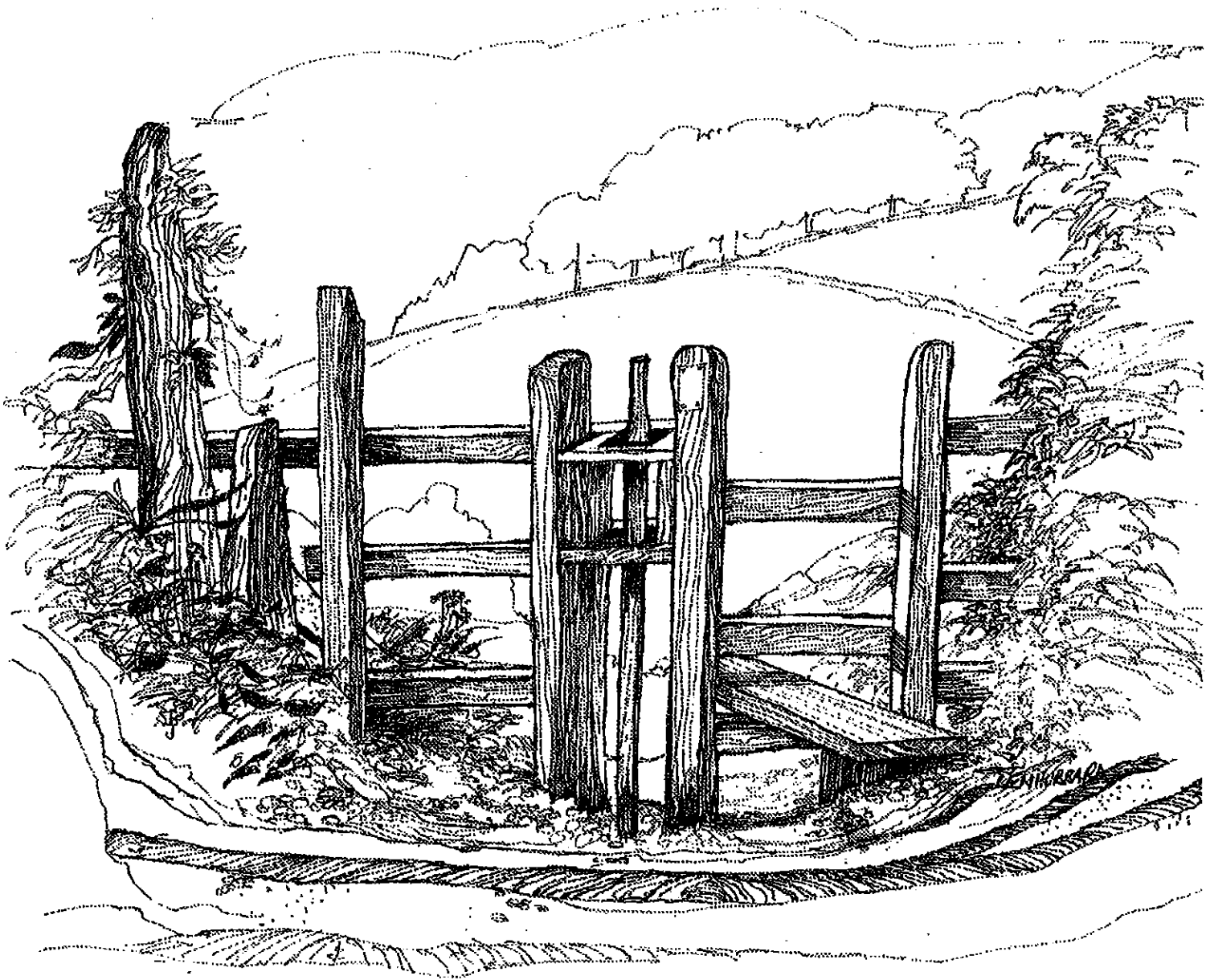


VILLAGE VOICE



**AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
2004**



NUMBER 128
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2004

What a summer.....!

The early summer weather has been very generous to us this year, providing more sunny and warm days than we can remember in a long time. Let's hope there are still more to come.

What a blow.....!

No, not the weather this time, but the decision of the Lottery Fund to deny Thurlestone any help at all towards the cost of our new Parish Hall. In this issue we have some further news on the decision - and some hope for the future.

What an opportunity.....!

Fortunately, Banthamians, Bucklanders, and Thurlestonians are made of stern stuff, and the fund-raising continues apace. But there is still an opportunity for one generous benefactor to bridge the gap - and in so doing qualify to have the Hall bear his (or her) name. After all, why not keep some of it out of the government's clutches?

What a good idea.....!

It's time for "Wimbledon Teas & Knobbly Knees" on Friday, 6th August, when the Charity Doubles Tennis Tournament hopes to draw a large entry and raise lots of money for the new Parish Hall fund. If you are too shy to reveal yours, you can still come and jeer at your neighbour's. There will be lots of other fun and games for all, too. Don't miss it!

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Front Cover : Stile to Stiddicombe

Villagers' fury over lottery fund refusal

THURLESTONE Parish Hall serves three South Hams villages of Thurlestone, Buckland and Bantham, and was built as a temporary meeting place in 1949.

Now villagers have decided that enough is enough, and put in a £199,500 bid for funding from the National Lottery's Community Fund to mend the roof and enlarge the building, making room for short bowls tournaments, a badminton court and IT facilities with Internet access.

"We wanted to create a community centre for the school next door, local residents and our growing elderly population," said David Houghton, 68, who has helped with fundraising attempts. "This is a relatively isolated community and the parish hall acts as an important hub to provide services to locals."

In the past few years, £18 million of lottery funding has gone to 250 community village halls in the South West. But Thurlestone's bid was rejected.

The National Lottery Community Fund regional managers told villagers they were impressed by the fundraising efforts and recognised the need for community facilities but added in a letter: "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."

John de la Cour, regional manager at the community fund, said grants available in the South West had been slashed by more than half from £18 million in 2002 to just £8 million this year.

He said: "We have to spread reserves over a number of years so

A funding bid to rebuild Thurlestone village hall has been rejected because the village is not 'disadvantaged' enough.

Aislinn Simpson looks at the debate

as not to spend the funds all at once but also there has been a drop in lottery sales until recently. We have to be able to focus the money where it is most needed to the most disadvantaged areas."

He added that once a group had applied for grant money, inspectors would look at a number of factors including statistics such as the index of multiple deprivation as well as how the facility is used and who it is used by.

People are very disappointed that their cause was not regarded as good enough

"If the roof can't be mended and barn dances or short bowls can no longer happen then we will say to ourselves: 'older people and poor school groups operating there will have nowhere else to go,' so we will try to help," said Mr de la Cour. "We are not denying that for the people of Thurlestone parish this is an enormous need. However, need is relative and there are other parts of the region applying to us for help that have a greater need."

But according to Mr

Houghton, villagers are determined to fight on. He said: "People are very disappointed and angry that their cause was not regarded as good enough."

Gillian Marshall, 60, is secretary of the parish hall, while husband Kit, 65, is chairman of the parish council. She said the hall was in desperate need, with a lack of basic disabled facilities, a leaking roof and dangerous asbestos.

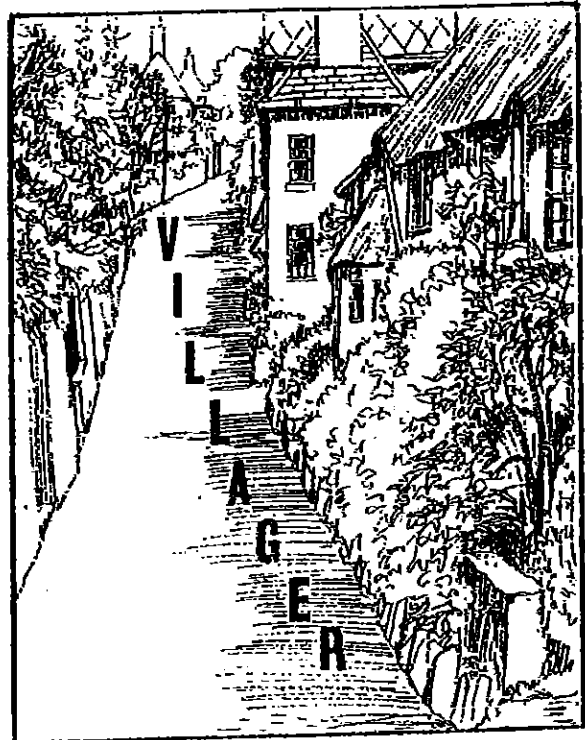
The village fundraising group has so far managed to raise over £100,000 with a monthly programme of Flanders and Swann concerts, silent auctions, jazz concerts and quizzes. She said: "The hall will be here for years to come and will be a sound investment but we need help. We will keep fighting until we get this hall and plan to make another bid shortly. The Community Fund is soon to merge with another group to become the Big Lottery and we are hoping that will improve our chances," Mrs Marshall said.

But the chances don't look good. Mr de la Cour said: "Of course people are entitled to apply again and if they ask for less it makes it easier. However, given the competition for money and the issue of deprivation, they will find it quite hard to get into the frame. It is more honest that we tell people that before they go to a lot of trouble."

[As many of our readers may not have had the opportunity to read the article in the Western Morning News issue of 9 July 2004, it is reproduced above with their kind permission. Ed.]

Better Luck Next Time?

With the Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee being away on holiday in the USA it has chanced that a confidential official memorandum intended for him was accidentally misdirected to my own address. As it touches on a matter of general importance and relevance to the residents of the parish, I thought I should pass this straight away to the media (Village Voice) in the traditional manner of all Government leaks. The memorandum, and its attachment, is reproduced below having been given priority over my previous August contribution.



Villager

OFFICE OF SOCIAL DEPRIVATION WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

From: Head of Multiple Indexation: T R K Spigott-Brown, KCOD

Date: 9 July 2004

To: Chairman, New Parish Hall Committee, Thurlestone, Devon

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Thurlestone Parish Second Lottery Bid
Reference OOSD251 (Parish Halls)

As Head of Multiple Indexation, I was surprised to read in a report in the Western Morning News of today's date (9/7/04) of your anger about the decision of the National Lottery's Community Fund to reject your bid for a grant of £199,500 towards renovating your dilapidated and leaking Parish Hall. I gather that a quote from the local Community Fund manager in the newspaper, casting doubts on the chances of Thurlestone succeeding with a second bid, was particularly upsetting. I can tell you at once that the prospects for Thurlestone's second application could be considerably better than you might think.

In fact my Minister, that is the Minister for the Totally Deprived, has instructed me to positively encourage you in your next application to the Lottery by giving you guidelines for your Parish Hall members

and, indeed, for all parishioners. The Minister is confident that these guidelines, if properly applied in your parish, should result in a complete turn-round to the result of your next application. To be blunt, you appear not to be suffering sufficient multiple deprivation on our index to qualify for grant aid at the present time. This is a matter which only you can put right. Other applications stressing the deprivation factor have been instrumental in £18 million of Lottery funding going to 250 community village halls in the South-West, some receiving large sums for their halls despite having obtained much smaller amounts than you have in your fund-raising efforts.

At the present time my Minister is anxious that all West Country applications, particularly for parish activities, should receive a good response from the Lottery. If it is not possible to actually hand over cash sums before the next election, he is keen that some announcement of a grant should be made in all cases before the next election. He is not, of course, hoping to influence the outcome of any such election but has been asked by the Prime Minister to try and show that our hearts are in the right place, and that we are not against hunting, motorists, pensioners, policemen, or farmers, and are not planning to treble Council Tax on your homes - despite what the papers say.

I am sure the concept of multiple deprivation will provide a new stimulus for your stalwart parish fund-raisers. Their whole-hearted adoption of the guidelines will undoubtedly promote you rapidly towards the upper quartiles of the Index. In attaching our short version of *Guidelines for Parishes Seeking a Better Showing on the Index of Multiple Deprivation* I should add two further important points for you to consider when preparing your second application, as follows.

(1) You must set aside the general perception that Thurlestone parish is a smart, above average income area, whose upper middle class retired residents all have above average pensions, and confine their main interests to golf, bridge, and G&Ts.

(2) You should allow the true face of the parish to shine through and show it as it really is - a greatly disadvantaged place. It is true that properties in your area command high prices, but it is not my belief, nor that of our Inspectors, that your parishioners can be blamed for rising house prices and, judging by their Income Tax returns, many - even second or third home owners - find it a struggle to cope on their pitifully low pensions for normal living expenses.

The application of the seven items you will find in the *Guidelines* attached should have a dramatic effect on the view of your parish held by this Office's Inspectors. They should then be able to recommend acceptance of your bid, marking you highly in all parts of the Index of Multiple Deprivation and Social Disadvantage. However, I am sure that there are other ideas that you could add to the list. You might even reach the peak of funding as the First Totally Deprived and Disadvantaged Parish in the South-West.

Please accept my congratulations in advance on the anticipated success of your new application. I look forward to meeting you and your Parish Hall Committee at the Successful Funding Awards Ceremony to be held in the presence of the Prime Minister in Downing Street at a date to be announced in the very near future.

Yours faithfully

T R K SPIGOTT-BROWN, KCOD
Head of Multiple Indexation
Office of Social Deprivation

OFFICE OF SOCIAL DEPRIVATION

Guidelines for Parishes Seeking a Better Showing on the Index of Multiple Deprivation

1. It is important that your parishioners make it clear at all times that they are very liberal thinkers. To that end it may be necessary to open a temporary hostel in the parish for asylum seekers, illegal immigrants, and general vagrants. No opposition to this hostel should be raised anywhere in the area for fear that your parish might be regarded as institutionally discriminatory, if not racist. One of the very big houses on the sea front would be ideal for this purpose.
2. You should persuade one of your farmers to welcome Travellers and Romanies, together with their caravans, towing vehicles, dogs, ragged children and other accoutrements, to one of his large fields in the parish. This is bound to create some mess but it need not be a long-stay camp site. The sight of these poor folk wandering from door-to-door around the parish, selling unskinned rabbits, pigeons and other game should score well with our Inspectors. A word of warning - it should be made clear in advance to local police that all this produce was taken with the landlords' permission, and there is no need for prosecutions (or heavy-hand collar feeling as I believe you call it). Local people should look depressed by, but not hostile to, any of these poor souls.
3. Along the same lines, it should be possible for you to obtain some Beggars. They should be stationed outside the church lych gate, particularly on Sundays, to sob for alms for their wives and families. There is, I believe a firm called RentaBegga. And the Mayor of London, a Mr Livingstone, should be happy to supply some Doorway Sleepers without charge to colonise, so to speak, your bus shelters and doorways in prominent view on the village streets. Living Rough and Homelessness score well with our Inspectors - and will make a good photo-call for local and possibly national newspapers.
4. Public houses in the parish have a role to play. The landlords may not like it, but they should close at least one full day per week on the grounds that local people are so badly off that they cannot afford present drink prices, and can barely make it to Roscoff or Calais on 'booze cruises'. Landlords should not be asked to cut prices. It is our experience that this does not go well with them [See: **Brown, G.** *Let Prudence be your Watchword*: Hansard, page 777889 23/6/03].
5. From reading my Inspectors' reports on your first application for aid, I gain the distinct impression that they felt your parishioners were too well-dressed. I suggest that locals should abandon wear which I believe you call 'smart casuals', navy blazers etc., and adopt charity shop rejects. Tattered clothes, you will find, have a suitably depressing effect on the general picture of the parish. People should not look happy and laughter should be kept off the streets and confined indoors among family groups only.
6. In the run-up to your next application, it is suggested that the local Bridge Club, the WI, and Bowls Club should be turned down when they try to book events in the present Parish Hall. All your Parish Hall Committee has to say is that the hall is unsuitable at the present time. Letters of complaint to local newspapers will draw attention to the hall's present poor state. They should not say that the hall is unsafe, or that leaking asbestos roofing is a danger to public health. This might draw the attention of the Health & Safety Executive. From our experience in other areas, this is not a wise thing to do.
7. You have made a good start with the number of people in the parish using electric scooters for the disabled. If you could persuade even more people on to these vehicles it would be a good thing. Owners of Rolls, Bentleys, Porsches, BMWs, etc., should be persuaded to put these cars out of sight and use the shabby old ones belonging to their staff. Those driving big 4x4 off-road vehicles, which I understand you call 'Chelsea Tractors' should take their vehicles off road, probably for the first time ever, and use buses to get their children to school, or to visit Kingsbridge.

