

# VILLAGE VOICE



*Thurlestone's newly-completed Parish Hall*

**Now Ready !**

**December 2005 - January 2006**

## PARKING

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR THOSE VISITING THE NEW PARISH HALL ON FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2005

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
a large number of representatives  
from the grant-making bodies  
and other sponsors will be travelling by car  
to Thurlestone in order to attend  
the official opening of the new Parish Hall  
at 10 am - and must use the Hall car park.

If you have received an invitation  
and **live locally**, it would be much  
appreciated if you **did not** use the Hall  
car park that morning. Can you help us  
either by walking, or by finding an alternative  
parking spot somewhere else in the village?

Thank you for your co-operation.

PARISH HALL COMMITTEE



NUMBER 136  
DECEMBER 2005 - JANUARY 2006

# At Last !

The formal opening of the new Parish Hall will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 10.00 am until noon - by invitation only.

From noon until 6.00 pm that day, and from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the Hall will be OPEN for EVERYONE in the parish to visit, inspect, and look at all the activities and facilities that will be theirs to enjoy from now on.

## *DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OCCASION !*

Our splendid new building is the outcome of several years dedicated work by many members of the community, and a wonderful collective fundraising programme by the entire parish, crowned by a number of significant individual donations and grants from outside bodies.

We owe them all our gratitude, which is here fully acknowledged. But for our dedicated voluntary workers their greatest reward is to be able to see the new Parish Hall completed at last, as our front cover shows; and standing proudly for all to see, admire, and enjoy - now and for the years ahead.

Founder      Dudley Drabble

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# What a lot you are!

As the wraps drop down and Buck House, otherwise known as the new Thurlestone Parish Hall, emerges in all its new pristine glory, it is time to say "Thank you" to Villager. No, not this one, you silly billies, but all the Villagers in the Parish.

What a lot you are! What a splendid lot you are! Not a bit put off by the early rebuffs delivered by grant sources who at first refused to consider our pleas for hundreds of thousands of pounds - which the experts told us our plans would need to turn them into reality - you set about raising the money yourselves. This caused a slight hiccup early on when the size of the average resident grew alarmingly, and the Parish Council feared an outbreak of pregnancy. But it turned out to be nothing more than *Smartie-itis*!

For those who have forgotten and got back to their normal size, a highly successful fund-raising ploy was to put a tube of Smarties through every letter-box in the parish, with a note inviting residents to eat the Smarties and to refill the tube with as many 20p pieces as they could cram in, and then hand it all over for new Parish Hall funds. If memory serves me right, each tube would take £14, give or take a 20p piece or two.

Your generosity (aka indulgence) raised thousands of pounds by this Smart method, which also revealed that many villagers had now got an excuse to pleasure their sweet teeth and give themselves up to temporary obesity. Some found it extremely difficult to "come off" this Category S drug, but the Parish Police's powers of stop-and-search proved a major deterrent, and they are all right now.



All the time this Smartie-chewing was going on, another band of super villagers was wrestling with the requirements of grant-givers and they deserve a very special vote of thanks for the success of their struggles. Grants started to come in, some really big ones, and soon the new Parish Hall project was beginning to look as though the villagers might make it. The reality of all those villagers' efforts will be seen when the hall is opened and all the grant-givers are shown proudly around.

Did you know that there now 820 villagers on the electoral rolls in this parish? And did you know that the fund-raising by the villagers themselves topped the £130,000 mark? Averaged out, that means £158.54 per villager.

*What a splendid lot you really are!*

Villager



# Parish Council Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> October & 7<sup>th</sup> November 2005

*News and Views by Citizen*

## BOSCASTLE EFFECT?

Following recent storms, leaves and debris blocked the gutter near the entrance to Homefield, causing a serious flood. Until five years ago fallen leaves had been well managed by one locally employed street cleaner who has now been replaced with the occasional visits of two workmen, in smart 'Day-Glo' jackets, and a supervisor - from Ivybridge. Flooding at this spot now occurs regularly. Citizen reflects that, as every skate-boarder knows, the village spring rises in Seaview then flows down the village street until it reaches Homefield - where it turns sharp left down the Thurlestone Hotel gully and empties into Lake Stidston. When autumn leaf fall is followed by downpour, an unswept street results in a flood. As there is no Neighbourhood Watch in the centre of the village, no one is on hand to help.

## MORE VIRTUAL PAVEMENT

The Council is considering improving the safety of school children by setting out a virtual pavement between the School and the Parish Hall, possibly extending it to the footpath above the Garage and down the hill to square up with the School footpath along The Downs lane to Seaview. These virtual pavements have proved very effective in East and West Charleton - but they are of a somewhat better quality than our prototype below the Old Rectory.

## PARISH PLAN FAVOURED

Councillors are unanimously in favour of a Parish Plan. **Councillor Neil Girling** attended a meeting on the subject and formed the impression that if Thurlestone decided against having such a Plan the parish would not be taken seriously. We might be able to team up with a neighbouring parish and maybe get a small grant and help in collating and analysing a questionnaire.

## SEAVIEW GREEN

Legal fees involved in the transfer have been waived by the District Council. Solicitors for the parish are examining the lease for any drawbacks, particularly in relation to use of the green.

## THURLESTONE BUS SHELTER

This is getting into a bad state as it does not appear to be covered by street cleaning. This matter, and the question of an adjoining dead tree, will be pursued. Tally Ho, the bus operators, will also be contacted about the unreliability of the service to try and encourage them to notify the shop when they have a problem so other arrangements can be made.

## WASTE DISPOSAL

**Chris Lucas** of the District Council attended to outline the reasons for the introduction of the wheelies. A European directive obliges a reduction, by 2010, of 75% in the bio-degradable content of our waste, or the Council will face a penalty of up to £3 million. Landfill capacity is rapidly diminishing. Health & Safety problems arise from the handling of possible contaminated needles and broken glass in plastic bags. The scheme seems to be working well, achieving recycling of 45% of organic waste and qualifying for an award. DEFRA is giving the District Council £1.5 million with which to purchase new vehicles and bins. A rather fruity description was given of the system in place at the eventual destination for the contents of our bins at Heathfield!

Although his presentation was well-received, concern was expressed about the difficulties of getting holiday home owners to segregate waste or cooperate with the fortnightly cycle. The Data Protection Act makes it hard for the Council to identify such properties. On

payment of a small sum, these owners could be re-rated as businesses and thus qualify for the weekly green bag system of collection in the holiday season.

A pilot scheme is being tried out at Stoke Fleming for local composting but to date there has not been a lot of take-up. The Council has powers, under the Clean Neighbourhood & Environment Act, to impose fines for fly tipping and the abuse of the system and will shortly do so.

On the question of the size of wheelie-bins, he explained that some difficulty is being experienced in correlating these with the socio-economic makeup of a parish. Supermarkets are better able than the Council to deal with the recycling of plastic bags and it seemed generally agreed that we should be charged for the bags or revert to paper. On the vexed question of maggot-infested bins, we are reminded that we can use spray and wrap all smelly and otherwise objectionable kitchen waste in our old newspapers before putting it in the bin.

After Mr Lucas's *tour de force* the remainder of items on the agenda seemed mundane.

## SCHOOL NUMBERS

These numbers will increase from 123 in 2005 to 128 in spring 2006. Sadly, the

school is losing its renowned dinner lady (why not advertise in *Village Voice* for a replacement?). There is also a vacancy for a parent-governor (same remedy suggested). They have received £4500 to improve access via Court Park. No action so far on access to the new Parish Hall. A renewable energy campaign is being initiated and suggestions from the floor included replacing the weather cock with a wind-turbine and substituting a treadmill for detention!

## DISTRICT COUNCIL

£2 million has been received by the District Council as a result of the increased rates on second homes but next year the County Council has other priorities and only half this amount will be available, with even less future years. Yet another 'smash and grab' raid on the piggy bank, you might think!

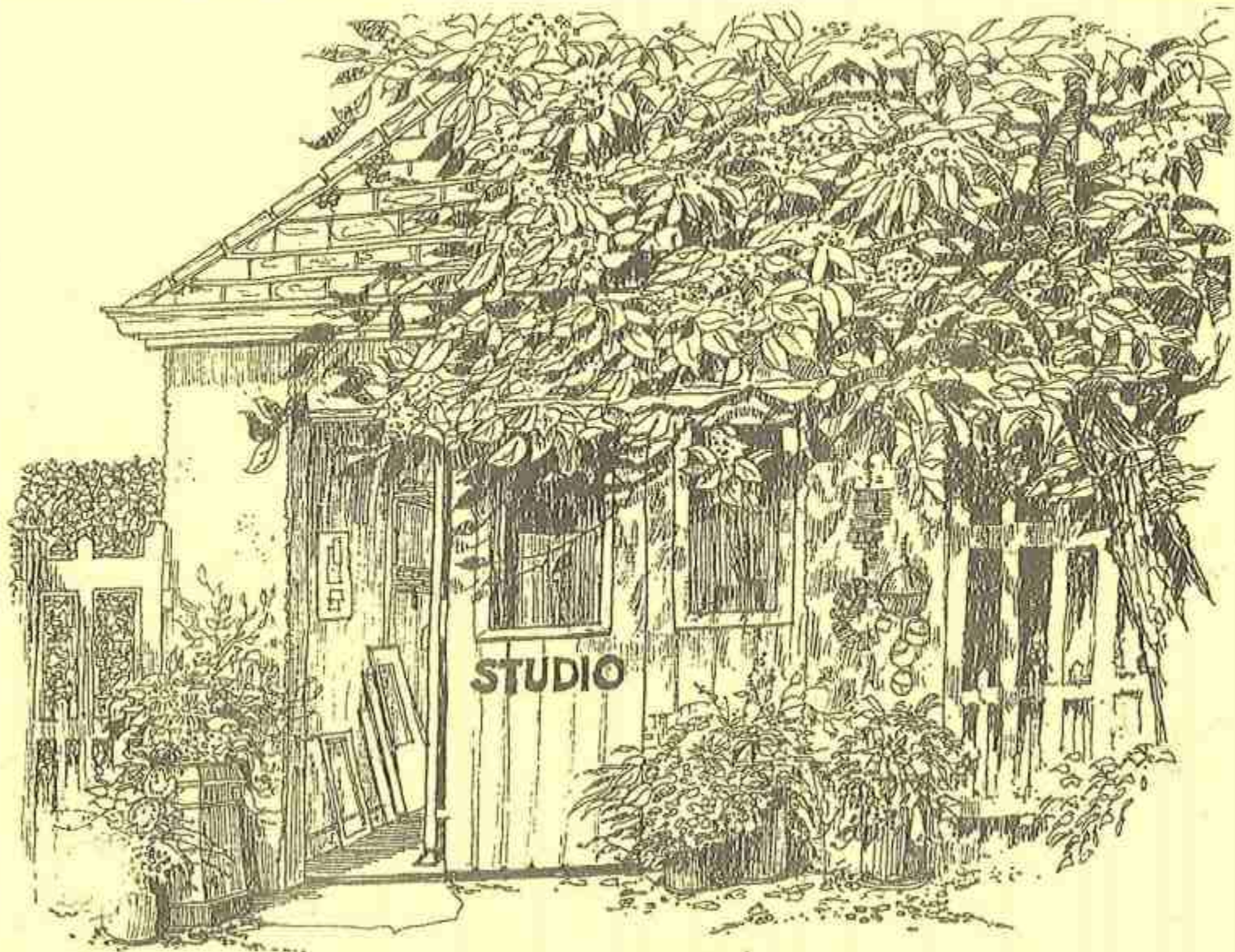
## OLD EXCHANGE

Some good news now. The former telephone exchange site (at the corner of Parkfield, opposite the Village Inn) will provide the space for two living units. If the Tree Protection Officer will allow the felling of a worthless tree, a third unit could also be provided on the site.

