

# VILLAGE VOICE



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2005





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These are supposed to be the dog days of summer, when not much happens, and editors chew their pencils, scratch their heads, and rack their brains for something to write about.....

And yet.....we've heard, seen, and read a veritable media frenzy this year....all about the Olympic Games 2012, the G8 Summit, the Live 8 concert, Iraq, lady Bishops, Tiger Woods, Hurricane Dennis, Rover, and the late Ted Heath. Pages and pages, countless pictures, and endless comment and opinion. We swallow it all down, shrug, and reach for the channel tweaker.

But the London bombs were something else.

The "Yorkshire" bombers struck more than our capital's transport system and its unfortunate passengers. They shattered our comfortable complacency, and shocked us out of our cheerful indifference. They also blew the lid clean off our Pandora's box of multicultural disaffection, and we shall have a job to try and put it back. (And the ghost of Enoch Powell watches and permits itself a sardonic smile.)

This may be just the beginning. And the end - if it is not, after all, to be more of a bang than a whimper - will tax the coming generations to their limit. Let us hope they are up to it.

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Front Cover : Footpath to the sea

# WILL YOU CROSS YOUR FINGERS AND SPIT ON IT?

It is a wonderful world we live in, is it not? Even so, *Villager's* text this time is not about wheelies - which I know will disappoint many readers - but about that other main concern of parishioners, the extraordinary growth of witches in the parish.

So large is this increase that when *Villager* saw this recent headline in Thurlestone's favourite national tabloid - "*Lovelorn woman takes witch doctor to Trading Standards because his £1000 spell failed*" - he assumed automatically that the case revolved around Bantham or Buckland or, heavens to Betsey, the very street of Thurlestone itself!

It didn't. But what a story it unfolded. A Labour Party worker, fearing that her relationship with her childhood sweetheart was about to break up, went to Yellow Pages (where else does one go to in such an emergency?) and sought the help of a witch doctor who advertises therein (the mind boggles, does it not?).

I would not like you to think that the Labour Party is much into witching, so I will not tell you more of this delicious story except that the Labour Party worker finally jibbed at having to slaughter three cows near water, even though a friend of the witch doctor in Africa offered to do it for her at £120 per cow. Having spent £600 with the good doctor only to find that her partner left her anyway, the Labour Party worker refused any more money to the doctor, who says that he originally came to Britain from Gambia some four years ago. All this brought to mind the Witches of Thurlestone - white ones of course. White witches are the good ones,



spreading only good vibes around them. *Villager* met only one in the village, and she died some years ago. How do you tell a white witch from any other gossip in our parish? One of the ways, I was assured by one of our oldest inhabitants, was that you would know at once when you found that they knew what you were going to say before you said it. He added that this made a proper conversation with a white witch rather difficult. And it is true, it did.

Thurlestone parish, particularly Bantham and West Buckland, used to be wonderful place for witches. You should not make the mistake of thinking that all white witches in the South Hams were women. Some were men, though they were never called wizards even in those days before Harry Potter.

Much of white witchery concerned

charms for stopping bleeding. The case of the cart-horse which fell down bleeding outside the Sloop Inn is well documented. The man in charge of the horse ran to a woman in Bantham who was well known to have such a charm. The woman 'said the prayer' and told him to go back and he would find the horse had stopped bleeding. And sure enough, so it had.

The prayer used in Bantham is thought to be the same as the one used by Betty Edgcombe, the white witch of Malborough and West Alvington, to stop James Pierce from bleeding to death. It was recorded by the then Bishop of Malborough, Dr Alfred Earle, who, incidentally over a hundred years ago was one of the founders of today's school in Thurlestone. The prayer ran like this:

*"Christ was born in Bethlehem  
The water ran wild in the wood  
He spake the Word and it stood  
And so will James Pierce's blood  
In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Ghost. Amen"*

And then there was the white witches' prayer "to prevent a thorn from causing one's flesh from festering" which was

*"Our Saviour Christ was pricked by a  
thorn,  
It neither rinkled nor festered  
Neither shall thine. Amen"*

White witches were good people. Their cures were apparently legion. A sty in the eye was cured by striking it three times across with a widow's ring or the tail of a tom cat. To cure children of whooping cough, find a bramble growing out of a hedge and which has taken root elsewhere. Lead the child three times through this bramble arch 'the way of the sun' and the cough will soon be gone.

Warts were touched with the blade of a knife 'the way of the sun' and then,

unbeknown to anyone, a corresponding number of notches were cut in a living blackthorn. A cure would soon follow. Farmers were advised by witches to make three signs with a stick upon seed corn - a cross to keep the devil away, a heart to keep black witches away, and a horse-shoe for good luck. Only if this was done was a good harvest guaranteed.

Boys at Thurlestone school, in the days when the Rector was the Reverend F E Coope (from 1897 to 1921) had a solemn oath about keeping secrets which was called 'spitting your death'. A boy who made a promise to keep a secret was asked *"Will you spit your death upon it?"* If he did, he crossed his forefingers and then spat upon the ground. The Rector was not in favour of this - he thought it might well be black witch-inspired!

Though I promised to say nothing more about the wheelies, I am afraid that one of the many, many witches in our parish today has got at me, and I fear that more wheelie madness is heading our way. I gather that our local recyclers are studying with interest the South Norfolk District Council area which has 50,000 households. That council is planning to put microchips in all 100,000 of its wheelie bins to check whether householders are recycling enough of their rubbish. Scanning equipment on board dustcarts will weigh each bin and the chips will tell them which homes the contents come from. The scheme is costing £2.24 million, of which the Government is paying more than half.

We have truly gone mad. I crossed my fingers and spat on the ground, but cannot refrain from telling you another secret - fines will follow for those who don't recycle enough rubbish. *And that comes straight from a top recycling black witch's mouth!*

*Villager*

# PARISH HALL NEWS



By Chairman Ron Parkin

## Our New Secretary

They say if you want something done, you must ask a busy person - and they don't come much busier than **Judith Le Grice**, President of the W.I. and Secretary of the NSPCC Committee. Nevertheless she has volunteered to take over as Secretary of the Parish Hall Committee and supremely efficient we all know she will be.

Of course the Secretary for the past seven years, **Gillian Marshall**, will be a hard act to follow. The amount of extra work that the scores of grant applications entailed was really beyond belief to those who have not encountered box-ticking bureaucracy, but Gillian coped with it all with great skill and fortitude. Thankfully, she has also agreed to continue with all the duties associated with the regular reports required by DEFRA and the other grant-making bodies, and also as Secretary of the Construction Committee.

## Tennis Tournament

The Tennis Tournament, building on the great success of last year's event, will again be held on **Friday 5th August**, to attract our visitors, regular and first timers, and all the family relations that we welcome in the holidays.

Contact **Janet Richardson**, 856007, to enter, or come and enjoy the day as a spectator! Morning Coffee, lunches and cream teas will be served in the Pavilion. Sip a Pimms while you watch!

## Piano Recital

**Alexander Winter** will be returning to Thurlestone on **Tuesday 2nd August** to give another recital, this time in the splendid Yarmer Suite of the Thurlestone Hotel.

Come and enjoy a lovely summer's evening with the music and a stroll round the gardens during the interval. Tickets are selling well, but are still available.

## Building Progress

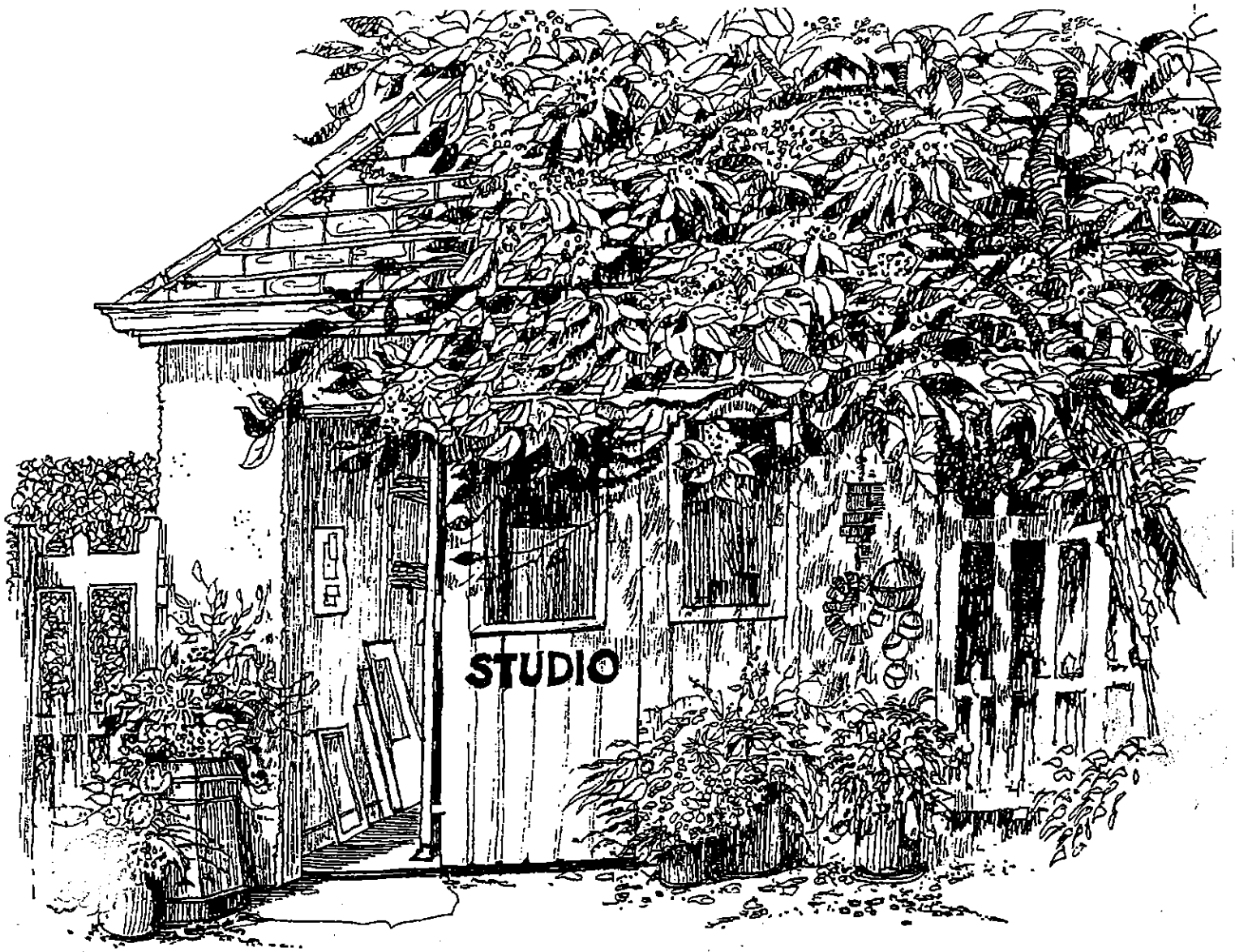
The Construction Committee are very satisfied with the progress being made by the builders, Rogers and Patey, and at the normal site meeting on the last Friday of the month were able to approve the June payment of £15,800, making a total of £117,800 to date. July's payment will be more with all the roofing work.

"My, isn't it big!" people are saying. Yes, it will be **inside**, where all the previously "wasted" space - behind the stage, the football changing rooms, and the stage itself - has been cleverly utilised for the Main Hall which will now be big enough for Bowls and Badminton. There will also be a large screen for viewing film and video presentations. **Outside**, however, the building will be only 5m greater in length.

The Construction Committee, in equipping the Hall for all the activities envisaged, are consulting with existing users for all current activities and are being very mindful of the need to obtain value for money.

They have also to be equally mindful of the expectations of DEFRA and the other grant-making bodies that the number of user groups will expand significantly in both age profiles and types of activity.