PARISH HALL FUNDS

By Bill Clarke
Treasurer



TOTAL FUNDS UPDATE

The Funds now stand at

£108,592.66

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 | £1411.60 |
| Ladies Bridge (Joan Mackenzie) | £ 200.00 |
| Picture Sales (Thurlestone Rock - Peter Stafford) | £ 288.00 |
| W. Alvington Singers Concert | £ 615.00 |
| Cream Teas Warren House (Mr & Mrs Atkins) | £1209.41 |
| Sale of Coasters (Joan Mackenzie) | £ 100.00 |
| W.I. Lunch | £ 100.00 |
| Flanders & Swann Concert (Alun Williams & Alastair Durden), including Raffle & Bar | £ 650.50 |
| Tennis Sweepstake (Pat Clarke) | <u>£ 100.00</u> |
| | 5,564.01 |
| Donations (10 in number) | <u>14,487.39</u> |
| Total in 2004 to date (mid-July) | £20,051.40 |

Grand Total to date

£108,592.66

FORTHCOMING FUND-RAISING EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

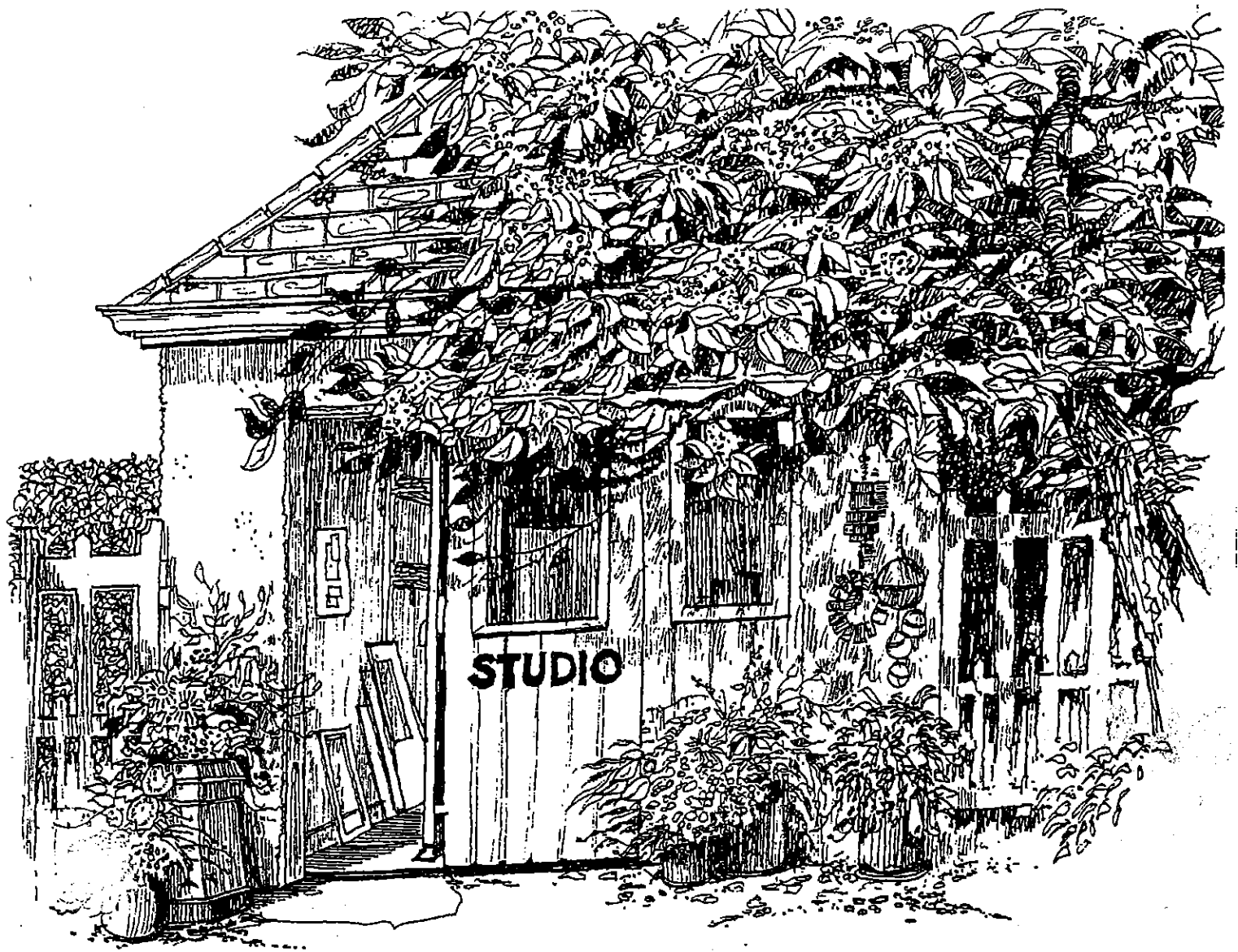
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Parish Council Meeting

19th July 2004

News and Views by Citizen

SCHOOL

Much has been said around the parish about the school, in particular the continually increasing numbers, additional buildings and, above all, the chaos caused by parents dropping off or collecting children, all of which is believed to be due to the high proportion of pupils coming from outside the catchment area. Headmaster **Alun Williams** and **Mark Mordue**, Chairman of Governors - wearing bullet proof vests! - attended the meeting, hopefully to clarify the situation and put minds at rest.

Portacabin: This was not only an eyesore to those living nearby but it could have been positioned with a little more sensitivity. It was confirmed that only temporary planning approval was given which would expire in late 2005. Arrangements have been made, during the summer holiday, to move it to a less conspicuous place, paint it a more attractive colour and remove the cell-like window bars.

Pupil numbers: Numbers are set down by those on high and the school has no option. The maximum number permitted is 135, the minimum 105, but the school will only accept 133. There will be 133 pupils at the start of next term, broken down as follows: 57% from outside and 43% from within our catchment area. A recent press report which said that 20 of the pupils at Thurlestone School came from the Salcombe area, where the local school is getting dangerously near to closing, is completely untrue. We were assured that only three of the current pupils come from Salcombe and that to date no 'local' pupil has been refused admittance - although it was very close on one occasion.

Car Parking: This was the most contentious issue for, as all local drivers know, you take your life in your hands if you are on the road between 8.30 and 9.00 am and 3.15 and 4.00 pm. This is coupled with the attitude of some of the parents for whom it seemed that courtesy, the Highway Code and consideration for other road users go by the board.

Mark Mordue says he will write a strongly-worded letter to parents, before the next term begins, advising them that (a) parking is not allowed in Glebefield as the road is far too narrow (b) that 'zig-zag' lines outside the school mean no stopping or parking and (c) that if the

hall carpark is full, they must park in Court Park. He will also add that the hall carpark is private for hall users but that others, including parents, are permitted to use it provided they realise there is an official right of way across the area at all times. If they use the carpark outside the hours mentioned above, then they must park on the right hand side only as the space next to the hall is reserved for hall users.

Councillor Peter Hurrell said it will be proposed at the Parish Hall committee meeting on 26th July that the school be asked to make a contribution to Hall funds. **Mr Williams** was of the opinion that this was already being done.

PARISH HALL

Councillor Hurrell reported that the new building fund stood at well over £100,000 and that hard work is continuing to find outside sources of funding.

DOG POO BINS

We learn, following our request for more bins, that these would cost in the region of £200 and if they are not sited on common land the District Council would not service them. The Council is continuing to investigate.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mrs Rankin was accompanied by **John Tucker**, Deputy Leader of the District Council, who explained the changeover of Leisure facilities from Council to private running. It was said there would be little change as far as the public is concerned. Our District Councillor reported that aiming to improve the refuse and salvage collection services was ongoing and there was a possibility of 'wheelie' bins being provided as a deterrent to seagulls, badgers, and so on.

MEETINGS FORMAT

The format of Parish Council meetings will change. In future the Open Forum will be held at the start of each meeting when only matters on the agenda will be discussed. Should anyone wish to have an item put on the agenda, prior notice must be given to the Parish Clerk.

NEXT MEETING will be on 6th September.

POSTBAG

Dear Editor

The current issue of Village Voice has burst noisily through our letter box as indeed it has done every couple of months since Dudley Drabble, Clerk to Thurlestone Parish Council, laboriously composed the first issue at his home in South Milton some twenty-two years ago. In those early days, Dudley, Kendall McDonald and a few other local residents supplied many of the articles and much general information. Penny and Kendall did all the printing and most of the collating themselves, some 4/500 copies.

Over time Village Voice has gradually increased in print run (around 700 now) and size and covers virtually every aspect of life in and around the parish and further afield. Latterly it has continued to thrive under the editorship of Pat Macdonald - no connection to Kendall - with a further twenty or so Thurlestonians who are delighted to be called upon to assist with printing, collating, advertising, keeping the books, mail-orders, distribution and delivery.

What is the purpose of Village Voice? It certainly has the full approval of the people of Thurlestone and is available free to permanent residents of the villages in the parish. For others, there is an annual postal subscription of £8.00. The journal is entirely self-supporting and is no charge on the parish rates. As a source of local reference it supplies reliable information upon, for instance, the church, the village shop, the hotel and pubs, the clubs, the meetings and

indeed what goes on day-by-day in the community. Having been founded by the Thurlestone Parish Council the journal remains under its sponsorship. Thus it is well placed to pursue its prime purpose of giving reliable information upon local matters.

With the passage of time some of the contributors have tended to broaden their writings to suit their interests - and incidentally to add variety to their journal. Take the most recent issue (June-July 2004). It starts by asking "Who wants to be a millionaire?" and concludes that we all are already. Later we find the Parish Council chairman, Kit Marshall, sitting on a camel somewhere in India, having just won a turban-tying competition. Further on there is a Puzzle Page which includes 'Ten Teasers'. I had solved two, then my daughter walked into the room, glanced at the list and at once got a further five correct, which rather put me off. Had I known that squirrels' nests were known as dreys and that some toads are called natterjacks, I might have felt a little better.

*But neither would have
diminished my affection for Village
Voice and I will continue to enjoy
hearing that bang on the front door
when the new issue arrives.*

*Neville Oswald
Chichester*

[Now aged 94, Neville was a regular contributor before he and Molly retired to Chichester. We are delighted to hear that they are still enjoying their copy of Village Voice. Ed.]

TOM GANGE

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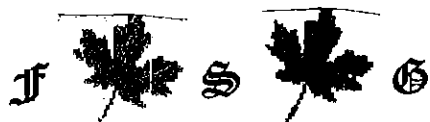
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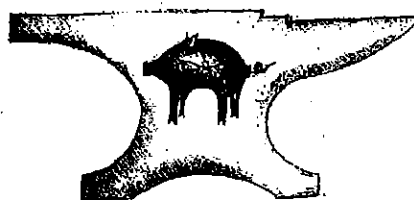
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Village News Round-Up

Honour For Jan

Our regular contributor 'Weather Wag', otherwise known as **Janet Turner** of Thurlestone Sands, was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to the community. Village Voice sends hearty congratulations for this well-deserved acknowledgement of all the effort Jan has put into serving her community so unselfishly.

Bed & Breakfast

Marion Rigby (the Old Rectory) has kindly offered to provide bed & breakfast accommodation at her home in Beaconsfield and will donate all the proceeds to the new parish Hall building fund. It is close to Windsor, Eton, London (25 minutes by rail) and many other attractions. Heathrow is 20 minutes away, and Oxford 35 minutes. The rates are extremely reasonable at just £20.00 per person per night. Ring Marion on 560318 or 01404-673206.

All Saints School Centenary

2005 will mark the school's 100th anniversary. If you are an ex-pupil of the school and would like to get involved in the celebrations; if you have any pictures or memorabilia relating to the school's past, or ideas on how best to celebrate this milestone, phone **Robin Collyns** on 561300 - he would be delighted to hear from you.

Postcards Too

Peter Stafford, who gave the Parish Hall the A4 photographs of the Thurlestone Rock, the sale of which raised £255, has now added to this kindness by donating post-cards of the same view also to sell on behalf of the new hall fund. These are available from **Joan Mackenzie** or other members of the hall committee in packets of five for £1.50 (30p each). Why not keep

some on hand for your visitors' use?

League Of Friends

Yet again, Thurlestonians were generous supporters of the bathroom stall that **Jeanne Barton** and **Eileen Perraton** recently ran at the South Hams Hospital fete. In sending their warm thanks to everyone they say *".....despite the weather we raised £175 on our stall and the few goods left over will be sold at our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 20th November 2004"*. So please, everyone, make a note of this date and help our excellent local hospital once again.

Cream Tea

The dawning of a beautiful sunny day brought a real sigh of relief from the organisers of the cream tea in the Warren House garden in early June. Support from residents and visitors was superlative. Teas on the terrace, the various stalls and the croquet competitions together meant a grand total of over £1200 was raised for the new Parish Hall building fund. A delighted Hall chairman **Rowland Cole** said "We are deeply appreciative for **Mr & Mrs Atkins'** extremely generous gesture in allowing us to use this lovely venue for our fund-raising". And so say all of us.

Weddings

According to the Gazette the Registration Authority for Devon have recommended that the **Thurlestone Hotel** be issued with a grant of approval to hold civil marriage ceremonies. Objections had to be lodged by the 23rd July.

September Quiz

The famous All Saints School quiz, hosted by Headmaster **Alun Williams** is being held on **Wednesday 15th September**,

at 7 pm in the school hall. Teams of three are required from local associations and individuals from Thurlestone and South Milton to battle for the All Saints Cup. Tickets are £7.50 per team, to include wine and nibbles. All the proceeds are for the school. To purchase tickets in advance contact **Robin Collyns** on 561300.

Flanders & Swann

In response to popular demand, that talented duo **Alun Williams** and **Alastair Durden** repeated their highly successful 'Flanders & Swann' entertainment to much acclaim. It was indeed a magical evening and the parish is indebted to them for helping to raise, so enjoyably, some £600 towards the Parish Hall building fund.

Edmund's Walk

The magnificent sum of £2616 has been raised by Thurlestone Primary School pupil **Edmund Purser** of Aveton Gifford for the Primrose Foundation. Sadly Edmund's mother died last year of breast cancer so the young man had the idea of organising a sponsored walk to raise money for a charity that is trying to combat the disease. He was helped on the seven mile walk along the Avon near his home by school friends **Holly Gunner** and **Abbi Walters**. His father, Captain Richard Purser, said it was all Edmund's own idea and they have been astonished by the generosity shown by complete strangers to his efforts.

Mystery Bagpiper

One of our roving reporters heard the sound of bagpipes whilst walking the cliff path last week. On investigation a lone bagpiper was spotted on the rocks near Leasfoot, in shorts, not a kilt, but he was wearing a glengarry to add an authentic touch. The sweet Scottish airs he was producing were "most enjoyable - from a distance", our correspondent added [we don't think the qualification was meant to offend]. Who is the mystery piper?

Sponsored Swim

Bantham Surf Life Saving Club and **Kingsbridge Rotary Club** raised more than £2000 for Hope House Children's Hospice which provides care for terminally-ill children. They held a sponsored swim at the Thurlestone Hotel pool courtesy of **David Grose**, during an open day when Nippers and Juniors swam eighteen metre lengths.

Second Twentieth Century Quiz

Following the popularity of **Mary Hugo's** Millennium Quiz last year, which raised over £400 for the Parish Hall funds, a second Quiz is now being organised by **Sheila Sadler**. Copies at £1 each, in the traditional yellow A4 format, are available from the Post Office, or direct from Sheila. This is just the thing to keep your summer visitors entertained and occupied on a wet day. No home should be without one!

Shop Hours

During the peak holiday season, from **26 July** until **3 September**, the Village Store will extend its opening hours as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday | 8.00 - 5.30 pm |
| Tuesday | 8.00 - 5.30 pm |
| Wednesday | 8.00 - 5.00 pm |
| Thursday | 8.00 - 5.30 pm |
| Friday | 8.00 - 5.30 pm |
| Saturday | 8.00 - 5.00 pm |
| Sunday | 8.30 - 4.00 pm |

Bank holiday hours will be **8.00 - 4.00 pm**

Silent Auction

This October fund-raising event, which will be held in the Parish Hall on a date to be announced, is currently looking for donations of good quality items.

Do you have anything you can spare?

