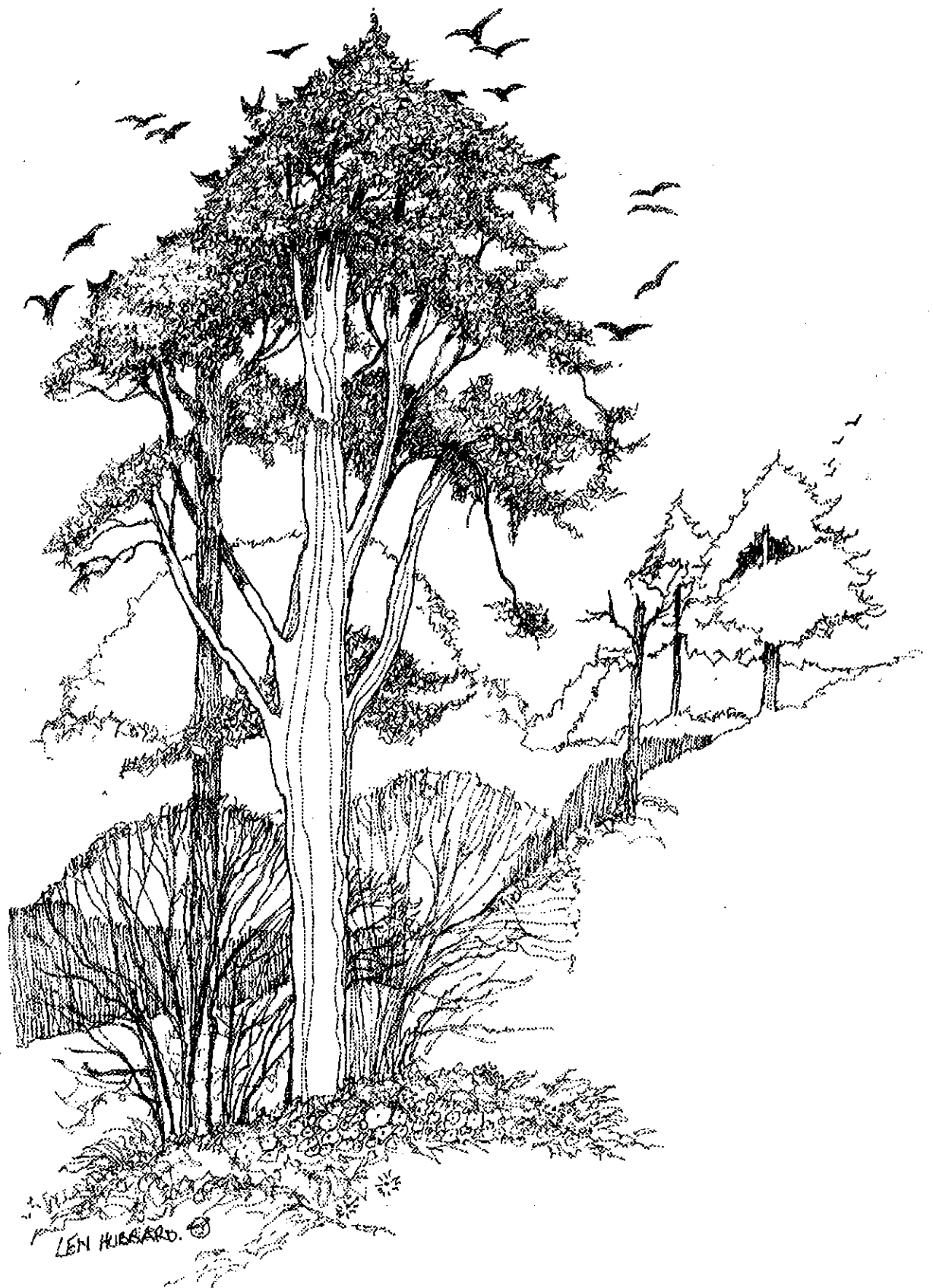


VILLAGE VOICE



JUNE - JULY 2006



NUMBER 139
JUNE - JULY 2006

Now there's a fine thing!

The recent (18th May) national headlines about the first court action (under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1990) for the alleged contamination of a wheelie-bin designed for recyclable waste sound a warning note for all persistent offenders.

Councils have invested heavily in recycling and, despite many early misgivings, householders now seem generally quite happy with their wheelie-bins and collection routines. Separating items between bins may still be an irritation for some individuals, but non-separation (especially when blatantly continued in the face of first, second, and final warning letters) is an even bigger irritation to the Councils. They have the powers to take action against persistent offenders, and are clearly ready to use them.

Since 6th April this year people who disobey recycle rules can face on-the-spot summonses of £100 under the Clean Neighbourhood Act.

Could such a thing happen in Thurlestone? We hope not - but we should all be very aware that recycling is now meant to be taken seriously.

Founder Dudley Drabble

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NEVILLE OSWALD

A tribute by Kendall McDonald

It was the sort of story any editor would die for - "*Highly respectable Thurlestone doctor confesses to running brothel in North Africa*". It was, too, the sort of story that did not often come the way of Village Voice editors. It was the sort of story which deserved the sort of headline not often seen in Village Voice - "*Queen's Doctor in Brothel Scandal*".

For years after Penny and I took over the running of Village Voice, Neville Oswald, for 'twas he, tempted me with offers to write the inside story of this raunchy adventure during the time he got his knees brown in the Second World War, but retired just as regularly to the Old Rectory to ask wife Mollie about it. Mollie, though he never actually said it, seemed not surprisingly to have banned such stories from the ones he did give us for the Voice.

From this you will have gathered that Neville, who has just died aged 95 in Chichester, to which he and Mollie moved to be nearer their daughter some eight years ago, was a regular writer for Village Voice. More than that, he found time to contribute an appendix about Thurlestone families to my book 'More than Just-a-Cottage'

The reason that he could write with such authority about families in Thurlestone history was that he spent years of his time in Thurlestone church and the Devon Public Record Office. He and Mollie copied, from the church registers, all the entries for births, deaths and marriages in the parish, beginning in the 1500s to the present day.

His writing, like that of most doctors, was very small. Even so the work filled large Stationery Office exercise books - which he seemed to have accumulated during his active Army career, much of it overseas. Deciphering the ancient writing was a major part of this mammoth task, and local historians today bless the name of the Oswalds as do many of today's eager constructors of family trees.

Neville Christopher Oswald was always deep into anything local. He wrote well-researched articles for the Devonshire Association about life in the

South Hams in World War II, the South Devon breed of cattle, and was mainly responsible for the history of the South Devon Herd Book Society from 1891 to 1991. His interest in cattle led him to be a prominent member of the Kingsbridge Show committee. That led to his becoming a founder-member of the Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show.

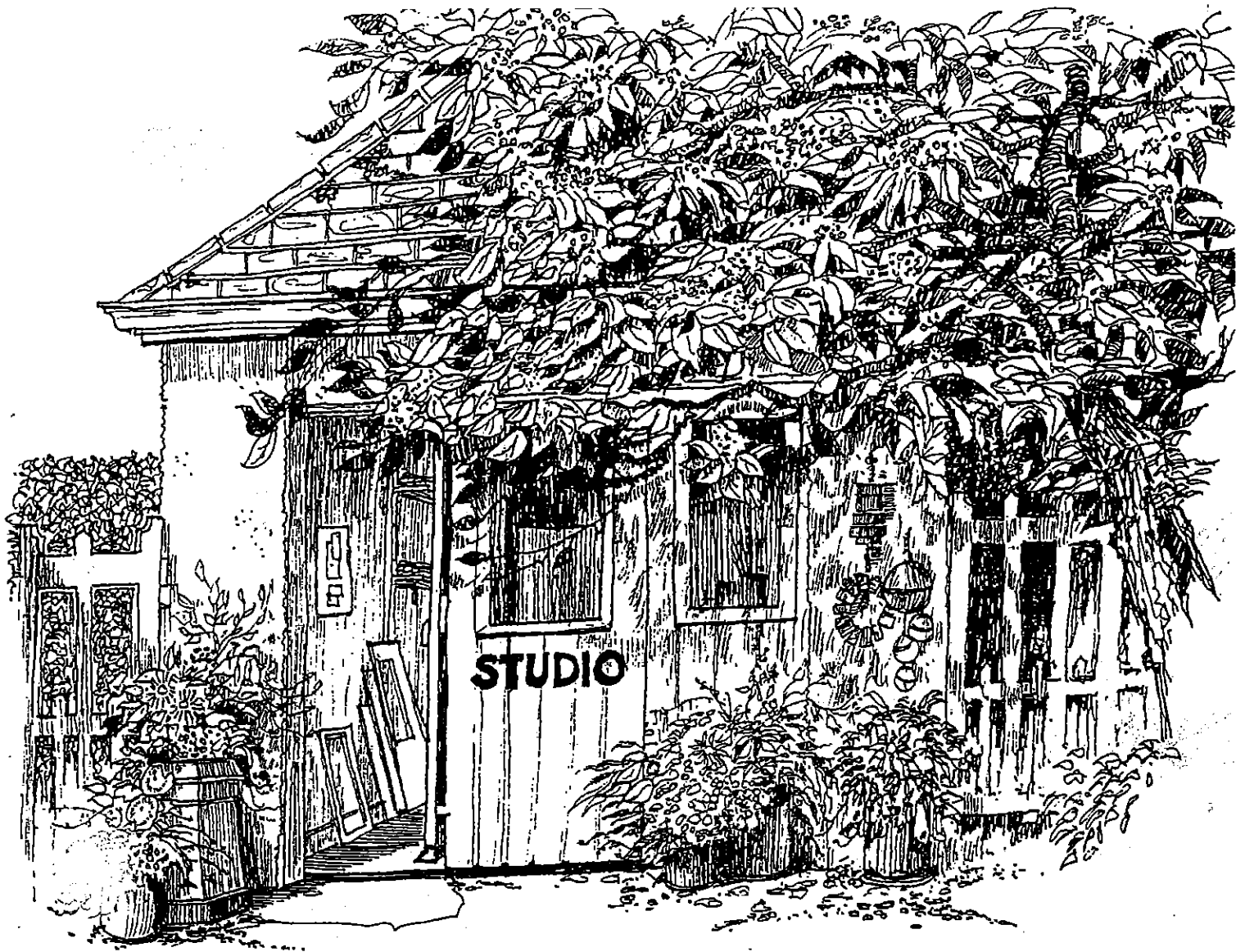
How the Oswalds ever had the time to do all the things they did for the village was the cause of much speculation. Neville never complained when his home became filled for weeks with all sorts of cast-offs and select rubbish collected for the NSPCC annual jumble sale in the Parish Hall. Mollie was the chairman, and the show must go on. Mollie also ran Keep Fit classes in the hall once a week. Neville played at the Golf Club for years until he had to give it up. He replaced that exercise by a daily walk around with village with a stick, and usually managed to make it to what was then the Village Voice office for morning coffee at least twice a week.

It wouldn't do to judge the life of this big man with the dry wit solely by his happy times in Thurlestone. He was a consultant physician at both Barts and at the King Edward VII hospital. He was a distinguished World War II RAMC doctor and Honorary Physician to the Queen from 1956 to 1958.

The son of an Army Colonel, Neville continued his service medical contacts with the Army until his retirement in 1975 when he was honorary consultant in diseases of the chest to the Army. Before that he was Honorary Colonel of the 17th General Hospital RAMC (TA) and of the 217th Eastern General Hospital RAMC. He was President of the British Tuberculosis Association from 1965-67 and the Thoracic Society in 1974.

He was the author of many publications on respiratory diseases. But somehow he never seemed able to produce "*I Ran a Brothel in North Africa*" for Village Voice. Do you think he was pulling my leg?

Kendall McDonald



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Thurlestone Parish Council



Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting held 3rd April 2006

During the year there were eleven full council meetings with an average attendance of over 80%. In addition, there were approximately the same number of subsidiary meetings covering a variety of subjects needing urgent attention. Parish Councillors also attended outside meetings with South Hams District Council, Devon County Council, Police, South West Water, held site meetings, and meetings concerning tree conservation, Saltstone Group, individual parishioners, and any other matters that crop up from time to time.

For the Parish the big event of the year was the completion of this magnificent Parish Hall in which we are sitting today. This was inaugurated at the beginning of December and already its wide range of modern facilities is becoming part of Parish life. The hall is a monument to a Parish that has pulled together to achieve a dream - and what a fine monument this is! I am proud that this Council was able to make its contribution by obtaining a loan from the Public Works Loan Board of some £100,000 and also donating equipment to the tune of £8,000 from monies set aside over the years for recreational purposes.

All Saints Church of England Primary School celebrated its centenary with a series of events. We are lucky to have such a fine school to have served our Parish all these years and it should be noted that because it is of such a high standard, it attracts outsiders who keep the school full to capacity and viable to the authorities who might otherwise want to close it down. The Head Master, **Alun Williams**, will be leaving at the end of the year for pastures new and we wish him well in the future.

This Council is fully aware of the traffic problems outside the school and we are hopeful that in the coming months Devon County Council Highways Division will implement plans to alleviate them.

This time last year I reported that we hoped to

take over the green area in Island View to turn it into a more amenable area for those living nearby. It has been a long and frustrating negotiation with SHDC, but we have now finally agreed the wording of a lease contract and by this time next year I hope it will all have happened.

Waiting for a spell of good weather is the cleaning and refurbishment of the War Memorial. You will also have noticed that the trees behind the memorial have been pruned and much dead wood cut out. The dead tree by the bus shelter is under close scrutiny, but the powers that be have told us not to do anything to it for 12 months in case of a miraculous resurrection.

The new recycling refuse collection system is slowly settling down. SHDC are well aware of the problems for holiday homes and hope that this year will see these problems dealt with satisfactorily.

The Parish Council is looking to produce a new Parish Plan, which will give guidance to all authorities as to parishioners wishes over the next few years. Whilst the initiative and funding for the plan will come through the Parish Council, it must be produced by parishioners rather than councillors and will include an in-depth questionnaire to all households. There will be more published on this issue over the next few weeks, but volunteers and the co-operation of all parishioners will be urgently sought.