*Suggestions on how these targets might be achieved would be welcome - and offers to participate even more so!*



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# Parish Council Meetings

13<sup>th</sup> June & 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005

*News and Views by Citizen*

## **RUBBISH COLLECTION**

Wheelie-bins are still the talk of the parish. Most of those attending had horror stories to relate: quixotic assessments, non-delivery, wrong size of bin, fly-tipping by Council staff. Rowland Cole summed it all up by asking what percentage of resident households in the district would, for one reason or another, be excluded from the scheme.

## **DOUBLE YELLOWS**

Welcome news - double yellow lines are now legal even if there is no sign indicating "No Parking", so don't think you can use this excuse to baulk the traffic on our main street. Visitors beware!

## **ROAD CHARGING**

Councillor David Grose asked the Council's support in opposing the proposed road charging scheme. On present estimates, a holiday in Devon £700 in mileage charges - scarcely a bargain when compared with a £1 air ticket from Stansted to Paradise. Considering that the tourist industry is currently worth £8 billion a year to the West Country, the Government obviously plans to use a sledge-hammer to crack a nut. And who was it that took away the Primrose Line?

## **LICENCING & FLY POSTING**

The Council is struggling hard to get to grips with the changes in the licencing laws and our Parish Hall committee will be told their fate in August. No such consideration has yet been given to the chairmen of charities and voluntary groups who have in the past devised ingenious ways of living with licencing restrictions. They may be faced with handing over their hard-earned donations or else. But hey, there may be a

double-whammy coming our way! No longer will they be able to pin notices of their forthcoming cream teas on parish telephone poles. On the other hand, if the Parish Council opt to take on the role of issuing fixed penalties for leaving litter in public places, dog fouling of footpaths and fly posting, we would be the first Parish Council in England to have a positive precept.

## **BUCKLAND SEWAGE**

Connections look to be coming suitably pricey - as some had feared. Citizen wonders how many takers the water company will sign up.

## **HOUSING**

The latest wheeze for tackling the affordable housing shortage is a 'part-by-part' loan, through which young people can gradually acquire the equity in their home. This is the good news, but the bad news is that once they obtain full possession of the asset, it is free of any covenant and so we are back on the treadmill of looking for affordable housing for the next generation. Our District Councillor was congratulated on her efforts to ensure that the old telephone exchange site, derelict for 18 years, would be available for affordable housing. This is being resisted by Tor Homes who hope to realise £95,000 by offering it to the open market. The snag with this option is that the site is directly oppose the Village Inn and someone who moves in could, on health grounds, spoil the fun we all enjoy by opposing entertainment licences. Is there any chance of a covenant like that imposed on Church Farm to protect the ringing of church bells? Such a covenant would make the open market value less attractive and more affordable.

## **SECOND HOMES**

Are you a second home owner struggling to

finance the new Council Tax rate (90%)? There could be a way out. If your property is available to let for more than 20 weeks a year, you can re-register your property as a business qualifying for business rate which could be quite a lot less than the new second home rate.

#### **PARISH PLAN?**

Should Thurlestone have a Parish Plan? We are one of the few parishes which, despite the offer of a £5000 inducement, have not signed up to the idea. Would the planners take any notice of such a plan anyway? Well, maybe, and in any case we might be able to borrow one ready-made from another parish by visiting their website.

#### **PARISH HALL FITTINGS**

Councillors have been receiving complaints about the high cost of fitting out the new Parish Hall. Which are the really expensive items and can they be justified, given that the

burden will fall, through the precept, on the parish rate-payers?

#### **TRAFALGAR CELEBRATIONS**

Will Thurlestone be celebrating Trafalgar Day? It seems that maybe yes. Bell-ringers from Somerset could be coming to ring the Trafalgar peal, there could be a bonfire, and the church is thinking of holding a short service to celebrate our maritime heritage.

#### **SWANS**

And now for the *really* good news! Cygnets born on the Ley are flourishing. This is the first such happy event on our waters for ten years. The estuary has plenty of swans, but they only nest at Aveton Gifford and then rarely successfully.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**, at 7.30 pm at the Thurlestone Hotel..

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at

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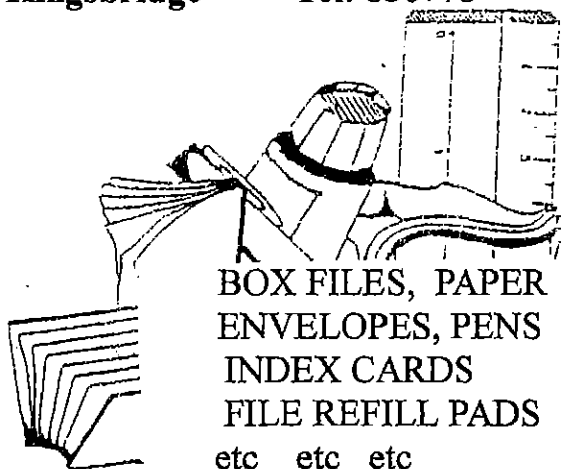
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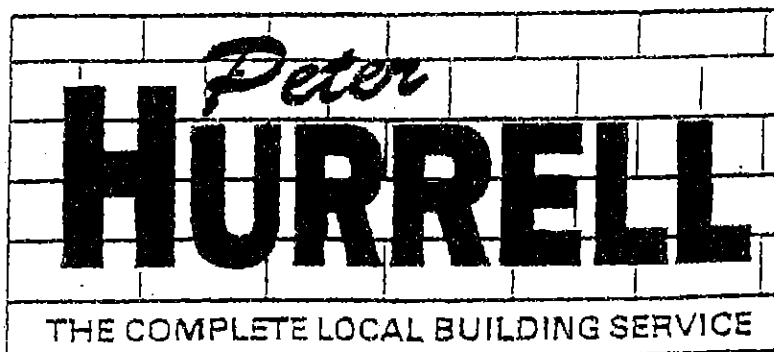
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# TEAMAKERS



Thurlestone Enthusiasts At Mouse And Keyboard Exercises for Recreational Satisfaction

## The New Parish Hall

*The opening of the new Parish Hall scheduled for October / November will introduce a new computer facility for community use.* The new committee room opposite the kitchen (not the main hall) will be hard-wired with several electric socket outlets, and a telephone line for internet connection. However, so that maximum flexibility for this room may be retained, there will not be permanent workstations. Folding tables will be provided in order to create temporary workstations which can be dismantled and stored after use. Hardware will include lap-top computers, together with printing and scanning equipment, which will all be available for personal use - *under appropriate supervision.* There will, of course, have to be a modest hourly charge for use of these facilities.

## Internet Café

It is planned to open an **Internet Café** on **Saturday mornings** in the committee room from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm. Anyone from the parish may come in and hire one of the laptop computers connected to the internet on a half-hour or hourly basis, and "browse the web" as well as sending and receiving e-mail. At these Saturday sessions, some individual tuition may also be arranged, or specific research activity (e.g., family history research) given a level of supervisory assistance. Tea and coffee (even biscuits!) will hopefully also be available. We hope the Internet Café may become a popular social event.

## Supervision

The committee room will be hired for these

occasions by **Teamakers**, and they will be responsible in these sessions for all computer activities, Internet Café bookings, charges to users, and supervision. The committee of **Michael Barnes, Denis Corless, Graham Durant, Robin Macdonald, June Murry, and Chris White** will share the supervisory duties, together with any other appropriately experienced volunteers who may like to play a part in this activity. *We need more volunteers in order to make this scheme a success.* If you are willing to give up a small amount of your time to assist this voluntary community effort, your help would be gratefully welcomed. Please contact any of the above members as soon as possible.

## Computer Classes at All Saints

In addition to organising the new computer operations at the Parish Hall, **Teamakers** will be continuing with tuition classes at All Saints school, but on a reduced scale. A single weekly class, probably on Mondays, will be scheduled for the Autumn term. Precise dates, times, and topics remain to be finalised. Anyone wishing to attend should contact **Robin Macdonald** on 560436 or at [RbnMacd@aol.com](mailto:RbnMacd@aol.com).

## Feedback

Operational plans are still at the "drawing board" stage, and ANY suggestions and comments on the proposals will be welcome. If the new Parish Hall is to be a successful community facility it really does need more involvement, input and feedback from the community itself about proposed new uses and activities.

The community itself? Er, yes, that's YOU!  
*Let us have your thoughts, please.*

In aid of the new Parish Hall

## Parish Hall Doubles

# "Take Your Partners"

**FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**

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# Village News Round-Up

## New Arrival

Belated congratulations to **Sue and Adrian Durant** on the addition of another beautiful little girl to their family. **Zoe Rose Hope** was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

## Popping The Question

An unusual proposal of marriage has been accepted by **Ruth Jones**, who lives in Thurlestone with her fiancé, **Jason Hard**. Ruth works as a shepherd in Galmpton and Jason is a car mechanic from Salcombe. They have been a twosome for some eight years but Jason recently placed an ad in a local newspaper - *"I was just wondering what the chances are of the world's prettiest shepherd from Galmpton marrying a tubby mechanic from Salcombe?"*.

Unable to resist such a romantic proposal, Ruth said "Yes" and naturally Jason was delighted. Village Voice sends the happy couple our very best wishes!

## Bantham Bather Hurt

With the ambulance stranded in heavy traffic at Totnes, the air ambulance helicopter had to be called to Bantham on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> June, to attend a man who had damaged his neck severely whilst bathing there. Bantham Beach Surf Lifesaving Club members were on the scene immediately, and were able to immobilise the casualty's neck with a spinal collar and provide oxygen. This was one of several incidents with which the Bantham lifeguards dealt over that very hot weekend.

**David Grover**, senior captain of the Club, said they are always keen to recruit new members for this volunteer organisation, to whom they give training. He can be contacted on 01548-560447 during operational hours.

## Gorgeous Garden

On 19<sup>th</sup> June (a scorching hot day) the open day at Lower Kerse, the home of **Stephen and Diana Parker-Swift**, attracted a large number of visitors to view their splendid garden and grounds and enjoy a delicious cream tea. There was a plant stall, and a raffle, and altogether a total of more than £800 was raised for the Parish Hall fund.

A big thank you to all the numerous helpers for their contributions to the day, and particularly to the hosts for their generosity, and all their hard work in presenting Lower Kerse in such a wonderful way - despite the depredations of local livestock!

## Budding Star

Thurlestone youngster **Dominic Quinn**, of Parkfield, has been picked - one of 200 out of 800 applicants - to star in a national production involving acting, singing, song-writing and dance. Aged 11, Dominic has just finished his primary education at Thurlestone School and has now qualified to take part in a Youth Music Theatre UK production of *'The Stones are Hatching'*.

## Lightning Damage

Lightning during the fierce thunderstorm towards the end of June struck and destroyed the chimney - which then damaged the roof and patio - of **John and Glenys Phillips'** bungalow in Crosslands, on the Mead Estate. Fortunately they were not at home when the incident occurred so there were no personal injuries, but unhappily all the plugged-in electrical appliances, including computer, video, television, and so on were a write-off. A number of electrical appliances in neighbouring properties were also affected.

## Aune Conservation

If you are reading this on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, don't forget that tonight at the Thurlestone Church meeting room, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm, **John Peters** will give his presentation on the Atkins Survey of the Avon estuary in connection with the Siltation Project. Coffee and/or tea & biscuits will be served. Other reminders:

(1) From now until the 15<sup>th</sup> September members are invited to meet at 11 am every Thursday, at the Bantham coffee shop where, chairman **John Crawford** tells us, "*.....the view from the quarter deck is fabulous and the bird life is not bad if the resident kestrel is otherwise distracted*"!

(2) 25<sup>th</sup> September is Chestnut Sunday. Meet at the Bantham entrance at 10.30 am and the plan is to inspect the bird boxes and walk the footpaths.

(3) The next reunion is now to be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October (not the Tuesday) at the Royal Oak, Bigbury, with the Barn Dance scheduled for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm at Bigbury Hall (St Anne's Chapel).

