life. But one week of hot sun last November put paid to all that and we were back to the traditional Aussie landscape of brown and gold fields and the dark green eucalypts.

Rain never stops us from going out and about,

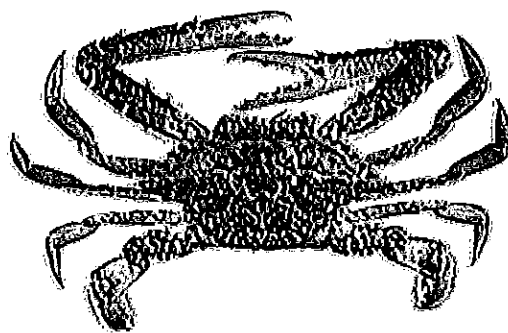
for it never rains for very long, or it is so warm you dry out very quickly. Local dams are still only one-third full. We enjoy lunch out on the patio overlooking the water on most days, and are only driven indoors to the relief of the air conditioning when the temperatures become horrendous. With the approach of summer, landowners are expected to cut down the long grasses and harvest their hay to avoid the danger of fires when the temperatures climb beyond the 100 degree F. mark. Hot winds blow from the deserts in the east from January to March. Normally the hay is baled up much as in Devon, but one local landowner went as far this year as 'stooking' his crop in the old-fashioned style that only the oldest in Devon will be able to recall.

In a matter of moments we can cast off from our jetty at the bottom of the garden and wend our way down-river to the huge sea inlet, as large as Plymouth Sound, that connects the River Murray to the sea. Trips vary from an hour's run to Mandurah, the seaside township on the Indian Ocean, where we can tie up by a waterside restaurant or take a picnic to one of the islands that form the delta where the river enters the inlet. Most of the islands though are out of bounds as they are breeding sanctuaries for birds. Mandurah is very much the holiday centre south of Perth and the region is set fair to become one of the major holiday destinations for West Australians in the future.



The Marina at Mandurah

After Christmas the long school summer holiday goes right on into early February. Holidays bring many families to the camp sites and holiday homes along the riverbank. The river is thronged with boats of all shapes and sizes and a really serious activity is crabbing. The inlet is home to thousands upon thousands of Blue Manna crabs; smaller than the brown mud crab, they are sweet and



Blue Manna Crab

tasty and people flock to the inlet to catch them.

Much of the perimeter of the inlet is very shallow and the method of catching crabs there is to wade through waist high water wielding a 'crab basket' on a long pole and towing a plastic box for storing the catch. If you spot a crab, or step on one, the trick is to swing the basket down and scoop up the crab before it swims away. It is best to don sturdy footwear for the Blue Manna has long arms that end in scissor-like pincers ready to nip the toes of the unwary.

One is only allowed to catch crabs measuring over five inches across the width of their shells. Immature ones, and females carrying eggs must be thrown back. There are limits, too, on the number a person, or boat, may catch.

The method favoured by the Smeeton's - as it appears to be a safer and more relaxed way to go crab-catching - is to load up the boat with drop nets, bait and beer, and cruise out into the

inlet. With a lifetime of inexperience we found it quite hard at first to drop the pots in a reasonably straight line some thirty yards apart. After a short rest for a beer you cruise back up the line, pulling in the pots as you keep a look out for other crabbers, joy riders hurtling through the pot lines, and making sure you do not cut your own pot lines with the boat's propeller.

We may not catch many crabs - our pots usually come up with baby crustaceans that slip out through the mesh, but it's good fun and a very pleasant way to spend the morning. For all of us out on the water at this time of year it is one way to keep cool - and the beer goes down a treat. There is a lazy way to catch them. Drop the nets in off the home jetty. It is often successful but not nearly so much fun

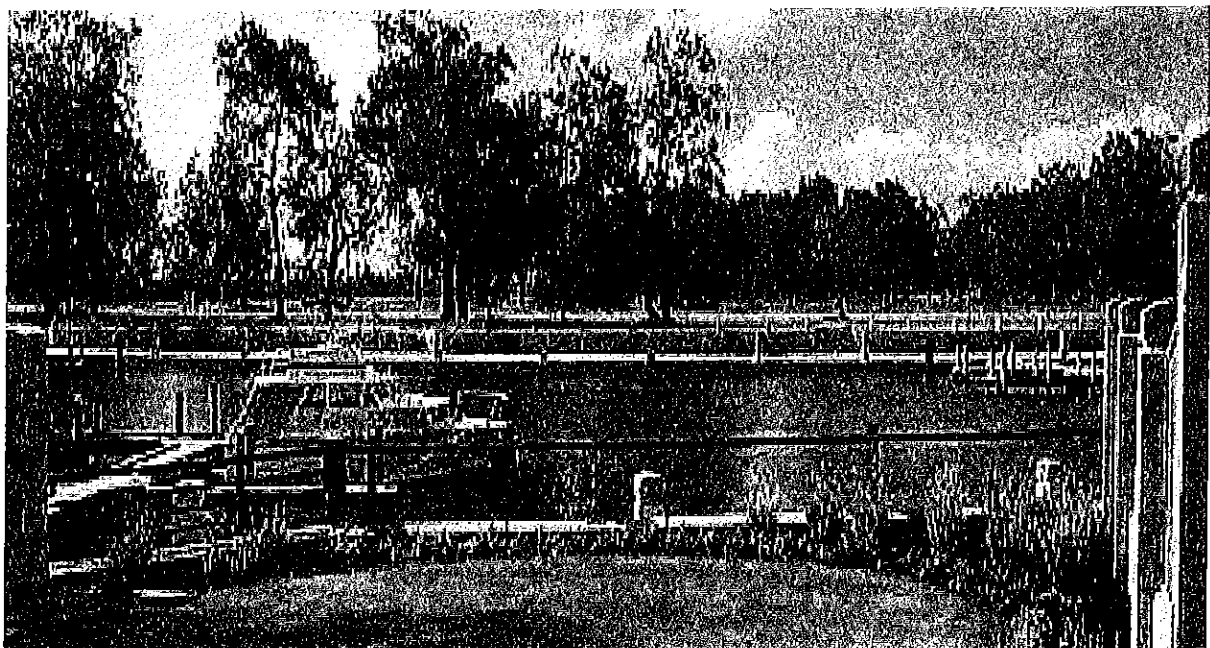
Last November Diana underwent spinal surgery to solve her back problem and as a result we have now taken up another Western Australian traditional pursuit; early morning walking along the river bank to keep fit. Her physio told her to walk four to five kilometres

a day. Most of the year it would not be difficult, but in the horrendous heat of the Western Australia summer it means you have to be out of the house and walking by half past six at the latest. By eight o'clock it is much too hot. Even so, we still cannot compete with some of the locals - who regularly start their walking at half past five, just after dawn.

So if one day you drop by for a visit, be prepared not only to load the beer, bait and drop nets aboard the boat, but also to come out with us for an early morning walk along the river bank; spotting the egrets and herons, being shouted at by the parrots and watching the cormorants, darters, and pelicans on their morning fishing expeditions. Nipper, the Elizabethan sea dog from Thurstlestone, is now 14 years old and trots amiably alongside, occasionally wandering off into the river to cool off.

Life here is just 'messaging about on the river'!

David & Diana Smeeton



Mandurah Quay Marina

KATE'S KITCHEN



Welcome to summer. Crab is at its best between May and August and we are lucky to have local supplies.....best eaten on the day they are caught! Here is a recipe for a starter or a light main course, which I hope you will enjoy. It is simple to assemble and looks stunning. To mould each serving, you will need a metal or plastic plain cutter, measuring approximately three and a half inches in diameter by one and a half inches deep. Marvellous if you have four, if not just one will do.

