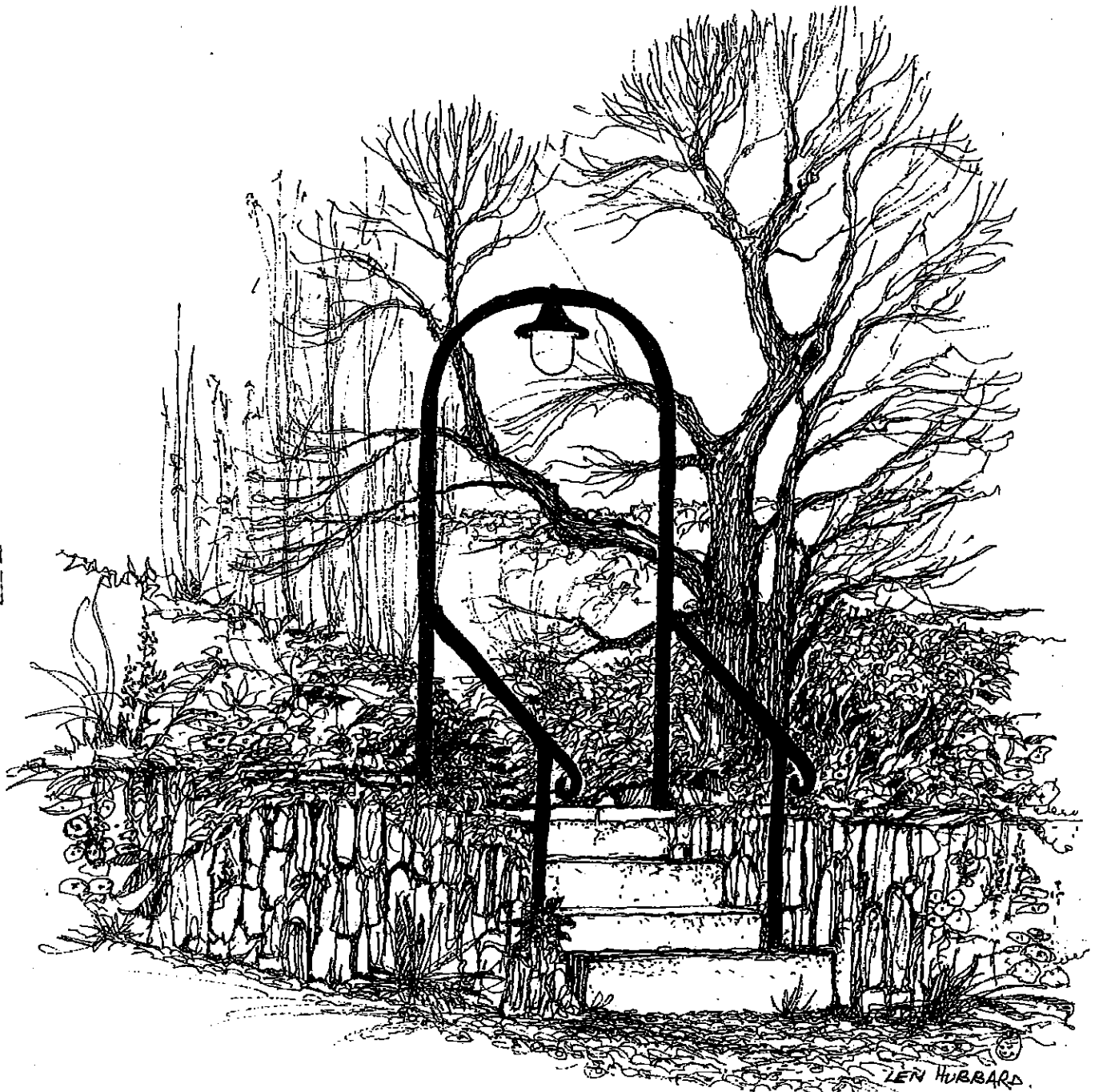


VILLAGE VOICE



APRIL - MAY 2005



NUMBER 132
APRIL - MAY 2005

sudoku

At a time when many of our political problems are tackled in ways which often fail to provide a solution and even seem to exacerbate the problem, it comes as a delightful relief to find one problem that has just a single and perfect solution and, moreover, one that is arrived at through the application of deductive reasoning and pure logic alone.

Such is the puzzle **sudoku**, which those of our readers who take the *Times* or *Telegraph* may already have come across. It has apparently swept Japan, and is now steadily capturing the hearts and minds of the West. [**su** - number, **doku** - place]

Village Voice sees no reason why the national dailies should have all the fun, and has therefore arranged (by special licence from the copyright holder) for our readers to have their own unique set of these puzzles. There will be two puzzles in each of our future issues, starting today, consisting of an EASY (?) one and a MEDIUM (!) one, with some guidance notes provided.

We recommend the use of a pencil (and also perhaps a rubber!) for first-timers, but be warned - **sudoku** can become addictive! There are two addicts in our editorial office already.

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Covers LEN HUBBARD

Published Bi-monthly

Front Cover : Garden feature at Burwood

HAVE YOU GOT *BLUE SACK BACK*?

First, let an obvious truth be stated: only the holder of a First Class degree in Waste Management could have devised the new recycling scheme about to be foisted upon us.

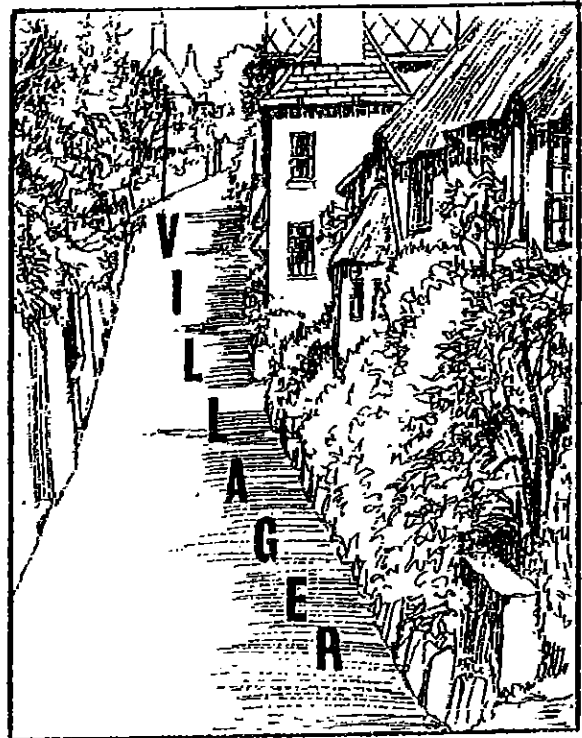
Only a real BA could have arranged matters so that food leftovers would be collected once a fortnight after being piled without a bag into a giant wheelie-bin, on top of garden waste.

And only a man or woman with fascist leaning could lay down that if anyone did not conform to this new style of rubbish collection they could be fined large sums; that the stench from the food waste wheelies throughout the parish would be easily controlled by a tight seal on each bin; and that when the bins get filthy (as they will, when we cannot put decaying food in bags as in the past)

".....it will be the responsibility of each household to clean their own bins".

You would have thought, wrongly, that biodegradable sacks for food waste would automatically be supplied to cut out the need for washing these giant bins.

Not many Thurlestone parishioners have the '*facilities*' to clean bins, but helpful South Hams District Council staff can give you the telephone number of a Torquay company which specialises in providing a "*wheeled bin cleaning service*". This is not an example of someone cashing in quickly



on the huge demand for bin-washing which is bound to come from the whole of Devon, but a company with whom the SHDC tell me they have been dealing for the past seven years.

A weekly, or fortnightly, professional wheelie clean will cost you £2.50 a go, but it could well avoid such newspaper headlines as "*Binned! Three old ladies locked in a wheelie. 'We were only trying to clean it', says mother of six!*" There would be money for the follow-up stories in the red-topped tabloids: "*The three old ladies locked in a wheelie-bin last night told the editor of 'Women's Waste' of their ordeal. We were locked there from Monday to Saturday and nobody knew we were there - until they tipped us into the dustcart*". The more serious newspapers would pay enough for the inside story of the "*Thurlestone*

Three to sue Government for waste ordeal" to cover the cost of a weekly wash for a year. Of the bin, of course - washing old ladies would be extra.

This extension of the recycling service is really no joking matter, but before you leap to blame the muck-up on our super-helpful dustmen, you should look higher up the wheelie chain. Not even to SHDC waste management workers or even their 'Executive Member for a Clean Environment' nor to the occupants of the rarified executive suites of Devon County Council. All of them will tell you that it is nothing to do with them. They have to apply the law.

While looking for a scapegoat for the new scheme, you should note, too, that SHDC says it will

"...help save council tax-payers having to pay fines of up to £2.million a year once the Landfill Directive becomes law in 2010".

However, the worst thing of all about the new scheme is the effect it will have on the health of parish pensioners, who have been finding even the present recycling hard going. They are dismayed to find that even more of the work of sorting is being dumped on them. The idea, too, of struggling with huge wheelie-bins up and down steps to the collection point on the boundary of their property is bad enough, though the Council say that no householder will be asked to wheel bins through their house.

If you are young, or even middle-aged, the task of bending down time and time again each day to put items in

differently coloured sacks, taking the tops off plastic bottles, washing out tins, and heaving sacks about will not seem like hard work - but just you wait until the years condemn you to the pains of these chores.

Villager expects new names for geriatric medical problems with the appearance of the *Recycling Heart Attack*, the *Wheelie Hernia*, the *Blue Sack Back*, or even *General Waste Aches and Pains*. The fact is that no pensioner or any old person should be asked to do this sorting work and, though the SHDC will help wherever they can (tell your problems to their helpline on 01803-861199), the truth is that this work should be done by staff employed by councils specially to sort the rubbish.

Expensive? Did you know that...

"SHDC was one of the four Devon authorities to be awarded over £1 million to introduce a compost collection scheme? South Hams councillors have also committed an extra £219,000 a year towards the new service's running costs"

according to one of the SHDC's own press releases?.

All that money should be going on a different system - one where the old do not have to spend their declining years scrabbling around in rubbish sacks, or washing out stinking wheelie-bins. Surely all councils should be making life easier for their older residents, not condemning them to hard labour!

Villager

Puzzle Page

by Keith Farrelly

NINE-LETTER WORD-SEARCH

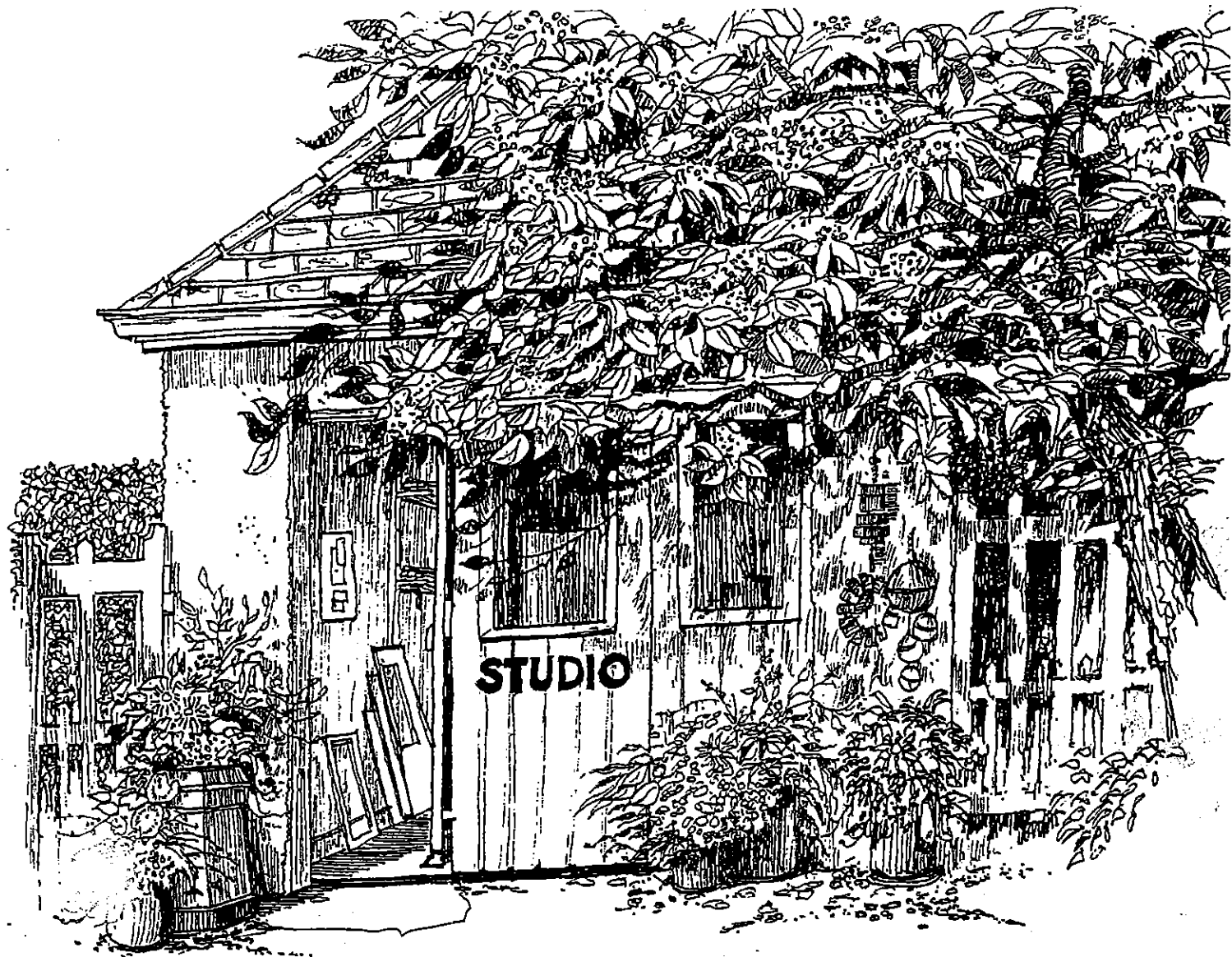
The answers to the clues can be made up by combining three sets of three letters from the grid. When complete, three sets of three letters should remain. Combine these letters to find another 9 - letter word.

1. Lightweight sail
2. Interested in astronomy?
3. Church minister
4. Snout
5. Alfred ----- (film director)
6. First man on the moon
7. Art of stuffing animals
8. Game bird
9. An over-dramatic play
10. Generous
11. She carries a torch!
12. To gad about
13. Scalpel needed here!
14. Astonishment
15. Highly detailed
16. Largest UK county
17. Mediterranean volcano
18. A vulture is one
19. Courtesy and decorum
20. A collection of poems
21. ???