## Hospital League of Friends

Once again **Eileen Perraton** and **Jeanne Barton** would like to express their warmest thanks to their many kind friends who contributed generously to their Bathroom Stall at the recent South Hams Hospital's summer fete. Eileen writes:

*"We are delighted to say that we made £260 on our stall and the overall profit on the day was in excess of £1500 which will be put to very good use during the year ahead. In addition we were able to give the £66 raised by the Morris Dancers to the Triangle Centre, which is situated at the Hospital and is closely associated with St Luke's Hospice. The centre has been specifically created to support people with*

*cancer, their families and carers, a support which can be offered at any stage of the illness"*

## The Third 100-Year Quiz

This popular summer brain-teaser, started by **Mary Hugo** in 2003, makes its third annual appearance to continue the fund-raising efforts for the new Parish Hall. The first two versions of this quiz have raised over £800. Devised by **Sheila Sadler** again this year, and produced by Village Voice, this 100 item questionnaire is available (price £1.00) from the Post Office. The prize will again be £50. ***Just the thing for a wet summer day, or to keep the visitors occupied.***

## Dog Business

The beautiful Bantham Ham is yet another problem area when it comes to dog-fouling. The culprits, it has been observed, are people who exercise their dogs - often early in the morning - and see the animals defecating but make no effort to clear the mess up. But there are others equally as culpable as those who turn a 'blind eye'. These are the ones who do clear up, but then throw the bag to the side - or even hang it on a nearby hedge. For those not yet aware of it, there is a dog-poo bin at the Ham.

Now that summer is in full swing, have a thought - you guilty ones - for the children who may be running bare-foot in the beach area. Toxocara, a disease which can destroy eyesight, is transmitted through dog faeces. Evans Estates are more than happy that the Ham should be enjoyed by people and used for walking, but not by dog-owners who do not clear up after their pets. It is the old story of a few irresponsible ones spoiling things for others.

*[It has been suggested that 'Name & Shame' lists could be displayed on parish notice-boards and other prominent places. What do readers think? Ed.]*



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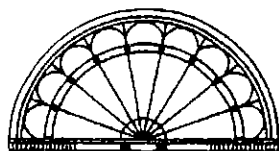
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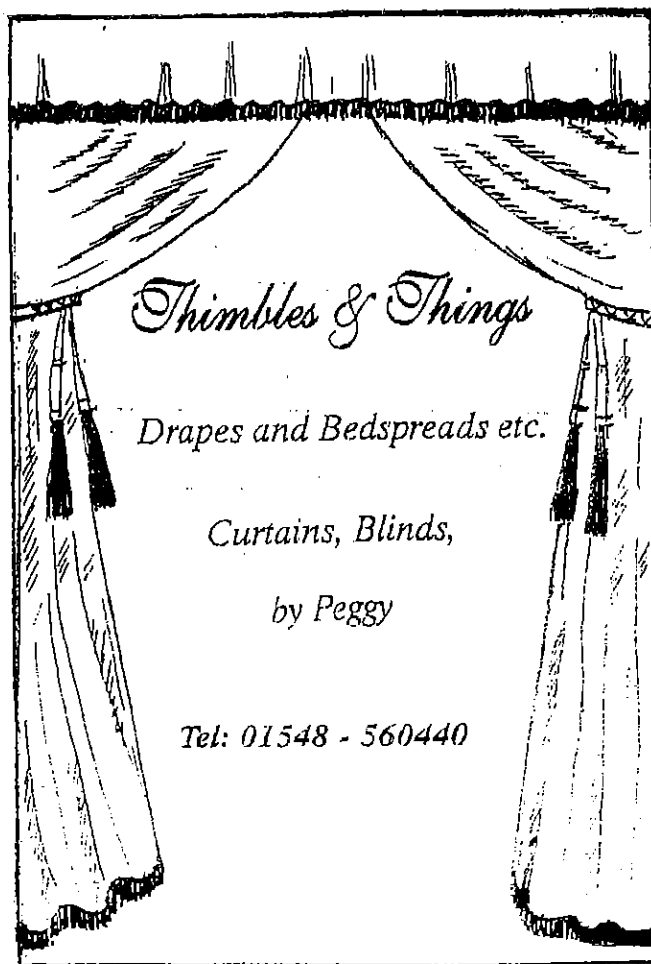
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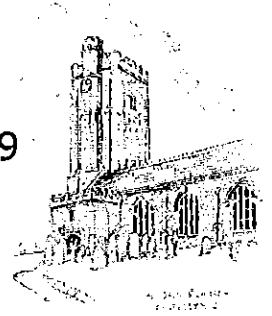
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**Andrew Girling writes:**

## **THE F WORD**

Christians are often accused of being soft on crime and soft on the causes of crime. The F word, 'forgiveness', is seen as synonymous with weakness: just turning the other cheek or letting ourselves be used as doormats. The opposites of the F word, the R words retribution and retaliation, are seen as strong and just. They are, in fact, destructive of any hope of peace. Yet the F word is increasingly seen in today's society as being as unspeakable as the four-letter expletive.

I share with you three of many possible examples of the power and effectiveness of forgiveness.

For Marion Pearl, the wife of the murdered journalist Daniel Pearl, forgiveness was a form of fighting back, enabling her to win a moral victory over her husband's killers. She said: 'The only way to oppose terrorists is by demonstrating the strength that they think they have taken from you'

In 1990, Fr. Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest and African National Congress chaplain, received a letter bomb placed between the pages of a religious magazine. He lost both his hands in the blast. He writes 'Quite early on after the bomb I realised that if I was filled with hatred and desire for revenge, I'd be a victim for ever. If I knew that the people who sent my bomb were now in prison then I'd happily unlock the gates: although I'd like to know that they weren't going to make any more bombs. I believe in restorative justice and I believe in reparation.'

Denise Green, whose son William died at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in 1992 and had his organs removed without his parents' consent, has used forgiveness to take the tragedy into her own hands and to ensure that lessons are learned. 'I can sit down and talk with the pathologists because I am not out to attack them. They realise I want to listen and they, too, have learned from me.'

The F word, if put into practice, has real power to effect constructive peace and justice. Believers or not, we can all recognise the truth of what Jesus taught and showed: that forgiveness is the only hope for a broken and violent world.

*Andrew*

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# 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 (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> BCP, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> CW)  
**11.10 a.m.** 1<sup>st</sup>: Morning Worship for All Ages   2<sup>nd</sup>: Matins (BCP)  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Family Communion (CW)  
4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> : Parish Eucharist (CW)

### Weekdays

**1<sup>ST</sup> 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

**JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>**      **6.00 p.m.** Outdoor Songs of Praise by stream in Buckland  
**AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>**      **6.00 p.m.** Outdoor Songs of Praise at South Milton

BCP = Book of Common Prayer    CW = Common Worship

**See Church Notice Boards for seasonal variations & more information**

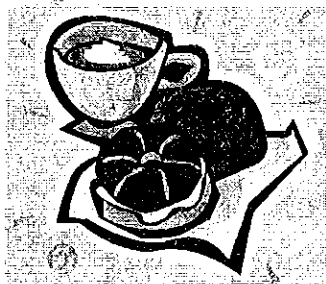
## You can be assured of a warm welcome for Activities in the Church Meeting Room

**MONDAYS**      **10.30 a.m.** Coffee-Time in aid of monthly charity  
**WEDNESDAYS**      **10.30 a.m.** Coffee-Time with optional fun & games in aid of charity  
**1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY**      **12.30 p.m.** Soup & Ploughman's Lunch *in aid of new church lighting*

### September only:

**TUESDAYS**      **3.30 p.m.** Searchlight (primary age) Contact: Liz Webb 560090  
**WEDNESDAYS**      **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  
**FRIDAYS**      **12.30 p.m.** Lunch Club (all other Fridays) for those living alone/unable to cook for themselves – please book in advance on 560090

**Lifts can be arranged to Coffee-Time, Ploughman's & Lunch Club**



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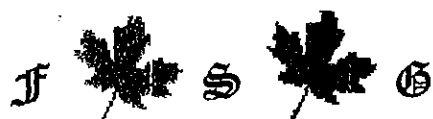
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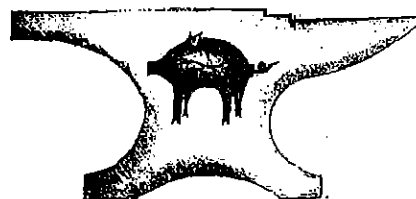
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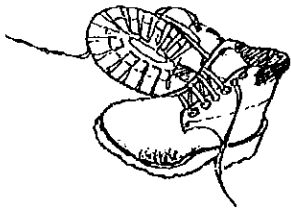


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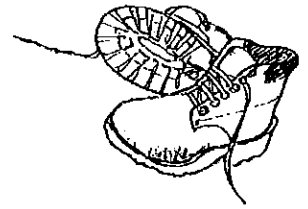
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# TRAMP



**1** Five ladies and a dog braved the rain and thick mist on 2<sup>nd</sup> June to walk the coastal path known as Lord Revelstoke's Drive at Noss Mayo. On such a morning the spectacular views to Plymouth and the Cornish coast, which we would normally have enjoyed, were of course completely blotted out.

It was not an entirely uneventful walk though. We skirted a herd of cows with bull. Kindness to animals ever uppermost in our minds, we were not going to move the poor things from our path even though this meant a slight detour was necessary. But it must be said that this detour did not in the slightest impair the cracking pace we had set for ourselves. Indeed we reached "The Swan" at Noss in record time. The tide being right out, we were able to cross the causeway to "The Swan", so shortening our way a little. Naturally a result of perfect planning by our leader.

So good had our walk time been that the pub was closed when we arrived - but on taking one look at our bedraggled group they opened up for us. We had a super lunch there and set off for the car much refreshed. A shout from the landlord, who came running after us, caused a moment's concern. Had someone not paid? No, it was merely a gallant act to restore the stick left behind by one of our group.

We drove home to Thurstlestone through an ever-brightening afternoon after completing another thoroughly enjoyable TRAMP outing.

SW

**2** This was a walk for which the drive-in was almost as strenuous as the walk itself, involving the tortuous safari from Frogmore to East Portlemouth. Eventually, though, ten

regular Trampers (and two dogs) set off from Mill Bay National Trust car-park at about 10.25 am on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June in bright sunshine and brisk, chilly easterly breeze - ideal conditions for a walk which we knew was probably the longest of the season, at about 9 miles.

The first section was a high-level passage through dense bracken and woodland above the Salcombe Estuary, leading out on to the open coast path with fine views from Prawle Point in the east to Overbecks and the Bolt Head to the west. The coastal walk past the Gara Rock, Venerick's Cove and Elender Cove was airy and pleasant, with profuse wild flowers after a damp Spring - especially tall stands of magenta foxgloves, cranesbill, scarlet pimpernels, sea campion, and some early thrift. The small beaches along this stretch looked idyllic and were, apart from a couple of small boats, deserted.

A final scramble up past Signalhouse Point brought us to Prawle Point, where we turned inland. The path to East Prawle was indistinct and less attractive than the Coast Path proper, so we were glad to reach our lunch venue at The Pig's Nose pub, where we all retired indoors to escape the cold wind. It took us a full hour to recover from the exertions of the eastward hike along the coast, and fortunately the afternoon stretch was easier.

We passed East Prawle's unusual duck-pond and crossed open fields, before negotiating an almost unique segment of footpath in a tunnel through a house at Newhouse Cottages - presumably the legacy of a past planning condition. Two of our party peeled off here for a faster road route back to Mill Bay, but the remaining eight followed an obviously little-used contour path through pleasant pasture and then thick woods down to Goodshelter. We crossed the slippery

tidal causeway without injury, and then followed the deeply shaded narrow road beside the estuary back to East Portlemouth and on to Mill Bay. Including the lunch-stop, the circuit had taken us 6 hours.

DR

**3** On 13<sup>th</sup> June, thirteen walkers, including four young ladies visiting from London, met for a short walk around Snapes Point having parked in the National Trust car park nearby. The weather was absolutely glorious.

We walked over the fields to Snapes Point where we stopped for refreshments and to savour the stunning views over the Salcombe Estuary.

From there, we followed the track to Batson creek, then onward up the hill before taking off over the fields. A steep climb took us back up to the road where I remembered last year we had problems getting the dogs over a stile. We didn't have any dogs with us this year but, in any case, someone had very sensibly adapted the stile to enable dogs to get through easily.