CRAB, AVOCADO & SMOKED SALMON WITH CUCUMBER SALAD (Serves 4)

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 4 small ripe Haas avocados (dark, knobbly skins that turn black when ripe) | Juice of a lemon |
| 4 small slices smoked salmon | Fresh ground sea salt |
| 200g white crab meat | Twists of sliced lemon |
| 1 dessertspoon mayonnaise | |
| Dill or flat-leaved parsley to garnish | |

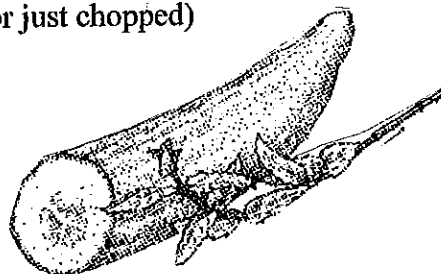
Preparation (using just the one mould)

- * Place the mould on a serving plate large enough to hold it plus the salad
- * Put one of the salmon slices at the bottom of the mould
- * Mash each avocado with a fork, adding some of the lemon juice, mayonnaise and salt (I like the texture of this to be a little chunky)
- * Put avocado on top of salmon
- * Season and sprinkle the crab with some lemon juice
- * Put a quarter of the crab over avocado to form the top of the mould
- * Remove the mould carefully and repeat on the other plates
- * Garnish with dill and a lemon twist

CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients

- Half a cucumber, peeled and sliced
- 2 tomatoes skinned, seeded and chopped (or just chopped)
- 1 Little Gem baby lettuce
- 1 to 2 tablespoons French dressing
- Sea salt and freshly-ground black pepper



Preparation

- * Wash and dry lettuce leaves
- * Mix other ingredients together
- * Just before serving dress the salad, place inside lettuce leaves
- * Put on plate with crab, avocado and salmon
- * Serve with brown seeded bread

Hope the sun keeps shining!

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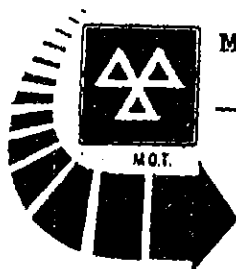
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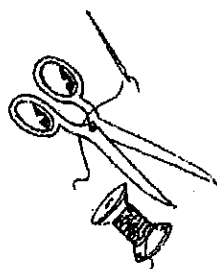
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The Rifle Club Room

By Hubert Snowdon

Earlier this year I mentioned the Rifle Club Room and the following is what I know of its site and founding.

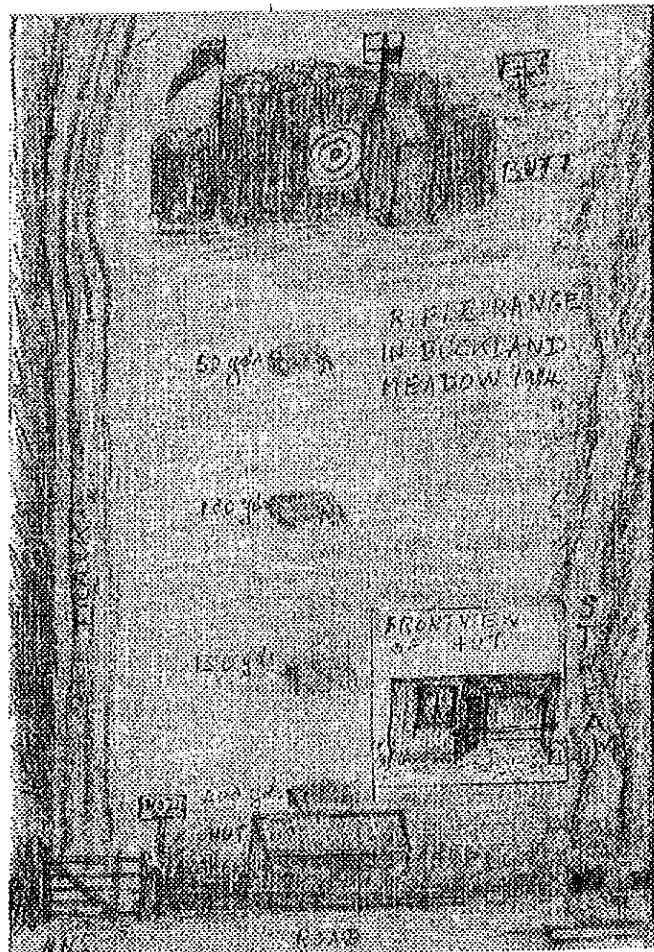
It came into being as a result of the public-spirited **Colonel Frank Hewett**, who lived in a converted thatched barn in Buckland which once belonged to Old Farm and was later renamed 'Peep-o-Day'. The Colonel was an Army recruitment officer in the 1914-18 war, and was responsible for forming a Rifle Club to train young men of the parish to use rifles.

A range was built in the Buckland narrow meadows that run by the stream at the bottom of Brook Hill (nick-named as "Sudden Death" during World War Two). The gate to the meadow is near Mill Corner and between it and the stream inside the road hedge was built a galvanised shed. One half had a locked door where the rifles and equipment were stored. The other half was open for shelter, with a pole across the front to keep cattle out.

Two hundred yards, I believe, down the meadow a high butt was built of poles and soil, against which was fixed the target. A flag pole flew a red flag when firing was about to commence, with warning notices at either end of the range. A shelter at the butt housed a 'Marker' who signalled back to the 'Scorer' who was seated at the window of the hut and recorded each shot at the target - bullseye, inner ring, outer ring, or miss. The 'Marker' could signal with a black square of tin on a pole which he manoeuvred to cover one of the four squares on a white board denoting the score. At fifty-yard intervals along the two hundred yard range slight mounds of turf were raised for recruits to lie against when firing.

After the 1914-18 war, the range went into decline and dilapidation but I recall that in the late 1920s there were still rifles which could be seen, through the window, on the hut's back wall. It was an honest village but when I was about ten years old I saw an older boy attempting to break the door padlock. He failed but probably left sufficient evidence for soon afterwards the rifles were removed.

Colonel Hewett decided, after the range was no more use, to keep together his Rifle Club youth by building an indoor games room for them. How it was financed I am not sure. The Parish records might have it. A long galvanised shed was built on the bank opposite his house, next to Mrs Hearsey's



Hubert's sketch of the Rifle Range

small cottage which was significantly useful later as you will read.

The new shed was painted a dull red, and windows were along one end and one side. The inside was boarded throughout and furnished with long tea tables, trestles and chairs, which served for teas, whist drives, and doubled up to form a stage at one end for concerts. Later there was ample room for full size billiards and table tennis tables. There was a coke store at one end to house the winter fuel. The building was always known as the Rifle Club Room.

In 1939, at the start of World War Two, there was an attempt by volunteers to restore the rifle range. But they were stopped on learning that recruits would be bussed away to Army ranges for rifle practice. Eventually the butt and shed were demolished.

Meanwhile the Rifle Club Room flourished with membership, for males only, at a low annual subscription. It was open each evening except Sunday until 10 pm. During the daytime the room was let out as required for acceptable functions. This quite suited **Mrs Radcliffe** of Clanacombe (instigator and first President of the WI in the parish), and her helpers who wished their meeting place to be central. For years there was a regular and popular Whist Drive on certain Monday evenings. There were occasional village concerts, usually in aid of charity, acted with local talent - great fun.