The Parish precept has increased by 5.9% this year. The extra amount over and above inflation is to cover the costs of servicing the proposed Green area in Island View and also a one off auditing fee of £650 to cover just one extra entry in the books relating to the Public Works Loan. Our objections have fallen on stony ground.

This year our accounts underwent the scrutiny of a full audit, which they passed with flying

colours thanks to the diligence of our Clerk,
Cathy Tavender.

At the end of this coming year there will be local elections and your chance to elect new Parish Councillors. I would like to encourage more parishioners to consider putting their names forward. Being a Councillor is for me a very interesting and satisfying experience, a chance to meet people and develop ideas without being too onerous. I would be delighted to talk to anyone interested.

Thanks must go to the *Village Voice* for publishing all the Parish Council News and notices, not to mention the commentaries of *Citizens* both past and present. *Village Voice* has become part of our Parish life and we owe them

a huge debt of gratitude for all the hard work that goes into its production. I must also thank the Thurlestone Hotel who generously provided a venue for our meetings whilst this hall was being built.

I must thank all the Councillors for their time, support and advice over the past twelve months and special thanks to our Clerk, Cathy Tavender, who does a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes and keeps us on the straight and narrow through her advice based on her practical knowledge and experience of correct procedures.

Finally, I must thank all Parishioners who have lent their support and who make the Parish of Thurlestone so special.

Kit Marshall

IN MEMORY OF VICTOR GEORGE ADAMS, 1950-2006

Contributed by Libby Simmons

Born at Woodleigh, Vic was the second son of Jean and Roy Adams. At the time the family was living in a gypsy caravan at Leigh Cross, but in 1959 they moved to West Buckland Farm.

Vic would later tease Jean by saying that because he was left outside in his pram until midnight every night, he grew to love an outdoor life! He was a familiar sight to many - residents and visitors alike - holding up the traffic on the lanes as he walked along with his cows.

The Adams family farmed at West Buckland until 2002, and Vic then continued with brother Herbie in his gardening business. Vic's ever-faithful dog, Susie, would be by his side all day long.

He was a wonderful husband to Carol, whom he had met and married in 1976, and a loving father to Paul and Kerry who are now married to Bee and Guy. Paul and Bee have two lovely daughters, that Vic absolutely loved to bits, and they *adored* him. Grandad was superman in their eyes and they would say "Never mind, Grandad will mend it" - be it a burst balloon or Archie's muddy field. He was a loving, and teasing, uncle and brother to Herbie, Marg, Libby and Jenny and all their families.

Throughout his life Vic had many hobbies. Difficult though it may be to believe, he was once a choirboy in Thurlestone church - although he apparently preferred collecting golf balls for money to choir practice. He loved music, though, especially Led Zeppelin - played LOUD.

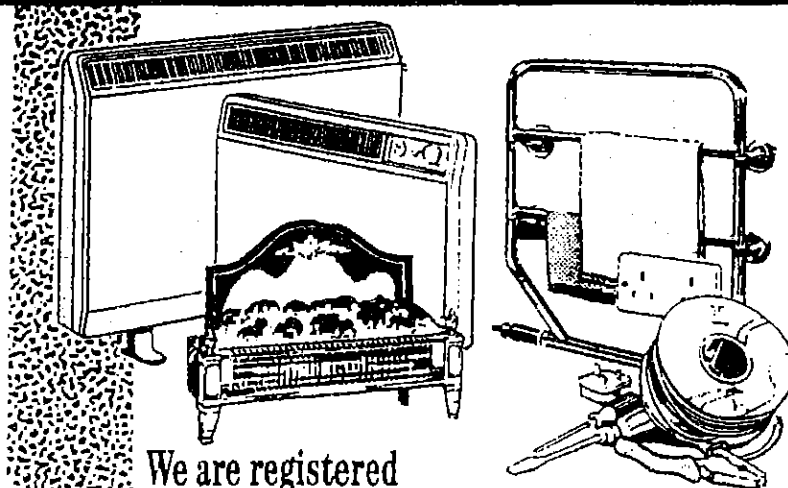
When younger, he used to make his own crab pots and go fishing in his boat, and he was also involved in the Surf Life Saving Club. Later, he enjoyed tug o' war, and was a member of a winning Devon championship team and qualified as a coach. He also helped to build and drive the Sloop Inn carnival floats, attending carnivals all over south and east Devon.

Most of all, throughout his life, he liked to socialise and have a drink. At The Sloop, he would put the world to rights on many a late night with his good friend, Neil - and then he would always take a pasty home for Carol, whatever time of night it was. At Darts matches he loved to tease, and be teased by, all the women, and also at regular 'get-togethers' with Carol and "the gang".

He was a true friend. We celebrate his life.

Libby Simmons

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Parish Council Meetings

3rd April & 8th May 2006

News and Views by Citizen

The Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd April was attended by two guest speakers: **Sir Simon Day**, our County Councillor, and **Mr David Locke**, head of environmental services. The meeting opened in a celebratory mood as the Chairman reported on **a year of progress** in the Parish. The new hall has been opened to wide acclaim and is recognised to be the finest in the District, with features which will remain trend-setting for years to come. The Buckland first time sewage project has come to fruition, and the police report that the Parish, contrary to the belief of some parishioners, has one of the lowest reported crime records in Devon.

Sir Simon brought disturbing news from the **County**. The Devon & Cornwall police force is under threat of amalgamation; the governing majority on the Council has cut back on funding for affordable housing (although the gap appears to have been temporarily plugged by a grant from Central Government); and the County is losing some of its powers to the un-elected Regional Development Authority. Whilst opposed politically to a new Regional Assembly, Conservative councillors are well aware of its extensive powers and are participating in its deliberations. **Mr Crawford** asked Sir Simon why the police appear so reluctant to make better use of technology, given that CCTV cameras, unlike policemen, have no pension entitlement. Citizen reflects that the Parish Hall Committee have already earned their spurs in this respect. Sir Simon announced that he was on his way to Kingsbridge Quay, hopefully to read the riot act.

Mr Locke addressed head-on the growing dissatisfaction in the Parish with **street cleaning services**. He confessed that the original decision to replace the locally employed and highly efficient street cleaner with a centralised service was part of a cost reduction exercise and not aimed at

improving levels of efficiency - an aspect not made clear to the Parish when the scheme was first announced. He set out the schedule for cleaning Thurlestone streets (one day a week) and Buckland (once a fortnight). The cleaners are on a job-and-finish routine but so far no arrangement has been made with Jupiter Pluvius not to flood our street on the intervening days.

The mood then turned more sombre. Mead residents, particularly those in Leonards Close, were far from happy with the Parish Council's handling of the **planning application** for plot 5. Apart from obtaining a reduction in height (0.5 m), the Council had expressed no objection to the application, despite protests from the residents.

However, some of them had taken our District Councillor's advice and consulted the relevant policy documents, which state that new developments must take into account the vernacular of the site and be acceptable to the neighbours. After all, bungalows are bungalows and not two-storey buildings. Happily, at time of writing, Citizen understands the application has now been withdrawn.

Tom Nicholson expressed his concern at the **drainage problems** which are building up on the Mead. As previously reported by Citizen, because storm drainage there (contrary to modern building regulations) feeds into the sewage system, overloading occurs regularly after a severe downpour. He had written to the Water Company about this and they assured him that such events were likely to occur once every 30-40 years. Given that periodicity is currently 4-5 months, it would appear that SWWC's calendar is the same as that used by the biblical Methusaleh in recording his age. A birthday once every month may be the hall-mark of a good life-style, but it is not a sound basis for contingency planning. Mr Nicholson then

asked whether anybody has computed the increased load on the system caused by adding Buckland first time sewage to the apparently overloaded Thurlestone system. The Chairman pointed out that we have no Councillors who are sewage engineers and that they had to have every confidence in the competence of the Water company's team.

The disappearance of three **marker buoys** off Leasfoot is causing some anxiety. Various opinions were advanced, including the erroneous belief that the Golf Club has a responsibility for the beach below mean high-water mark. Perhaps we should address our complaints to the Receiver of Wrecks.

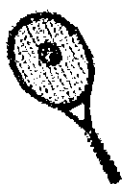
Good news from the **School!** Agreement has been reached for regular use of the hall, thanks to the generosity of the Friends. Once again private good-will has been called upon to make good a failure on the part of Devon County to discharge their statutory obligations. The bad news is that Devon County's engineer has decided against a virtual pavement between the School and the Hall. Instead, a new drop-off point is to be cleared to give parents access from Post Office Lane, aka Court Park (Farm) Lane. The engineer in question appears to have overlooked the fact that this is a private road, the up-keep of which is the responsibility of the residents. Quite apart from the serious

inconvenience resulting, and the lack of clarity about insurance cover for accidents occurring on private property, the residents will be well advised to start a sinking fund, for repairing pot-holes.

The **litter-bin** is on the march again. It has now been established that the bin stands on common land but, after the orgy indulged by a neighbouring parliament of rooks who emptied the bin of fast food wrappers one Sunday morning, the bin is to be offered to the shop for asylum, or else **binned**. In the meanwhile, our thanks to **Margaret Heavisides** who cleaned up the mess before Matins.

The **graveyard** is back in the news again. Following a letter from the Wardens pointing out that Thurlestone is one of only two churches in the Saltstone bailiwick receiving no contribution to up-keep from the Parish, the matter was put to the vote. All but one of the Councillors present voted (albeit, reluctantly) in favour of a £250 annual grant. The issue was summed up succinctly by **Councillor Girling** saying that in order to flourish a rural parish needs a pub, a post office, and a church. Citizen is sure that most readers will agree with the principle, though not necessarily in that order.

Citizen



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PARISH HALL NEWS

By Chairman Ron Parkin



I hope you will be as delighted as I was to read the letter from **Chris Mahn** - see the Postbag page further on. It gave me particular satisfaction to know that all the work that had gone into the Parish Hall's building and equipping was appreciated so fully.

The Hall is there for the benefit and enjoyment of the whole community - for family parties, sporting activities, charity fund raising, recitals, etc. The possibilities are legion. All it takes is an activist, a leader - and we want more of them! Whatever your individual interest, if you know of others similarly inclined, then come forward, book the Hall and get your group activity started.

The variety during just the first 3 months of the year testifies to a vibrant, active and talented community but there is plenty of scope for more. And certainly we need to increase the number of activists, the "doers". It is all too easy to over burden the willing horse, and their numbers are disappointingly small relative to the population of the parish.

The "Big Screen" will come into its own for the football World Cup and Wimbledon tennis. **Tom Cleary** - 561887 - Peter Hurrell's nephew by marriage (and now safely home from Iraq), is a football enthusiast and has kindly offered to take charge of the screenings. At this stage, of course, the dates for whichever matches England will be playing are not yet known.

We do know, however, that the Wimbledon finals will be shown on Saturday (8th July) and Sunday (9th July) at the Hall, when Pimms and Strawberries & Cream will be available. Tickets will be on sale beforehand, so that we can judge how many strawberries to pick!

Looking ahead to the Autumn, it has been suggested that we might run a Film Club on

Sunday evenings. To cover costs there would be a Membership fee and a small entrance fee. The question is, what type of films would attract us away from the fireside on a Sunday? Please think about it and let **Jeanne Barton** know, on 560864 - before the next Committee meeting on 26th June - if you are interested, and let her know the kind of films you would like to see. The films of yesteryear would be my own choice, I think, ranging from *The Wages of Fear* to such wonderful old classics as *Monsieur Hulot's Holiday*, and *Mon Oncle*.

Another welcome and significant new user of the Hall in the Autumn will be the school for P.E. for the senior classes, with the support of the parents through the fund raising activities of the Friends of Thurlestone School. These seem to centre on food, and very successful they are too, with a Breakfast a couple of months ago and a recent Curry and Quiz evening.

The *grisellinia* hedge provided and planted by the Horticultural Show committee is looking splendid - as did the earlier display of daffodils - especially after the *hoe-'n-tidy-up* by members of the Show following their recent plant sale. The 'quality' aspects of the hall impressed the Executive Councillors and senior management of the South Hams District Council at their meeting in the hall at the end of March, and they considered that their financial support for the hall was money well spent. The input from the community and the variety of our activities were favourably commented on. Another VIP group, the management body of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty organisation, will be meeting in the Hall in July.

Let's look forward to summer, the World Cup, and Wimbledon!

Ron Parkin

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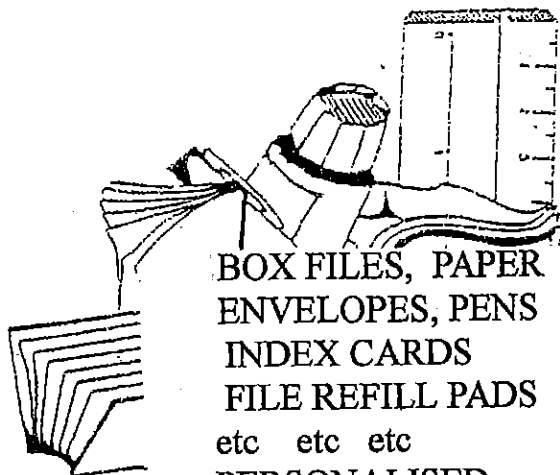
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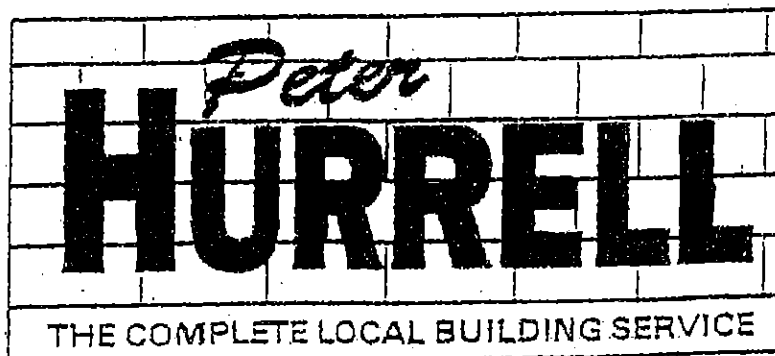
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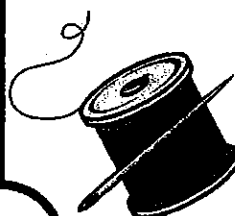
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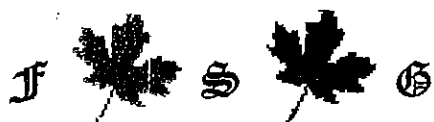
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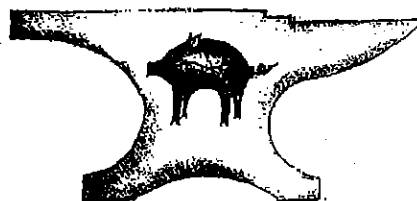
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Village News Round-Up

Designer Award

A picture of the new Parish Hall has been engraved on a silver tray and presented to the hall's designer, **Malcolm Northmore**, as a memento from the appreciative Parish Hall trustees. Malcolm and his wife Margaret recently attended a "handing over" ceremony at the hall where chairman **Ron Parkin** made the presentation and expressed thanks to Malcolm on behalf of all the parish.