The road took us back to the car park. It had been a lovely walk on one of the better days of this Summer.

LW

**4** The forecast had been for showers on the morning of Thursday 7 July but in the event it was sunny with a light offshore breeze. The party consisted of eight Tramps members (and two dogs), perhaps rendered more mellow as the boisterous element of Tramps had opted for the WI Garden Party instead.

After booking a table for lunch at *The Dolphin* in Kingston, we left the cars in the pub car-park and set off for a short but traffic-free road walk to Scobbiscombe Farm, where we turned west across pasture for a mile's gradual descent to the Erme

Estuary at Fernycombe Point. The crops were beginning to ripen and the path was narrowed to only a foot between the encroaching vegetation on either side, especially top-heavy cow-parsley, but the views westwards towards St Anchorite's Rock, Beacon Hill and Stoke Down were stunning.

At Fernycombe Point we turned up-river and stopped briefly at Muxham Point to admire the view of the Erme Estuary and Orcheton Wood in the distance. We then continued down on to Wonwell Beach, which was completely deserted, and along the tidal sand long enough to let the dogs swim in the freshening water of the ebbing tide. When we reached the road, we turned east for a strenuous but shady climb up through Furzedown Wood, emerging to unusual views of south-west Dartmoor on the horizon. An almost overgrown path through waist-high barley and then oats brought us back to the road, and a short walk back into Kingston for lunch. We opted to sit in the garden, where the sun was surprisingly hot.

This was a short walk (just under 4 miles) but a perfect one for a combination of pasture, coast-path, and woodland walking, all within a short distance of a good pub.

DR

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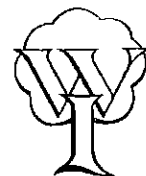
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# NEWS FROM THE WI



## June Meeting

It was a pleasure to welcome **Vivien Plews**, **Wendy Gornall** and **Jennifer Heatley** to our midst. Members had been asked to arrive with their '*party pieces*' as no speaker had been booked. President **Judith Le Grice** kicked off with the *Sardine Song* to be followed by the duo of **Shirley Barnes** and **Karen Livett** as two little boys comparing notes about their Dads. **Dorothy Abel** read a brilliantly wicked piece of poetry by Roald Dahl entitled *A Hand in the Bird* - the punch came in the last line! Then the mood changed with **Vivien Plews's** nostalgic Robert Frost poem 'Autumn Apple-Picking'. **Val Brown's** comic reading of two pieces - the first about a power failure during a mammogram and the second about a village fete - caused great amusement. **Margaret Cullum** gave us two Australian poems, **Shirley Barnes** read '*It couldn't be done*' and **Judith Le Grice** '*Pearls*'. Highlight of the afternoon was a *reprise* by the *Cinderella* chorus-line by the high-kicking **Pat Clarke**, **Pam Knight**, **Wendy Neukirchen** and **Jo Odams** with their '*Big Spender*'.

## Nature Walk

The evening of June 14<sup>th</sup> was luckily fine and dry underfoot and members joined with other local WI members, 42 in total, at an event organised by West Alvington WI - a walk to the bird hide at Charleton Marsh led by our local naturalist **Gordon Waterhouse**. A lot was learnt from his expert commentaries, and a jolly pub supper followed.

## Awards for All

We were delighted with the news of an Award, which will be used to pay for bursaries for members to attend Denman, the WI's adult residential college in Oxfordshire.

## Albert Hall

Eight members attended the NFWI annual general meeting. They had a good time and enjoyed the speakers **Bill Bryson**, **Jane Fonda** and **Helena Kennedy**. Two resolutions, on waste and the environment and farm gate milk prices became mandates. As a result, Thurlestone members planned to contact our local MP to get his support for fairer treatment for farmers over the price they receive as milk producers.

## July

A fine day ensured the success of the Garden Lunch at **Rosemary Mackay's** home and the £70 profit from the day will be donated for equipment at the new Parish Hall. **Pat Clarke's** Wimbledon Tennis Sweepstake made £130 profit which will be donated to the Parish Hall's tennis tournament in aid of the hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> August. Winners were - 1st **Margaret Cullum** (Federer), 2<sup>nd</sup> **Val Morrison** (Roddick) and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Karen Livett** (Venus Williams). A letter was approved for despatch to our MP, as agreed in June, on the subject of farm-gate milk prices.

**Martin Catt** made a welcome return visit, as our booked speaker on 'Wills of the Rich & Famous' could not be with us. Emptying the contents of two Tesco carrier bags packed with pieces of wild material he had gathered from the fields and hedgerows - his talk was called "*Nature's wild harvest, or 3000 BT (Before Tesco)*" - he proceeded to entertain us for almost an hour as he explained piece by piece what their uses were in days gone by. It was a both an insight into the days before modern medicines and a lesson about how much there is from natural sources that could still be of use to us today - even though the people with this kind of knowledge are a vanishing breed.

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# BOOKSHELF

---

## **My African Stories**

by Tony Goddard

(The Memoir Club £14.95)

Little news out of Africa seems to be good news, despite St Bob and his court of rockers and 'millions' on marches and police-bashing in Edinburgh. Of course the debt forgiveness of world leaders is a stride in the right direction, but dare one say that your average African was better off and safer in the shade of the Union Jack than he is under most of his current rulers?

That is why I approached this book by Tony Goddard, the Bantham barrister, with some caution. I feared his African stories might be very depressing. I was totally wrong.

Here, written with wit and honesty, is Tony Goddard's account of his life in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) between 1962 and 1965 when, at the age of 23, he joined the Colonial Office and found himself posted as a District Officer with responsibility for a complete tribal area, including a game reserve, during the run-up to independence. As a stipendiary magistrate he dealt with cases the like of which his law practice would never come cross in the whole of Thurlestone parish. However, it is true that sometimes, Rumpole-like, he recalls dealing with cases which will have a distinct Bantham ring about them to local readers.

Of course his stories include the obligatory tales of being chased by a lioness and being tree-ed by a rhino, but his other memories contain more serious stuff. He served as an air-gunner with a flare pistol in a police spotter-plane during a small tribal war. Even in his tales of the front line ground skirmishes between troops, police and natives in that same war, he still does not lose the good humour for which he is known in this parish and for which I suspect he is still remembered by the characters who bob

up on every page. A well-written memoir, certainly worth reading.

KM

## **Don't Let's Go To The Dogs Tonight**

by Alexandra Fuller

(Picador £6.99)

This has an African setting. It is the story of a childhood spent living through the war in what used to be Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and wondering if you fought on the right side, and about the stoicism of the family round whom the story is based. It recounts their troubles and privations before moving on to farm in Malawi and then Zambia.

RM

## **The Undomesticated Goddess**

by Sophie Kinsella

(Bantam £16.99)

I had given up hope of finding anything worth reviewing, when up comes the library with this corker of a new best-seller by Sophie Kinsella. She writes with a witty and refreshing style which is very funny indeed at times but still thought-provoking.

It is the story of a very intelligent high-flying female lawyer who is destined to be offered a partnership in a most prestigious legal firm but who, at the last minutes, comes a cropper. Or does she? Read the intriguing and entertaining way in which she resolves her predicament, changes her life, and turns the tables on those who plot her downfall.

This is a most enjoyable book, not to be missed, which I recommend highly for a holiday read. She has written five other novels which I will now be chasing!

GW



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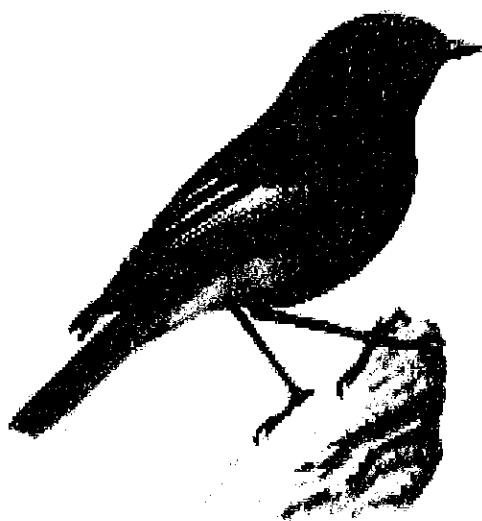
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# HARRY HUGGINS ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

June remarked how the birds we see have changed. We started our Thurlestone life in an apartment in Mead Drive, drove down from Essex to see it one January in the late 1970s. On the low wall outside was a male Black Redstart - a sooty grey-and-black creature with a brilliant chestnut tail, very like a Robin, its near relative, but a bit less portly.



**Black Redstart**

Very rare in Britain, they began to breed on bomb-sites in London which perhaps reminded them of their European mountain homes. Go to Mallorca in winter and you will find hundreds, if not thousands, of them. In Devon we get just the odd one wintering - look at the rocks piled up at the end of the South Milton car park and there is sometimes one by the Lifeboat House in Hope Cove.

Black Redstart was enough for me. Far more practical, June was concerned about what accommodation the apartment had to offer. But for me, if there were wintering Black Redstarts, why look further? They haven't disappointed us. We kept the apartment for three or four years, for holidays. Then we moved along Meadcombe Road to where we are now. The garden was bare earth. The builders had put grass seed in, but weeds came up first. I wailed to Derrick Yeoman. "Keep knocking

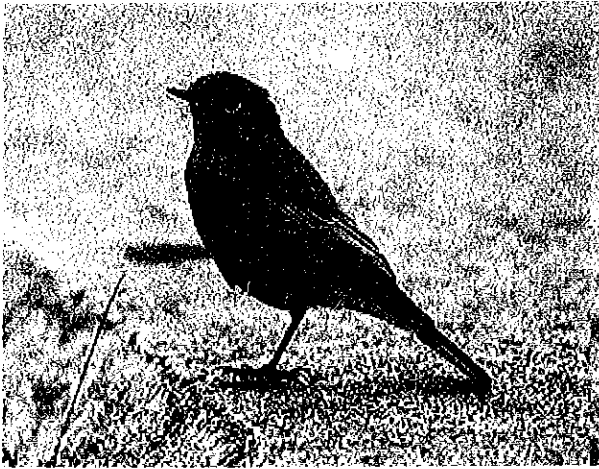
them down" he said. So I got out the *Flymo* and kept knocking them down. Eventually the grass and I prevailed.

We wanted bushes around. As far as I recall the deeds said we mustn't, but we wanted some privacy from the dogs and their owners who had rambled all over what had become our garden and didn't see why they shouldn't continue. June grew some bushes from bits taken from a huge pile of cuttings which used to be in Mead Drive where there are fine big houses now. Others came from what I pinched out of people's hedges in the village. We would find them as we walked about and when I took the dog out after dark I would cut them off. No doubt that if we had asked we would have been invited to help ourselves....but it was much more fun to steal them.

One boundary has somewhere around 120 feet of holly hedge. We bought this at an auction at a little nursery near Buckland Abbey - in 60 containers. The man said "Would you like to bring your lorry now sir?" He seemed surprised when I turned up with a Ford Escort. Somehow it all went it - a lot around June's feet and the dog had to ride home on her lap. There was a time when I could cut the hedge for myself. Not any more - it is higher than I am and would now be over 20 feet high if we had let it grow.

Meanwhile there were still Black Redstarts. Around us were half-built houses and piles of blocks and things which builders leave around. The Black Redstarts loved these and a few stayed for the winters. There were Cirl Buntings too, at about their lowest ebb, for it was reckoned there were fewer than a hundred pairs left in Britain - all along the South Devon coast. But we had three or four pairs in the hedges on the Mead. Now hedges and birds have all gone. This was when all the elm trees were dying from Dutch Elm disease. Some people thought the decline of the Cirl Bunting was linked. Later the RSPB folk found the birds needed rough weedy places to provide food in winter. They got farmers to leave uncultivated strips around the edges of their fields and numbers are supposed

to have increased. I say supposed - it could just be that they have been looking harder for the birds.