*Citizen*

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS			
Date	Time	Venue	Performers
Friday 2 Dec	7.30	Methodist Church, Kingsbridge	Alvington Singers
Wed 7 Dec	7.30	St George's Church, Dittisham	Alvington Singers
Friday 9 Dec	7.30	West Charleton Church	Stanborough Chorus
Wed 14 Dec	7.30	Holy Trinity Church, Salcombe	Alvington Singers
Friday 16 Dec	7.30	Buckfast Abbey	Stanborough Chorus
Sat 17 Dec	7.30	Malborough Village Hall	Stanborough Chorus
Thurs 22 Dec	7.30	Thurlestone Village Inn	The Kingsmen
Sat 24 Dec	4.30	St Edmunds Church, Kingsbridge	Kingsbridge Silver Band
Tues 27 Dec	7.00	Thurlestone Village Inn	WI Christmas Singers





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# PARISH HALL NEWS



By Chairman Ron Parkin

Set aside the wider world - for all of us in Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone the Year 2005 will forever be known as the *Year of the New Parish Hall*. And I confidently predict that we shall all be wide-eyed and proud of all that we see at the Open Days on 2nd/3rd December.

*You should already have Friday  
2<sup>nd</sup> December noted in your diaries  
- and the great day has at last  
arrived. We are now ready to  
open our new Parish Hall!*

So many people have helped bring this landmark project to fruition; all those organisers of fund-raising events over the years, all the donors - and, in particular, all those who have made their specialist expertise freely available and whose energy and commitment have driven the project through to completion.

Now we need others within the parish with exactly those attributes to come forward to lead and expand the range of activities in both the Main Hall and the Yeo Room. The current user groups will be putting on displays at the Open Day to encourage new members to join existing activities and we are making a good start on new ones with leaders having come forward to run Badminton, Tai Chi, Handbell ringing, and "Party Pieces" for budding thespians. In addition, live sporting events can be shown on the screens in both halls - another proposal for which a volunteer leader is also needed.

Your ideas and suggestions, no matter how way out, are welcome. So come along everyone on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December; have your enthusiasms and imaginations fired by what you find at the Open Days; and see if there is something that YOU could do to help make the New Parish Hall really buzz!

*It is, after all, YOUR Hall !*

## LILIAN DRABBLE

Lilian Drabble, the joint founder of Village Voice, died peacefully in her sleep in September. She was 95. She had been living in Bedford, close to her niece, Valerie Wren, and her husband for about a year after moving from Malborough.

Before she and Dudley Drabble moved to Malborough they were firmly resident in South Milton and, 23 years ago, their house in Backshay Close became the editorial office, publishing quarters, distribution centre and print shop of the magazine that Dudley and Lilian founded together. Dudley Drabble was immensely proud of being "the Founder", and would have 'hummed and ha-ed' quite a bit about describing Lilian as the joint founder, but in his heart he knew he couldn't have done it without her.

Lilian was a nurse and Dudley met her when he visited his father in the local Cheshire hospital. Dudley said he knew immediately that this gentle, kind nurse was what he needed in his life and they were soon married. After Dudley's demob from the RAF, the Drabbles moved to South Devon and Dudley became the Registrar for the South Hams and also secretary of the Kingsbridge Chamber of Trade.

After he retired he took on the job of Clerk to Thurlestone Parish Council. And all the time Lilian was his support and home-maker. It was the kind of support that soon Dudley was to need to live. He was diagnosed with lung cancer and he would not argue with you if you said it was Lilian who gave him the strength to pull through. It was after his recovery that he came up with the idea of launching Village Voice. It would keep him occupied, he said. What he really meant was that it would keep Lilian occupied too. For she was

soon immersed in the magazine as well as running their home. Home-making, Lilian knew, would not be an excuse to be a lady editor in name only. She was soon hard at work in the draughty garage attached to their South Milton bungalow which became the Voice's print shop, with an ancient ink-squirting duplicator as the press turning out hundreds of pages between ink spills, smeared paper and often total blockages!

The Voice's editorial office was their sitting room, housing an old typewriter which cut the stencils as well as editing pages on the run. Then followed collating days when Lilian and Dudley sat in front of a coffee table shuffling hundreds of sheets into order and then pinning them together with another antique - a huge hand stapler - which required two mighty bangs down to pin each copy of the magazine together.

When Lilian went into the kitchen to get their meals ready, it was Dudley who thumped the stapler. He knew that Lilian's gentle approach to Village Voice did not include bashing the stapler. However, she did go with Dudley on regular runs to the Devon County Council depot in Exeter and help him load up with heavy boxes of paper, tubes of ink, and long boxes of stencils - loads which would have astounded the manufacturer of their tiny car.

When you think back to those early days of the Voice, when just Lilian and Dudley did everything concerned with getting the Thurlestone magazine out on time, it is no wonder that Lilian Drabble fully deserves the title of joint founder. She was a kind, gentle, hard-working, talented woman and everyone at the Voice will be saddened that she has now left us.

KM



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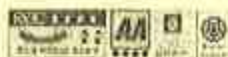
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*All  
Saints*

**RECTOR:**

Revd. Andrew Girling 562219



*Andrew Girling writes:*

## **CHRISTMAS STAMPS**

This year the Post Office has put a christian stamp on their postal service. The six images of the Madonna and Child, selected by the artist Irene von Treskow, come from European, Hiatian, Itallan, Indian, Native American and Aboriginal Australian backgrounds. The oldest one, the 68p stamp, about which there has been some controversy, is from Mumbai and dates back to 1620 A.D. It depicts an Indian Mary and Joseph with the Christ-child, all marked by the pottu of the Hindu faith. But each of the paintings has its own power and beauty and together they speak forcefully of the great truth that Christ was born for the whole of humanity.

The birth of Jesus is God's proclamation of His universal love and His willingness to accept humiliation and degradation in order to come alongside us mortals to show the depth of His compassion for all people.

Such love can never be restricted to one culture nor a single society. It certainly cannot be contained within Western civilisation, though much of our history seems to imply that we have expected that it should. Those six stamps remind us that Christ is there for the people of each class, every colour and all cultures, with equal commitment and with no discrimination. It is man's failure to grasp that truth which has led to sectarian strife and cultural conflict.

Many of us will sing, perhaps rather glibly, the words of the carol addressed to Jesus: 'be born in us today'. If spiritually that were indeed to happen, if the spirit of His love really took hold of us, we would come to share the vision and express the reality of God's great embrace of the whole world community that the Christmas story portrays. We would also be renewed and enriched by a love which has the capacity to break down and reach across every single barrier to world peace and brotherhood.

To accept God's gift of Himself in Christ is to be able to sing and to live the message of the angels:

**'Peace on earth, good will to all men'.**

*Andrew*



**Everyone is welcome at all services,**  
which are at Thurlestone, unless indicated otherwise

## Church Services

**Sundays**

<b>Every Sunday</b> (not Dec 25)	<b>8.00am</b>	Holy Communion (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> BCP, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> CW)
<b>December 4, January 1</b>	<b>11.10am</b>	Morning Worship for All Ages
<b>December 11, January 8</b>	<b>11.10am</b>	Matins (BCP)
<b>December 18, January 15</b>	<b>11.10am</b>	Family Communion (CW)
<b>January 15</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Benefice Evensong (BCP)
<b>January 22 &amp; 29</b>	<b>11.10am</b>	Parish Eucharist (CW)
<b>January 29</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Benefice Candlemas Christingle Service, Ch'stow

### Thursdays

December 1, January 5	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Whitehorses, Bantham
Dec 8, 16, Jan 12, 19, 26	9.00am	Holy Communion (CW) (no service Dec 22 & 29)
January 26	8.30am	Informal Prayer

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

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

### Christmas & New Year Services

★ ★ SUNDAY DECEMBER 18	11.10 a.m. Crib Service & Family Communion - children will help to place the figures in the crib
★ ★ ★	
★ ★ FRIDAY DECEMBER 23	4.00 p.m. Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
★ ★ ★	
★ ★ CHRISTMAS EVE	11.30 p.m. First Communion of Christmas
★ ★ ★	
★ ★ CHRISTMAS DAY	11.10 a.m. Family Service followed by Holy Communion
★ ★ ★	
★ ★ NEW YEAR'S EVE	6.00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service
★ ★ ★	

You would be welcome to join us for *Activities in the Church Meeting Room*

<b>MONDAYS &amp; WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>10.30am</b> <i>Coffee-Time</i> in aid of monthly charity
<b>TUESDAYS</b> (fortnightly)	<b>3.30pm</b> <i>Searchlight</i> for primary school children
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> (termtime)	<b>1.45pm</b> <i>Under Fives</i>
<b>THURSDAYS</b> (termtime)	<b>6.00pm</b> <i>Youth Group</i> for secondary school children
<b>FRIDAYS</b> Dec 2 & Jan 6	<b>12.30pm</b> <i>Ploughman's Lunch</i> in aid of new church lighting
<b>ALL OTHER FRIDAYS</b> except December 23	<b>12.30pm</b> <i>Lunch Club</i> for those living alone – please book on 560090

### Films for All IN THE CHURCH MEETING ROOM

2.15 p.m. for a 2.30 p.m. start

**TUESDAY JANUARY 10TH** *Out of Africa* starring Robert Redford & Meryl Streep

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7TH** *Catch me if you can* starring Leonardo de Caprio

**TUESDAY MARCH 7TH** *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* starring Penelope Cruz

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# Village News Round-Up

## New Arrivals

*It's all happening at Bantham, where the stork has been very busy!*

First of all there was **Niamh** - pronounced 'Neeve' - who arrived on 30<sup>th</sup> September to the delight of her parents **Maya Plass** and **Paul Hatton**. (In Greek mythology Niamh was the daughter of the god of the sea, and was famed for taking her lover to a timeless land!). Then on the 25<sup>th</sup> October there was further good news as **Brian and Rachel Roberts** became the parents of identical twin boys, **Richard** and **Samuel**. The most recent arrival of all came on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, when **Angie and Mark Collard** produced **Maddox Pete**.