Malcolm Northmore

100 Year Quiz - Number 4

Sheila Sadler is busy preparing another one of the popular 100 year Quiz contests which have been such a feature of our Parish Hall fundraising effort over the past three years. Look out for the usual yellow questionnaires in the Village Store around the end of June.

Marathon Runners

Mike Yeoman reports that he covered the hilly Tresco Marathon course in 3 hours 51 minutes, coming 26th out of a field of 131. He raised more

than £4000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. **Kathy Norris** completed the 23rd London Marathon in 4 hours 22 minutes and has so far raised £1600 for her chosen charities - Friends of Thurlestone School, Pearson's pre-school, and Wessex Heartbeat. Well done, both! A worthy effort on behalf of worthy causes.

Barn Dance

The "Hoe-down in the Hall" organised by the Bowls Club and held on 1st April proved another well-supported and popular event. Everyone stomped away with great enthusiasm to the music of Mrs Crotty's band and had a jolly good time. A total of more than £500 was raised for the Parish Hall Funds.

Plant Sale

The Horticultural Show held their annual fund-raising Plant Sale in the Parish Hall on Saturday 13th May, which proved a roaring success. The entire range of bedding, vegetable, and perennial plants provided mainly by the Show committee sold out within an hour of the doors being opened, netting a record £600 for the Show funds.

Honours Board

The Tennis Club, via **Lindsey Fletcher**, would like particularly to thank **Julian Tregelles** for kindly making them a splendid Honours Board on which can be recorded the winners of their three long-standing cup competitions.

Badminton

The Badminton Club at the new Parish Hall is now well-established. They report that all the members are working hard (amidst the laughter) to improve their games! The charge is a mere £3 per week, and newcomers are very welcome - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm on Monday evenings. Contact **Margaret Lavelle** on 01548-562203.

Horticultural Show

A copy of the schedule for Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show on Saturday 5th August is enclosed with this issue of Village Voice. Show chairman **David Coward** says *"This will be the first of our shows to be held in the new Parish*

Hall, where there will be room for an even bigger and better event, so we are hoping that new people, as well as our stalwart supporters, will be encouraged to enter. It is always a great-looking show too, so even if you can't enter, come and look."

HogWatch

Sorry, not about Harry Potter, but hedgehogs. *Are they now another endangered species?* The Royal Holloway University of London is co-ordinating HogWatch (funded by the People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society) and they need our help to discover if hedgehogs are getting more scarce in Britain. You can contact them via their web-site on www.HogWatch.org.uk or phone to 01584-890801. Just answer three questions (1) Did you see a hedgehog in your garden last year? (2) Did you see a hedgehog anywhere last year? (3) If "yes" - then where?

County Golf Champion

Damion Gee won the Devon County Golf Championship at Thurlestone on Sunday 14th May, defeating **James Ruth** 2 & 1 in the final - a match of outstanding quality. Both players found the course in benign mood, with Gee carding no fewer than nine birdies for the seventeen holes played. The Devon County officials were full of praise for the way the course had been presented for this prestigious event. Well done, **Vic Dyer** and team!

POTS of Pictures

The Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS) is inviting residents and visitors to send in by e-mail any digital photographs taken in the parish during 2006 which could help to provide a digital record of people, events, and views of the year for the POTS Parish Archives. The e-mail address to be used for this exercise is the Teamakers Parish Hall e-mail address at

Teamakers@ mail.adsl4less.com

(Note that the only number in this e-mail address is the number "4". Either side of this number are lower case letter Ls. Be sure to enter this address accurately, or your entry won't arrive.)

Please provide your pictures in a compressed format, with brief explanatory captions, the dates they were taken, and your name. Enquiries to **Chris White** at 560505.

Aune Conservation Events

Advance notice! The following events have been arranged for Monday evenings in August at the Parish Hall, and all of them will be making use of the wide screen facilities in the main hall.

- **7th August** - an update on the latest visuals generated by the Avon Estuary Siltation Research project.
- **14th August** - talk by **Nigel Mortimer** with illustrations of the colourful underwater life of the Salcombe estuary.
- **21st August** - a talk by **Andy Elliot** of South Milton (a member of the local marine archaeology diving team) featuring the latest Bronze Age wreck discoveries and their significance in the early history of the South Hams.

Admission £3.00 (children free). Any profit will go to the Siltation Research project. Enquiries to **John Crawford** on 560688.

Friends of Thurlestone Church

There will be a *Summer Poolside Party* at the Hotel on Thursday, 3rd August (in support of the re-launch of their programme, news of which will appear in the next Village Voice) to include:

- ★ a barbecue
- ★ a 4 piece band

Tickets at £10 per head will be sold in advance (except for hotel guests) and can be reserved from **John Crawford** on 560688.

Peal of Bells

Many residents were delighted to hear the Thurlestone church bells having a three-hour work-out on Sunday afternoon, 31st April. This was courtesy of a team from North Tawton led by **Mervyn Way**. They first rang a long peal at South Milton, had a break for refreshment in a pub, and then started again in Thurlestone.

More of the same, please!

Teamakers Tea Party

The Internet Café hosted a Tea Party on Wednesday 24th May in the Yeo Room for all students who had attended Teamakers computer classes during the Spring Term. More than 40 students were eligible for the invitation, and a good turn-out enjoyed a variety of splendid home-made cakes. **Pat Macdonald** acted as hostess.

All Saints

RECTOR:

Rev. Andrew Girling 562219

Andrew Girling writes:



KILL OR CARE?

My experience of fifteen years acting as chaplain to a Hospice leads me to believe that it was right that the Bill introduced by Lord Joffe, to legalise assisted suicide, was defeated in the House of Lords.

The whole question of euthanasia is a difficult one and is fraught with problems. We read in the press, or indeed may have experienced ourselves, cases which truly tear at our heart-strings, of patients and their families facing prolonged and seemingly intolerable suffering. We say this cannot be right nor humane. I would suggest, however, that such cases are fairly rare and, as a rule, exceptional instances make bad laws.

I have had the privilege, and it is a privilege, of sharing in some small way, with hundreds of patients and their families as they make the final journey towards death. Almost without exception they have died peacefully, with dignity and with little or no pain. This, because they have received expert palliative care which addressed all the needs, physical, mental, social and spiritual, of the whole family.

Terminally ill patients are very vulnerable. It is essential that they can have complete trust in their doctors, nurses and all who care for them. That trust could be seriously compromised if there were to be any possibility of them fearing that death might be prematurely advanced. Some patients worry about becoming a burden to their families. They could very easily feel pressurised into asking for an early death before they are ready for it. I have also, in some instances, felt that it is the relatives rather than the patient who find the prolonged illness hard to cope with.

I worry enormously that if euthanasia were to be allowed, even in just extreme cases, this would be the top of a slippery slope, whatever safeguards and precautions were to be written into the Bill. In Holland, where euthanasia is legal, there is much evidence to suggest that patients feel under pressure to ask for it. The Dutch Ministry of Health admits that about a quarter of those whose lives are terminated early, receive the fatal injection without evidence of their having requested it. Thousands of Dutch people carry cards in their wallets saying 'Do not kill me'. That is hardly a sign of a humane and compassionate society.

Good palliative care freely available to all and not ending lives prematurely must, both socially and morally, be the answer. If the N.H.S. were to provide this, there would, of course, be considerable financial implications but they must be borne. As people say, you can judge the moral fibre of a society by the way they treat their most vulnerable members.

At the most profound level, however, we need to ask ourselves the question: if we legalise euthanasia, what does it say about the sanctity and value of human life? As a Christian, I would also want to say, God gives life and it is not for man to take it away.

Andrew



All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Peter Williams 560672

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

Church Services

Sundays

Every Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (1 st , 3 rd , 5 th BCP, 2 nd , 4 th CW)
June 4th*, July 23rd, 30th	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)
June 11th	11.10am Matins (BCP)
June 18th, July 2nd*	11.10am Family Communion (CW)
June 25th*	11.10am Flower Festival Service
July 9th*	10.30am Benefice Sea Sunday Service Preacher: Ven. John Rawlings, Archdeacon of Totnes
July 16th*	11.10am Matins (BCP)

Midweek

June 1st, July 6th	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham
---------------------------	--

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship * = change from normal pattern

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for:-		
Coffee-Time	Coffee with Fun & Games (optional)	Homemade Soup & Ploughman's Lunch
MONDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	FRIDAYS JUNE 2ND & JULY 7TH
10.30 - 11.30 a.m.	10.30 - 11.30 a.m.	12.30 - 1.30 p.m.
Donations in aid of monthly charity		Donations in aid of new church lighting
Lunch Club In the Church Meeting Room for those living on their own EVERY FRIDAY (except 1st in month) 12.30 p.m. ~ £5 for a glass of sherry & hot meal Advance booking is essential ~ Contact Liz Webb (560090) or Sybil Williams (560672)		
Films for All TUESDAY JUNE 13TH 2.45 p.m. for a 3.00 p.m. start Calendar Girls starring Helen Mirren, Julie Walters Donations to <i>Hearing Dogs</i> & MR expenses ~ More information: Joan Golding 560078		
Disabled access - Wheelchair available - Lift available for all activities, contact Liz Webb		
Children's & Young People's Activities in term time		
Searchlight	Under Fives	All Saints' Rock Group
Christian after-school club	with their parents/guardians	Games, talks, outings etc
TUESDAYS (fortnightly)	THURSDAYS (day changed)	THURSDAYS
3.30 - 5.00 p.m.	9.00 - 10.30 a.m.	6.00 - 7.00 p.m.
Church Meeting Room	Church Meeting Room	Parish Hall/Meeting Room
Contact: Liz Webb 560090	Contact: Scilla Grose 560375	Contact: Martin Beck 560979

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Cameraman on Stilts

Dr Keith Millman reveals his recent encounter with a strange bird at Lake Stidston, and how this spectacular coup de camera got him into the record books

Do you always have your camera with you?

I am not a "twitcher" but I keep my eyes open (for bird-life). It was whilst out driving on a recent April morning that I noticed a strange bird wading in the shallows just beyond the perimeter fence guarding "Lake Stidston", the local marshlands.

I slowed down, lowered the car window, and turned off the engine lest the bird took off in flight. No time for a tripod - the 300mm zoom lens was at full stretch giving me a 450mm effective length.

My beanbag was used to best advantage but with my disabilities I couldn't achieve precise focus!

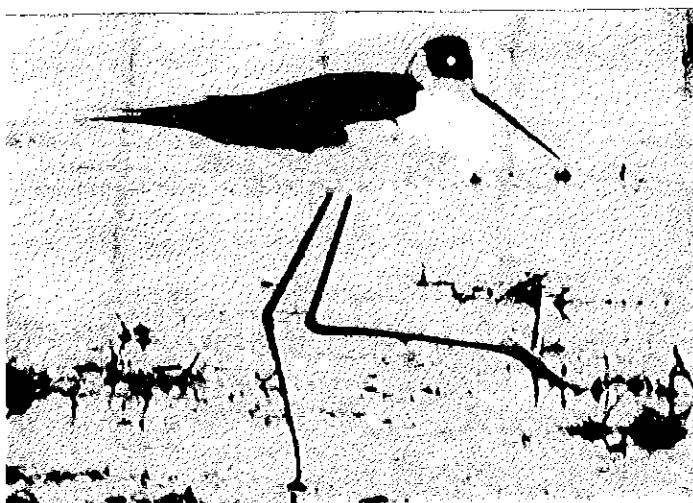
*The bird was a Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), considered by ornithologists to have the longest legs pro-rata in the bird world.*

Within two hours a "Rare Bird Alert" was published on the web, duly authenticated by experts, and my name has been recorded in the "Rare Bird Annals of 2006" with the accompanying photograph showing the bird actually wading and searching for food. Without digital photography this would have been impossible. I took several shots but only one really captured the bizarre wading motion. The next day twitchers descended from afar - notably from London, Home Counties and Northampton, etc.

The Black-winged Stilt's usual habitat is Eastern and Western coastal Mediterranean regions right up to the Portuguese Atlantic shores. On rare occasions they are found in SW France in fresh water lakes.

The prevailing wind was constant from the North in March and in early April, and local ornithologists are therefore pondering on the migratory route taken. The bird remained on the marsh for several days and then took off for pastures new!

Keith Millman



Black-winged Stilt on Lake Stidston, 6 April 2006

(Arthur Livett, who was invited to confirm the identity of the bird in Keith's photographs, has provided this additional commentary)

On 6 April 2006, a Black-winged Stilt arrived at Thurlestone Marsh and was photographed and identified by Dr Keith Millman. From his excellent pictures, it was easy to confirm the identity of this very rare and elegant wader. (Shirley Barnes also saw it that morning.) By the afternoon I found the bird had moved to the back of the marsh, where it had discovered ideal feeding conditions. It stayed in the area until 14th April. From its distinctive head markings it was clear that this was the same bird seen from 1st to 3rd April on the Plym estuary at Plymouth.