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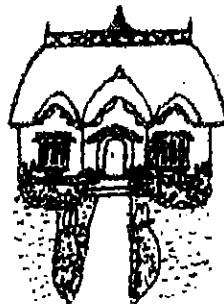
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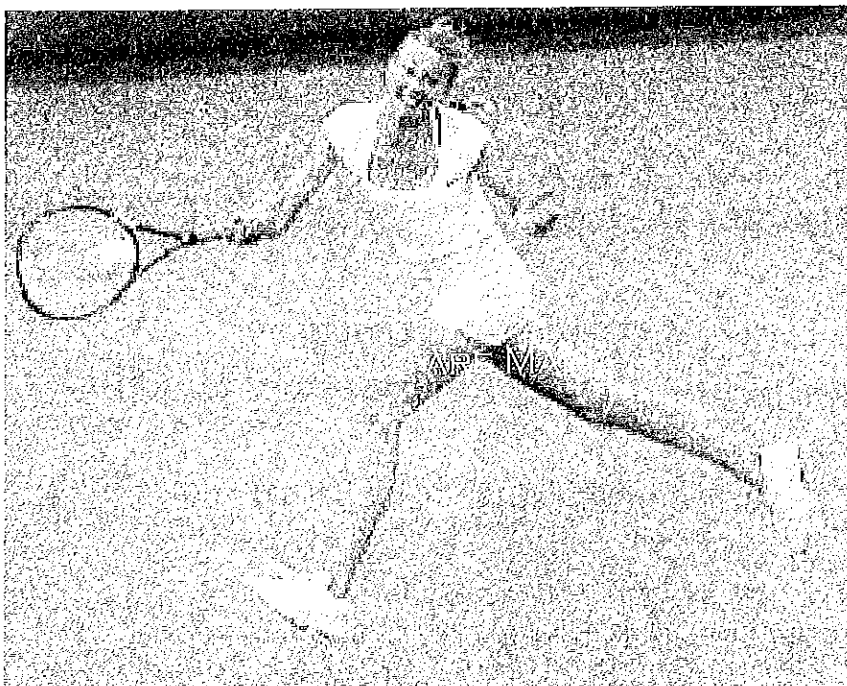
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**Thurlestone Parish Hall
Charity Doubles Tournament**

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

Thurlestone Parish Hall Charity Doubles Entry Form

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

Name _____ Tel _____

Name _____ Tel _____

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

Cash and cheques payable to 'Thurlestone Parish Hall Fund'

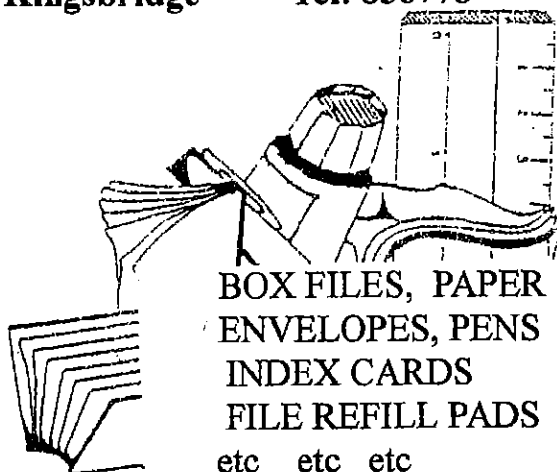
Please do not submit entry form without fee

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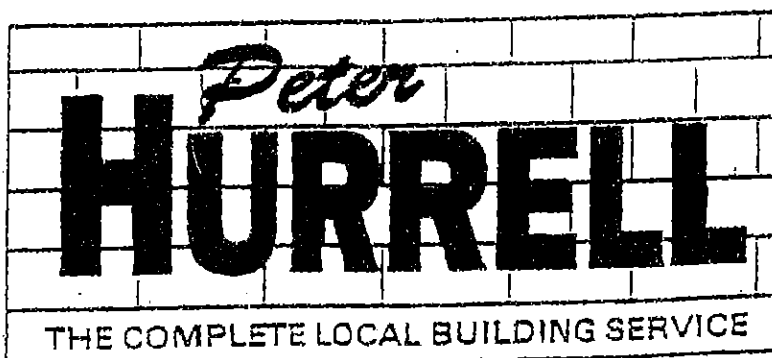
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**All
Saints**

RECTOR:

Revd. Andrew Girling 562219



ANDREW GIRLING WRITES:

NO COUNTRY IS AN ISLAND

Three cheers for Gordon Brown. For one thing at least. In his recent Comprehensive Spending Review he announced a billion pound increase in Britain's aid budget. He also, at last, named a date - 2008 - for the U.K. to comply with the U.N. target of 0.7 per cent of national income to be spent on overseas aid. At present it is half that amount.

Do I hear faint cries of 'charity begins at home' and 'we must sort out our own problems before giving so much overseas'? Fear not! We are right, as Gordon Brown promised the Pope, to launch a moral campaign to fight poverty, disease and injustice in the world's poorest areas. We are all members of the world wide human family. To paraphrase John Donne, no country is an island. When the poor in Africa suffer, we too suffer. When they die we too die. In our global family eight hundred million people around the world will go hungry today. In the time it takes you to read this article, 20 children will die through disease related to poverty. They are our brothers and sisters.

Aid, however, even when given for education and investment, is not enough. Trade is the only real vehicle by which lives can be effectively improved. And it has to be fair and equitable. This is the responsibility of Government and industry.

Whatever you think about Gordon Brown's conduct of the economy (and I would not dare to comment), give credit where credit is due. Since 1997 the U.K. has doubled its aid budget and our government is leading the G8 countries in working towards fair trade among the developing nations.

This ultimately is in the interests of us all. Nothing provides a richer seedbed for the growth of violence and terrorism than nations and communities condemned to scratch around vainly just to be able to survive.

Thurlestone residents have shown their support. They gave £1,120 in the Christian Aid collection in May. Many of you, I know, make a point of buying fair trade tea and coffee. This certainly helps. With an election on the horizon, each of us should also play our part in seeing that world poverty and fair trade remain high on the political agenda. It's vitally important for us all.

Andrew

Harvest Thanksgíving Family Communion

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH 11.10 A.M.

followed by Harvest Lunch

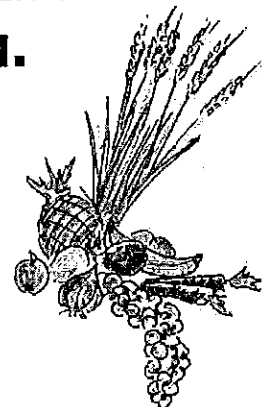
IN CHURCH MEETING ROOM/PARISH HALL

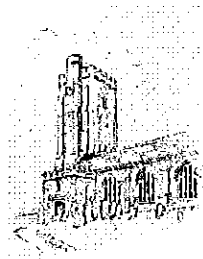
(depending on numbers)

Church Collection & any surplus from the lunch
in aid of Action Water

Tickets for the Harvest Lunch £5 (children under 14 £2)

available early September from Liz Webb, Graham Worrall,
Rosemary Chipman, Louise Boxhall & Thurlestone Shop





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

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| AUGUST 1ST | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship for All 6.00 p.m. Outdoor Hymns & Songs of Praise in Buckland |
| AUGUST 8TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist followed by opening of the Church Meeting Room by the Archdeacon of Totnes |
| AUGUST 15TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW) |
| AUGUST 22ND | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW) |
| AUGUST 29TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW) 6.00 p.m. Outdoor Songs of Praise in South Milton |
| SEPTEMBER 5TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship for All Ages |
| SEPTEMBER 12TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Matins (BCP) |
| SEPTEMBER 19TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW) |
| SEPTEMBER 26TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Harvest Family Communion (CW) followed by Harvest Lunch in Church Meeting Room/Parish Hall |

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

Regular Weekday Services

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| THURSDAY SEPT 9 | 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham |
| OTHER THURSDAYS | 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) |
| THURSDAYS AUG 26 & SEPT 30 | 8.00 a.m. Informal Prayer |

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"JUST CHILDREN" CHARITIES

[As mentioned in our last issue, in the early part of 2004 Angela Ford went to see the work of four charities in Harare. Here is an account of her visit to the Dominican Convent there. Three other pieces will appear in subsequent editions.]

My first visit was to the Dominican Convent in Harare, where I arrived at 8.00 am. Sister Carina invited me to join her at her weekly Wednesday clinic in the Hatcliffe Extension. Hatcliffe is a township on the outskirts of Harare and the 'Extension' is the squatter camp. No-one knows how many people live here but I noticed that, since my last visit in November 2002, a new area of huts had sprung up away from the original site.

In the 4-wheel drive vehicle with Sister Carina, the driver and myself, were Bibiana (the interpreter), Mrs Momberera and Rita, and a mass of food. There had been a lot of rain but happily Rodney drove us extremely carefully along the red mud tracks - so carefully that none of the four-dozen eggs in the back was broken! Later I learned the eggs had been delivered safely to mentally-handicapped mothers and babies.

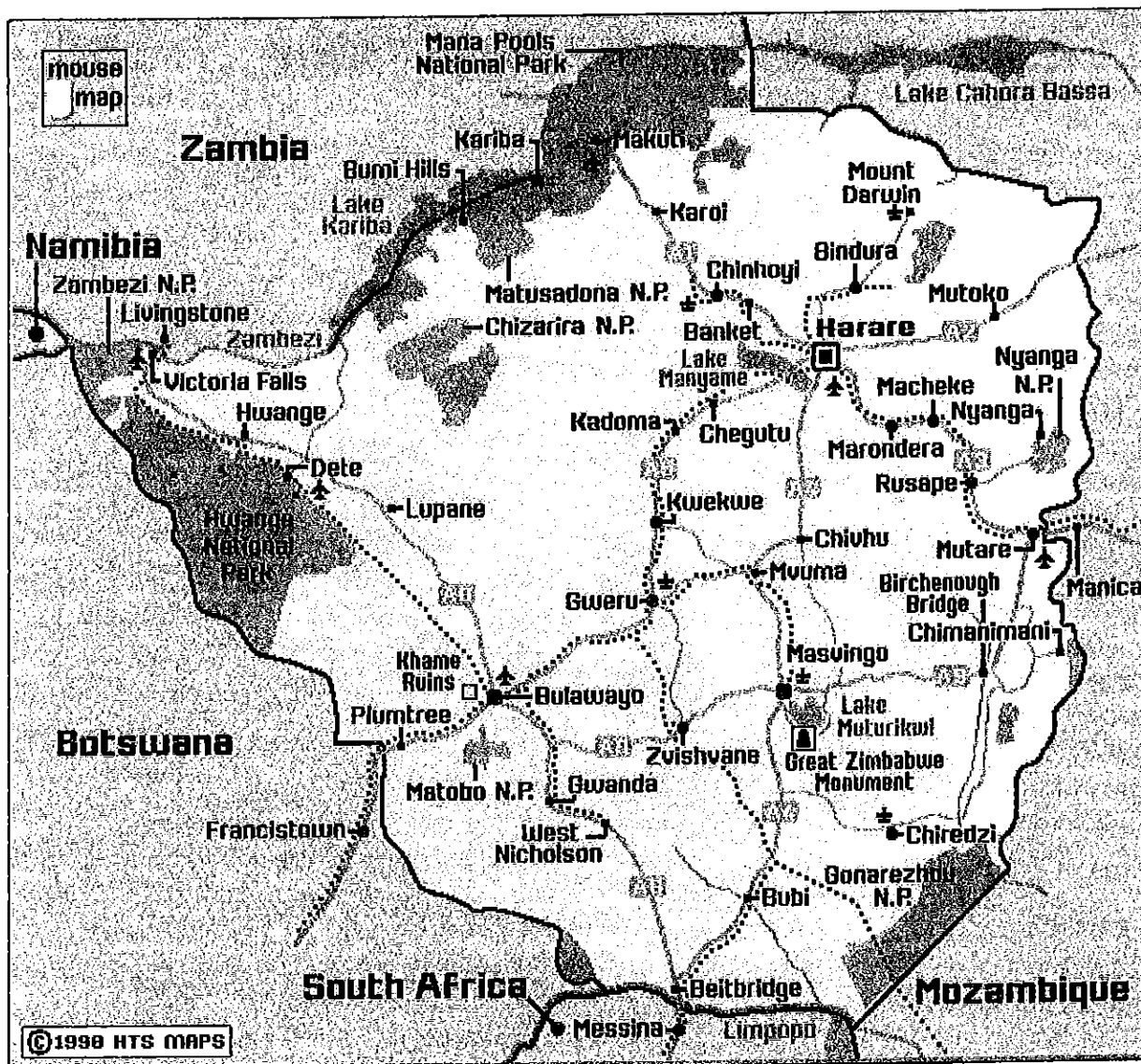
The Tariro Clinic at Hatcliffe was started in 1999. In a clearing there were a dozen or so wooden huts, an open-sided dining room and many, many long-drop loos to one side - which later I had to experience. A queue of people stood outside the Clinic hut. We unpacked the gallons of cooking oil, mealie-meal, rice and beans into the stores hut which also had clothing and shoes at one end. Mrs Momberera and Rita stayed there to prepare bags of food. Normally they would also be running the creche for AIDS orphans in some of the other huts, but that morning the creche was not open. Boys later regaled us with melodic sounds on their mbiras (thumb instruments) - they were on the 'afternoon shift' at school.

Sister Carina and I carried extra drugs into the Clinic and Bibiana sorted them out. Astonished at the stocks of drugs, I was told

that a firm in Germany supply an immense amount of them. Before the Clinic began, everyone assembled in the dining-room. There was joyful singing led by an elderly man who was upheld by one crutch and an umbrella, with everyone swaying and clapping. Then a prayer in Shona followed. The queue re-assembled and the first patient came in, sitting next to Sister Carina's desk. Bibiana stood alongside (smartly dressed in white), rocking on her heels and barely pausing for breath - a delightful and energetic lady.

In the four hours the Clinic lasted, over one hundred, mostly painfully thin, patients filed in and out of that hut. Each has to sign on at the government clinic in Hatcliffe, receive their 'papers' and then (no drugs being available in the government clinic) turn up at the Tariro Clinic on a Wednesday. Sister Carina kindly involved me in everything, asking me to examine the children with scabies, ringworm and sores from poor hygiene. Despite her 'tut-tutting' to some mothers about "not washing" their children, I had some sympathy, as there are only stand-pipes and cold water available. If she felt they had further needs, she added the words "food" or "clothing/shoes" to their notes and off they went to Mrs Momberera. As 150 received food, I am sure they set off for her hut automatically!

All the mothers with AIDS - which really was all of them - are given cooking oil and food to take home. Young mothers with babies on their backs, toddlers at their sides, showed their awful shingles around their middles, or around their ears and received treatment. With AIDS their immune systems are so low that shingles is a common experience. Later, they develop sarcomas,



chest pains and complications, and I saw at first hand the terrible tragedy that is Africa at this present time.

Many men also came, but it was obvious to me that Sister Carina viewed them with less love in her eyes than the women. If a man had the temerity to say he had a Sexually Transmitted Disease, he got short shrift and was told firmly to return to the government clinic. One man came in with a sore ear; Sister Carina snorted "Last week it was a sore eye". She looked into his ear, said nothing and handed him some pills. Another man, with prostate problems, returned for yet more pills. She told him he must follow her advice and go to the hospital, but he said the pills were all that he needed. Sister Carina laughed and said "See you again"!

Sister Carina is devastated by all the women with AIDS. One very young girl came in, coughing painfully, holding her chest and looking so ill. The love that was shown was palpable, but all that could be done was further drugs and a special note for food and new shoes. The bravery and acceptance shown by all of these people is just heart-breaking. Not a tear was shed, nothing but stoicism was revealed. After receiving their drugs, they stood outside for a chat, or sat in groups on the ground in the shade of the dining-room.

One young mother, with twins tied to her back and front, and a toddler, John, at her side, said her husband had absconded that week. Despite that, she was full of fun. She untied one twin and handed him to me, then

quickly untied the other twin and placed her in my spare arm.....then said "Good-bye" with peals of laughter! A young mother with two children brought in her grandmother, who had the most shocking infected scar, some twelve inches long, down her upper leg. The grandmother was sleeping by the road when a car hit her and ripped her leg. A young lad of about eight stood, patient and unflinching, whilst Sister Carina cleaned the larger part of the top of his head, dabbed it with iodine, and then bandaged his entire head - it was raw with scabies.

If Sister Carina could not produce a suitable drug for their AIDS, skin problems, worms, etc., they went off with a packet of Panadol. At the end she said "Well, Mrs Ford, today you have seen thirty patients and seventy beggars". She obviously knew that a lot of the drugs would be sold. Each pill or medicine was rolled into previously-used envelopes, or poured into containers of different sorts. On my return Midge Henderson said she would ask all the members of her office to save the small bottles, pill boxes etc. for Sister Carina.

During this time someone came in to tell her that one of her patients had died of AIDS that morning. She immediately reached for some money and asked Bibiana and me to visit the family to give them her sympathies. So I reached for some Zim dollars as well and we set off. We turned into a very narrow mud track running between close-set huts comprising of poles and polythene. The orphaned daughter, aged about twelve, sat outside the hut we were visiting, staring into the ashes of the fire. We eased ourselves in to the tiny space where the remaining family sat - only a sister and a sister-in-law.

As we squatted on the dried mud ground I noticed that a division had been made on my right - a blanket hanging from a pole above, behind which the dead woman lay. We were told that she had died at 4.00am and that they were waiting, not knowing what to do as they

had no money to have the body removed. After more sympathetic talk, I handed over the money and, small as it was, it would enable them to deal with the problem. After leaving, I asked Bibiana if they could afford a funeral and she said "No" but that they would join up with others who had been bereaved, to reduce the cost. The Dominican Sisters receive Z\$2,000,000 every six weeks to continue this work. On my return we received a lovely letter from Sister Gaudiosa, the senior sister, thanking us all for our donation of Z\$1,625,000 (£250). She wrote:

"This money will go towards the up-keep, care, food and medical supplies of the creche children in Hatcliffe. The children are mainly AIDS orphans and from very poor, desperate families where the parents are sick and cannot support themselves. In short, it is used for the Infected and Affected people there who suffer. Sister Carina and myself are mainly treating the AIDS patients once a week there, and Mrs Momberera and Rita, who Mrs Ford has met, are supervising the teachers at the creche and co-ordinate the food programme. With your wonderful generosity we are able to help. May God bless your kindness."

Angela Ford

[In the next issue - visiting the Presentation Sisters and the Hatcliffe Schools]

On Sunday 8th August The River Party will take place at Cooper's Field, Kerse X, Thurlestone, from 6.30 to 11.45 pm - dining, dancing, and lots more! £25 per ticket. The profit will be divided equally between the Harare Children's Charities in Zimbabwe and conservation projects on the River Avon carried out by the Aune Conservation Association. Ring 01626-332266 to enquire.

the river party

An Invitation

Join us for The River Party in the elegant Marquee at Coopers Field Kerse Cross Thurlestone. Dance the night away to AlkaSalsa our fabulous Latino Band, dine on a sumptuous supper created from delicious local produce. Enjoy spectacular views over the river Avon and Burgh Island, all included in your ticket price. Champagne and Wine bars will be open throughout the evening.