There was a problem over dressing rooms - to relate how the difficulty was resolved I will have to give the following brief description of the building's layout. The main entrance to the room was up steps from the road. At the top of the steps was also a second door into the small committee room which was built on the side of the main room. Below that, on the east side, was a gate leading into Mrs. Hearsey's cottage from the road. From there a path continued up beside the club room to a side door into the room at the far end, and where the stage

was at concert times.

Kind-hearted Mrs Hearsey allowed the females to change in her living room and they ran up and down the path as required. The males had further to run - from the path out into the road, up the steps, and into the committee room. They were very often out of breath when they arrived back on stage!

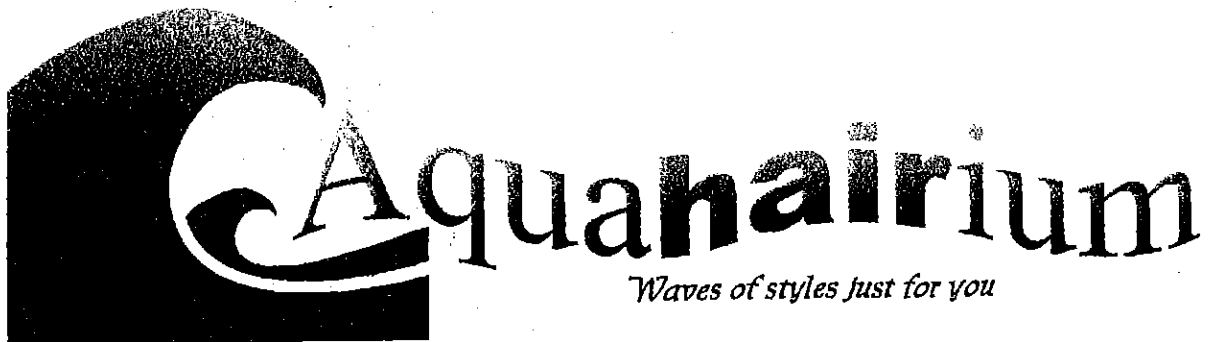
For teas, Mrs Hearsey was called upon again, willingly boiling large iron kettles of water on her small coal range. In winter one was also put on top of the club room's coke stove. Outside the room side door was a wooden shed which contained a bucket lavatory which at one time served both club room and cottage. Many cottages were equipped similarly with buckets being emptied into the garden ash-pit or taken down to the valley stream. Just the large houses who could afford it had flush toilets which emptied into garden cess pits and which often overflowed into the stream. (According to present news this problem has not yet been remedied).

Unfortunately, in one sense, with the coming of the motor car, cinema and radio, the use of the Rifle Club Room went into decline. A newly-formed Youth Club, mixed sexes, took it over for a time but that also failed. A convened meeting agreed to close down the Room. The fate of the Room, and its assets, was placed in the trust of two prominent parishioners.

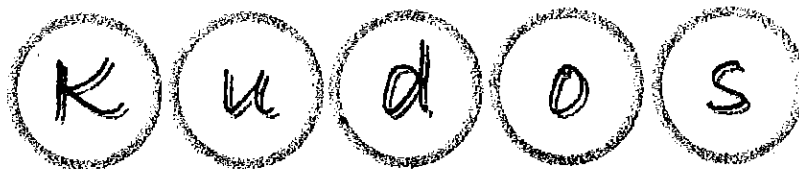
As a long-time club member, and having served on the committee and as its chairman, out of natural interest I enquired as to how the matter lay. I was sure the surplus finances had been put to some good use but was told that it was "None of your business!"

I understand that because of the rusting state of the galvanised building it was demolished and became a building site.

Hubert Snowdon



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Downbeat Broadband Update

by Chris White



Done the campaigning, got the exchange enabled, Broadband is available. Can I get it? NO! Are we downhearted? You bet your sweet life we are!

As I've said many times, present technology can only squeeze a Broadband signal down 6 km of telephone cable, so some people were always going to be "out of range" - but the majority of Thurlestone is between 5 and 6 km from the exchange, so I wasn't really expecting a major problem. In the event, the signal loss on my telephone line (and presumably others) is too great a problem which BT says can be caused by "other factors or components in the network".

I know that the signal reaches the bottom of Main Street OK, but I don't know how much further it goes. It is possible that some properties on the Mead may be able to receive it successfully, but it so happens that at 5 Mead Lane the present answer is a lemon!

It can be notoriously unpredictable, so the only way to find out for certain is to order a service and see whether a test of your own phone installation indicates that you can actually get an adequate signal.


However, even if you can't, all is not lost. If a sufficient number of people (minimum 15) can't get ADSL - but are desperate for Broadband now - it is possible to get a Wireless / Satellite connection for about £33 per month. I can provide details if required (560505).


More interestingly, BT have been working on technology to push the signal 10 km down a telephone line (and possibly further), which will solve the vast majority of the distance problems in the country. They are starting a field trial of this new technology in Milton

Keynes on 1st June, which will run throughout the summer. Assuming it works (and they wouldn't be running a field trial if they didn't!) they expect the roll out will be National by the end of the year.

So, personally, I shall just sit patiently sticking pins into my model of BT and waiting for the new technology to arrive: but if you want Broadband and haven't ordered it yet, **please don't be put off by my problems. Have a go, and order it - you may be luckier than me.** Please let me know how you get on, so that I can build up a picture to feed back to BT.

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At the Bridge Table



My previous article introduced the topic of **safety plays** - which (put simply) means taking out insurance against bad breaks. The normal division of adverse cards may well allow you to play a particular suit for the loss of no tricks, but it is worth considering what would happen if there is a bad distribution which could cost you two tricks. If there is a safety play available to lose only one trick - whatever the distribution - then it is worth employing it whenever the contract depends on losing **not more** than one trick.

In considering a safety play you do not need either to count the hands or to know the adverse distribution, but you do need to know that a suit **may** break badly. Here any bidding from the opposition may give you a clue, but it is also useful to have some knowledge of the statistical probabilities as to how cards will divide, as shown below.

Even defence cards - likely break			Odd defence cards - likely break		
6 cards	4 - 2	48.5%	5 cards	3 - 2	67.8%
	3 - 3	35.3%		4 - 1	28.3%
	5 - 1	14.5%		5 - 0	3.9%
	6 - 0	1.7%			
4 cards	3 - 1	49.7%	3 cards	2 - 1	78.0%
	2 - 2	40.7%		3 - 0	22.0%
	4 - 0	9.6%			

To ease memory strain, just remember that an **ODD** number of cards is likely to divide favourably (4-3, 3-2, 2-1), whereas an **EVEN** number is more likely to divide UN-evenly.

As a first example, assume you hold (with dummy) EIGHT cards of a suit including the Ace, King, and Ten and your object is to lose not more than one trick in that suit. Typically the holdings might be :

K 10 x x x
A x x

K 10 x x
A x x x

A K 10 x
x x x x

A K 10 x x
x x x

The safety play is the Ace **first** and then the lead of a low card towards the King-Ten, with the intention of playing the Ten if the left hand opponent also plays low. If the finesse of the Ten loses to Jack or Queen then the distribution must be 3-2 and the missing honour will fall under the King on the next round. This gives you insurance against Q-J-x-x **on the left**. If this holding is **on the right**, of course, then (sadly!) nothing can be done.

Similarly, if your total holding is nine cards in a suit including the Ace and Queen, and the object is to lose not more than one trick, then again the safety play is to lay down the Ace and then lead up to the Queen, e.g.,

(a) A Q 10 x x
x x x x

(b) A Q x x x x
x x x

With (a) if the Ace drops a singleton King from East you lose NO tricks as you can return to hand to finesse the ten. With (b) you lose one trick if the King is singleton on your right, but if you had finessed the Queen on the first round you would have lost a second trick to the holding of J-10-x on your left.

