

VILLAGE VOICE



JUNE - JULY 2005



NUMBER 133
JUNE - JULY 2005

In this issue we include details of a Local Authority report on the speed of traffic through Thurlestone. It found the average speed to be around 23 mph, and concluded that there was no case for a reduction of the speed limit to 20 mph.

This is perhaps not so surprising. If you pause to consider the number of building projects that have taken place over recent months, and others that are still continuing, the impact of these works on vehicular traffic flow through the village has been, is, and will be quite significant. Nor is it only the contractors' vehicles that increase the congestion. These "economic migrants" are not a permanent feature (though you might be forgiven for thinking so). But the ever-increasing number of new dwellings in, and close to, Thurlestone inevitably means more and more cars, and more and more regular local traffic. Furthermore, the splendid new developments at the Hotel will also attract still greater numbers (or someone's head will roll) of car-borne clients to and through the village.

Thurlestone's traffic problem is not so much that it moves too quickly. It is more frequently the case that it doesn't move at all, and that it often takes a long time to get through. If this situation continues to worsen, could Thurlestone become the first village to have to consider a congestion charge?

Founder Dudley Drabble

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ARE YOU MAD ABOUT WHEELIES?

Respect. That's what this community needs. And it needs respect most of all from those who are dumping this wheelie-bin scheme on the older residents in this parish. We have been "dissed" - disrespected - in the whole planning and execution of this expansion of recycling, better known as "*waste on wheels*".

I have been asked by one of the hierarchy of this parish to see that Villager takes a "positive" view of wheelie bins. In politically-correct speak that means asking Villager to approve all that is being dumped on residents and holiday-home owners in the name of recycling by the District Council.

Very well then. Villager will be positive. Villager is positive that a great deal needs to be done to knock this ill-advised wheelie-bin scheme into shape to ensure that all rubbish is collected weekly - not left to stink for a fortnight in one or other of the two new bins allocated to each household. Garden waste should not



be mixed in one bin with unprotected food leftovers, and old people should not be forced to either wash out these big bins or pay pounds for commercial cleaning.



Our older inhabitants were under the impression that council tax was to cover services such as waste disposal. Now they find they are doing dirty sorting work which ought to be done by paid District Council staff. They see no chance of the council tax being lowered. In fact, of course, it will go up next year to pay for wheelie madness, more wheelie operatives and maybe even wheelie wardens.

Talk in the parish is not full of admiration for the advent of wheelie bins. On the contrary, many are wondering if they will be able to afford to live here in future. Or if they will want to. Villager advised the Parish Council at a recent meeting to reject the wheelies until alterations were made but the Council, in their

wisdom, does not want to have a row with the next tier of councillors above them, at Totnes, and is sitting on the fence watching the wheelies go by. They say they want to see how it works out before taking any action. You and I, of course, know that this just means that once the wheelies are up and running we are lumbered with the system for good and all, regardless of any faults in the operation which will soon come to light.

And this is where the question of respect comes in. It is interesting to note that "respect" is to be the theme of New Labour's third term of office. I doubt if Downing Street will take any notice of the lack of respect to the pensioners and retired residents of Thurlestone parish by the Totnes waste management department, but there is no reason why we should put up with their arrogance.

Villager and all sensible people are in favour of recycling and want to help all they can, but there is a distinct impression in all the leaflets and meetings about the new scheme that we should do as we are told. *"You may not like it but you will get used to it"* was one reply to a question. It was said in the tone much used by prison warders and army sergeant-majors and it was clear that the 'pro-wheelies' would not stand for any dissent.

Other residents have been told that

they are responsible for the disposal of the waste as it was their fault there was any waste at all. When challenged about this simplistic line of thought, it seemed to be based on the idea that supermarkets and food manufacturers were responsible in the first place for elaborate packaging, but that you are responsible in the second place for unwrapping it and putting it in dustbins!

It is clear that the plight of pensioner residents having to scrabble about among food remains and garden waste (in a bin already nick-named "meals on wheels") is of little concern to those forcing the sorting of wheelie waste upon us. Waste managers are clearly not respecters of persons.



The suggestion that employees of the District Council should do the sorting seems to them akin to blasphemy despite the fact that residents pay council tax to cover this rubbish service. Mention of council tax payments merely launches a threat that if you don't all buckle down to wheelie washing and waste sorting the council tax will soar next year.

Waste disposal seems to have attracted a fascist mindset - look at your leaflet and you will see that you will have to have your wheelie bins on the boundary of your property by 7am *"with the handle facing outwards"*, which caused a visitor to the recent 'Roadshow' to say he was not going to wheel his bin back to his house unless

the handle was pointing inwards! He should read on: *"We will only empty your containers if they are at the boundary of your property"*.

Don't think that your problems will be as small as that. Not far ahead are fines for bins being left out - in Nottingham fines of up to £1000 are proposed for householders who leave their bins out on the pavement for more than two days. Other UK councils are expected to follow suit. Nottingham is raising a force of council wardens. They will photograph bins that are left out too long for use as evidence in court.

Don't think the idea of fines is far-fetched. Stickers are already printed saying that this sack or this wheelie bin contains the wrong waste. Such wrong-doing will result in the bin or sack remaining uncollected. Don't think it won't happen - it already has in Loddiswell, complete with pre-printed stickers.



Talk of fines to those concerned in the South Hams and you will find they seem to think it the right thing to do. *"People must do things properly or they will be fined"*. And those who don't pay the fine may find themselves in court and the subject of an Anti-Society Behaviour Order.

Wheelie madness begins here:

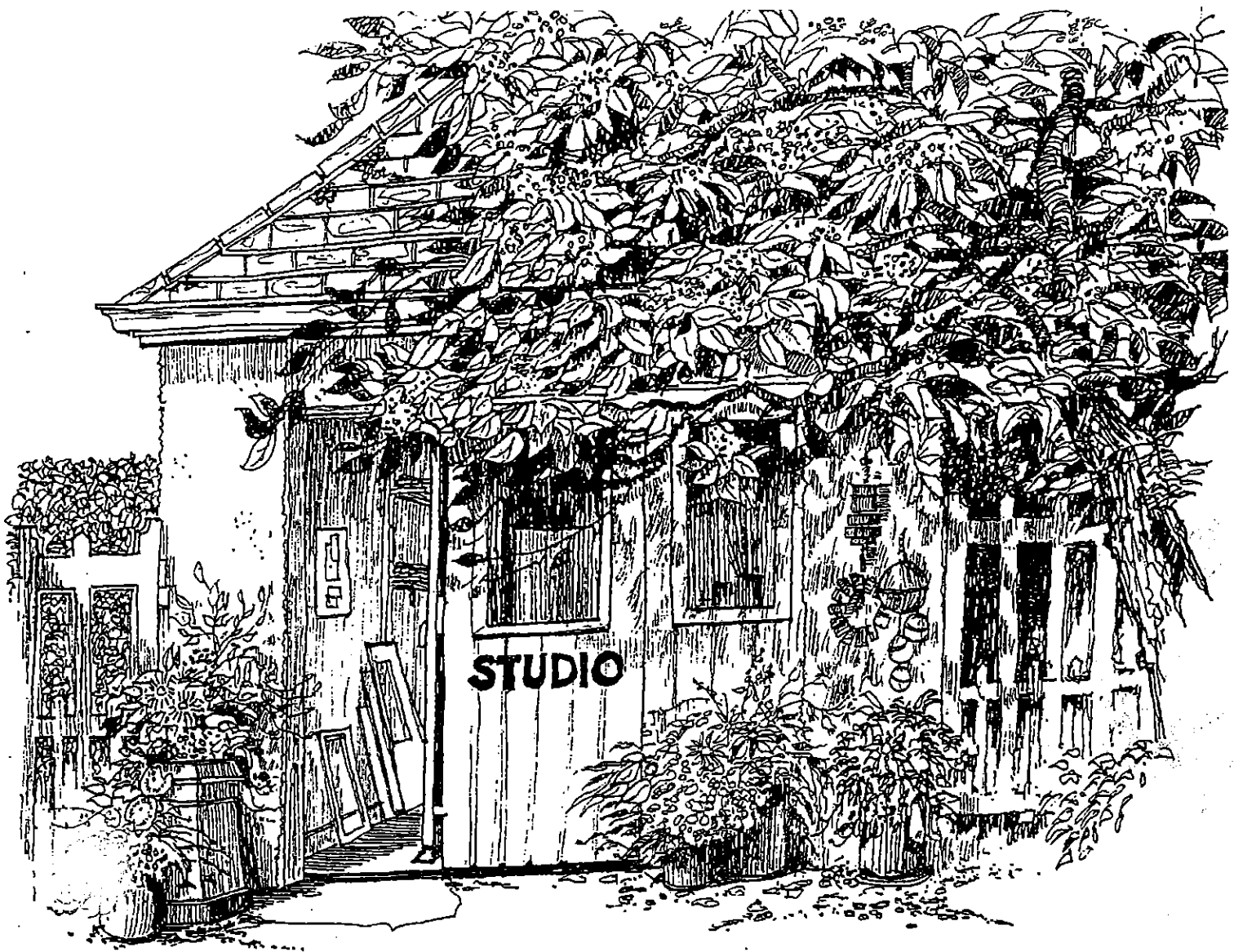
* Did you know that some caretakers of holiday homes which are let during the summer are in revolt - they say they are not prepared to delve into other people's rubbish to ensure the correct articles are in the correct container? Holiday-home owners will attract no sympathy and seem a likely target for fines. The solution for the owners is to pay business rates on their property, then all waste from the property is classed as business waste and goes unsorted into special green sacks which are collected weekly. Fifty green sacks will cost you £56 from SHDC, but you might save on the business tax rate.

* Do you think a resident could sue the council if our local vandals had wheelie bin races down the streets and crashed into someone? Will unattended wheelie bins be launched by vandals down any steep hill? Will wheelie-boarding be the next road sport?

* Could you sue if you were injured while being forced by the council to put your waste into a wheelie? Do you need a licence to push a wheelie about? Will your insurance cover you?

Do look out, there may be a wheelie bin warden about! They won't respect us either.

Villager



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THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th April 2005

During the past year there have been ten full Council Meetings, with an average of 80% attendance. One meeting was cancelled at the last minute due to sickness and premature lambing! My apologies to parishioners who were inconvenienced by this. There have also been numerous extra meetings at which decisions had to be made within a time scale that did not fit in with the monthly meetings, and Councillors have attended outside meetings on a range of topics.

Cathy Tavender, our Parish Clerk, has certainly settled in well and has been able to give us advice and guidance on a range of matters. We certainly appreciate Cathy's dedication, help and hard work, not to mention the odd prodding. We are also grateful to our local District Councillor, **Shonaugh Rankin**, who has attended many of our meetings and taken up the cudgels on our behalf with the South Hams Council.

This year life in the parish has been rather dominated by the new Parish Hall project. In May the project was struggling, having been turned down by the National Lottery. However, the Parish Hall committee refused to be daunted by this blow and carried on with the fund-raising and following up every lead that presented itself. In November they were rewarded with a major grant from DEFRA [*Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*]. This was followed by a grant from this Council which took out a loan from the Public Works Loan Board, repayable over 30 years. But fundamental to the approval of these grants was the fact that the parishioners themselves had raised a massive £120,000 which demonstrated to outside agencies the wholehearted backing

and commitment which they were giving to the project. The many fundraising events also produced an amazing side-effect: that of bringing the parish together as a community. Long may it last.

Footpaths have once again been the subject of many discussions. Erosion of the cliff continues in an accelerated manner with the constant requirement for the cliff paths to be moved. The subsequent blocking of the stream by Leasfoot beach is an ongoing worry to the many parties involved. We are pleased that the footpath down the side of Warren Hill has finally been completed by Devon County Council with financial backing from this Council. The final result has produced some positive comment.

We are pressing ahead with taking over control of the green area in Island View and hope to complete formalities with the South Hams District Council within the next few weeks.

Car parking space - or the lack of it - has no solution in sight, with the problem about to be exacerbated during the forthcoming summer months with the building of the new parish hall. We hope residents and visitors alike will show forbearance and patience during this period. One other problem which concerns us is that of dog-fouling, and sadly it is a fact that parishioners and their dogs are as much to blame as visitors. The Clean Neighbourhood & Environmental Bill, currently before Parliament, will give local authorities more powers to tackle such problems.

At the end of May the new refuse collection

system will be up and running and in fact the first collection is already scheduled for the week beginning 29th May. A great deal of speculation has been put about on this subject, but I think it fair to wait and see how it all settles down before we pass judgment. We would envisage inviting the head of waste management, **Verity Palk**, to address one of our meetings when the time is ripe.

This year the parish precept is up by 94.1% and this increase is to cover the repayment of the loan from the PWLB for the Parish Hall grant.

There is growing pressure for Parish Councils to achieve what is called 'Quality Status'. In the main this is the responsibility of the Parish Clerk but nevertheless there is spin-off for Councillors and, one is led to believe, advantages for councils: if not now,

then certainly in the near future. In the past we have rather glossed over it, but during the coming year I feel we should study it in some depth.

I would like to finish by thanking all your Parish Councillors for giving their time and wisdom to the Council for the benefit of the community, and I would also like to thank those parishioners who have attended our meetings and given us their thoughts and advice. My final thanks are to the *Village Voice* for publishing details of our meetings and in particular to the anonymous 'Citizen' who has been the Council correspondent for many a year, and who is shortly deserting our parish for pastures new. We extend to **Derek and Sally Yeoman** all good wishes for the future.