All profits will be split to help fund river conservation projects on the Avon carried out by the Aune Conservation Association and to support The Harare Children's Charities in Zimbabwe – helping AIDS orphans.

Numbers are limited so do book early! Simply return the form below as soon as possible with your cheque so that we can confirm your booking. Admission by ticket only.

~~The River Party Committee~~ looks forward to seeing you!
Shirley Tull, Jan Meredith, Elisabeth Meldrum, Sally Watts and Gill Stone.

Date 8th August // Time 6.30pm - 11.45pm // Dress Code -Party! // Dancing to our Lively Latino Band // Fund Raising Auction // Champagne / Wine Bars and BYO // Tables Seat up to 10 and Can Be Reserved // Under 18's Must Be Accompanied By Responsible Adults // Ticket Price £25

TICKET ORDER FORM

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Devon
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Tel No : 01626 332266

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Name :

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Tel No:

No. of tickets requiredat £25 each £

To book a table for 10 please tick box ☐ £

Donations :

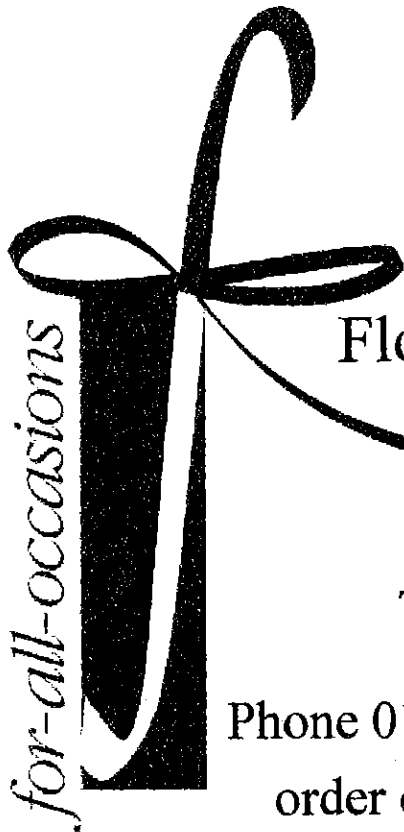
We cannot attend but would like to donate £

We are attending but would also like to donate £

Total Cheque Enclosed £

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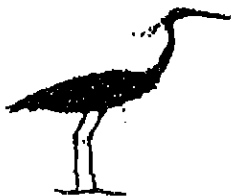
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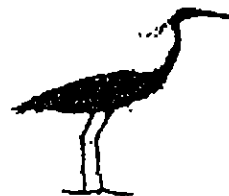
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AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Report from Chairman John Crawford



Big Tent Event

On the 8th August the River Party will take place in a marquee (courtesy of Odette Clark) at Coopers Field, Kerse Cross, Thurlestone, from 6.30 to 11.45pm. (See further details elsewhere in this issue). The ACA's ecology fund will be joint beneficiaries from any surplus realised.

Estuary Walk

Wendy Bennetto and Peter Cummings organised a very enjoyable walk around Were Marsh and Dukes Mill on May Day. Scurvy-grass, bluebells and primroses were in full fig and there was enough hemlock water drop-wort to put Bin Laden out of business. Walkers were stunned by the beauty of Milburn Orchard garden and admired the lime kiln which Peter and Jean Marsh have lovingly restored. Martin Catt could not be with them to carry out a flora census but Sally Watts kept a record of plants observed and hopefully next year the experience can be repeated with Martin's guidance.

Siltation study project

It is hoped to have positive news by September.

Video

The sequel to *The Egret has Landed* featuring the Avon estuary should be ready for viewing by mid-October and in this case will form part of the annual Public Lecture.

Estuary clean-up

This proceeded simultaneously from both ends of the estuary and 38 bags and two massive rope tangles were despatched to the tip. Thanks go to Rosemary Stocken, Malcolm Le Grice, Yvonne Bennett, Peter & Jean Marsh, Bob Burr, Ron & Maggie Skeates, Mike & Clare Garton Sprenger and Sally & Stuart Watts.

Oyster Shack

Peter and Fay Lewis have sold the Oyster Shack and they are wished every joy in their retirement. They have been very supportive of the ACA.

Chris Yarnell of St Milburga's Oratory has now

bought it and an Oyster Fest is booked for the 28th September.

Archaeological Survey

News of funding for an archaeological survey of Thurlestone parish comes from South Hams District Council in its published plan for this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which could mean that local control of research is lost from the parish. ACA would like to hear from any member who is interested in forming sub-committee to monitor the rapidly changing historical context of the estuary. The plan is not surprisingly silent on the subject of wind farms.

Off-shore Oil Terminal

A regular practice has become established of down-loading crude oil from Russian tankers into bulk carriers in Lyme Bay. Given the climatic conditions in the Channel, it is only a matter of time before a major spillage occurs. Depending on wind direction and sea currents at the time, damage to the coastline could extend to Portland Bill or to Start Point, and even Bigbury Bay. ACA urges us to write to our MP making the following points:

- * This activity poses a threat to the environment of the South Devon and Dorset coast, particularly as the crude (REBCO) neither sinks nor floats and spillage would have a disastrous impact on the tourist economy.

- * This activity is of no financial benefit to the UK economy as the destination of the oil is the Far East. The cost of clearing up spillage would fall on our local authorities - with little or no prospect of compensation from the owners of the oil

- * No other European country allows such activity to take place in its territorial waters.

- * The UK should exercise its rights by banning such activities from our waters.

[Source : Briefing note from Devon and Dorset County Councils, December 2003]

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. Holding on fast
2. Insist on it
3. Tyneside city
4. Mafia head
5. Hypocritical
6. Total accord
7. Life itself
8. A place to live
9. Annihilate; remove
10. Imagining
11. He issues BMD certificates
12. Essential
13. Trickery and deception
14. Ancient mariner's bird
15. It cooks quickly
16. Spur on
17. Sites or venues
18. Flesh-eater
19. Very spiteful
20. A carrion feeder
21. ???

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|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CAS | MAN | NEC | INC | MIC | RAR | ATE |
| MIN | STE | ALB | TEN | MAL | CHI | RES |
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| CAN | NEW | TLE | PUL | IST | ATE | EXI |
| ACI | ESS | NIV | SUP | OUR | ATR | OUS |
| VEN | FAT | ATI | AVE | ARY | LOC | REG |
| AGE | STI | POS | NCE | ICI | TLE | CAR |
| NIM | ONS | ERY | ERE | GER | ITY | GOD |
| ING | OUS | OSS | NCE | GEN | SCA | ELI |

TEN TEASERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Who wrote " <i>The Darling Buds of May</i> "? | 6. Who was the first Briton to go into space? |
| 2. Who wrote " <i>Saturday Night and Sunday Morning</i> "? | 7. What is the north wind of the French Mediterranean coast? |
| 3. In what year were both these novels published?" | 8. Which is the <i>Cornhusker</i> state of the USA? |
| 4. What is the capital city of Zambia? | 9. What is the tallest animal in the world? |
| 5. Who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990? | 10. What are Prime Minister Tony Blair's middle names? |

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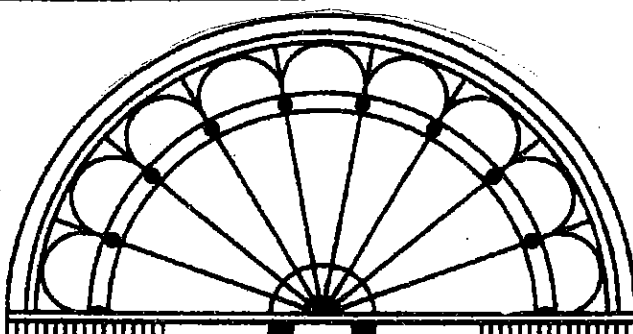
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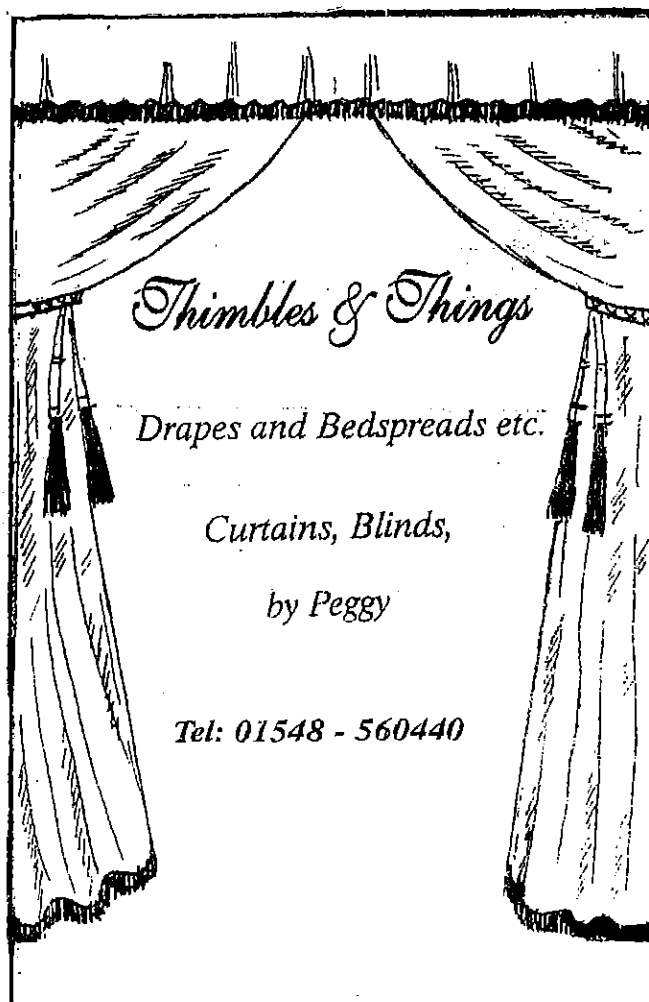
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HARRY HUGGINS REMEMBERS

TICKING OFF A RARE BIRD

We birdwatchers all love a rare bird. So do non-birdwatchers, for that matter. Someone may tell you he is quite happy looking at Blackbirds and Sparrows in his garden. Just as someone will go fishing and say it doesn't matter if he doesn't catch anything. Being on the riverbank is enough. If you believe that, you will believe anything. But we can differ in where we look for our birds.

You can still go all over the world, if you can afford it. Like the American lady, Phoebe Snetzinger, about whom I have written before. Diagnosed with and cured of cancer, she resolved to devote the rest of her life to seeing how many species she could see. It came to over 7,000 out of a total of a bit over 9,000, before a motor accident cut her short.

Or you can do like Rod Bone. Rod lives in Aveton Gifford. I suppose he must go somewhere else now and then - recently June met him and his family on Leasfoot beach. But mostly he works his patch - Aveton Gifford. As patches go it must be counted a good one. I don't recall any heather moorland there, nor a reed bed (I might have missed them). But there is plenty else - the River Avon, the tidal estuary, woodland, gardens, farmland, marshy fields by the river. In the 2002 Devon Bird Report, Rod was quoted as having found thirty pairs of Spotted Flycatchers. The most anyone found anywhere else was four.

Spotted Flycatcher is a little brown bird, paler below, which comes to us for the summer. It sits on a branch, dashes off to catch an insect, and returns to its branch. A favourite nesting-place is behind a wisteria on a house wall. It is also getting very rare. So much so that the RSPB has sent two people to study it to try and discover why a

bird which is rapidly declining in numbers almost anywhere else should be flourishing in Aveton Gifford. Rod tells me they have found fifty pairs this year, of which nearly forty have been nesting.

But Rod has his rarities too. One day in 1999 he was in a marshy meadow above the bridge at Aveton Gifford (counting Mute Swans) when he saw what appeared to be a Ringed Plover. Wrong place - you find Ringed Plovers on sandy/pebbly beaches. Wrong time - look on Yarmer beach in August and you will see some. Ringed Plover is a little brown bird, white below, black and white head, and a black band across its breast. This was February, when any self-respecting Ringed Plover is somewhere warmer. Rod investigated. His bird was bigger than a Ringed Plover, had dark legs whereas a Ringed Plover has pale ones and it has two black bands across its breast. A Killdeer, an American bird, the fourth sighting for Devon and the first since 1943.

Like Rod does, you can find your rarities for yourself. That is the most exciting way - but often not very productive. You can ring the national Birdline on 09068-700222 (at 60p a minute), or 09068-700241 for Birdline South West. Or you can have a good friend like Arthur. He tells us if there is something around we ought to see. Like the first Great Reed Warbler at Slapton Ley in June. This is a warbler the size of a Songthrush (most warblers are small, sparrow-sized or less). It sings a strident song - in his book Lars Jonsson says it goes "*Krr-krr, teep, kerretsiep, tsee-e, tsee-e, keere, keere, kreek-kreek-kreek, chee, chee*".

Along with a bunch of other birders, Arthur saw it at 7.30 in the morning. If you see a

group of people, mostly men, standing gazing, it is worth sidling up to find out what they are looking at. It may just be a blonde in a bikini, but if they are festooned with binoculars and telescopes, there is, or has been, a rare bird somewhere. We went at ten o'clock. We found neither bird nor birders. But looking for rarities is like that - we reckon to find around one in three of the things people tell us about. We hadn't dipped out on a lifer, we had seen Great Reed Warblers in Hungary and in Mallorca, but for some folks that doesn't count - they want to see a bird in Britain. It all depends on how you view your birding.

In April Arthur told us there were three Red-rumped Swallows at Slapton Ley. Like a Swallow, which we are told now to call Barn Swallow to distinguish it from any other swallow. In Europe (and places near) there are only Barn and Red-rumped, but in America, where the name Barn Swallow came from, there are seven. Trust the Yanks to have more! Red-rumped has a pinkish rump and a reddish collar around the back of its neck. We saw one at South Huish in April 1966, and June found one at Beesands Ley, among a swarm of Swallows and House Martins, in 1998.

It was kind of Arthur to tell us about these three birds. But we had just come back from the Algarve. At the Castro Marim nature reserve, by the Spanish border, they flew in and out of the HQ building, obviously nesting. A pair sat on the handrail of the balcony and I photographed them. You begin some way away, in case you frighten them, then you creep closer and closer, taking more pictures, until you get quite near and hope you will have a reasonable-sized image. Not the way Bryan Ashby takes those wonderful pictures which he shows and Gordon Waterhouse talks about. Usually he sets up a hide, which he moves a bit nearer to the birds every day until they nearly sit on the end of his lens. You can't do that on holiday. So we didn't really need to go to see the Slapton swallows. So long as we've

seen a bird we are not too fussy about where!

Take Black-winged Stilts - Blackbird-sized, or a little bigger, black above, white below, with pink legs which look, and are, absurdly long. In May 2002 we returned from holiday to be bombarded with phone calls. Four Stilts had taken up residence by a lake on the marsh at South Huish, and we must go to see them, but we had been in Mallorca where we saw dozens. So we didn't race off after those at South Huish, although in fact we did see them. We went to visit friends who live on the hill above the marsh, and there around the water were the birds. We had better views than if we had looked from the National Trust car park like all the other birders did.

There is a book, quite a recent one, by Mark Crocker, called *"Birders - Tales of a Tribe"*. He tells of one Ron Johns who at the time of writing had seen more birds in the British Isles than any other birder. Among the few that go in for that sort of thing there is fierce competition to have seen the most species. It seems faintly daft to me, but it pleases them. When the book was written, the said Mr Johns had some 545 species and his wife had seen 514. Both will have seen more by now.

We had a friend called Douggie. Sad to relate the only wings Douggie is seeing now are on angels. But one year he set out to see how many species he could see in that year. I don't think that in terms of covering the country he went very far, mostly he confined his activities to Devon. But he had no attachments, was free to come and go as he wanted, and did. I think he got above 200 species, though not by many. Mr Johns from the book had devoted most of a long lifetime to his numbers and to see over 500 takes some doing. He lived, still does I trust, in north Norfolk. A good place for any ardent twitcher, about half way between the honeypots of the northern isles and the Isles of Scilly, where many of the unusual birds appear. And close to the Norfolk coast

where many more good birds turn up and, maybe more important, there are many eyes looking for them.

In 1990 there was a message from a party of birders in Shetland. They found a Pallas's Sandgrouse. In Europe and the Middle East and a bit of North Africa (what they call the Western Palaearctic), people have recorded seven species of Sandgrouse. They are not related to our British Red Grouse (which you can still find on Dartmoor if you are very clever and very lucky), nor to its cousins pheasants and partridges. In fact the folks who amuse themselves by studying these things argue about what they are related to - pigeons, maybe, or possibly waders. Most species are birds of 'deserty' places, though one (Black-bellied) lives in Portugal, Spain, one of the Canary Islands, and North Africa. Some species are well-known for their habit of carrying water to the young. They fly, often a long way, to drinking places where they soak their belly feathers in water. Then they fly back to their young ones, which "sozzle" the water out of their feathers.

When we went to Israel we were taken to see one species, Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse. As night fell the man drove us to a small water tank in the outskirts of Eilat, sat us on a pile of rocks (in considerable discomfort) and when it was dark the birds flew in to drink. You can't say you have seen a bird unless next time you could identify it for yourself. On that basis I did not see them - maybe June did, her eyes are better in the dark than mine.