*Village Voice* says welcome to the new little ones, and sends many congratulations to all concerned.

## Perfect Examination

Thurlestone resident **Frith Chadwick**, who works in Kingsbridge for estate agents Charles Head & Son, had the perfect score of 100% in the legal part of the examination which earned her the Technical Award of the National Association of Estate Agents. The examination covers the legal aspects of letting and management and general law, residential letting practice, property management together with health, safety and security. Frith says it has been a wonderful opportunity for her to extend her knowledge. *Well done!*

## School's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party

The high-spot of Thurlestone primary school's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary was the gala dinner and dance, which included a champagne reception and fireworks, held at

the Thurlestone Hotel recently. Due to the generosity of the hotel and other sponsors £1000 was raised which will provide more sports equipment and books for the library at the school. £200 was also raised for the south Asia earthquake relief fund.

## Anyone for Tall Ship sailing?

**Kit Marshall** wants to know if anyone would be interested in joining the crew of the magnificent square-rigger '*Prince William*' in the Canary isles for seven days next March. No experience is necessary and anyone joining would take part in all aspects of sailing the ship - from setting sails, taking the helm and keeping lookout to helping the cook. It is not a cruise but a lot of fun and a 'once in a lifetime' experience. You can come alone or with friends.

Some technical information. '*Prince William*' is a square-rigged barquentine, 59.4m in length and managed by the Tall Ships Youth Trust a registered charity. The full crew complement is 67, headed by a professional crew of six and thirteen experienced volunteers.

The Canary isles each have their own unique culture, scenery and charm ranging from sandy bays ideal for beach barbecues to rugged mountains and volcanoes. There could not be a better way than exploring them by Tall Ship!

Kit has been involved in this scheme for 15 years, and says "*I really get a buzz from it*". Quite a number of people living in our parish have also joined him in the past. Last year's expedition raised around £15,000 which was used to help young people sail on tall ships.

For further information call **Kit Marshall** on



01548-560214, or **Ted Howard-Jones** on 01491-639-311 or e-mail:

[tedtallship-chilterns@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tedtallship-chilterns@yahoo.co.uk)

The cost is £695 (including direct flights), the dates are 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2006, and the ages are from 18 to 75.

## Trafalgar Day celebrations

**John Crawford** would like to express his personal thanks to all those who participated in Thurlestone's Trafalgar Day celebrations. He writes :

*"We enjoyed a very thoughtful and well-attended service in our Church, our bells rang out for 45 minutes whilst we roasted a ram, and then we lit a splendid bonfire and drank Nelson's health in our Village Inn.*

*Our thanks to Andrew for an appropriate programme of hymns, readings and prayers at the service of Thanksgiving and "Celebration of our Naval Heritage"; to Alistair Weston and his team of bell ringers for their celebration peal of bells; to Ron and Marge Kibler for a tasty ram roast on the green; to Jack Rhymes for the bonfire that lit the night sky in perfect safety; to Evans Estates and David Dayment for allowing us to use the Beacon site; and to Mike at the Village Inn for laying in a stock of celebration Armless Ale and mixing the Thurlestone Grog!*

*It was all a wonderful example of how rich and resourceful our parish life can be. Even the weather was kind and fanned the flames generously for us."*

A collection was taken at the bonfire on behalf of Devon Air Ambulance.

## Fireworks Party

"Many thanks to **Barbara and Kevin** for putting the heart back into Bantham" says **Pat Crawford**. We hear that **Mr & Mrs Tucker** hosted a very buzzing party at the Shop on the 5<sup>th</sup> November and that despite

having the limelight stolen by the mermaid in her Pumpkin suit, *Kevin did* manage to fire the rockets.....eventually!

## St. Luke's Hospice

A coffee morning and raffle held in the Church Meeting Room on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November was successful in raising the magnificent sum of £1,070 for St. Luke's Hospice..

**Lindy Price** has asked Village Voice to express on behalf of the charity and herself a very big "thank you" to everyone who contributed to and supported this event, and through their generosity enabled such a splendid sum to be sent to our local hospice.

*Well done - again - Thurlestonians!*

## Local Food Awards

'Foodies' will be interested to know that two local restaurants have been amongst the awards recently. The *New Angel* at Dartmouth has been named the AA Restaurant of the Year 2005-6, while the *Dartmoor Union* at Holbeton has won Les Routiers Dining Pub of the Year 2006 award. Locally produced foods have also done well. The Taste of the West champion product for 2005, judged by Rick Stein, is *Sharpham's* soft cheese.

## New Activities at the Parish Hall

- **Badminton** - anyone interested in playing Badminton at the new Hall should contact **Roger Cole** on 562486.
- **Handbell Ringing** - anyone interested in learning how to ring Handbells, and /or join a beginners group is invited to contact **Judith Le Grice** on 562135

*Time to try your hand at something new?*

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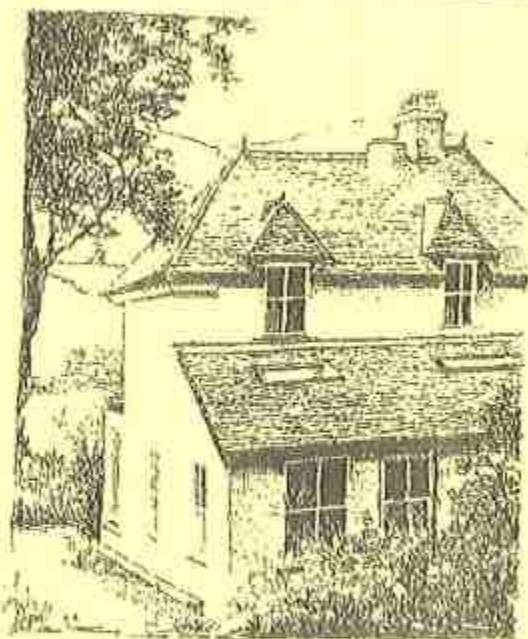
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# POSTBAG

## Dear Editor

I have been visiting Thurlestone and the immediate area for thirty-five years, enjoying the marvellous scenery and the hospitality provided in the hotels and pubs and must have walked many thousands of miles, especially along the coast. About eighteen months ago, on my regular early morning constitutional, I encountered a mysterious litter bug phenomenon along the footpath opposite Piper's Bench.

The litter comprised neatly-folded half inch squares of silver paper dropped at regular intervals for about one hundred and fifty yards. On examination these squares proved to be chewing-gum wrappers - identified by the Wrigley's paper concealed inside. The following morning I collected forty-four such packages. Sadly, just two weeks ago, I noticed that the offender was still at large.

I have tried to understand the mind of one who regularly enjoys the glorious views of the Avon estuary, breathes in the fresh air and simultaneously and habitually celebrates the experience by popping a fresh portion of gum in the mouth, carefully folding the packaging, *and then tossing the same on to the footpath.*

Is there a clandestine vigilante group in the village who might mount watch from a concealed vantage point, apprehend the litterer, unmask him/her and mete out suitable punishment? I do hope there is.

**Alan Huckle**  
*Colchester, Essex*

## Dear Editor

I am amazed and dismayed to see the 'spoof' coat-of-arms for the new Parish Hall does not include East Buckland amongst its supporters. Why wipe East Buckland from the generous donors who have helped the parish in achieving our new hall?

On the opening page of Village Voice there is a

circular sign saying "Thurlestone, Bantham, Buckland". This is adequate and correct, and does not raise my hackles! I do know where I live and suggest that those who doubt me should take a close look at Ordnance Survey map OL20.

**Anne Jenkins**  
*East Buckland*

## Dear Editor

We thoroughly enjoyed the Quiz. Our congratulations to the compiler who gave us many pleasurable hours of research. If we happen to win (?) please keep the prize for the new Parish Hall fund.

We come to the Thurlestone Hotel every year and that is how we picked up the Quiz.

**Philip Evans**  
*Godalming, Surrey*

## Dear Editor

We have enjoyed trying to complete the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Quiz (3). It has become a tradition (well, for the past three years!) that my husband collects the quiz, together with the Western Morning News (best paper in the country, he reckons) on the first morning of our holiday.

We haven't completed all the answers. It's surprising that one knows the answers at the beginning and middle of the century, but can't work out the answers towards the end - must be advancing years!

Would it be possible for you to send a copy of the answers, please? I enclose an s.a.e. together with a cheque for £10.00 for the Parish Hall funds. Even in its unfinished state, the Parish Hall looks very impressive and I am sure it will benefit the whole village.

**Margaret Wilson**  
*Grappenhall*  
*Cheshire*



## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

This time of year can be quite stressful, so why not try to have a hassle-free Christmas day by preparing as much as possible in advance. Below are some suggestions for things that may be prepared in advance and, covered with foil or clingfilm, stored in the fridge for a couple of days.

- Stuffing, bacon rolls, chipolatas, and gravy made from giblet stock
- Par-boil some potatoes and then, basting well, roast them for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven, drain on kitchen paper and cool. Re-heat in hot oil on the day.
- Root vegetables such as carrot, parsnip and swede may be cooked until soft then mashed into a delicious puree with a little butter and pepper. Place in an oven-proof dish and re-heat on the day.
- Green vegetables take very little time to cook but you can prepare them in advance and store in a polythene bag in the fridge.
- Remember that turkey, like any other meat, should be taken out of the oven to 'rest' when it is cooked. If you cover the bird over with thick foil, and then a tea-towel, it will keep hot for up to an hour. This will free up the oven to cook and re-heat the other dishes.
- Try to have a ready-made casserole to give the chef a rest for one day.

## WEST COUNTRY PORK IN CIDER (serves 4-6)

### Ingredients

2 lb shoulder of pork, trimmed and cut into small pieces  
A little vegetable oil  
1 rounded tablespoon plain flour  
2 medium onions, finely chopped  
4 sticks celery, thinly sliced  
4 ozs button mushrooms, sliced

1 large Cox's and one medium Bramley apple, cored and sliced unpeeled  
Large tin chopped tomatoes  
2 teaspoons wholegrain mustard  
Half pint of cider  
Pinch dried thyme  
Freshly milled salt & pepper

### Method

- Fry the pork in small batches in hot oil until golden brown, and place in a casserole dish.
- Sprinkle flour on top of the meat and mix it in.
- Add onions, celery, mushrooms and apples, mixing well.
- Stir in canned tomatoes, including juice, mustard, thyme, cider and seasoning.
- Cover the casserole dish and place it in the centre of a moderate oven for about 1.5 to 2 hours until the meat is tender. (Long, slow cooking produces lovely succulent meat).
- Cool thoroughly, refrigerate or freeze until needed.

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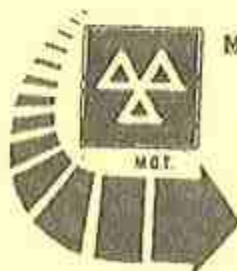
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# TEAMAKERS



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## The New Parish Hall

At the opening of the new Parish Hall on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the new community IT (information technology) facilities will be on display in the small committee room (to be known as the Yeo Room).