In recent years, some 2 to 5 Black-winged Stilts have been seen annually in the UK, and records show that up to 2004 a total of 347 have been officially identified. One bird remained at Titchwell in Norfolk from 1993 until 2005 and survived the cold winters there. Locally, South Huish Nature Reserve has proved attractive to this species, with a mated pair seen in 1995, and from 17th to 31st May 2002 there were 4 birds present, with one remaining until 2nd June.

Keith's new recorded sighting will be sent for local approval, and to the National British Bird Records Committee in view of its rarity in the UK. It will be included in the local and national bird reports for 2006.

Arthur Livett

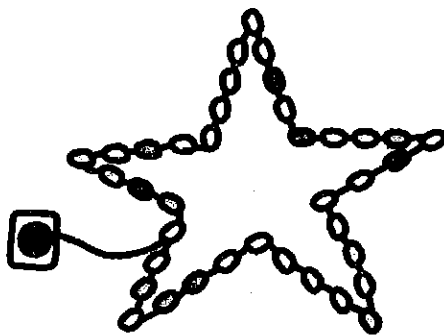
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Saturday June 24th 10.00-17.00

[Sunday June 25th 11.10 am Festival Service]

Sunday afternoon 14.00-17.00

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Computer Classes

The regular Wednesday and Saturday tuition classes held in the Yeo Room concluded at the end of May, and will now take a break until the Autumn. They are expected to begin again at the end of September and continue through until May 2007, with a half-term break. There will again be classes for complete **beginners**, **improvers**, and specific applications. Anyone wishing to register for Autumn tuition should contact one of our six tutors - names and phone numbers appear on the Parish Directory page of Village Voice.

Computers for Hire

We still have a number of desktop computers available for **hire** at the very modest rate of £2.00 per week. These are ideal models for complete beginners, providing them with the opportunity both to practice at home and to familiarise with basic computer equipment, systems, and programmes, before taking a better-informed decision about purchasing their own computer set-up.

Computers for Sale

We also have available for **sale** (at really knock down prices) a number of desk-top computers that are now surplus to our requirements, and which would also make an ideal and inexpensive model for someone contemplating the purchase of a basic computer system for home use.

Anyone interested should contact **Robin Macdonald** on 560436. A demonstration of a computer available for sale could be arranged for a Wednesday afternoon in the Yeo Room.

The Internet Café

The **Internet Café** will be open throughout the summer in the Yeo Room at the Parish Hall, but will move to a new time-slot on **Wednesday afternoons** from 2 pm to 4 pm, commencing 31st May. Any resident or visitor is welcome to come in and use our fast **Broadband** connection to send and receive e-mails, or to browse the internet. The charge will be only 50 pence for a minimum half-hour session. There will always be two tutors in attendance on these occasions to offer any help required, and so there will also be opportunities for individuals to book in for a

one-hour one-to-one tutorial

with a particular tutor in these Wednesday afternoon sessions. This would be a good time for family history researchers to get help, and to use all our on-line resources.

Thanks for a state-of-the-art facility

Teamakers would like to express their thanks to the Parish Council for providing the funds for all the IT equipment in the Yeo Room. All the monies earned from the use of this equipment go directly to the Parish Hall, and all the tutors provide their services and expertise on a completely voluntary basis. **Any additional volunteer tutors out there?**

This is a state-of-the-art facility that will have few village equals anywhere in the country. It offers a wonderful doorstep opportunity for residents (and tutors) to learn new computer skills - or further develop existing ones - in a friendly environment.

sudoku

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

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

Easy

No. 9

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

Easy

No. 10

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

Medium

No. 9

	7		2		3		6	
				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. 10

Puzzle Crazy?

The launch of Sudoku seems to have prompted quite a resurgence in the puzzle world, with most newspapers now devoting more space to a wide range of puzzles, crosswords, nonagrams, and codewords. Sudoku itself has exploded a whole range of variants, with names like volcanos, and seemingly more and more complex structures. Even celebrities like Carol Vorderman have climbed aboard the bandwagon. At bookstalls and airports there are dozens of compact Sudoku and other puzzle books to occupy your travel hours. Our Sudoku, from the originating house of Wayne Gould, remains the classic version - with a simplicity that is breathtaking, and yet a range of difficulty that can delight a novice and test the most expert of mathematical logicians. In this issue we return to our format of two Easy and two Medium puzzles - just the thing for a deckchair hour in the sunshine.

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HARRY HUGGINS IS CHUFFED

In *Birds Britannica*, his massive tome about birds and people, Mark Cocker shows a picture of the Cornish crest on the Tamar bridge. I don't know where it is - when you drive across you are too busy getting in the right lane and not hitting the car in front to study the decoration of the architecture. The crest consists of a miner and a fisherman with a Cornish Chough between. Because Chough is the emblem of Cornwall.

Chough is about Jackdaw-sized, with glossy black plumage and sealing-wax red legs and bill, the latter quite long and downward-curved. The name is a bit odd. We pronounce it to rhyme with ruff but maybe we ought to rhyme it with cow, as it seems to come from the birds' call, a rather nasal "Chee-ow". Like Cuckoos and Curlews, this is a bird named after the noise it makes. It is a bird of rocky cliffs and quarries and feeds by pulling insects and things out of turf at the cliff top.

All the corvids (the crow family) delight in flying, especially on windy days. Once, near the top of Snowdon, a Raven flew past us, obviously gazing at us. Then he turned upside down and flew like that for about fifty yards, still gazing at us! Chough revels in the air, on broad wings the feathers of which separate into fingers at the tips.

When you choose a bird to be the emblem of a county, society or whatever, you pick something which looks striking and is rare enough to be interesting. The trouble is that what you pick is then liable to go extinct. The emblem of Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society is Montagu's Harrier. If the members see two or three in a year they are lucky - it just passes through. It was chosen because Montagu, who was a very distinguished ornithologist, lived in Kingsbridge. In his day, around the early eighteenth hundreds, it must have nested in the area. He got brown young ones and reared them until the males turned grey - the Ash-coloured Falcon he called the species. The English name was not changed to Montagu's Harrier until after his death.



Montagu's Harrier

There are exceptions - being picked for an emblem does not necessarily mean curtains for a bird. The badge of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is the Avocet - doing well - there are hundreds breeding in England and in winter you can see many hundreds on the estuaries of the Axe and Tamar. Once it was common but in the nineteenth century people wiped it out - they gathered its eggs to eat and as it got rare collectors wanted its eggs. Birds were shot; in those days they shot everything and if you were out with a gun you couldn't resist if an Avocet came within range. What was nicer than to have a stuffed Avocet in a glass case on your upstairs landing?

Oddly enough, Hitler did some good. During his war they flooded vulnerable sections of the east coast of England as a defence against invasion, making the marshy places which Avocets love. For six years there was no disturbance of any kind - the people were all turned out. In 1947 a few birds returned to breed, at Minsmere, in Suffolk, and at Havergate Island, just down the coast. The RSPB guarded them and the rest is history.

Like all birds, they are vulnerable. What if they get the bird flu? As soon as possible after he got Slimbridge going, Peter Scott developed other centres. He knew that all the birds at Slimbridge could be wiped out by an epidemic, so it was vital to have stocks elsewhere. I don't know that he called it bird flu, but these catastrophes happen from time to time.

In Cornwall, Chough disappeared - in the Pica Press field guide to the birds of Northern Europe, published in 1998, the authors say simply "Extinct in England". In the 1770s Gilbert White wrote that it abounded along the Channel coast. It bred on Beachy Head and all the cliffs of the Sussex coast. No doubt it was equally common along the cliffs of the West Country. Since then it has declined to nothing and no-one knows exactly why. It needs short turf on which to feed, so maybe if that gets grown over by gorse or whatever the food source has gone.

Someone suggested the failure of the Cornish mining industry meant there were no longer ponies to graze the cliff tops. Did they have

ponies down the mines? If they didn't, they must have needed them to bring supplies and take produce away. The so-called improvement of grassland must have had something to do with it. Weed-killing and re-seeding kills off insects in the soil. Years ago in winter we saw Golden Plovers feeding on grassland on the way to Wrangaton. Not any more. So Chough got scarcer. Once a bird is sufficiently rare the egg collectors leap in. It doesn't take long for a bird to become extinct. Chough became limited to the Celtic fringe - some in Wales, more in Ireland, but no longer in Scotland according to the books. You will see the odd one around, even in Devon. Each year the county bird reports talks of one or two. Many years ago the late lamented Norman Tillott saw a pair on the Mead, out of his window. Then his house, and ours, were in the bottom row, with weedy ground, piles

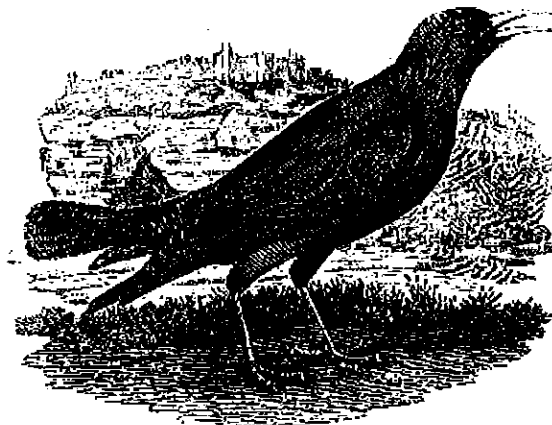
of earth and building blocks below. He wasn't a birder, but nor was he a liar, and you can't really mistake a Chough if you see it near enough.

We used to see one or two in the quarries of mid-Wales, and when we went to the RSPB reserve at South Stack, on Anglesey, we found them. I was gazing all round with my binoculars when June said "Look by your feet" and there they were, eating sandwiches. It doesn't work with all birds, but when in doubt try a picnic spot. When we went to Israel in the early nineties the leader drove us for miles searching the mountains and wadis for Sinai Rose Finches, little grey birds, very rare and local. We were on our own for the second week; we went to a picnic place and June scattered crumbs. The Rose Finches came down from the cliffs. She told the leader man, and no doubt after that every party he took had to scatter crumbs.

Some years ago we, or rather she, found Choughs in Ireland. I wanted to visit the Old Head of Kinsale, which sticks south into the Atlantic like a finger, a bit to the west of Cork city. I tottered off in a gale of wind to look for auks nesting on the cliffs. Wisely June stayed in the car. When I

came back she said she had been surrounded by a flock of thirty or forty Choughs!

In 2002 a pair came to the south coast of Cornwall, near the Lizard, and reared young. I think they may have been closely guarded, and have now produced around fifteen chicks in all. So we wanted to see. Where to stay? The nice little hotel at Marazion where we used to go had changed hands. It appeared on TV, run by a family devoid of experience who sold a house to buy it. If still there they might have learned by now but, tucked into a hillside, it is all stairs and after twenty-five years of single-storey living, I for one am not much good at stairs.



Chough

So, out of the brochures which the tourist people sent we picked a hotel just inland from St Agnes. The nearby A30 meant we could get quickly over much of Cornwall. It was described as the house of a former mine captain. We stayed in one of those before, in mid-Wales, near Devil's Bridge. This must have been an inferior mine captain - the house was much smaller.

Only three or four bedrooms, the others occupied by three elderly ladies. I said they reminded me of "Last of the Summer Wine". The gentleman of the house was not amused as it turned out that one of them was his mother. But his wife was! It was a memorable stay. When June opened our bedroom window all the glass fell out. Later she hauled us all out on the lawn to see the Hale-Bopp comet. One of the old dears, who could not recognise her own sister across the room, said she saw it distinctly.

The Cornish hotel we chose was a good deal bigger, comfortable and warm and tucked into a sheltered valley with a lake, a stream and big trees with Rooks' nests. All fine, except the chef was a right idiot and never caught up with what June could eat - quite unlike at the little hotel in Wales - it was ramshackle but mine host was a Cordon Bleu cook.

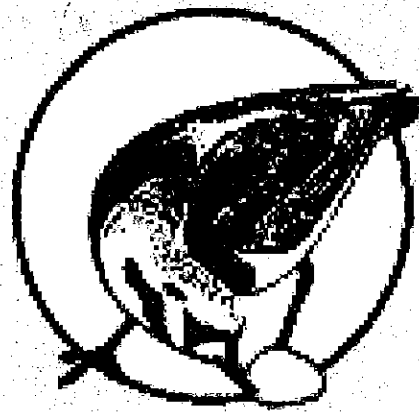
We chose to go in the wettest and windiest week

of the year. At Kernow Mill (a limb of the Edinburgh Woollen Company not far on the other side of the Tamar - beloved of National Trust outings which always have a 'comfort stop' there as it's as far as we old biddies can get) we thought the rain would come through the roof.

From the hotel a quick drive along the A30 took us to Hayle. A broad area at the top of the harbour is an RSPB reserve. If memory serves, Peter de Savary, described at that time as the new patron saint of Cornwall, sold it to the Society for £1. Local information indicated it was difficult to find anywhere from which to view the area. We used to go to the car park of a pub on the shore - they didn't mind provided it was out of pub hours - but that seemed no longer to be possible - I suppose they have longer hours. No doubt if we had gone in and had a coffee we could have parked legitimately.

Instead, we went to the marshy RSPB reserve a little way inland. There is a hide, a large empty building with just benches against the walls. RSPB hides are vulnerable. The one at Bowling Green marsh by Topsham was burnt down and the Devon Bird Society one at Beesands ley is used by the local youth for what appear to be nameless orgies. Out of the Hayle hide we saw on an island in the marsh about a dozen terns. One, with a big red bill, looked like a Caspian Tern - large and very rare, we have never seen one in Britain. All the terns were strangely still. And three were upside down. Then we realised they were all made of plastic!