Kit Marshall

THURLESTONE SPEED MONITORING

The Parish Council has had a letter from Devon County Council, whose staff carried out a traffic monitoring survey, between 3rd January and 6th February this year, outside the Parish Hall. The results make interesting reading:

<u>Direction of travel</u>	<u>Mean Speed</u>	<u>85th percentile</u>	<u>Number of cars</u>
Eastbound	23.8 mph	30 mph	557
Westbound	22.0 mph	30 mph	574

They go on to say:

"As you can see, the mean speed recorded is less than 30 mph in both directions, but more importantly the 85th percentile is exactly 30 mph. It is this figure that the best practice guide recommends be used to determine the appropriate speed limit for a road. Of course individual drivers should still drive appropriately for any given road condition such as other road usage, time of day, and weather. For your information, the 85th percentile has been statistically proven to be the speed at which fewest collisions occur.

In the light of these survey results, a 20 mph limit would not be appropriate. However, I shall continue to look at the feasibility of installing a virtual footway between the school and the hall and will consider what other measures could be installed to help reduce vehicle speeds."

**So it's "Well Done! All you careful and considerate Thurlestone drivers.
Keep it up! And three cheers for the 85th percentile."**

Parish Council Meeting

9th May 2005

News and Views by Citizen

The meeting was well attended - filling almost to capacity the temporary accommodation kindly afforded by the Thurlestone Hotel. This made a pleasant contrast with the Annual Parish Meeting, held at the school, when those 'below the salt' had to sit on diminutive perches - an attempt to sort out the men from the boys or girls as the case may be.

Dog-poo

Despite the fact that the parish has one of the most extensive footpath networks in the South Hams and is a paradise for dog-walkers, no money is available for any more bins. Will pooches, and their owners, please co-operate by not discarding foul plastic bags in the hedgerows? A simple spade and a strong right (or left) arm will suffice.

Trees

Bushes inter-planted with the pines on the war memorial green are not flourishing. Should the pines be punished by felling, thinning or lopping? How old are the pines? (Quite antique, it was suggested, as **Derrick Yeoman** had assisted at their planting!) One or other of the offending pines is for the chop but, being a conservation site, the matter will be referred to the Tree Protection Officer in Totnes.

Roads

Can the parish have a 20 mph speed limit like most of the surrounding parishes? The Council had done a traffic and speed checks near the school - *see the report elsewhere in this issue*. Bollards placed on the road outside the school are carefully marshalled every day by **Councillor Mitchelmore**. Some parents, it was reported, show no respect and shift the bollards. In one instance a parent left a car dangerously parked, with a baby left on the back seat.

Wheelies

After a bit of probing, it turns out that this new threat to our rural idyll is not part of a great Brussels conspiracy, but simply a laudable attempt to save rate-payers' money. Except that some people don't like the idea, so Brussels is blamed.

Only residents with built-in facilities for housing the bins will be required to participate. Second-home owners, holiday flat chains and most of the older houses in the parish will continue to get weekly collections. But second home owners will be asked to switch to a business rate, thus saving themselves on the cost of their rates and of increasing the cost of the scheme to the rate-payer. Would residents' refuse continue to be collected from the (back) door-step or would they be obliged to park their bins on the highway - so that they can be fined for obstruction? No-one seemed to know, but we are assured that it will be all right on the (fort)night. D(elivery) day is the 28th May. *Residents beware!*

Drainage

Plans for a new pumping station at Buckland are progressing well and residents will be asked if they wish to connect - a contribution will be expected. No such luck at Bantham, where the simpler option of discharge into the Avon will continue.

Security

Chairman **Kit Marshall** asked all residents, with the approach of the holiday season, to tighten up on their security. We are a law-abiding community but some of our more casual visitors may take advantage of our trusting lifestyle.

Citizen

PARISH HALL NEWS

By Chairman Ron Parkin

Our dream of a New Hall is rapidly becoming a reality.

The demolition squad made short shrift of the home of all those activities of the last fifty years that have done so much to bind the parish together. Now is the time for all of us to break free from the restrictions imposed by the old hall, and let our imaginations run loose on new usages and reinvigorated current activities. The Parish Hall Committee want to hear from you!

The local builders **Rogers and Patey**, as expected, have made an excellent start. The Construction Committee met on site on the last Friday of April, and, on the advice of our experts, **Paul Carpenter** and **Malcolm Northmore**, were able to approve payment for all the work done to that date on the foundations and steel work, amounting to over £70,000. This procedure will be followed every month during the project, meeting on-site on the last Friday in the month to monitor progress against schedule and to approve payment.

Photographs of the initial work and a short account have been posted on the hall notice board outside the Post Office; this will be updated month by month.

Meanwhile we have every reason to be grateful to the several residents who are giving of their time and expertise in evaluating and advising on options for the equipment and facilities within the new hall. The lighting, sound and projection equipment, for example, on which **Chris White** and **Malcolm**



LeGrice are doing invaluable work, is particularly complex. On the choice of flooring, after a sub committee visit to Exeter, the recommended oak flooring has been approved.

The decision on crockery has also been made so that we have it here ready to use on the next fund raising event – the opening of the Garden at Kerse by kind invitation of the owners **Stephen and Diana Parker-Swift**.

In August the gifted young pianist **Alexander Winter**, who gave a recital in the old hall two years ago and who graduated from the Trinity College of Music in 2004, will be returning to play for us in the Thurlestone Hotel on Tuesday 2nd August. Then on the Friday of that week, 5th August, after the great success of last year's event, there will be another Tennis Tournament at the Golf Club.

The fund-raising efforts on behalf of our new Parish Hall are demonstrably continuing apace, and also continue to provide a lot of good social enjoyment as well as adding to the balance sheet.

Since the last issue of Village Voice we have received a new grant of £25,000 from South Hams District Council, and also a further contribution of some £12,700 from DEFRA (subject to confirmation).

We remain confident that the new Hall will open as planned on the due date, and that it will be a building of which we can all be very proud indeed.

Village News Round-Up

Goodbye Derek & Sally

Derek and Sally Yeoman have just moved home to Woodbury and they will be much missed within our community. Village Voice is particularly grateful for the help they have given not only with deliveries but also, more recently, being responsible for distribution of the magazine. We wish them much happiness in their new place and hope they will come over and see us all from time to time. Perhaps when it is Village Voice collating day?

Congratulations

Donald Peach, son of Douglas and Doreen Peach of Seaview Terrace, has recently been awarded a Doctorate in Philosophy. Formerly a lecturer in Radiography at John Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, he now holds a position with the Ministry of Defence. Village Voice extends hearty congratulations to Donald on this prestigious attainment.

Keith Retires

Keith Farrelly has decided to retire after several years of providing our regular Puzzle Page. His final contribution appears in this issue. His copy was immaculately prepared and was always the first to arrive on the Editor's desk for each issue. We know that many readers have enjoyed the challenges that his page presented, and we shall be hard-pressed to find his successor. What about it, you puzzlers out there? Any offers?

July Exhibition

Local artists **Jeanne Barton** and **Beryl Noakes** are holding an exhibition of their work at the Thurstlestone Hotel from the 8th to 10th July inclusive, 10 am to 6 pm.

Presentation to Rowland

The Parish Hall committee had great pleasure in presenting their immediate past chairman, **Rowland Cole**, of Joseph's Garden, West Buckland, with a Time & Tide watch (very suitable for a sailor!) to mark his eight years of service as chairman.

South Hams Hospital

Jeanne Barton and **Eileen Perraton** are running their usual highly successful stall at the South Hams Hospital's League of Friends fair on Saturday 25th June on the Town Square, Kingsbridge, 10 to 12.30. They appeal to you for goods to sell - anything in the way of toiletries, soaps, shampoos, etc. for use in the bathroom. They will collect if you ring them - Jeanne on 560864 and Eileen on 560407.

This is an exciting time for our local hospital. Negotiations are taking place to improve and re-site the Minor Injuries Unit and the Friends hope to fund the majority of the cost. The Triangle Centre has also asked them to provide a further £15,000 to enable the centre to continue its weekly clinics at the hospital. This would bring the total donated by the Friends to this project since 2003 to £45,000.

Since 1974 the Friends have raised from the local community over £1 million.

Who's the new face?

Regular customers of the Village Post Office and Store will have noticed a new face behind the counter there. It belongs to **Ann Moss**, from Kingsbridge, and we all wish her well in her new role. Go on, give her your best welcoming Thurstlestone smile!

RECYCLING UPDATE

(ROLL ON THE WHEELIE-BINS)

The South Hams Council report that since the new recycling and waste collection scheme started in January 2005 at Slapton, Strete, Stoke Fleming and parts of Dartmouth, over 40% of household waste is now being recycled or composted. By the time you read this, Thurlestone parish may already have had its two new wheelie-bins delivered to every house where there is suitable storage space for them, as well as a helpful information leaflet about the new arrangements.

The **BROWN** wheelie-bin (for food waste, some garden waste and brown cardboard) will have its contents taken direct to a composting facility near Newton Abbot to be turned into good quality compost.

The **GREY** wheelie-bin (for all materials that cannot be recycled or composted through this scheme including disposable nappies and other types of plastics such as yoghurt pots and wrappings) will have its contents sent to landfill.

The **BLUE** and **CLEAR** recycling **plastic sacks** will continue to be used, and the contents of these will be taken for reprocessing into new newspapers, cardboard, plastic piping, aluminium and steel products = and even fleece jumpers!

FANCY A DAY OUT?

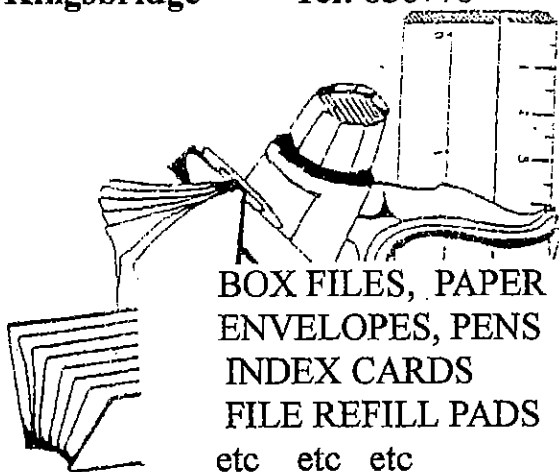
AT THE SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL'S COAST & COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS

- ✓ **Friday 16th June** - Stone walling at Soar. Try your hand and learn the art on a beautiful coastal farm. Meet 10 am at East Soar Farm near Marlborough. Wear stout boots and take a packed lunch. Book a place or make enquiries on 01752-346585
- ✓ **Saturday 25th June** - Flowers & Fossils at 'Crinoid Cove'. Take a stroll from Ringmore to Ayrmer Cove looking at coastal wild flowers along the way. Turn detective to search for crinoids, bryozoans and ancient corals in the rocks, then see the current inhabitants of Ayrmer Cove's rock pools on a ramble over the shore. Meet at the NT car park at Ayrmer Cove, 12.30 pm, return around 4 pm. Some scrambling over slippery rocks involved! Take a packed lunch. Enquiries on 01803-861384.
- ✓ A new leaflet ***The Avon Estuary*** is now available for 45p from Tourist Information Centres and local shops, pubs and cafes. Produced by the South Hams District Council it guides you on a walk beside the River Avon from Bigbury Bay through one of the most unspoilt valleys in Devon. Using the Avon ferry, the Avon Estuary Walk offers a glorious nine mile circular route through fields and woods, by waterside cottages and along the tidal road. The ferry operates between Easter and September,

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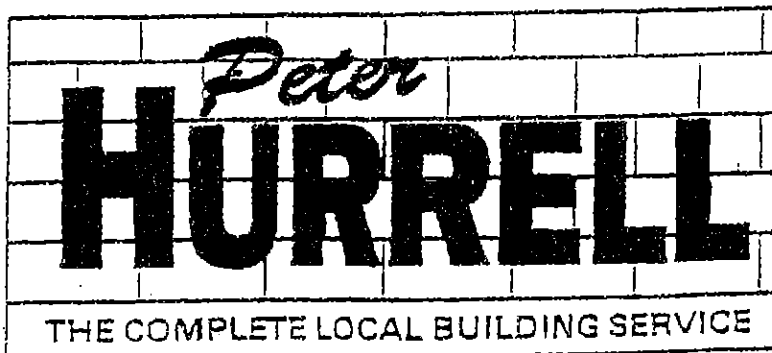
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Saints**

RECTOR:

Revd. Andrew Girling 562219

Andrew Girling writes:



THE ENVIRONMENT

Can I offer for you to ponder, three quotations on probably the most important issue facing mankind. An issue which was almost totally ignored during the election campaign. Two come from a world-famous scientist and the other from a famous Christian leader.

We're just beginning to realise that the earth is in a shocking condition. We're going to hell on a handcart, and going faster and faster.

We are tribal animals and our loyalty is to the tribe. It is very hard to get our minds round anything bigger.

Professor James Lovelock CH CBE FRS

I don't think God is going to ask us how he created the earth, but he will ask us what we did with what he created.