Victor

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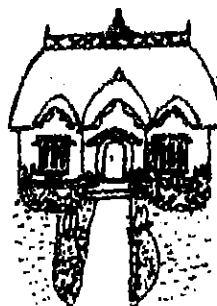
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Entry Form Overleaf

(or available from the Pavilion or local tennis members)

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Please come and join the players for tea or a drink*

**Thurlestone Parish Hall
Charity Doubles Tournament**

Friday 6th, August

On the grass courts of Thurlestone Golf Club

Juniors 10.00am – 1.00pm

Seniors 2.00 – 6.00pm

Round robin groups and finals

All proceeds to 'Thurlestone Parish Hall Fund'

Entry fees include balls and prizes:

Juniors £5.00 any pair (boys, girls, mixed)

Seniors £12.00 any pair

Entries on the form below

Closing date: Wednesday, 4th August, 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 4th

Thurlestone Parish Hall Charity Doubles Entry Form

Senior Pair (over 16) ☐ Junior Pair (under 16) ☐

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Name _____ Tel _____

We enclose £12.00 entry fee (seniors) ☐ £5.00 (juniors) ☐

Cash and cheques payable to 'Thurlestone Parish Hall Fund'

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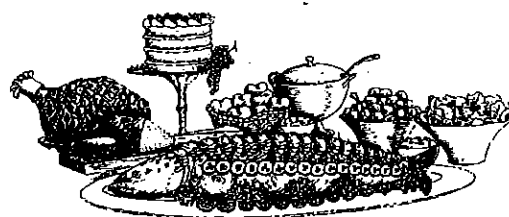


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Puzzle Page

by Keith Farrelly

NINE-LETTER WORD-SEARCH

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

1. Cataract
2. Noel Coward musical
3. Top floor luxury apartment
4. Wretchedly unhappy
5. Arousing affection
6. Without any sound
7. Totally free from deception
8. Showing no emotion
9. Chemist - or machine?
10. Hero-worship
11. A starchy plant
12. Magic Circle members
13. He'll fix your aching bones!
14. A guarded manner
15. They live on islands
16. Poverty
17. WI opening song
18. A spotty dog!
19. Old ruin overlooks Athens
20. Well-known person
21. ???

SEL	SEC	ADE	DAL	ADU	END	EOP
BLE	OVE	OOT	WAT	RTA	ASS	PEN
SER	LEM	ALC	IND	IMP	ATH	ING
ESS	THO	RET	LAT	ITY	EAR	ANS
ERA	ERF	OWR	KEN	NOI	USA	CAV
OST	ENU	CEL	DIS	LIS	ICI	ALL
IVE	ING	ION	IVE	MIS	AND	ARR
ISL	NCE	USE	OPO	JER	EBR	IGE
OUS	MAG	MAT	ERS	PEN	ACR	IAN

TEN TEASERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which is the largest city in China? 2. What is the name given to a squirrel's nest? 3. Who wrote "If Winter comes can Spring be far behind?" 4. How many National Parks are there in England? 5. What is the name of the world's largest single rock? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. What kind of creature is called a Natterjack? 7. Where is the highest point on Dartmoor? 8. What do house flies do in the winter? 9. In which year was <i>Under Milk Wood</i> first broadcast? 10. Who composed the <i>Grand Canyon Suite</i>? |
|--|---|

Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

The first quarter of the year has come and gone in a flash, but some of its statistics have made quite interesting reading. Here are some comparisons for you:-

RAINFALL (Most)	2001 = 411mm	2003 = 213.84mm	2004 = 128.45mm
TEMPERATURE (Highest)	1995 = 9.72C	2003 = 8.1C	2004 = 7.53C
SUNSHINE (Most hours)	1996 = 263hrs	2003 = 248.63hrs	2004 = 238.29hrs

It does look like a downward trend doesn't it? In the months when we rely on rain it seems not to come. Then the temperature drops because of the clearer skies. (2003 almost no frosts, about 4; and 2004 at least 12 quite damaging frosts.) Even the amount of sunshine is slightly down, but I really think that the power of the sunshine that does occur is stronger than in the past (Ken's forehead has already peeled from being out in the sun for too long).

There has been some very interesting weather recently. Today I heard that Haldon Hill was closed to traffic because there was too much water flowing down! There was a rumble of thunder this afternoon after I had met a lady from Thurlestone who warned me that Yealmpton was having a storm. It certainly looked black enough. Not much here though. We certainly live in an area with a strange micro-climate.

Our May weather has been interesting and it is only 11th today. Bank holiday weekend was typical bank holiday type weather. A wet May Day and the day after was a disaster. It was interesting to read what Paul Simons had to say in the Times weather column on Wednesday of that week. I was certainly amazed at the rate the barometer fell in the 24hrs.

"The depression grew so fast that it was classified as a "bomb", deepening more than 1 millibar per hour in 24 hours. Part of the reason was a vigorous jet stream, a ribbon of wind several miles high, laying a racetrack for the low pressure to run along underneath. As the jet stream's

winds swept overhead, it behaved like a huge vacuum cleaner, sucking up air from the surface right through the lower atmosphere and making it more vigorous. There was also a good deal of cold air, wrapped into the depression, contrasting with warmer air and driving the weather system even harder. To make matters worse the low pressure was stuck over the United Kingdom and it looked as if it would stay much of the week, and bring more turbulent weather in the next days".

We were in Hampshire at the end of that week and the weather was lovely; warm, calm, and dry until Saturday - when it rained in the morning, but not with any real vigour. Sunday was lovely again as we returned to the West country.

It was also interesting to read an article in the paper last week, that really says Global warming has been more scientifically proved than in the past. All due to the measuring of particles in the troposphere and then comparing the results with those taken in the upper atmosphere. The theme seems to be:- work with Global Warming rather than try to fight it. It will happen anyway - unless! What do **you** think about this *problem*?

Do use Postbag to challenge me or add some more comments. It will be our grandchildren's children who will live with the results of our actions/inactions. How comfortable do we feel about it all?

Here's to a lovely summer! Watch those foreheads, and have some *after sun* or *sun bloc* ready in the bathroom cabinet.