There will be a video presentation about the IT facilities showing repeatedly on the interactive "smartscreen", while our six IT tutors will be demonstrating a variety of computer programmes and applications on each of the new 17" screen lap-tops.

An internet connection will be open throughout the sessions so that individuals may send and/or receive e-mails, and see what exactly is meant by "surfing the net".

We will be actively seeking to encourage anyone who has no previous knowledge or experience of computers to "dip their toes" into the water, and see for themselves how easily and quickly they can become adequately proficient - and able to hold their own with their grandchildren!

There will be an opportunity to sign up for regular classes in 2006, currently expected to be held on Wednesday afternoons between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm.

We will also provide opportunities for individuals to book in for single one-hour tutorials in the Saturday morning sessions between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm.

## The 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 (perhaps even biscuits!) will hopefully also be available. We hope the Internet Café may become a popular Saturday morning social event where computer enthusiasts can come along and discuss their problems and keep up to date with new developments.

## All Saints School

Sadly, in view of these new commitments, Teamakers will be unable to continue with classes at the school after 14<sup>th</sup> December.

At this point, we should therefore like to place on record our sincere and grateful thanks to the school authorities for having made us so welcome, and to **Alun Williams** and **Richard Haysom** in particular for their kind support and able assistance over the past two years. Several dozens of Teamaker students will also be echoing these sentiments.

*Robin Macdonald*

# sudoku

www.sudoku.com

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

## Strategies (4)

In our three previous issues we have looked at the three basic Sudoku strategies of:

- (1) "doubles"
- (2) "slicing and dicing"
- (3) "trebles"

These three strategies, or various combinations of them, will see you through most puzzles.

However, there are some other little tricks which are not strictly any of the above. Here is one of them. See how many more 2s you can place in the grid below.

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

Easy

No. 5

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

Medium

No. 5

x							x	
				x		2		
x		x			x			
			x		x		x	x
							x	
	2							
x						x		
x				x			x	

With only two 2s already placed in the whole grid, you might think there was no chance of placing any more. But by "slicing and dicing" the 2s it becomes clear that there is only one possible cell in (a) the top left box and (b) the right centre box, where a 2 can go.

From here you can go on to place the 2 in (c) the centre middle box (d) the bottom left box and then (e) the bottom right box. And now the remaining two boxes can be completed. Not so hard after all.

Griddler



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# Grey Matter

Welcome to Grey Matter, the Puzzle page that awards points. And points mean.... A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry submitted to 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB. (or email the answers to: [cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk)). But be warned - you're going to have to earn it!

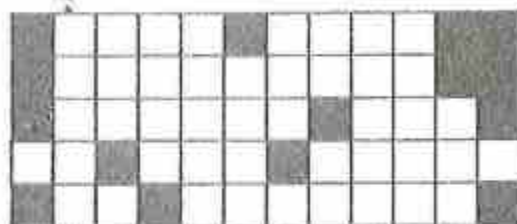
1. Name the 3 wise men.
2. In which city is Wenceslas Square?
3. Where was St Nicholas born?
4. How many reindeer pull Santa's Sleigh?
5. In real life would the Reindeer be boys or girls?
6. Which monarch made the first Xmas day broadcast?
7. In which year was it?
8. Who wrote the speech?
9. When is the Feast of Stephen?
10. Which well known Xmas song did singing cowboy Gene Autry write?

## XMAS DINGBATS



## Christmas Fallen Phrase

Insert the letters in the grid to form a well known Christmas Phrase



N K N G  
W F N H E S L O S  
G E O S T D P H E T  
O O C E E I A A N  
O L O T D E K F E U S T

## XMAS SONG ANAGRAMS

MY BODILY  
CRASH

CHASTITY KNITS  
WHOREDOMS

IN HOGGING  
HORNY MILDRED

SICILIAN SEX  
OGLER

## BRAIN TEASER

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house,  
The clock had struck midnight, and up ran the mouse,  
The next time the hands cross again can be reckoned,  
But what time is that? (to the nearest whole second)?

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**Chris White**

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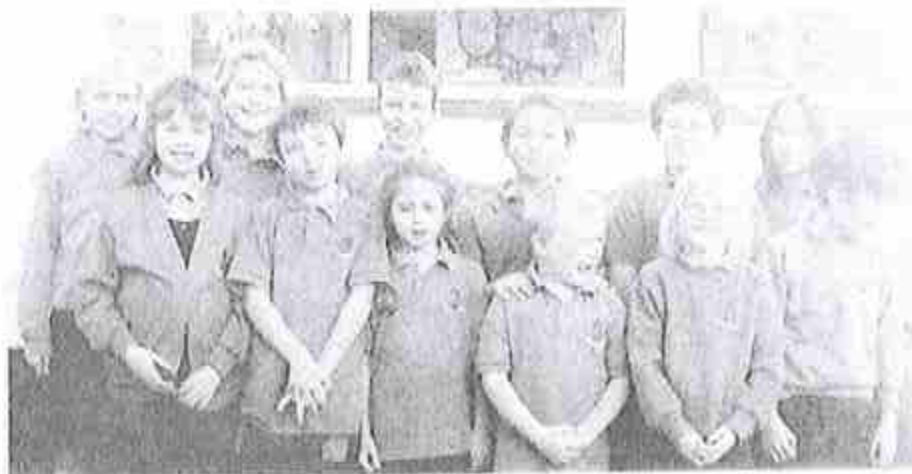
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# Childrens Voice®

## The Council

Below is a picture of the council at All Saints' Primary School for 2005/6.



Frances and the rest of the Council

We thought this was a brilliant piece of work. Lucas in class two had to make a Tudor house and we thought this looked just like one.

He used strips of black paper to make the shapes.



Children come to us if they have any ideas about what we could do to raise money or if they have any problems at school such as falling out of friendships with others, or disagreements and we try to help them. We meet once a week and have lively discussions!



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# THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



## LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Our golf during the autumn has been mixed, affected mostly by the vagaries of the weather as always. We have had some very wet and windy days, when competitions have had to be cancelled, interspersed with warm, sunny, summer-like days, when it has been a joy to play.

The last match of the season, the annual Lady Captains' team versus the Hon Sec and Hon Treasurer's team, saw over fifty ladies enjoying a fun competition, when everyone was able to have some free shots, or *mulligans*, and more unusually some *reverse mulligans*, when you could make your opponent play again any shot you thought was too good. The timing and choice of your *mulligans* was crucial, and caused a good deal of laughter around the course, although one player was a bit miffed when her winning putt on the 18<sup>th</sup> green was recalled and she MISSED with her second effort - so their match was halved. As the whole idea was to have fun, this was quite in the spirit of the day especially as it meant that the overall match was halved, so ending the season with a friendly draw, with the Jackson Trophy, presented by **Doris Jackson** in 1978 (*and I wonder how many members still remember Doris?*) being held jointly.

The Ladies' quarters have been greatly enhanced this year as we now have a luxurious and

dazzling locker room, and in our lounge a DVD player and TV (kindly given to us by Club Treasurer **Alan Chapman**), so that we will be able to offer instruction and entertainment on wet days. Also the Ladies' office now has an up-to-date computer (kindly donated by **Pam Ledger**) and printer, while **Julian Tregelles** has made us a beautiful new bookcase for our lending library.

This will be my last report to you as Lady Captain, as my year comes to an end at the Ladies' AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> November, when I will hand over to Incoming Captain, **Tish Mawhood**. It is pleasant therefore to be able to report that not only has the Club the honour of having the County Vets' Champion, **Lindsey Fletcher**, as one of its members but has now claimed a second County Trophy when **Lindsey** and partner, **Trish Cooper**, won the DCVLGA Two-Ball Knockout Matchplay competition from an initial 41 pairs. This is a rare double which finishes off the year most happily.

On a personal note. I have enjoyed my year of office enormously, and sense that there is a great feeling of enthusiasm in the Club. I know that **Tish** has already organised another terrific year ahead for everyone and I wish her the very best of luck. She will indeed be lucky if she receives the same wonderful support from everyone that I have had. My thanks to all.

*Jenny Underhill*

**NSPCC BRIDGE & SCRABBLE EVENING**  
**THURLESTONE PARISH HALL**  
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**£8 (including light refreshments)**  
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# THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



## TENNIS SECTION NEWSLETTER

The last event of the season was played in October - the final of the club's friendly knock-out doubles. **Nield Came** and **Kit Marshall** were victorious 6-4, 6-2 against **Jan Meredith** and **Malcolm Franke**.

When the weather permits, the Tuesday club social tennis is played throughout the winter months. If you wish to keep warm and fit, come and join the members!

### New - In the Parish Hall

## Mini-Tennis Coaching

with **Julia Côté**, LTA Development Coach

Mini-Tennis is a scaled-down version of the parent game. Shorter, lighter rackets with soft, slow-bouncing balls, give young players more time to make contact with the ball and they can then progress on to playing a rally.

The exciting games and exercises included in the coaching sessions help improve children's co-ordination and movement. They have great fun whilst learning to play tennis.

Julia intends running three 45-minute sessions from January 2006 for primary school children aged 6 years upwards. Players will be grouped on ability rather than age, and all equipment is provided.

Please contact **Julia** on 01548-853362 or  
Mobile 07855-321614



## TAI CHI

*The gentle form of Chinese Exercise  
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will be giving

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Tuesday 3 January, 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm  
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The first lesson will be FREE  
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Please contact **Vida** for further details  
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In association with  
The Devon School of Tai Chi

Start 2006 as you mean to carry on



# SO WHAT IS TAI CHI ?

By Vida Alexander



No, it's not a beverage purchased at your local health food shop!

Many of you will have seen Tai Chi in one form or another, whether it has been on the BBC tv link before programmes, the WI in the film "Calendar Girls" or, if you are lucky enough to have visited South-East Asia, you may have seen it being practised, usually at dawn, in the parks and public squares.



Many people have come to realise its health benefits. In its simplest form, Tai Chi is a series of slow, continuous movements, combined with gentle breathing. It has often been shown to benefit people suffering from today's health problems and some forward-thinking employers are now introducing Tai Chi into the workplace. Some health authorities are also using it as part of their rehabilitation programme, along with traditional physiotherapy.



Some of the common ailments afflicting society today, including stress, headaches, heart and circulatory problems, arthritis and asthma, and many more conditions, can all be greatly improved with the regular practice of Tai Chi. Memory is improved along with posture and balance, making falls less likely - which helps to restore people's self-confidence - and sleep becomes better as the mind becomes calmer.



Tai Chi is a complete systemic programme for both mind and body and, because of its slow and gentle movements, joints and muscles are not stressed. Unlike other exercises, you are also not left exhausted at the end of the session. Tai Chi can be practised by all, both young and old, indeed you are never too old to take it up. *Come along to one of my free taster sessions in January and see for yourselves!*



# IN YOUR GARDEN

As winter draws nigh it is time to give some thought to providing a little 'thermal underwear' for your more precious tender plants, particularly if you have not got a greenhouse or conservatory to pop them into. I'm thinking of things you've got in pots, as you must guard against them having their roots frozen.