*Rich Cizik, US National Association of Evangelicals
Leading a think tank on global warming*

Andrew

Church fête

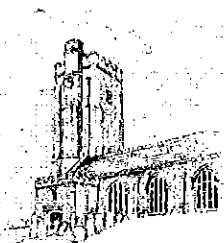
SATURDAY JULY 23RD 2 P.M.

TOYES ORCHARD

**Various Stalls & Sideshows
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Entrance £1 (Children under 14 free)

Proceeds in aid of the new church lighting



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

JUNE 19TH

6.00 p.m. Evensong (BCP) at Churchstow

JULY 10TH

3.00 p.m. Sea Sunday Outdoor Service at South Milton (see

JULY 31ST

6.00 p.m. Outdoor Songs of Praise at Buckland posters)

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

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1.45 p.m. Under 5s Contact: Scilla Grose 560375, Janet Fraser 562417

THURSDAYS

6.00 p.m. Youth Group (secondary age) Contact: Gill Durden 560509

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12.30 p.m. Soup & Ploughman's (1st Friday) in aid of new church lighting

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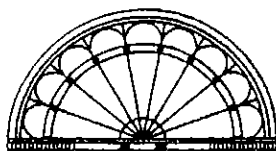
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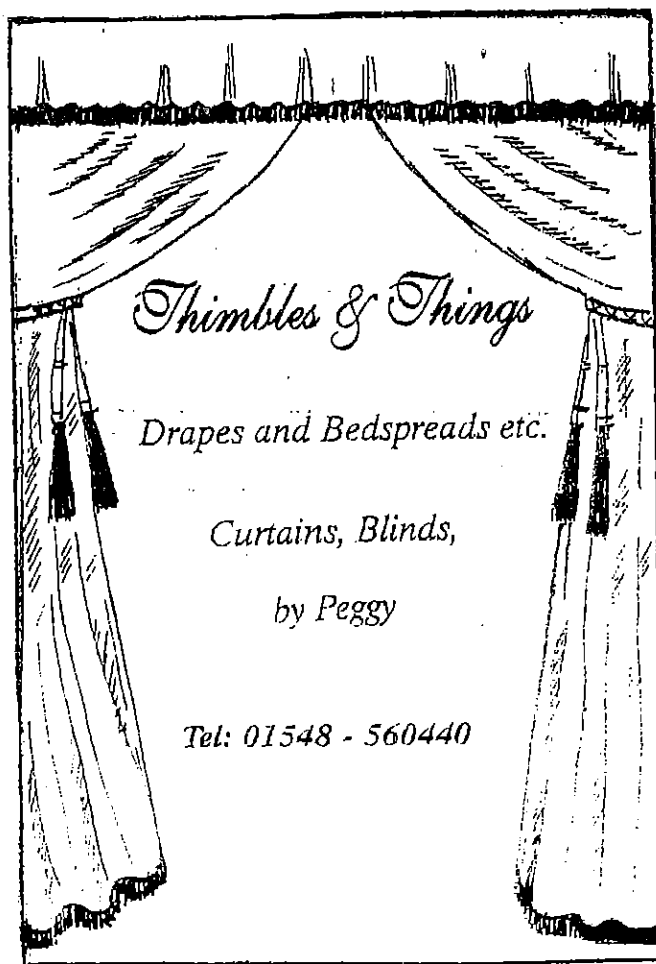
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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



Juniors Section Newsletter

It has been a roller-caster start to Thurlestone Juniors' competitive season. Having been surprisingly knocked out of the Basil Steer Trophy at the first hurdle by Teign Valley, the youngsters bounced back by winning their first round tie of the Tamar Cup.

This trophy is played for by junior teams from Devon and Cornwall, with the first round ties all being a 'battle' between the two counties. The Thurlestone team took on St Austell at Staddon Heights and recorded a resounding 3-0 victory. The team that day consisted of Jono Franke and Andrew Gibbens, Jack Wallace and Tim Bromfield, and Adam Baker and Ben Bromfield.

In the league, our first match was against local rivals Bigbury, and resulted in a narrow 3-2 defeat. However, great encouragement can be taken from the fact that in the absence of some of our more senior junior members, youngsters Jack and Ted Taylor performed admirably, showing the strength in depth that the coaching and get-togethers on Monday evenings is producing.

Alec Esplin
Golf Chairman

Tennis Section Newsletter

The introduction of a knock-out doubles tournament has been enthusiastically received and no doubt the players' diaries will be filled with tennis dates!

Our inter-club evening has been changed from Friday to **Wednesday** and will be from 5.30 pm starting 1st June.

We are very much hoping that local residents will come down to the courts to enjoy the tennis, strawberry-and-cream teas, and Pimms on the 5th August - in aid of the new Parish Hall building fund.

The summer holiday programme, coaching sessions, junior and senior tournaments, start on Monday 8th July. Tournament and coaching entry lists are posted in the pavilion. Non-members can join as weekly or week-end temporary members in order to play in our events.

Here are some Tennis Section contacts:

Linda Cant	01548-560896
Claire Drinkwater	01548-561112
Lindsey Fletcher	01548-560157
Janet Richardson	01548-856007

MIDSUMMER BALL

John Jacobs writes : "If my memory is correct, not since 1997 will Thurlestone Golf Club have seen anything quite as grand as our intended **Midsummer Ball** to be held on **Saturday 25th June**. Black tie is the order of the day. A pagoda erected on the patio will be the venue for dancing to a six-piece band. After a glass of Pimms, a sumptuous 3-course meal will be served to 100 members and their partners in the Club House. Tickets are numbered and a draw will take place for one lucky number to win a gift. During the evening a raffle will take place and I am sure a good time will be had by all. For further information and availability of tickets please contact the Club House".

Peter Laugher's Column

My next-door neighbour, Les Lever, asked me if I would caddie for him. "I'll pay you" he said. "What's a caddie?" I asked. He explained that I would carry his golf clubs around 18 holes and he would pay me. To a sporty 13-year old, it seemed like money for old rope - until I saw the size of the golf bag. So off we went. He stood on the first tee, took out the biggest club and had a swing. The ball stayed where it was and I laughed. He looked rather embarrassed and said "If you think it is easy, you try". So I did, and I missed it as well.

And here I am, thirty-five years later, the Golf Professional at Thurlestone Golf Club, a "teacher" of the game. There can be no finer reward than seeing a pupil launch that little white ball off into the air and then watching a huge smile light up their face. But coaching is not all we Golf Professionals do these days. We train assistants to become professionals and retail everything to do with golf - clubs, clothing, shoes, in fact every conceivable product a golfer might require for with the vast improvements in technology over recent years it is important that players are properly equipped. For the golf club we collect fees, book tennis courts, pass on information, issue score cards on competition days, and many more things that, hopefully, ensure a good day's golf is had by members and visitors alike.

My first employer always used to say that if you enjoy your work you should endeavour to put something back into it. And following his advice I became involved in committee work within the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA), culminating four years ago by being nominated by my fellow Professionals to be the Chairman of the West Region PGA. The region covers South Wales, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall and has 645 PGA Professionals of whom 112 are trainees. The main focus of our activity is to provide tournaments for Professionals to play in, and this year's total prize fund will be in the region of £350,000. The main part of that will be generated by Pro-Am tournaments,

where Professionals play with Amateurs from clubs all across the region.

The PGA covers the whole of the UK and is made up of seven regions - West, East, South, North, Midland, Scottish, Irish and WPGA (Womens) and the chairperson from each of these regions sits on the National Executive Committee, which is the top management committee of the PGA. The eight of us, along with our Association's Chief Executive and Chairman, meet five times a year at our HQ, which is based at the De Vere Belfry Hotel and Golf Course complex in Sutton Coldfield. We have a suite of offices, with approximately 70 full-time staff and our National Training Academy where 400 'Trainee Golf Professionals' a year go to study on residential courses.

They study such topics as the body in golf, diet and nutrition, bio-mechanics, sports science, psychology and business management by means of postal-based course work and annual examination, culminating with their final exams at the end of year three. The Executive Committee is responsible for planning the way forward for the PGA and we deal with issues regarding the Ryder Cup, the training programme for trainees and the continuing professional development programme for fully-qualified Professionals - who now have to embrace further education to keep pace with the requirements of a modern Professional.

Our latest subject is the formation of a licensing body to meet the Government's requirements for the future of coaching. Soon every sports coach will have to be licensed and meet with stringent guidelines that will involve such items as child protection and criminal records bureau checks - to name but two. The PGA is endeavouring to be that licensing authority for golf.

After reading minutes of meetings and studying for my Advanced PGA Diploma I do occasionally find time to play a round of golf, the one thing I started out, all those years ago, wanting to do!

Peter Laugher

A REPORT FROM THE LADY CAPTAIN

Activity is now gathering speed as the new golf season gets under way, and the ladies have plenty to play in with a different competition every week. Some of these, the monthly medal and the monthly Stableford competitions, are testing events as they are the only opportunities we have to alter our handicaps now that Extra Day cards are no longer allowed.

Club mornings, usually played over nine holes, will not resume until the late autumn, and have now been replaced with eighteen-hole competitions, as the ladies want their full value when coming to play. Instead, we have friendly matches against other clubs, and events such as the recent successful **Iris Hardy Fun Day**, played annually in memory of a popular member who, sadly, died of cancer eleven years ago.

Her husband, who still lives here, set up a trust fund to pay for this day, providing a glass of wine for all players as well as handsome prizes. This is played with a 'shotgun start', with at least four players on every tee. This year a record number of ladies entered, no fewer than 84 participating. The winners were **Tish Mawhood**, the Lady Vice-Captain, and **Sally Rossiter**. The event was also successful in raising £403 for the cancer ward at Derriford Hospital.

The most recent event was the **Ladies' Championship**, played over 36 holes of scratch medal play - quite a test of consistent golf for anyone. **Lindsey Fletcher** retained her title, ten shots clear of her nearest rival, **Tish Mawhood**. The Ford Salver, presented by Thurlestone resident and past Lady Captain of the Club, **Angela Ford**, for 36-hole medal play on handicap was won for the third year running by **Lesley Davey**, who pipped **Ann Best** by one shot on the second round.

The Club is also now well into the match

season, running no fewer than four teams in the prestigious Devon county inter-club competitions, but that is no trouble to us as our ladies' section is the largest in the county and one of the largest in the country.

Lots more to look forward to, if only the weather will be kind to us.

- # On 10th June we host the DCLGA Silver Open, when the best lady golfers in the county come to compete at Thurlestone (well worth watching!).
- # On 8th June we hold our Bronze Open (Handicaps 21-36).
- # On 22nd June it is Lady Captain's Day.
- # On 1st July we hold our own Silver Open.

It's a lot to ask for them all to be fine days, but we can live in hope. If it doesn't rain we will be quite happy.

Best of good fortune to all participants!

Jenny Underhill
Lady Captain

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by
Alexander Winter

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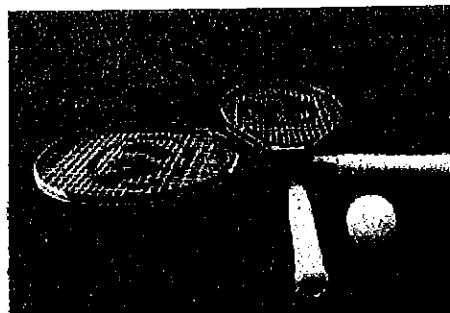
Thurlestone Grass Court Tennis Doubles Tournaments 2005

28th May

Open Mixed Doubles

Round Robin - 2pm to 5 pm

Contact : Roddy Hill (01548-560524)
Cream Teas served



5th August

Parish Hall Doubles

Round Robin - Mixed Ladies & Gentlemen - 2pm to 6pm
Boys & Girls - 10 am to noon

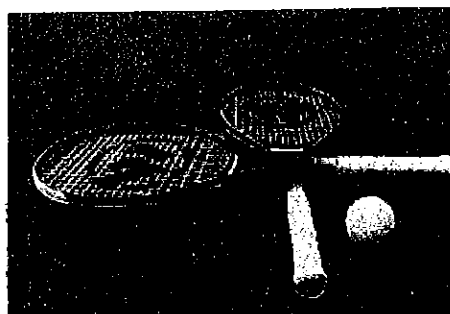
Contact : Janet Richardson (01548-856007)
Morning coffee, lunches, cream teas etc.

13th August

Bryan Brown Cup

Round Robin - Mixed 2pm to 6 pm

Contact : Roddy Hill (01548-560524)
Cream Teas served



4th September

Thurlestone Open Doubles

Round Robin - Mixed Ladies - 2 pm to 6pm

Contact : Lindsey Fletcher (01548-560157)
Cream Teas served

Entry Lists and Forms are pasted on pavilion notice board

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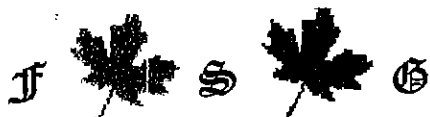
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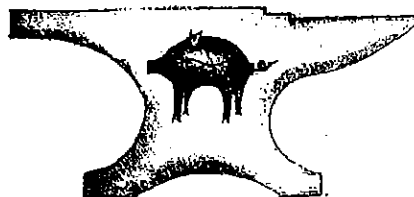
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RECOLLECTIONS OF THURLESTONE'S VE-DAY 1945 CELEBRATIONS

There was a sudden announcement of two days' holiday to celebrate victory in Europe but farmers (I was one with my father) were told not to let celebrations interfere with our daytime work. Our celebrations should be held over until the evening as food shortages made our continued production essential.