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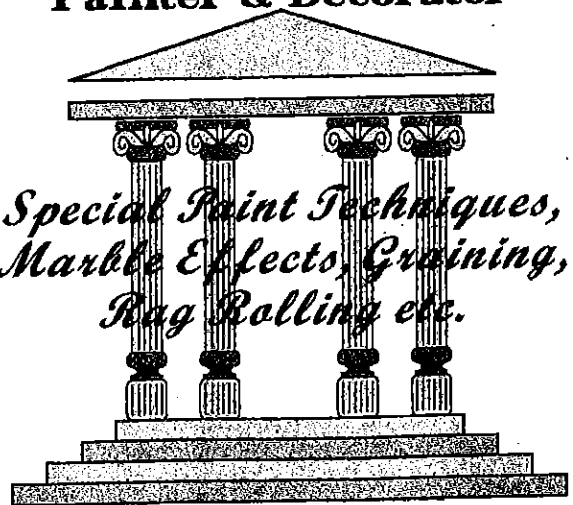
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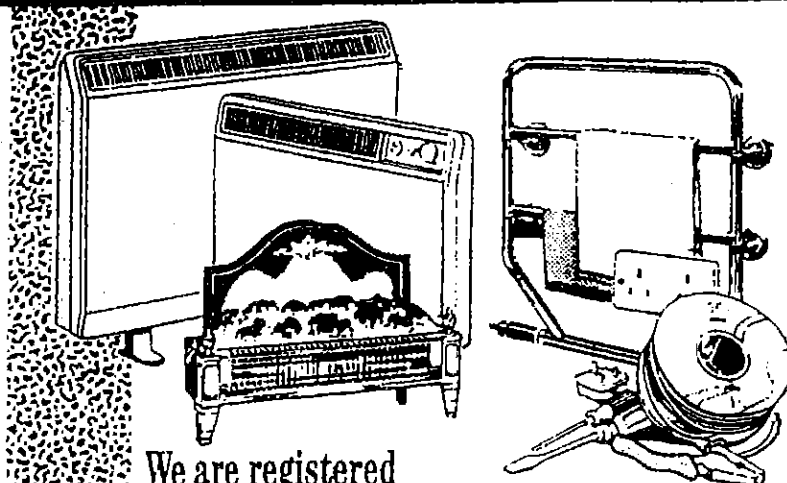
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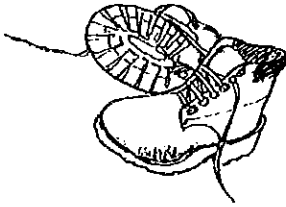
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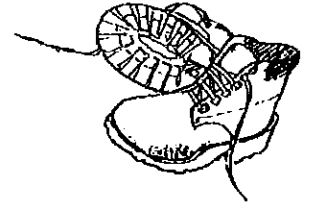
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Emergencies evenings/weekends





TRAMP



1 The weather forecast for the 15th March was not too good, but fortunately it stayed dry until after lunch. Eleven of us (along with Chester, a beautiful and well-behaved dog) met at the Parish Hall or the Snapes Point car parks.

We walked over the fields to Snapes Point and enjoyed the marvellous views overlooking the Salcombe estuary. We stopped to have a biscuit and a drink where two seats had been strategically positioned to get the finest views of the area. We then took the track and road to Batson Creek and then climbed up Torhill Road.

After this we crossed a recently-ploughed field which was not too muddy - but then had a slight problem. The stile to exit the field had been made dog-proof, and there was no other way of getting Chester out of the field. Fortunately one of our very strong members, Chris White, picked him up bodily and carried him over the stile. This was achieved only at the second attempt, much to the relief of us all. Clapping and congratulations followed!

After this it was all plain sailing back to the car park. The walk had taken about two hours.

SD

2 Our second short walk of the season was well attended with no fewer than nineteen walkers turning up on what was not the most encouraging day. Three dogs also joined the party.

The walk was a repeat of last year's

very popular outing. We had hoped to do it in the reverse direction, heading from East Soar to Sharpitor, but the wind direction was such that we didn't fancy walking along the cliffs from Bolt Head into a very strong and cold northerly.

As it turned out, it wasn't as bad as anticipated and the walk along the cliffs to Bolt Head and Starholes Bay was quite enjoyable.....but not the sort of day you stopped to admire the view! There were a number of other walkers on the cliff path from Starholes up to Sharpitor; it's amazing what people will do for pleasure.

After Sharpitor the weather turned a little more unsettled and, by the time we reached the open fields on the way back to the cars, we were greeted with a strengthening wind, a sudden drop in temperature and a hail-storm. Fortunately it didn't last too long and by the time we got back to our cars it had stopped. It was a walk which could best be described as one that got our limbs and heart working well rather than one for the beautiful views!

D & SY

3 Despite several preceding days of showers, the weather stayed fine on Friday 7th May for this circular (short) walk from Dartington Cider Press centre.

Eighteen walkers and two dogs formed the company - who were relieved to leave the ceramics displays intact despite the dogs' impromptu decision to escape their owners and race around the showroom prior to

departure! Luckily the River Dart later proved a more appropriate and safer attraction for them.

The sights and scents of the wild flowers at this time of year were stunning - wild garlic, bluebells and wood anemones in profusion. Some also spied the striking plumage of a pair of jays making short flights ahead of us in the woods. A lesser-chuffing steam train was also spotted near Pixie Falls as the walk followed the route of the Totnes/Buckfast steam railway for some distance.

After a refreshment break we left the riverside and climbed through the woods and back to the Cider Press centre where the culinary attractions of 'Cranks', 'Muffins' or picnics awaited us.

TW

4 Sixteen walkers, including four visitors staying at the Thurlestone Hotel, and two dogs, assembled later than usual in the car park on Monday 17th May for a short 3-mile walk from Ringmore to Ayrmer Cove. This was carefully timed to finish at The Journey's End for a pub lunch.

The weather was superb and the wild flowers beautiful again. By now the red campion had joined the bluebells in the woods and the cliffs were carpeted in thrift and ox-eye daisies. After pauses on the cliffs to admire the views and a pause in Ringmore for the visitors to note details of a property for sale (!), we arrived at the pub to be greeted by the new licensees who had taken over just a few days ago.

We made the most of the sun in the garden over drinks and lunch before returning to the NT car park where one of the visitors took a photo of the

group and vowed to join us again on their next holiday in October.

TW

5 On the 17th May, nine eager TRAMP members plus a black labrador set off from the Village Hall car park at Malborough to walk across the fields to the coast path at The Warren, and then onward to Soar Mill Cove and Inner Hope. We were soon stopping to remove jerseys as the sea mist rolled away and the sun came out.

Once we reached the coast we felt we were on 'home territory' but nevertheless no one could fail to feel a sense of delight at the beautiful coastal views. Our enjoyment was enhanced by one of our members' extensive knowledge of the history of the area.

A moment of hilarity was provided as the frantic removal of an unidentified insect caused it to be flicked from the outside of one walker's shirt to the inside of another's! Nature provided further entertainment when a Yellowhammer joined us along the edge of the path for a short distance.

After the steep climb out of Soar Mill Cove, lunch was taken on the cliff path - sufficiently close to the Port Light to allow liquid refreshment to be taken by those who had run out of water!

The afternoon provided an easier walk than the morning, down through Inner Hope, then along the ridge back to Malborough. We seemed to cover the seven and a half miles in record time and so congratulated ourselves on our fitness as we returned home to a well deserved cup of tea.

LM

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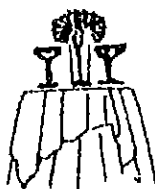
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BOOKSHELF

Arbella - England's Lost Queen

by Sarah Gristwood

Bantam Books, £8.99

With an aunt who was Mary Queen of Scots and a grandmother Bess of Hardwick, the redoubtable Tudor dynast, it was widely believed at home and abroad that young Arbella Stuart would one day be crowned queen of England in succession to Elizabeth. Both Arbella and James VI of Scotland (later to become James I of England) were descended from Henry VIII through his elder sister, Margaret. The author has drawn on a wide range of contemporary sources, including Arbella's own wonderfully passionate letters, to paint a strong portrait of a woman who was for a time very much part of the dynastic insecurity of the Tudors and Stuarts.

Sadly, Arbella chose to make a forbidden marriage to William Seymour who had descended from Mary, another sister of Henry VIII. The liaison of two strings to the succession bow, and therefore the possible cause of a weakening in James's claim to the throne of England, proved to be her undoing. But was she as innocent of political intrigue as she insisted? We shall probably never know the answer. She was doomed to be imprisoned for the rest of her life, eventually in the Tower of London where she died at the age of 40, denied her liberty and the right to love. With the passage of time she seems to have been almost completely forgotten.