**Female Black Redstart**

Slowly our hedges grew, with the odd set-back when Farmer Stidston's cows came and ate them all. The builders were working down the hill and for a time we were in the lowest row. But eventually the houses below us were finished, the piles of blocks were used up and the Black Redstarts didn't come any more. There were piles of earth heaped up as the gardens were 'landscaped' - which meant scraping off the topsoil and leaving us with the shillet sub-soil. Cirl Buntings used to sit on these heaps, and on the old field hedges which remained, to sing. The piles of earth went too, to be buried (along with one or two old motor cars) under the topsoil in the valley below.

So we lost the Black Redstarts and the Cirl Buntings. Other birds came instead. Almost to the day we moved in House Martins built on our house. They nested every year against opposition from House Sparrows. I tried to help by dangling strings with weights in front of the nests which deterred the Sparrows for a while. Once a nest fell down in a rain squall - we thought that fledged young from an earlier brood crowded in for shelter. One chick drowned in a drain and I put the other in a margarine tub and pinned it up where the nest had been. The parents continued to feed it and it fledged. Now, in 2005, we have no House Martins and for the past few years we have had no Sparrows - they have been going through a bad patch almost everywhere. This year, however, they are returning and there is constant chirping.

As the hedges have grown Robins have come.

Before we had anything much in the garden we put up a bird table. It has a roof and wires from the top to the tray to keep out the big birds. A young couple in a car saw a Robin on it. They thought we had it in a cage (*"A Robin in a cage/Has all heaven in a rage"* and all that). They strode across the garden to protest, whereupon Robin flew out....to our delight and their utter confusion.

As well as Robins there are Hedge Sparrows (Dunnocks if you prefer), Chaffinches and Blackbirds. We feed all year - they need help in winter and in spring when they have families. Come the summer there are lots of birds but little in the way of wild seeds yet. Shelled sunflower seeds are what we put out, the richest food available. Shelled because if you don't buy shelled ones the birds split the shells out and you get a mass of black bits everywhere. (£21.00 for 12.5 kilos from Vine Farm, Deeping St Nicholas, near Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 3DG. They will eat that lot in a month). Peanuts go off if not eaten quickly but the sunflower seeds are so popular they are gobbled up immediately - by Greenfinches mostly.

When we lived at Clacton-on-Sea, our birding guru told us that if we saw three Greenfinches at the food there were almost certainly thirty coming. Now we often count a dozen or more so does that mean there are over 100? This year there have been Goldfinches too - four and a young one, though fewer now as we found on the lawn the wing feathers of one - no doubt a Sparrowhawk had him. No, I don't grudge the Sparrowhawk, not after living in Essex where we never saw one - wiped out by pesticides and gamekeepers.

It isn't only the birds which have changed. So have the trees. Among my favourite bedside reading is a jolly little book called *"The Story of Thurlestone, Bantham and West Buckland (told with the help of old photographs)"* Kendall McDonald did the words, Peter Hurrell provided the pictures and Neil Girling had a finger in the pie somewhere. The Thurlestone shop has copies.

There is a picture of what Kendall calls the long drag up Buckland Hill to Thurlestone (Die-on-the way Hill we used to call it). He remarks that this was one of the places then (1895) which was more wooded than now. There is a photograph,



taken from the air, of Thurlestone Rock and the nearby beaches. I am not going to commit myself as to whether these are South Milton Sands or Thurlestone Sands, although a chunk of it is in South Huish. It shows the church and part of the Yarmer estate - all looking very stark without much in the way of trees. Kendall does not quote a date for the picture, saying merely it was between the wars. The Thurlestone Hotel appears with quite a lot of trees behind it. In his little book about the history of Thurlestone Golf Club Neville Oswald tells us that the main block of the hotel was completed in 1928.

Across the road from the Clubhouse there appears in the photographs to be a little building which I take to be the headquarters of the Artisans' Golf Club. Neville says this was built in 1934 but of course there might have been something there before. These presumably second-class citizens paid a subscription of 5p a year for which they could play in evenings during the summer and after 1 pm on Saturdays. Beyond this little building (I don't think the loos were there then) a hedge stretched inland, with big trees where the blocks of apartments at Merchants Garden are now.

Close to the Clubhouse there were no trees, just hedge, though no doubt someone had planted trees in it. When I took a photograph in 1987 there were, quite close to the Clubhouse, fine tall pine trees (Maritime Pines I think). They were flourishing. When I took another, in 1994, all

were dead and now they have gone as though they never were. So in about 60 years they must have grown big and then died; a lot of trees don't seem to live long in these parts.

In 1989 a pair of Buzzards nested there, only about a hundred yards from the Clubhouse. All very successful as they brought off about three young ones. There must have been plenty of rabbits to feed them on, and we saw the parents catching Wood Pigeons. The Wood Pigeons which strut about our garden - and stand under the feeders to take bits of seed which the finches drop - seem pretty tame but usually they are scary and tough. We think of Buzzards as lazy, clumsy old things but they must be pretty agile to catch Wood Pigeons - different from their usual diet of rabbits, road kills (which is why we see them sitting on electricity poles as we drive to Kingsbridge) and earthworms.

Most things eat earthworms. They are a staple part of a badger's diet, and you may see upwards of twenty Buzzards following a plough. Can't say I've tried earthworms, though I have eaten odd things like fish-head stew (in Singapore) and snipe cooked in the 'traditional way', which means with its insides left in.

*But earthworms ..... well, you never know where they have been!*

**Harry Huggins**

## POSTBAG

Dear Editor

### The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread!

I am so pleased with our new wheelie-bins that I could not resist writing to tell you. How splendid to get rid of those old dustbins which were so heavy and awkward to move to the roadside. Now we have bins with wheels and a handle - it's so easy. I wish the brown bin was larger, but so far I can get all my grass cuttings and prunings in, and so - no more trips to the tip. Hooray! We have a yard and the bins go in there out of the way and are conveniently near to the back door. As for cleaning the bins, no problem. I use the garden hose, and wash the car at the same time. All in all - a great improvement. Well done the South Hams District Council!

Yours gratefully

Anon

(name and address supplied)

# Puzzle Page

## NINE-LETTER WORD-SEARCH - FIND THE AIRPORTS

The grid contains names of 21 x 9 letter airports. The first three columns are airports in the UK - the next four columns are airports overseas. The clues may (or may not!) be of help!

1. Mind the Tower!
2. A Beatledrome?
3. Light blue?
4. Not an old keep
5. Opposite the George
6. West of Skye
7. North of Skye
8. A sand wedge to Troon
9. The city in the Highlands
10. A harbour?
11. One Gabriel
12. Manuel's hometown
13. Find the Orlando Column
14. Named after Kazantzakis
15. Capital of Pakistan
16. Black Hawk down
17. Music City
18. Where Goering died
19. Mainport Europe
20. Portus Victoriae
21. The Da Vinci code?

BEN	STW	CKP	FIU	ANC	TAN	NIK
OOL	TLE	ROB	ERG	ION	BAR	TER
ERN	BRI	ICK	HOR	LLE	ADI	HER
ORO	STO	ULA	BAD	DUB	ISL	CEL
BLA	INV	LIV	AKL	ROT	AGE	HVI
DGE	ERP	CAS	HAN	MOG	NUR	SAN
PRE	BEC	RNO	NAS	MIC	ROV	AMA
NEW	UGH	CAM	ONA	DER	EMB	ARC
WAY	OOL	ESS	DAM	GEL	INO	SHU

## TEN TEASERS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who was the first Mrs Warren Beatty?</li> <li>2. What is the regulator of the National Lottery called?</li> <li>3. In which county would you find Papworth Hospital?</li> <li>4. Which is the world's oldest surviving republic?</li> <li>5. What is Paul McCartney's first name?</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Which is the largest borough in the city of New York?</li> <li>7. Which animal can be red, arctic, bat-eared, and fennec?</li> <li>8. What colour are Rupert Bear's trousers?</li> <li>9. Which sea or ocean is the least salty in the world?</li> <li>10. What is the meaning of the word piliferous?</li> </ol> |
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# HORSWELL DIARY

It's been a crazy few weeks. The decorators are still here. After three months I'm beginning to feel like a sparrow with a family of cuckoos disrupting my nest. Indeed bird-brained would be a good way of describing my state of mind recently. Take the wallpaper problem for instance: We have all seen it, we all agree that the vital roll to complete the downstairs corridor is here in the house somewhere, we are all SURE we can find it. But the truth is: we can't. Meanwhile Darty and I camp out in the kitchen sitting on hard garden chairs because:

a) The upholsterer has had our proper chairs for so long I would not recognise them if they appeared on Crimewatch.

b) With the corridor half finished the effort to reach any other part of the house necessitates an expedition to the South Pole and back via several flights of stairs and wanderings through bedrooms various. By which time encroaching senility assures that we have forgotten why we set off in the first place and ensures that whatever we meant to bring with us has been left behind!

We have searched high and low in every conceivable nook and cranny for the missing paper; behind bookcases, on top of wardrobes, in dark corners of damp cellars, toolsheds, garages and bat-infested attic hideaways. All to no avail. And then we searched all over again. And then again. Despite a clear picture in our minds of exactly how the roll of paper is lying (next to another scrap of the same wallpaper, covered in thick dust) we have had no success and nearly driven ourselves insane in the search. Did I say nearly? I wonder sometimes.

In desperation I called the local clairvoyant for a consultation.

*"Is there something specific that you want to discuss?"* she asked. *"What exactly is the problem?"*

I do not know how far up the scale of eccentricity *"I've lost the wallpaper"* comes, but seemingly unfazed by my request she agreed to bring her pendulum and help us look.

My husband is, of necessity, a long suffering man. But when Abigail greeted him with a shocked *"It's YOU !! I've been looking for you for so long. Don't you remember me? La Rochelle 1640. I brought all my horses. You sailed without me!"* and later failed dismally to locate the missing wallpaper, I think he began to wonder who out of the three of us had lost

what? (The strange thing is that they really did seem to recognise each other and my husband has always had a soft spot for La Rochelle!)

After Abigail had left I felt a strong urge to go and look in my wardrobe. Sure enough I found a roll of wallpaper. But maddeningly the wrong one! It reminded me of the conversation we'd had. She told how she had worked for the police in locating a missing person. When they dug up the site she had "visualised" they found bones. But not the bones of the missing person. The bones of a corpse from a different century!

So after all our efforts the decorators could not progress and the only piece of wallpaper in our possession was the one scrap that Jack and Milly had ripped from the wall without chewing it into a million bits. We were guarding it with our life.

Our search had highlighted the vast amount of clutter we seem to have collected in our 14 years at Horswell. I say "we" to keep the peace. What I really mean is that my husband is a hoarder. In the cellar I found all manner of junk that I KNOW I had previously asked him to remove from the toolshed, and in the toolshed I discovered a whole lot of rubbish previously housed in the cellar! Under severe duress a skip was hired. Determined to get full value for money we started early. I donned rubber gloves and delved into vile corners piling rubbish upon rubbish to be loaded into the skip, expecting at every moment to find a dead rat or a spider at least the size of a crab. Exuding resentment at the loss of each treasure, my husband hauled the stuff away, muttering sufficient incantations under his breath to turn me, at best, into a frog or a toad. Did he really think I was enjoying this?

Before long *"Oh, we don't need a skip, I'll take it to the tip"* turned into *"You can't get much in you know. We could have done with a bigger skip"*. By lunchtime the skip was indeed very full. And we were weary, filthy and hungry. We met in the kitchen and struggled to find the energy to pull open the fridge door. We need not have bothered. Milk and a pack of stale bacon were hardly going to make a meal. The phone rang. It was Rosemary, our friend from Thurstlestone.

*"You're supposed to be here for lunch!"* she said. *"How long will you be?"*

We looked each other up and down, taking in

the mould, the sawdust and the cobwebs thinking *'How long does it take to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear?'* 20 minutes, we agreed.