I do not remember exactly what work father and I were doing on the farm that day, but my wife has reminded me (from her diary) that I called for her early and we went on a pub crawl - first to the Sloop Inn at Bantham, then the Thurlestone Hotel and finally the Links Hotel. This was in the days before we were married. Peggy lived at her home in Bantham, but was a Wren with a contingent attached to the Royal Marine Officers' Training Unit at the Thurlestone Hotel.

Spirits were high, thoughts of war were lifted from our shoulders and brought special smiles even though there was still fighting in the Far East - but that was on the other side of the world. On the morning of Tuesday, 8th May, there was a thanksgiving service at All Saints Church, Thurlestone, which the WRNS and Royal Marines attended but then they were given the rest of the day off. Next day, Wednesday, was also a public holiday but a sad event marred our celebrations.

The RM Colonel-in-Chief had earlier been watching his troops exercising and firing across a valley, using live ammunition. He was seated in a vehicle with his adjutant and driver. The vehicle had bullet-proof side screens but an open top. The Colonel, reputed to be somewhat mad, said "*Come on, let's drive through the firing!*" On the valley-side slope the tilted vehicle top was open to the line of fire and sadly the Colonel, because of his own folly, received a bullet through his head.

His funeral had been arranged for 11 am on the 9th May before the announcement of the

VE celebrations and out of respect the parish was asked to subdue their activities that day until after the service. A football match had been arranged for that morning between the services and the village team, of which I was captain, and this of course was put off until the afternoon.

For people younger than the war it is well to record that with wartime restrictions - rationing of food, petrol, and so on, the "blackout" and the banning of some of our entertainments - the pubs became important social meeting places. The war motto for many seemed to be 'Work hard, play hard' and, as eating was rationed, 'Drink and be merry for you may be dead tomorrow' was added on! The breweries could hardly keep up with demand - beer arrived in barrels frothy and still fermenting.

Petrol remained on ration until the 1950s, but the "blackout" was lifted with VE day. When it had been in operation not the slightest chink of light was allowed to show - not even a match struck to light a cigarette - for fear an ARP Warden, or someone, would shout out, or knock on your door, saying "*Put that light out!*" Fines were imposed on offenders. Food rationing was really felt, especially in cities, but country areas fared better with a variety of off-ration items available....and there was always the Black Market (i.e., illicit trading in rationed goods).

In each of the two World Wars many of Britain's incoming food-bearing ships were sunk by a ring of German submarines - at one stage in WW2 the country was reduced to just two weeks' supply of essential foodstuffs - and the enemy believed that hunger would bring about our submission. Thanks to the courage of our navy and other armed forces, however, they were proved to be wrong.

Hubert Snowden

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. Beatle City
2. Coming back
3. On a small scale
4. A demanding task
5. He expects the worst
6. "Allsorts"
7. Crushed stone or concrete
8. Chancellor of the
9. Newspaper leader
10. Renowned Italian conductor
11. Wood washed ashore
12. Keep things oiled
13. Make much stronger
14. Former Royal Yacht
15. "Jack & the"
16. Impulsive
17. Keep your valuables here
18. He designs buildings
19. Temporary water outlet
20. He shoots films
21. ???

IAT	LUB	URN	DRI	ONG	PES	ICE
IMP	NDP	BRI	HEQ	TEL	STA	RET
UER	ALK	LIV	RIC	CAN	NGE	STR
LLE	BOX	AGG	ETU	MIN	MAN	EDI
RCE	ING	SIM	ECT	FTW	ERP	TOS
TOR	ATE	BEA	CHA	EPA	TAN	LIQ
OOL	INI	REG	IPE	OUS	EXC	ERA
UOR	REI	HIT	NIA	URE	THY	NST
OOD	ATE	ARC	IAL	CAM	NFO	IST

TEN TEASERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When did the Romans invade Britain? 2. What is the name for the largest of penguins? 3. Which is the furthest planet from the sun? 4. Who was the first English cricketer to be knighted? 5. What is the name for a young hare? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. What title is given to the wife of an Earl? 7. What does "The Monument" in London commemorate? 8. Which is Britain's largest Royal Palace? 9. What is the Roman name for Exeter? 10. What is the principal language spoken in Cuba? |
|--|--|

HARRY HUGGINS TURNS OVER A LEAF OR TWO

The history of birds is an obscure one: though not if you are a creationist - one who believes in the literal truth of the Bible and that the world was created as spelled out in Genesis. In the 17th century James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, calculated that the world was created on the 23rd October 4004 BC. No, he was not a crackpot, but a highly-regarded scholar who worked from the only information available to him, the Bible and various Greek and Aramaic texts. Even Isaac Newton took his dates seriously. I don't know how many creationists there are in Britain today, but in the USA there are stacks of them.

It follows that no species of bird is older than 4004 BC, that they were all created then, and that there have been no subsequent changes. Carl Linne (his name is usually Latinised to Linnaeus), who invented the present system of giving all birds, animals, plants, etc. a scientific name of two words, was a creationist. They all were (well, nearly all), until Charles Darwin came along. In the mid-nineteenth century Darwin and Russel Wallace put the cat among the pigeons by expounding the theory of evolution. The churches were furious. The Bible was the fount of all truth, and Darwin's theory said it was wrong - as Sportin' Life sang in *Porgy & Bess*, folks realised that "*The things that you're li'ble to read in the Bible, they ain't necessarily so*".

It is reckoned that a species of bird can last for millions of years. They do find fossils, but a little bird doesn't fossilise very well and the record is very incomplete. They found a bird-like thing dating back about 150 million years - Archaeopteryx. It had feathers and wings, and a long bony tail which must have stopped it from flying like modern birds do - maybe it clambered about in trees and glided like those flying squirrels which have a flap of skin from front to hind leg on each side. I don't suppose that our modern birds are descended from Archaeopteryx but they must have stemmed from something similar.

Darwin's theory depends on change, gradual change over long periods of time. He didn't

know how it all worked (genes hadn't been discovered in his day); but we are not all exactly like our parents. There are very small changes which occur - and if a change can make something a little more successful in its lifestyle, then it will have more progeny

than the ones which haven't changed. Of course a change may make no difference, or make something less successful. Then it dies out. We are told how Darwin's finches on the Galapagos Islands developed into different species. You don't have to go that far - go to Tenerife and drive up the slopes of Mount Teide. In the pine forests quite high up you will find a Chaffinch. The males sing very like our Chaffinches, but they are bigger than our males and are bright blue all over. They have changed.

I don't know of any books about the history of birds - and I probably wouldn't understand them anyway - but of late there has been a little flurry of publications about observers of birds. Highly entertaining is the little volume called "*Blokes and Birds*", compiled by Stephen Moss of the BBC Natural History Unit, in Bristol. That book is the simple one. Quite the opposite, however, is "*Beguiled by Birds - a History of British Bird Watching*" by Ian Wallace (this book is in the



Darwin (aged forty)



Kingsbridge Library). Moss calls Wallace the *Grand Old Man of British Birding*. In the third line he describes himself "Half Lowland Scot, half Highland ditto, with some heady drops of illegitimate

Stuart blood". The latter not difficult, surely: the Merry Monarch distributed his genes pretty liberally and he cannot have been the only Stuart to do that.

The book is marvellously produced, providing a quite narrow column of text on each page, with the wide margins containing Wallace's paintings of birds - he is a fine artist - and extracts from what other people have written. There are lots of photographs too, in which he appears like a stage Scotsman - he persists in going birding wearing a Scottish bonnet with a pom on top, and in one picture he is wearing a kilt. He was going with a group to Finland one July. Bearing in mind what traditionally a Scotsman wears under his kilt, and thinking of the midges and mosquitoes in such places in summer, one would have thought the kilt gave less than adequate protection.

At one time or another he has been editor of *British Birds* magazine (the old-established and really serious one), chairman of the British Birds rarities committee, a council member of the RSPB (he says he walked out of that) and he wrote and illustrated some of "*The Birds of the Western Palearctic*" - usually abbreviated to BWP. As well as countless articles besides. You marvel at what he has achieved, especially as until he retired he had a living to earn. But nearly all observers of birds are amateurs. You could say Sir Peter Scott was - to eat he painted pictures. Just about the finest bird-watcher of the last century was Peter Grant, who died tragically young - he was a salesman for Johnsons Wax.

After my father died, his collections (butterflies and moths, slugs and snails) went to the Natural History Museum in London. When the young boffins came to take it all away, I remarked that they must have an interesting life. They said oh no, doing natural history as a hobby was much more interesting, because you could go out and look for things, whereas they just spent their time in the museum cataloguing!

As a writer, Wallace doesn't believe in using one word where three will do and you have to read some of his contorted sentences more than once. For many of us who are old enough, the first field guide we had was the one by Roger Tory Peterson. An American, he was the artist - the words were by Guy Mountfoot and Phil Hollom,

European ornithologists. It is, or was, a simple little book with plain illustrations in which the key features of each bird were marked with arrows. Starting in America, the books made Peterson a rich man. The European one went through many impressions (ours is the eighth) and not long ago the authors asked Wallace to revise the letterpress. Why I do not know - birds haven't changed - but he did it, made it much more complicated, and Peterson was upset. Wallace didn't mind telling us this, any more than he minded telling us about comments on what he wrote for BWP. One man said it was "elegant and detailed"; another called it "pretentious waffle".

Wallace says he found his first rarity when he was 17 - the second Lesser Yellowlegs (an American vagrant) for Scotland - not difficult if there happens to be one to see. When we found one on the Avon in 1982 we knew instantly what it was, although we hadn't seen one before. But when the young man said he had found a Bonelli's Warbler, which is a very difficult little bird, people said that his visual acuity might be assisted by invention (that is how he put it). In other words, they accused him of 'stringing'.

He tells of Gilbert White, whose *Natural History of Selborne* was published in 1788, well before Darwin of course. One wonders what White would have made of evolution. He was a careful and accurate observer, having neither binoculars nor telescope, but he didn't hesitate to get people to shoot things for him. He was doubtless a good, kindly clergyman, but he still drowned little harvest mice in brandy. In Genesis God said "and let them have domination over the fish



Gilbert White's House at Selborne

of the sea and the fowl of the air...." White had Leaf Warblers shot for him to examine and was the first to realise that what was then called Willow Wren (any very small bird was called 'wren') was in fact three species - Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Wood Warbler.

He began to realise about migration. Daines Barrington, the second correspondent in the *Natural History of Selborne* (which consists of letters to Thomas Pennant and the said Daines Barrington) didn't hold with migration and no doubt still believed that birds laid up for the winter somewhere, just as Aristotle said that Swallows wintered at the bottom of ponds. White set people to dig under bushes and to take roofs off cottages to look for hibernating birds. The mere fact that they weren't his bushes doesn't seem to have troubled him, nor is it recorded what the cottagers thought when their roofs were taken off.

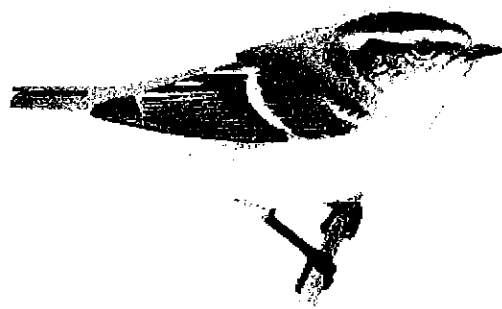
Wallace writes about our local ornithologist, George Montagu. He had a chequered career. He and his wife eloped, he left her and was thereby precluded from the family estates. He was commissioned in the Wiltshire Militia and was 'displaced' after a Court Martial for what offence I do not know - probably he quarrelled with his fellow-officers. Likewise he quarrelled with his son.

But after he took up with Elizabeth Dorville, a married lady, and came to live in Kingsbridge, he settled down. In 1802 he published an *Ornithological Dictionary* which formed the basis for peoples' bird studies for many years. Among other things, he identified our local Cirl Bunting (not so local then) which had been thought before to be just another variety of Yellowhammer. He studied Montagu's Harriers - which he called Ash-coloured Falcons - which must have nested then in the South Hams. They were named after him following his death. In the Kingsbridge estuary he found, and named, many aquatic creatures which previously were unknown. He died in 1815 after stepping on a rusty nail.

Wallace tells of the harvesting of birds. At about the end of the eighteenth century they were sending to London 6,000 ducks a week from one decoy (trap) near Ely; that was just one, there were lots of them. Thomas Pennant, who wrote during the same century, estimated

an annual catch of 48,000 Skylarks on the Dunstable Downs and 22,000 Wheatears on the South Downs above Eastbourne. They climbed down on ropes at Flamborough Head to take auk and gull eggs. A popular pastime was going below the cliffs in boats and shooting the adult birds which, dead or alive, just fell into the sea and were not recovered. In 1902 a London milliner placed an order for 10,000 Kittiwakes and Little Terns. It was things like this which got the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds started.