Pallas's Sandgrouse lives in the middle of Asia, from Kazakhstan to Mongolia, wherever those places are. In the past they have appeared far from their usual range (no one really knows why - maybe adverse weather caused it). In 1888/9 quite a lot came to Britain, a few even bred (in Yorkshire, Scotland, and possibly Suffolk), but none has been seen since 1908. In size and shape it is not dissimilar to a domestic pigeon. (We don't have many of those in our parish - perhaps the odd one around the cliffs

occasionally, until a Peregrine gets it - but if you go to Kingsbridge you will usually find some stamping about by those seats close to the loos on the Quay). Pallas's Sandgrouse has very short, feathery legs and plumage which is a pale mixture of orange, grey, beige and brown - sounds odd, but it is good camouflage in the deserts where it lives. In the very unlikely event of your finding one in Thurlestone, please ring me!



Pallas's Sandgrouse

The first tickable Pallas's Sandgrouse for around eighty years.....Ron Johns just had to see it. With a couple of friends he drove from north Norfolk to Heathrow, flew to Aberdeen, got another flight to Shetland where a waiting friend drove them to the bird. They ticked it off. That was Ron satisfied. But his wife had not seen it - could not get away from work to go with them. So the following weekend husband and wife drove to Aberdeen (five hundred miles?). She flew to Shetland and was back in Aberdeen twenty-four hours later, having seen the bird. What he did in the meantime I do not know - some birding maybe?

They drove back home and went to bed, to be awakened almost immediately by a phone call to say that off Lundy Island someone had found that Ancient Murrelet, the first for this side of the Atlantic. A six hundred mile round trip from Norfolk - and Lundy can be a pig of a place to get to and from if boats don't fit in or the weather turns bad.

They set their alarm to get up very early!

Harry Huggins

IN YOUR GARDEN

Next Saturday 7th August don't miss a visit to the Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show which this year is at South Milton, 2.30 pm, with prize-giving at 4.15 pm. Its always a good event, very colourful, and it is a great opportunity to see what nearby gardens are producing and for sharing notes with fellow-gardeners.

The late summer performers are now coming into their own in the flower borders, including dahlias.....which you either love or loathe. With the current garden fashion for bright and 'hot' colours, they are certainly enjoying a revival in all the 'best' garden circles! They can certainly do a wonderful job of filling the flower gaps in borders at this time of year although I admit that *until* they flower they are mostly, with the exception of some of the dark-leaved varieties such as the old *Bishop of Llandaff*, not a very inspiring sight. But they can provide an intensity of brilliant colour that is hard to beat.

In the spring of 2003 I planted some galtonia bulbs in pots which did very well. I left them undisturbed until this spring, when I put a top dressing on the pots of dormant bulbs. They had survived the winter well, are now in fat bud, and I am eagerly awaiting the lovely white bell-like flowers which cluster up the stems. Acidanthera corms I potted up on 18th June, which I thought might be a bit late, but within three weeks they had all popped up and are 12" high. I am now looking forward to their sweet-smelling blooms, which look a little like a dainty gladiolus. Both of these plants do well in pots and can be used as a lot of people use lilies - to place in the borders, in their pots, to fill any gaps They are both good cut flowers.

To combat blackspot on roses, I used a compound called 'Wettable Sulphur' last year. It worked well. I've used it again this year on the same roses with the same excellent result. At the time of writing this, there is not a sign of this dreadful disease. Winter-hardy varieties of spring cabbage seeds can be sown in August ready for planting out in mid-September, to

become established before winter. Draw a little earth up to the stems of winter greens to prevent wind rock later. If you have a cold greenhouse, August is the time to start off freesia corms in large pots. Box, both hedges and individual plants, can be fed and trimmed now and doing this twice a year keeps them in shape. Cuttings of pinks can be struck in gritty compost and kept in a shady corner to root.

It is a good time now to divide and replant bearded iris. Lift the rhizomes, discarding any old woody ones and keeping the smaller healthy looking ones. Trim back the leaves to about 6" and replant, having first cleaned and forked over the ground and sprinkled a little bone-meal around if you intend to replant them in the same spot. It is important always to plant bearded iris rhizomes shallowly so sun will be able to bake them. Start looking for next spring's bulbs now at garden centres and nurseries, as if planted soon, whilst the soil is warm, they have a better chance of establishing themselves and of making good plants for next year. This is particularly true of the narcissus family.

I saw a strikingly coloured moth one evening last week. It was vibrant pink and light green and according to my little book it could be an Elephant Hawk Moth. It feeds on a wild plant called ladies bedstraw, so called because in days of old it was used to stuff mattresses in the belief that it discouraged fleas - not surprising as it doesn't smell particularly nice!

If you would like to attract the very pretty yellow Brimstone butterfly to your garden, try planting a buckthorn, either plain or variegated. It grows into a small tree or it is easily cut back and kept bushy. Brimstones lay their eggs on buckthorn and as it also produces berries there is a feast later on for the birds.

Hope to see you at the garden show in South Milton next Saturday.

Ladybird

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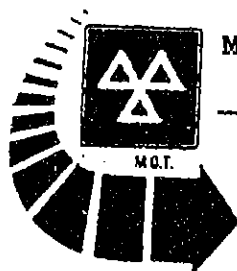
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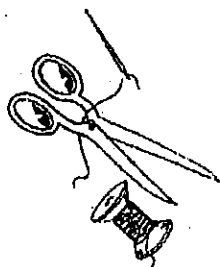
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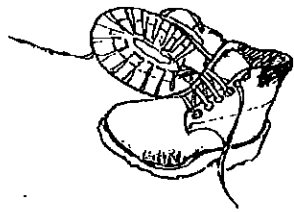
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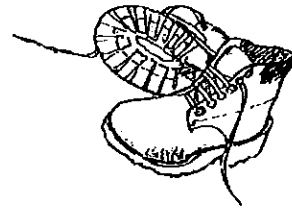
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TRAMP



1 On 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 - close enough 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

2 The Plym Valley Trail is very popular with Tramp walkers and this year fourteen of us - and two dogs - met at Plym Bridge on the 26th May for this ramble along the river. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the recent spell of dry weather provided ideal walking conditions. The trail closely follows

the river through attractive woodland, which was decorated with spring flowers including the last of this year's bluebells. There was plenty of wildlife to be seen, and the sighting of a heron perched at the side of the river was particularly memorable.

Following the imposed detour at Bickleigh we rejoined the river and reached Shaugh Prior for a well-earned rest and picnic lunch at a pretty spot on the river bank.

For the return journey from Shaugh Prior, we joined the Plym Valley Cycle Path which provides a level and easy route back to Plym Bridge. The cycle path is along the track of the old Great Western Railway Line from Plymouth to Velverton, and this is now a largely paved surface.

The path provides some good views from the several viaducts en route but the return journey was memorable for the opportunity to make use of the National Trust facility for telescopic viewing of peregrine falcons. It was a delight to see the falcon chicks on their nest on the distant rock face and this completed a superb days walking of about eight miles in the Plym River Valley.

GJD

3 Ten brave walkers and an ever-faithful black labrador set out from East Prawle on the 9th June to walk to East Portlemouth and back again - a walk that can feel rather arduous in hot weather as there are several climbs, and underfoot the path is rather rough. However, the weather was kind to us with beautiful sunshine highlighting the lovely coastal views, but also a cool breeze.

Half way through the outward journey we stopped for drinks and shortbread biscuits to replenish our energy levels before tackling the 'higher path' to East Portlemouth. This route was previously untrodden by TRAMP and it was nice to see the ever-familiar

Salcombe estuary from a different perspective.

Unfortunately some minor injuries - as a result of close encounters with brambles - meant that first-aid had to be applied at the end of this section. These minor mishaps did not stop us enjoying a leisurely lunch at Mill Bay beach, followed by an impromptu football match. Our black labrador had found a ball and, when challenged by her master for possession, called up reinforcements in the shape of two more black labradors who just happened to be on the beach. TRAMP mustered two more players to meet the new challenge, but the dogs, aided by being able to remove the ball to the sea (and occasionally swapping it for a stick), seemed to win the day.

The walk back was uneventful apart from one of our members trying out a rope swing to the consternation of others who were worried it might affect his golf swing! We made it back to East Prawle in plenty of time to indulge in tea, cake and ice cream, as a just reward for our athletic endeavours.

LM

4 A pub lunch at "The Ship", Noss Mayo, and fine weather was sufficient enticement for sixteen walkers on Monday 14th June - ten 'regulars', two 'new faces' and four visitors from Sheffield.

First, we meandered through the charming Brooking's Down Woods before the long climb to The Warren and along the Coast Path. This section is named after Lord Revelstoke who had the driveway constructed in order that his visitors should enjoy the spectacular scenery from their carriages. The building work provided alternative employment for local fishermen unable to put to sea during the bleak winter months. The driveway totals nine miles in length and today's Coast Path traverses part of this.

The party regrouped at Mouthstone Point and some swore the Lizard could be seen in the distance as visibility was really good. Anyway, an American visitor was suitably impressed. Near Cellars Beach several of our party

exhibited their skill at shepherding. A stray lamb was separated from the flock and needed gentle persuasion to go through an open gate, but this was somewhat complicated by other sheep attempting to exit by this route at the same time.

Then it was full steam ahead through Passage Wood, with good views across the River Yealm to Newton Ferrers, and on to splice the mainbrace!

PW

5 Thursday 1st July was a short walk, with a pub supper to follow. The assembly time at the Parish Hall car park was 4.45 pm and guess who was on the TV beating Miss Serena Williams? Yes, none other than the Tsarina Maria Sharapova. But all was well, as she managed this by 4.30 pm which allowed the leader to arrive on time at the car park.

We drove to Hope Cove and then ten of us took the path up past St Clement's Church (reputed to be one of the smallest in the country) and along the Malborough ridgepath. Turning right at the top in the direction of Bolberry, along 'Sweetheart Lane', a long, slow, slog brought us up the road to Bolberry Down.

After a pause to admire the scenery, it was all downhill along the Coast Path and on into Inner Hope, past the disused Lifeboat Station (built in 1877 and closed in 1930 when a motor lifeboat was introduced in Salcombe. From 1878 to 1930 successive crews saved 64 lives.

Back in Hope Cove we were joined by three non-walkers (all of whom had valid excuses!) and a very pleasant drink and meal was partaken at "The Boathouse".

PW

Footnote:

The mystery of the missing First Aid Box is over - the writer of the above found it in her glory-hole under the stairs whilst looking for something else!

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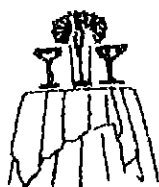
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner MBE

I blame the Weather Wag, it is all upside down and contrary to the right way of things. Summer seems to have come and gone in a flash and we are now into a warm Autumn. Remember that August is a notoriously wet month. Its only saving grace is that the rain usually arrives in short sharp storms of the thundery kind. Then it clears up and is fine and dry again, while building up for the next thundery shower. We can only hope that this is what is going to happen.

Last year the rainfall for June was higher by 13mm (half an inch), the hours of sunshine less at 213 hrs and the temperature much the same at 16.5C. This year the figures are:- RF=62mm, SS=270hrs, and TP=16.4C. So last year was wetter, duller but just as warm; a very humid month.

In July it rained heavily on St Swithin's Day, but not excessively so over the next 40 days. The latter days in August were very dry and warm. So here's hoping the same will apply this year. One of the wettest days was our Church Fete at the end of July, but in the 10 days around 20th - 31st there were 67mm or so. It was a very sodden end to July but August saw no rain until 15th then none till 26th, so there's hope yet. The children deserve a good August, as do their teachers and support staff all over the country.

The Community College has now got a weather station as part of the Science Status and has established close links with the Met Office in Exeter. I hope that in the months to come as they gather some statistics we will be able compare them, and I'll be able to show some interesting facts about the two stations. Wind levels and rainfall will be particularly interesting.

The winter storms and some pretty high tides over the year have exacted a toll on the fragile rocks in some parts of the coastline.

The path on the way to Hope Cove has crept a bit nearer the cliff edge (or the other way around if you like), there have some more falls around the golf course, and the car park at South Milton Sands NT has deteriorated quite noticeably. The dunes on Thurlestone Sands North have survived behind their fence, but the level of sand at the bottom of the steps has dropped below solid rock. Now you step down on to New Red Sandstone, then on to the sand in a few feet further on.

The storms that moved the sand away occurred from the East, so the waves were in the form of a huge swell reflecting a vicious low way out in the Atlantic that was travelling south of us but causing a huge swell. These waves have a very strong backwash and it was this that caused the sand to disappear. Some areas of the beach are way higher than they usually are. The Ley has remained blocked despite the efforts of some sand-shovelling families here at half-term. This has been good for the reed beds and the breeding water-fowl. I am told that the volume of sand on many of our beaches on the south coast is disappearing. However, no-one is quite sure where it is going.

I would like at this point to dwell a little on the Sand Dunes of Leas Foot. I know it is not strictly to do with the weather, but I hope that you will see the connection. As I walked along the top of these dunes tonight (16th July), there was a party of adults and children enjoying a wonderful evening (calm and quite warm for a change). They were playing cricket, the BBQs were going, and it all looked lovely. BUT, they were obviously oblivious to the fragility of those dunes. Great fun was being had by many of them as they jumped down the face of the dunes, ran up them assembling for a photo, and generally tumbled happily in the sand as it fell down to the beach. Next winter when the seas reach that same level this loosened

sand and damaged marram grass will be washed away and the land will recede inland towards the Golf Course and the road. If only we all realised the way nature tries hard to establish a defence, but we inadvertently destroy all its good work in just a few minutes of uninformed "fun". Many of us remember the efforts of the Christmas Trees and fencing, all of which have been devoured by the sea during successive winters.

The ferocity of the seas is all due to weather conditions out in the Atlantic and, more locally, here in the channel. Do watch out for the forecasts and respect the sea for what it is - a wonderful servant but an all-powerful master, who will punish very severely the unobservant and those who take an unnecessary risk. Watch out for that rogue wave or the tide that cuts you off from safety.

For those who are contemplating a holiday in the British Isles in the future, here is what Dick File in "Weather Facts" has to say. A quick resumé of the summer climate shows

that we have the highest sunshine totals in June (partly because the days are then at their longest), the highest temperatures in July and August, and the highest sea temperatures in late August. He goes on to explain why certain areas are at their best at different times and under different climatic conditions. *"I would never dissuade anyone from a chosen location in Britain between May and September inclusive. If pressed to nominate a month, I would say June. The weather is not guaranteed, but the daylight hours are."*

The summer weather in this country is very fickle, ranging from long periods of drought (e.g., 1976) to the vicious storm on August 13-14th 1979 when the Fastnet race was decimated by a freak storm of the most vicious nature. Out of 307 yachts that started, only 85 finished: 23 were abandoned, 5 sank, 194 retired, 136 survivors were rescued and 15 crew were drowned. No wonder the WEATHER IS A CONSTANT TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION.

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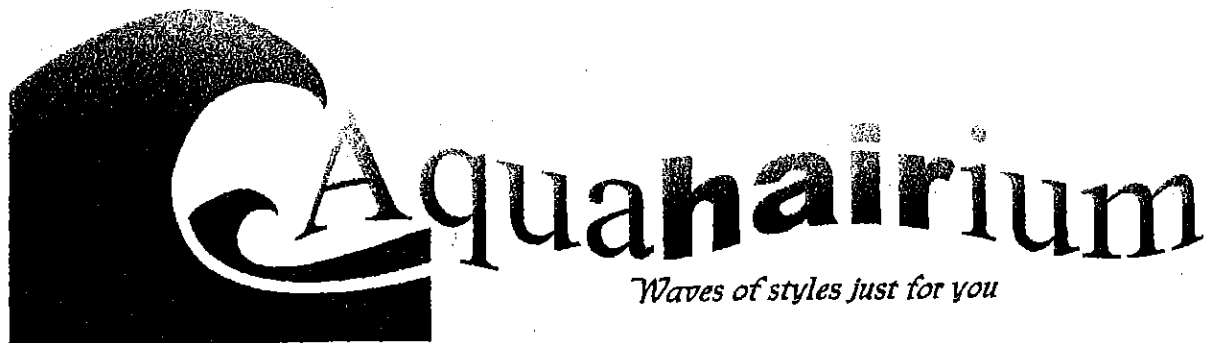
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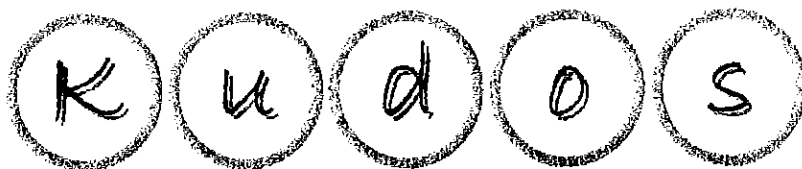
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IN PRAISE OF COURGETTES

Over 25 years ago when we moved down here, we used to buy wonderful, finger-sized, courgettes from Myrtle Berryman whose farm is on the South Milton road out of Thurlestone. Since then we have watched our own crop miraculously appear overnight, attached to lovely yellow flowers. They must be used before they come too large. I read that Gordon Ramsey serves the flower heads filled with stuffing and attached to the young courgettes! Here is the recipe for a quick summer supper dish, good served with warm crusty bread.