Suitably bathed and scrubbed we enjoyed a lunch that was delicious despite our late arrival. Our hostess was, as ever, charming and the other guests were kind and forgiving, remembering times when they too had forgotten to turn up to an event or arrived a day too early or a day too late. The thought of returning home to our chores became increasingly unappealing. But with the skip being collected the following day it was essential to keep going. So we changed back into our work clothes and cleared and swept until evening. The decorators would barely recognise their newly cleaned "store room" when they returned. Thinking of decorators made my thoughts return to the wallpaper. And in particular the remaining scrap that had been laid for safety on top of a pile of dust sheets. *'Have you seen that piece of wallpaper?'* I asked.

*'Which piece of wallpaper? I haven't seen any wallpaper'* came the reply.

*'The piece that was here, on top of those old dust sheets you threw away.'*

*'The dust sheets are in the skip.'*

I looked around the neatly swept cellar, bare now except for paint pots and a pair of steps: *'Then the wallpaper must be in there too!'*

And so in I had to go. Over the top. In amongst all the horrible old detritus and the imagined spiders and rats, poking about in the skip searching for that one precious piece of paper. Of course it was in the bottom, wet and muddy, beneath EVERYTHING. It tore in half as I pulled it. And then in half again as I pulled some more.

The sound of a car approaching made me stand up as best I could. It was a rather nice Mercedes. *'Is that you, Mrs. Dart?'* asked the handsome young man who stepped from the car. I clasped my three bits of paper and considered hiding somewhere beneath the

leaking radiator and a rusting mower, but there wasn't room. It is hard to assume any sort of dignity when only one's head and shoulders are visible above the deep metal sides and surrounding debris of a loaded skip. I imagined myself in the heat of battle, a tank commander with camouflage painted on my face.

*'Yes'* I answered weakly.

*'Have you lost something?'* he asked.

I held up my stained scraps of paper.

*'Oh dear!'* came the reply. *'We are feeling hard up, aren't we?'*

He helped me gallantly as I jumped awkwardly from the skip.

*'I've brought your chairs back - well, five of them anyway.'*

*'Five? What happened to the sixth?'*

*'Ah, well, the chair's all right. That's OK.'*

*'Nothing to worry about there. It's just that, well, er, um, well, I've lost the piece of fabric I cut to cover it. And as you know, there isn't any more.'*

*'How do you mean, lost it?'*

*'Well I know I had it. But then it just seemed to disappear.'*

Briefly, somewhere between wanting to scream or cry, I felt a sense of *déjà vu* and considered giving him Abigail's telephone number.

*'Oh! Let's have a drink'* stated my husband, sensing a touch of angst in the air. *'I'll go and fetch a bottle.'*

We sat in the kitchen on the hard garden chairs, not wanting to risk dirtying the pristine 5 and waited for him to return. After some time there was an anguished call for a pair of pliers.

*'Pliers? Whatever for?'*

*'The decorators have removed the doorknob from the wine cellar and I can't get in!'*

I don't suppose we will ever know if it was intended as retribution for delaying their progress, but when I saw them having to create a sort of *papier maché* out of my salvaged scraps I could not honestly say that I blamed them.

*Prunella Dart*



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*Reviewed by Kendall McDonald  
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# When Owls Did Cry

By Hubert Snowdon

My lifetime interest in birds began when, as a toddler, my older sisters lifted me up to look into a hedge sparrow's nest in a laurel bush. On seeing for the first time the beautiful green-blue eggs in the round moss-lined cup of a nest I was hooked for life.

Our garden and orchards at Langmans Farm, with the valley stream running through, allowed me, as I grew, to watch many common birds and the occasional rare one. I could not wait each year for spring to turn up and hear the crescendo as more migrants joined the dawn chorus. An unbelievable sound when compared to the few birds that were singing the last time I slept there.

Barn and tawny owls were common, the little owl rarer. The screech of the barn and the tu-whits of the tawny often kept me from sleeping. They sat on our barn roofs while watching for rats - one of their main foods - and calling to keep in touch with others. Rats were more plentiful as the cob and stone walls of barns like ours were riddled with holes, providing them with safe homes. The worst time as far as sleep was concerned was in July when young owls, just out of the nest, sat on the roofs squeaking continuously to be fed by their parents. I used to get very annoyed!

Where in our parish and its environs were the nests of barn owls to be found? In the pigeon loft of the farm buildings *[now the site of the shop and barn conversions]* that burned down next to Thurlestone Church and in a barn near the Rock House Hotel. It was at this barn that I had a scare one day. On flinging open double doors whilst checking the building, I instantly heard a blood-curdling screech and a barn owl came flying straight at me and missed my head by just a whisker. It was an unexpected surprise and if it intended to scare me it certainly did!

There were barn owls at Hamditch, a ruined cottage, and further up the same valley was a ruined threshing barn where a kestrel nested. Further up again was an overgrown willow plot where a sparrowhawk nested. In fact a walk up that lea-side on a spring evening was a rich bird experience and the place deserved to become the reserve it now is. Yet further up, stock doves

nested in a row of old poplar trees. I wonder how many birds are there now?

The ruined church at South Huish was another site for owls. Isolated old threshing barns like the ones at West Down, Bantham, are ideal places for these shy birds. The four marshes between Bantham and South Huish, running down to the sea, were perfect hunting grounds for barn owls. In each I have seen them quartering the ground searching for prey in daylight, though they are mainly night hunters. But when the weather is wet they are reluctant to hunt as their soft feathers can become water-logged and put their lives at risk. This softness of feather makes their flight silent so their prey cannot hear them approaching. Eventually hunger can drive them out by day if it is dry, and particularly if they have chicks to feed.

When I first moved to Totnes there was evidence of barn owls in the many isolated barns around there. Interestingly, I have been told that the reason for these barns being built around Totnes was because land-owners who built barns gained an extra vote at certain elections. Politics!

One day as a youth walking along Hill Top Lane, which ran through Langmans Farm, I saw something flopping along in front of me. It turned out to be a barn owl on its last legs due to starvation. A dead rat was attached and locked on to its lower bill. The owl had clawed away most of the rat except the skull and some skin but, unable to hunt and feed, it was dying of starvation.

If fed, the owl may have survived but the only thing I could do then was to put it out of its misery by despatching it. Thank goodness there are places today that can help these damaged creatures such as the Barn Owl Trust here at Ashburton. I recently heard a speaker from the Trust and understand that today there are only about 600 pairs of barn owls in Britain.

*This serious decline in their numbers makes me think I would gladly suffer the disturbed sleep of my young days to have them back again. What a tragedy it would be if these beautiful birds with the soft feathers and silent flight were to be lost forever.*

# IN YOUR GARDEN

**W**e are heading towards a time of year when gardens can look a bit bedraggled. With the passing of summer's freshness things can begin to show signs of wear-and-tear but there are a few simple things that can be done to help maintain some of your garden's good looks particularly in the mixed borders. If you 'have a go' say every other day in short sessions you'll soon notice the difference.

Never go out into your garden without secateurs in hand! Keep on top of the 'dead-heading' of spent flowers and tidying up the leaves that have gone brown or died off. Trim hedges and encroaching plants which are growing too vigorously into another's space. Hardy geranium, catmint, day-lilies, alchemilla can have their leaves cut back quite hard immediately after flowering and will regenerate with fresh-looking foliage.

Any bedding plants - zonal geraniums, verbena, pansies, petunias, marigolds and so on - must have their spent blooms removed and, particularly if they are in containers or baskets, be regularly fed if they are to continue to provide colour. Sweet peas in particular must not be allowed to produce seed pods as they will cease flowering, so keep picking them to enjoy their scent in the house. Border plants should have their dead flowers nipped off or the whole stalk removed - things such as coreopsis, gaillardias, rudbeckia, penstemons, dahlias and roses.

Keep your hoe working on those weeds! They compete for nourishment with the plants you are nurturing and hoeing regularly gives an instant well-groomed look to the soil. Keep paths well brushed and don't forget to trim the edges of the lawns after mowing. When watering plants, take the 'rose' off the end of the can and direct the water in a stream to fall around specific plants, so that they get a good soak where it is the most effective. The roots must be encouraged to go down in search of water but if you spray water around lightly the

penetration is not deep enough and roots can tend to come to the surface, which is no good for the plant's well being. If your roses suffer from black-spot (and whose don't round here with our unpolluted Devon atmosphere?) try and remember to pick up all the affected leaves as they fall to the ground. If they are left to lie they can be the source of next year's black-spot.

Pots of summer-flowering bulbs (lilies, acidanthera, galtonias etc. which are on sale in early spring) can be very useful to transport around the garden to enliven a corner which is looking a bit jaded! Small potted shrubs such as box or hebe can also be useful for this purpose. It is a good time to take cuttings - rosemary, lavender and penstemons all root fairly easily. Start to prune wisteria now - first stage is to shorten lengthy side shoots to about one foot; the second stage is in winter when they are cut back to within an inch or so of the main stem. Winter-flowering iris appreciate a weak liquid feed in August.

At the time of writing there don't seem to be a large number of butterflies and moths on the wing but during daytime in July I saw Jersey Tiger moths at three locations in the parish including the usual one in my own garden. It is an eye-catching red-orange as it flies and is clearly distinguishable from other Tigers when it settles, as its black and cream markings on the arrow shape are crisply linear. In Britain it is almost exclusive to south Devon.

Finally, our very own Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show will be taking place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2.30 pm - at South Milton village hall this year. It is always a happy event and of course it is not totally confined to gardens - go and have a look at what local artists, cooks and craftsmen have been up to as well. Enjoyment is guaranteed!

*Ladybird*

Thurlestone & South Milton



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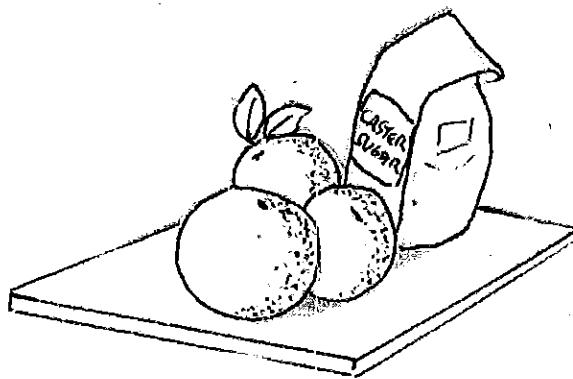


## ORANGE ALMOND CAKE

Here is the recipe for a delicious tea-time treat. It is very easy and straightforward to make and, unusually, does not contain flour. If you have one, use a spring form cake tin which has sides that open and the bottom is loose to allow easy removal of the cake. If you don't - you can easily manage with a simple loose-bottomed tin.

### ***Ingredients***

3 medium oranges  
6 eggs separated  
225 g (8 ozs) castor sugar  
200 g (7½ ozs) ground almonds  
1 teaspoon baking powder



### ***Preparation***

- Place clean, whole, unpeeled oranges in enough water to cover and bring to the boil. Simmer for about 1 hour or until soft, adding more water as necessary.
- Drain the oranges, cut into quarters, discard any pips and whiz the rest in a food processor. Place in a bowl and allow to cool.
- Set oven to 180 deg.C ( gas mark 4)
- Beat egg yolks and sugar together in food processor until pale.
- Beat in oranges, almonds and baking powder.
- Beat egg whites until softly peaking and fold into the mixture.
- Pour into a 23 cm (9 inch) spring form cake tin and bake for an hour until firm to the touch. Cover with a loose sheet of foil to prevent the cake from over-browning.
- Serve with double cream or Greek yoghurt.

***Don't worry if the cake sinks slightly - it will not alter the wonderful flavour.***

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# THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

## CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

We are now in the middle of our very busy golfing season, and now hoping for some lovely summer weather to warm our backs and help to make our swings a little more flowing.

Very sadly my Vice Captain, **Dickie Bird**, resigned in May. However, I am pleased to say that the new Vice Captain of the Club is **Alec Esplin**. Alec lives in South Milton with his wife **Sue**, who is also a golfer, and their son Mark and daughter Vikki. Alec and Sue are both directors of Jades Components in Kingsbridge, and so are very busy people. I would like to wish Alec every success in his new role at the Club.