In recording Arbella's life, Sarah Gristwood has combined scholarship and narrative skill to capture the detail and the atmosphere of life at the royal court. This makes the book, despite the heroine's tragic story, a particular pleasure to read for lovers of history.

PM

The Twentieth Century Novel

This year has seen several polls for the reading public.....why not conduct our own parish poll on

the best novels of the last one hundred years only?

The acclaimed novels of Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, Charles Dickens, George Eliot et al are undoubtedly elegant and historically fascinating, but I should, with a certain degree of temerity, like to suggest that modern authors have afforded us a greater insight into man's nature and the tenuous structure of society. I should like to suggest George Orwell, Harper Lee, Frank McCourt and, above all, William Golding.

Lord of the Flies by Golding is, in my opinion, an inspiring, lyrical and forceful novel illustrating the cobweb thread of so-called civilisation. Written in 1954 and influenced by Robert Ballantyne's *Coral Island*, the novel concerns the air-wreck of a group of youngsters on an uninhabited island. The novel shows us how fragile is our hold on decent behaviour once a borderline has been crossed - a premise frequently proven in many parts of the world over the last hundred years.

The book centres round five main characters, none older than thirteen. The boys represent various qualities: Piggy - clear-sightedness and intelligence; Ralph - authority and democracy; Simon - purity and goodness; while Jack and Roger between them equate with savagery, anarchy and evil.

Through the behaviour of these boys and the rest of the group, Golding shows us the fragility of human conduct. He shows us that once a line has been crossed it is all too easy to revert to savagery. The novel also uses symbolism to emphasise his ideas - the conch as the physical embodiment of democracy and 'the beast' as the representation of evil residing in us all.

This novel is my personal choice for the most powerful book of the last century. Please let us hear from you with your suggestions.

MH

IN YOUR GARDEN

I was overjoyed to get my customary annual butterfly recording off to an excellent (flying!) start with the sighting on 12th May of not one but three male Orange-tip butterflies. Alas, they were not in our parish but flying beside the River Tay, in Perthshire, amongst the bluebells of Scotland. I have never actually encountered one in a garden, so perhaps I shouldn't be writing about them here, and understand they feed on lady's smock and hedge mustard but have a particular liking for bluebells. It will be interesting to see how our other garden butterflies and moths fare this year after such a good 2003. Remember all those Painted Lady butterflies and Hummingbird Hawk moths?

Everything seems suddenly to have shot up and burst into flower, with hedges and grass now in need of a frequent trim - a situation made noticeable in my garden by a ten day absence from home. This should spur us on to making sure all the plants in our garden that need staking, tying or other support get it as quickly now as possible. Train in climbing roses and clematis as they develop. Get the underpinnings right before a summer thunderstorm (we only need one) knocks our displays for six as it is often impossible to recover the situation.

But if the thought of propping up your plants doesn't appeal why not go for something short in stature such as the closely-related plant family that includes tellima, heuchera and heucherella? Virtually maintenance-free they can have the most wonderful coloured leaves - purple, bronze, silver-patterned or maroon. They have an added bonus - they keep their foliage all year which is good to pick if you are a flower-arranger.

I followed some good advice last year in the case of very tall-growing perennials, and that was to cut the stems down - before they flower of course - by about a foot. Flowering is slightly delayed but it reduces 'leggy-ness' and makes for a sturdier plant which is less prone to damage in bad weather. Roses were not 'properly' pruned this spring (I do not have any

hybrid teas), they just had the tops cut across with a hedge trimmer. So far they look none the worse for their harsh treatment but we shall have to wait and see.

Combat flies, midges and mosquitoes the green way. It is said that a pot of mint on your kitchen window-sill, or a tub of it outside the back door, can be a deterrent, with oregano being good against midges. Troubled with ants undermining the rockery plants or enjoying life in your plant-pots? Plant pennyroyal nearby these trouble spots - in fact grow lots as you will then have sufficient to rub a handful or two around an outside door threshold - it will curb their desire to get into the house - or over paving and paths where they are a particular nuisance.

Some conservationists suggest that having a slightly unkempt garden aids wildlife, and that being too tidy in the garden is depriving small creatures of habitats - with those who dig up lawns to replace them with gravel or decking being reprehensible! The latest research, however, now discloses that those gardens which contain trees or bushes (large or small) do most to help the natural environment, and particularly in cities.

To conclude, why not take a little time off and visit Moretonhampstead? Over a dozen private gardens are being opened to the public on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June 2004. Calling themselves Moretonhampstead's Secret Gardens, they open from 11 am to 5.30 pm both days. Central parking is available and a free mini-bus will convey viewers to the outlying gardens. The £4.00 entry fee is valid over the two days. Further information from Nick McCarthy, Tel : 01647 - 440965

Nearer home, you can enjoy a Cream Tea in the lovely Warren House garden, Warren Road on Saturday 5th June, and also take in South Milton's annual Festival of Gardens from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm on both Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th July. Well worthwhile!

Ladybird

HARRY HUGGINS RECALLS

A SAGA OF THE ALGARVE

The Algarve is not all sun, sex and sangria. People play golf, bowls clubs go there for their hols, and there is first-class bird watching, especially when they migrate in spring and autumn.

A good place for the latter is the Ria Formosa, a narrow piece of water which stretches about thirty-five miles along the coast, from just west of Faro to near the Spanish border. The local guide man told us it means beautiful river. A river it is not, just water between the mainland and an offshore sandbank. Beautiful it certainly is not, being much of the time a muddy creek.

If you imagine a long sandy island, rising here and there to high dunes, with a few trees and one or two settlements, running from Start Point to Plymouth, with the aforesaid strip of water between it and the shore, you will have the idea of it. I am no geologist, but think it wouldn't happen here, you don't get long sandy bars off cliffs and rocky foreshores, but the coast there is just low-lying salty marshes, rising to foothills a few miles inland. 45,000 acres have been designated as a nature reserve (to preserve what I do not know). At low water there were hundreds of men grubbing about for cockles. Maybe cockles are not protected or, more likely, the locals just ignore any rules.

A few years ago we went to the western end of the Ria. We drove down past all the fancy villas at Quinta do Lago - nearly got ourselves arrested for gazing at houses because we were looking for Azure-winged Magpies - and found ourselves beside the water on the Sao Lourenco golf course where you have to take out a second mortgage to pay a green fee.

The birding there was good and we wanted to try at the eastern end of the Ria, but there seemed to be no hotels. No, we don't self-cater. A holiday may be for birding but it is also one from the kitchen sink. Recently an outfit called Vila Gale built a hotel right in the town of Tavira, about a dozen miles from the Spanish border. A very old town with a bridge which is said to be Roman -

but any bridge more than a few years old is said to be Roman - and because of its river, the Gilao, it was once an important port. But most of the town fell down and the river began to silt after the 1755 earthquake (which demolished Lisbon).

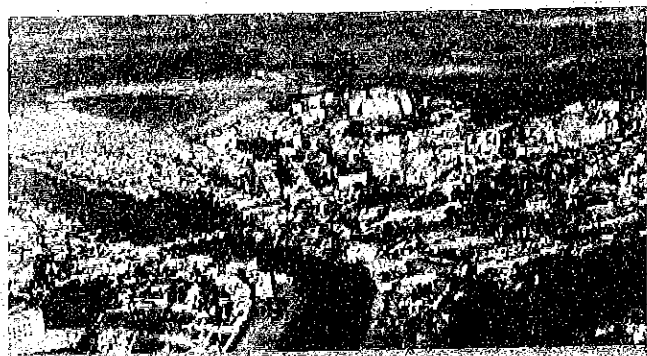


Old Tavira

The town was rebuilt - with awful cobbled streets - and a fishing industry was developed, catching mostly tuna on their way into the Mediterranean to spawn. Canning factories were built but now the fish are fished out and the factories are falling down.