ARM	WER	DGE	OLI	GAL	PRE	UNS
MEL	STA	NM	SPI	ELA	ERE	RMY
BOS	RAT	ELF	ANT	YOR	OPE	HIT
TTE	NNA	TTE	ODR	SRY	SCA	TRI
RGA	KSH	LIV	STR	ETI	BOR	PRO
IDE	CHC	VEN	USH	OGY	KER	AMA
ZEM	HOL	ION	CIS	GER	ATE	PAR
ISH	ZER	OMB	ENT	ANT	QUE	OCK
IRE	ONG	TER	LAW	TAX	STR	AMA

TEN TEASERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where would you find the Barbary Coast? 2. Who was the last Viceroy of India? 3. What is the term for a slander in writing? 4. What do you call a person who enjoys fine food? 5. What kind of tide is called a "neap" tide? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. What would you expect a "water soldier" to be? 7. How many stripes are there on the US flag? 8. What is the modern name for Mesopotamia? 9. What is the old weather area Finisterre now called? 10. What figure of speech would you expect from TS Eliot? |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



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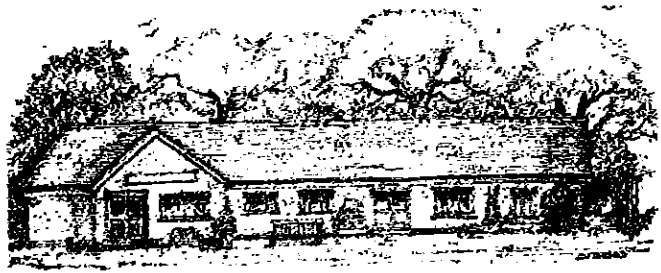
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PARISH HALL NEWS

Chairman - Ron Parkin



The Annual General Meeting

The mood was festive and a glass of wine was enjoyed by those attending the last annual general meeting to be held in the old Parish Hall on the 14th March. Acting chairman **Ron Parkin** was elected chairman and was warm in his thanks to the officers - secretary **Gillian Marshall** and treasurer **Bill Clarke** - for their loyal support and hard work over what had been another testing year. He paid particular thanks to **Malcolm Northmore**, the architect of the new hall, without whose immense and voluntary contribution our new building project could not have survived. He had worked countless hours to draw and re-draw the plans and attend to the huge amount of work involved in dealing with other professionals and the planning authorities. All this was done with much good humour, patience, and the will to produce a really good hall for the parish. We are all indebted to him.

Rowland Cole, the past chairman, could not be present, but in his absence he was also thanked for that courageous first step, taken four years earlier at the annual general meeting in 2001, to get together a team to fund-raise with the aim of eventually having a new hall for the parish. Their efforts had at last been amply rewarded and we are now on the brink of achieving our goal. Thanks are also due to all those in the parish who steadfastly supported the project, gave generously, and never lost faith.

New Hall Update by David Houghton

Final arrangements are now being made with the builders to ensure that work starts, with the demolition of the old hall, during the first week in April. The builders are **Rogers & Patey Limited**, a local firm whose quotation from the

tendering process was the lowest of four submitted. The trustees are very pleased that the work will be done by local people on merit, and we have no doubt that they will make an excellent job of the project and enhance their high reputation for good quality workmanship.

The formal contract, signed on the 21st March, includes a detailed programme of the work schedule which we shall use to monitor progress. Local users will have noticed that the hall notice board has been re-located to the Thurlestone Post Office. This will be used throughout the construction period to keep everyone informed of the way the work is proceeding, using the building schedule, photographs, and a short written account every month, to provide an up-date. Once the work starts, access to the site will be prohibited, apart from authorised people engaged in the project.

Parking will not be allowed after Easter but will start again, subject to payment of the appropriate fees, in the autumn.

Relatively minor, but still important, changes have taken place, or been applied for planning approval, to the original plans. An extra one metre has been added to the length of the smaller meeting room, and a request to build a retaining wall and safety barrier with lighting along the south-west boundary has been made. This will make an attractive feature when planted with hedging, as well as providing much-needed additional car parking space. Some work has already been carried out to clean up the other boundaries of the site, and this will continue as the project nears completion. Meanwhile, consultation continues on a number of aspects of providing the equipment and facilities to meet best modern standards and allow maximum usage of the hall by the broadest cross-section of the community

PARISH HALL FUNDS

By Bill Clarke
Treasurer



TOTAL FUNDS UPDATE

The Funds now stand at

£130,130.66

Funds as per Accounts at 1st January 2005

£123,600.03

The following contributions have been received in 2005:

Smarties campaign	£319.00
Quiz Night (Mike Jones)	£370.00
Barn Dance (Bowls Club)	£429.50
W.I. Pantomime	£230.50
Post Card sales (Peter Stafford)	<u>£ 32.50</u>

	£ 1381.90
Donations (8 in number)	<u>£ 5148.73</u>

Total to 16th March 2005	£ 6530.63
--------------------------------------------	------------------

Grand Total to date	£130,130.63
----------------------------	--------------------

And these additional funds are assured, but yet to come

... promised from DEFRA. £166,000.00

... and the Community Council of Devon. £ 13,000.00

....and loan funds (Parish precept).....£100,000.00

**FROM 19th MARCH
OLD HALL
DEMOLITION**

**CAR PARK
CLOSED!
DANGER! WORK
IN PROGRESS**

**UNTIL OCTOBER
NEW HALL
OPENS**

Temporary alternative venues for most regular Hall users have now been arranged

Village News Round-Up

Quiz Night

Quiz Night on January 29th turned out to be another great night at the Parish Hall, courtesy of expert quiz-master **Mike Jones** and his daughter **Claire**. £320 was raised for the new Hall building fund as eleven teams battled with the sometimes tricky questions. Winning team 'Mag-Aloof' (**Graham & Valerie Palmer, David & Madeleine Radford and Chris & Liza White**) narrowly beat runners-up 'The Bog-Offs' (**Bill & Pat Clarke, Klaus & Wendy Neukirchen and Tom & Jan Trender**). Two teams from South Milton were also welcomed.

Andrew's Wood

On Sunday 17th April this woodland nature reserve near Loddiswell is having an open day. Starting at midday, finishing at 3 pm, a variety of guided walks - looking at the wildlife and management of the reserve - will be available. There will also be family 'sensory' walks, children's activities (story-telling, face-painting and crafts) local produce stalls and, if you fancy buying lunch, The Devon Meat Company will be selling hot food!

Bowling Along with Mrs Crotty

The Thurlestone parish Bowls Club hosted a farewell-to-the-old-Parish Hall barn dance on the evening of the 12th March. Dancing was to the strains of Mrs Crotty's band, and £450 was raised in support of the new hall fund. Black balloons (woods) with a smaller yellow balloon (jack), were appropriate decorations. Once again, the tickets were a sell out! Thanks are expressed to all members and friends who provided a range of sandwich refreshments and the club goes

on to say ".....and so to the galloping strains of the Gay Gordons we danced goodbye to a building which may have become dilapidated but which served the club well for many a long year. We look forward to the new mats which will enable us to host league matches in the new hall".

A Jamie for Kathy

Our primary school Catering Manager, **Kathy McKillop** has done it again! This time she has been responsible for the school winning a "Jamie" Award - the result of a collaboration between celebrity chef **Jamie Oliver** and the Western Morning News.



This new award will be given to those west-country schools which can show they have cut out highly processed foods and are using fresh local ingredients, preparing them in their own kitchens, and helping youngsters to take an informed interest in what they eat. A delighted Kathy says "The menu is a great success and the parents are very supportive."

Headmaster **Alun Williams** reports that over 90% of the children now have lunch at the school. The £2500 Kathy won in the *Most Improved School Meal* category of a national competition will be used to buy new kitchen equipment for the school, including a steamer for even healthier food.

Music To Make You Swing!

The popular Alvington Singers are giving a concert in Thurlestone church on Wednesday 20th April at 7.30 pm. Tickets, to include refreshments, are £6.00 and can be bought at the Thurlestone Stores - or from choir members. This is in aid of 'Motivation', a charity helping those with mobility disabilities in developing countries.

Youth Group

A Youth Group start-up meeting will be held on Thursday 21st April, at 6.00 pm in the Church Meeting Room. Anyone interested in helping or participating in any way will be warmly welcomed and is invited to come along to this first meeting.

All enquiries to the organiser, **Gillian Durden**, on 560509.

Hearing Dogs For Deaf People

The concert by the Stanborough Chorus at the church in February raised £577 for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. **Betty Luke**, on behalf of the charity, says "Many thanks to everyone who came and supported us or sent donations." On 10th May, at 11 am, they are holding their AGM in the Methodist Church Hall in Kingsbridge, followed at noon by a Ploughman's Lunch, price £5.00, which everyone is welcome to attend. Tickets will be available in April from Joan Golding, 560078, or from Betty, 560755. During the summer they are also planning a series of fund-raising Cream Teas in the beautiful garden of Court Barton House, South Huish (near the ruined church), at which they look forward to seeing a lot of their friends and supporters!

Aune Conservation Association

The Association is holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 21st April, at 7 pm at Aveton Gifford Memorial Hall.

Coffee and nibbles will be served. They plan for a return visit to the Oyster Shack in May and hope for some *al fresco* weather!

Meanwhile, **John Crawford** says that a team of surveyors from W S Atkins has started work on mapping the estuary from the Salmon Pool to the bridge. A three-dimensional map of the estuary and the salt marsh and a hard copy map showing the 10cm contours will be the result. Some fifteen cross sections will be located as the basis for the sediment studies, which have been commissioned from Plymouth University, and the hydrology studies which are being negotiated with Plymouth Marine Laboratory. Some of the photographs and maps will be on view at the AGM on the 21st April and at the annual public lecture in October.

The AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) management team at Follaton House has commissioned Atkins to conduct a study of the salt marshes in terms of physical and vegetation structure. John goes on to say :

"Both studies will, as a bonus, enable us to measure in future years the impact of any sea-level changes on our estuary. We hope that much of the material created by the study will be 'archived' in the new Parish Hall and will be accessible to all who care for the estuary and its environment. The Avon valley, because of the limited configuration of its catchment area, is a fascinating microcosm, ideal for estuarine studies, and offering, in future years, a range of subjects for doctorate studies of real value to our local institutes."

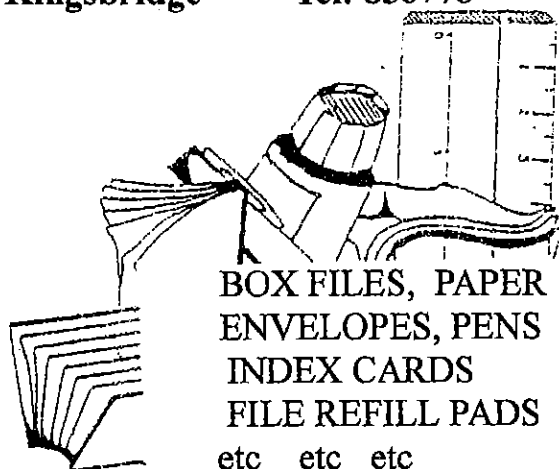
NSPCC

Following their successful jumble sale on the 12th March, the local committee say "Thanks to all of you who gave us jumble for our sale, those who sorted it, sold it, and bought it. You helped us raise £437 and we had a very generous donation. Thank you all for your support."

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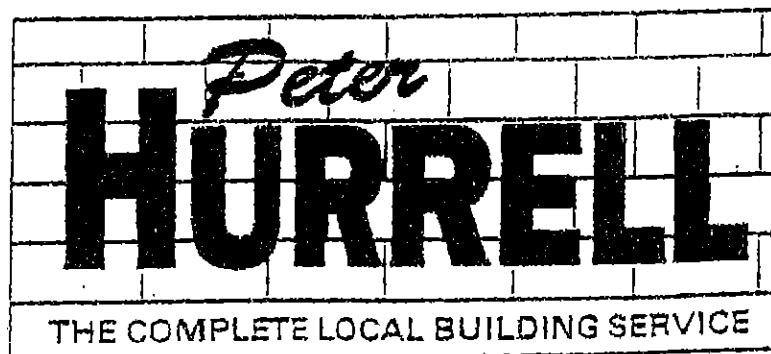
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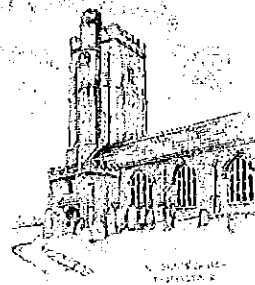
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All Saints

RECTOR:

Rev. Andrew Girling 562219



Andrew Girling writes:

A LETTER TO OUR LEADERS

Dear Tony, Michael and Charles,

The pre-election has started. I have to say I view the prospect of prolonged political wrangling with dismay. I have to tell you that for many of us it will be very difficult to decide for whom we should vote. Indeed commentators suggest, and I think rightly, that more than ever before, people will not even bother to vote. What a terrible indictment that is on us and on you.

It is not so much apathy as disappointment and disillusionment that are the problem. Whichever party is in government, it seems to have little power or will to deal effectively with the major problems of our society. It is no surprise that people almost expect politicians' promises to be broken or lost in the haystack of bureaucracy. More than anything else we long for our leaders to propose effective long term policies rather than short term measures designed to win votes at the next election. We are sick to death of petty party point scoring, especially when it involves personalities. There are very serious issues to be addressed which require intelligent and honest debate. Please do not think that the electorate is so stupid as to be taken in by spin and sound-bites. Give us substance not superficiality. If you show a genuine desire to deal with the nations problems with integrity and a readiness really to listen to each other, we will come to respect your commitment and turn out in our thousands to vote for you.

I must warn you, however, that you have a long way to go before you win our support. We long for politicians of all parties who are committed to principle rather than pragmatism: candidates who put nation before party and party before self.

People recognise that whoever forms the next government will have an enormous task, so we do not expect, nor would we trust, simplistic quick-fix solutions. We know it will take time. But please, please do not take away from us all hope for the country's future. Take us seriously and we will take you seriously and, God willing, we shall together build a fine nation and international community for our children and grandchildren.