Raise the pots from the ground a little, on special pot feet or with a brick. Try and move them into a sheltered place and group them close together. Encase the pots with bubble-wrap and when frost is forecast, throw some horticultural fleece over the plants at night using clothes pegs for anchorage and a good fit. The pots may not win a prize for beauty, but it is worth taking some effort to try and get them through rough weather.

With the mild, damp weather we've had in October and into early November, weeds will continue to grow and seed in the borders if you don't winkle them out. Don't be too tidy when you are cleaning the garden up for winter. Spent flower heads can provide food for the birds and handy little crevices in which friendly insects can find a hibernation spot.

Stand back and look at your plantings critically. It is now an excellent time to move any shrubs - provided they are not too large - that you consider are not in the right place. But prepare the new planting holes **BEFORE** you dig the plants up. Plants should not be left hanging around before re-planting. Steel yourself and remove old shrubs that are now past their best, but if you liked the old one, try replacing it with another of the same variety.

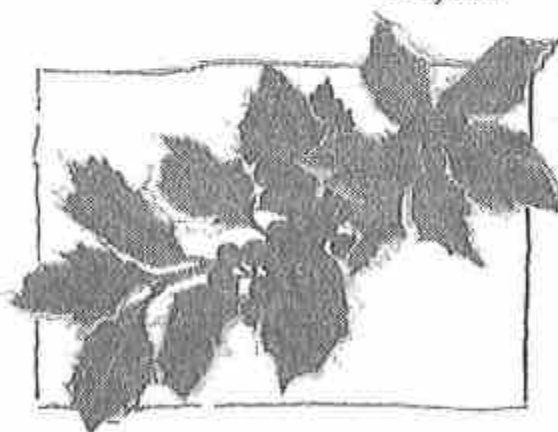
Don't forget the value of scented winter-flowing plants and, if currently you haven't got any, why not plant one - or even two - now to help make next winter sweeter? There are quite a lot to choose from, such as winter-flowering honeysuckle, daphne and mahonia. Gardening articles extol the virtues of sarcococca, or

winter box, but although it is a nice little neat-leaved evergreen shrub with spidery white flowers in the depths of winter, it is a not a scent I enjoy and I can never understand what all the fuss is about! The rather everyday, but useful, seaside hedging plant, *eleagnus ebbingei*, with its stiff silver-backed leaves, has in early winter the most insignificant little white flowers (where the leaf stalk joins the stem) which pour out a heavenly smell of carnations. You may find yourself wondering where the gorgeous scent is coming from, but fail to notice the flowers!

Food and clean water are essential for your garden birds in winter, but keep their seed hoppers and dishes cleaned regularly as well as the feeding areas in your garden. I was not aware, until fairly recently, that birds can become the victims of salmonella. They are such beautiful things to have around our gardens and what better music than the sweet song of a male blackbird when we first hear it in February? As I say to my tame one *"You're worth every packet of currants!"* But what a shame if, when encouraging their company, we are possibly subjecting them to catching a fatal infection. So make sure their drinking bowls and feeding hoppers are kept really clean.

Wishing all you gardeners out there a very happy Christmas and good growing for 2006!

*Ladybird*





# HARRY HUGGINS AND THE MYSTERY OF THE HASTINGS RARITIES

I am quite sure that in ladies' organisations, like the WI, they never squabble and have scandals - but in gents' ditto they certainly do!

Chatto & Windus have just published a massive tome, by Mark Crocker and Richard Mabey, which has over 500 pages and was eight years in the making. It is a book of chat about most of our species of birds - their history, relations with people, often little stories which folks have sent in to the authors.

You realise how appallingly man has treated birds. Eating them, mostly. At the banquet held in 1465, when George Neville, Chancellor of England, became Archbishop of York, they served 400 Swans, 2000 Geese, 1000 capons, 204 Bitterns, 400 Grey Herons, and 2400 Ruffs. No doubt there was a lot more besides.

In the first quarter of 1885, 750,000 Egret skins were sold on the London market. For ladies' hats. Birds of prey were exterminated, mostly by gamekeepers. A favourite way was with the iniquitous pole trap. A tall pole was set up with a trap on top. The bird alighted on the pole (you know how when you drive to Kingsbridge you see Buzzards on electricity poles). The trap caught it by the legs and it hung there until it died. That is illegal now. But the Hen Harrier, arguably the most beautiful of our birds of prey, still suffers. It nests on the ground, among the heather, and takes grouse. So they stamp on the eggs, or chicks.

In their bit about the Cuckoo, the writers refer to the arguments which raged over how the female got her egg into the host bird's nest. Often it seemed a physical impossibility, no way could she get her long tail and rear end in to do it. There were blazing arguments, especially between members of the then British Ornithologists' Club, which met at Paganini's Restaurant in Great Portland Street - famous for the awful quality of its expensive food (this was a very long time ago). Two of the main arguers were the Reverend F C R Jourdain and Percy Bunyard, both notorious egg collectors (oologists they called themselves) in days when

everyone collected eggs. The Reverend was one of the four authors of the *Handbook of British Birds*, published, and largely written, by H F Witherby.

It was a main standby for ornithologists, still is for that matter (I often refer to it), but now superseded by *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. It is referred to as "Witherby et al", Jourdain being one of the et al. He was known to friends and enemies alike as Pastor pugnax, Pastor for obvious reasons and pugnax because it obviously suited him. The scientific name of the Ruff, a medium sized wading bird, is *Philomachus pugnax*. Very occasionally we see one in marshy places here, when it is migrating from northerly breeding grounds to wintering areas around the Mediterranean and further south.

The specific name, pugnax, comes from the habits of the males. For a short time in spring they grow splendid ruffs around their necks; not all are alike - the field guide refers to black, deep rufous, orange or white. They assemble at arenas, lekking grounds, when they show off to one another and fight, viciously at times, hence the pugnax. The ladies are much smaller and have no ruffs. They creep along and watch, nip in and mate with a male, after which they depart to make a nest, lay eggs, etc. The gentlemen have no further part in family affairs. I don't think you will see a bird with a ruff here - it is shed long before they get this far south.

Bunyard studied Cuckoos and was convinced that the female laid her egg on the ground. She then picked it up and swallowed it; she took it to the host nest, regurgitated it into the nest, took one of the host bird's eggs, and left. Jourdain would have none of this, and the book says he often abused Bunyard in the most colourful terms - which usually Bunyard did not hear, being as deaf as a post. The other members were wont to gather round to watch the scrap but eventually, to avoid bloodshed, any mention of Cuckoo at meetings was forbidden.

Ultimately, after prolonged studies, another

member found that the female Cuckoo does in fact lay her egg direct into the host nest. He was rich and hired several assistants as well as a professional photographer to find all this out. You wonder how the photographer did it - taking pictures at the nest was by no means unusual - before the days of modern cameras with long-focus lenses this was almost the only way to take pictures of birds. You set up a hide near the nest and filmed proceedings over maybe several days. But a Cuckoo takes no more than seconds to lay her egg, take one out, and go. How did the photographer know where and when she was going to do it?

I have written before about the biggest scandal affecting the ornithological world - the case of the so-called 'Hastings rarities'. To recap briefly, in the area around Hastings, in about the first 30 years of the last century, there were 'obtained' what seemed to be an inordinate number of rare birds. All went to the shop of George Bristow in St Leonards. He was a taxidermist and gunsmith. The birds were mounted and sold to folks who collected such things. They all did in those days - my grandfather's gloomy house was full of stuffed birds in glass cases.

Some had been shot by ornithologists, who of course kept their birds. Others were produced by various local people. Besides foreshore and harbours there were many market gardens in the area at that time. If you had one, you took along your gun to shoot the pigeons which were eating your cabbages, and the jays which were eating your peas. Everyone had guns then, there wasn't the phobia there is now. I had one from my early teens, never shot anyone nor wanted to. I took it out only when going with my father to

the farm where he rented the shooting (which probably cost him all of £10, the only cash the farmer laid his hands on).

No doubt if they shot something edible they ate it. If they got an unusual bird they took it to Bristow who gave them shillings for it. Local ornithologists (one of them was a distinguished co-author of "Witherby et al") were puzzled by the number of rare birds which passed through Bristow's hands. They tried to get him to show them the birds before he dealt with them and to tell them the names of the men who shot them so they could talk to them. This Bristow seems to have declined to do. I think his attitude was why should these busy-bodies interfere in his business - and the asking of questions might cause the supply of birds to dry up.

So it remained until 1962, when everybody concerned was safely dead. Then two well known ornithologists published a study they

called "*Setting the record straight*". They proved that all the rarities must be rejected and deleted from the records. Their efforts cut out 29 species and sub-species and 500 records, relating to between 80 and 90 different species. They did this by statistics. After about 1925 far fewer rare birds were found in the area, therefore the earlier ones must be fraudulent. It must be remembered that none of these was a sight record. They didn't allow sight records in those days - you had to have the body and the maxim was "What's hit is history - what's missed is mystery".

What I don't think they were able to answer was if these birds weren't

genuine, where had they come from? Oh, they said, the corpses were brought in frozen on ships. How they got from the ships to Bristow was not explained. Nor was the fact that a frozen bird is most difficult to skin and mount.



**George Bristow**



We used to pick up road kills and send them to Terance James Bond, the artist. For a bird artist a collection of skins is his stock-in-trade. A bird picture must not only be good, it must also be accurate. He always said don't put a bird in the freezer and don't put it in a plastic bag. We haven't found any lately. The last one was one of our white Buzzards and when poor Terry unpacked it he thought he had got his Osprey at last! No doubt as a highly experienced taxidermist Bristow would have had less of a problem with a bird which had been frozen - but it would still have been difficult for him. It has taken a good many years, but all the birds rejected by the study have now been found in Britain, the last being the Black Lark they had in Anglesey.

Rare birds do just turn up. As Arthur Livett wrote in *Village Voice*, here at Thurlestone last September we had a Least Sandpiper - a sparrow-sized bird which somehow had crossed the Atlantic. At the same time, and also from America, were a Pectoral Sandpiper and a White-rumped Sandpiper. To show they don't all come from the west, there was a Black-headed Wagtail, which you will see in eastern Europe.

The main basis for "Setting the record straight" was a statistical one, that far more birds were "taken" in the Hastings area than in surrounding areas, and more than in the same area since. Now we have an example of this sort of thing right on our own doorstep, at Aveton Gifford. There is a little bird called a Spotted Flycatcher, a bit bigger than a Blue Tit, with the longer wings and tail of a distance migrant. It comes to us for the summer, spends the winter in Africa south of the equator. It is brown on top, creamy white below, with brown streaks along its crown and down the top of its breast.