We looked at St Ives - the Tate Gallery. An exasperating building - you can find your way in but not out again. It was holding an exhibition of what J M W Turner painted of the west country. Round the harbour were rows of seats with people sitting in the sun eating pasties, and running among their feet to eat the crumbs were Turnstones, little dark grey and white wading birds with orange legs. You can see them on the beach here at Thurlestone, turning over pebbles and seaweed to find hoppers underneath. These were non-breeders - they go north to do that and take on a plumage like a tortoiseshell cat; there was none of those. There were signs saying "Don't feed the seagulls" but nothing about not feeding Turnstones - presumably being Blackbird-size they are not regarded as aggressive.



Turnstone

At last, although the showers didn't relent, the south-westerlies did, and we set off to the south coast to look for Choughs. Through Mullion and on to Predannack where *Birds Britannica* said they nested. We had hot chocolate at the Chocolate Factory, set up in retired farm buildings, where we asked about Choughs. The ladies were very friendly, but cagey (proper thing too with two desperate-looking characters who might have come to steal eggs).

We left the car in a National Trust car park and waded - literally - along what we hoped was the right path. It wasn't! Beating a retreat we found a sign marked "To the cliffs" which we had missed before owing to driving rain. We followed the track it showed and sat on stones (the sun had appeared now) above what the map calls Ogodour Cove. There were a few people wandering about. Chough-hunting also? After half-an-hour the stones got hard but as we stood up to go we heard behind us a nasal "Chee-ow" and two Choughs glided down into the cove.

All right, they weren't very close, and had we marched south along the cliffs to Kynance Cove we might have found more. But the days when we could scamper in half an hour from Soar Mill Cove to the Cottage Hotel in Hope Cove are long gone - I for one couldn't climb out of Soar Mill Cove now.

However, we had seen our Choughs, and June had birthday birds (in fact she had a Kingfisher as well, in the hotel garden).

Mission accomplished!

Harry Huggins

Thurlestone Church



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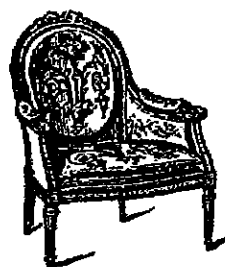
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(12A)

AND ANOTHER FILM
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June 9th-15th

X MEN : THE LAST STAND
(12A)

AND ANOTHER FILM
 Times yet to be confirmed

June 16th-22nd

TRISTAN AND ISOLDE (12A)

AND ANOTHER FILM
 Times yet to be confirmed

June 23rd-29th

BALLETS RUSSES (12A)

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June 30th-July 6th

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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

My captaincy seems to have got off to a flying start. My first main event was the Captain's Drive-In. This was an honour I shared with my Lady Captain, **Tish Mawhood**.

It was quite nerve-racking to stand on the first tee in front of a gallery of people who were all hoping I would land my ball on the spot they had chosen. There was then great hilarity as I proceeded to clear the course and land in the top end of the car park! I did, however, manage to compose myself and land my next drive in a reasonable position for someone to claim their prize. Tish then, to her credit, hit a cracking drive straight down the middle. It was all great fun and we raised well over £300 for our charity, Clic Sargent.

There have been two notable holes-in-one recently. The first, by **Chris Miller**, who holed out on the par 4 first hole, with the second by young **Jack Wallace** who this time had an 'ace' on the par 4 seventh hole. This was played from the 'tiger' tee across the beach and must have been one of the most spectacular holes-in-one ever recorded at Thurlestone.

No doubt some of the best players in Devon will try and emulate Jack's achievement when we hold the Devon Amateur here over the week ending 14th May.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Vic Dyer** and his green staff team for presenting the course in such splendid order. It will look superb and will be a worthy challenge to whoever is crowned Devon Champion. Let's hope we have some fine weather.

The social side of the club is also going from strength to strength and we had a very

successful St George's night quiz recently. **Duncan Prowse's** reputation in the restaurant is spreading fast, resulting greater use of our facilities and creating a nice ambience in the clubhouse.

Following the success of last year's Summer Ball we are holding a second event on the 1st July and, hopefully, this will become an annual event.

That's all for now, speak to you again soon!

Alec Esplin

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The Captain's Drive-In, about which I was so apprehensive, duly took place on Easter Monday. Luckily I was able to produce a reasonable drive, although not in my usual place, which took most of my friends by surprise. Not so **Nigel Holland**, Club Vice-Captain, who, not knowing my game, made a lucky guess in predicting where my ball would land and won the bottle of champagne. Over £352 was raised for the Captains' charity - Clic Sargent - and the events, including the Mixed Greensomes competition, were voted a great success. Next year, when my Vice-Captain, **Pam Ledger**, will be in the hot spot I shall be able to enjoy it too!

My duties are now increasing weekly as the match season approaches. We have already played three matches, winning two and losing one. There is the prospect of many more matches to come, twenty-nine to be exact, until the end of July. These are a wonderful opportunity to be entertained at other golf club, as well as to welcome visiting teams here and result in many friendships being made all over the county.

Naturally, our teams sometimes have to travel long distances in this huge county of

ours. This year we have drawn clubs as far away as Saunton and Westward Ho!, Budleigh Salterton and Tiverton. This costs a lot of money, especially with petrol at the £1 per litre mark. Our 'Bring & Buy' held to support the travel costs, was especially well-supported and raised the record sum of £465. Ladies supporting this were rewarded by playing a fun shotgun start competition, so that everyone finished at the same time - whereupon there was a rush for all the home-made goodies on offer. It was a bit like a January sale!

Open meetings, Bronze and Silver, have always been annual events when players from other clubs could visit to play for trophies and prizes with only a token entrance fee. The recent alterations to the way in which handicaps are assessed has meant a sharp decline in the popularity of these events, and indeed many clubs are now abandoning them in favour of team events which do not affect the individual's handicap.

We have some beautiful trophies which have been played for over many years, and we would be sad not to be able to use them any more. The Dormer Scratch Cup, for example, was first won in 1927. We are therefore delighted that our own Open Meetings in June and July this year have been well supported with over one hundred entries - a tribute to our beautiful course.

Another event which is always popular, is the annual **Iris Hardy** Fun Day on 3rd May, for members only. Sponsored by her husband, the day is held in Iris' memory and is now in its twelfth year. Played with a shotgun start

as a Greensome Stableford (supposed to be the easiest form of golf as everyone drives each hole), it is always eagerly anticipated and enjoyed.

All we need, as always, is a fine day!

Tish Mawhood

JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

We have been particularly busy this month with the Junior golfers at Thurlestone. Each Monday evening from 5.30 pm onwards the boys and girls meet to play 9 or 18 holes of golf under the watchful eye of **Jackson Day**, the Junior organiser, and many parent and grandparent helpers. Last Monday we had 16 Juniors playing golf.

We also have a programme of free lessons for Juniors on Saturday mornings given by our professional, **Peter Laughier**. The beginners lessons are at 9 am, while improvers and handicap golfers are at 9.45 am. If you would like to be included in this programme of free lessons please ring the Pro shop on 560715.

The Junior Girls organiser **Liz Line** is holding another girls Stableford and putting competition on Sunday 21st May at 2.30pm. This is for girl members only, but come along to watch if you are interested in taking up golf as a hobby, and if you would like some free lessons please contact me on 843222.

Liz Line

TENNIS SECTION

We are now only a few weeks away from the Wimbledon Championships, and this year the **Finals** (both Ladies and Mens) can be watched on the Big Screen in the Parish Hall - if you get your tickets in time! But right now it's time to get into the swing of Summer Tennis again, and we wish all our local resident and holiday members an enjoyable season - and plenty of good tennis weather.

Juniors

A Pre-Wimbledon Tournament for players 11 years and under will be held on our grass courts on **MONDAY 18th JUNE at 2 pm**. During the afternoon **Strawberries & Cream Teas** will be served. Tennis supporters - please come and watch some youngsters try out our grass courts.

Adults

For the more mature players, an **Open Doubles Tournament** will be held on **SATURDAY & SUNDAY 15th & 16th JULY**. There will also be a *barbecue* with bar after Saturday's play. Tickets will be available from the Club bar.

Regular Summer Events

Our usual summer holiday tournaments will continue, starting **Tuesday 18th July**.

JUNIOR

Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 am

Round Robin (16years and under)

Tuesday 8th August 9.30 am

Egan and Leonard Junior Cups

SENIOR

Tuesday 3.30 pm	Ladies Doubles
Wednesday 3.30 pm	Gentlemen's Doubles
Saturday 2.00 pm	Mixed Doubles

Saturday 12th August 2.00 pm

Bryan Brown Mixed Doubles Cup

New Cup Events

The following new tennis cups will be competed for this summer season.

Tuesday 25th July

July (am) and Lepere (pm) Junior Cups

followed by a family BBQ on Leasfoot

Saturday 29th July 2.00 pm

Woodhead Senior Mixed Doubles Cup

Charity Day

This year's **Charity Day Tournament**, to be held on

Friday 4th August

is a fund-raising event on behalf of CLIC SARGENT, a charity which provides specialist care and support for children diagnosed with cancer and leukaemia - in hospital, at home, and in the community.

Janet will run a **Family Doubles** in the morning, so mothers and fathers, grandmas and grandpas - in fact any relative - please enter. The trick, of course, is to play with a young member who can do your running on the court.

In the afternoon a **Ladies & Gentlemen's Doubles Round Robin Tournament** will be played. Lunches will be served on the Club's terrace, and the tennis supporters will be encouraging everyone to drink **Pimms** and have a delicious **Cream Tea**.

Coaching

Mini-Tennis coaching in the Parish Hall and on Thurlestone courts continues throughout the summer term. Junior and Senior group and individual coaching also continues through the summer.

New Seating

Roddy Hill kindly organised a "Court Bench Appeal" and due to the generous donations received our supporters will be able to be seated comfortably to watch club tennis.

Essential Information

Posters, Entry Forms, and Lists are to be found in our Tennis Pavilion

All-weather and grass courts can be booked on the day of play - £12.00 per 1½ hour session

Junior (boys and girls) Tennis Tops, with embroidered club logo, will be available at the Pro Shop from 1st June. Members please collect your green Shoe Tags from the club office.

Tennis Contacts

Membership & Charity Day	Lindsey Fletcher	01548-560157
Open Doubles Tournament	Declan Dwyer	01548-560648
Mixed Doubles Tournament	Roddy Hill	01548-560524
Coaching/Junior Tournaments	Janet Richardson	01548-856007
Mini Tennis	Francisca Spiering	01548-511191
Court Hire	Golf Pro Shop	01548-560715

Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

I am exceedingly glad to see the levels of our reservoirs in the West Country very much on the full side. The prospect of hose-pipe bans and stand-pipes at the end of the street doesn't bear thinking about. It is a very serious step to take, and a friend of ours in Seaford, Sussex, is already bemoaning the fact that her lawn is dry and cracking up, shrinking from lack of moisture. One wonders how long it will be before the houses in some areas will begin to subside as the clay dries out. Remember 1976, and the pictures of houses cracking up as the underlying ground shrank and the foundations were fractured? The effects are much more far-reaching than one imagines.

We are very lucky to be on the wet side of the country, even if we do use derogatory terms to describe some of the days we experience. Spring has been very late this year, but has made up for it in a spectacular spring flower show. No shortage of daffodils for Easter this year!

Our eldest son is staying with us for a couple of weeks after 18 months in Madagascar, where there have been some unusual events weather-wise this year, including a hurricane (tropical storm), a drought, and a plague of locusts - all in the south east of the island. There is a marked split between east/west in the type of weather experienced. Madagascar lies in the path of the South East trade winds, so the east of the island catches the rain and the west lies in the Rain Shadow of the central spine of highlands.

There is no better place than Beach Cottage on a day such as today. Temperature is 16°C and not a breath of wind. The sea is calm and there is only ONE person on the beach as I write. However, the joy of our weather is that it is rarely the same two days running, so we are never without a topic of conversation.

As the summer progresses August arrives with its fickle character. It is often the wettest month with very heavy downpours, usually short-lived. Then the sky clears and nights are fine and dry. On such nights as this in August there are often quite exceptional events involving "meteorites" or shooting stars. The larger or longer-lasting events are called "Meteoric Showers" or even "Meteoric Storms", often named after the person

who first noticed them and who observed that they can occur on a regular (if infrequent) basis.

There have been many such observations. On 12th November 1799 Alexander von Humboldt witnessed a meteoric storm over Venezuela. On 13th November 1833 the residents of North Eastern America watched a similar display, with shooting stars too numerous to count. Then in 1866 Europe witnessed a similar exhibition of natural fireworks. It was this that prompted the suggestion that there was a 33 year cycle to the event. Some people believed it; others didn't. When, in 1899, everyone expected another great show, there wasn't one! However, surprising everyone, there was a grand meteoric storm over Western USA on 17th November 1966.

My reference book, Anthony Smith's *"The Weather"* states that everything is better understood now. These November displays, known as the Leonids, do occur every year, but only as showers rather than storms. These have been observed since the Ninth Century, but a storm is not likely (apparently) until the year 2164. There is a close link with Jupiter, its gravity, and its orbit. These showers are also drifting away, but other swarms of meteors enter Earth's atmosphere each year; notably the Lyrids in the second half of April, the Perseids, usually most conspicuous in the first half of August, and the Geminids in mid December. They leave dust behind in the atmosphere but are not thought to affect climate, although they might do so indirectly by inducing electrical effects or providing nuclei on which ice crystals form.

I could go in detail about the "stones falling from the sky" in China in 1490, or the huge meteor that crashed into Eastern Siberia in 1908. There is of course the huge crater in Arizona named the Barringer Crater. This is one of the larger craters completely visible on earth, far more devastating than the Siberian one. It measures 4,500 feet across and is 600 feet deep. The rim rises to 150 feet above the surrounding land. There is an even bigger one named Chubb Lake at Ungava, Canada. There are lots of others in other parts of the world, some old and some formed rather more recently. Central Australia has many, most of which are best seen from the air.

Jan Turner

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KATE'S KITCHEN



A TRIFLE FOR SUMMER

This is the best time of the year for fresh soft fruits to give us the taste of warm, sunny days. Here are two recipes to enjoy, hopefully sitting in the garden.