Yours, with respect and still in hope,

Andrew

Films for All

IN THE CHURCH MEETING ROOM 2.15 p.m. for a 2.30 p.m. start

TUESDAYS APRIL 5TH *Notting Hill* MAY 3RD *A Beautiful Mind*

starring Hugh Grant

starring Russell Crowe

Interval - tea & biscuits available ~ Both films are PG-13

SATURDAYS APRIL 23RD *Shrek* MAY 14TH *Babe*

Children free ~ Refreshments for sale

Donations in aid of *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People* & *Church Meeting Room Expenses*
For more information, please contact Joan Golding 560078



All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

You would be welcome at all church services which are at Thurlestone, unless indicated otherwise

Church Services

Sundays

EVERY SUNDAY

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1st, 3rd & 5th BCP, 2nd & 4th CW)
11.10 a.m. 1st: Morning Worship for All Ages 2nd: Matins (BCP)
 3rd: Family Communion (CW)
 4th & 5th : Parish Eucharist (CW)

Weekdays

1ST THURSDAY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at Whitehorses, Bantham

OTHER THURSDAYS

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)

LAST THURSDAY

8.30 a.m. Informal Prayer

Benefice Services

APRIL 17TH

6.00 p.m. Benefice Evensong (BCP) at West Alvington

MAY 1ST

3.00 p.m. Benefice Rogation Sunday Service (see posters)

MAY 5TH

6.00 p.m. Benefice Ascension Day Eucharist at South Milton

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for seasonal variations & more information

New Group for Young People

(years 7 - 11 / ages 11 and over)

THURSDAYS (from April 21st) 6 P.M. IN THE CHURCH MEETING ROOM

Fun & games (e.g. table tennis/pool) ~ Talks/Discussions (on a wide variety of issues)

Outings (e.g. ten-pin bowling) ~ Audio-visual presentations (e.g. on sailing the Atlantic)

Come to the first meeting (April 21st) to give your ideas & find out more.

For more information, please contact Gill Durden 560509



Under Fives with their parents/guardians

EVERY WEDNESDAY 1.45 - 3.15 P.M. CHURCH MEETING ROOM
Activities for children ~ Coffee/tea & a chat for parents/guardians

There is no charge, but a voluntary donation may be made to cover costs

More information: Scilla Grose 560375, Janet Fraser 562417

Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for:-

Coffee-Time

MONDAYS

10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

Donations in aid of monthly charity

Coffee with Fun & Games (optional)

WEDNESDAYS

10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

Homemade Soup & Ploughman's Lunch

FRIDAYS APRIL 1ST & MAY 6TH

12.30 - 1.30 p.m.

Donations in aid of new church lighting

Lunch Club in the Church Meeting Room for those living on their own

EVERY FRIDAY (except 1st in month) 12.30 p.m. ~ £5 for a glass of sherry & hot meal

Advance booking is essential ~ Contact Liz Webb (560090) or Sybil Williams (560672)

Disabled access - Wheelchair available - Lift available for all activities, contact Liz Webb

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Recording All Saints Church

On 17th January, a group of 14 of us began the task of "recording" All Saints Church in Thurlestone.

So who are we, what does "recording" a church actually mean, and why are we doing it?

To answer the "what" question first, church recording is the systematic description, measurement, sketching or photographing and writing up of the contents of England's churches. Over a thousand churches have been recorded in this way by teams of volunteers like ours working under the auspices of the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS). We look at the stonework, woodwork, memorials, metalwork, windows, vestments, books and other written records, and any other items which make up the inherited contents and fabric of a church's interior. The manner of describing and setting out the record is controlled meticulously by NADFAS to aid the work of future students and researchers, and to allow comparisons to be made across all churches. There are many thousands more churches yet to be recorded – and one of them is All Saints here in Thurlestone.

As for the "who", our team is associated with KEDFAS – the Kingsbridge Estuary Decorative & Fine Arts Society – of which many of you are members, attending lectures and other local events on a regular basis. We believe strongly that the artistic and craft heritage of England – and perhaps especially of Devon – is concentrated in its churches, many of which, like All Saints, have stood for seven centuries or even longer, providing a tangible record of the country's history. The investment by communities in their churches over these years has been extraordinary, often providing a focus for the greatest generosity and artistic talent in the locality. The KEDFAS church recorders hope that recording local churches is a modest way of contributing to the artistic heritage of the county, to balance out the time we spend listening to lecturers and being passively entertained by what they have to tell us.

Recording churches is a fascinating activity, requiring considerable care and a willingness to follow up leads from documentary sources. In most cases, although all the information is available from a variety of local sources, the church record represents the first collated description in a standardised format of what a church contains. We would classify ourselves as careful amateurs, learning from each other

and other church recording groups in the South West region. Recording even one church will quickly develop a ready familiarity with the specialised vocabulary of church architecture and furnishings, and also builds a lasting appreciation of the artistic value of what we have in local churches.

One copy of the record, once finished, is lodged with NADFAS in London, where it forms part of their library of the architectural and artistic detail invested in English churches. A second copy is lodged in the Art Library of the Victoria & Albert Museum, where it is frequently consulted by national and international experts.

A third copy becomes the property of the church authorities, kept at the diocesan offices.

Finally, a copy is normally given to the incumbent – in our case Andrew Girling – as a formal "snapshot" of what the church contains. As well as helping to catalogue local artistic heritage, producing a record of a church can be useful in the unhappy situation where artefacts are damaged or stolen, and need to be repaired, restored or replaced.



All Saints, Thurlestone

The All Saints team are well under way with the record, but will probably be visible in and around the church up till the summer, when the writing up process will gradually take over from the description and measurement phase. We would like to thank the church wardens and the volunteers at the church meeting room for their help during this period, and the Village Inn for accommodating often large and always hungry groups for après-recording lunches.

If any *Village Voice* reader would like to join a future church recording team, then please contact me on 01548-562443, or by e-mail at Davidradford22@aol.com.

David Radford

BOOKSHELF

The Olive Farm
by Carol Drinkwater
(Orion £7.99)

The author is an actress, probably best remembered as the young wife in the tv series *All Creatures Great & Small*. No, this is not the usual tale of buying and restoring a wreck in the south of France, but a lyrical story of life and love, very beautifully written.

Just one small example, amongst many, of her sensitive and poetically imaginative writing; a stray dog arrives and produces ten puppies which she describes as "round and pristine and furry as mink tennis balls". Most enjoyable!

R.M.

The Girl who married a Lion
by Alexander McCall Smith
(Canongate £8.99)

Those of you who enjoyed the author's previous works may have noticed that there was a new publication, and I was looking forward to reading it. Unfortunately it turned out to be a series of very short stories, Botswanean folk tales, and I found most of them pretty pathetic.

I think Mr Smith was this time cashing in on his previous successes. It had the marks of a rushed publication as, astonishingly, one third of the book was bound upside down. Not much of a recommendation for the publisher!

G.W.

Reader, I Married Him
by Michelle Roberts
(Little Brown £14.99)

Michelle Roberts is an accomplished writer, as behoves the Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. She also has an infectious style of mischief, frivolity, and irreverence which makes this book so entertaining.

The story is about a group of people attending a Catholic convention in a city in Northern Italy. This sounds boring enough, but her wonderful descriptions of the surroundings, the atmosphere, and her obvious love of Italy and its people - together with the sometimes hilarious occurrences at the convention - make it a delight to read. Of course, being set in Italy, there has to be the occasional sexual episode, which adds a bit of spice.... if you like that sort of thing!

G.W.

The House of Stairs
by Barbara Vine
(Penguin £6.99)

I came across this novel by Barbara Vine - the *alter ego* of Ruth Rendell - when staying with a friend and desperately looking for something to read. It was published some time ago (1989), so perhaps a number of you will already have read it. This is probably the best psychological novel that I have read of hers, as it does not shock or horrify as much as some of her others have done.

The story spans a period of approximately twenty years, and moves fluently between past and present. It is told in the first person by Elizabeth who, at the age of fifteen, learns that she has the threat of an incurable illness hanging over her. The narrative opens when Elizabeth, now approaching forty, spots Bel, an old friend recently released from prison. This event triggers a number of memories and, in a series of flash-backs, Elizabeth remembers the circumstances of fourteen years earlier which changed her life for ever.

This book is not a whodunit as 'we know who' from the start. What we do *not* know is why and to whom. The tension builds steadily, the characters are superbly drawn, and the black scheme emerges gradually. It is a very literate mystery which keeps us guessing until the last page, when we realise that no other ending would have been possible.

M.H.

sudoku

www.sudoku.com

© Puzzles by Pappocom

(As featured in The Times, Monday to Saturday)

Try this easy one first; in pencil (with a rubber handy!)

		5				1		
					1	9	8	
				5	8		2	4
5		8		9			7	
3			2		5			1
	1			4		3		9
6	5		9	1				
	8	4	6					
		9				2		

EASY

#1

Too easy? Time to try something a little more difficult?

1	7						8	9
3	9		7	6	8		2	5
	6		5		4		1	
	2		9		1		3	
8	1		6	5	9		4	2
7	5						6	8

MEDIUM

#1

Rules

There is really only one rule.

Fill in the grid so that
every row,
every column, and
every 3 x 3 box
contains the numbers 1 to 9.

The numbers to be entered are
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

A **row** is 9 cells wide. A filled-in row must have only one of each number, 1 to 9.

A **column** is 9 cells high. A filled-in column must have only one of each number, 1 to 9.

A **box** contains 9 cells in a 3 x 3 layout. A filled-in box must have only one of each number, 1 to 9.

You can't change the numbers already provided in the grid. You have to work round them.

Every puzzle has just one correct solution.

Hints

1. There is only ONE correct position for each number in every row, column, and small grid.
2. From the numbers provided, you can deduce other numbers that must go in certain squares.
3. Each additional number you can enter **with certainty** provides you with further clues towards the location of other numbers.

You'll soon get the hang of it, and develop your own strategies!
Happy number-tumbling!

T E A M A K E R S

Thurlestone Enthusiasts At Mouse And Keyboard Exercises for Recreational Satisfaction

SPRING TERM TIMETABLE

Monday	11/4	18/4	25/4	Holiday	9/5	16/5	23/5
Wednesday	13/4	20/4	27/4	4/5	11/5	18/5	25/5



The current programme of computer classes will continue until the Spring Bank Holiday (30 May). An increased charge of £2.00 per hour will become effective from 11 April. A new programme of classes for beginners and improvers will start in the Autumn. Anyone wishing to attend classes in the Autumn should contact **Robin Macdonald** on 560436.

VE - DAY CELEBRATION

On Saturday 7th May, the Cookworthy Museum in Kingsbridge is celebrating the 60th anniversary of VE Day, and inviting the Over Seventies to come to an open day there and reminisce about the years 1939-45.

They will have a WW2 display and would like YOU to come, chat with others about where you were and what you were doing on the 7th May 1945, and to bring your photographs and memorabilia. It will also be an opportunity for you to view their new 'Virtual Museum Tour' DVD.

There will be light refreshments served in the Victorian kitchen or walled garden, and the whole event will be FREE. If you need transport to get there, ring the Museum (01548-853235), also letting them know if you plan to bring a wheelchair - partners or helpers welcome.

Miss Nomer At Work Again...

Occupational health consultant Dr Paul Grime is the National Health Service spokesman on cleanliness. (*Daily Telegraph* 25.2.05)



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IN YOUR GARDEN

It is a good time now to add compost, either home-made or bought, to your borders to put them in good heart for the growing year ahead. Having first given the ground a good weeding and clearing up, fork the organic matter in lightly. It will then be ready to receive those new plants you've promised yourself to try in 2005. Sprinkle in a little general fertiliser as you plant, and don't forget that shrubs and hedges also benefit from a feed.

As it is probably, for some of us, the first bit of 'heavy' gardening we have done this year, don't try to do it all in one go - a bit at a time will help to save too many aches and pains! Occasionally break off from digging or forking the ground, straighten your back and do some other garden chores for a while which will use other muscles, e.g., pruning or dead-heading the finished bulbs.

During May the ground should have warmed up enough for seed-sowing, particularly annuals which can fill gaps in the borders with attractive colour later in the year. Prepare the ground a little beforehand by raking it over finely. Scatter the seeds in a 'drift' over damp ground and cover with a very thin layer of soil. Mark the site and watch out for weed seeds which readily germinate too. Remove these as they compete for light and nourishment, then thin your new seedlings as soon as they can be handled.

Large-flowered clematis that bloom from July to October have their old stems cut right down in the spring, but the ones that flower very early in the year (January to May) produce new growth after flowering, and this should be retained to ripen over the summer.

This year the Royal Horticultural Society is actively raising funds to build a wonderful new Bicentenary Glasshouse and education centre at its Wisley headquarters. It will cost £7.7 million, half of which has already been raised. To help fund the balance, garden owners all over Britain will be opening their gates during the year,

providing us with unique opportunities for visits.

Cleave House, Sticklepath, Okehampton

12th June, 10.30 - 5

Higher Knowle, Lustleigh

4th May, 2 - 6

Lukesland, Ivybridge

14th May, 2 - 6

(ring 01752-893390 to check)

Mothecombe House, Holbeton

19th June, 2 - 5

Anthony, Torpoint

24th April

(ring 01752-814914 for tickets)

Ince Castle, Saltash

(no details but RHS contact nos. below)

Rose Cottage, De Lank, St Breward, Bodmin

8th May

Scawn Mill, St Keyen, Liskeard

1st May, 2 - 5

Full details of all these gardens, including directions for getting there, can be obtained by contacting the Society on 0207-821-3090 or at their website :

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/opening2005.asp

On Saturday 14th May at 10.00 am the Horticultural Show committee is having its annual Plant Sale. As the Parish Hall is out of commission, the sale will be outdoors at Nos 1 and 2 Lambs Close, Thurlestone (at the bottom of Court Park) courtesy of John and Annabel Beven and Julian and Mary Tregelles. If you want the best, be there when the gates open!

The 2005 show schedules should be available at the Plant Sale, so please pick up a copy and see what classes you can enter for the show on the 6th August. Watch out particularly for the June issue of Village Voice as the show committee will be giving us some excellent tips for when we exhibit at shows, and will also be telling us about "what the judge is looking for"!

Ladybird

Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

A visit to the Meteorological Office in Exeter

On the 28th January 2005 David Coward and friends (including me) went on an official visit to the Meteorological Office in Exeter. This included a presentation and tour with lunch at the end. (We paid for that!) It was a most enjoyable session and, I have to say, a very impressive one too.

In 2003 the Office moved from Bracknell in Berkshire to Exeter in a move that has proved to be a highly successful one. We were security checked before entering the site and were directed to an environmentally friendly car park. The building itself is very modern and futuristic to look at. I felt that it was entirely suitable for the job it has to do. It reflected the elements and had a sort of windswept appearance. It has several "water features" both inside and out, that were part of the original landscape albeit slightly modified to meet planning and Health and Safety issues.

The main concourse is run as a "street" which is how it is described in "Met-speak". The floor surfaces in this main area are of a wonderful blue slate, like Delabole slate, but it came from Brazil. Delabole didn't have enough and it was too expensive. A bit sad really, but I must remember to live in the real world.

A water rill ran all the way through it with the occasional waterfall, which is purported to be a therapeutic addition to such an environment. And certainly the ambience of the main concourse was quietly comfortable, except for those employees wearing shoes that "clip-clopped" along the hard floor. After a while you got used to it and didn't notice the sound as an intrusion.

The building is divided into blocks named after lighthouses from around the world, Eddystone being one of them. Even the surrounding roads are in weather theme, ie., Fitzroy Road as you approach, and Coriolis Way running around the entire site. Much of the office space is off limits to visitors, as

our presence would disturb the operators' concentration, but we were able to look through the windows and watch the screens in front of the forecasters as they were formatting their predictions, gathering information from a vast array of sources. Many of the latter are now of an automatic type, being samples from stations all over the country and beyond.