On a smaller scale, there were gentlemen roaming around with guns shooting little birds - one shot every migrating Willow Warbler he saw in the hope that it might prove to be something rare. It did happen. In the autumn of 1896 one Edward Ramm - a "bush" shooter who made, or supplemented, his living by killing birds to sell to collections - was out on the north Norfolk coast. He had a small dog (*you need a dog for this sort of thing, for a dog has what we don't possess - a nose to smell out hidden birds*) and she found a little bird in a tussock. It flew out, Ramm shot it - Britain's first ever Pallas' Warbler - about the size of a Goldcrest, olive green with a yellow stripe over each eye, another yellow stripe down the middle of its crown, two yellow stripes on each wing and, for good measure, a yellow rump. He sold it for £50, equivalent to about £4,000 today.



Pallas' Warbler

There is much more to this book than I have written about. Get it from the library and read it - you may even get to the end, which is more than I did!

Harry Huggins

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BOOKSHELF

The Diary of a Young Girl

by Anne Frank
(Penguin £6.99)

The version of Anne's diary which was originally published was severely cut by Otto, her father. Anne's shrewd and not always very kind remarks about those in hiding with her, especially her mother, "who did not understand her", were quite upsetting for him. This version of the diary, however, is the complete one.

She wanted to be a writer and indeed her writing is fresh and utterly heartbreaking as well as being a very important piece of history. It is the account of eight people - two families plus one - who lived together in hiding during the German Occupation of Holland. This was only possible because of the tremendous help and support they had, mainly from four former employees of Otto Frank. Supplies of food, books and magazines were provided and much-needed repairs were done, mostly to the plumbing. News of what was going on in the outside world were brought to them in spite of the very real risk to their helpers, one of whom still lives in Amsterdam. Towards the end of the diary, young Anne's writing is really inspiring, with incredibly profound and very optimistic thoughts.

JP

**These Is My Words -
The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine**
by Nancy Turner
(Hodder & Stoughton, 1998)

This is one of the best books I have read in years. The central character is a woman who begins her diary as a girl of 18 in 1881, when her family embarks on the wagon train from Arizona to Texas.

It is the story of a courageous woman building her life in the Wild West and coping with the harsh conditions of that period. Interwoven with this is an account of a moving love affair and about trust and loyalty. It is original and absorbing - do read it!

JB

44 Scotland Street

by Alexander McCall Smith
(Polygon £14.99)

If you read my reviews you will be aware that I am a fan of this author, and this is an absolutely wonderful book - probably his best so far. This novel first appeared as a series of 110 episodes in *The Scotsman* newspaper prior to being published as a book.

The stories revolve around the lives and circumstances of the residents of 44 Scotland Street, which is a fictitious building in a real street in the author's home city of Edinburgh. It demonstrates his exceptional insight into the field of human emotions - clever, elegant, witty, even hilarious at times - with such intimate pen pictures of the diverse characters that, by the end, one feels one knows them like old friends.

I have not enjoyed a book so much for a long time, and can only say that you must read it.

GW

Saturday
by Ian McEwan
(Cape £17.99)

This book describes one day in the life of Henry Perowne, a successful neurosurgeon. After a very busy Friday spent performing complicated operations - which are described

in great detail - Henry arrives home late and his wife is in bed asleep. Despite his tiring day for some reason he wakes at 3.40 am and, looking out of the window, sees a plane on fire. He goes downstairs to make a cup of tea and later chats to his son who is a Blues guitarist. He returns to bed and makes love to his wife - who just has time before she goes to work.

He then goes for a game of squash and on the way has a slight collision with another car. The game is tense and somewhat acrimonious. Returning home for a family reunion, he has a heated argument with his daughter, and meets his father-in-law, an eminent poet. That evening he is called out from the party to perform a very difficult emergency brain operation. Again he returns home very late and makes love to his wife.

What he does in the meantime I will leave you to find out - if you are so disposed. I have no doubt that Ian McEwan is a great novelist and that this is a very good novel, but I did not enjoy it and felt quite worn out after reading it!

GW

Focus on Europe

by Ronald Foster, DFC, Croix de Guerre
(The Crowood Press £19.95)

I wonder if today's youth realise that at the start of the 1939 war people were patriotic and brave enough to come from the other side of the world to fight for our cause.

This is the story of a young Kiwi who flew Mosquitoes on 69 reconnaissance and photographic missions far into enemy territory. He was unarmed and facing terrific odds and the book gives an insight into the highs and lows of life then as experienced by so many servicemen. This is an historic record and worth reading. Have book, will lend!

RM

The Alan Titchmarsh Collection

by Alan Titchmarsh
(Simon & Schuster £12..99)

Being an Alan Titchmarsh fan I am not amongst the ranks of those who say "Oh, not HIM again" as he pops up on yet another horticultural programme on television, or even 'fronting' promenade concerts. His writing for the gardening press is always good, but I didn't realise he wrote novels too.

That is not until a friend who knows I like my garden gave me this omnibus volume. It contains three separate novels, entitled *Mr McGregor* (264 pages), *The Last Lighthouse Keeper* (206 pages) and *Animal Instincts* (224 pages). I am just reviewing the first of these. A quick look at the dust-jacket blurbs gives you the flavour of it. "Great fun, but also sensitive and sensible" (Independent); "Humorous, light-hearted and unpretentious, ideal for romantic gardeners" (Mail on Sunday); "It's as satisfying as a newly-mown lawn" (Daily Mirror); and last but not least "A steamy novel of love amongst the gro-bags" (Observer). And they're all right!

The hero is a very personable young gardener, Rob, who has just made it to the big-time on television and is now much in demand from all sorts of people for all sorts of occasions and reasons - including being a sex symbol to some. I have no doubt that it must to some extent be based on his own experiences - I am not sure if that's true of the romantic bits - but certainly must be when it gets ever-so-slightly technical with what goes on in a television studio. And it's fun trying to identify which of his characters have been based on some of the people we see regularly on TV.

It's a great book to take on holiday; light, easy reading, a good story well told, with plenty of laughs along the way. Really a lot of Fun!

PM



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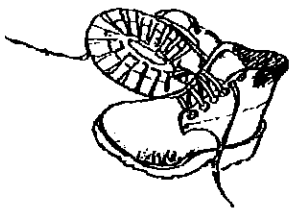
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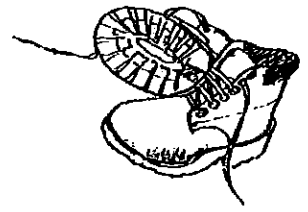
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TRAMP



1 Despite a poor weather forecast, Tuesday 5th April turned out to be a very pleasant day for our short and circular riverside walk from the Dartington Cider Press Centre. Thirteen members and Corrie, the senior black Labrador, assembled outside the leaders' house in Court Park - due to the non-availability of the Parish Hall car park.

After the 45-minute drive to Dartington we set off, in bright sunshine, through the woods. Soon after reaching the river we first heard, and then saw, a pair of woodpeckers busily drilling a nest-hole high up in the trees. The river was mirror-like with only a cormorant and several mallards rippling the surface. Half way round, in a field filled with wild daffodils, we exchanged waves with the children packing the steam train, this being the Easter holiday.

Just before climbing the hill to return to our starting point, our refreshment break was taken on a convenient pile of felled and trimmed conifers. The field next to the Centre was filled with Friesian cows, all of which were black and white except one which was brown and white and the only one with a complete row of birds sitting on its back! Following the walk, the group split between a local pub and *Cranks* vegetarian restaurant at the Centre at the finish of an enjoyable morning.

TW

2 On the 13th April a local walk from West Alvington, in a figure-of-eight, covering a little over six miles, brought out ten walkers along with two dogs. The forecast was not good but, as so often happens in this part of Devon, it turned out to be a cool but sunny day with not a lot of wind. One walker and a dog had to leave us shortly after the start due to a prior appointment, but the nine of us and one lonely dog pressed on.

We had hoped for a beautiful display of bluebells in West Alvington woods, but because of the disappointing spring the only real display was around the edges of the car park. The walk

continued across to Rope Walk in Kingsbridge and the long climb past Tacket Wood until, at the top of the hill, we turned on to a footpath which continued up hill and down dale to Easton. From there we went on to Auton before heading south to Woolston.

Another climb up from here took us to our lunch stop which was sunny, wind-free, and had a beautiful view across the estuary, then downhill after lunch to Collapit before picking up a footpath back to West Alvington. It had been a shorter walk than usual, but it had been very enjoyable.

DMY

3 Ten ramblers and two dogs set off from Dittisham on the 27th April to tackle the Dart Valley Trail - a circular walk via Dartmouth. In Dittisham car park we met a somewhat flustered Dutch couple who had to be 'lent' money for the parking meter as they only had a £20 note. It then transpired that they, too, were crossing on the ferry to Greenway so, after getting change from the 'ferryman' (a young girl!), all was repaid. It was the younger dog's first experience of a ferry boat but Bess soon got the hang of things and it was *vieux chapeau* by the time we crossed on the second ferry!

The long climb up through Greenway to the YHA (a fine Victorian house originally built for F. C. Simpson who built the shipyards down-river at Noss in 1891) was rewarded by a lovely show of bluebells and wild garlic in Long Wood. The woodland is mostly oak, some trees over 100 years old. Due to the damp environment, it is a good area to view lichen, moss and polypody ferns and is also a haven for many birds, mainly the tit family, buzzards, woodpeckers, etc. There was a notice alongside the track warning us to 'Beware of basking adders' but none was on show - although we did encounter a slow-worm later in the day!

Having crossed on the Higher Ferry, we had our picnic in the Bandstand Gardens which had stunning borders of red and yellow tulips - a

really magnificent show. Refreshed, we left Dartmouth via Brown's Steps (formerly called Slippery Causeway and which was the only route into Dartmouth until a turnpike road was built in 1823). Nearing Townstal we passed 'The Keep', the crenellated castle-like towers making it look much older than it is. At Townstal we saw St Clement's which is claimed to be the oldest church in the Dartmouth area.

Then it was over College Way and a long downhill walk to the creek, where the large house was once a mill, and soon we left the lane to start our long, slow, trek up a wet and stony track. This eventually emerged on to fields with lovely views over Paignton and Torquay. It was easier going as we passed Bozomzeal (formerly a monastery and visited by Sir Walter Raleigh) and then the fire beacon came into view, reconstructed in 1988 for the 400 year Armada celebrations. The chain of beacons was Raleigh's invention and could get news of the Spanish Armada from Brixham to London in under four hours. But enough of history!

It was then full steam ahead to Dittisham (famous for plums) where the leader had promised tea. The walkers were not to be disappointed and the 'Anchorstone' café provided a good tea which we were able to consume whilst seated outside admiring the view over the water to Greenway. We also met up again with our Dutch friends, who were at the café eating fish and chips having 'done' Greenway. Then it was back to the car park via the foreshore.

PW

4 Holidays, visitors, Friday golf, along with other reasons, including Election Day hangover, reduced the number of walkers to eight and one dog. 6th May was a lovely day when we set out on what is reportedly the flattest walk in Devon. Stover Park, Newton Abbot, is five miles long and varies dramatically from lakeside through dark woods then open fields alongside the Teign and back again by woods and the lakeside to the cars.

The estate was originally developed by James Templar in the eighteenth century. He made his money exploiting Dartmoor granite and ball clay. Apart from the estate, he developed a canal and railway to assist in moving the

material to the coast from thence to Europe and beyond. It takes about two hours or so, and is one of our walks that I can recommend to entertain those less-than-energetic visitors who are interested in the history of Dartmoor!

D&SY

5 The 'long' walk due on Wednesday 11th May was changed to a shorter one, plus garden visit based on Coleton Fishacre. Before setting off, however, the party of 13 paid a surprise visit to Derek and Sally Yeoman, two of the longest-standing members of TRAMP, to present them with a leaving present on the day of their move to Woodbury. As the removal lorry was totally filling their gateway, we had to get access to their garden up a stepladder conveniently placed against the wall.

They were indeed surprised at this friendly invasion and as they obviously were not going to get away that easily, they promised to arrange a walk or two for us in their new area next year. Having secured this pledge, the group finally set off for their walk on a beautifully sunny day.

The circular walk of about 4.5 miles took in some of the most dramatic scenery on the coastal path. Bluebells carpeted the woods. After climbing the 86 steps and long incline up from the late Col. H. Jones's house at Mill Bay cove, we reached the newly opened Coastwatch lookout station at Inner Froward Point. Here we met a BBC Television crew filming a piece on Coastwatch for breakfast television (we believe on the 6th June) and were immediately roped in to be filmed as a 'typical group of walkers' passing the lookout point. Having resolved the matter of our appearance fee, we continued on the walk and the crew departed for Prawle Point.

A picnic lunch was taken overlooking the Mew Stone before continuing on to finally enter Coleton Fishacre gardens at the lower gate. We all succumbed to tea and cakes at the NT Café, a not unusual occurrence for TRAMPs, before making the drive home.

TW

6 A small group of walkers arrived on Monday 16th May undeterred by the threat of bad weather and a strenuous

walk. Their dedication was rewarded by a lovely sunny day and waterproofs were thankfully packed away as we set off for Strete to walk the newly opened section of the S. West Coast Path.

The section between Strete and Stoke Fleming now allows walkers to walk along the cliff top with stunning views back to Slapton Sands and Start Point, and onward towards Dartmouth. There are new bridges, new stiles and a beautifully constructed 'pack' bridge. The walk does, however, incorporate a very steep section which we all felt might be better completed on a set of skis.