Last winter it was decided to hold a midsummer ball at the Club. The last ball the Club organised was for the centenary year in 1997, so it was a matter of fingers crossed for the event we staged on 25<sup>th</sup> June. As you might imagine a huge amount of work went into the organisation of the ball, and there are too many people who helped to thank individually through Village Voice. However, I must mention **Joan Booth** who worked tirelessly to make the evening a success, and everything went like clockwork, despite the huge storm which bashed the marquee about on Friday morning. I would also like to express my thanks to all the members, including some of our "away" members, who supported the event.

We had a wonderful band called "Magic" whose music was perfect for the occasion. The food and wine were excellent and I know I was not alone in having a little headache the next morning, so the finger crossing worked.

The next big social event at the Club is the Captain's Charity day on 30<sup>th</sup> July. The whole event is being organised by Dickie and Di Bird and will be two forms of scramble followed by a hog roast, and we are going to have the pleasure



of listening to jazz from **David Barrow** and his jazzmen. If we are lucky enough to get some good weather the atmosphere at the club should be excellent.

The Lady Captain, **Jenny Underhill**, and I share the same charity, which is the Devon Air Ambulance, and we should be delighted if anyone would like to help the cause by making a donation. Donations may be handed in to the club office.

On the golfing front, I would like to wish all of our members and visitors a very successful summer season. In particular, I would like to wish continuing success to our Palairret squad under their Captain, **Keith Crawford**, who lives in the village. The team has reached the last eight in this very prestigious Devon inter-club competition. By the time this Village Voice goes to print we will know whether or not they have progressed safely through their match against Staddon Heights Golf Club, and qualified for the finals day on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

*Eric Wilson*

## LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

It's boring, I know, and a topic which the British are often accused of finding all-absorbing, but the weather really *does* have a major effect on sporting outdoor activities. This is certainly true of golf clubs, where players are expected to play whatever the weather is doing. There are few exceptions - one is lightning and another is fog, making the course dangerous to play. We have had both since my last report to you, when I asked for good weather. So much for hoping.....

The worst day was for our own Silver Open - when the fog became so thick on the top of the course that play had to be suspended and then abandoned. For me the trouble was that at that

point some players had completed the 18 holes, some came in from holes 11 to 18, and some had only done 9. A Captain's nightmare!

The only equitable solution was to reduce it to 9 holes as that was the only factor all had in common. Inevitably this hurt those who had performed well over the whole 18 holes and unfortunately this included home players **Kelly Luscombe**, who returned a nett 67, and also **Caroline Newton**, who was 68 nett, and my deepest apologies go to them.

On a happier note our own Vets' Champion, **Lindsey Fletcher**, went on to win the Devon County Vets' Championship and so is a double Champion. Congratulations, Lindsey! Our Club competitions every Wednesday are continuing to be well-supported and our teams are enjoying the challenge of playing on other courses against good opponents. Even when we don't win, it's a good day out.

The weather wasn't wholly bad. In fact it was spectacularly perfect for two big events. The first was the **County Silver Open** (which I told you would be worth watching, and so it was, as the winner returned a GROSS score of 73, par for the course), and the second was for my own Captain's Day, when a perfect summer's day enabled everyone to enjoy competing both in the morning and in the fun competitions in the afternoon. So you see, the sky is the first thing I look at in the morning, as its performance is crucial to our day's events.

Here's to the end of the summer - but of course the farmers and the gardeners need rain, so whatever happens someone will be pleased!

*Jenny Underhill*

## Juniors Section Newsletter

The Juniors section continues to thrive, with Saturday coaching still well attended and the Monday evening sessions enthusiastically supported both by juniors and the adult helpers. There are now several juniors playing in the adult competitions and it is good to see them competing with the other members of the Club.

**Jono Franke** must be specially mentioned. He has won both of his Palaret matches this season, competing in a team that has the strongest squad I have seen in the last few years. Also **Jack Wallace**, who won the Membland Trophy (effectively the Club championship) and in the first round Medal came very close to the course record.

In the West Devon League, the match against Tavistock had to be postponed because of mist, and another (against Wrangaton) was claimed as they failed to raise a team. In the Tamar Cup, a team comprising **Jono Franke, Chris Rothwell, Tim Bromfield, Adam Baker** and **Ross Yeoman** lost narrowly to Wrangaton despite being a man down. Ross did particularly well as he had to play off the maximum allowance of 28 rather than his normal 54.

Just this week, three Thurlestone Juniors represented Kingsbridge Community College in the South-West Regional Final of the British Heart Foundation Trophy. The team of **Tim Bromfield, Chris Rothwell** and **Adam Baker** finished 5<sup>th</sup> on the day - only one point off second place which would have qualified them for the national final.

Several of our juniors will be entering opens at other clubs throughout the summer holidays, and I know they will represent us well from a playing and etiquette perspective. I wish them well, and hope to report on some good results in the next issue!

*Alec Esplin*

## Tennis Section Newsletter

Wet and windy weather in late May and early June delayed the opening of our grass courts. The 'Beginning of Season Tournament' was played in blustery conditions on the all-weather courts.

The Club events, Tuesday afternoon at 1.30 pm and Wednesday evening at 5.30 pm are in full swing. Visiting players are welcome with a £5.00 playing fee.



Junior members Lucas Alexander, James Hatch, Drew Fenton-Jones and Peter Barnard represented the club in the Junior South Hams League with great enthusiasm. Our senior team - Malcolm and Jono Franke, Julie Hanham, Pat Clarke and Nicki Came (Captain), won their friendly match against Avonvale. All members are looking forward to competing in the Parish Hall Tournament on the 5<sup>th</sup> August.

The summer holiday programme is now running. Our visitors, junior and senior, can take weekly or week-end membership to compete in the tournaments. Entry lists are posted on the pavilion board.

### **Mini-Tennis Coaching Sessions**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

5 to 7 years - 10 am to 10.45 am  
8 to 10 years - 10.45 am to 11.30 am

Coaching lists will be found  
posted in the tennis pavilion

**Coach - Janet Richardson**  
(Telephone 01548-856007)

Tennis supporters are welcome.

## **Tennis Tournaments**

### **Junior Round Robin Tournament** (under 16 years)

Tuesday and Thursday, 9.15 am to 1.00 pm

### **Senior Round Robin Tournaments**

Ladies Doubles Tuesday 2.00 pm  
Men's Doubles Wednesday 4.00 pm  
Mixed Doubles Saturday 2.00 pm

### **Parish Hall Tournament - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

Juniors 9.15 am - Seniors 2.00 pm

### **Thurlestone Open** **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00 pm**

Tea, coffee and soft drinks are available on tournament days. Cream teas are served on Saturdays, and at the Parish Hall Tournament and the Thurlestone Open.

*For more information on tournaments  
please contact*

**Linda Cant - 01548-560896**  
**Lindsey Fletcher - 01548-560157**

## **Puzzle Page Answers**

### **AIRPORT WORDSEARCH**

- |               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. BLACKPOOL  | 2. LIVERPOOL  | 3. CAMBRIDGE  | 4. NEWCASTLE  |
| 5. ROBOROUGH  | 6. BENBECULA  | 7. STORNOWAY  | 8. PRESTWICK  |
| 9. INVERNESS  | 10. ANCHORAGE | 11. ARCHANGEL | 12. BARCELONA |
| 13. DUBROVNIK | 14. HERAKLION | 15. ISLAMABAD | 16. MOGADISHU |
| 17. NASHVILLE | 18. NUREMBERG | 19. ROTTERDAM | 20. SANTANDER |
| 21. FIUMICINO |               |               |               |

### **TEN TEASERS**

- |                   |                   |           |           |               |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Annette Bening | 3. Cambridgeshire | 5. James  | 7. Fox    | 9. The Baltic |
| 2. Offlot         | 4. San Marino     | 6. Queens | 8. Yellow | 10. Hairy     |

# sudoku

www.sudoku.com

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(As featured in *The Times*, Monday to Saturday)

## Strategies (2)

Having looked at making "trebles" from "doubles" in the last issue, we will now examine the second basic strategy for finding missing numbers. This is known as "slicing and dicing".

It derives from the premise that a number may appear only once in each row, column, and box. Let us imagine a simple example. The first cell in our top row is empty, but further along the top row are the numbers 2, 4, 6, 8.

		2		4	6			8
3								
5								
7								
9								

The first cell in our first column (ie the same cell) is also obviously empty, but the column contains lower down the odd numbers 3, 5, 7, and 9. As none of these 8 options is therefore available to go in our first cell, by elimination we are left with only the number 1. This must therefore be the missing number to go in our empty cell intersecting row 1 and column 1.

Similarly, you could have the same even numbers in the top row, but this time only the odd numbers 3 and 5 might be in the first column, but with the 7 and 9 elsewhere in the top left hand box. The same elimination process therefore applies again.

In the same way, if you have a row, column or box in which you have already identified five or more numbers, work out the missing numbers, which may be say 2,3,8,9. At each empty cell you scan the intersecting row, column, and box in which the blank cell is located to see if any three of these four numbers appear. When you find any three of them, the fourth number is obviously the one to go into the empty cell. Very logical, isn't it?

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

Easy

No. 3

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

Medium

No. 3

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# Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

These recent days (i.e., 5<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July) the weather has been *"like wot I remember as a child"*. Reminiscing with a friend on the beach this evening, it felt as if I had been transported back to the 1940's. The air was still and warm, the sea like a mill-pond. People were quiet and very relaxed, and everywhere there was a sense of deep appreciation of what the elements had to offer - at last!

I sincerely hope that it will continue for at least some of the summer holidays due next week. Our Community College has suspended the timetable for this week and everybody is out and about doing different things and going to different places world-wide. It is unusual to insist that children sit out of the sun and work at not getting too hot, drinking lots of water, and using sunblock. It sounds as though we could be in Australia, where such actions are automatic. Perhaps we are unwittingly engaged on a dummy run for the future. I am definitely a supporter of the **Global Warming** theory and, after reading some of the most recent observations of the vital indicators, I am of the opinion that we ignore the signs at our peril. Certainly our children's children will not thank us for our indolence.

The last few days of Paul Simon's articles, (*Weather Eye* in *The Times*) has some really interesting (if not vaguely alarming) facts for our edification. The headlines read as follows:-

***Tornados migrate north to Canada  
Global Warming hits Alaska hardest  
Dennis ushers in a long storm season***

And one which is interesting as an aside:-

***London Olympics face a wet roasting.***

The first one seems to me to have some bearing on our own weather pattern at the

moment. The **Jet Stream** (which as you know is the high-level band of very fast winds that encircle the earth in the temperate region of the Northern hemisphere) migrates north and south with the seasons. At this time of the year it is usual for the JS to migrate north of the British Isles, dragging the wonderful Azores high (lovely warm, calm weather) to sit happily over us. This, thankfully, it has done this year (so far, so good), but in North America the usual slow retreat north, with its accompanying super-storms and tornadoes over the Great Plains area (Tornado Alley), has NOT happened this year. The retreat has been very swift and the storms have not had time to develop. And, according to records kept since 1950, the average death toll of 52 people has been reduced to nil this year.

Global Warming in Alaska is really alarming. I may sound very pessimistic, but really I am drawing your attention to some of the indicators that I feel we ignore at our peril. Here, in the far north of the continent, thunder storms are a rarity. ***Not any more!*** Over the last decade there has been a 60% rise in the incidence of violent thunder storms. This year there have already been seven.

Bear in mind that these storms need warm, moist air conditions to build up the cloud formations to spawn a storm. This area is mostly tundra where the ground is permanently frozen from a depth of about a foot or so, the sea is frozen until late April, and the general summer season is short lived. Lightning strikes have been a real problem, sparking off a record number of forest fires. More than 1 million acres of forest and scrubland has been set ablaze along the south-central coast of Alaska. The cause of this phenomenon is the rise in ***sea temperatures***, and therefore the rise in ***air temperatures*** across the land surface of Alaska. Mean temperatures across the state

have risen by almost 3°C in summer and 4°C in winter since the 1970s, one of the fastest increases in the world. ***George Bush must be almost out of his mind to apparently push so many factors aside.***

According to Paul Simon, the driving force behind these rises is probably global warming. The third of his headlines relates to the most recent hurricane - ***Dennis***. In his view, the present hurricane season is likely to be severe. It has started early, with Dennis being the earliest known category 4 hurricane to strike America in July, the only previous one being in 1916. In addition, a record breaking four "named" hurricanes have hit already this year. As of now (15<sup>th</sup> July) another one, ***Emily***, only a tropical storm as yet, is heading towards the Caribbean. And the peak of the hurricane season is still two months away!