COURGETTES & RED ONIONS WITH FETA CHEESE (serves 4)

1 tablespoon olive oil and a generous knob of butter
2 red onions, peeled, cut in half and thinly sliced
0.5 kg (1lb) young courgettes, thinly sliced
200g (8oz) Feta cheese, cut into small cubes
Tablespoon pine nuts; salt & pepper
Good sprig fresh thyme (or a pinch if dried)
Small basil or oregano leaves, or parsley, to sprinkle on top

- * Heat butter and oil until hot
- * Add onion and cook with lid on until onions begin to soften but remain crisp (2 minutes)
- * Add courgettes and continue cooking until they soften slightly. Try to catch them before the juices escape
- * Season with salt and pepper
- * Remove from heat, add thyme and cheese cubes and slightly melt in the hot pan
- * Place in a warmed serving dish and sprinkle with pine nuts and small leaves

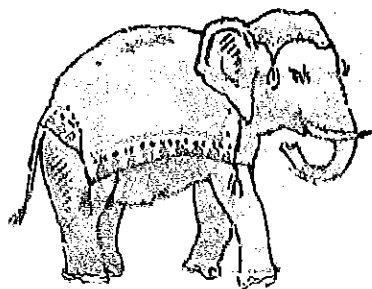
My second recipe is passed on from Sheila Stevens of Slapton. It has circulated the way all good recipes do - Sheila says it is worth buying the courgettes to make this delicious pickle!

CRUNCHY COURGETTE PICKLE

2kg (5lb) firm, fresh courgettes, washed and thinly sliced
0.5kg (1lb) onions, peeled, quartered and thinly sliced
200g (8oz) cooking salt
1 litre (1¾ pints) distilled vinegar
1½ teaspoons celery salt
1½ teaspoons turmeric
650g (1½ lb) sugar

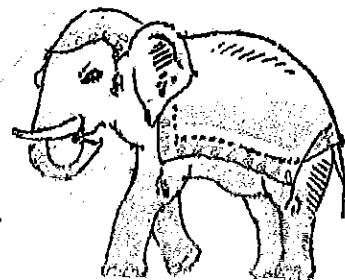
Put vegetables with the salt into a large pot and cover with water. After two hours rinse and squeeze out all possible liquid. Bring remainder of ingredients to the boil then pour over vegetables and leave for a further two hours. Bring mixture back to the boil, heat for exactly 5 minutes then pack into sterilised jars.

Let's hope for some sun by the time you read this - I am writing on a misty, grey, July day!



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Off the beaten track in Rajasthan



Following on from Kit Marshall's success in the International Turban-Tying Competition at the Jaisalmer Desert Festival reported in our last issue, Gazi Khan (Kit and Gillian's guide on their journey), recently gave a talk at the home of David and Lindsey Fletcher on the experience of a privately-guided tour of Rajasthan.

Gazi is the owner of Time Travel, an independent travel company in Jaisalmer, which he runs with the assistance of his partner, Lucy Beck, a regular visitor to Thurlestone who is based in the UK for part of the year. His talk is centred on the contrasting experience which India, and particularly Rajasthan, has to offer the seasoned and not-so-seasoned traveller, and the individual service which Time Travel is able to offer on their tours.

The tour is completely flexible and tailor-made to suit individual budgets and interests. The wealth of the Mughal and Hindu architecture of the temples and palaces contrasts with the simple homes of the local people in the towns and villages. The peaceful and abundant wildlife in India's

famous nature reserves and the stark beauty of the Thar Desert contrasts with the vibrant bustle and colour of the markets and city streets.

Guests attending the talk were able to taste some of the many Indian delicacies, see a demonstration of how to tie their own turbans, and view a wide selection of photographs from Kit and Gillian's trip and from Lucy and Gazi's own collection.

If you would like to experience the real India, with the services of a local guide who will be able to take you off the beaten track to see the real Rajasthan, perhaps you would like to attend Gazi's next talk when he visits Thurlestone on Sunday the 3rd October, 6.30 pm at 1 The Old Rectory, Thurlestone. To book a place at the talk, and for further information about the trips offered, please contact Lucy Beck on 01494-673206.

Time Travel is recommended by the Government of Rajasthan department of Tourism Art & Culture.

www.timetravelindia.com

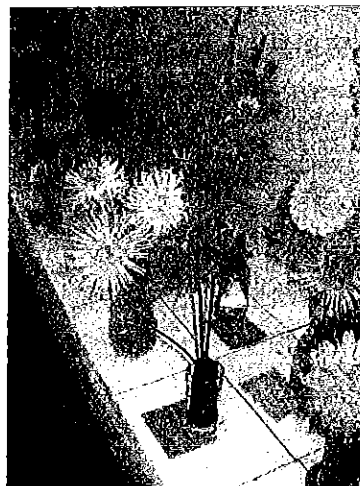
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BOOKSHELF

French Leave

by John Burton Race
(Ebury Press £7.99)

I am not a telly addict but last year there was a programme on Channel 4 which I found delightful, and just would not miss. The principal character, John Burton Race, has now (inevitably) written 'the book of the programme'.

It is a memoir of a year spent in France by a high-flying, two Michelin star chef who was running a successful London restaurant. What makes it different is that he also uproots his charming wife, Kim, and their children, whose ages are 16, 13, 12, 7, 5 and 3, and carries them all off to the Aude, a *departement* of the region Languedoc Roussillon in south-west France, where they rented a farmhouse in Montferrand. This is a truly rural area, relatively unspoilt by tourism and modern cooking trends.

He felt that the one thing for which he has a great passion, cooking, was getting pushed out of his life and the business side was taking over. He wanted to write a book that would rediscover the pleasures of simple food and go back to basics using superb ingredients. More specifically he wanted to find the source of fine foods and the people who produced them. His training had been French-influenced so why not return to his culinary roots?

His family's reactions to such a change in their life-style, particularly the children's to the idea of French schools, are not at first all good, but gradually, as the family make friends and contacts, they settle in. John sets out on his year in France with determination and as a first step heads off to find the best local markets not only in his immediate neighbourhood but over a wide-ranging area.

He goes to the source on his hunt for the best of everything - ceps and truffles, *cassoulet* ingredients, capons, foie gras, ducks, pig and charcuterie, pigeons, bread, cheese, patisserie and chocolates, asparagus, cherries, and anchovies - and all the investigations are recounted in detail and are very informative as well as most entertaining. The book also includes recipes and is definitely a good read for 'foodies'!

Footnote:

The Burton Race family have now moved to live near Kingsbridge, and John has taken over the former Carved Angel restaurant in Dartmouth, re-named the New Angel.

It is rumoured that Channel 4 intend to make a similar series to *French Leave* based around his adventures in the South Hams!

PM

More of Your Nominations for the Novel of the Century

(Submitter's initials in brackets)

1984

by George Orwell (RM)

Responding to the piece in the last issue of Village Voice (Bookshelf) about the best novels of the last 100 years, I would like to nominate this book.

I think this story, written in 1949, is the most remembered, notorious and perspicacious of the past century. In view of all the rules and regulations that have been showered on us all since then, from the government to the dreaded Common Market, I recommend it for a re-read!

The History Man

by Malcolm Bradbury (JP)

Written in 1975, this real twentieth century classic is still in print. It tells the story of the Kirks, their very modern marriage, radical politics and friends (and enemies).

It is set in the fictional Watermouth University, particularly with reference to the Sociology Department, where Howard is a senior lecturer. The author takes a real dig at 'sociology speak' and theories. There is a rather puzzling definition of marriage :

".....as a result they committed themselves to an institution which is society's technique for permanentizing the inherent contingency of relationships."

There are some very funny incidents; a faculty meeting which goes on for hours, and seven pages, at the end of which they are all back where they started; a hilarious scene at breakfast in the Kirk home with the children obviously going to become exactly like their parents.

The History Man is a very clever book, and beautifully written, and one loves to hate nearly all the characters, with Howard himself almost impossibly horrible. Read it - it is difficult to put down!

Winnie the Pooh

by A A Milne (MC)

In a world of literature abounding with worthy, erudite, and intelligent novels many of them dark, dour, and full of angst, how refreshing to read this delightful, warm and funny book. Many of us must recognise people we know, or have met, who have the same temperaments and characteristics of the cast in A A Milne's book.

There is motherly and kindly Kanga, naughty Roo, the introspective Eeyore, sensible down-to-earth Rabbit, timid but game Piglet, wise Owl, manic Tigger, always on the go and ready for anything, and of course our main

man, Pooh Bear, he of very little brain but a kind heart and vivid imagination. This is the only book to make me cry when the old friends part and the story ends. I recommend it highly.

Cooper's Creek

by Alan Moorhead (MC)

Set in Australia in the latter half of the 19th century, this is the epic tale of the attempt to cross the Australian continent from south to north - from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria. What started out as a great venture with high hopes of success ended in disaster, death and disappointment.

It is a story of the great courage shown by the men who set out on this expedition and of the mistakes made that damned it from the start. It throws light on the difficulties and dangers of the great unknown continent of Australia at that time. A good and satisfying read.

The Bell

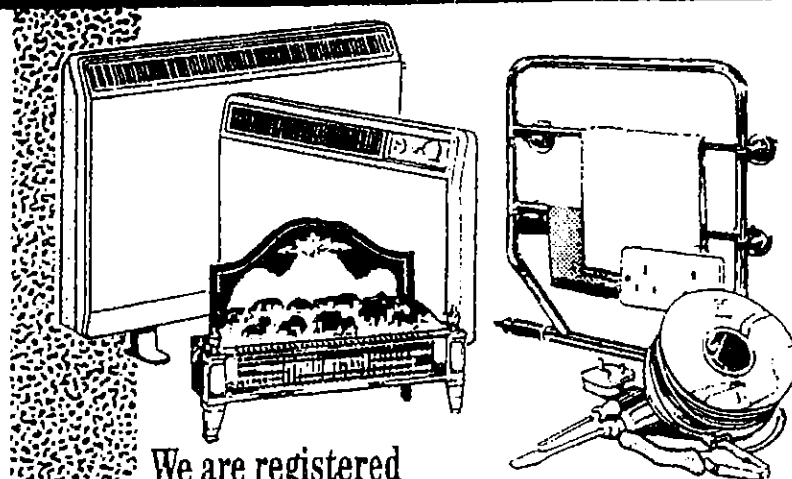
by Iris Murdoch (SW)

Any selection of best twentieth century novels would surely include at least one of the works of Iris Murdoch. My own favourite is *The Bell*, first published in 1958.

The story is set in a lay community in Gloucestershire. A mixed group of people live in a large old house, in the grounds of which is an Anglican convent. The original Abbey had been destroyed during the Reformation and at that time the Abbey bell, Gabriel, was lost. As the story begins a new bell has been cast and is about to be dedicated.

The novel is about good and evil, and the frailties of human nature, both in identifying the good and in then living it. This ranges from small matters such as whether or not to give up one's seat in an over-crowded train, to larger issues of life and death.

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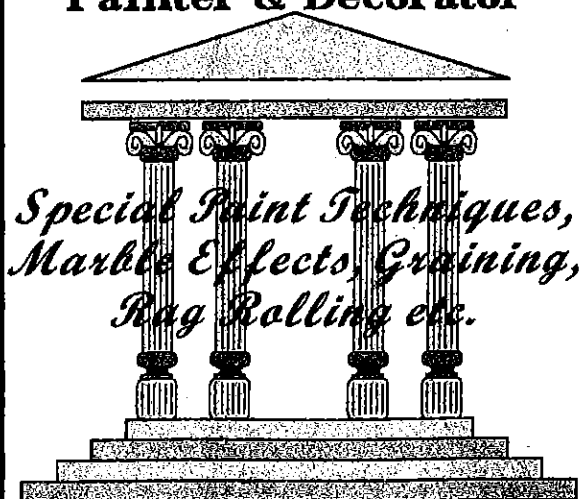
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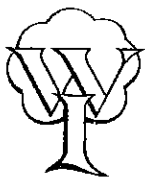
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NEWS FROM THE WI



Speakers

Poetry and prose were uppermost in the minds of members at the June meeting, but sadly the guest speaker was unavoidably absent through family illness. A speedy ring around several members enabled them to come armed with literature and willing to perform their 'party pieces'. In July prehistoric monsters were put into their environmental context by geologist and palaeontologist **Dr Barbara Lees**, who spoke on "*What were Dinosaurs really like?*"

Wimbledon Sweepstake

Pat Clarke has again organised this draw in aid of the Parish Hall new building fund. The names of both the finalists, Federer and Roddick, were drawn by **Pat Macdonald** who donated her prize money to swell the WI contribution to the hall building fund.

Sheffield

Karen Livett travelled to Sheffield, via the Devon delegates' coach from Kingsbridge, to the national AGM of the WI. She gave a good report on her two days away, when she also represented South Milton, West Alvington and Salcombe WIs. On the way north an opportunity was taken for a visit to a National Trust property, Hanbury Hall, at Droitwich.

Two of the resolutions at the meeting, concerning (a) trafficking of women and children and (b) genetically modified food crops, were adopted. The third, (c) on government funding for the air ambulance service, was rejected on a close vote. It was felt that any official funding would probably mean the end of an autonomous service such as Devon enjoys. However, some air ambulance services, such as Nottingham's, are desperately short of money.

George Allaghia from the BBC and **Esther Rantzen** were among the speakers. Karen said she found the experience of being at the largest national WI meeting rewarding and interesting, not least because of the ability to meet members from all over England and Wales and to exchange ideas.

Activities

- # On 1st July the annual summer lunch was held at Glen Lyon, courtesy of **Rosemary Mackay**. The sun shone and although a blustery wind kept it on the cool side this didn't prevent the more hardy sitting outside. Rosemary was given warm thanks for her never-failing hospitality.
- # Some members would be joining West Alvington's guided walk (by **Gordon Waterhouse**) round Slapton Ley on 20th July.
- # Leasfoot Beach would be the venue for a barbecue planned for lunch-time on Saturday 28th August, in aid of the Triangle Centre (cancer support).
- # Members were encouraged to support our entry into the Kingsbridge Show on Saturday 4th September.
- # On 12 September members will visit Forde House and Coleton Fishacre.
- # **Val Brown** is keen to recruit members for her proposed pantomime in January.

September meeting

There is no meeting in August but in September local natural history man **Martin Catt** will be the speaker. Anyone is most welcome, should they fancy hearing any of our speakers, to come and sit in with us at our monthly meetings and have a cup of tea.

If you are a new-comer to the parish, or feeling lonely, it is an excellent way of getting to know a few people. Husbands are also welcome!



At the Bridge Table



My previous article (June issue) gave several examples of safety plays where the objective was to lose no more than one trick in a particular suit. As an example of a more basic kind, suppose we have A Q 10 x x facing K 9 x x . It is self-evident that, on the first round of the suit, you should win the trick in the hand that holds TWO of the top three honours. This will enable you to pick up J x x x in either of the opposition hands by way of a finesse. But it is surprising how many times you see a player lead the King on the first round....! True, the odds of a four - nil split are less than 10%, but why take the risk?

In teams events the odd overtrick is of little importance, so that playing safe to ensure your contract is vital. In duplicate pairs safety plays may be technically right, but tactically wrong. Your partner will not thank you if you give up a trick to ensure (just) making a contract when other pairs are scoring an overtrick. But often there will be hands where the bidding, or the play to the first few tricks, suggests that you need to take out insurance against bad breaks. Similarly, you may need to consider whether a safety play is really needed. In the deal shown here the bidding went as follows :

| West | North | East | South |
|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Pass | 1 Diamond | Pass | 2 No Trumps |
| Pass | 3 No Trumps | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

West starts with the 4 of Hearts, which immediately knocks out dummy's only entry outside the Diamond suit. The Diamond suit is the key to success, so do you make the safety play of ducking a round? To find out, finesse the Queen of Spades at trick two. If it holds, you can duck a Diamond. If it fails, you can still go for five Diamond tricks.

Safety plays relate to only one of the problems facing declarers. Essentially, declarer play needs much thought as to the possible combinations of the cards known to be held by opponents. For example, if you hold K x x opposite J x x, the best play for one trick (perhaps because you need it for as a dumping ground for a loser in another suit) is low to the Jack. There are four possible locations of the Ace and Queen, and the play of the Jack will succeed with three of them (75%). Try it! The only time you fail is if the Queen lies over the Jack and the Ace lies over the King.