Early in the walk we were rewarded with the sight of some local skills in action; a roof being thatched and an elderly gentleman collecting wild watercress which he kindly allowed us to taste. Lunch was taken in Stoke Fleming, and suitably fortified we made our way back to Strete by the old coast path.

In opening the new section of path the South West Coast Path team have inadvertently provided TRAMP with a new 4 mile circular walk which was very enjoyable, and will surely become a very popular item in the future agenda.

LM

POSTBAG

Dear Horswell Diary

My name's Pipkin Pie and I am a Yorkshire Terrier. I was actually born in Aveton Gifford, but that is by the way. My best friend is called Merlin and he is a Black Labrador. We live in Sussex.

When my mistress read your diary (out loud, so we could hear) I have to tell you she laughed and laughed, but I didn't - I understood. Please tell Jack, Milly and Bertie that I entirely sympathise with them.

Our routine is - let out early, then sleep, then long walk with 'Him' or ride with 'Her', then breakfast, sleep and watch. I like to go in the car with her, but if she sits at her dressing table and gets a brush thing to her eyes and lips, and then puts on something smart and tells me to be "goodness sweet" - I am doomed. Kitchen chair, closed door, and wait. Merlin doesn't seem to mind, except when I do get the chance to jump in the car quick and he has to stay behind.

Gardening has to be the most boring

pastime of all. I hate it - sitting for hours on the cold grass, waiting. It's only when, like you, we watch to see which jacket she chooses we know we are off for our afternoon walk. I am rather noisy and bark a lot and 'She' gets cross and tells me "it isn't necessary".

Merlin and I like rabbiting. Because I'm so small I can get under bushes and brambles, and Merlin waits for me to flush them out and then we chase. Oh what fun! If and when Merlin catches one, he eats it very quickly before 'She' can take it away from him. Once he ate three in one afternoon and the kitchen floor had to be washed the next morning - not popular!

It sounds as though Milly, Jack and Bertie have a good life. So do we. I shall be in Thurlestone next August. Perhaps I could come and visit?

Lots of licks

Pip

Northwood Farmhouse Blackgate Lane
Pulborough W Sussex RH20 2JH



Following on from the lamb curry recipe featured in the previous issue of Village Voice, here is a tasty dish which can either be served as the perfect accompaniment to the lamb or makes a lovely vegetarian meal on its own. It uses a variety of mixed vegetables and is another good-natured dish which can be cooked in advance!

MIXED VEGETABLE CURRY

(Serves 4)

Ingredients

2 tablespoons oil	2 medium courgettes, sliced
Half teaspoon mustard seeds	2 red peppers, sliced
Half teaspoon cumin seeds	4oz button mushrooms, sliced
1 red onion thinly sliced	Small tin red kidney beans
1 green chilli, finely chopped	Quarter teaspoon ground turmeric
1 inch root ginger finely chopped	Quarter teaspoon chilli powder
2 tablespoons curry paste	Half teaspoon salt
3-4 garlic cloves, crushed	2 tomatoes, finely chopped
1 medium aubergine, diced	Quarter pint vegetable stock
4oz French beans, cut into 1" lengths	Fresh coriander or parsley to garnish

Method

1. Heat oil in large saucepan and fry mustard and cumin seeds for two minutes until they froth
2. Add onion and garlic and fry for two minutes
3. Add chilli and ginger and fry two minutes
4. Stir in curry paste and fry two minutes
5. Add remainder of vegetables with turmeric, chilli powder and salt and cook for about 5 minutes
6. Add stock, cover and simmer over low heat until vegetables are tender
7. Garnish and serve

Quick side-dishes for Curries

- (1) Brown thinly sliced bananas and onions in oil, drain and serve cold
- (2) Fry coriander seeds briefly in hot oil, then mix into raw grated carrot

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Catch The Judge's Eye!



We promised in the last issue to give you some helpful horticultural tips on 'showing for shows' with our own Thurlestone & South Milton Show in mind. The organisers hope that, as a result, you may be tempted to put some of your garden produce on the benches this August. Schedules are in the shops now. The following notes, written by David Coward, an experienced judge and chairman of the Show, will help you to prepare your vegetables and flowers.

THE SCHEDULE

Its very simple! Start off - this is a must - by **reading the schedule carefully** and after that decide what classes you want to enter. For vegetable and cut flower classes, **note how many individual items are required for the entry** and then only enter that number - not more, not less. Also look for other requirements such as "shown on a plate" or a size restriction like "Pot not to exceed 12 inches". Here are some more notes on produce which will help you.

POTATOES

They should be lifted carefully, and have no digging marks, and then be gently washed in plenty of clean water using a soft cloth, **NOT SCRUBBED** - as this can bruise or damage the skin. They should not show any green, or slug holes. Round potatoes should be about golf to tennis ball size. Kidney potatoes should be slightly larger than a hen's egg. They should be of matching size and uniformity.

CARROTS

These should be washed and 'de-whiskered' - i.e., remove little hairs on the outside of the skin. The tops should be cut to 3 inches (75mm) and can be tied off or left as they are. Select uniform roots of good colour. Carrots may be described as 'long' or 'stump'. Make sure you show the one required, and do not mix them.

NB Keep the seed packet, as this will help you to identify what kind you are growing.

TOMATOES

Wipe over with a damp tissue. Should be of uniform size and a good colour, ripe but not too soft or over-ripe. Calyx and small length of stalk to be left on so **cut** off plant, don't pull off.

ONIONS

Wash and clean soil from roots. Remove outside flaky pieces of dead skin but do not remove skins to inside flesh. Should be of equal size.

RUNNER BEANS

Should be of equal length and as straight as possible, a good green and freshly picked. Stalks to first knuckle must be left on. Cut them off plant - do not pull them off.

PEAS

It is important to cut these off the plant with a little stalk attached. Avoid handling them, and hold them by the little stalk, as the 'bloom' must remain on the pods for showing. They should be of equal length, freshly picked, matching in fullness and a good green.

SWEET PEAS

Long, strong spikes with well-spaced blooms - at least three to a stalk. Display in a fan shape but clear of each other. If nine flowers are asked for, place 5 at the back and 4 at the front. One good idea is to use soaked Oasis or similar, into which drinking straws are pushed. Cut the straws flush with the top of the Oasis, then place in container. This will

provide a lot of little 'tubes' into which the sweet peas can be placed, facing forward.

DAHLIAS

Show with blooms facing forward and clear of each other. Disbud them, as if you show a bloom with a bud it is counted as an extra flower. Some leaves should be included but must be attached to the bloom stem, not put in separately.

GLADIOLI

Display with florets facing forwards with at least three or four flowers fully open at bottom of stem, those in the middle showing colour and the top spike still in green bud. No faded flowers.

PANSIES

Drill holes evenly in a small black-painted board - the number to correspond with the number of flowers to be shown - just big enough to poke the flower stem through and

the heads to lie flat on the board but separate from each other. Place the flower board over a water-filled container approximately the same size as the board, so that the stems reach the water. With pansies it is important to have uniformity in both the size of the bloom and colour. There should be no insect or water damage - protect if possible.

FUCHSIA HEADS

Follow the same method as for pansies. With fuchsias what is needed is a variety of bloom, matching in size and quality. There should be no sign of pollen on the stamens as this indicates the flower is past its best.

We hope this has given you some help and encouragement to enter the Show. If you need any information, please contact any member of the Show committee - their names are on the front of the Schedule. They will be very pleased to help - or if they can't, they'll know someone who can!



IN YOUR GARDEN

JUNE

Feed tomatoes with a high-potash fertiliser as soon as you see the first fruits.
Take cuttings of perennial wallflowers (e.g. Bowles Mauve) and sow wallflower seeds.
Check plants in the cabbage family for caterpillars/eggs - look both sides of leaves!
Lift and divide bearded iris when flowering finishes. Trim leaves by half.
Cut back pulmonaria and hardy geraniums hard when they've finished flowering, and a fresh flush of foliage will come.
If you have a dank, shady piece of garden, why not plant some ferns?
Lift polyanthus, divide and replant in a shady place to thicken up for bedding out in October.

JULY

Geranium and fuchsia cuttings can be taken now.
Feed runner beans and sweet-peas regularly
Continue to make small sowings of lettuce, beetroot and salad onions
Hemerocallis (day lilies) can be trimmed down to tidy them up after blooming

Twenty minutes daily spent out in the garden, being with and tending plants, is reckoned to be of considerable benefit to your health!



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*Reviewed by Kendall McDonald
in the February issue of Village
Voice,, this fascinating book
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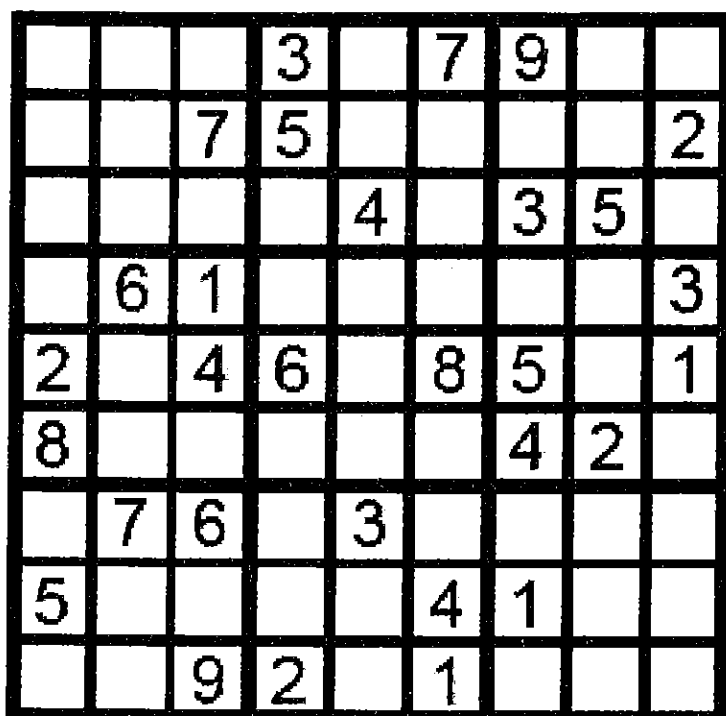
Pat Macdonald 560436 or Joan MacKenzie 560671 and
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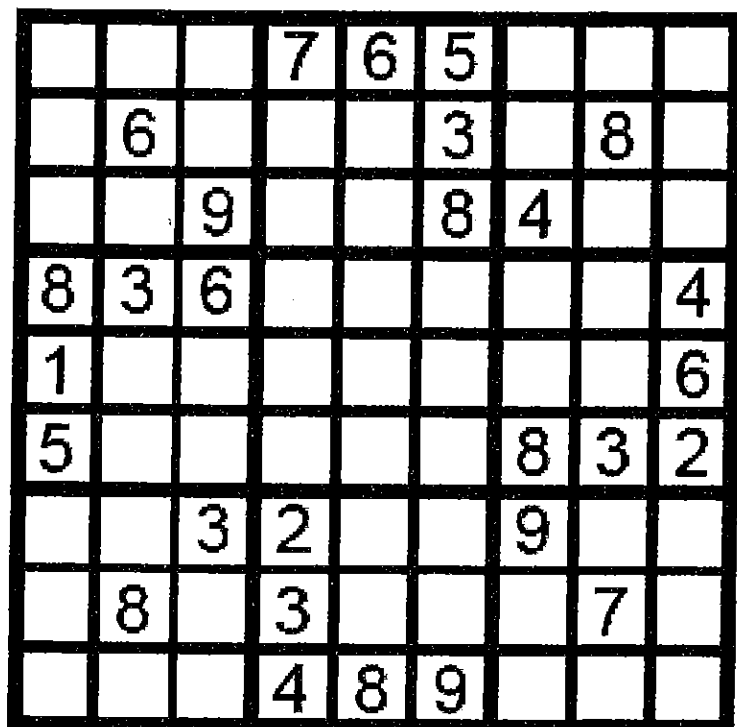
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(As featured in *The Times*, Monday to Saturday)



EASY

#2



MEDIUM

#2

Strategies

1. The quickest way to get started is to take a "3-Box" section of the puzzle (i.e., the top three rows, which also make up three boxes of nine cells each) and search for "doubles" (i.e., the same number appearing twice within the "3-Box" section). Finding a "double" enables you to pinpoint the row, and the box, in which the third number must go. There will be three cells of the row within the box in which this third number could go. If two of these are already occupied by other numbers, there is thus only one possible space for your third number. Bingo!

2. Having checked through all the numbers from 1-9 for this first "3-Box" section, you could then repeat this approach for the other two horizontal "3-Box" sections, and then the three vertical "3-Box" sections.

3. For each "double" identified, where none, or only one, of the three cells available for the third already contains a number you can then employ the "cross-check" tactic. Having already identified the "row" where the third number must go, look down the full three "columns" which run through the box in question. If the number appears in any of these three columns, it will further reduce the options for correctly siting the number in the box in question.

4. This is the basic Sudoku strategy. With practice, you will soon get into the way of checking (1) and (3) above simultaneously, as well as finding your own strategies.

Further strategies will be examined in the next issue.