As for the fourth heading, Olympic Year 2012, he points out that the period chosen, 27<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> August, is noted for its rather wet reputation. Last year 25mm of rain fell on 11<sup>th</sup> August here. Of course August is almost the wettest month of the year on average, with only November being wetter. July is usually not too bad, but is prone to some fairly heavy downpours to mark it a reasonably wet month. Last year at this time there were lots of fine days, but not nearly as warm, with North-West winds being more dominant. More comfortable, I guess, but the weather at the moment is just bliss! (Gardeners and farmers....don't read this bit).

Back to the Olympics. The area destined to be the site of the games has a temperature of about 34°C, and this will be boosted by the "heat island effect" of London. This could raise the temperature in calm conditions by around 7°C compared with the surrounding countryside. So, with winds of around 9 mph it could be HOT. By 2012, however, climate change could mean that our summers will be ***even hotter*** and athletes may have to endure a heat-wave of 30°C or even higher.

At this time of the year, rainfall is very much a topic of conversation among weather and water supply folk. I feel for those living in the south and East of our country. Rainfall has been so restricted over the last twelve months or so that the ground water levels have never been topped up by the usual winter rainfall. Added to this shortfall is the increased demand for water in industry and domestic homes. Stand-pipes are already being prepared in parts of Sussex and Hampshire. No such fears here at the moment, BUT you never know how much demand there will be as the tourist season progresses and how much rain there will be to keep the reservoirs charged.

We do not have the facility, in general, of tapping underground supplies and must rely on surface catchment areas with surface storage reservoirs. The peat layer on the moors acts as a sponge which only gradually releases its load, but it still needs new supplies to keep it saturated.

Haven't the morning mists been fascinating? The plants in the gardens have been thankful for a "foliar water". Our tamarisk looked really wonderful a couple of mornings ago. Each of its delicate branches was drooping earthwards coated with glistening drops of dew. You could almost hear the sighs of ecstasy as the pores sucked in the nectar!

Today the wind is in the northwest, the atmosphere has cleared and the feel is fresher and more agreeable. Gosh, how we Brits do go on about the weather!

*Watch out for the power of the sun. Block it, cover up, or stay out of it is my advice. Work in the evening shadows for comfort. This is for the retired, so spare a thought for those who have to work out in the mid-day sun.*

Keep your plants watered (from the rain butts of course) and remember the Horticultural Show will soon be here. Don't miss it!

***Jan Turner***



# At the Bridge Table



For a change, here are two sets of bidding questions. Sitting South, you are faced with the problem of what to RE-BID in the auctions set out below. You are holding a different hand in each of the seven situations. *What is your re-bid in each case?*

## Set A - 1. The auction (Dealer = North)

W	N	E	S
---	1 Diamond	Pass	1 Heart
Pass	1 Spade	Pass	?

### 2. Your Hand as South

	<u>Spades</u>	<u>Hearts</u>	<u>Diamonds</u>	<u>Clubs</u>
(1)	J 10 5	K 10 8 4 3	J 9	9 5 4
(2)	J 10 8 2	A 8 7 6	9 7 6	3 2
(3)	8 7	Q 7 3 2	K 9 4	J 8 5 4
(4)	Q	Q 10 7 6 3	J 7	K 10 8 7 3

## Set B - 1. The auction (Dealer = North)

W	N	E	S
---	1 Heart	Pass	1 Spade
Pass	3 Spades	Pass	?

### 2. Your Hand as South

	<u>Spades</u>	<u>Hearts</u>	<u>Diamonds</u>	<u>Clubs</u>
(1)	Q J 6 5 3	5 2	A J 4	9 7 2
(2)	K Q 10 8 7 3	10	K Q J 8	A K
(3)	K Q 10 7 4 2	Q 6	8 5	A K 2

I would be interested to hear from anyone who either disagrees with the answers (shown separately overleaf), or who scores seven out of seven!

**Victor**

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## ♥ At the Bridge Table - Rebid Answers ♣

### Set A

(1) S - J 10 5 H - K 10 8 4 3 D - J 9 C - 9 5 4

**Pass** - Two Diamonds or One No-Trump might be a better contract, but One Spade is likely to be viable and there is no obligation to bid again. Your hand is weak and you could have passed One Diamond, but with a 5-card major this is a losing action in the long run...and think how reasonable your hand would be if partner raised Hearts. Moreover, your bidding makes it more awkward for your opponents to get in on the action.

(2) S - J 10 8 2 H - A 8 7 6 D - 9 7 6 C - 3 2

**Two Spades** - No doubts here, with a decent raise to the two level. The Ace of Hearts is a certain trick; you have two honours in Spades and the doubleton Club may well be of assistance. If you never pass when you have a four-card fit for partner you will lead a happier life!

(3) S - 8 7 H - Q 7 3 2 D - K 9 4 C - J 8 5 4

**Two Diamonds** - You can't pass One Spade with only two card support and you lack the stuffing to bid One No-Trump when you have a sound alternative. Partner should have at least four Diamonds and your hand may be worth a trick or more in Diamonds rather than No Trumps, perhaps including Spade ruffs in your hand.

(4) S - Q H - Q 10 7 6 3 D - J 7 C - K 10 8 7 3

**One No-Trump** - You need a better hand to bid Two Clubs. Even if you don't play "fourth-suit game-forcing" you would want to have at least a robust nine or ten points. Any further action can be left to partner.

### Set B

(1) S - Q J 6 5 3 H - 5 2 D - A J 4 C - 9 7 2

**Four Spades** - Enough for game, but slam is unlikely.

(2) S - K Q 10 8 7 3 H - 10 D - K Q J 8 C - A K

**Four No-Trumps** - A perfect hand for using Blackwood. If partner shows only one Ace you can sign off in 5 Spades. If he admits to a pair of Aces, jump to 6 Spades. And if he has all three missing Aces, bid 7 No-Trumps - and claim on the basis of thirteen top tricks (six Spades, one Heart, four Diamonds, and two Clubs). Sometimes Bridge is an easy game!

(3) S - K Q 10 7 4 2 H - Q 6 D - 8 5 C - A K

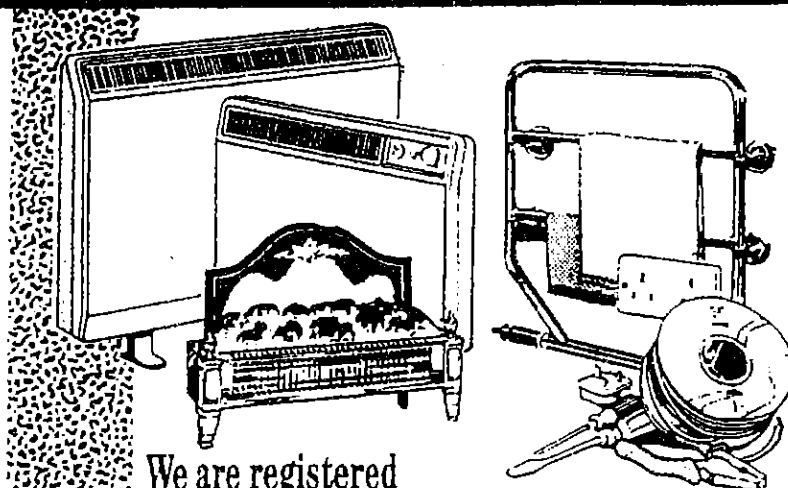
**Four Clubs** - A slam may be on, but you cannot bid a Blackwood 4 No-Trumps because your side may be missing both the Ace and King of Diamonds or (less likely) the Ace and King of Hearts. The message about a possible slam is conveyed by bidding a non-trump suit to show a control (Ace or void) in that suit (i.e., a "control bid" as described in an earlier article). Following the 4 Club bid the onus is then with partner as to further action - lacking control cards he (or she) would of course sign off in 4 Spades.

Well done if you got all seven right! But never mind even if you didn't. Perhaps you can still take something useful out of the exercise to sharpen your bidding skills.

**Victor**



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# DIARY DATES

## AUGUST

Mon	1 <sup>st</sup>	Avon Conservation, Church meeting room, 7.30 pm
Tues	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Piano Recital, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.00 pm
Fri	5 <sup>th</sup>	TENNIS TOURNAMENT, Golf Club, from 10.00 am TRAMP, TBA
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	Horticultural Show, S.Milton Village Hall, 2.30 pm
Wed	10 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Mary Tavy
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>	Church Barbecue, The Green, 6.00 pm
Thur	18 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Cornworthy
Wed	24 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Wembury

## SEPTEMBER

Mon	5 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.30 pm. TRAMP, Ayrmer Cove
Thur	8 <sup>th</sup>	WI, Thurlestone Hotel, 2.30 pm
Wed	14 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Bolberry
Mon	19 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Banham (+cakes!)
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	Chestnut Sunday, Stiddicombe, 10.30 am
Wed	28 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, Ringmore

## OCTOBER

Mon	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.30 pm
Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	Aune Conservation, Royal Oak Bigbury, 12.30 pm
Wed	12 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, tba
Thur	13 <sup>th</sup>	WI, Thurlestone Hotel, 2.30 pm

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  
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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 SEPTEMBER 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](mailto:Vvoice@aol.com) or [RbnMacd@aol.com](mailto:RbnMacd@aol.com))

# PARISH

# DIRECTORY

## PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman	Kit Marshall	560214
Vice - Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Parish Clerk	Cathy Taverder	(Evening) 852139
District Councillor	Shonaugh Rankin	561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	Neil Girling	560448
	David Grose	560375
	Andrew Rhyones	560564
	Geoffrey Shotton	560695
	Charles Mitchemore	560602

Tree Warden

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

## PARISH HALL

Chairman	Ron Parkin	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 Girling	562219
Office	561246
Graham Worral	562016
Liz Webb	560090

## COFFEE TIME (See All Saints Diary for details)

Contact	Liz Webb	560090
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## FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

Contact	Kit 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
---------	------------	--------

## BANTHAM STUR LIFE SAVING CLUB

Clubhouse	560447
-----------	--------

## 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 Irender	560893
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## TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)

Contact	Lynn Mansell	561273
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## W.I.

Second Thursday monthly (except August)  
2.30 pm Thurlestone Hotel

Contact Judith Le Grice

562135

## SOUTH HAMPS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS

Contact Pat Crawford

560688

## TEAMMAKERS (Computer Club)

Mondays (beginners) & Wednesdays (improvers)  
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Contacts : Robin Macdonald  
Chris White  
Graham Durant

560436  
560505  
560007

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

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12.20 - 12.30pm Thurlestone Church  
12.35 - 12.45pm Thurlestone Sands

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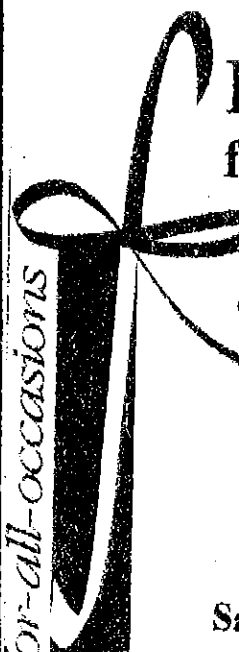
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 TUES 23rd/WED 24th/ THUR 25th  
**5.45pm & 8.30pm**

**MATINEES TUES 16th/  
 WED 17th/TUES 23rd/WED 24th  
 3.00pm**

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FRI AUG 26th /SAT27th/MON29th  
 TUE 30th/WED 31st/THUR 1st  
**5.45pm & 8.00pm**

**MATINEES**

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