Raspberry & Lemon Syllabub Trifle

Use raspberries or strawberries (or a mixture) to make this light trifle. The flavours will combine well with the sharper tasting syllabub. It looks especially good served in individual wine glasses.

Ingredients (serves 4)

2 trifle sponges.
Juice of a large orange.
150g raspberries (or as indicated above).

Syllabub topping

Juice and zest of one lemon.
50g (2oz) caster sugar.
¼pt softly whipped double cream or crème fraîche.

Preparation

- Cut trifle sponges in half. Place in the bottom of each glass and soak with the orange juice
- Place berries on top reserving some for decoration
- Place juice and zest of a lemon and the sugar in a mixing bowl
- Whisk until thick
- Fold in cream or crème fraîche
- Spoon onto the fruit
- Place a raspberry, or strawberry slices, on top
- Serve chilled

Gooseberry Fool with Elderflowers

Ingredients (serves 4)

Gooseberries and elderflowers are available at the same time, and make a delicious and aromatic combination

450g (1lb) gooseberries
3 medium washed elderflower heads (alternatively, a dessert spoon of elderflower cordial may be used, but add at the purée stage)
100g (4oz) caster sugar
½ pt softly whipped cream or crème fraîche.

Preparation

- Top, tail and wash gooseberries
- Wash elderflowers - reserve a few small florets for decoration
- Stew them with the sugar until soft
- Blend or sieve to make a purée (add cordial at this stage if used in place of elderflowers)
- Fold in cream or crème fraîche
- Chill and place a few elderflower florets on top

Why not freeze and serve as ice-cream? Well, I'm still hoping that June and July provide us with enough nice warm weather to make that a very suitable option. And it does taste delicious!

Thurlestone Parish Hall

Thursday 6th July at 7.30 pm

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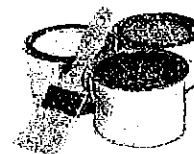
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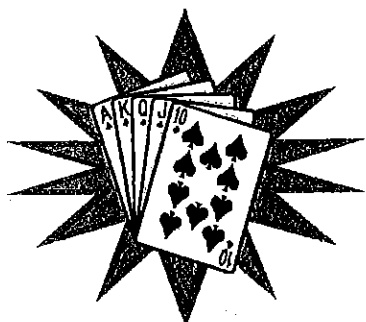
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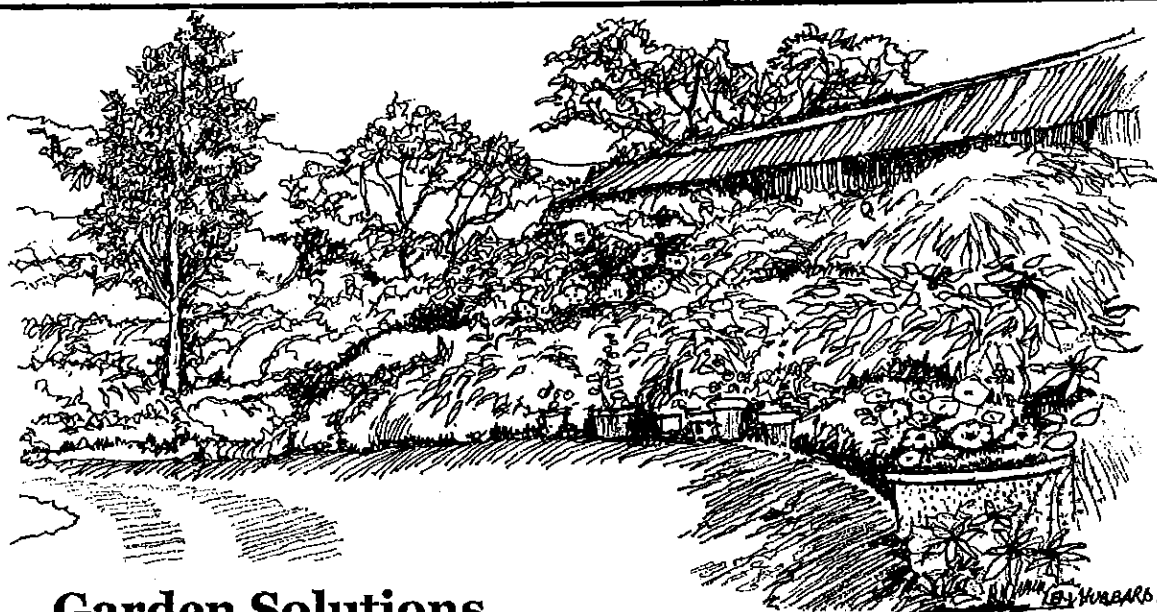


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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

School Portakabin

Reference the article by Citizen in the April issue under the above heading.

Firstly, the school has **not** applied for planning permission to make the Portakabin a permanent feature. We have requested that the present temporary planning permission be extended for a further limited period. Secondly, we would agree that the Portakabin is not an ideal solution to the lack of rooms of sufficient size and suitability and we do not intend to retain the Portakabin any longer than necessary.

However, at the moment there is no room in the school where confidential conversations can take place in school hours nor are there any facilities for individual music tuition other than in the Portakabin. The idea that the Portakabin is used as a "teachers' refuge" is as risible as it is fictitious. A less comfortable venue for a refuge (other than, perhaps, a cave) would be hard to imagine.

It is inaccurate to say that the school does not make regular use of the Parish Hall. The music club has used the hall on a number of occasions and intends to do so again. It is also our intention to make regular use of the hall for gymnastic activities as soon as certain practical obstacles can be overcome. This use, however, will not remove the need for a further small room. We cannot simply occupy the Parish Hall whenever a confidential meeting is required; nor is the meeting room at the hall suitable for instrumental music tuition - there is no piano available in the smaller room and music lessons are often for only twenty minutes and held at irregular times throughout the day.

Your writer does not mention that, since the

Portakabin was erected in 2004, we have made considerable efforts to improve its appearance. It has been moved to a place where it is less intrusive, window bars have been removed, and it has been repainted. I acknowledge that we still have a building that many of us do not like, but we are not complacent about its presence and hope that the school may one day be able to upgrade its premises so that the Portakabin is no longer necessary.

I also hope that Citizen may be granted the capacity to upgrade the accuracy of his/her comments.

Alun Williams
Headmaster
All Saints Primary School

[Citizen was asked for his comments and his reply is given below : Ed]

1. Citizen does not as a matter of policy comment on private planning applications, unless there is a developer involved; he does, however, believe in holding authority to account - be it Tolnes, Exeter or Whitehall (politics excluded)

2. Citizen welcomes the assurances given by the Headmaster. Relations between Town & Gown are important. It is however important for figures in the public eye to attend Parish Council meetings and join in the debate. Contrary to the belief of the Government's adviser, our Parish Council is a great deal more active and effective than those of surrounding parishes and this is why our parish is so successful.

3. I will join in congratulating the Headmaster on his successful period at Thurlestone, and wish him good fortune in his future career.

Citizen

Dear Editor

Christening Party

I remember christenings as a child, from the days in my local church choir. I would watch, with dread, the ageing Rector take a baby with all his might in two hands and lunge towards the edge of the font to give himself support. It wasn't until he found the choirboys betting their pack of boiled sweets on the sigh of relief he would give after a successful baptism (or half the packet if the water got the baby's clothes wet) did he feel it was time to retire.

Fortunately, at the recent christening of our twin sons, the Reverend Andrew Girling showed no signs of arousing my childhood fears, and gave us the most fantastic and warm service at the church, which was followed by a reception in the delightful new Parish Hall.

On the suggestion that we might use the hall for the reception, I was initially slightly apprehensive, but after visiting the premises I graciously acknowledged that more thought and insight must have gone into the building of the hall than that of the Millennium Dome! The hall is an asset to hold and treasure - ease of access, simplicity in setting up for a sit-down buffet for 70 people, and modern stress-free facilities and utilities. The jewel in the crown for me was the audio-visual system that any cinema or conference facility would be proud of, let alone a village hall.

From early in the morning to leaving in the afternoon, there was never a moment I was left thinking of a wish-list - as every facility and amenity was provided, and long may it continue. As a point of interest, several of our guests believe their prayers for a decent conference facility, or meeting room, in the Kingsbridge area have at last been met. I for one will be looking to reserve these facilities to hold large meetings, and if folks are true to their word I think there could be quite a few parties being booked up very soon.

Once again many thanks, and a huge thank-you to all involved in achieving the hall - a first-class job!

**Chris Mahn
The Stables, Sea View**

Dear Editor

Planning Applications

I am quite upset by the thought that a large two-storey house may be erected on Plot 6, Leonards Close. Whether by well-planned design or plain good luck, viewing the Mead estate from most angles is aesthetically pleasing. In driving from South Milton via Links Road to Thurlestone, the houses and bungalows seem to be stepped up the hillside in order that all property owners may enjoy the views.

I know that by law none of us has a right to our view *but* when you purchase your chosen abode the price reflects the fact that you do have a view (good or bad!). In our case, when we bought our house, a more or less identical house but without our sea views was £50,000 (yes, fifty thousand pounds) cheaper. Then, as in Joan Galloway's case, a house is put up in front of your property taking your view. The price of the property diminishes.

What can you do?

We were fortunate, when the bungalow in front of us was purchased, that the new owners were sensitive to their neighbours, and although the size of the bungalow (now a house) was doubled the roof height went up by about eighteen inches only and did not affect our view.

I was at the Parish Council meeting on the 3rd April and was surprised by the lack of support from the local Council members for Mr David Hugo. Is it a case of NIMBY-ism? Could it be that if the planned development was in front of property belonging to one of our local Councillors the response would have been different?

I fully support Mr Hugo.

The whole of Thurlestone needs to stand together to support each other, and our village, to keep it as attractive as it is.

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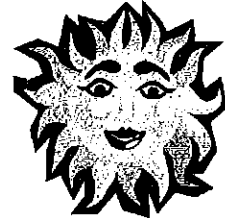
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Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry opened on 30 June 2006. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB (or email: cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk).



Midsummer Madness

1. What does SOLSTICE literally mean?
2. What does the Juneteenth Festival celebrate?
3. How many other months begin on the same day of the week as June?
4. From which hills did the Stonehenge bluestones come?
5. Which is the only event that is known to have been celebrated at Stonehenge in ancient time?
6. What is the origin of the word 'Honeymoon'?
7. Which role has James Cagney played in A Midsummer Night's Dream? And in which year?
8. Which character in A Midsummer Night's Dream is also known as Robin Goodfellow?
9. Name the Author and work in which the story of Pyramus & Thisbe originally appeared.

Pop Trivia:

1. In which Country was Bonnie Tyler "lost" in 1976 ?
2. Who asked "Is there anybody out there" in 1991 ?
3. Who sang "If I had a Hammer" in 1962 ?
4. Who had a No. 1 hit with "Lily the Pink" ?
5. Who was the "Leader of the Pack" in 1965 ?
6. Which duo had a 1961 hit with "Bangers and Mash" ?
7. What musical instrument did Acker Bilk play ?
8. What did Lulu say we should do in her 1964 hit ?
9. Name the Bee Gees hit about an American State
10. How many No. 1 singles did Cliff Richard have in the 1960's ?

Missing Words

Ice		Axe
Chocolate		Man
Lilly		House
Black		Room
Fantasy		Team
Horse		Hand
Back		Flop
Fly		Lift
Summer's		Hold
Tenor		Hop
Rose		Hop
Black		Room

Answers from Easter Quiz:

Missing words: Shall I compare thee to a *summer's* day...darling buds of *May*, and *Summer's* lease
Lonely as a *cloud*... A host, of; *golden daffodils* red *rose* ...sprung in *June* the *cherry* now is hung with *blossom*
Symmetric Word Box: 1. ABOUT 2. BERTH 3. ORATE 4. UTTER 5. THERE.

There were no all-correct entries for this edition.



At the Bridge Table



From time to time we all hear a defender say that he has been forced to give away a trick. Generally such situations occur towards the end of a hand and the usual sign is to see a defender start squirming in his chair because he can only discard at the cost of a trick. He is said to be **squeezed** - not an enjoyable experience in this context!

All bridge players have made a **squeeze play**, even though they may not have realised it! Here is a simple example. South is on lead playing in No Trumps. He leads the Ten of Hearts, and West is **squeezed** because he must either unguard Spades or throw away his winning Diamond. In bridge parlance the Ten of Hearts is the **squeeze card**, while dummy's K 10 of Spades are a **two-card menace** (comprising a winner and a loser in the same suit) and the Jack of Diamonds is a **single-card menace**.

Here is another example with the added message that there are times to cash winners and times to be patient. The bidding was short - 3 Spades by South, Double by West, and 4 Spades by North. West began by taking his three Diamond winners, and then tried to defeat the contract by leading his Ace of Hearts. No good! South ruffed, drew trumps, discarded a Club on the King of Hearts, returned to hand and took the winning Club finesse for his ten tricks.

Would South have succeeded without the helpful ruff at trick four? Not if he relied on the Club suit, where inevitably he would have to lose one more trick. But a sharp declarer would have spotted an escape route. Assuming that West gets off the lead with a trump rather than the Ace of Hearts, South can take the Club finesse and then play off all his trumps to squeeze West. On South's last Spade West would either have to discard his Ace of Hearts or unguard his King of Clubs. In either event South will collect his ten tricks.

Turning from the somewhat esoteric subject of squeeze play, here is a problem for you to solve.

North	South
S - A 4 3 2	S - K Q J 10 9 8 7 5
H - A 10 5 4 3 2	H - K
D - A 5 4	D - J 7 6 3
C - Void	C - Void

Again the bidding was short - 1 Diamond from East (the dealer), 4 Spades by South, and 6 Spades by North. The opening lead is the singleton 2 of Diamonds. Can you find the play to bring home this slam? Think imaginatively! Answer will appear next time for those who fail!