Griddler

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HORSWELL DIARY

At school my Geography teacher was describing the fruits grown in a temperate Mediterranean climate. I can remember the sounds of her words now as clearly as if it were yesterday: "Plums, peaches, grapes, cherries and apricots." The fruits seemed to drip from her lips like juice from an over-ripe melon. They sounded plump and sweet, succulent, and sensuous. I could taste their honey, lick the bloom from their skin, feel the warmth of the sunshine in which they grew. I knew immediately that I must travel, to go to such a place and sense its delights for myself.

You could hear our French mistress long before she entered the classroom. Her high sling-back heels clacked merrily along the corridor as she approached. On a waft of perfume she would swirl into the room, a medley of colour; a bright figure-hugging dress, bare brown arms and legs, a generous mouth dashed with lipstick the colour of nectarines. *Bonjour, mes enfants!* she would call out gaily as she dumped a pile of homework on to a table by the door. *Bonjour Madame!* we sang in chorus as she perched on the edge of her desk, crossing one suntanned leg over the other and letting her shoe hang wickedly loose from the tip of an outstretched toe. Against the dull bookishness of the other teachers, who fluttered through the door like grey sparrows in their gowns she seemed a rare and exotic bird. I knew from the start of that first lesson that learning French was going to be a pleasure and that France was the place for me.

Driving through the cherry blossom and vineyards of the Var and the Vaucluse last month, with the sunshine warm on my skin and the sky blue and clear above snow capped mountains I thought of the immense influence those two women have had on my life. They sowed seeds in my fertile imagination, seeds that have grown and grown through the years and whose rich harvest I continue to reap. I wish they were still alive so that I could say thank you.

I thought of them again the other day at the Kingsbridge Community College where my husband and I were privileged to present the Horswell Cup to a young lady with a

prodigious musical talent. It was part of an evening of celebration; of displays and recitals and the distribution of awards. For us it was an evening of pure delight. The atmosphere was one of genuine affection and mutual respect between pupils and staff. The children were happy and self confident and the standard of teaching and facilities available to them seemed quite exceptional. Sitting there amongst them, watching and listening, I wondered if those students would, like me, one day remember the teacher who gave them the inspiration to excel at their chosen subject and want to come back and honour them for enriching their lives?

For those members of staff handing out their awards that evening were more than mere mortals. They were the gatekeepers to knowledge. They may be unable to accompany every child on its unique journey through life, but they can push open the doors to discovery, prising them open just wide enough to allow a tantalising glimpse of the possibilities that lie beyond. They can light fires in a child's imagination and give them the tools and the map to pursue their dreams. And who could ask for a more valuable gift?

Talking of valuable gifts, I received an early birthday present from my sister this morning. I think the brightly coloured stamps emblazoned with "Merry Christmas from the Kingdom of Tonga" were almost as attractive as the shell bracelet enveloped beneath them. I don't suppose that an enormous amount of mail emanates from the Island of Tonga Tapu - hence the unseasonal greeting. This may appear a simple gift but it is worth its weight in pure gold. Why? Because it proves that my sister has survived her first long sea passage on her yacht Caesura, the first leg of a long held ambition to sail from New Zealand around the world. No small feat for an occasional weekend sailor (inspired by her Geography teacher perhaps?) The accompanying birthday card bears a painting of a deliciously curvaceous island woman lazing on a hot yellow beach beside a turquoise sea, eating ripe mangoes and wearing frangipani flowers braided in her hair.

On the reverse side the artist states rather grandly: *'I choose to paint women, the Matriarchs of the Pacific, expressing their gentle dignity and serenity. If I have achieved my goal the viewer will feel an emotional attachment to my subjects.'*

Sitting here by the heater, swathed in Damart and eyeing a decidedly grey and unalluring sky outside, let me tell you dear reader: The artist has failed.

Is Summer ever going to arrive? Or am I going to spend my birthday coughing and wheezing my way through the latest cold? Red-eyed and rheumy, clutching a hot-toddy (that's a drink, by the way) or cuddled up to the Aga?

Why the delay? Where's that heat-wave they've been promising? You know, the one with the water shortage attached? What about global warming? I want it. Now!

It's even hard to be enthusiastic about gardening when the ground is sodden and the lawns too wet to mow. As the daffodils die back the weeds grow higher, the box hedging straggles out of shape and goose-grass grows apace stretching out its barbed tentacles to smother all that lies beneath. Beside the pond a grass snake slumbers beneath broad leaves; cool and damp, half seen in dappled light. The cuckoo calls once, then twice, then seems to hesitate perhaps to question if he has the season right. Despite the chill the swallows have returned, flickering and twisting through the air, transporting mud to build their nests. At dusk the bats emerge from holes and cracks

to sweep the skies for airborne gnats. At night a vixen howls calling her young to share her feed. Next morning a sad trail of black and white spotted feathers shows that it is one of our Guinea fowl that has given them their evening meal.

Beyond our walls the hedgerows froth and overflow with sudden growth. As grass overtakes the bluebells, cow parsley and campion conspire to hide burgeoning docks and nettles while purple orchids fade and disappear. As we pass through the lanes winds scatter the passing hours of dandelion clocks and young green ferns extend their ladders towards the sky. Further north, driving through the Cotswolds with my mother, horse chestnut trees sag beneath their weight of flowers, black and white cows graze in buttercup meadows, and fields of yellow rape flash neon bright against dark rain-swelled skies.

Home again and the chaos of workmen and the smell of new paint fill the house. In the library the white woodwork is gleaming and the yellow walls are brighter than before. In fact, quite a lot brighter. Seriously bright. I'm talking sunglasses here! But hold on, don't panic..... I check the label on the paint tin. Californian Sands. Perfect! All I need now is a beach towel, a sarong and flowers in my hair to escape the winter blues and get in touch with my Matriarch of the Pacific dignity and calm.

Aloha!

Prunella Dart

Puzzle Page Answers

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. LIVERPOOL | 2. RETURNING | 3. MINIATURE | 4. CHALLENGE |
| 5. PESSIMIST | 6. LIQUORICE | 7. AGGREGATE | 8. EXCHEQUER |
| 9. EDITORIAL | 10. TOSCANINI | 11. DRIFTWOOD | 12. LUBRICATE |
| 13. REINFORCE | 14. BRITANNIA | 15. BEANSTALK | 16. IMPETUOUS |
| 17. STRONGBOX | 18. ARCHITECT | 19. STANDPIPE | 20. CAMERAMAN |
| 21. TELEPATHY | | | |

TEN TEASERS

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. 43 AD | 3. Pluto | 5. Leveret | 7. The Great Fire | 9. Isca |
| 2. Emperor | 4. Jack Hobbs | 6. Countess | 8. Hampton Court | 10. Spanish |



At the Bridge Table



This week we are going to look at the play of two slam contracts, both of which carry simple but useful messages. The bidding in the first was as follows :

North	East	South	West
		1 NT (strong)	Pass
2 Clubs	Pass	2 Hearts	Pass
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South could count eleven top winners, with a possible twelfth available if (a) either one or both of the missing Diamond honours rested with West or (b) playing off the top three Spade honours would drop the Jack, thus promoting North's 10. But if this latter route failed, it would be very dangerous to then take the diamond finesse. So, after taking the opening Heart lead with the King, South compromised by cashing only the Ace and King of Spades. The Jack did not drop, so he then took two Diamond finesses. Unlucky! South was then left with only his original eleven top winners.

A better line of play is to **squeeze the defence** straight away by cashing all four Heart winners. On the fourth Heart East can safely discard a Club, but the slam is now unbeatable. South leads a Diamond, finessing to East - who now has no safe exit card. A Diamond is an obvious loser, and an exit in either black suit is just as bad. South now cannot be denied his twelfth trick, and all because he went for the best chance rather than just a good one. *The maxim is simply that, whenever possible, you should play to force the defence to do the dirty work for you.*

In our second example South made an ambitious leap to a slam of 6 Hearts (after a transfer bid) but then went astray in the play. On receiving the irritating lead of a small Diamond from West he took the Ace and drew trumps. Inevitably he was left with a loser in each of the minor suits and the slam was defeated.

The successful route is to pull **only two trumps**, leaving a winner in hand. Then cash three top Spades, discarding a Club from dummy. Next play off Ace and King of Clubs and ruff a Club in dummy. When this passes off successfully you return to hand with a trump and cash the thirteenth Club so as to discard one of dummy's losing Diamonds. Slam made! The reasoning behind this strategy is that, with a Diamond lead, if you then play three rounds of trumps you cannot return to hand to make the fourth Club trick. Faced with a Club loser and a Diamond loser (or two of the latter) your only hope is to discard on the fourth Club. This will only work if the opposition Clubs split 3-3, and their Hearts 3-2. So that is what you assume as, in the words of a famous lady, "there is no alternative". *Thus the second maxim is that when you need a particular distribution in order to make your contract, that is what you must assume.* Happy Slamming!

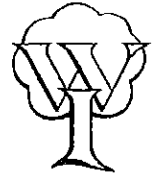
All Vulnerable		Dealer South	
North			
S	K Q 10 3		
H	K 6		
D	A J 9 8 4		
C	K 10		
West		East	
S	8 5 4	S	J 9 6 2
H	10 9 8 2	H	7 4 3
D	6 3	D	K Q 5
C	9 8 7 3	C	J 4 2
South			
S	A 7		
H	A Q J 5		
D	10 7 2		
C	A Q 6 5		

All Vulnerable		Dealer South	
North			
S	4 3		
H	A Q 7 6 5		
D	9 6 4		
C	A 10 7		
West		East	
S		S	
H		H	
D		D	
C		C	
South			
S	A K Q		
H	K J 8		
D	A 8 7		
C	K 9 4 2		

Victor



NEWS FROM THE WI



April

The Church Meeting Room was the temporary home for this meeting, when **Meg de Blank** gave a timely talk on royal marriages, bearing in mind the recent nuptials of the Prince of Wales. Starting with Queen Victoria, and dealing with the sovereign's relatives and descendants, she gave a skilled and enjoyable commentary to accompany her impressive collection of slides.

Congratulations were given to **Margaret Illingworth** and **Dorothy Abel** whose respective (and most attractive) decorated cake and greetings card netted Thurlestone the Sea Coast Group cup. That was not the only success, for Thurlestone's programme card won a Highly Commended in a WI county competition.

The hoped-for sight of a sweeping mass of bluebells on Blackdown Rings at the end of April was thwarted as the cold weather had held them back, but the lunch afterwards at the California Inn was enjoyed. Nine of our members attended the county federation's spring council meeting at Exeter University when the star speaker was poet **Pam Ayres**.

May

Members enjoyed the comforts of the Thurlestone Hotel for the meeting, and will continue with this venue until the new hall is completed. Traditionally this is the month when all WI members discuss the national resolutions and this year there are two - one on farm-gate milk prices, presented by **Pat Crawford**, the second, on the environment and packaging materials, was presented by **Jan Trender**. Both received an 'in favour' vote.

The **Brewster Award** competition for a petite flower arrangement had a good number of entries. Judged by **Alice Foster**, **Dorothy Abel** was the winner. Alice then went on to tell members about her recent visit to Japan to an international flower arrangers' conference. Six members joined with some 80 members from other local WIs for the Home Economics Area's annual lunch at The Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove. **Karen Livett** gave a delegate's report from the Exeter meeting.

Future Events

A group of members hope to be at the big national annual general meeting which this year is at the Albert Hall on the 8th June and they will travel to London the day before. Speakers there will be author **Bill Bryson**, actress **Jane Fonda** and barrister **Helena Kennedy**.

Members are reminded to come to the meeting on the 9th June armed with copies of their favourite poetry, prose, music or other party-piece. It is a Shared Pleasures meeting!

Several members also hope to join with West Alvington WI on the 14th June for a conducted nature study walk at Charleton, led by **Gordon Waterfield**, followed by supper at the Ashburton Arms.

On Thursday 7th July there will be the annual garden lunch at Glen Lyon, by kind invitation of **Rosemary Mackay**.

The monthly meeting at the Thurlestone Hotel on the 14th July will be hearing about the wills of the rich and famous with **Charles Tucker** as the guest speaker.

Even if you are not a WI member, we issue a warm invitation (ladies and gents!) if you would like to hear any of our speakers, to come at 3.00 pm and later enjoy a cup of tea with us.

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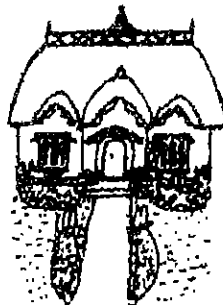
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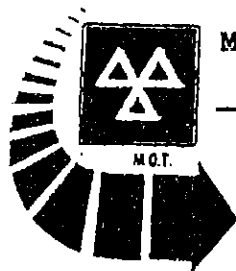
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All Saints' School News



**Old Time
fairground
attractions**

**Cream Teas,
Cucumber
Sandwiches,
Ploughmans
Lunches**

**Pimms,
Wine,
Beer**

**Raffle, Stalls,
Coconut Shy**

**And many
more...**

EDWARDIAN GARDEN PARTY

Come along and enjoy a nostalgic afternoon with us as we celebrate our Centenary with an extravaganza of Edwardian Splendour!

Presenting for your entertainment:

The Teddy Bears Picnic (12pm)

The dulcet tones of The Kingsmen (2pm)

Judith Reynolds' String Quartet

And your own, (your very own):

Alun Williams and Alastair Durden!

Escape the 21st Century and return for a few hours to a gentler Age. Why not bring a blanket and enjoy a picnic in the Grounds?