Before what was a fairly limited tour, we were given a presentation, which was quite detailed but very interesting and informative. Set out in the rest of the article is a brief resume of the talk.

HISTORY OF WEATHER FORECASTING.

Weather forecasting was started by Admiral Fitzroy, the captain of the *Beagle* which carried Darwin on his early voyage in 1831. Fitzroy was a very keen sailor as well as an explorer and was an astute observer of the elements with which he did daily battle. In 1859, after a severe storm when many ships were lost, he was instrumental in setting up 15 stations where the weather could be observed at the same time of the day, every day, to see if they could in some way predict what might happen. Observations were made of things like cloud cover, air pressure, wind strength and speed, temperature and humidity. A code of symbols was devised so that everyone used the same language and the observations became a global language. A daily forecast was issued to the newspapers.

1919 The Air Ministry become responsible for the service of weather forecasting.

1922 First radio weather forecast broadcast on the BBC.

1944 First war-time value of the service realised, with the "window in the weather" forecast for the D-Day landings. The Met. Office claim that this was the most important forecast in their history to date.

1953 The North Sea Storm surge. This disaster resulted in the Storm Surge Service being established to predict and warn of future such events.

1962 First purpose built centre established at Bracknell.

1964 Service moved to the Ministry of Defence from the RAF.

1981 First super-computer installed.

1987 Great Storm, many valuable, if costly lessons learnt. (Today satellite images are used extensively with positive effects.)

1990 Hadley Centre established to study climate change. Today it is the World's leading centre for the study of predicting climate change. The day after we were there a three day conference was to be held attended by all the leading world authorities on climate change and its possible effects on our world.

Today the service is run as more of a business but is still under the auspices of the Civil Service. Revenue is obtained from a variety of sources including defence services, civil authorities, civil aviation, commercial research, and many others. Total revenue for 2002/3 is £157,000,000.

FORECASTING TODAY

Much more accurate than it was 20 years ago. Then accuracy extended to 1 day but now, for the most part, 3 days is the norm.

The advantage of this degree of accuracy helps in many walks of life. For example, winter flu epidemics can be partially predicted by the weather so that hospitals can be alerted and increase their supplies of loo rolls. In the summer it might be hay fever, admissions go up, more loo rolls needed! In winter, with a cold snap such as now, the Met Office can warn supermarkets, and they in turn know to order more soups, and firefighters!

Observations recorded to enable the operators to formulate their forecasts are obtained from a variety of sources world-wide. There are TWO main centres, Exeter and Kansas (USA), and they are named

World Area Forecasting Centres. Both centres provide high quality education to degree status.

Information can be supplied by any of the following (and many more besides):

Every commercial flight in and out of London carries automatic sensors on the wings which send back the data to the Met Office.

Flights above 24000 feet report particularly about the Jet Stream.

Airports automatic recordings.

Low level flights under 10,000 ft.

These and many other observations are tabulated to give forecasts such as:-

National Storm Warning Service

Shipping Forecast

Storm Tide Forecast

Atmospheric Pollution

Users of the forecasts resulting from the above include many areas of the private sector, who pay for the provision of reliable forecasts which are vital for the efficient operation of their enterprises, e.g.,

Transport—DCC pay £20,000 per year for temperature recordings on the county's roads. They will know when to salt for ice in the winter and watch for hot spots in the summer when tarmac can get soft.

The Energy Industry - gas and electricity companies can map areas of the country where demand will be greatest.

The leisure industry watch where the best sun and waves are to be found.

Commercial marine companies.

Independent media (press releases).

Retail chains (more ice cream!).

Insurance companies (icy roads, high winds).

Construction firms (advocating "down time for high cranes" when conditions make it dangerous to operate these in high winds).

It is estimated that around 80% of all businesses are affected in some way by the weather.

To enable the service to provide as good and as accurate a forecast as possible a new supercomputer has been installed. It is capable of making 120,000,000,000 calculations per second. Even so, to work out a 6 day forecast takes 1.5 – 2 hours of continuous operation. It is housed in a "CLEAN ROOM" about one third the size of a football pitch. There are two, of course, in case one malfunctions and there is also a generator back up that kicks in as soon as there is a power cut, so that operations are not affected.

The computer states its forecast for 6 days at 00.00 GMT and 12.00 GMT and for the 2 day forecast at 06.00 GMT and 18.00 GMT.

The models composed by the computer are as a result of man's research and data handed into it, but what it does with that data is pretty fantastic. If a set of "met" personnel were to attempt a similar exercise it is estimated that it would take 34 million years of working out!

Despite all this high-tech gadgetry, the final result that appears on our screens and in the press is a joint operation between "man and machine". Experienced forecasters can often read things into a situation showing up on the screen that even a supercomputer might miss. Accuracy is, we were told, continuing to improve all the time but there will always be the rogue situation which will surprise everyone. That's what makes it such an exciting - but also sometimes an inaccurate - science.

We all enjoyed the event immensely and thanks are due to our own David Coward, Abigail Barbour at Exeter, and lecturer Jason Bradley our guide. This was a most interesting visit, and one which I would commend to anybody who gets the chance.

Having the Meteorological Office at Exeter is really quite a feather in Devon's cap!

Jan Turner

Footnote

During the **Village Voice** reception in January, Kate Hubbard asked me about wave heights. These are statistics which David Brain gives out for the benefit of surfers principally, but I guess boat users would also be interested.

What it really means is this:-

The ocean, apart from that covered by ice, is agitated into waves for most of the time. The wind blowing over the smooth surface of the water instigates small ripples which grow into recognisable waves. If the wind continues to blow for several hours the wave height, the **difference between the trough and the crest** increases. A wind of 50 kph blowing for 30 hours over open sea would give waves about 6 m high. We would not get these levels of wind and waves often, but regularly in times of unsettled weather when the wind blows lustily from the south west for several days. The further an uninterrupted area of sea that the waves can travel increases the size of the waves, so with the Atlantic Ocean stretching away to the SW we are in a prime location for some wonderful waves from time to time.

The most spectacular are those associated with a giant swell. It is these that the surfers look for. The actual water does not move but the action of the wave does (does that make sense?). The surfer looks for the leading edge of these long waves, and slides down the front of it to great effect. BUT, if the nose of the board dips under the surface, even momentarily, it stops dead in the still water and the surfer is catapulted forwards, clear evidence that the water is static. On-shore winds often produce rather muddled-up waves, whereas off-shore winds produce the more regular swell wave; hence the surfing terms of "clean" or "messy" conditions.

Hope you find this bit useful, Kate.

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



A LETTER FROM THE CLUB CAPTAIN

I was elected Captain of Thurlestone Golf Club at the club's Annual General Meeting in early March 2005. **Roy Carter**, a past Captain and member for twenty years, was elected as the first club Chairman. The new management structure, with seven sub-committees, now gives the opportunity for more members to take an active role in the club management and I, with my committee, can now put all my energies into the golf and social activities.

I would like to pay tribute to the immediate past Captain, **Bob Buxton**. In my view Bob did a wonderful job as Captain and, as I said at our AGM, his sense of humour helped me keep my perspective at times and his sense of purpose helped me to keep my focus at times. Have a well-deserved rest, Bob!

My Vice-Captain, **Dickie Bird**, is the present Chairman of Greens, and with his dedication and that of **Stewart Freeman**, Head Greenkeeper, **Vic Dyer** and the rest of the team, the course over the winter months has attracted much praise from both members and visitors.

We are proud of our club and extend a warm welcome to all visitors. This coming year I shall be taking my holidays in Thurlestone! My wife, Shona, will have a rest from searching the web for exotic places.....

The Lady Captain and I have chosen Devon Air Ambulance for our combined charity for the year, and I hope that you will support us in raising money for this worthwhile cause, so often used by members. I look forward to greeting members and their guests at our social events throughout the year, and wish you all happy golfing.

Eric Wilson
Club Captain

A LETTER FROM THE LADY CAPTAIN

January and February have been busy months for the ladies as 'fun' events are run at a time when the serious business of Medal and Stableford stroke play is dropped because of unpleasant weather.

Activities have included three clubs and a putter competition, 'Mulligans' (having free shots) and yellow ball competitions as well as quizzes on golf personalities and rules. These events have been well attended, averaging 40-50 participants.

Also successful were two 'Vets' Luncheons (for the over-sixties) - eleven holes followed by a Ploughman's Lunch - and our annual Ladies Luncheon for all lady members, when our own local celebrity, **Caroline Righton**, came to talk about her best-selling book *The Life Audit*. Forty-six ladies found this very intriguing and many are reviewing their life-satisfaction levels. The copy Caroline signed for us is in great demand - there is a queue for it! We are proud that Caroline lives in the village here and is very much one of us.

Not all is just fun, however, and serious practice for team inter-club matches began in January with the Captain setting everyone targets. The first coaching session with our professional, **Peter Laughner**, has already taken place and the momentum is gathering for the first matches in April. As I write this, Easter is approaching and we look forward to welcoming back all our Away members. Two mixed events are taking place during the Easter week-end. From now on the golf season is truly with us and there is a feeling of excitement and anticipation among the ladies at all the delights to come.

Bridge competitions are also always popular and we have had a series of four monthly Chicago afternoons, organised expertly by 'Mrs Bridge', **Joan Mackenzie**. These will resume in October.

Jenny Underhill
Lady Captain

Juniors Section Newsletter

A junior golf presentation evening was held recently to celebrate last year's successful season. The Club Captain, **Eric Wilson**, presented trophies and the players, junior organisers and supporters then tucked into a delicious buffet laid on by the club.

Awards were made to :

Ben BromfieldPersonality of the Year cup
Jack Wallace.....Most Improved Player cup
Jono Franke.....Player of the Year cup

To raise funds for the British Heart Foundation a junior golf competition - 3 ball team event - was held at Exeter Golf & Country Club on the 17th March. Kingsbridge Community College entered three teams, all players being Thurlestone members.

Team A

Jono Franke, Ben Crispen, Andy Gibbons

Team B

Chris Rothwell, Tim Bromfield, Adam Baker

Team C

Chris Hornsby-Sayer, Ben Tucker, Ben Bromfield

Twenty-nine teams from all over the county played and some excellent individual scores were shot. For the second year running a Community College team came second - our Team B, who scored 87 Stableford points (two best scores to count). £4,000 was raised from the event and of that £400 was contributed by the Kingsbridge Community College.

Jackson Day is now the Thurlestone Junior Organiser and **Malcolm Franke**, with **Nick Crispin**, runs the teams. Junior club evening will start on Monday 11th April at 5.45 pm. Members please contact **Jackson Day** or **Liz Evans** for further details.

During all school holidays Day Golf Clinics are run for ages 6 years to 18 years. Levels are beginners, intermediate and advanced. Please contact the assistant pro **Scott Macaskill** at Thurlestone Golf pro shop: 01548-560714

Tennis Section Newsletter

We are looking forward to playing on our grass courts in May.

Our first tennis event of the season is the members' beginning-of-season '**Round-Robin Doubles**' tournament on Saturday 21st May at 2.00 pm.

Our first Saturday afternoon '**Mixed Doubles**' tournament is held on 28th May (Spring Bank Holiday). Teas will be served during both events and all tennis supporters are welcome.

An '**Open Doubles**' tournament on 16th July is a new event, so please come along and support the day.

Junior tournaments will run during Spring Bank Holiday week on Tuesday 31st May and Thursday 2nd June, 9.15am to noon. Entry lists for all events are posted on the tennis pavilion notice board.

Inter-club social matches, Tuesday afternoon tennis and club evenings will run throughout the season. There will also be an active summer holiday programme. For more information on our club please contact **Linda Cant**, telephone 01548-560896, or **Lindsey Fletcher**, telephone 01548-560157.

Group and individual tennis coaching is available at the club for both senior and junior players. Please contact **Janet Richardson**, telephone 01548-856007. Non-members can hire a court - grass in season or an all-weather surface - on the day by contacting Thurlestone Golf Club pro shop, telephone 01548-560715.

We are all looking forward to another active, competitive, and enjoyable summer of tennis.

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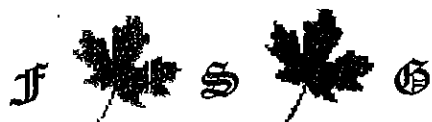


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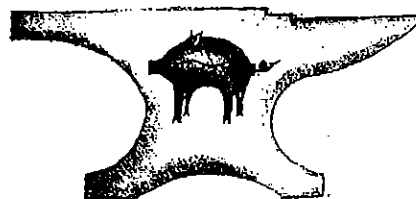
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A FARMER'S LOT TODAY

[This article comes from Angus Dart, who farms in Oxfordshire. It was first published in the February 2005 issue of *The Villager*, the magazine of Brighton-cum-Sotwell, Oxon, who have kindly agreed for us to reprint it here. Our thanks to Michael Dart, Horswell House, for sending this in. Ed.]

The festive period and the twelve days of Christmas made me think of other events in 2004 that come in dozens. One that particularly stands out is that of **Farm Inspections**. There is no doubt that some are justified for reasons of food quality, marketing and safety. Others, however, leave us in open-mouthed wonder as well as bringing out the cynical view. So at times in 2004 it has been possible to understand a little of how General Custer must have felt surrounded by all those Red Indians!

We are, of course, not alone. Indeed a farming friend was recently recounting to us how in the space of a couple of weeks he had been overrun. First came a visit from the **Trading Standards**, just to check the serial number of his farm weighbridge. Within a couple of days another official from **Trading Standards** arrived to check all was well with his farm mill and mix unit, where he prepares feed for his pigs. The mill and mix unit and feed records are also checked regularly by the **Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain** as minerals and, occasionally, medicines are mixed in some of the batches of feed he produces. On the farm this equipment is located not fifty yards apart.

Not far from the weighbridge is a new piece of equipment, an incinerator, now

particularly necessary for pig farmers, as we are no longer allowed to bury dead animals on-farm. The incinerator, which apparently uses an obscene amount of fuel, had had a visit from a **DEFRA** vet, to check that its contents were being properly burnt. This was followed by an **Environment Agency** official to check that the resultant ash was being spread in accordance with the farm **Waste Management Plan**.

He has had many other visits during the year, but was sure that he had been the most impressed by an **Assured British Pigs Inspector**, who, during his inspection of the farm's pigs was simultaneously inspected by a **Supermarket Inspector**, who carefully inspected that the **ABP Inspector** was competently carrying out his inspection of the pigs that need to be inspected.

We have had inspections from two assurance bodies. The **National Dairy Farm Assurance Scheme (NDFAS)**: annually an inspector spends several hours checking all aspects of milk production. Records are examined and boxes ticked - topics include: feed records, animal health records (including a parasitic control plan, a broken needle policy), the soap we wash our hands with, calf nutrition and a waste management plan, etc.....our latest guideline booklets runs to 109 pages.