N/S Vulnerable	Dealer South																				
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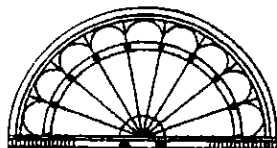
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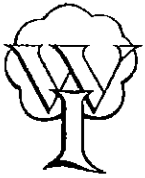
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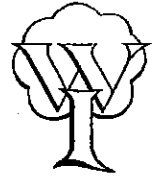


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NEWS FROM THE WI



April

Cathy Ratcliffe from the Devon Trading Standards office explained their very wide area of activities. They can advise businesses on subjects such as Health & Safety, the composition of materials in manufactured products, and test materials with which the public will come into contact for fitness of purpose, safety and description (for example, the safety of children's toys). They also cover the correct descriptions of consumables in shops, bars and restaurants, test foodstuffs in Farmers Markets, and animal feed and fertilisers to prevent contaminants in the food chain. They can take legal action where members of the public have complained about shoddy service from, say, garages, or misleading mail-order advertisements and the sale of counterfeit goods.

A very successful handbell ringing course took place at the Parish Hall on the 11th and 12th April, for members and friends, when we were very fortunate to have the expertise of **Bill Butler** and his helper, **Rosemary**, to get us going. We surprised ourselves by being able to produce recognisable tunes at a little concert for family and friends given at the end of the second day. It was great fun playing music together, and most of those who attended are keen to pursue this by starting a regular handbell group in the parish. Watch this space!

On 21st April we hosted the Sea Coast Group meeting, when **Desmond Gahan** showed slides and talked about the Scillies. Members from South Milton, Salcombe and West Alvington were our guests.

May

No speaker this month, as we discussed the Resolutions put forward by the WI from all over England and Wales for debate at the National AGM. Both had a 'yes' vote and concerned renewable energy in new building, and the importance of sport for a healthy life-style.

Denman Visits

Fourteen members had recently attended Denman College on bursaries as a result of a successful 'Awards for All' grant.

★ **Joan Booth, Shirley Barnes, Julie Hanham, Mary Johnson and Wendy Neukirchen** had enjoyed *Walking & Winding Down* and Joan made full use of the parish hall's big screen to show a photographic presentation as her report on their stay.

★ Work produced as a result of the mixed media art course attended by **Dorothy Abel, Jan Trender and Pat Macdonald** was on display and Dorothy reported.

★ **Judith Le Grice and Val Brown** entertained members with accounts of taking part in the *Georgian England, the age of Elegance* course, together with **Chris Field, Norma Kendall, Karen Livett and Sybil Williams**.

The general summing up was that they all had a very enjoyable time, had learnt a lot and they would love to go again even though they were made to work hard!

Future Events

Unfortunately the visit to Lukesland gardens near Ivybridge planned for the 17th May had to be postponed due to the very wet weather.

A reminder was given concerning the 'About Charleton' day on the 25th May, arranged by the Home Economics Area.

The members booked on the Dart canoe trip are looking forward to the 15th June.

The annual garden lunch at Glen Lyon (courtesy **Rosemary Mackay**) will be on Thursday, 6th July.

Bill Simpson, the expert on antiques and fine art who writes weekly in the *Western Morning News*, is coming to our meeting on Thursday 8th June as guest speaker, so we are hoping for a good turn-out of members. Non-members are also most welcome.

BOOKSHELF

Blue Shoes and Happiness

by Alexander McCall Smith
(Polygon £12.99)

Yet another Ladies Detective Agency book from this prolific novelist, though one just wonders whether this topic may have begun to pall a little.

Nevertheless, it still has an appeal because its simplicity and mellowness make it such a relaxed and harmonious read. Mama Ramotswe solves her problems with her usual resourcefulness and intuition, but I think I prefer the extra pungency of his tales about Edinburgh.

GW


Second Honeymoon

by Joanna Trollope
(Bloomsbury £17.99)

I have liked all Joanna Trollope's novels until this one. I really tried hard but could not finish it because it was utterly boring with its endless trite domestic situations and unnecessarily numerous characters. I decided to make a list of their names, as I could never remember who was who, and there were Edie, Russell, Ben, Naomi, Rosa, Vivien, Kate, Bill, Matthew, Ruth, Barney, Lazlo, Freddie, Cheryl and Eliot. To cap it all there was a cat called "Arsie" - which was an apt summary of the book as far as I was concerned!

GW

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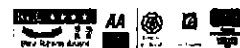
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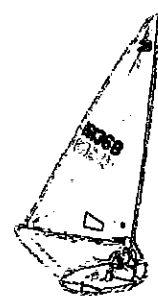
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HORSWELL DIARY

It happens every year. Just as the garden emerges from its winter sloth to entrance us with its beauty, our social life, for one reason or another, calls us away to attend events elsewhere. So, while we edge our way through the frustrations of motorway traffic or weave our way through bustling cities and country lanes, at Horswell the bluebells are spreading beneath the woodland beech and oaks, and daisies strew the unmown grass.

Leaves are appearing fast on bare branches, as if a swarm of bright green butterflies has alighted on the trees. Magenta mopheads cover the giant rhododendron beside the house, and roses are sprouting with strong and healthy growth. Small flames of vibrant yellow, pink and purple erupt and flare from lichen-smothered twiggery as the azalea bushes ignite with sudden colour. And, in the orchard, still the lingering scent of last remaining "Cheerfulness" as daffodils and narcissi give way to buttercups and an unwanted rash of wild garlic flowers. Above them, blossoms layer the branches of apple, pear, cherry and plum while pigeons flap and flounce in the tall sycamore trees.

Beneath the clerodendron the grass grows long, submerging clumps of fading primroses while supporting tulips and bluebells in their place. Beside them the dogs stretch out on sun-warmed stones, their ears cocked and questioning as a raven croaks overhead and a woodpecker taps out his morse-code message in the trees. Then all is quiet except for the sound of water tumbling into pond and pool, and perhaps a sigh of wind or the momentary passing of a buzzing bee.

In London, serried ranks of red tulips, golden wallflowers and blue pansies fill the gardens outside Buckingham Palace with military precision. Girls in summer dresses push their children in buggies through the parks while young men

weave along the paths on their in-line, skates cocooned in their private world of i-pod heaven. Conversations with London cabbies seem to offer instant access to the *zeitgeist* of our times. I might not agree with all that they have to say but their comments are almost without fail perceptive and enlightening. Naturally the current gossip is all about the general dissatisfaction and disillusionment with the government, and the uncertainty of whether a change of leader and/or party would actually signal any improvement.

"They're all as bad as one anuvver!" seemed to be the general feeling. "The longer any government is in power the lazier, sleazier and more corrupt they become." "It's human nature, innit?" "Is it?" I wondered, wishing for a more honourable alternative. At that point we passed St. George in full armour, complete with sword, towing his enormous dragon behind him and for a moment I felt help was at hand. But St. George looked in considerable pain and from the dragon's cheeky grin it was tempting to wonder who at that point had actually slain whom. Clearly defending the realm is a tough business. Thankfully Lloyd Scott, the eccentric Marathon entrant in the suit of armour finished the course the following day. A Knighthood for effort should surely be in the post.

A close friend invited me to accompany her to a formal Dinner in the City to mark her installation as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers. We arrived in style, chauffeured from her home and looking our elegant best in our ball-gowns. Sadly our departure was very different - involving sirens, flashing blue lights, an amazingly rapid response from a team of paramedics and the courteous efficiency of a local ambulance crew. My friend had collapsed and to all appearances seemed to be dying in my arms. Her speedy recovery was a huge relief. "I do this all the time" she confessed (making

me wonder if friendship should come with a health warning). "I've got a dodgy heart". "I'll be fine for months and then something like this happens. Of course one day it might be fatal." Phew! Thanks! Perhaps I should enrol now in a course in hedgerow basketry. Then, should the need arise, I'd be suitably equipped to construct the eco-friendly wicker casket that would surely be the required final conveyance for one so recently and dramatically installed as a Basketmaker.

On Thursday we were invited to a Private Dinner at the House of Lords. Our guest speaker told fascinating tales of his role as Black Rod, of which his responsibility for the Security of the House played a major part. Certainly it was made abundantly clear, from his impressive military background to his current staff of 600 that there was considerably more to his duties than simply wearing black tights and walking backwards. As we trailed through the corridors of power of Westminster Palace, from the opulence of the Queen's Room and the House of Lords to the relative simplicity of the House of Commons it was hard to believe that any politician would fail to feel the weight of his responsibility in this place. How could they allow themselves to show contempt for its history when its laws and its integrity are respected throughout the world?

It is such a great honour to be asked to serve one's country and yet, if all the current brouhaha in the national press is to be believed, there are those who are unable to fulfil their duties with the solemnity and respect that they deserve. If a politician brings dishonour on himself, his family, his employees and his party, his right to serve should be withdrawn, as should all the trappings of power and financial rewards that he has abused. He is not worthy of the responsibility that has been entrusted to him. He is a disgrace.

The highlights of our visit were for me the small things: the splinters where Black Rod has bashed the door to the

House of Commons with his heavy ebony mace; feeling the chased metal on the corners of the dispatch box where it has been rubbed completely smooth by successive Prime Ministers' nervous fingers; the story that the Queen is supposed to practice wearing the immensely heavy ceremonial crown for the opening of Parliament by carrying bags of sugar on her head; that the paintings of royalty in the Princes' Room are wrongly labelled - and no-one has wished to correct them; that it is no longer permissible to touch the foot of Sir Winston Churchill's dark statue at the entrance to the Commons. Where novice ministers have rubbed it for luck before making their maiden speech it is burnished to a brilliant gold.

The following morning we spent tiptoeing through the primroses and bluebells of an overgrown cemetery in Hampstead wishing we had brought a pair of secateurs to prune the rose overwhelming my great grandfather's grave. Grey squirrels stole shyly over ancient tombstones, disappearing ghost-like into silent shadows. Birdsong filled the air along with the steady hum of distant traffic and the random tic, toc, tic of petals falling from a magnolia tree whose silvered branches arched protectively over the tomb of an unknown baronet. Many of the occupants of that churchyard would have been famous in their day: inventors, poets, philosophers, even politicians. Perhaps some of their lives were tarnished by scandal or inappropriate behaviour. But whereas God is now their judge, our current leaders are accountable to a power much less forgiving than the Almighty. They are accountable to us, the electorate, the people they are paid so handsomely to represent. But as Edmund Burke observed around 1790 :

"Those who have been intoxicated with power, and have derived any kind of emolument from it, even though but for one year, can never willingly abandon it."

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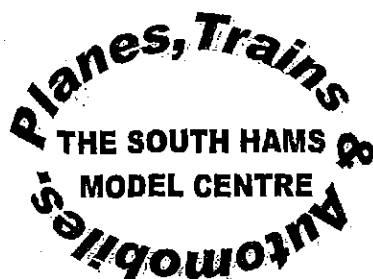
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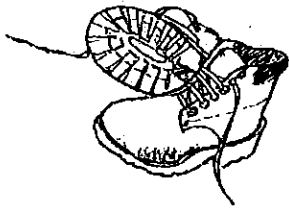
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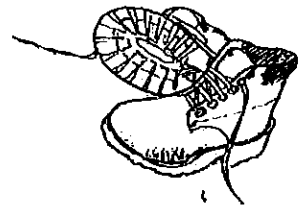
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TRAMP



1 Thursday 23rd March was a bitterly cold and blustery day as a brave party of six left Thurlestone and headed for Plymouth to take the Cremyll ferry across the Tamar. Once safely landed in Cornwall, we took the path along the estuary which, thankfully, was sheltered. Lovely views back to the Tamar Bridge can be had from this path, followed by equally pleasing rural vistas as the path follows the creek and skirts around the Mount Edgumbe estate.

We were made fully aware of why the estate was given that particular name as we turned south and climbed the really quite steep hill to the top of the estate. The climb is worth it, however, as there are really superb views on all sides - taking in the sea, the coast path towards the South Hams, Plymouth, the River Tamar and onwards into Cornwall. The views may have been wonderful but the strong cold wind was not, so we hurried towards the shelter of the trees, arriving thankfully two miles later at the Edgumbe Arms. After a very nice lunch, with drinks kindly supplied by one of our party celebrating her birthday, it was time to head back to the ferry.

The sea was a little more active on our return crossing and at least two members were less than happy with views of the water followed abruptly by views of the sky. Thankfully the short crossing was managed without mishap and we were all more than happy to replace the calories we had so successfully walked off with tea and cakes on our return to Thurlestone.

LM

2 A glorious morning greeted us for our short walk on Monday 3rd April. Eight of us, plus three eager dogs, set off from the National Trust car park at Middle Soar. Walking through fields, and past an old abandoned farmhouse, we soon reached the coastal path. With the sun shining on us, we were able to really enjoy the lovely stretch around Bolt Head and down into Starehole Bay, before turning inland, past Overbecks. Here, we resisted the temptation to visit the coffee shop - though we did pause to admire the gardens, in particular the lovely magnolia blossom

Having left the coastal path, the inland part of the route became rather wet and muddy, following recent rains. One of the dogs took great delight in doing a belly-flop into every large puddle he could find! After a good walk of about four miles, we decided to stop for light refreshments at the Soar Mill Cove Hotel. They made us very welcome, in spite of muddy boots and muddy dogs - but having looked at the prices the refreshments taken were very light indeed!

CH

3 Nine walkers and one dog set out on Wednesday 12th April for a seven mile walk in the Start Point area. This was an area that, amazingly, we found that we had not tramped for several years. After the rain of the previous day we were lucky to be blessed with a warm sunny day, ideal for walking. We were also fortunate at Start Point car park as we were welcomed by the attendant with the news that charging did not start until Good Friday.

New-born calves were enjoying the sunshine in the first field we crossed on our way along the coast path to Lannacombe Beach, where we paused to watch our dog persuade a complete stranger to throw a stick for her on the beach. We then turned up lanes to reach a refreshment stop at the top of a steep hill above Hallsands, where most of the party detoured briefly to the viewing point above the old village which had been largely destroyed by a great storm almost a century ago.