You will see one sitting upright on a thin branch - it dashes out, seizes a flying insect, often with an audible snap of its beak, and returns to its branch. It likes to nest in creepers and the like on houses. It is getting rarer - the government says it is down by 80% since 1970. The Devon Bird Report for 2003, the latest one I have, talks of a decline of 38% since 1994. All records quoted in the Report were of one or two pairs. Except for Aveton Gifford, which is Rod Bone's patch.

When we survey breeding birds we record confirmed breeding, probable breeding and possible ditto. For confirmed, we see young birds in the nest or parents taking food to them. For probable breeding, Rod went to every site in May, June and July. If he found a pair there on each visit he reckoned they were probably breeding. If there were birds there on only one or two occasions that was possible breeding. In 2005 he found 22 pairs for confirmed breeding, 28 probably were, and there were 33 pairs where breeding was possible. So there were 50 pairs which were certainly or probably breeding, and a further 33 where it was possible. Over 80 pairs in all. I wonder what the statisticians who debunked the Hastings rarities would have made of all that?

Now why the parish of Aveton Gifford is exceptional I do not know. I do know that Rod is a very fine birder, an extremely thorough and methodical worker, that by and large he does not stray out of his patch at Aveton Gifford, and that he gives an awful lot of time to it. The RSPB sat up, gasped, and sent down a team to do further studies to try to find out why Aveton Gifford should be so exceptional.

That is what they did with the Cirl Buntings. These were in danger of becoming extinct in Britain because no one knew what their requirements were. They had got down to fewer than 100 pairs. The RSPB got farmers to do things like leaving strips of land fallow, thus providing insects and grasshoppers for the chicks to eat, and seeds for winter food for the birds. They reckon the Cirl Buntings are now up to 700 pairs, but unfortunately all in the strip of coast between Torquay and Plymouth. At one time they were all over southern England, but they are real stick-in-the-mud birds and show no desire to spread.

No doubt we will hear in due course what, if anything, the RSPB people find out and why Aveton Gifford birds should apparently be so different to ones in the rest of the country. But the Aveton Gifford Flycatchers have shown that you can't dogmatise about numbers of birds in any particular area, and you could be justified in thinking that the Hastings records were all quite genuine.

*Harry Huggins*





# At the Bridge Table



## THE ISLE OF MAN BRIDGE CONGRESS 2005

This little jewel set in the Irish Sea was home to a three-day Bridge Congress run by the English Bridge Union. Unfortunately it did not attract the numbers from the mainland to make it the total success it deserved to be.

The island is beautiful, encapsulating moorland, mountains and attractive coastline, all within thirty miles. It is, however, a very long way from the South Hams - six and a half hours by road, followed by three and a half by ferry. Flying and car-hire would have been a better option perhaps, but our friends who inveigled us into making the trip preferred the first method of travel. Arriving on Wednesday evening, we had Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October as a sight-seeing day. Battle was joined at 2.00 pm on Friday at the Empress Hotel in Douglas.

Victor and I were well pleased with fourth place in a fairly illustrious field in the Mixed Pairs. No problem, we thought! Wrong! It was downhill all the way after that, but the experience was worthwhile as the island itself had a quiet, magical feel - if one ignored the sand-bagged bends on the tortuous TT circuit. It was a most enjoyable trip but not necessarily one to be repeated.

Here is an interesting deal from the Swiss Teams event. It does not look too difficult to bid when you can see all four hands, but try it when you only see one! Perhaps East would start with 2 Clubs (strong, artificial and forcing) and South would enter the battle with 4 Hearts. West would probably pass (5 Hearts to show control of this suit looks too dangerous) and North might well increase the apparent defensive barrier against East by bidding 5 Hearts. Does East then come in with 6 Diamonds and South respond with 6 Hearts? Your guess is as good as mine! As can be seen, 6 Hearts is solid with only one Club trick to lose. If (a big if) East/West realises this, then it will pay them to sacrifice in 7 Diamonds - costing say, 800 (three down doubled) as compared with 1430 for a vulnerable small slam.

But in practice will East/West gather that 6 Hearts is 'cold'? Will East with his 21 high card points double the latter bid, or even 5 Hearts? I (Victor) fell into the latter trap and gave the opposition 1050 (5 times 30 doubled plus 500 for game, 50 for the 'insult' and 200 for an overtrick). I consoled myself with the thought that I might have 'saved' 380 (1430 less 1050) but, when we scored up, soon found that this was just hopeful thinking. Our partners had gone down (one - undoubled = 100) in 4 Spades, so in total our team had lost 1150 on the one deal. But what a deal! How often do you see a solid slam available when the partners have a combined high card count of only 14 points?

The key, of course, is the existence of two voids in the E/W hands, but it is difficult to show these when the bidding starts high. Overall, not a problem for which you will find sure answers in the text-books.....but this is one of the joys of bridge!

*A happy Christmas to all our readers, bidding and playing!*

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*Victor (and spouse)*

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# BOOKSHELF

## Arthur & George

by Julian Barnes

(Jonathan Cape £17.99)

Julian Barnes has already proved himself to be a very accomplished novelist, but this is quite an amazing book. It is based on a true story about real people, and all letters, newspaper articles, government reports and proceedings in Parliament are authentic.

"Arthur" is in fact Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and, apart from the intriguing story, the book contains many interesting biographical facts about him.

George Edalji is a young solicitor whose father, a Parsee, was Vicar of Great Wyrley, in Staffordshire, a place with which many of you will be acquainted. His mother was English, but of course he was a half-caste. George was unjustly accused of maliciously wounding horses and cattle and, although he strongly protested his innocence, and without a shred of evidence against him, he received dreadful treatment at the hands of the authorities, police, and courts because of his colour. He was eventually sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.

Conan Doyle heard of his plight and used his considerable influence for George to be declared innocent. This was in the days before the Court of Appeal, and was one of the reasons for its inception. It is a most absorbing and gripping story which will keep you reading past your bedtime. Not to be missed!

GW

## The Perfect Sinner

by Will Davenport

(Harper Collins £6.99)

This is a carefully-crafted and well-woven piece of fiction, linking Sir Guy de Bryan, who commissioned the Chantry at Slapton, with the gruesome blunders of the D-Day training exercises at Slapton Ley and the resignation of a Government minister in the wake of the Iraq expedition.

Along the way the author reports on the use of cannon at the Battle of Crecy, the heroic charge of the blind John of Luxembourg, the Black Death, the life-saving role of the St Bernard dogs on the Alpine passes, and the embassy which sent Geoffrey Chaucer to Italy - which in turn gave him the material for the Knight's Tale, which inspires the central theme of the novel. Quite an historical kaleidoscope!

Once I have heard from friends at Slapton whether there really is a fortune to be made from the stone quarries there, I will pass my copy to the Church Meeting Room, for which the book's title seems wholly appropriate. I bought the book because it is dedicated to the memory of my cousin, Tony Dixon (a much-respected school master at King Edward's School, Totnes) apparently because of its Chaucerian overtones. But I became fascinated by my purchase and strongly recommend it to any devotee of Umberto Eco.

JC

## Friends, Lovers, Chocolate

by Alexander McCall Smith

(Little, Brown £10.99)

I was amazed to find another new book by this author, and this, too, is a masterpiece. I should mention that he is the Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh.

This is a much more profound and poignant book with a most unusual plot, but it is beautifully written with wonderful pen pictures of Edinburgh and its inhabitants.

Apart from the fascinating story, what endeared the book to me even more was the passing mention of Mellon Udrigle, one of the most remote and beautiful spots in north-west Scotland. It brought back many memories. If any Village Voice readers have been there I will gladly share a bottle whisky with them whilst indulging in reminiscences!

GW

## **A Natural Life**

by David Bellamy

(Arrow Books £7.99)

Another 'lucky dip' from our local library! Well-known throughout the world as a 'green' authority, the author tries in this book to dispel many of the myths current in today's society when it comes to the environment. For instance, in the case of oil pollution he considers that the real damage to marine life below the high-tide mark is in areas where detergents are used to combat the problem. Left to their own devices, our rocky shores recover remarkably quickly!

It is an inspirational and outspoken book which I thoroughly enjoyed.

## **Rules of Engagement**

by Tim Collins

(Headline Books £20.00)

Our very honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Collins gives a true insight into, and understanding of, what it was really like to fight in the Iraq war. The shame of Britain is that he had to fight very hard indeed to clear his name after damaging false statements and rumours were circulated.

He also manned the famous Green Goddesses in a (pre-Iraq war) firemen's strike and speaks highly of them.

**RM**

### **Thurlestone Post Office & Stores Christmas & New Year opening hours**

Over the festive period the Shop, and the Post Office in particular, will change the usual times of operation. The shop hours listed below are minimums - we may increase them to meet demand. The PO will, however, be strictly as listed.

	<u>SHOP</u>	<u>POST OFFICE</u>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	8.00am/5.30pm	9.00am /5.30pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00am/1.00pm	9.00am /12.30pm
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed	Closed
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00am/2.00pm	Closed
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00am/1.00pm	9.00am /1.00pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00am/5.30pm	9.00am /5.30pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00am/5.30pm	9.00am /5.30pm
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	8.00am/1.00pm	9.00am /12.30pm
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	9.00am/1.00pm	Closed
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	8.00am/2.00pm	Closed
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	8.00am/5.30pm	9.00am /5.30pm

Normal opening times will resume on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2006. Christmas editions of tv listings will soon be available - you can reserve a copy at the counter or by phone. Orders for vegetables, mince-pies, bread, cream etc. should be placed well in advance to ensure they will be available for collection or delivery before Christmas.

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The true story of years of diving and research on a vessel wrecked near Start Point during the blizzard of March 1891. This history of the Dryad, from her building in Liverpool through seventeen years of sailing the oceans of the world to her final wreck - with the tragic loss of all aboard - was presented by the author at the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Shipwreck Conference in Plymouth in February 2005.

*Reviewed by Kendall McDonald  
in the February issue of Village  
Voice,, this fascinating book  
is available from Thurlestone  
and Bantham village stores, local  
bookshops, or from the publishers.*



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# A Book for Christmas

If you're looking for a special gift that conveys all that is good about life in the South Hams here is a book that will delight you with its lighthearted look at the changing world in which we live.

Originally written as a regular feature for Thurlestone's *Village Voice* magazine by local author Prunella Dart, *The Horswell Diary* invites us to share her wry sense of humour, and quixotic view of everyday life, politics, and world affairs, as well as her love for this delightful corner of the South Hams.

Prunella writes *"By the time we discovered Horswell House it had been left empty for several years and stripped bare of all its possessions. Rats scurried beneath the floorboards and bats swooped along the corridors like low-flying jets. Neighbours warned of ghostly inhabitants as windows rattled and doors swung eerily closed. The garden was a wilderness, a haven for wild life, its design lost beneath a canopy of brambles. Badgers and foxes played fearlessly in the long grass and sizeable adders slunk through bracken while their young lay coiled in the warmth of the sun. For most potential purchasers the property was a daunting prospect, but for me it was love at first sight. It was a sleeping beauty waiting for the kiss that would bring it back to life."*

## THE HORSWELL DIARY

*A personal view of life, the world and the universe, from the heart of the Devon countryside.*

*by  
Prunella Dart*



*The Horswell Diary* is available at the Thurlestone and Bantham Village Stores and also from the Harbour Bookshop in Kingsbridge at £9.95.