Of course, if you can afford the time to allow your opponents to lead the suit you will be guaranteed one trick by ducking the lead from either side and allowing play to run round to your honour card. But if the tempo of the hand requires you to force the issue on this suit for the one trick you need from it, the lead of "low to the Jack" (as above) will give you the best possible chance. And if the cards - and the mathematics - are against you, you can only grin and bear it, knowing you have done your best!

| N/ S Vulnerable | | Dealer West | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------|--|-------|-----|---|-----------|---|---------|---|-----------|---|-----------|------|--|---|----------|---|----------|---|------|---|--------|
| <table><tr><td colspan="2">NORTH</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>8 7 6 4</td></tr><tr><td>H</td><td>A</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>A K Q 8 4</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>Q 5 4</td></tr></table> | | | | NORTH | | S | 8 7 6 4 | H | A | D | A K Q 8 4 | C | Q 5 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTH | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | 8 7 6 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | A | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | A K Q 8 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | Q 5 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table><tr><td colspan="2">WEST</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>J 9</td></tr><tr><td>H</td><td>J 9 6 4 3</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>J 9 5 2</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>K 9</td></tr></table> | | WEST | | S | J 9 | H | J 9 6 4 3 | D | J 9 5 2 | C | K 9 | <table><tr><td colspan="2">EAST</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>K 10 5 3</td></tr><tr><td>H</td><td>10 8 5 2</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>10 7</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>A 10 3</td></tr></table> | | EAST | | S | K 10 5 3 | H | 10 8 5 2 | D | 10 7 | C | A 10 3 |
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| <table><tr><td colspan="2">SOUTH</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>A Q 2</td></tr><tr><td>H</td><td>K Q 7</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>6 3</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>J 8 7 6 2</td></tr></table> | | | | SOUTH | | S | A Q 2 | H | K Q 7 | D | 6 3 | C | J 8 7 6 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| D | 6 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | J 8 7 6 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Victor

T E A M A K E R S

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New Classes

A new session of computer tuition classes for complete beginners will commence on Monday 13 September. There will also be "refresher" classes for recent beginners, and "improvers" classes for those wishing to develop their expertise with particular applications. Those wishing to attend should register between 4.30 and 6.00 pm on Monday 6 September or Wednesday 8 September at the school. Anyone unable to make either date should contact Robin Macdonald on 560436.

Our tutoring team for September will consist of **Michael Barnes, Dennis Corless, Graham Durant, Richard Haysom, Robin Macdonald, and Chris White**, enabling us to provide individual coaching within classes in the school's excellent IT suite. New volunteer tutors would be warmly welcomed, as would any further items of reliable surplus hardware (e.g. printers).

Computers on Loan for Beginners

Due to the generosity of certain residents we now have EIGHT computers available for loan to those who would like to try their hand at computing for the first time. These offer an excellent way for anyone with no previous knowledge to gain "hands-on" experience, and to practice at home, without incurring any capital outlay. In conjunction with our beginners tuition courses, this is a unique opportunity to catch up on the basics of computing - painlessly and inexpensively. If you have not yet put your toe in the water - don't miss this exciting chance to (a) join the 21st century and (b) amaze the grandchildren! All hire fees are donated to the Parish Hall funds to help provide an IT facility for the new hall. To date we have been able to contribute £500 from this source of income.

Digital Imaging Course

Richard Haysom, All Saints technical classroom assistant, has volunteered to run a short course in the Autumn on Thursday evenings for those wishing to develop their

| AUTUMN CLASSES | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------|
| | Monday | Wednesday |
| Wk. Com | Beginners | Improvers |
| 6 Sep | REGISTRATION DAYS | |
| 13 Sep | CB 1 | R 1 |
| 20 Sep | CB 2 | R 2 |
| 27 Sep | CB 3 | SA |
| 4 Oct | CB 4 | SA |
| 11 Oct | CB 5 | R 3 |
| 18 Oct | CB 6 | R 4 |
| 25 Oct | HALF TERM HOLIDAY | |
| 1 Nov | CB 7 | SA |
| 8 Nov | CB 8 | SA |
| 15 Nov | CB 9 | R 5 |
| 22 Nov | CB 10 | R 6 |
| 29 Nov | CB 11 | SA |
| 6 Dec | CB 12 | SA |
| 13 Dec | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY | |
| Class Key: CB = Computer Basics R = Refresher SA = Special applications | | |
| Special applications may include Spreadsheets, Digital Imaging, Family History, etc., in line with individual requirements. | | |
| Anyone wishing to START any of these classes, but unable to attend on either of the Registration dates is requested to contact Robin Macdonald on 560436 or send an e-mail to <Teamakersclub@aol.com> giving details of the classes they would like to attend. | | |
| There is an attendance fee of just £3.00 per two-hour session, and any course materials provided are charged at cost. | | |

digital photography and image editing skills. This will be additional to the coverage provided in the classes shown above, and offers an alternative evening as well as a more specific "focus" to this subject area. Contact Richard at the school or on 853470 for further details.

Robin Macdonald

Basilicata

Alun Williams visits a less-frequented corner of Italy

Because of its history, its reputation, and its supposed ambience as the quintessential *mezzogiorno*, I anticipated a monumental, quietly fearsome place. Thinly farmed, I fancied, bleached and bled like an African corpse. I imagined a solemn, neglected land, though I knew that this could not be so. The Basilicata of Carlo Levi had changed utterly, yet still there would be a spectre of sorrow and fear hovering over this land of rock and remoteness. And, as the train from Salerno headed east from Eboli, I (in a childlike fancy) expected suddenly to be thrust into a terrible world where helpless children stared at the odd exotic traveller who might offer them the merest remnant of hope. Old men and women would be thin, creaky and moving slowly in a place where their worries were unacknowledged and where their grumbling, continuous story of woe was like a lament played out on a distant bassoon.

Yet the land in Northern Basilicata is deeply gorged with cold, dancing rivers and sweet forests. It was Eboli that appeared ugly, not the land beyond it. One of Carlo Levi's heirs or successors should write a sequel "Escape from Eboli", for after the grim anonymous poison of

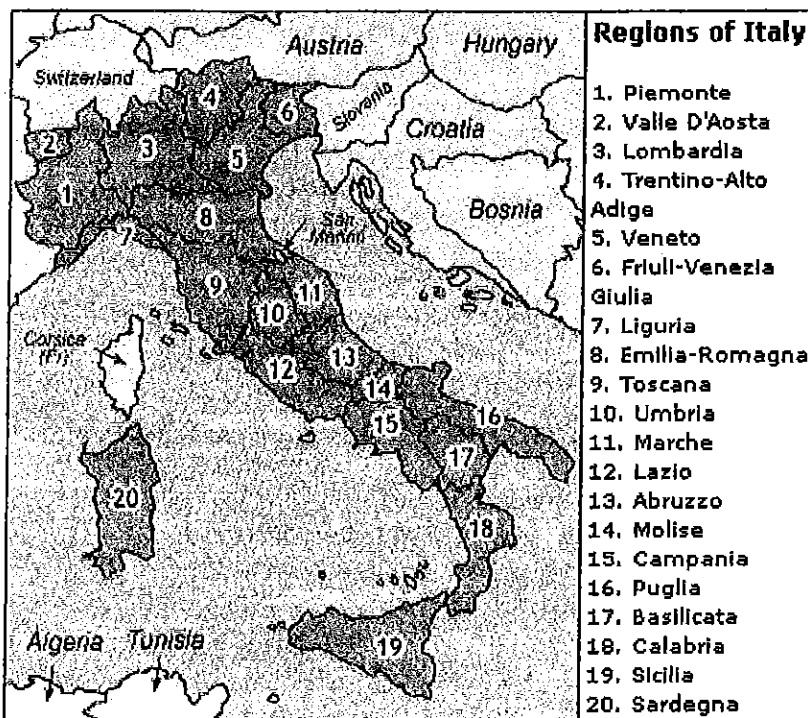
the repellent town, Northern Basilicata is like a rush of Eden. Poverty was invisible, and a landscape once degraded had now asserted itself in a surge of energy and plenty.

We travelled on the train to Potenza and, as I looked at my fellow passengers, it seemed that I alone wished to see the place. My purpose in travelling was an altogether more frivolous one than theirs. Driven by curiosity and Carlo Levi's compellingly mournful narrative, I had come to see them in their world. Several people, in shops, restaurants and hotels, wondered why we had come and, when they realised that we had squandered our holiday to come to this neglected wedge of Italy, their wonder turned to astonishment. I tried to imagine towns in Britain where a holidaymaker might be regarded as unusual: Diss or Stevenage perhaps, or Ystradgynlais. Half known places that got on with their business and did not announce themselves to the world (I have never been to Diss, so I may be inaccurate in my characterisation).

"Why have you come to Potenza?" asked Virginia, whose father owned the *Taverna*

Oraziana at the west end of the Via Pretoria. The fact that her father's livelihood depended on curiosities such as us seemed not to have occurred to her. She did acknowledge that Matera, our most significant destination in Basilicata, was worth seeing but for her, the region offered no enduring appeal.

Potenza is an odd confusion of a place with stairs, lifts and buildings piled on a high hill and apparently about to topple into the valleys beneath. According to one guide book I read, there are three railway stations; in another I read that there were just two. I counted four but could not be certain



that this total was definitive for they are all hard to find and none seemed to be signposted.

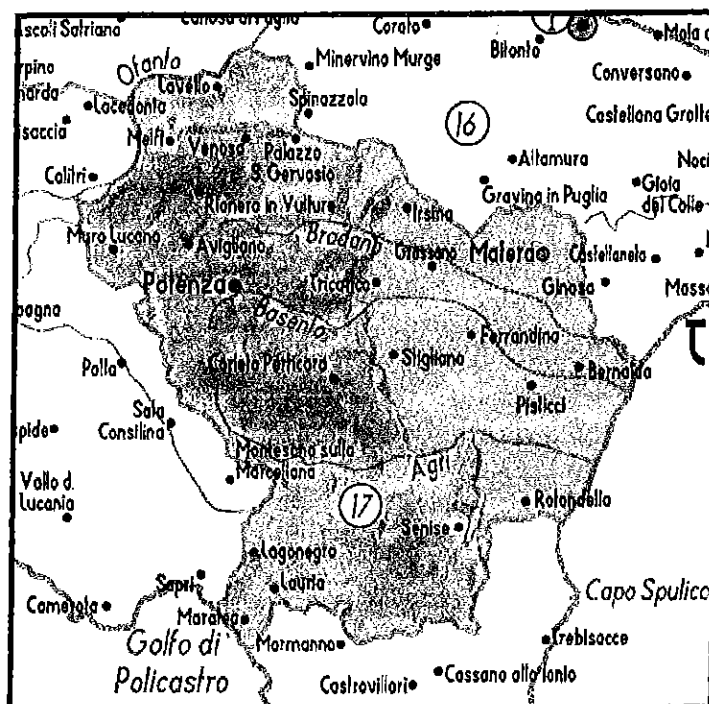
One of the most enduringly irritating aspects of travel in Italy is the arcane procedure involved in obtaining bus tickets. Certainly, do not expect them to be available on buses – except, of course, on certain buses. Otherwise they must be bought from tobacconists – but not from every tobacconist and even those designated to sell the tickets frequently run out of stock. Thus the short but steep journey from the modestly named Potenza Inferiore station to the city centre seemed as though it might be altogether more awkward than negotiating the succession of trains from Rome to Potenza.

“Biglietti, per favore?” I asked – trying to sound nonchalant. A man determined to be helpful made an emphatic though incomprehensible gesture that accompanied his many words. From the angle at which his hand travelled, it seemed that I would need to pole vault over the railway station in order to find the purveyor of these little treasures. In fact, life in the *mezzogiorno* is so relaxed and unhurried, that it seemed to matter little when or even if the tickets were purchased. We bought our tickets (without, as events unfolded, undue physical exertion) from an office discretely away from public interference and climbed aboard.

The bus, though comfortable and air-conditioned and appearing to be an emblem of modernity, nevertheless maintained what appeared to be the mellow courtesies of its more ramshackle predecessors. It grudgingly took us into and around the city, its route being so bizarre that we could not be certain when we would reach the centre or whether we had already reached it. A boy of about fifteen, also a passenger, offered to take us to Via Pretoria. He was hospitable and spoke some English. For the sake of conversation and mild curiosity, I asked him if he had ever visited England. He looked at me as if I were mad. I might as well have asked him if he had visited Mars.

He led us away from the bus and into the lifts that took us to within a whisker of Piazza Prefettura – the centre of the pleasing Via Pretoria. More lavish superlatives do not readily suggest themselves. It is too wide and orderly to be charming, too bright to have historical

appeal. Even the church of San Francesco (the suggestion of resignation and poverty seems historically so apt) would not delay the traveller for long. Its honey stone and modest proportions contribute to the attractiveness of the town, but its most eminent contents, an elaborate tomb and an imitation icon of the Madonna, do not add powerfully to the spiritual or artistic aesthetic.



Region of Basilicata (17)

Yet to arrive from the undulating confusion and inevitable tower blocks into Piazza Prefettura is a happy experience with its warmth spaciousness, profusion of life and, occasionally, the odd relic that had survived the many earthquakes that have ravaged the city. Many buildings, including an underground restaurant near the cathedral, the *Trattoria al Duomo*, have been so painstakingly restored that the more ancient appeal of the city is, in part, made real.

People-watching is a compelling activity. Up and down the old men go, arm in arm, shaking hands and remembering the bad times. For this is a strange land of recent comforts and luridly remembered poverty. Even now, I thought, what do they do? Here, the *passaggiata* is not just an evening activity; it is a continuous journey to nowhere. Everyone talks of poverty; even the young have inherited the legacy of remembered squalor and their apparent plenty and visual chic suggest a recently acquired gloss on an ancient condition.

Alun Williams

Retirement

by Pat Hill

"How will you manage?" they say to me
"Won't he get under your feet?"
"Oh no" I reply with a glint in my eye
And a voice that is simple and sweet

"How will you cope, will he sigh, will he mope,
Will he long to run for the train?"
"Oh no" I reply with a glint in my eye
"Though he'll miss it he'll never complain"

"What are our plans today, my love?"
He asks as he sips his tea,
"Well perhaps you could iron the clothes my
dove"
"Oh no" he replies with a glint in his eyes
And a voice that is more of a plea

"I've got to play golf with one of my friends
Who is waiting for me at the club",
"Oh well" I reply with a glint in my eye
"I will see you at twelve in the pub"

There's a pile on the stairs, that is ready and
waiting
To take either up or down,
He ignores and walks by, a glint in his eye
And a forehead that's creased in a frown

The dustbins are ready to go outside
For collection on Monday morn
He trips over the bin, gives a sheepish grin
From his mouth comes a sigh and a yawn

I'm cooking, I'm cleaning, I'm lugging the coal
"Just leave it 'til later" he coos,
"Oh no" I reply with a glint in my eye
Frankly I'm driven to booze

The telly booms forth, the channels are
flicked
The football, the golf, all the sport
"What next?" I reply with a glint in my eye
And a temper decidedly fraught

I step over his legs with a handful of pegs
For washing to blow and to sway
"Can I help?" he sighs, averting his eyes
Then I drop on my knees and I say

"It's wonderful having you home all the time
To look at your sweet smiling lips
To have time to talk, to have time to walk
To enjoy making plans for some trips"

We're Darby and Joan with our own mobile
phone
A window - there isn't a day,
To entertain friends, the pension to spend
To work, to rest or to play

"There's so much to do, there's so much to
plan
There's so much of life to squeeze in"
"I know" he replies with a glint in his eyes
As he takes a slurp of his gin.

"How will you manage?" they say to him
"Is life for you quite complete?"
"Oh yes" he replies with a glint in his eyes
And a voice that is simple and sweet

Tiddly Neighbours

By Hubert Snowdon

Tiddly Cot was a quaint little thatched stone building, reputed to be one of the smallest dwellings in Britain.

Its date is uncertain, but it stood between the Rifle Club Room and Old Farmhouse in Buckland. In the 1920s of my childhood it was occupied by widowed Sarah Hearsey, who was my grandfather Snowdon's sister. She died in 1931 and some time later it was purchased by Miss Elsie Broad from the estate and, with the interior renovated, as a starter home for Charles Bevell and Elsie on their marriage.

About this time the name was changed from Tiddly Cot to Tiny Cot and I offer a suggestion why. The word 'tiddly', meaning little, was the local name of the little wren with the vociferous song. But the word also means 'slightly drunk'. Both Miss Broad and Charles Bevell were tee-total (and probably his wife too). Why should their cottage have an association with drunkenness? I have learned too that it was a starter home, much earlier, for Eileen Dayment's grandparents, Ernest and Ethel Prettyjohn, on their marriage. Alas, Tiddly (Tiny) Cot finally burned down. It had been a picturesque cottage in a picturesque village.

One of Sarah Hearsey's neighbours in Buckland was a Mrs Fulford, a tireless washer-woman who lived in Pound Cottage opposite. A widow, Annie Jeffery, and Sarah's sister, lived in the cottage attached to the east end of Old Farmhouse. A fourth good-hearted and hard-working woman was Celia Masters (Cil), who lived in May Cottage.

Any of these four women, on hearing we children grumbling when playing in the village, would tell us that we had it good compared to their hard lives. Each, as they became incapable of looking after themselves, was wafted away, presumably to the workhouse.



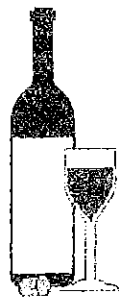
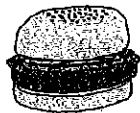
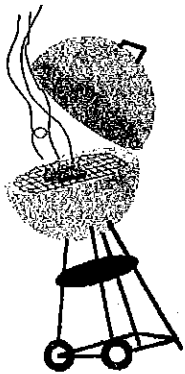
Next up the village lived our very active blacksmith, John Ingram. His daughter Daisy knew these good-hearted village women well before she emigrated to Canada in 1910. She married there, becoming Daisy Cole. When, in her seventies, she wrote her memories of these local people and of good-hearted Cil she said "If I go to heaven, Cil will be the first person I'll look for!"

Daisy returned to England once. I met her when she visited my parents, with whom she was a school mate at Thurlestone's original school. She was tall, slim, like her father, elegantly dressed and could have been a model. Later she was to write the charming descriptions in her eloquent and delightful style stating "Never would the likes of these people be written of again".