When I was young we stayed at a farm near Crediton. It was built in the shape of a rectangle - house one side, cowshed opposite, barn across the top, piggeries etc. at the other end. The dung heap was in the middle. Sounds unhygienic but we didn't suffer and I don't think anyone else did. In the dung heap lived the pig, until its allotted time came, after which it was replaced by a piglet.

The Vila Gale Tavira is built on the same lines,



Modern Tavira

but with swimming pool instead of dung heap in the middle, and dolly birds in their bikinis instead of the pig. You pay more for rooms overlooking the pool - we didn't do that - and we were given a room on the outside over the entrance, where we looked up the main street and could see a stork on her nest on an aerial. Much more interesting than dolly birds.

They must have pulled something down to build the hotel. A bit like if they demolished everything in Kingsbridge between Fore Street and Church Street and put up a 260-bedroom hotel. Ground floor all garage, next a huge echoing public area with bar, dining and conference rooms. Above those rose two floors of bedrooms. All noisy - inside they had used 'ridgy' tiles and outside traffic roared past. At home on the Mead we wake if a car goes past at night. But there it was so noisy it soothed us. Maybe leaving home at 3.30 am on the first morning had something to do with it.

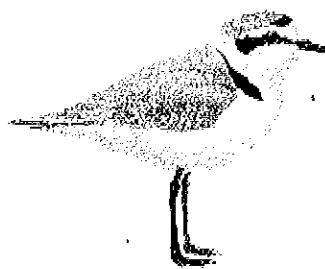
If the hotel extended as far down as, say, Pritchards, then the salt marshes started at about the Tourist Information Centre. Around here in south Devon we don't have much in the way of salt marshes - a bit on the Avon and some on the Erme. But close to Tavira they stretch for miles and miles. They have dug out shallow pools, rectangles maybe a quarter mile long and a hundred yards wide, some smaller, to evaporate sea water to make salt. I suppose it was all done by hand, with shovels and baskets; JCBs would not have been invented when this work was done. The water in the pans was only a few inches deep, perfect for wading birds. If we'd had a room at the other end of the hotel we could have watched them without ever going outside!

We went with Saga at the end of March. At a price, Saga provides you with everything. At five in the morning at Exeter airport a lass drifted up to ask if we wanted help. One at Faro put us into our taxi. When we got to the hotel the resident rep was on the steps to greet us. Just to look after Saga people she lived in the hotel, had a room as big as our Parish Hall to convene them in (she said she had seventy guests coming in shortly). Full board, which we really didn't want, wine with lunch and dinner, tea and coffee from 9am to 11 pm, and alcoholic drinks during the evening - you just went to the bar and asked

for them! During our fourteen days there four coach outings had been arranged, though we only went on two. For these you have to pay and as far as I could work out, Saga charged £100 each more than we would have paid at the Riu Falesia, near Albufeira, where we stayed four years ago and which was a much nicer hotel.

At times it was just like a railway terminus. For the first week thirty or so Saga folks, a couple of lots of lawn-bowlers, and something called Grand Circle Tours produced crowds of Americans with their names on plastic labels on their tummies. All meals were buffet and these were practised buffet-eaters. As soon as the dining room door was opened they surged in, as a herd to the trough. It was all set out - soup, a salad course, main course and puds. They grabbed big plates, sometimes two, and tablespoons, and roared up and down filling their plates with everything. To our relief they disappeared after a few days.

To start with, it rained. Not enough to keep us in, but it became muddy. The first places to explore were the nearest salt pans - we had only to walk across the road. Redshanks, which we see on the Kingsbridge estuary, Spotted Redshanks, ditto, but not very often, lively little Kentish Plovers,



Kentish Plover

very rare in the UK, some Avocets, which we go to the Exe or the Tamar for, and hundreds of Black-winged Stilts, black-and-white waders with impossibly long legs.

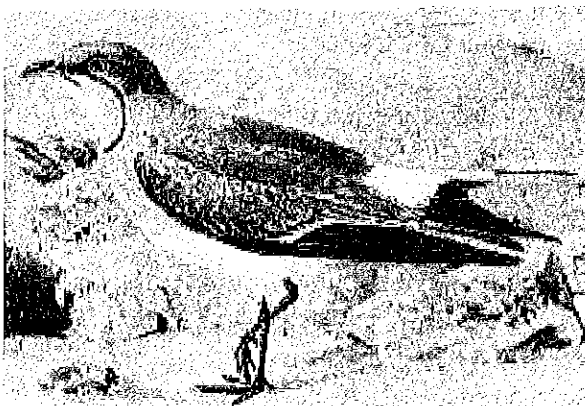


Black-winged Stilt

There was huge excitement when four of them turned up at South Huish marsh in 2002. But at all the watery places we visited in the Algarve they were the commonest wader.

We couldn't see the salt pans very well from the made-up roads, had to walk on the banks between them; they were very muddy for the first few days and we got our trainers covered in mud and sand. Thank

Some astonish you - Pelicans for example, which on land or in the water look ugly, clumsy, things, but are surprisingly buoyant when airborne.



Collared Pratincole

These Pratincoles didn't fly, they floated like thistledown. Very rare indeed in Britain - we saw one once, at a reservoir in Suffolk. We joined a lot of twitchers to sit in rows on the bank of the reservoir. Across a narrow inlet the Pratincole sat and looked at us. I believe there were those who saw it fly. We didn't. But these in Portugal we had flying all round us, and all to ourselves, a marvellous climax to our holiday.

Time to go. The little Saga lass got up at eight in the morning to see us off. Taxi outside but no driver - he had gone to a café across the road for a coffee. We wondered if he had a brandy too! We drove soberly and sedately until he got among traffic near Faro, whereupon he went



Collared Pratincole

mad. There was a poor lady going our way; he tried to pass her, first on one side, then the other. She was terrified, wove all over the road and so did he. At length June remarked "That is Madam Schumacher" and that seemed to calm him down. He screamed to a halt in a gap in the vehicles outside the airport, where there was a Saga lady waiting with a trolley.

I was so overcome I gave him twice the tip I meant to!

Harry Huggins

Puzzle Page Answers

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. WATERFALL | 2. CAVALCADE | 3. PENTHOUSE | 4. MISERABLE |
| 5. ENDEARING | 6. NOISELESS | 7. INGENUOUS | 8. IMPASSIVE |
| 9. DISPENSER | 10. ADULATION | 11. ARROWROOT | 12. MAGICIANS |
| 13. OSTEOPATH | 14. SECRETIVE | 15. ISLANDERS | 16. INDIGENCE |
| 17. JERUSALEM | 18. DALMATIAN | 19. ACROPOLIS | 20. CELEBRITY |
| 21. OVERTAKEN | | | |

TEN TEASERS

- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Shanghai | 3. Shelley | 5. Ayers | 7. High Willhays | 9. 1954 |
| 2. Drey | 4. Eight | 6. Toad | 8. Hibernate | 10. Ferdi Grofe |

goodness for modern hotels which provide a bidet in the bathroom. Luckily the sun came out and dried everything up.