Prunella Dart will be autographing copies of her book at the opening of Thurlestone Parish Hall on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 11.00 am onwards.





# NEWS FROM THE WI



## October

Lisa Davis of Studio Flowers, Churchstow Business Park, and Jackie Case of Avon Mill Nursery, brought an early touch of Christmas as they demonstrated attractive floral ideas. The results were raffled, and five lucky members went home with great bouquets. Outings had been enjoyed to the Northcott Theatre, the American Museum at Bath and the NT property Tyntesfield.

## November

Judith Le Grice was re-elected President at the annual meeting, under the guidance of Merial Connell, the WI Adviser. The committee will now comprise: Dorothy Abel, Shirley Barnes, Joan Booth, Pat Clarke (Treasurer), Pat Crawford, Margaret Illingworth, Julie Hanham, Karen Livett (Secretary), Jan Trender and Jean Yeoman. Pam Knight retired from the committee and was thanked for all she had contributed for the last five years. Shirley and Joan were welcomed to the committee for the first time. Thurlestone WI agreed to copy fellow-members in Cornwall Federation, who are urging people not to do all their shopping at supermarkets to the detriment of small local shops. The January meeting would be at the new hall, and the Thurlestone Hotel was warmly thanked for temporarily accommodating us.

There was a wide selection of 'family heirlooms' on show which members had brought. Each carried an interesting story - a ruby glass which had been presented by Admiral Nelson to HMS *Norfolk's* captain; a City of London freeman's tankard-jug; an embroidered sampler made in the 1700s; a gold filigree inlaid bracelet; a so-called 'Death Penny', which was given by the government to the family of soldiers killed in WW1; a silver shoe horn with button hook; some interesting tiny pots of unknown provenance; two christening robes; a miniature covered cheese dish; an old brass money-box; and a small child's rocking chair

which was just the right fit for the lovely antique doll it seated!

## Diary Notes

- **2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> December:** WI promotion at the new Parish Hall. The beautiful, newly discovered, WI Scrapbook for 1965 will be on display for the first time!
- **9<sup>th</sup> December:** Carol Concert, Thurlestone Church, 2.30 pm with tea and mince-pies to follow in the Church Meeting Room. Singing practices at Rock Hill, 4 pm Fridays.
- **16<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Lunch (booking in advance), 12.30 for 1.00 pm
- **27<sup>th</sup> December:** WI Christmas Singers at the Village Inn, 7.00 pm
- **13<sup>th</sup> January:** Resolutions meeting at West Charleton, 10.30 am
- **11<sup>th</sup> February:** Beetle Drive, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
- **4<sup>th</sup> March:** French Evening, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm (rehearsals at Val's - 560202)

## Monthly Programme 2006

Meetings will be at the Parish Hall, starting 2.30 pm, on the second Thursday each month. The Speakers will be :-

- January: Vida Alexander, **Tai Chi**
- February: Sue Thomas **'How to get what you want from life'**
- March: Sarah Orme, **Garden History**
- April: **Trading Standards**
- May: **Resolutions**
- June: Bill Simpson, **Antiques & Fine Art**
- July: **Dartmoor - Wildlife and Landscapes**
- September: B Vyner, **Local Parish Churches**
- October: Adrienne Blake - **'Now you've got the flowers.....'**

*Visitors are always welcome - come along and have a cup of tea with us.*



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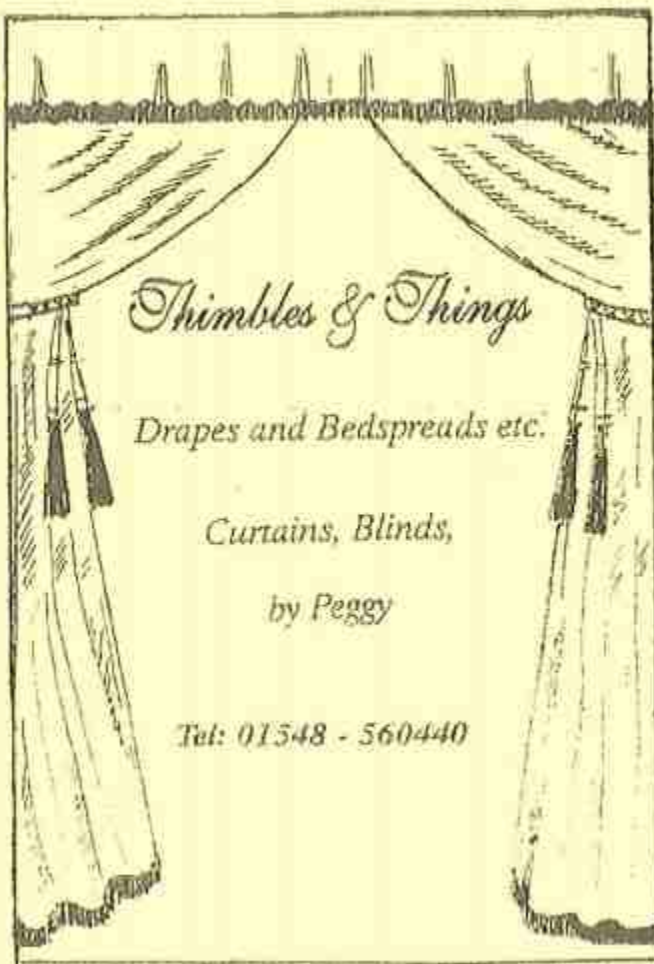
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# HANDEL'S MESSIAH

*Most of us are familiar with the words and music of this great oratorio. Here is the story of an old countryman who has seen and heard a performance for the first time. The following day he met a friend and told him about it.*

"Cor, Jim, the place it were packed. I had an awful job to find a seat - 'twas all they singers fault, they took up 'alf the gallery, they did. Anyway, I managed to squeeze in somehow. After a while a lot of chaps comes in, all with white fronts. I felt sure they'd forgotten their weskits, and they all had fiddles - oh, they did look grand. Then a couple of chaps carted in a great hefty creature in a green bag. They took its clothes off, then screwed up its ears until it fairly creaked. Then a chap drew a white stick across its chest. You should have heard it groan, chronic it was.

Then a little old man comes in with a small stick in 'is 'and, and bowed to right and left to everyone. Then he started waving this stick about and all the singers did stare at him. I reckons they was wonderin' what was up with 'im. Then they all stood up and started 'ollering *'We like sheep, we like sheep'* and I thinks to meself, of course us do, who don't? A couple of lamb chops with a bit of mince sauce goes down a treat, it do.

Then they started on complaining about some sheep what had got lost. I don't know how many of them there was, nor how much money they cost, but one thing was certain - they sheep was lost. Then a chap stood up and sang by hisself. Do you know, Jim, they must 'ave been 'is sheep because he said every hill and every mountain should be laid low. I thought they'd be sure to find them if they did that and find lots of jobs for the unemployed.

A lot of women stood up after that and all of them looked as if they was - well, gettin' on a bit, some of them must 'ave been 65 if they was a day. They did sing *'unto us a child is born'*. Then the chaps on the other side shouted out *'Wonderful'* and I thought to meself - wonderful, tis a bloomin' miracle! After this they sobered down a bit and started to sing about a certain gal. They kept on calling to her *'Joyce, Joyce Grately'* but who she was or what she'd done I never did find out, 'cept all the men looked mighty pleased about it.

Then all the audience stood up to see what was the matter and the singers shouted *'Hallelujah, Hallelujah, it's going to rain for ever and ever'*. Well, when I 'ears that I jumps up, grabs me 'at and makes straight for the door. I thought I'd better get orf 'ome before the floods come. It was a real good do though, but oh I do 'opes they find those sheep."

*With many thanks to Mr Richard Baker*



# Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

The past few weeks have been mild and balmy with just the odd gale or two to keep us on our toes! A couple of them were quite severe, corresponding with fairly high tides and the remnants of the hurricanes in the USA. The chief and most impressive seas are those with a long rolling swell, typical of a large storm in mid-Atlantic or a hurricane off the eastern seaboard of North America. Here, the waves reached the steps in front of Beach Cottage, swept the dunes along Mr Conington's fence and filled the Ley to give the reed-beds a drink. It also battered the large sandstone cliffs below the Links Court car park and shifted some of the rip-rap boulders at the base of the slope in front of the building.

A sizeable chunk of sandstone has been eroded from the base of the main cliff, leaving a new cave which the sea will excavate with great gusto during the next storm. The large chunks from the hole are lying on the beach, exposing surfaces that have been hidden since the rock was laid down under desert conditions in the Permian era. The Ley has run out now to expose the layers of sand laid down over the last couple of winters which gives a really good example of the way a rock is formed. Then there is the stream itself. Over a period of a few days one can watch how erosion along the course of a river takes place - speeded up by hundreds of times. Meanders develop and cliffs, braided streams, and delta-like entrances into the sea all form.

Are we going to have a cold winter? The Met Office has mentioned it several times and seem to have evidence to back it up. I have found in a new book an item on "The Little Ice Age", a period thought to have been from 1300 to 1890 AD, when glaciers in virtually all mountainous areas of the world advanced and the Arctic islands' ice caps grew larger. Winters were colder and summers cooler, the climate was volatile - very cold periods alternating with warmer ones, wet ones with

dry ones. Worldwide the climatic change damaged many eco-systems which in turn had an important influence on a lot of political decisions.

The causes of the LIA are not really understood. Sunspot activity might have an influence as during the period there were fewer than we see now in a typical year and carbon-14 levels were higher, indicating a jump in cosmic rays and a drop in solar activity. Then there is the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) - the circulation of water within the ocean and the transfer of warm water from the south to the north along with a change in pressure systems (too complicated to explain here, but thought to be coming into action now) which could cause temperature fluctuations. Added to this there is the odd volcanic eruption that can throw millions of tons of ash and dust into the atmosphere effectively blocking out the sun and its energy from influencing the weather as it would normally do.

Five years of really cold weather followed Krakatoa's eruption, with extremes of weather patterns and famine and floods in an area where the climate was usually equable. There's just been a news report that the Inuit people are having problems as ice is not forming at the usual time (one fishing trip realised just a single duck and no fish). No frozen seas, no seals for the table.

What can we do? Will it make any difference? Should we be getting together to try to plan for a better future for our children and grandchildren? These questions continue to intrude into my mind. What about yours?