The Assured Combinable Crops Scheme (ACCS) runs on much the same lines, using a farm audit to check compliance. All aspects of our crop production are examined from the record of washing the combine to the monitoring and traceability of grain in store, crop protection and fertiliser application records. Many outlets will only accept grain from assured farms. Safety-wise, our insurers send out two separate inspectors - one to check the condition of air-receiving vessels on the farm, another to check that the farm materials handlers are in good working order.

We also received a visit from the **Environment Agency** to discuss new legislation concerning fertiliser and animal waste management plans - topics covered by both NDFAS and ACCS Inspectors. This should take "about an hour". Three hours later and the Agency representative is happily on his way saying "I've learned a lot I didn't know about" - terms such as mixed farming and rotations added to his vocabulary.

A lady from DEFRA called one day to check that we were a dairy farm. She was shown the bulk milk tank and some cows, which seemed to please her. Two officials from the **Health & Safety Executive** paid us a visit on a very wet afternoon (one was inspecting, the other was learning agriculture). A couple of small points needing attention were highlighted. These were done and a letter sent confirming the action taken. A month later another official phones and wishes to visit. When asked what had changed in a month he seemed

surprised - he had not been told we had already been inspected!

The **Trading Standards** visited us to check our usage of animal feeds as we mix both bought in and home-grown ingredients for the various cattle rations needed for our stock (also covered by NDFAS). The farm's crop-sprayer - a self-propelled machine - has been visited, inspected, and tested for correct function. It has been issued the equivalent of an MOT.

The tractor-mounted fertiliser distributor has also had a separate check to ensure its accuracy of application and spread pattern are correct. Both of these inspections have the potential to save money and environmental damage by helping to eliminate inaccurate applications of products. The farm's record of animal movement both on and off the farm have also been checked by **Trading Standards**. December, as normal, has seen correspondence with the local **Integrated Administration & Control System (IACS)** office in Reading. All claims have to be submitted by a 15th May deadline each year. These claims are vigorously checked and any issues to be resolved see the fax machine busy.

So, another year over, a new year beginning. A time for wishes and resolutions.....as well as an answer-phone message from a lady wishing to inspect the work we have carried out under the **Country Stewardship Scheme**!

Angus Dart

Coast & Country



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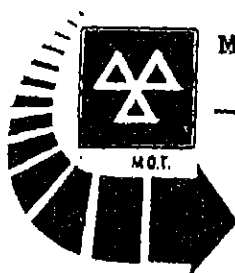
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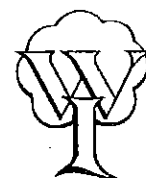


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NEWS FROM THE WI



February

The huge job of maintaining the roadsides in Devon, of which there are 9000 miles, was explained in most interesting detail by monthly meeting speaker **Keith Reid** from the County Council. The games evening and supper was well supported at the Village Inn and **Pat Clarke** was thanked for arranging it.

A new rhyming version of that favourite pantomime, Cinderella, devised and produced by **Val Brown**, was performed to a packed Parish Hall on the 19th February. See overleaf for special report!

March

Camels in Northern Rajasthan were the topic of Cynthia White's enjoyable talk. **Olive Simcox, Margaret Lockwood** and **Wendy Gornall** were welcomed as visitors. A letter was read from **Wendy Neukirchen** who thanked members for their expressions of sympathy following her father's recent death.

As it was Fairtrade Fortnight, President **Judith Le Grice** organised a competition for the largest collection of Fairtrade produce labels. This was won by **Shirley Chapman**, closely followed by **Karen Livett**. They both got a prize of a Fairtrade chocolate bar!

Future Activities and Plans

On 4th April there will be Sea Coast group meeting at South Milton, 7.30 pm, when the speaker will be **David Snelling** about 'Operation Henry' - his pilgrimage to Santiago with his trusty steed.

A walk round Blackdown Rings is planned for 21st April to see the bluebells, followed by lunch at the California Inn at 12.30 pm.

Fifteen members hope to go to the Spring Council Meeting of the DFWI at Exeter University - the big draw is celebrity speaker **Pam Ayres**.

There will be a Coffee Morning on Bank Holiday Monday, 30th May, at "Rockhill", **Judith Le Grice's** home, in aid of local Cliff Rescue.

Ten members will be paying a visit to the Albert Hall in June to attend the NFWI general meeting with a jolly the night before!

A visit to the gardens at Lukesland, Ivybridge, including tea, and an autumn lunch at Burton Farmhouse, Galmpton, are also in prospect but dates not yet fixed.

Pam Knight and **Joyce Thompson** will share the bursary to Denman College and plan to go in September.

Off with the Old - On with the New!

Pangs of nostalgia swept through the parish hall as this was the last WI meeting to be held there prior to the hall's demolition. Although memories of the many hundreds of meetings and enjoyable events that had taken place in the hall came flooding back to some of the more long-serving members, these were quickly set aside with thoughts of a splendid new parish hall at the year end.

A reminder was given that the April meeting will now be at the Church Meeting Room, same date and time, when the speaker will be **Meg de Blank** on royal marriages (rather timely!). In May, and until further notice, we will then be holding our meetings at the Thurlestone Hotel.

Visitors are welcome to our meetings to hear any of our speakers - and to have a cup of tea with us.

Cinderella

At the Parish Hall - 19th February 2005

A special report from our Arts correspondent

Well filled with picnic suppers and fine wines, a relaxed audience sat back to enjoy this highly entertaining and unique WI production. They entered into the spirit of the occasion, responding well to the familiar pantomime exhortations to cry "Oh, yes we will!", and to join in the popular songs as well as laughing in all the right places. It was expertly cast and directed in true Val Brown style.

Ugly sisters Madge (Joan Booth) and Gladys (Judith Le Grice) were in outrageously loud and raucous voice as they bullied a cheekily frisky Buttons (Jane Pope) who was constantly mopping up for a demure, delightful, and not a little tearful, Cinders (Karen Livett).

Heavily bespangled as the Fairy Godmother, Val kept everyone laughing as she whirled about her magic - and very Welsh - business. Narrator Pat Macdonald, lightly disguised as a friendly witch, threaded her way through the story of the long search throughout the South Hams for romantic bliss by a camp and very amusing Prince Charming (Wendy Neukirchen).

The shapely fishnets of the song-and-dance girls, aka Pat Clarke, Julie Hanham, Beth Lee and Pam Knight, flashed with precision in their well-drilled chorus routines, while Pat Crawford and Dorothy Candy chimed well as the midnight clocks. John Crawford bravely took on the role of "The Man from the Ministry" and obviously much enjoyed exchanging views with an argumentative

audience. Joyce Stephens struck all the right chords by providing an admirable piano accompaniment from the overture to the final curtain, while invisible but vital support was provided by Dorothy Abel and Mary Tregelles on the curtain cords.

The excellent news is that a further £230 was raised to benefit the new Parish Hall building fund as a result - and a good time was had by all. Oh yes it was!

This was the final curtain for the Parish Hall stage, though those who were expecting to hear a fat lady sing had to go away disappointed. Many great and talented performances have been witnessed on these boards since the hall was first built, particularly the wonderful pantomimes and musicals put on in the 1950s and 1960s. Merrie England, Aladdin, and an earlier Cinderella spring to mind - when almost the whole parish had some part to play - to say nothing of the many variety concerts and 'party piece' turns put on by the residents of the parish over the years, to mark important occasions as well as to raise funds for all sorts of good causes.

The new hall will also have a stage but of a different sort - one that is removable and adjustable which will provide greater flexibility for other hall uses. Wouldn't it be great if we could get our enthusiasm back for 'home entertainments' and put on our very own parish pantomimes again..... In a very nice new hall?

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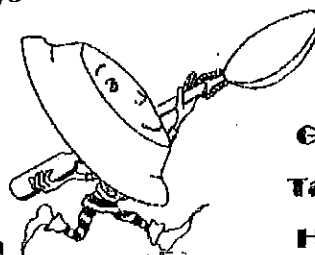
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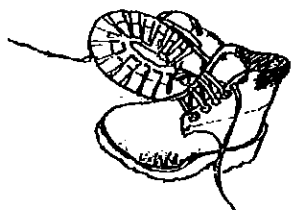
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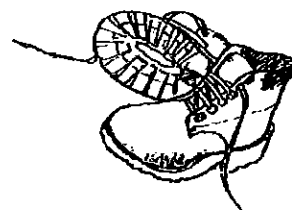
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TRAMP



1 Monday 24th January was the first short walk of the year. The leaders had to 'trial' it twice beforehand to find a relatively mud-free route after all the rains, but the preparations paid off on a beautiful sunny sharp day.

Fifteen walkers and two dogs drove over the tidal road to the start at The Royal Oak, Bigbury. The route took us by lanes and field-paths to Bigbury-on-Sea and Challaborough, where the dogs had their swim in a calm and surf-free sea. We then followed the coastal path westwards to Toby's Point before turning inland to Ringmore, walking straight past the Journey's End this time - not due to superior will-power, but to its being closed on Mondays!

After a stretch along the lane to Houghton, where there was a cheery bank of snowdrops in full bloom, we crossed the fields back to our starting point. After just over four miles we were ready for our food and drink, and since one member's pedometer told us that we had burnt off over 400 calories, we didn't even feel guilty.

T.W.

2 February is perhaps the riskiest month for the weather and, after a cold and showery week preceding our walk, we were grateful that the morning of the 9th was dry, if cloudy. Eleven of us (plus two dogs) set off from the Mothecombe Beach car park - virtually empty at this time of year - and headed up the Erme estuary along the tidal sand. At the old lime-kiln, we clambered up on to the Flete Estate drives and headed north for Holbeton. Access to the private lanes of the estate had been sought formally beforehand, but a spot of careless navigation on my part gave us a pleasant if unscheduled view of Pamflete House. The error was soon remedied, however, and we picked our way through the delightfully quiet lanes of the estate alongside the Erme, with scores of wading birds, then up past Efford House, the location some years ago of the TV dramatisation of "Sense & Sensibility".

We emerged from the Flete Estate land into Holbeton village and had an early light lunch at the Mildmay Colours Inn. (Once bitten by experiences at the Skylark in January, we had telephoned ahead to ensure that lunch would be prompt!). This was a long-ish walk (8¾ miles)

and so the group divided after lunch into those seeking a short return to Mothecombe via Nethecombe, and a hardy core of nine (plus both dogs) who continued westward past Borough Farm and Henna Mill across fields and lanes to intercept the coast path near Lambside. We were greeted by one of the finest vistas in the South Hams; from the cliff-top east along the coast looking towards the Bolt Tail over Burgh Island.

The homeward stretch following the Coast Path looked short from here, but was arduous. The SW Coast Path surveyors were obviously in playful mood when they decided to route this section through three great switch-backs, each taking us down almost to sea level and 200 feet back up to test stamina and morale to the full. The wind was cold, but behind us, and the Tramps spirit prevailed, so that we arrived back at the car-park 20 minutes ahead of schedule.

D.R.

3 On 22nd February, twelve walkers and no dogs, wrapped up warmly against the cold, set off from the car park in Aveton Gifford to walk up through the village via the playing fields to the Church. The village was deserted apart from a cute little dog peering at us over a wall. We then headed off across farm fields, over a stream where Rodney Horn had built a makeshift bridge during our reconnoitre of the walk - thankfully no-one fell in - eventually reaching the main Kingsbridge to Plymouth road at Ashford. From there, we carried on through Ashford towards Waterhead.

Unfortunately, we had to keep to the roads at this point as we had already discovered that the intended footpath had been diverted and the diversion would have meant climbing up a very steep hill, hacking through brambles, and crossing extremely muddy fields full of very fierce looking cows. Just before reaching Waterhead, we followed the signs to Drunkards Hill. I hasten to add that this was no reflection on the state of our walkers. We then followed the path through the woods to the Avon Estuary where we found ourselves having to shelter from a sudden hailstorm.

The walk finished alongside the River Avon and back to the car park via a paddock where a sign warning us not to feed the horses had been

prominently displayed. Two lovely grey horses had other ideas on that subject. The walk proved to be most enjoyable but we were very pleased to retire to the Fishermen's Rest where we were warmed by a delicious bowl of mushroom soup.

4 Wednesday 9th March dawned a beautiful sunny day, much to the relief of our walk leader, who had returned the previous evening from several feet of snow - not in the Alps, but in Kent! With the promise of a brand new walk and such lovely weather, nineteen walkers and three dogs arrived at the parish hall ready to be led through the lanes in a small convoy of cars to start the walk at Ugborough.

Unfortunately the walk leader managed a first in Tramp history by losing two other walkers before even reaching the starting-point. Such carelessness, needless to say, did not pass without comment. The situation was saved by our two members' unerring sense of direction and they arrived only five minutes late. With everybody present and correct, we started our walk at Donkey Lane, by Donkey Cottage, which unfortunately no longer had a donkey for us to admire but instead had a very important-looking cat watching our progress very closely.

The walk was planned with a figure-of-eight, with four miles in the morning, returning to Ugborough for lunch, followed by 3.5 miles in the afternoon. After steep climb out of the village a wonderful view of Dartmoor opened up behind us. The view re-appeared on several occasions through the gaps in the hedges in the green lanes. The steep hill achieved, the rest of the morning walk was easy with the possible exception of a steep field wall. The farmer had thoughtfully provided protruding steps and a length of rope, with the idea that the obstacle could be abseiled. This new skill was mastered quickly by the group, and even more quickly by the dogs, but nobody could be persuaded to take a Tarzan-like approach to the problem in order to provide more material for this walk report.

As Ugborough came back into view, we were forced to take a slight detour to avoid some cows but nobody seemed to notice as their minds turned to thoughts of lunch. Lunch was taken at the Ship Inn where we were made very welcome, and so fortified by soup and sandwiches we were ready to tackle the afternoon session.

The afternoon section proved to be rather more 'stylish' than is usual on a Tramp walk. The

local landowners seemed to be in competition with each other both with regard to the number of stiles and their design. We were faced with wooden stiles, with and without dog gates, slate stiles, step-ladder stiles, double stiles and stiles that were beyond description. The numerous stiles did, however, have two things in common. Firstly, they had been constructed by somebody with longer legs than the average walker and, secondly, each one had a low-slung electric fence just in front of it. Tramp walkers yet again proved their fitness as they limbo-danced under the fences and high-jumped over the stiles. In a rash moment our leader declared that she was sure there were no more stiles to be crossed, only to be confronted by a further three. She escaped the lynching party - just!

As we entered the final field we were rewarded with a springtime vista of several young lambs gambolling in front of us as they rushed back to their mums. This put a spring in our step as we walked back down the lane to our cars and headed home for a well-earned cup of tea.