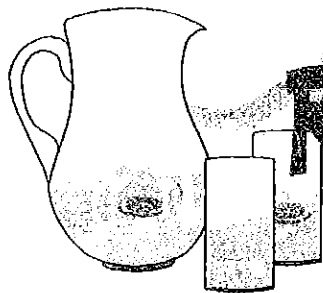
I, knowing these people when they were aged, have written of their ends.....but not in Daisy's eloquent style.

SOUTH MILTON DRILL HALL

**August 30th
Bank Holiday Monday.
12 Noon to 5.00pm.**



BAR-BE-CUE. LICENSED BAR



**CREAM TEAS &
REFRESHMENTS.**



**DOG SHOW AND VARIOUS
ATTRACTIONS INCLUDING
TREASURE HUNT AND PENALTY
SHOOT-OUT COMPETITION**

In Aid of South Milton Village Hall, Charity No 201969.

HORSWELL DIARY

Spring ended on a sad note. We had to call the vet to our darling girl Flossie, our sheepdog and dearest companion for thirteen years. Kindly, he gave her an injection where she had collapsed on the lawn and in a sudden flurry of falling cherry blossom she was gone, leaving us bereft.

In need of solace we left our home and remaining livestock in the capable hands of friends and set off on our travels. May became a month of castles and car journeys, changing scenery and changeable weather. Through sunshine and storms we drove through the wild garlic and bluebells of the lanes here in the South West, through middle England where the roads were laced with pink and white confections of hawthorn hedges and flowering horse chestnuts trees, to our friends in the flatlands of East Anglia and the marshes beyond. Then in June we swapped lush green English countryside for hot sunshine and the golden cornfields of Northern France to stay with friends and attend a nephew's wedding.

Our first stop was Caerhayes Castle, opposite Porthluny Beach in South Cornwall. Swathed in a damp sea mist we marvelled at the ancient camellias, magnolia and rhododendrons; towering mountains of colour against a backdrop of ancient woodland. Their head gardener enthused about the Williamsii hybrids created by the castle's owners and explained the devastation of the damage limitation imposed on them by D.E.F.R.A. to restrict the spread of 'Sudden Oak Death'.

The virus affects the American oaks in particular, but also rhododendrons, camellias and other acid loving plants. We sympathised with his dilemma. With no absolute proof that it will be effective in curbing the disease, to cut out and burn historic shrubs on this scale is a heartbreaking task. What about all the rhododendrons that grow wild in neighbouring woodland, or along the railway embankments? Are they all to be weeded out too?

At Sherborne Castle in Dorset it was the 'house' rather than the gardens that merited attention: in particular, for me, the library. It is a relatively small gem of a room, in the ornate Gothick (neo-Gothic) style of Strawberry Hill. How lovely it would have been to take a leather-bound tome from the shelves and while

away the afternoon there, looking up occasionally to glance across the lawns and watch a flight of duck home in on the lake beyond.

At Framlingham Castle in Suffolk all signs of former comfort had long since disappeared, leaving only the circular curtain of its outer wall and its ornate chimney stacks intact. I was already dizzy by the time I had climbed the narrow circular stairway to the top of the tower. The ensuing walk around the ramparts made me so giddy I was quite unable to admire the 'superb view' advertised in the brochure, concentrating instead on placing one foot firmly in front of the other. Seeing a man poised to launch himself over the side of the castellated wall, for a moment I thought he too might be suffering from a bout of vertigo.

"Are you OK?" I asked, just as he disappeared from view. White knuckled, I forced myself to peer over the edge. He grinned up at me as he abseiled casually down the outside of the castle wall.

"Do you do this for pleasure?" I ventured, feeling my head begin to swim.

"No," he replied cheerily, "*I'm a surveyor checking for cracks in the masonry.*" Thinking that if I looked down any longer I might land on top of him I withdrew, hauling myself hand over hand along the safety rail to the exit.

In Suffolk, in brilliant sunshine, we enjoyed the tranquillity of Snape Maltings, the waterside setting for the Aldburgh Music festival. In Aldburgh we liked the Medieval Moot House and the controversial modern sculpture of Shells on the beach. In Southwold we walked to the end of the Pier and thought how grey and uninviting the North Sea looks after our sunny Salcombe blue.

Without the rising contours of our Devon hills the East Anglian skies seem vast and the horizons endless. In Norfolk we could appreciate the special light that inspires so many artists to go there and paint. Its clarity gives definition to busy coastal scenes and lonely windswept beaches. At times the sky seemed filled with far too many clouds, like shoals of big grey fish swimming across an ocean of blue, the land below reduced to an insignificant streak of yellow or green.

In Lincolnshire heavy showers of rain brought relief to gardeners and farmers alike. Its flat acres of Grade 1 soil make it a powerhouse of productivity. Vast fields of potatoes and sugar beet stretch as far as the eye can see as our English producers battle to beat off foreign competition. Already most of the traditional onion growers have ceased production, using their extensive (and expensive) climate-controlled storage sheds to store onions from Chile instead. Now the concern is for the future of the sugar beet growers as the EU is pressurized to import more cane sugar from under-developed countries.

It is easy to see how world economics effect not only our industry but also our landscape. In France we again felt anxious for our British farmers as we drove for hours through seemingly endless hectares of high-yielding wheat and barley, marvelling at both its quality and quantity.

The wedding was a three-day event, requiring stamina and dedication. Our nolsy motorcade of klaxoning cars was led by the bride and groom in a lime green Cadillac covered with bouquets so large they could easily have graced the hearse of a gangland funeral. There were strict words from the Mayor at the Civil Ceremony about the couple's responsibility to each other and to any future children, then handfuls of rose petals after betrothals and blessings from the Priest in an ancient Catholic church. Amidst laughter and smiles a tireless photographer took zillions and squillions of photographs ensuring that the entire congregation arrived at the reception with

a sizeable thirst and an unlimited desire to offer alcoholic toasts to the bride and groom throughout the proceedings.

Food, wine, conversation and music flowed throughout the night with grandmothers and great-aunts dancing through the small hours. A brief respite for breakfast and a change of clothes and then it was time to begin again with another six-course luncheon the following day. The generous hospitality and lack of sleep meant that the rest of our stay passed in an amiable blur of bonhomie, further strengthening the entente cordiale that has bound our two families together for so long - ever since Mireille and my older sister Georgina began corresponding as schoolgirl pen-pals nearly forty years ago!

Returning at last to Horswell we weave our way up the drive avoiding branches and debris littered by passing storms. Ducks doze on the lawn surrounded by twigs and fallen leaves and a young fox looks back at us over his shoulder as he stoops to drink at the pond. Startled by our arrival he springs into nearby bushes within inches of our remaining three Guinea Fowl. They turn to chase him, cackling angrily, oblivious to their own danger. Hearing the commotion Bertie gallops towards us, his tail beating circles in the air, stirring a trail of happiness in his wake.

We breathe in the scent of full-blown roses mingled with fresh salt-laden air. Mmmm! Mon Dieu, it is good to be home! Even without our darling Flossie to greet us.

Prunella Dart

Puzzle Page Answers

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. TENACIOUS | 2. STIPULATE | 3. NEWCASTLE | 4. GODFATHER |
| 5. INSINCERE | 6. UNANIMITY | 7. EXISTENCE | 8. RESIDENCE |
| 9. ELIMINATE | 10. SUPPOSING | 11. REGISTRAR | 12. NECESSARY |
| 13. CHICANERY | 14. ALBATROSS | 15. MICROWAVE | 16. ENCOURAGE |
| 17. LOCATIONS | 18. CARNIVORE | 19. MALICIOUS | 20. SCAVENGER |
| 21. GENTLEMAN | | | |

TEN TEASERS

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. H E Bates | 3. 1958 | 5. Mikhail Gorbachev | 7. Mistral | 9. Giraffe |
| 2. Alan Sillitoe | 4. Lusaka | 6. Helen Sharman | 8. Nebraska | 10. Charles Lynton |

DIARY DATES

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| AUGUST | |
| Fri 6 th | TRAMP (Local Walk) |
| | Tennis Tournament (see details inside) |
| Sat 7 th | Horticultural Show, South Milton Village Hall, 2.30 pm |
| | Farmers Market, Kingsbridge Quay |
| Sun 8 th | River Party, Kerse Cross (see details inside) |
| Wed 11 th | TRAMP, Wembury |
| Fri 13 th | Church Barbecue on the Green, 6.00 pm |
| Thur 19 th | TRAMP, Loddiswell / Topsham |
| Wed 25 th | TRAMP, Burrator Reservoir |
| Sat 28 th | WI Barbecue, Leasfoot Beach, 1.00 pm (Triangle Centre) |
| Mon 30 th | South Milton Fun Day, noon - 5.00 pm |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| SEPTEMBER | |
| Sat 4 th | Kingsbridge Show, Borough Farm |
| | Farmers Market, Kingsbridge Quay |
| Mon 6 th | Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Wed 8 th | TRAMP, Lustleigh / Cleave |
| Thur 9 th | WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Martin Cart, Natural History) |
| Fri 10 th | Probus, Thurlestone Hotel |
| Sat 11 th | Summer Dance, South Milton Village Hall |
| Mon 13 th | TRAMP - to be arranged |
| Wed 22 nd | TRAMP, Stepping Stones |
| Mon 27 th | TRAMP, Salcombe / Gara Rock |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| OCTOBER | |
| Mon 4 th | Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Wed 13 th | TRAMP - to be arranged |
| Thur 14 th | WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Tony Porter, Burgh Island Hotel) |
| Mon 18 th | TRAMP - to be arranged |
| Wed 27 th | TRAMP - to be arranged |

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

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

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

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 SEPTEMBER 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)

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairman | Kit Marshall | 560214 |
| Vice - Chairman | Peter Hurrell | 560496 |
| Parish Clerk | Cathy Teverder | 853163 (day) - 852139 (evening) |
| District Councillor | Shonaugh Rankin | 561185 |
| County Councillor | Sir Simon Day | 01752 - 691212 |
| Members | Neil Girling | 560489 |
| | David Grose | 560375 |
| | Andrew Rhymes | 560564 |
| | Geoffrey Stidson | 560695 |
| | Charles Mitchelmore | 560602 |

Tree Warden

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kit Marshall | 560214 |
| Peter Hurrell | 560496 |
| Cathy Teverder | 853163 (day) - 852139 (evening) |
| Shonaugh Rankin | 561185 |
| Sir Simon Day | 01752 - 691212 |
| Neil Girling | 560489 |
| David Grose | 560375 |
| Andrew Rhymes | 560564 |
| Geoffrey Stidson | 560695 |
| Charles Mitchelmore | 560602 |

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

PARISH HALL

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------|
| Chairman | Rowland Cole | 561006 |
| Bookings | Pet Crawford | 560688 |

PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)

RECTOR

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Chairman | Chris White |
| Canon Andrew Girling | |

CHURCHWARDENS

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Graham Worral | 562016 |
| Liz Webb | 560090 |

COFFEE TIME (See All Saints Diary for details)

| | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Contact | Liz Webb | 560090 |
|---------|----------|--------|

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| Contact | Kit Marshall | 560214 |
|---------|--------------|--------|

ADNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

| | | |
|---------|---------------|--------|
| Contact | John Crawford | 560688 |
|---------|---------------|--------|

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

| | | |
|---------|------------|--------|
| Contact | Hugh Cater | 560593 |
|---------|------------|--------|

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Clubhouse | 560447 |
|-----------|--------|

BOWLS CLUB (indoor)

| | | | |
|--|---------|----------------|--------|
| Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm | Contact | Eileen Dayment | 560295 |
|--|---------|----------------|--------|

BRIDGE CLUBS 7 pm Parish Hall Wednesdays and Fridays

| | | |
|---------|---------------|--------|
| Contact | Dorothy Stone | 560708 |
|---------|---------------|--------|

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|
| Secretary / Manager | Terry Gibbons | 560405 |
| Contact | Lindsey Fletcher | 560157 |

KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10.00 - 11.30 am Parish Hall

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

HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)

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

PROBUS

| | | |
|---------|-------------|--------|
| Contact | Tom Trender | 560893 |
|---------|-------------|--------|

TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)

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

DIRECTORY

W. I.

| | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------|--------|
| Second Thursday monthly (except August) | Contact | Judith Le Grite | 562135 |
| 2.30 pm Parish Hall | | | |

SOUTH HAMS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| Contact | Pat Crawford | 560688 |
|---------|--------------|--------|

TEAMMAKERS (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 |

HEALTH CENTRES

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Kingsbridge | 853551 |
| Salcombe | 842284 |

MILK DELIVERY

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| R. Bruckner & Son | 01803 - 832801 |
|-------------------|----------------|

VILLAGE SHOP Thurlestone Village Shop

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| M, T, Th, F, 8.00 am - 5.30 pm | 561917 |
| Wednesday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm | |
| Saturday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm | |
| Sunday, 8.30 am - 1.00 pm | |

(Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm)

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------|
| Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm | Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm | 561917 |
| Postal collections: 4.25 pm Monday - Friday, 10.30 am Saturday, 11.00 am Sunday | | |
| NO Bank Holiday Postal collections on Monday 12 April, 3 May, and 31 May 2004 | | |

POLICE

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Emergency 999 | Non-emergency calls 08705-777-444 |
| Minicom users 01392-452935 | Confidential information 0800-555-111 |

RUBBISH COLLECTION

| | |
|---|--|
| Thursday (But Friday in Bank Holiday Monday weeks) | alternate Thursdays from 5 th August 2004 |
| Coloured (Orange, White, Blue) Sack collections (recyclables) | |

RECYCLING CENTRE (Tor Quarry Site, Tonnes Road)

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Opening Hours (From 1 st October) Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm | Saturday & Sunday 10.00 am - 4.30 pm |
|---|--------------------------------------|

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| For ALL bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE | 0870 608 2 608 |
| Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day) | 7.00 am to 9.00 pm |
| DevonBus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk | |

GARAGE (Bligh Engineering)

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Maurice Bligh | 560220 |
|---------------|--------|

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile library calls alternate Wednesdays from 11th August)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 11.15 - 11.30am Barnham | 852315 |
| 11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel | |
| 12.20 - 12.30pm Thurlestone Church | 11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall |
| | 12.35 - 12.45pm Thurlestone Sands |

MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN Alternate Wednesdays from 11th August 2004, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside school.

Lisa Wootton

IRONING SERVICE

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Kingsbridge**

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**BOOKINGS & INFORMATION
01548 856636**

**CAFE OPEN FOR MEALS, SNACKS
& DRINKS 6.00pm-9.00pm**

**WET WEATHER EXTRA MATINEES
Phone 01548 853195 after
12 noon for information**

SHREK 2 (U)

FRI JUL 30th/SAT 31st/
MON AUG 2nd/TUES 3rd/WED 4th
THUR 5th/FRI 6th/SAT 7th/
MON 9th/TUES 10th/ WED 11th/
THUR 12th **4.30pm & 7.00pm**
MATINEES WED 4th/THUR 5th/
WED 11th/THUR 12th **2.00pm**

**The following 3 films have no
adverts or trailers**

THE LADYKILLERS (15)

FRI JUL 31st/WED AUG 4th/
TUES 10th **9pm**
FRI 13th/MON 16th/THUR 19th/
SAT 21st/WED 25th **9.30pm**
MON 30th/THUR SEP 2nd **9pm**

CONNIE AND CARLA (12A)

FRI JUL 30th/TUES AUG 3rd/
FRI 6th/MON 9th/THUR 12th **9pm**
SAT 14th/WED 18th/TUE 24th **9.30**
FRI 27th/TUES 31st **9pm**

LAWS OF ATTRACTION (PG)

MON AUG 2nd/THUR 5th/
SAT 7th/WED 11th **9pm**
TUES 17th/FRI 20th/
MON 23rd/THUR 26th **9.30pm**
SAT 28th/WED 1st **9pm**

SPIDERMAN 2 (PG)

FRI AUG 13th/SAT 14th/
MON 16th/TUES 17th/WED 18th/
THUR 19th/FRI 20th/SAT 21st/
MON 23rd/TUES 24th/WED 25th/
THUR 26th **4.00pm & 7.00pm**
MATINEES WED 18th/THUR 19th/
WED 25th/THUR 26th **1.00pm**

TWO BROTHERS (U)

FRI AUG 27th/SAT 28th/
MON 30th/TUES 31st/
WED SEP 1st/THUR 2nd **4.30pm**
MATINEES FRI 27th/MON 30th/
TUES 31st **2.00pm**

THE STEPFORD WIVES (12A)

FRI AUG 27th/SAT 28th/
MON 30th/TUES 31st/
WED SEP 1st/THUR 2nd **7.00pm**

**FILMS AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.
PLEASE CHECK BEFORE YOU COME.**

Village Inn

Tel: 01548 563 525



Live Music regularly—Jazz,
Guitarists & Singers,
Celtic Folk Music

- Tapas Menu now available
- New Junior Menu
- Sundays is Steak and Strawberries - Sirloin, Salmon or Cod served with the expected followed by Fresh Strawberries and Clotted Cream

Mark Frith—I year anniversary in July!

We hope you all have noticed a vast improvement to our a la carte menu since Mark joined us.

If you haven't experienced a night at the **Village Inn** then give Mike and the Team a call on 01548 563 525