From there it was a short walk to the Cricket Inn at Beesands, where we enjoyed their excellent seafood. After lunch we returned directly along the coast path to the car park - from which we saw our first swallows of the summer. We vowed not to leave it so long until our next walk in the area - possibly a short walk with a refreshment stop at 'Trouts' above Hallsands.

TW

4 Another fine day for our outing on Tuesday 18th April, when eight of us, plus one dog, met up at the Dartington Cider Press Centre for the circular riverside walk.

This is a very pleasant and comparatively easy walk, keeping largely to the banks of the River Dart before returning through woodland. The Totnes to Buckfastleigh railway runs along much of the route, and we enjoyed reverting to our childhood by standing and saving at the double of steam trains that passed by! We were a little too early for the bluebells in the woods, but the primroses and other wild flowers were lovely.

Our dog, having no other canine companions on this occasion, decided to entertain us by collecting ever-larger pieces of wood on her way round, presumably hoping for a nice log fire on her return! Arriving back at the Cider Press Centre, most of us opted to stay for a light lunch, and the new cafeteria and other facilities met with general approval.

CH

5 On Thursday 4th May, fifteen walkers and one very well-behaved dog met on the warmest day of the year, so far, in Stover Country Park, for what turned out to be a very enjoyable and relaxing five-mile walk.

With virtually no gradients either up or down on the whole walk, we walked around the lake and across country before following the River Teign for some distance. Having left the Teign behind, we once again entered the woods of the Country Park and returned via the other side of the lake to our cars. Unusually for a summer short walk, we took refreshment in a local pub - the excuse being that it was one of our member's birthday!

D & SY

A TRIBUTE TO STUART REYNOLDS

It is with great sadness that I have to record that TRAMP founder Stuart Reynolds died in March.

It was approximately twenty years ago that Stuart and his wife, Audrey, put a note in Village Voice inviting anyone interested in walking to meet outside the parish church and he would lead a local walk around the cliffs to Bantham and back to Thurlestone. Twenty-five people turned up with varied interests from bird watchers, slow strollers, fast walkers, dog walkers, to those interested in wild flowers. Stuart offered to arrange future walks, and TRAMP was formed.

For many of the walkers it was an opportunity to explore new areas of the South Hams and to make forays to Dartmoor. Stuart was a great leader and his rules were law. Walks were on average at least eight miles long. He always seemed to be two or three hundred yards ahead of the walkers, much to their dismay, but Audrey always assured them that this was normal. When the two of them were on a walking holiday, she claimed she only saw him at the beginning, at lunchtime, and at the end of the walk!

One of his rules was that pub lunches were only taken during November, December, January, February and March. At all other times it was a picnic, and the walkers certainly had some very wet, cold and windy lunches. The only variation was that if the last October walk was cold and wet, the walkers were allowed to visit a local hostelry, and if the second March walk was warm and sunny the walkers had a picnic. Stuart

continued to lead every walk for several years, but then he suggested that others might like to lead a walk, and so the walkers started to plan at least one walk each. However, they had to adhere to Stuart's strict guidelines. By the time Stuart stopped walking, TRAMP had amassed a list of some eighty walks.

Stuart was a supremely fit man. He always carried a very heavy rucksack and it was rumoured that he carried a number of bricks in it! Only Audrey knows if this was true. After a particularly tiring walk, he would arrive home, pick up his swimming gear and go down to the beach. Like his walking, his swim would always have a purpose and on these occasions he would decide which buoy or buoys he would swim out to, and on arrival back on the beach he would then engage in a number of press-ups.

One thing that will always remain in the minds of all who knew him was his extreme politeness both to regular walkers and in particular to any new members or visitors. When Stuart and Audrey left Thurlestone, over forty walkers attended a dinner given in his honour at the Golf Club. I was not privileged to have met Stuart and I am very grateful to Derek and Sally Yeoman (former Thurlestone residents) for their help in compiling this tribute.

Stuart, on behalf of all TRAMP walkers past and present, thank you for the legacy you left to us.

Lisa White (TRAMP Co-ordinator)

All Saints' School News

SCHOOL FETE - 8th July 12 - 4.00pm

This year our fete falls on the day before the World Cup Final so, in keeping with the event, there will be a multicultural flavour – and you are very welcome to come dressed in the national costume of your choice (and you may win a prize!). As befits an English Village School, our young gymnasts will entertain you with a skilled display of traditional Morris Dancing!

An afternoon of fun and games, feasting (and perhaps a little drinking) awaits you, with plenty of entertainment - and many guest appearances.

The Fete will be opened by Mr Alun Williams. Sadly, this will be his final official appearance after more than sixteen years as Principal of the School. Please come along and help us to make this year the best yet!

Quiz & Curry Night

The Quiz & Curry night at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th May was a great success. With seven different curries available and plenty of side dishes there was something for everybody – and plenty of it! Mike and Brenda Jones presented a very challenging and entertaining quiz. If you haven't been to one of their Village Inn Tuesday night quizzes, you've missed something special! Thanks go also to the Village Inn for supplying the raffle prize, to all the people who created the meals and helped on the night, and especially to Jill Harwood whose enterprise and effort made the event run so smoothly.

Dates For Your Diary

14th June Jazz Boat Cruise on the Salcombe Estuary 7pm till late. Live music with Father Mike's Hot Four and a Bar. Bring your own picnic if you wish. Does it get any better? £10 per head – contact Maggie on 852 782 for bookings.

6th July Mr Williams and Mr Durden will be in Concert at the Village Hall, with Guest Performers. Anybody who has seen them before will know that this is an event that should not be missed – especially as it will be Mr William's "Swann" Song. Tickets: £6.00, Children half price. Book early to avoid disappointment!

14th July Grand Farewell evening for Mr Williams at the Thurlestone Hotel. A night to remember! If you are a past pupil or a present parent we want to see you there. Be assured, - a night of surprises is in store!! Bookings: Jill on 531 469.

COLLECTING: We are collecting: ***Persil Stars, Nestle Box Tops, Sainsbury's and Tesco's vouchers.*** Vouchers can be left at the Post Office, Thurlestone Hotel, or at the School office. Please help by saving yours for us. *Every donation helps!!*

Children's Voice

Hello everybody. We hope you had a good Easter.

SATS

Yes' it's that time again when we are all doing SATS! We are all doing well actually. With Science SATS today and Maths tomorrow, we are all working ourselves to the limit!

Mr Williams

As you all probably know, Mr Williams is leaving soon, so we asked some people what they thought of him as a head teacher. Everybody said that he is a great and good head. We have written some of the comments here so you can read them.

Maria Makepeace: 'He is humorous and nice and tells really funny jokes!'

Kelly Parkinson: 'I think he is really good. We are going to miss him loads.'

Joe Lywood: 'His Jokes are really funny and he is a great head teacher'

Lucy Peters: 'He is really funny and makes us laugh in class.'

George Fountain: 'He is really good at telling us jokes, slipping them in when you don't expect it.'

We all will be doing lots of things to make his send off worth while and we hope he will have a great time retiring at Exeter University.

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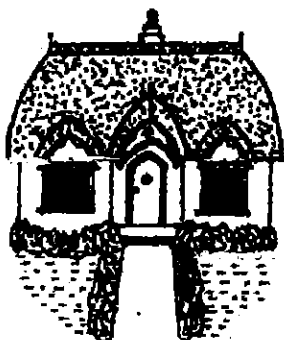
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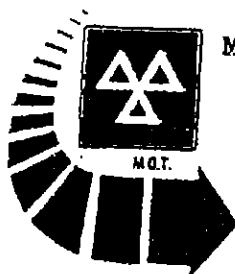
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JUNE		
Mon	5 th	TRAMP, Aymer Cove (short)
Mon	5 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Thurs	8 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Bill Simpson, Antiques & Fine Art)
Wed	14 th	TRAMP, Dart Valley Trail (long)
Tues	20 th	TRAMP, Bantham + cakes
Fri	23 rd	GALA CONCERT, All Saints, 7.30 pm (see inside for details)
Fri	23 rd / 26 th	FLOWER FESTIVAL, All Saints (see inside for details)
Wed	28 th	TRAMP, Avon Valley
JULY		
Mon	3 rd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Thurs	6 th	TRAMP, Overbecks (short)
Thurs	6 th	Alun & Alastair In Concert, Parish Hall (see inside for details)
Sat	8 th	School Fete, All Saints school, noon to 4 pm.
Sat	8 th / Sun 9 th	WIMBLEDON FINALS, Parish Hall, at scheduled times.
Wed	12 th	TRAMP, Wembury (long)
Thurs	13 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Brian Vyner - Local Parish Churches)
Fri	14 th	Alun Williams Farewell, Thurlestone Hotel, 7.30 pm
Mon	17 th	TRAMP, Strete (short)
Sun	22 nd	CHURCH FETE, Toyes Orchard, 2.00 pm
Wed	26 th	TRAMP, Dartmoor (long)
AUGUST		
Mon	7 th	Aune Conservation, P Hall, 7.30 pm, Avon Siltation Update
Wed	9 th	TRAMP, Higher Lutton (long)
Mon	14 th	Aune Conservation, P Hall, 7.30 pm, (Nigel Mortimer)
Fri	11 th	Church Barbecue on the Green, 6.00 pm
Sun	13 th	Outdoor Songs of Praise, Buckland, 6.00 pm
Mon	21 st	Aune Conservation, P Hall, 7.30 pm, (Andy Elliot)

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

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

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

Judith Reynolds, Pilgrim Cottage, Post Office Lane, Thurlestone
Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3ND Telephone : 01548-560912

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th JULY 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 or RbnMacd@aol.com)

PARISH

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

PARISH COUNCIL	Meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf	
Chairman	Kit Marshall	560214
Vice - Chairman	Peter Hurrell	560496
Parish Clerk	Cathy Tavender	(Daytime) 01392 - 385161 (Evening) 852139
District Councillor	Shonaugh Rankin	561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	Neil Gilling	560448
	David Grose	560375
	Andrew Rhymes	560564
	Geoffrey Stidson	560695
	Charles Mitchellmore	560602
Tree Warden		
PARISH HALL	Chairman Bookings	Ron Parkin Pat Crawford 561215 560688
PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)	Chairman	Chris White 560505
RECTOR	Rev. Andrew Gilling	562219
CHURCH MEETING ROOM	Office	561246
CHURCHWARDENS	Peter Williams (560672)	Liz Webb (560090)
PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHEON (1st Friday)	LUNCH CLUB (Other Fridays)	UNDER 5s (Wednesdays)
SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesdays Fortnightly)	FILMS FOR ALL (Tuesdays Fortnightly)	ROCK CLUB (Thursdays)
COFFEE TIME (See All Saints Diary for details)	Contact	Liz Webb 560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Kit Marshall 560214
BOWLS CLUB	Contact	Eileen Dayment 560051
ALUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION		John Crawford 560688
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Contact	Hugh Catter 560593
BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB		Clubhouse 560447
BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays	Contact	Dorothy Stone 560708
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary / Manager	Terry Gibbons 560405
TENNIS SECTION	Contact	Lindsey Fletcher 560157
KEEP FIT	Contact	Brenda Murch 560487
TAI CHI	Contact	Vida Alexander 561182
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact	John Lonsdale 560742
PROBUS	Contact	Tom Trender 560893
SOUTH HAMPS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS	Contact	Pat Crawford 560688
TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact	Lisa White 560505

DIRECTORY

W. L.	2.30 pm Parish Hall	Contact Judith Le Grice	562135
Second Thursday monthly (except August)			
TEAMMAKERS	INTERNET CAFE	Wednesdays 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Yeo Room
(Computer Club)	TUTORIAL CLASSES	To be resumed in the Autumn - Reservations accepted	
Contacts : Robin Macdonald	560436	Michael Barnes	562112
Dennis Cortess	562270	Graham Durant	560007
		June Murry	561398
HEALTH CENTRES	Kingsbridge	0844 477 8953	Salcombe 842284
MILK DELIVERY		R. Bruckner & Son	01803 - 832801
NEWSPAPER DELIVERY		Dave & Sandra Edmonds	01548 - 853132
VILLAGE SHOP	Thurlestone Village Shop	M. T. Th. F.	8.00 am - 5.30 pm
(Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm)		Wednesday,	8.00 am - 1.00 pm
		Saturday,	8.00 am - 1.00 pm
		Sunday,	8.30 am - 1.00 pm
(NB. The 1.00 pm closing times may sometimes be extended during school holidays and at weekends)			
THURLESTONE POST OFFICE			561917
Open : Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	9.00 am - 5.30 pm	Wed, Sat	9.00 am - 1.00 pm
Postal collections : 4.15 pm Monday - Friday; 10.30 am Saturday; 11.00 am Sunday			
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Co-ordinator	Charles Mitchellmore	560602
POLICE			
Emergency	999	Non-emergency calls	08705-777-444
Minicom users	01392 - 452935	Confidential information	0800-555-111
RUBBISH COLLECTION			
Thursday (But Friday in Bank Holiday/Monday weeks)	Brown Wheelies - alternate Thursdays from 8 th June		
Coloured (White, Blue) Sack collections (recyclables) and	Grey Wheelies - alternate Thursdays from 1 st June		
RECYCLING CENTRE (Torr Quarry Site, Tones Road)			
Opening Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm	Saturday & Sunday	10.00 am - 4.30 pm
PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE			
For ALL bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE			0870 608 2 608
Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day)			7.00 am to 9.00 pm
Devonbus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk			
GARAGE (Blight Engineering)	Maurice Blight		560220
KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 14th June			852315
11.15 - 11.30am Bantam			
11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel			
12.20 - 12.30pm Thurlestone Church			
12.35 - 12.45pm Thurlestone Primary School			
12.35 - 12.45pm Thurlestone Sands			
MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN	Alternate Wednesdays from 14 th June 2006, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside school.		

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Simple • Wholesome • Goodness

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Village Inn

Tel: 01548 563 525



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

Children and dogs are welcome.

OPEN DAILY: 11.30am-3.00pm &

6.00pm-11.00pm

SUNDAYS: 12.00-3.00pm & 7.00-10.30pm

Good Food..

Good Beer..

Friendly

Atmosphere