L.M.

5 We had a good gathering on Monday 14th March for another of our short walks, with seventeen of us, plus two dogs, setting off from the National Trust car park at Little Dartmouth.

In spite of a rather dubious weather forecast, the day seemed fairly fine and settled, and so it remained apart from a rather chill wind.

For the first part of the walk we covered the pretty stretch of coast round to Dartmouth Castle, a distance of about two and a half miles, with lovely views out to sea and of the mouth of the Dart. The terrain was not difficult, but some good ups-and-downs proved reasonably demanding. A stop for coffee and refreshments at the Castle tea rooms proved very popular. Whilst the hardier members sat outside in the wind, others (probably more sensible!) became very comfortably ensconced inside and needed some prising out to continue the walk!

Leaving the Castle area, we climbed up Gallants Bower and felt the effort was worth it for more wonderful views. We then joined the inland track, a much easier and shorter route, which took us back to the waiting cars at Little Dartmouth. The dogs had a marvellous run, with no livestock to worry about, and must have covered many miles, while we humans had done about four.

C.H.

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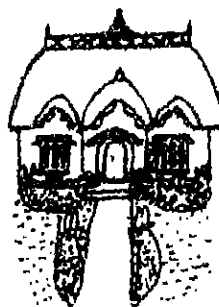
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HORSWELL DIARY

Three pairs of ears register the 'click' as I silence the roar of the vacuum cleaner with a flick of a switch. Three pairs of eyes, bright with expectation, watch intently as the fire-breathing dragon with its lead now tightly coiled is dragged, docile and compliant across the room. Three pointy noses turn to watch as the monster is bundled into the cupboard, its serpent's neck wrapped hideously around a long metallic leg. Three furry heads nod their approval as I close the door, 12 padded feet dancing a fandango of suppressed excitement. "*Has she?*" (finished the housework). "*Is she?*" (going to take us out). "*Are we?*" (going out, at last). Their questions pierce my defences with their persistence.

I reach for my wellies. Three tails thunder in syncopated rhythm: *Boom-Boom-Boom* on the Dresser; *Bang-Bang-Bang* against the chair; *Ting-a-ling-a-ling* on the door of the washing machine; *Thumpety-thumpety-thump-thump-thump* on the table leg; *Ding-ding-ding* on the dog's bowl; and a cymbal crash as a basket of jam jars hits the floor.

As I bend to slide each foot inside a boot, paws and claws scrabble at my back - showering me with encouragement. "*Yes! Yes!*" They say. "*Well done! You're doing the right thing!*"

A moment's hesitation as I survey the coat rack, and tails hang still and silent. Six anxious eyes dart fleetingly between the green coat that I wear for gardening and the brown tweed hacking jacket that I wear for walking. Three anxious dogs try to second guess my next move, worried that I'll make the wrong decision. A surge of enthusiasm as I brush past the tweed coat to reach for my scarf. A quick drum-roll, swiftly silenced as I seem to head towards the secateurs and shears. I look in the mirror and arrange my scarf. Three pairs of eyes swivel back to the coat rack. An eternity of waiting. And then

they know. A crescendo of barking and wagging and thumping and banging as I take the tweed jacket from its hanger and put it on. "*She did it!*" they say. "*She took the right one!*"

I reach for their leads and slip them like a noose around my neck as dogs race wildly around the room falling over one another with excitement. I stuff my pockets with polythene bags and take my stick. "*It's a walk! A walk! A WALK!*" they bark, loud enough to inform the entire neighbourhood. And off we go.

Jack and Milly tear off across the lawn frightening grazing ducks back on to the pond whilst big Bertie lumbers after them, his tail stirring the air like a starting handle. The three guinea fowl hurry out of the way gobbling and grumbling like small turkeys whereas the peacocks continue pecking for grubs, determined to stand their ground.

At the pond Jack the Labrador is leaning out across the water, hoping for an excuse to fall in. His mind is focussed on retrieving one of the startled ducks, the concepts of 'tame' and 'pet' being hard for a hunting dog to understand. Luckily Milly distracts him and they rush off together through the bushes, their noses hovering up the trail of a badger. Further down the driveway they reappear, crashing through the camellias and trampling daffodils underfoot. I notice that the aconites have gone now and that the snowdrops were short-lived this year. Primroses are taking their place, spreading their broad green leaves above the carpet of winter moss and twiggery. Cold winds and frosts have browned all the early camellias this year, but later blooms make vibrant splashes of colour that look extravagant and exotic against our English browns and greens.

Puppy drill means that we stop at the gate and listen hard for traffic, look right and left and right again, and then it's a mad

free-for-all as we dash across the road and run full tilt along and down the footpath, over (or under) the stile and down across the field to the stream at the bottom. The field has recently been ploughed, the sharp cut of the ploughshare clearly visible where it has gouged the blood-red soil from its slumber and turned it upside down. Away in the distance the sea glints in the cold sunlight, a silver lining to the grey cloud where the coastline fades from Devon into Cornwall.

Across the valley sheep are grazing, seemingly oblivious to the cold and biting wind. They remind me of my own initiation into the delights of sheep farming many years ago when I married my husband. I returned to England in March, leaving behind my Sydney lifestyle and a stifling Australian summer. It was bitterly cold in Oxfordshire, with snow on the ground and ice solid in the water buckets and tractor tracks. I arrived at night, and was informed that I was in time to do the midnight to 4.00 a.m. night watch! Swathed in layers of jumpers and scarves and a pair of 'Uncle Bill's longjohns that he had worn at Gallipoli' - complete with bullet holes (or was it the moth?) - I was probably too trussed up to be much use, but I found the whole process of the birth and ensuring that the new-born lambs were bonding with their mothers and suckling properly almost mystical in its simplicity.

I treasure the memory of that first night in England; although when I look at the photograph of the suntanned woman taken by my friend at Sydney Airport and the photograph taken outside the farmhouse 48 hours later I can hardly believe that it is the same person. Me.

Our walk to the beach means careful corralling of the dogs along the busy Thurlestone road. They know that, although usually silent, when I speak it is because there is something they need to know. "Car, car, car!" may sound like a wounded crow but thankfully it has the desired effect as cars whoosh by at speed. Drivers seem

evenly divided between those who slow for animals and those who press on regardless. The closer we get to the beach the faster our progress until, as we round the final corner, the desire for puppies to be puppies is simply too great and the descent to the beach becomes a helter-skelter rush of noise and enthusiasm.

There are few pleasures as cathartic as throwing a stick and watching the excitement of dogs hurling themselves into the water to retrieve it. My arm may ache with the repeated effort but the joy released by this simple action is always worth it: the look of concentration on their faces, the competitive positioning and game-plan, the eager anticipation. And then the turn of speed, the race, the search, the determination to succeed. Then comes the serious debate about who actually picked the stick from the water, the tussle and the tiff, the growls and the grumbles, the need for praise and arbitration. And above all, a new throw and a new excuse to plunge back into the waves. The difficulty only comes in persuading them that the game, eventually, is over and it is time to leave.

The walk home is a rambling uncoordinated affair. With fewer cars on the South Milton Road there is time to push noses down rabbit holes, startle blackbirds from the hedgerows and savour interesting smells. As Jack and Milly scamper ahead, Bertie and I make our way steadily behind them enjoying our few moments together without intrusion from the younger dogs. We amble along contentedly side by side, silent except for the tap-tap of my stick and the click-click of his long claws on the road. We do not really know how old Bertie is, but certainly his coat is very grey these days. With age has come a sweetness of temperament and a wisdom and patience that he lacked when he was younger.

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but maybe we can all learn new tricks from an old dog.

Prunella Dart



At the Bridge Table



How would you get on with bidding the North /South hands shown here, which were dealt at a recent club night in Kingsbridge? The bidding at our table was as follows :

- ♦ South viewed his hand as just below a strong two opener and bid 1 Spade
- ♦ West entered the stakes with 2 Clubs, implying at least a five card suit with ten or more points
- ♦ North with only five points made the brave bid of 3 Clubs, showing support for Spades and control of Clubs (no more than a singleton, and perhaps a void)
- ♦ South closed the bidding with a jump to 4 Spades.....
...and missed a solid slam, despite a combined count of only twenty two points.

So where did we (me!) go astray? First, the obvious assumption was that West's bid meant that he held the Ace of Clubs and hence South's hand was strengthened because his Clubs could be set up to yield three tricks and at least two discards from dummy. So rather than simply bidding the game in Spades, South should have shown he was looking for a slam by cue bidding 4 Diamonds, which would also show that he held the Ace of that suit. Assuming that North gets the message, his (her) bid would be 5 Clubs to show not just control of that suit but a void. South can then happily close the bidding with 6 Spades.

In the actual play West started with the Ace of Hearts. This was duly trumped by declarer, who went on to take all thirteen tricks by way of a *ruffing finesse* of the Clubs (i.e., leading the high Clubs through West until he played his Ace, which could then be trumped in the North hand). What this hand shows is the importance in slam bidding of cue bids to establish controls and the shape of the hands. Use of the Blackwood convention to find the number of Aces and Kings would not have helped because the vital elements were the voids in Clubs and Hearts. The only consolation on the night was that all the other North / South pairs also failed to bid the slam. *Mea culpa*, but perhaps not *mea maxima culpa*. What do you think?

Turning to the topic of defence against slam bids, the convention known as a **Lightner Double** is a useful device. Briefly, it asks for an unexpected lead, which may be a suit bid by the opposition or a suit in which a void is likely to be held by the doubling partner. Essentially the leader is prompted not to make a neutral or obvious lead, such as a trump or a suit bid by the defending side, or the only unbid suit. For example, what do you lead after the following auction?

W	N	E	S
-	1H	P	1S
P	3S	P	4NT
P	5D	P	6S
P	P	Double	All Pass

Lead a Heart. Partner has made a **Lightner Double** asking for an unusual lead, and normally you should choose the first suit bid by the dummy.

I hope this article will help build enthusiasm for slam bidding, and also for defending against such bids.

Victor

All Vulnerable	Dealer South
<div><div>North</div><div>S 10 x x x</div><div>H K Q x x x</div><div>D x x x x</div><div>C Void</div></div>	
<div><div>South</div><div>S A K x x x x</div><div>H Void</div><div>D A x</div><div>C K Q J 10 x</div></div>	

KATE'S



KITCHEN

Welcome to longer days and, hopefully, warmer weather. Here is a curry dish which is perfect for entertaining as it can be cooked in advance, allowing you to enjoy the company of friends without any culinary hassle!

ROGAN JOSH

(serves four)

Tender, sweet lamb is the main ingredient. It is traditionally marinated in yoghurt and cooked with aromatic spices to give a delicious flavour and appearance. (As the lamb has to be marinated overnight, allow for this in your timing)

Ingredients

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 lbs lamb fillet | ½ teaspoon cumin seeds |
| 3 tablespoons lemon juice | 2 bay leaves |
| 8 fl oz natural yoghurt | 4 green cardamom pods |
| 1 teaspoon salt | 2 teaspoons ground coriander |
| 2 cloves garlic, crushed | 2 teaspoons ground cumin |
| 1" fresh ginger, grated | 1 teaspoon chilli powder |
| 1 red onion, finely chopped | 14 oz can chopped tomatoes |
| 1 tablespoon oil | 2 tablespoons tomato puree |
| | Quarter pint water |

Method

Trim away any excess fat from the lamb and cut into 1" cubes

In a large bowl mix juice, yoghurt, salt, ginger and one of the garlic cloves

Add the lamb to this mixture, cover and refrigerate overnight

Heat oil in large frying pan, add bay leaves and cardamom pods and fry 2 minutes

Add onion and remaining garlic and fry 5 minutes

Stir in ground spices and chilli powder and fry 2 minutes

Add marinated lamb and cook for a further 5 minutes, stirring occasionally

Add tomatoes, tomato puree and the water

Cover and simmer for one to one-and-a-half hours or until meat is tender

Garnish with coriander or flat parsley and lemon wedges

Serve with Basmati rice

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*Reviewed by Kendall McDonald
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HARRY HUGGINS

IS BACK ON THE LEVEL (S)

In July we went to the Somerset Levels to look for summer birds. This February it was time to go again, for the winter lot.

We chose a weekend, when we might find other birdwatchers (although we did find some on weekdays before). Other birders could have local knowledge. It doesn't always work. I missed the original letter, but *Bird Watching* magazine had correspondence for months after someone complained about the reception he received from other birdwatchers. He had asked them what something was, and was told if he didn't know *that*, he shouldn't be there!

Usually we have found the opposite - I always think of the nice little man in a hide in south Devon who, on seeing the silver-haired lady climb in, said "There's a Heron over there", for which June thanked him, but was then embarrassed when she wanted to point out to me a Spotted Redshank she found in a row of Common Redshanks. No problem in summer when Spotted Redshank is blackish with silver spots. But this was winter; it is then very like a Common Redshank, a bit more silvery, a whitish stripe over each eye and a longer bill. It is quite rare. I don't think he heard her tell me.

So we booked again at the Walnut Tree at North Petherton. No more. Breakfasts were fine. In July dinners were normal pub grub - fish and chips, mixed grills (enough for three). This time the chef had gone all modern - lamb shank on cous-cous, scallops and prawns deep-fried in breadcrumbs, served with a little strange sauce and a few of those lettuce leaves which look like weeds. No other veg. I asked for tartare sauce and was told they didn't stock it.

All the way up the M5 the rain poured; it relented when we got to Taunton and we went to the RSPB's West Sedgemoor

reserve, by the A378. There in Swell Wood, just above the little car park, the Grey Herons were doing their thing. Before the middle of February, which this was, they were at their nests, high in the trees. Whether they had eggs yet we could not tell, but there would be some soon if there was none already. You walk a few yards into the wood and sit in a hide to see the birds almost above you. One was nearly pure white, instead of the usual mid-grey. Had it not been for the black in its plumage and its bright orange bill (this is a breeding season thing) we might have thought it was an Egret.

Next morning no more rain but wind instead - this was the weekend when the Dartmouth higher ferry was carried away. We took ourselves to the little car park at Ashcott Corner, beside the South Drain, which is a healthy forty-foot canal to carry the water away from the levels. We stamped off westward beside the drain, along where the railway line used to be. There were several Cetti's Warblers singing. Even in a high wind it is a song you can't miss. This bird was unknown in Britain until the 1960s or 1970s. The first proved breeding was in 1972. It spread from south-east England along the south coast and we heard it first at Slapton Ley. Now it must be working northward - global warming or just a bird with strong vitality?