We wanted to explore the Alentejo, an area north of the Algarve, where there are Little Bustards, but it was too far for us to drive. A coach trip took us to Mertola, well up-country, but you can't see much from a coach. Mertola was a port, on the Guadiana river, which for a long way (but not there) is the boundary with Spain. It began in pre-Roman times, was the HQ of a kingdom when the Moors held all of Portugal and most of Spain. There is a castle and a church which was built on a mosque which was built on a church which was built on a Roman temple - if you get my meaning!

A local guide escorted us; he referred constantly to the Spanish as "our dear neighbours". I am not sure why the Portuguese detest them, but they do. It reminded me of a little boy we met in a B&B in Scotland. At dinner he explained that English ships had bombarded Eilean Conan castle "...and that is why I cannae stand the English!" His mother was covered with confusion. We laughed. Next morning he put milk and sugar on his porridge. We pointed out that he could not call himself a Scot after that - salt only for proper Scots!

The hotel rep organised a car for us. At least this one did not look as though it had been used for stock-car racing, like the last one we had in Mallorca did. June said the man gave me that deliberately, knowing that because of my advanced age I was more than likely to smash it up. I didn't.

We went to the headquarters of the Ria Formosa reserve. The building was full of little lasses with mobile phones who stood about and got in the way - I suppose they were students. But surrounding the building was a park, with pine trees, mudflats for the waders, and a lake with Little Egrets (we thought they were nesting), Gadwall ducks, which come here to Thurlestone in winter, and a nesting Purple Gallinule (like a Moorhen the size of a chicken).

There were stone troughs in which, it was said, the Romans made a favourite concoction - mashed up fish with herbs to make a flavouring. *June commented that the Romans seemed to have used rather a lot of plastic bottle tops.*

We had our only 'lifer' of the holiday - a Pallid Swift, a bit browner than the Swifts we have screaming around our parish in late summer. Usually you can't tell the difference, but this one obliged by almost hovering just over our heads.



Pallid Swift

About half-an-hour's drive from Tavira is the big Castro Marim reserve, on the banks of the Guadiana river, and spanned by the fancy new bridge which carries the motorway to Seville. There is an HQ but it is shut at weekends and siesta time - you can have a reserve, but you need the resources and begging power of something like the RSPB to run it properly. There were the usual Avocets and Black-winged Stilts.

We saw a couple of Great Spotted Cuckoos. Larger than our Cuckoos, they lay their eggs in nests of Azure-winged Magpies. There was great excitement when one appeared at Dawlish Warren a few years ago. And nesting on the HQ building were Red-rumped Swallows, very like our Swallows, but with collars and rumps which gleamed orange in the bright sun.

In the area of the reserve they still extract salt - there were mountains of it with tractors crawling about on them. Once upon a time the Portuguese used to send a fleet of ships to the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland, to catch the teeming cod. Salted and dried, that was a staple of Portuguese diet - *balcalhau* - said to be an acquired taste: we have never tried it. They say the Grand Banks are fished out now, but they must still find plenty of outlets for their salt.

We parked the car near the salt works and we looked - in the sky were birds with sickle-shaped wings, like Black-winged Stilts, but the latter have long legs trailing behind and these didn't. The birds came closer - yes, they had the sickle-shaped wings and they had long forked tails. Collared Pratincoles, a loose flock of over a hundred of them. They are waders, related to the Oyster-catchers we see at Thurlestone, and look like a cross between a Swallow and a Tern, about the size of a Blackbird but with much longer wings and tail. Most birds fly through the air, some more laboriously than others.

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DIARY DATES

JUNE

Sat 5th Farmers Market, 9 am - 1 pm, Kingsbridge Quay
 Cream Teas, Warren House Garden, 2.30 - 4.30 pm
 Wed 9th TRAMP, North Sands / Bolt Head
 Fri 11th PROBUS, Thurlestone Hotel
 Mon 14th TRAMP, Noss Mayo (short walk)
 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Thur 17th W1, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm, Poetry & Prose (Meg Horton)
 Wed 23rd TRAMP, Widdcombe

JULY

Thur 1st W1, Garden Lunch, 12.30 for 1.00 pm, Glen Lyon
 TRAMP, Bolberry Down (evening short walk)
 Sat 3rd An Evening of Music, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Thur 8th W1, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm, (Tony Porter - Burgh Island)
 Fri 9th PROBUS, Thurlestone Hotel
 Wed 14th TRAMP (to be arranged)
 Sat 17th S. Milton Gardens, 1 to 5 pm (see advert inside)
 Sun 18th S. Milton Gardens, 1 to 5 pm (see advert inside)
 Mon 19th TRAMP, Brixham (short walk)
 Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
 Sat 24th Church Fête, 2.00 pm, Toyes Orchard
 Sat 31st S. Milton Church Fete, Brook House, 2.30 pm

AUGUST

Fri 6th TRAMP, local (short walk)
 Wed 11th Tennis Tournament, Golf Club, 10 am - 6 pm
 Fri 13th TRAMP, Wembury
 Thur 19th Church Barbecue on the Green, 6.00 pm
 Thur 26th TRAMP, Loddiswell / Topsham Bridge (short walk)
 TRAMP, Burrator Reservoir

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

Village Voice is available free to permanent residents
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There is also a subscription service, which mails copies to readers
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Judith Reynolds, Pilgrim Cottage, Post Office Lane, Thurlestone
Telephone : 01548-560912

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 Derek & Sally Yeoman.
In Bantham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th JULY 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 RbnMacd@aol.com)

Advertising Rates for Village Voice - 12 months (six issues)
Whole Page - £70.00 Half Page - £50.00 Quarter Page - £30.00

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Kat Marshall	560214
Vice - Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Parish Clerk	Cathy Taverer	853163 (day) - 852139 (evening)
District Councillor	Shonagh Rankin	561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	Neil Gilling	560489
	David Grose	560375
	Andrew Rhyms	560564
	Geoffrey Stidson	560695
	Charles Mitchellmore	560602

Tree Warden

Charles Mitchellmore

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	Chris White	560505
Canon Andrew Gilling		562219

CHURCHWARDENS

Graham Worral	562016
Liz Webb	560090

COFFEE TIME (See All Saints Diary for details)

Contact Liz Webb	560090
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FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

Contact Kat Marshall	560214
----------------------	--------

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

John Crawford	560688
---------------	--------

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

Contact Hugh Cater	560593
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BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Clubhouse	560447
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BOWLS CLUB (Indoor)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm	Contact Eileen Dayment	560295
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BRIDGE CLUBS 7 pm Parish Hall

Wednesdays and Fridays	Contact Dorothy Stone	560708
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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

Secretary / Manager Terry Gibbons	560405
Contact Lindsey Fletcher	560157

TENNIS SECTION

Contact Brenda Murch	560487
----------------------	--------

KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10.00 - 11.30 am Parish Hall

Contact John Lonsdale	560742
-----------------------	--------

HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)

Contact Tom Tremder	560893
---------------------	--------

PROBUS

Contact Rodney Horne	560889
----------------------	--------

DIRECTORY

W.I.

Second Thursday monthly (except August)	Contact Judith Le Grace	562135
2.30 pm Parish Hall		

SOUTH BAMS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS

Contact Pat Crawford	560688
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TEAMAKERS (Computer Club)

Mondays & Wednesdays (beginners & improvers)	Contacts: Robin Macdonald	560436
4.30 pm - 6.30 pm, All Saints School, during school terms	Chris White	560505
	Graham Durant	560007

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NO Bank Holiday Postal collections on Monday 12 April, 3 May, and 31 May 2004		

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11.35 - 11.45am Buedland Old Chapel	
12.20 - 12.30pm Thurlestone Church	12.35 - 12.45pm Thurlestone Sands

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Friday 18th June

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Friday 26th June

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