We would love to see you in Period Fancy Dress. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

**Admission 50p
(10 Bob to you)**

**Saturday 18th June 12-4pm
at the School Grounds**

Congratulations to: Tilly Durant who, at the tender age of 6, won the Gold Medal for the Under 8's Gymnastic Tournament at Swallows Club in Plymouth. Well done Tilly!

Collecting: Please, please keep those vouchers coming in. We're collecting: **Persil Stars, Nestle Box Tops, Tesco's Computers for Schools and Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers.** Thanks for all your help!

Children's Voice

Years 5 and 6 have been studying the Ancient Greeks.

We have designed vases, made masks and are studying Greek drama.



Cassandra

Cassandra was daughter of the king of Troy. When she was young she was forced to sleep in the temple of Apollo. The next morning they were covered in snakes which let them fore-sell the future.

Apollo fell in love with her but she refused so Apollo cursed her so nobody believed her. She was captured by Agamemnon and made to come home with him when they arrived she was killed along Agamemnon.

Apollo



Agamemnon

That Agamemnon, king of Mycenae the proud husband to Clytemnestra.

defends Orestes when he is tried in court. He is god of MUSIC.

Cassandra was daughter of the King of Troy

Clytemnestra

He is the son of Atreus, the brother of Menelaus. He was the grand leader of the Greek forces.

To ensure that the winds would not blow the Greek fleet off course Great King Agamemnon would have to sacrifice his daughter, Iphigenia to the gods. So he took the poor girl into the temple, he raised the dagger high into the air and prepared to strike, the knife was coming down when suddenly, the Greek god Artemis swooped down and replaced the shocked girl with a young deer.



Agamemnon



Electra was the daughter of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon she saved her brother called Orestes by sending him away to the brother and sister's uncle who was also a king.

Name: Clytemnestra the queen

What did they do? She was a queen of Troy. She was wife of King Agamemnon. She murdered the king and his slave. What part in the play did they do? She murders the king and slave but her son murders her!

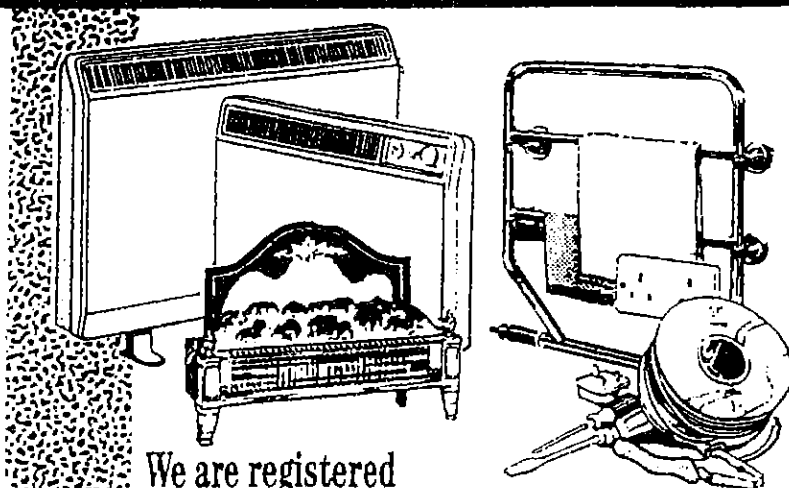


Iphigenia was the daughter of Agamemnon. She was killed by her father Agamemnon.

Orestes best friend was Pylades. He was the son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra. Orestes killed his mother.



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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

The sun is shining and the sky is blue, just a few cotton wool cumulus clouds and all is well, except that the breeze is very chilly, coming out of the North West - the Arctic origins of the air-stream are very evident. But summer is coming.

Folklore

I'm always interested in folklore regarding long-term forecasting, so here are several quotes from Robin Page's book on folklore.

MAY

The merry month of May is my favourite month. It is the month when birdsong, flowers, blossom, and new foliage are all at their best. It is also a month of variable temperatures and rainfall. Traditionally a cold May is better for people and for harvest.

March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers.

*A wet May, brings a good load of hay.**

A cold May and a windy, makes a fat barn and a findy [good weight].

*A hot May makes a fat churchyard.***

** This means plenty of sun in June.*

*** It does seem that a warm May makes extra work for florists, undertakers, and crematorium attendants.*

JUNE

Flaming June has nothing whatsoever to do with crematoriums, but as a rule June is a good month, with spells of settled weather. Warm June evenings are ideal for watching badger and fox cubs, and it is a month when young birds and animals can be seen at their best. On the coast it is also time to see razor-bills,

guillemots, and puffins at close quarters.

*Calm weather in June, sets the corn in tune.**

A dry May and dripping June, brings everything in tune.

*A leak in June, sets the corn in tune.**

** Another example of country forecasters not always being in complete agreement.*

Records

My recordings are not very startling so far this year. This seems to be the trend across Devon and Cornwall. David Brain (BBC SW) has set up a link system so that weather wags from various stations can compare their weather facts and figures. We are all much of a muchness. Temperatures have been average for the last 10 years or so, with January 7.9C, February (the exception) 5.6C, March 8.6C, and April 10.4C.

February this year was a dry month, with few rain clouds and clear sky at night leading to low temperatures, so the average fell - to the lowest since 1996, when it was 5.58C. However, there was not the sunshine to match the situation. Typically the weather was a block of high pressure with "Anticyclonic gloom by day and clearer by night". Rainfall was below average at 39.5mm, but not exceptionally so.

Travel Plans

Off to Scotland on Wednesday to Ken's Aunt Ann's 100th birthday. We hope to have some fine weather so that we can at least get out to Loch Lomond, which is one of her favourite trips.

Have a lovely summer and I hope that you all get the weather that you want, when you want it!

Jan Turner

SOUTH MILTON PARISH CHURCH

**ANNUAL
FETE**

**SATURDAY 30th JULY
2.30 pm**

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

Stalls

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Beauty Box...Tombola...White Elephant
Wine or Water Chance...Gardening**

Plus

**Raffles Side Shows
Competitions!**

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Children under 16 Free**

DIARY DATES

JUNE

Thur	2 nd	TRAMP, Carriage Walk
Wed	8 th	TRAMP, East Prawle
Thur	9 th	WI, Thurlestone Hotel, 2.30 pm (Shared Pleasures)
Mon	13 th	TRAMP, TBA
Sat	18 th	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.30 pm
Sun	19 th	Edwardian Garden Party, All Saints School, noon to 4.00pm
Wed	22 nd	Cream Teas & Open Garden, Lower Kerse, 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm
		TRAMP, Widecombe

JULY

Thur	7 th	TRAMP, TBA
Fri	8 th	(Art Exhibition
Sat	9 th	(Thurlestone Hotel
Sun	10 th	(10.00am - 6.00 pm
Wed	13 th	TRAMP, Avon Valley
Thur	14 th	WI, Thurlestone Hotel, 2.30 pm, (Wills of the Rich & Famous)
Mon	18 th	TRAMP, New Bridge
Sat	30 th	South Milton Church Fete, Brook House or Village Hall, 2.30 pm

AUGUST

Tues	2 nd	Piano Recital, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.00 pm
Fri	5 th	TENNIS TOURNAMENT, Golf Club, from 10 am
		TRAMP, TBA
Sat	6 th	Horticultural Show, S.Milton Village Hall, 2.30 pm
Wed	10 th	TRAMP, Mary Tavy
Thur	18 th	TRAMP, Cornworthy
Wed	24 th	TRAMP, Wembury

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

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

There is also a subscription service, which mails copies to readers
at an annual cost of £10.00. Please apply to:

Judith Reynolds, Pilgrim Cottage, Post Office Lane, Thurlestone
Telephone : 01548-560912

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate.
 It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council and is delighted to remain
 under the Council's sponsorship. This does not mean that the views and opinions
 expressed in these pages are the views and opinions of any member of the Parish
 Council, and they should only be ascribed to the authors concerned.

In Thurlestone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers
 organised by **Ian Fraser**
 In Bantham and Buckland it is delivered by **Peter Hurrell** and **Linda Chilcott**.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th JULY 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	Kir Marshall	560214
Vice - Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Parish Clerk	Cathy Taverler	(Evening) 852139
District Councillor	Shonaugh Rankin	561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	Neil Girling	560448
	David Grose	560375
	Andrew Rhyms	560564
	Geoffrey Stidson	560695
Tree Warden	Charles Mitchelmore	560602

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

PARISH HALL

Chairman	Ron Parfitt	561215
Bookings	Pat Crawford	560688

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

Chairman	Chris White	560505
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RECTOR CHURCH MEETING ROOM CHURCHWARDENS

Rev. Andrew Gilling	562219
Office	561246
Graham Worrell	562016
Liz Webb	560900

COFFEE TIME (See All Saints Diary for details)

Contact	Liz Webb	560900
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FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

Contact	Kir Marshall	560214
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BOWLS CLUB

Contact	Eileen Dayment	560051
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AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

John Crawford	560688
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BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

Contact	Hugh Cater	560593
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BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Clubhouse	560447
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BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays At Church Meeting Room until further notice

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

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB TENNIS SECTION

Secretary / Manager	Terry Gibbons	560405
Contact	Lindsey Fletcher	560157

KEEP FIT

Contact	Brenda Murch	560487
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HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)

Contact	John Lonsdale	560742
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PROBUS

Contact	Tom Trender	560893
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TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)

Contact	Lynn Mansell	561273
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DIRECTORY

W.I.

Contact	Judith Le Grice	562135
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Second Thursday monthly (except August)
2.30 pm Thurlestone Hotel (May, June, July, September)

SOUTH HAMPS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS

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

TEAMMAKERS (Computer Club)

Contacts : Robin Macdonald	560436
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Mondays (beginners) & Wednesdays (improvers)
4.30 pm - 6.30 pm, All Saints School, during school terms

Chris White	560505
Graham Durant	560007

HEALTH CENTRES

Kingsbridge	853551
Salcombe	842284

MILK DELIVERY

R. Bruckner & Son	01803 - 832801
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VILLAGE SHOP

Thurlestone Village Shop	561917
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(Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm)

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	8.00 am - 5.30 pm
Wednesday	8.00 am - 1.00 pm
Saturday	8.00 am - 1.00 pm
Sunday	8.30 am - 1.00 pm

(NB. The 1.00 pm closing times may sometimes be extended during school holidays and at weekends)

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE

561917

Open : Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm
Postal collections : 4.15 pm Monday - Friday, 10.30 am Saturday, 11.00 am Sunday

POLICE

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

RUBBISH COLLECTION

Thursday (But Friday in Bank Holiday Monday weeks)
Coloured (White, Blue) Sack collections (recyclables) alternate Thursdays from 9th June 2005

RECYCLING CENTRE (Toor Quarry Site, Toones Road)

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

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DevonBus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk

GARAGE (Blight Engineering)

Maurice Blight	560220
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KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 1st June 2005)

11.35 - 11.45am	Buckland Old Chapel	11.50 - 12.15pm	Thurlestone Primary School	852315
12.20 - 12.30pm	Thurlestone Church	12.35 - 12.45pm	Thurlestone Sands	

MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN Alternate Wednesdays from 1st June 2005, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside school.

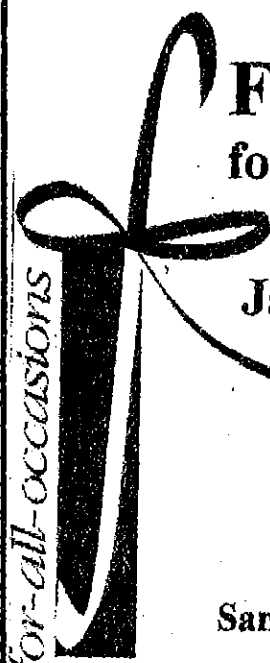
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VALIANT (U)

FRI MAY 27th 5.45pm
SAT 28th/MON 30th/ TUES 31st/
WED JUN1st/THUR 2nd/FRI 3rd
3.30 & 5.45pm SAT 7th 5.45pm

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (15)

FRI MAY 27th /SAT 28th/
MON 30th/TUES 31st/
WED JUN1st/THUR 2nd/
FRI 3rd / SAT 4th 8.00pm
MON 6th/TUES 7th/WED 8th/
THUR 9th 5.00pm & 8.00pm

THE WEDDING DATE (12A)

FRI JUN10th /SAT 11th/MON 13th
5.45pm
TUE 14th/WED 15th/THUR 16th
8.00pm

THE HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO
THE GALAXY (PG)

FRI JUN10th /SAT 11th/MON 13th
8.00pm
TUE 14th/WED 15th/THUR 16th
5.45pm

MONSTER IN LAW (12A)

FRI JUN17th/SAT18th/MON 20th
8.00pm
TUE 21st/WED 22nd /THUR 23rd
5.45pm & 8.00pm

THE ASSASSINATION OF
RICHARD NIXON (15)

FRI JUN 24th/SAT25th/MON27th
5.45pm
TUES 28th/WED 29th/THUR 30th
8.00pm

MILLIONS (12A)

FRI JUN 24th/SAT25th/MON27th
8.00pm
TUES 28th/WED 29th/THUR 30th
5.45pm

STAR WARS Episode 3 (12A)

FRI JULY 1st /SAT 2nd/MON 4th/
TUES 5th/WED 6th/THUR 7th
5.45pm & 8.30pm

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