There were big waves in the drain. We crept across a bridge - thought we might get blown off - and followed a path through a wood to a hide which faces north over a huge expanse of reeds - Meare Heath I think it is called. Right in front of the hide is a stretch of open water across which otters are said to swim. We didn't see any of those. There were a couple of fellows in the hide watching with us and, like us, seeing nothing but Crows. They were slightly aloof - why not, we were total strangers. But then June saw in the

distance, about three quarters of a mile away, a Marsh Harrier, a fine male, his wings silver below with black tips, similar above with a chestnut band across his inner fore wings and back (his wing coverts if you want to be technical). He is big, a bit bigger than the Buzzards which drift around our parish, and he should have been in Africa but he hadn't migrated. Why risk the dangers of flying over Continental gunners when you can find all the birds and things you need to eat in Somerset?

The two gentlemen didn't see it until June pointed it out. Impressed is what they were, and when she asked they were pleased to tell her where to go for flocks of Golden Plovers and Lapwings. So back to the car for lunch. The waves in the drain were breaking now and my baseball cap, which normally sticks to my head like glue, kept blowing off.

To look for the Plovers we drove to a village called Burtle, a little north of the Polden Hills, along which the A39 runs from Bridgwater to Street. We turned left at a pub and drove down a nasty little road - far too narrow to pass another vehicle and you dared not pull a couple of wheels off the tarmac. Once when we were parked somewhere a tractor passed and the ground shook like jelly. Luckily, the little road was straight and you could see if anyone else was on it... and wait.

They had shown us on their map a parking place, room for three or four cars. We could see also a couple of birdwatching hides. This is the Catcott Lows reserve of the Somerset Wildlife Trust. Catcott is one of a line of villages - Shapwick and Ashcott are others - which lie on the northern slope of the Polden Hills. Why the birds can be relied on to come back to the reserve I do not know, but they do. The area of the Somerset Levels is huge and there must be other bits equally attractive.

Sitting in the car - it was far too windy and unpleasant to get out - we looked over an area of water and grassy islands. There was about the biggest flock of Widgeons we have

ever seen, hundreds, if not thousands. The drakes were pink and grey with chestnut heads. There was a smaller number of Shovelers - the drakes have dark green heads with huge beaks, white breasts and chestnut sides. Fewer still were Pintails, their drakes being about the most handsome of ducks - pearly grey, their heads chocolate with a white stripe running up, and long tails. Not as long as the Pheasant's but long just the same. Something - a Peregrine probably, must have startled this lot because they flew about, very agitated, but eventually settled down on the water and spread out. Only a brief glimpse of Plovers but we were content to see all these ducks.

Next day we resolved to renew our acquaintance with Chew Valley Lake, a little south of Bristol. To Cheddar and up the gorge was the nearest way. It began well. As we drove up the bit of the A38 which took us towards Cheddar (it is the way you go to Bristol Airport) a Merlin flew in front of the car - our smallest falcon, and pretty rare. The male is not much bigger than a Blackbird. Why the lady falcons are much bigger than the gentlemen I do not know, and I doubt whether they do, but that is how it is.

In Cheddar we got behind the tourist bus which takes people up and down the gorge. Its journey can't be more than three miles. The driver must be a good patient soul, spending his days struggling through cars, cyclists, walkers, etc. He crawled. So did we behind him. Our Citroen automatic doesn't mind how slowly it crawls. I don't know how fast it will go - when you are as senior a senior as I am you watch speed limits very carefully. Behind us we could hear brrm-brrm-brrm and I thought it must have been at least a Ferrari following. When it finally passed us it looked a very ordinary car.

We passed a field with a bunch of men paintballing and driving quad bikes. What a funny way to spend a Sunday morning we thought, but no doubt they might have thought that bird watching was a funny way to spend a Sunday morning too!

The lake is too big for one to see all of it in one morning. We went to the car park and café place at the north end. Saw some Great Crested Grebes but they are a bit sad looking in winter plumage without their chestnut head-dresses. We saw Tufted Ducks, their gentlemen are black and white, and there was a pair of Goldeneyes, the lady in grey with a chocolate head, and the gentleman black-and-white. You can pick him out a mile off by the white spot on his cheek.

I met another birdwatcher (there were lots of them) carrying a formidable pair of binoculars and enquired if there were any Ruddy Ducks to be found. He said no, not anywhere; he assumed they had all been culled to please the Spanish who feared the blood line of their very rare White-headed Ducks would be diluted. At the edge of the lake there are two or three causeways which the road crosses. On our way out we stopped on one of these, and there were the Ruddy Ducks. We saw over twenty of them bouncing about on rough water. I suppose my informant never goes to that causeway.

In West Harptree, a little village just south of the lake, a flock of birds flew up from the hedge beside the road. Similar in colour to young Starlings - very pale brown. But in February there aren't any young Starlings. Waxwings! A considerable rarity. Their home is in eastern Europe and Russia but very occasionally they turn up in Britain. It is supposed to be when the supply of berries at home runs out. This winter there have been thousands reported. Folks told us about some in Exeter and Ivybridge. We have kept looking at our crab-apple tree and the cotoneaster tree by the loos on Kingsbridge Quay. When they came last, in 1996, these were two of their places. But no luck this year. So we saw our Waxwings, not for long though, as we drove along a narrow road and they vanished behind a hedge. But enough for us to realise what they were.

The map shows a road from Cheddar straight to the middle of the levels. We took that and went to the place near Burtle where we saw all the Widgeons and other ducks,

parked as before and walked along to the nearest hide. We found we could have taken the car as there was room to park. The ducks were all there, bunched together to shelter from the north wind which was blowing strongly and as cold as ever.



Golden Plover in winter plumage

This time we were rewarded with the Golden Plovers, a flock of at least 250 - golden brown on top and whitish below (in spring their throats and underneath are black). Their wings are sickle-shaped and narrow. There were also at least 500 Lapwings; in bright sun their backs and wings are green, hence the old name, Green Plover, but they look black-and-white as they fly on big floppy wings.

So we saw what we went for but didn't find any winter swans, Whoopers nor Berwicks. You could hunt for days for them, if indeed there were any at all, unless someone told you where to look. No one did, but we had seen plenty at Slimbridge at Christmas. Usually we combine this trip with a little retail therapy, at Clarks Village at Street. But on the Monday the forecasts were bad (and wrong!). So we hared off towards home. However, all was not lost for as we got near Buckfast June remembered the Mill Shop, by the Abbey. Sadly the clothing part has gone - I used to buy shirts and trousers and anoraks there - and now they just sell carpets. But the shoe shop is still going so June got her retail therapy - two pairs. *So did I - a new rug for the den!*

Harry Huggins

All Saints' School News

MANY LIKE IT HOT!

The Curry Lunch held in the School Hall on Saturday 29th January in aid of Tsunami victims was a sell-out success.

A Malaysian Gado-Gado starter was followed by Vegetable Curry, Thai Green Chicken Curry, Beef Madras and Mr William's special Kedgeree. Diners were then treated to a selection of delicious home-made deserts. Any remaining curries were packed up into take-away containers and sold, so that everything, literally, did go!

With the help of a very well supported raffle, a total of £670 was raised. Special Thanks are due to Mrs McKillop, who organised the event, and to all the parents, villagers and local businesses for their generous contributions.

Whilst on the subject of the Tsunami Appeal, the children of Thurlestone School ran an odd-job campaign over the Christmas holidays to raise money for playground equipment. Upon hearing of the plight of the Tsunami victims they voted unanimously to donate the money, over £150, to the appeal.

SCHOOL CENTENARY

We are planning a number of events to help to celebrate this special year. In the Summer we hope to organise a large outdoor event to include not only the school but also the wider community. We envisage a fabulous family fun day/evening which could include bands, disco, bouncy castle, quad bikes, Hog Roast, food stalls, etc.

At this early stage we are asking if anyone has any ideas, contacts (especially for local bands and sponsorship) or indeed would like to join the committee to help organise this event.

Please contact Robin Collyns 01548 561300, Tony Rayworth 01548 854376 or Jill Harwood 01548 531469 if you are interested in helping or have other information which would be useful.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

Thurlestone pupils competed in a Chess Tournament at Kingsbridge Primary School, organised by the Rotary Club, on 5th March. Our children gave a very good account of themselves, with success in every age group:

Winners: **Tom Simpson** (Year 3) and **Rhiannon Chadwick** (Year 2)

Runners up: **Adam Wright** (Year 6), **George Fountain** (Year 5),
Heather Chadwick (Year 4) and **James Peck** (Year 3).

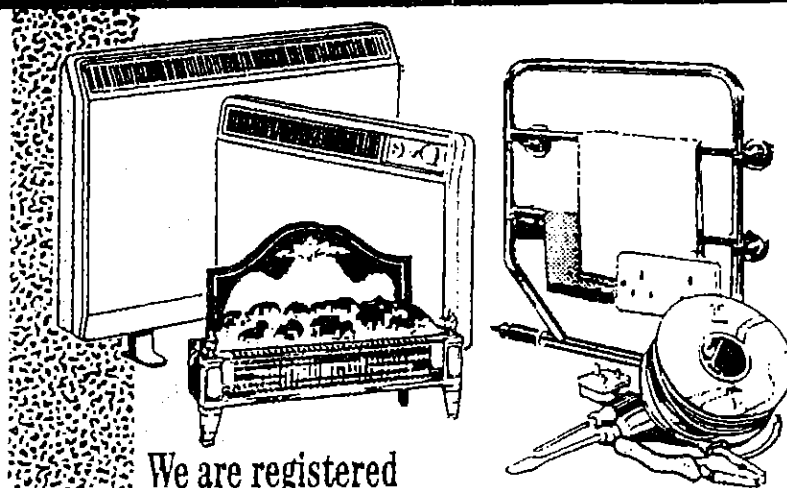
THANK YOU: to everyone for donating 'Persil Stars' at the P O, Hotel and 'Teamakers'. We are now also collecting Tesco's 'Computers for Schools' vouchers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Lucy Peters, who has been selected to represent Devon at chess.

Also all those children who had their art displayed at the Harbour House exhibition.

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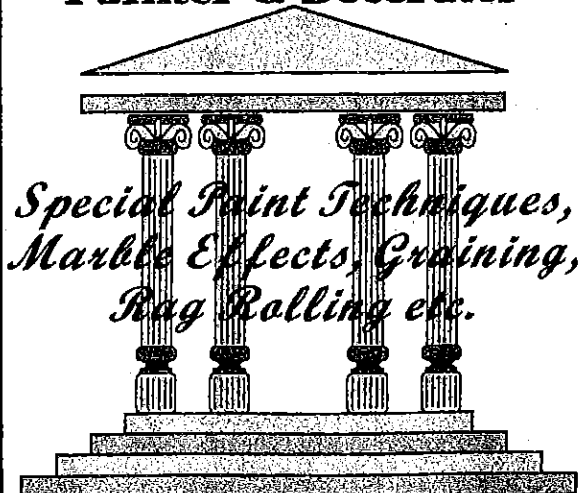
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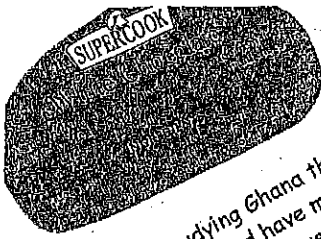


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Children's Voice

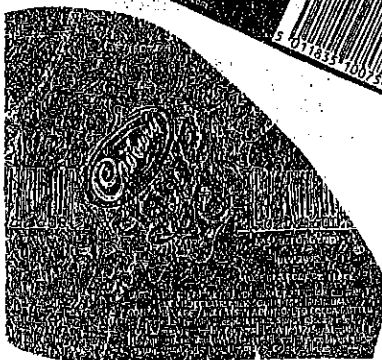
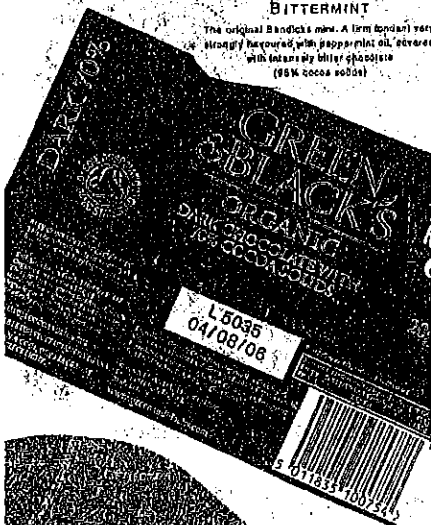


Class 2 have been studying Ghana this term. We have been looking at cocoa and chocolate and have made our own Easter eggs. We have had visitors in giving us informative talks on life in Ghana, growing cocoa and chocolate making.



BITTERMINT

The original Bittermint now. A firm London's very strong flavoured with peppermint oil, covered with instantly bitter chocolate (95% cocoa solids)



FOOD CONTAINING CHOCOLATE

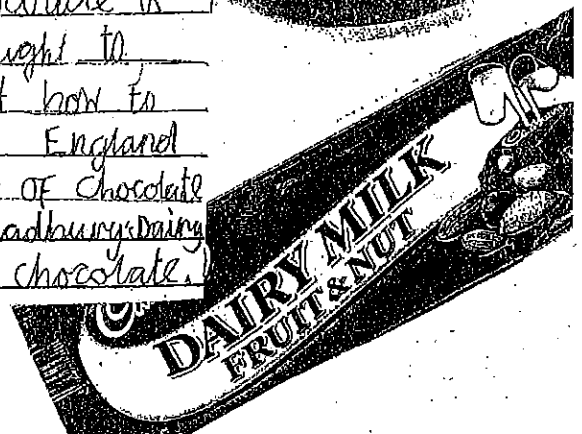
Name	Ingredients	% of Cocoa
Instant hot chocolate	Skimmed milk powder, sugar, Fat Reduced cocoa powder, whey powder, vegetable fat, lactose, salt.	11%
Nutiella	Sugar, vegetable oils, hazel nuts, cocoa powder, Skimmed milk powder, whey powder, Glaxovoring	6%
KitKat	have a break	
Dairy milk chocolate	milk, Sugar, cocoa mass, cocoa butter, vegetable fat, Flavourings.	20%
Cocoa	cocoa.	100%
choco	Rice, sugar, milk chocolate, cocoa powder	
Snap's	dextrase, salty, malt extract, vitamins,	4%



How

Cocoa

Cocoa is the name of a powder from the fruit seed of the cacao tree. Chocolate is made using cocoa powder. It was brought to Europe by the Spaniards who learnt how to make it from the Aztecs. It came to England in about 1657. Cadbury's makes a variety of chocolate products, but the two main types are Cadbury's Dairy Milk, and Cadbury's Bournville plain chocolate.



Slightly less of an Adventure

[Alun Williams recalls his visit to Moscow in 2004]

At Bristol Airport a young woman was earnestly attempting conversation with a couple of elderly smokers. The young woman, whose very voice sounded unnaturally prurient, kept asking questions that can scarcely have been of interest to anybody. The old man answered, sometimes quite expansively, but never proffered any question in return.

"What was Canada like?" she persisted.

"I've never been to such a clean place."