*Wishing you all a very happy and enjoyable Christmas anyway, be it warm or cold, wet or dry!*

*Jan Turner*

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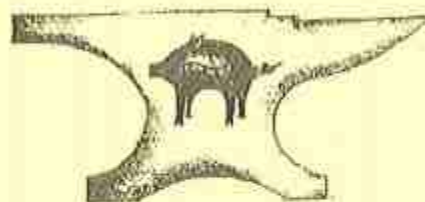
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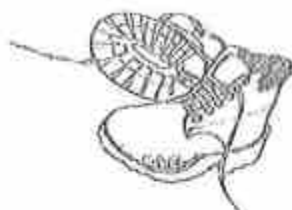
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# TRAMP



**1** The weather looked rather dubious on the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> September, and by the time we arrived at our starting point at Bolberry Down a thick mist was descending. Not to be deterred, eight regular walkers plus two dogs, accompanied for the first part of the walk by a visitor with another dog, set off into the gloom.

Walking in the direction of Salcombe, initially visibility was very poor, but the mist miraculously lifted as we approached Soar Mill Cove, giving us a nice little window of sunshine in which to appreciate its beauty. A stiff climb out of the cove brought us to the more level plateau of The Warren. By this time we were again enveloped in thick mist, so sadly were not able to enjoy the glorious views normally on offer along this lovely stretch of coast.

We continued on round Bolt Head, passing the old lookout station, and descended the steep path to Starehole Bay. We were again lucky here with another little sunny interlude, and were able to enjoy a stop for our picnic lunch in this pretty spot. Watching a motor launch approach and moor in the bay, we were hopeful of being entertained by some divers, but the only activity noted was a little washing-up done overboard!

We turned inland up the valley after our lunch break, and with rain setting in, hastily donned our waterproofs. The route took us past East Soar Farm, through various lanes and farmland, and finally along Jacob's Lane, a grassy track leading back to Bolberry Down. Along this final stretch, we were enchanted by the wonderful patterns of spiders' webs, glistening with rain drops, amongst the bushes and trees.

*Though the weather had not been ideal, we had enjoyed an invigorating walk of about seven and a half miles. We would soon*

*revive with a hot bath and cup of tea - or something stronger!*

CH

**2** On 28<sup>th</sup> September, our small troop (including three eager dogs) set off from Kingston towards Wonwell beach, on the Erme estuary; but on the higher path, as the tide was high. Under pressure from gathering storm clouds we climbed the steep coastal path at a cracking pace. Consideration was given to a slower member, and we remembered to enjoy the now quite stunning scenery.

At lunchtime near Westcombe beach we began to tuck into our picnics with just a modicum of shelter from the strengthening wind. However this was somewhat curtailed by steady rain drops.

Refreshed enough, we meandered our way towards Ringmore Village. Valiantly ignoring the pub, we pressed on. Our route back took us between crops and orchards, and we kept mainly dry.

As we approached our cars the clouds loomed lower and darker and more menacing. We were safely back in the sanctuary of our cars when the heavens opened and deposited their load, and we reflected on the glories of the English weather.

HS

**3** On the 12<sup>th</sup> October eight walkers (only one male!) and two dogs set off for a long walk on Wembury Beach. On arrival at our starting point inland at Down Thomas, we were in low cloud and heavy rain, so we decided unanimously to drive straight to the beach where we knew there was a café!

The shoreline was clear of cloud - just - and rain, so we walked westwards for about 1.5 miles along the coast path, then returned to the café, realising a linear walk's attractions as you get two very different views. On the way back we were treated to the impressive sight of two huge Chinook helicopters flying by us in the mist 100 feet up.

We ate an excellent lunch at the Old Mill café, then set off eastwards for a further 1.5 miles or so towards the Yealm estuary. I wanted to go further on, to the ferry steps, but was firmly over-ruled as the rain was starting to fall in earnest. So it was quickly back to the cars at Wembury Beach where we could all claim to have "done" the Wembury section of the South West Coast Path in both directions!

#### LH

**4** For various reasons, none of which are worth elaborating on here, no recce had been done before our walk on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, so it was with trepidation that a group of walkers (plus lively dogs) set off for a round walk, starting and finishing at Aveton Gifford.

It was very wet underfoot but the weather thankfully was bright and sunny. We had very unwelcome close attention to the dogs from two horses right at the start, which resulted in a pulled leg muscle for one of the dog-owners - but he struggled on manfully. Luckily the walk became memorable by passing through a field dotted with large field mushrooms, so most people went home with a good supply of them!

Passing through Ashford, our dogs (not for the first time) were attacked by a slinking farm dog, but no blood was drawn. From there, by road, track (Drunkard's Lane), and path, we arrived at the far end of the tidal road on the Avon and walked back to the Fisherman's Rest - and admired the glorious views and the abundant wild life on the river en route.

#### RH

**5** Tramps have suffered badly this year from inclement weather conditions, with many of our walks having to be cancelled, and so on the 26<sup>th</sup> October the leader was surprised and pleased that, following a deluge of rain and an appalling weather forecast, fourteen people and three dogs were eager to walk.

Mindful of the limitations of our First Aid box, particularly its inability to deal with broken legs, the leader decided to abandon the carefully-planned walk - with its steep descents and slippery estuary section - that was to have been from Kingsbridge Rugby Club to Frogmore.

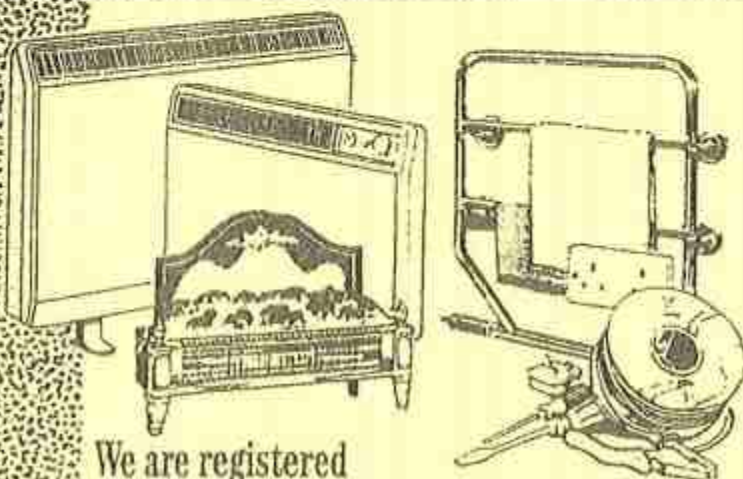
Instead, the group embarked, as the mist closed in, on an uncharted walk through Devon's green lanes from Bowcombe Bridge to Frogmore, returning by an alternative set of lanes with views of Sherford and Buckland-tout-Saints. By 11.30 am the decision proved to be the correct one as the rain lashed down accompanied by a strong wind. The lanes provided a reasonable degree of shelter and were not too muddy underfoot and so the only ones to complain were the dogs who really couldn't fathom the strange human reluctance for a nice run through a really good muddy field.

Fortified by a healthy lunch at the Globe Inn at Frogmore and an improvement in the weather, the group was at last able to appreciate some of the lovely views to be had on this side of the estuary as we walked back to the cars. I am sure that I will not be the first one to conclude that, however bad the weather, the wonderful views in this part of the world combined with friendly and interesting conversation is an unbeatable way to spend time.

*So if anybody out there has some rusty walking boots they want to use again, or indeed someone wants to try for the first time, then please feel free to join us - the more the merrier!*

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## DIARY DATES

### DECEMBER

Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	New Parish Hall, Official Opening 10 am (By Invitation)
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	New Parish Hall, 12.00 noon, Open for Public Viewing
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	New Parish Hall, 10 am - 1.00 pm, Open for Public Viewing
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Take Note Concert, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP Christmas Walk, tba
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	WI Carol Service, Church, 2.30 pm
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	WI Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1.00 pm
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Farmers' Market, Kingsbridge Quay, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kingsmen Concert, Village Inn, 7.30 pm
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	WI Christmas Singers, Village Inn, 7.00 pm

### JANUARY

Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Farmers' Market, Kingsbridge Quay, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	INTERNET CAFÉ, Parish Hall, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, tba
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	INTERNET CAFÉ, Parish Hall, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	INTERNET CAFÉ, Parish Hall, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Hurrell's Archive Photo Show, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	TRAMP, tba
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	INTERNET CAFÉ, Parish Hall, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

### FEBRUARY

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	TRAMP, tba
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Sue Thomas)
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	WI Beetle Drive, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm

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Whole Page - £70.00 Half Page - £50.00 Quarter Page - £30.00

## VILLAGE VOICE

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## PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate.  
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In Thurstone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers  
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In Bannham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 5th JANUARY 2006

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 Meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf

Chairman: Kit Marshall

Vice-Chairman: Peter Harrell

Parish Clerk: Cathy Townsend

District Councillor: Sherragh Ruskell

County Councillor: Sir Simon Day

Members: Neil Giffing

David Urose

Andrew Rhymer

Geoffrey Shilton

Charles Michelson

Two Wardens

PARISH HALL Chairman: Ron Puckin

Bookings: Pat Crawford

PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.) Chairman: Chris White

RECTOR: Rev. Andrew Giffing

CHURCH MEETING ROOM Office

CHURCHWARDENS: Graham Worrall

LT. Webb

COFFEE TIME (See All Saints Diary for details)

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH Contact: Liz Webb

Contact: Kit Marshall

BOWLS CLUB Contact: Helen Daymont

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION John Crawford

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB Contact: Hugh Cairn

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB Clubhouse

BRIDGE CLUBS 7 pm Wednesdays and Fridays Contact: Dorothy Shaw

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB Secretary/Manager: Terry Gibbons

TENNIS SECTION Contact: Lindsey Fleisher

KEEP FIT Contact: Brenda March

TAI CHI Contact: Vida Alexander

HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual) Contact: John Lonsdale

PROBLES Contact: Tom Trember

SOUTH HAMS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS Contact: Pat Crawford

TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers) Contact: Lisa White

W.L. 2.30 pm Parish Hall  
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TEAMMAKERS (Computer Club) TUTION CLASSES

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Contacts: Robin Macdonald 560436 Michael Barnes

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

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 7.30pm**

**SUN 4th times to be arranged  
 MATINEE SAT 3rd 4.30pm**

**NANNY McPHEE (U)**

**FRI DEC 9th/SAT 10th/MON 12th  
 8.30pm**

**TUES 13th/WED 14th/THUR 15th  
 5.45pm**

**MATINEES SAT 10th 3.00pm  
 SUN 11th 4.30pm**

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 5.45pm SUN 11th 7.00pm**

**TUES 13th/WED 14th/THUR 15th  
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**MATINEE WED 14th 3.00pm**

**CHRONICLES OF NARNIA**

**The Lion, The Witch & The  
 Wardrobe (PG) F.L.S.**

**FRI DEC 16th /SAT 17th/MON 19th  
 TUES 20th/TUES 27th/WED 28th/  
 THUR 29th**

**5.00pm & 8.00pm**

**SUN 18th/WED 21st/THUR 22nd/  
 FRI 23rd**

**4.00pm & 7.00pm**

**SAT 24th & SUN 25th CLOSED**

**MON 26th Times to be arranged**

**MATINEES**

**SAT 17th/TUES 27th/WED 28th/  
 THUR 29th 2.00pm**

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