Cleanliness, notwithstanding its propinquity to godliness, has little appeal. I think of ardent and obsessive anti-smoking laws, stainless steel, magnolia and unnecessarily cold beer. Now any of these may be acceptable individually (even occasionally encouraging people to refrain from smoking), but together they spell worthy dullness and uniformity. Russia, I mused, may not be scrupulously clean but it will be fun, quirky and stimulating.

On arrival at Moscow Airport I was met by Jumber who was dressed in a lightweight check overcoat, crimson framed spectacles and a purple corduroy Tyrolean style hat. Ken arrived about half an hour later from Frankfurt and we were driven down Leningradskiy Prospekt, past Belarus Railway Station and the centre of Moscow to the Sparrow Hills (Vorobyoviyegory). The impact of post-Soviet Moscow on the traveller is much less powerful that it was eleven years ago. It's not just the hoardings, the relentlessly unappealing advertisements and the new-found flashiness; the whole place seems more relaxed, less forbidding. Airport registration was almost slick, officialdom less formidable and even the Stalinist blocks did not seem quite the same dusty defiant monuments protruding from the bleak earth. In a society which had become easier, the oppressive and the ugly were now strangely integrated.

Yet my first experience of Moscow in eight years revealed the two most striking faces of Russia. As we gazed over this quickly changing monumental city, we were among the young Russians, roller-blading, drinking (in England it would have appeared loutish but in Russia it seems too morose and sombre to represent true

yobbery) and smoking pot. We were approached by an amiable old drunk who greeted us with the phrase *"Christ is risen!"* Perhaps we should have responded, *"Christ is risen indeed!"*, but only Jumber knew the Russian.



Church of Saint Tatiana, Moscow

Inside the nearby church of S. Tatiana, old Russia proliferated. It was Easter Day and the church was busy with the comings and goings of the faithful. Here, all the women were covered with simple woollen hoods or floral headscarves. The young women were elegant, slender and of quiet and pallid piety; the old ones seemingly were part of another species, short, squat and padded with many layers as they squinted in the blackness at the icons that peered back at us through spinneys of candles. The extravagant crossing, murmured hush in the odd warmth, the hint of incense and the furiously busy church workers, dwarf-like and obsessed, scurrying and cleaning in dark corners; all this suggested a certain exclusiveness: a diffident world that did not invite others to join it and ignored them if they did.

Our flat is stuffed with religious pictures and books and it will do. A Moscow flat is a curious experience. First, when you enter the block, there are the smells. The crude but serviceable iron door with its magnetic eye opens into a

lobby which can be overwhelming nauseous. Always the smell of urine, the sweet, sickly suggestion of motor oil and an air of almost purposeful neglect seems to infuse the route. But the flats themselves are little wonders. So intricate are the locking and unlocking procedures and so padded were the three doors that we needed to pass, it was a little like penetrating and living in a safe. And this flat, with its Orthodox icons, holy images and solemn prayer books was like a series of dishevelled cells where a peeling and obscure fresco cycle commemorating the life of S. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain would not look out of place.

Yet there was nothing frugal about these cells. Once inside, we were immediately warm. We were the recipients of soviet warmth, soviet hot water and soviet electricity. Once these services were provided almost free to a society whose founding fathers had at least wanted their people to be warm and clean and comfortable. Now, those whom the system had once supported, old heavily bagged women and tiny, unobtrusive men, hover and mutter, hoping for kopeks from those who pass by. I cannot imagine where they go at night. So as the newly rich Russians, in their easy western clothes and sloganised baseball caps swagger in unaccustomed plenty, their guileless elders, who survived Hitler's Luftwaffe on a diet of soap and rats, cast a bewildered and desperate look at the new world order.

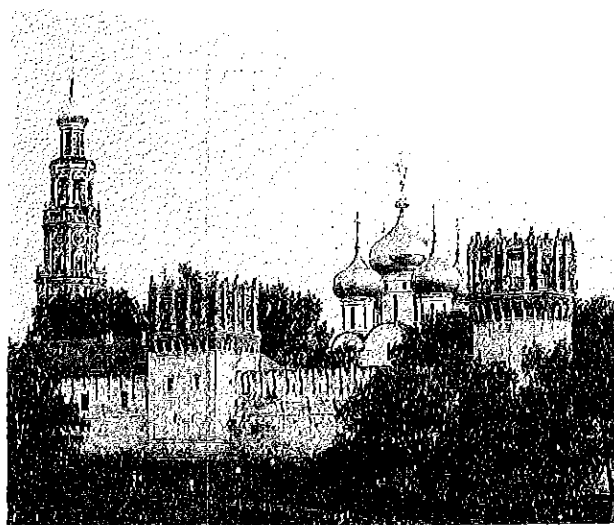
We settled into our flat, made comfortable by Nadia. Some wine and conversation followed, presents and greetings were lavishly exchanged. Now here is an altogether un-English phenomenon. Nadia with her doctorate from Moscow State University, a qualified historian and social scientist, is ludicrously underpaid in her university department. Only an intensely foolish government does not grant its academics enough to sustain life. Yet Nadia is imbued with a rare and gentle modesty. She quietly prepares meals, cleans for her family and guests and smiles indulgently at the excesses of her younger son George and demurs before her extrovert and fiercely intelligent husband, Jumber. They constitute a remarkable - perhaps unique - family and Nadia's saintly generosity is its mainstay.

To visit the great religious buildings in Russia is always a beguiling and strangely moving experience. In Stalin's time and, intermittently

during other periods of Soviet rule, churches were closed, bulldozed, turned into museums and warehouses and even recycled as metro stations. The religious were persecuted and even killed. Only the lucky and compliant survived. How is it that, in spite of relentless repression, the congregation of post-soviet Russia remembers the old ways? Byzantine veneration, chanting in ninth century Slavonic, the religion of their grandparents with all its punctilious liturgy and ceremonial continues as if the seventy three year hiatus had been a figment of soviet (and western) imagination.

We were staying opposite the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Elokhovo, not far from where the Leningrad, Yaroslavl and Kazan railway stations come together. Its golden domes boasted their splendour in the sudden spring sunshine. It was Easter Monday and the altar party was shimmering and seemingly defiant - as well they might be. By pure and lucky chance we were minutes from this eclectic gem that became, in the 1930s, the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Russian Orthodox Church. So this church represents an almost seamless link with Tsarist Russia when priests and bishops and metropolitans drifted and swayed in consummate and exotic authority. And then, as now, the church offered a magnificent though imperfect vision of blessedness and a picturesque escape from the unrelenting and casually imposed poverty, exploitation and grind.

Each time I visit Moscow, I make a semi-pilgrimage to the Novodevichiy Convent and Cemetery, in the southwest of the city not far from Moscow State University. The first time I



Novodevichiy Convent

visited the monastery in 1993, a miniature lady with ill-fitting teeth delivered a well practised patter. As she regaled me with the significant moments in the monastery's history (the most memorable being the confinement of the sister of Boris Godunov in 1598) I was mesmerised by her curiously whining, whispering voice and her battery of information delivered in text book English, circa 1935. And all the time, her dentures shuffled about according to their own rhythm like faintly wayward members of an otherwise integrated family.

Question and answer sessions were difficult. She received her training, it seemed, in an era when the ability to deflect questions was a requirement and each time I tried to tempt her to venture beyond her script she, like an ancient but effective tape recorder, would rewind and repeat something she had said earlier - word for word. She was well practised in the art of reiteration, I thought. Now, on the occasion of my third visit, the little lady and her kind had themselves been purged. Ironical that they should be swept away, I thought.

No longer was it possible for us to obtain, for a few kopeks, our own guide who will grind his way atmospherically but almost unintelligibly around the Cathedral of Our Lady of Smolensk or the Rectory and Church of the Assumption, mumbling and gesticulating and oblivious to the effect he has on his hearers. But of course the history is available to anyone. These elderly human relics of the Stalinist past constitute a fascinating atheistic counterpoint to the religious grandeur of the monastery. To be dispassionate

beside the Cathedral of the Virgin, the most venerable and majestic of all the churches in the complex, must either involve a supreme effort of will or imply a training in objectivity and indifference so complete that it is able to blot out the numinous and even admiration.

On this occasion we were prevented from entering the nave of the Church of the Assumption. A broad, powerful woman was energetically wielding a broom and I felt strangely linked to the detritus she was attempting to sweep away. I, as an admirer but not a practitioner of the Orthodox Faith, was clearly not welcome on this occasion. Neither was Ken, who admires the church less than I do, but tries not to show it. Even the persistent intercessions of Nadia left the woman unmoved. We were, however, able to visit the temporary though fine exhibition dedicated to St Nicholas which was housed in a low building close to the Church Gate of the Transfiguration. Icons, paintings and relics had been collected and painstakingly assembled in a complex comprising two or three rooms in what looked to have been one time private quarters.

I never quite discovered why this venue should have been chosen for this exhibition, though Nicholas has an enduring place in Russian religion and folklore. It seems also that Russian merchants popularised this saint from Asia Minor and often established churches dedicated to him in cities where they settled and traded.

Alun Williams

Puzzle Page Answers

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. SPINNAKER | 2. STARGAZER | 3. PRESBYTER | 4. PROBOSCIS |
| 5. HITCHCOCK | 6. ARMSTRONG | 7. TAXIDERM | 8. PARTRIDGE |
| 9. MELODRAMA | 10. UNSELFISH | 11. USHERETTE | 12. GALLIVANT |
| 13. OPERATION | 14. AMAZEMENT | 15. ELABORATE | 16. YORKSHIRE |
| 17. STROMBOLI | 18. SCAVENGER | 19. ETIQUETTE | 20. ANTHOLOGY |
| 21. LAWNMOWER | | | |

TEN TEASERS

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1. North Africa | 3. Libel | 5. Low | 7. Thirteen | 9. Fitzroy |
| 2. Mountbatten | 4. Epicure | 6. Aquatic plant | 8. Iraq | 10. Litotes (anagram) |

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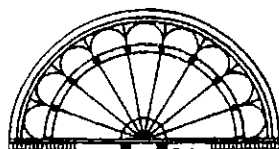
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DIARY DATES

APRIL		
Mon.	4 th	Annual Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.30 pm.
Tue	5 th	TRAMP, Dartington
Wed	13 th	TRAMP, West Alvington
Thurs	14 th	WI, Church Meeting Room, 2.30 pm (Royal Marriages)
Wed	20 th	Alvington Singers Concert, Thurlestone Church, 7.30 pm
Thur	21 st	WI, Blackdown Rings bluebell walk, lunch 12.30 California Inn
		Aune Conservation AGM, Aveton Gifford, 7.00 pm
Wed	27 th	Youth Group, Church Meeting Room, TRAMP, Dart Valley
MAY		
Fri	6 th	TRAMP, Stover
Sat	7 th	VE Celebration, Cookworthy Museum, 10.30 am to 4.00 pm
Mon	9 th	Annual Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.30 pm
Tues	10 th	Hearing Dogs AGM, Kingsbridge Methodist church, 11.00 am
Wed	11 th	TRAMP, Kingswear
Thur	12 th	WI, Thurlestone Hotel, 2.30 pm (Resolutions)
Sat	14 th	Horticultural Show Plant Sale, Lambs Close, 10 am
Mon	16 th	TRAMP, Antony House
Wed	25 th	TRAMP, Lustleigh
Mon	30 th	WI, Coffee Morning, Rockhill, 10.30 am - noon
JUNE		
Thur	2 nd	TRAMP, Carriage Walk
Wed	8 th	TRAMP, East Prawle
Thur	9 th	WI, Thurlestone Hotel, 2.30 pm (Members' Choice)
Mon	13 th	TRAMP, TBA
		Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.30 pm
Sat	19 th	Cream Teas & Open Garden, Lower Kerse, 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

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PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

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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 MAY 2005

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 Taverder	(Evening) 852139
District Councillor	Shonaugh Rankin	561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	Neil Gilling	560448
	David Grose	560375
	Andrew Rhymes	560564
	Geoffrey Shidston	560695
Tree Warden	Charles Mitchelmore	560602

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

PARISH HALL

Chairman	Ron Parlin	561215
Bookings	Pat Crawford	560688

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

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RECTOR

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CHURCHWARDENS	Office	561246
	Graham Worral	562016
	Liz Webb	560090

COFFEE TIME (See All Saints Diary for details)

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FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

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AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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KEEP FIT

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& DRINKS 6.00pm-9.00pm

The Reel Meal Deal

ANY MAIN COURSE : ANY SWEET
WINE, LAGER or SOFT DRINK
RESERVED FILM SEAT

Adult £13 Over 60 £12.50
Child (U15) £11.50
(1/2 portion £9)

SON OF THE MASK (PG)
 FRI APR 1st /SAT 2nd/MON 4th
3.30pm
 TUES 5th/WED 6th/THUR 7th
5.45pm

THE MAGIC ROUNABOUT (U)
 FRI APR 1st/SAT 2nd/MON 4th
5.45pm
 TUE 5th/ WED 6th/THUR 7th
3.30pm

HOTEL RWANDA (12A)
 FRI APR 1st /SAT 2nd/MON 4th
 TUE 5th/WED 6th/THUR 7th
8.00pm

THE CHORUS (12A)
 FRI APR 8th/SAT 9th/MON 11th
 TUE 12th **5.45pm**
 WED 13th/ THUR 14th **8.30pm**

MILLION DOLLAR BABY (12A)
 FRI APR 8th/SAT 9th/MON 11th
 TUE 12th **8.30pm**
 WED 13th/ THUR 14th **5.45pm**

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (15)
 FRI APR 15th/SAT16th/MON 18th
5.45pm
 TUES 19th/WED 20th/THUR 21st
8.30pm

THE LIFE AQUATIC (PG)
 FRI APR 15th/SAT16th/MON 18th
8.30pm
 TUES 19th/WED 20th/THUR 21st
5.5pm

THE SEA INSIDE (PG)
 FRI APR22nd /SAT23rd/MON 25th
5.45pm
 TUES 26th/WED 27th/THUR 28th
8.30pm

HITCH (12A)
 FRI APR22nd /SAT23rd/MON 25th
8.30pm
 TUES 26th/WED 27th/THUR 28th
5.45pm

Village Inn

Tel: 01548 563 525



KEN HUBBARD

****Awarded AA GOOD
SEAFOOD AWARD ****

Just minutes from the south-west coast path and the stunning cliff top scenery of Bigbury Bay, this popular village haunt has been owned by the Grose family for over a century. Formerly run as a farmhouse B & B, the early beginnings of the Hotel. This 16th Century free house now prides itself on good service, well-kept local ales and superb selection of freshly prepared food served daily.

Children and dogs are welcome.

OPEN DAILY: 11.30am-3.00pm &
6.00pm-11.00pm

SUNDAYS: 12.00-3.00pm & 7.00-10.30pm

Good Food..

Good Beer..

Friendly

Atmosphere