

# VILLAGE VOICE



April - May 2007





NUMBER 144  
APRIL - MAY 2007

### HIP, HIP - HOORAY?

If you are thinking of selling your house in the next eighteen months there is something to be said for putting it on the market NOW, before 1<sup>st</sup> June. After that (our next issue date) new regulations come into force requiring you to have an HIP (**Home Information Pack**) for potential buyers to be able to examine.

The EU intentions behind this legislation are laudable enough (energy savings and efficiency, transparency, etc.) but inevitably necessitate a bureaucratic mountain of people, procedures, and paperwork to put them into effect.

A key and compulsory element of your HIP will be an **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)**, requiring a Home Inspector or Domestic Energy Assessor to visit your property, check out your energy usage, and identify areas for economy before issuing you with a graded certificate.

Of course, your friendly Estate Agent can arrange all this for you.....at a price. Clearly, if you are **buying** a property after 1<sup>st</sup> June you will be on the receiving end of the HIP - and so better informed about your prospective home - but you will probably still end up footing this extra cost anyway within the purchase price.

So *caveat emptor*? No more.....just slap the pack (Asda-wise) in your HIP - pocket.

Founder Dudley Drabble

Editor PATRICIA MACDONALD  
25 Mead Lane  
Thurlestone  
TQ7 3PB  
01548-560436

Advertising  
& Accounts  
Manager JO PARKIN  
Ardentigh  
Court Lane  
Thurlestone  
TQ7 3ND  
01548-561215

Production  
Manager AL PARKER

### Production Team

JOHN & MAUREEN BAKER

SHIRLEY BARNES

PAT CRAWFORD

MARGARET CULLUM

IAN & JANET FRASER

ANNE GROSE

NORMA KENDALL

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# Parish Council Meetings

5<sup>th</sup> February & 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007

*News and Views by Citizen*

## JOHN CRAWFORD

The news of **John Crawford's** death was received with sadness. **Chairman Kit Marshall** said "Although never a Parish Councillor, John was a loyal supporter of the council and the parish as a whole, a familiar face at our meetings. No public forum was complete without his participation...." John wrote the always enjoyable 'Citizen' column for Village Voice over several years, making public (with his own shrewd commentary) the deliberations of our Parish Council.

## PARISH HALL

**Councillor Peter Hurrell** said that the present financial state was sound. Air ducts for the main hall heating were being modified, the floor had received maintenance oiling and yellow sports marker tapes were now laid. It was hoped that a further top covering of chippings would be applied to the carpark, but probably not until next year. An appeal was put in for them not to be so large in size this time.

## HIGHWAYS

At the time of the February meeting no response had come from Devon County Council about the continuing problem of the blockage of rainwater gullies in Thurlestone's main street, which had nothing to do with Balfour Beatty's recent extensive roadworks.

The placing of a grit bin on Chapel Corner at Buckland obstructed motorists' views but unfortunately this was the only site available. Roadside signs in our parish were in a pretty filthy condition, which made reading them sometimes difficult and wheels are to be put in motion to get them cleaned. The new finger-post by Bantham phone box will in due course be fixed. Poor road surfaces at Glebefields in Thurlestone and between The

Sloop and the Ham at Bantham had been reported to Devon County Council.

**Councillor Charles Mitchelmore** promptly volunteered to escort the DCC official on a tour of the parish to point out problems. There were high hopes that this year would see some action.

## SCHOOL

In February **Councillor Andrew Rhymes** said the school is thinking about possibly making building improvements to increase its size but he emphasised that this was not to allow for a rise in pupil numbers but, inter alia, to alleviate cramped staff accommodation. No decisions had yet been made nor plans drawn up officially. The school hope in due course to plant a row of 30-35 trees parallel to Court Park Lane.

## ISLAND VIEW GREEN

The Youth Club has requested permission to cultivate part of this land with either flowers or vegetables. The Parish Council is in agreement that a designated section of the green could be put into their care on which flowers might be grown. **Councillor Rhymes** will provide liaison. Nothing further to report concerning the investigation into land registration.

## FOOTPATHS

Two paving slabs on the lower side of the path from the war memorial are cracked and stones missing and although this matter was reported several months ago, nothing had yet happened. Work on the paving now to be pursued as well as attention to the surface tree roots and possibly new chippings may be applied further down the path.

## PARISH PLAN

The Council having agreed in principle (February's meeting) with the idea of



producing a parish plan aimed at ascertaining the future needs of parishioners, **Councillor Neil Girling** and the Parish Clerk later attended a very well-organised meeting on this subject at Modbury. Devon County Council have offered the services of someone to come and explain the procedure. It was stressed that a group of parishioners must do this work, not the Parish Council, but the Parish Council in the shape of Neil would offer all necessary guidance.

*So come on, you public-spirited readers of Village Voice, your input is needed. Volunteers can give their names to any Parish Councillor (list at the back of the magazine) - this is the big chance you've been waiting for, short of serving as a Parish Councillor. Have your say on how you would like our parish to be!*

#### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. County Councillor Sir Simon Day and Inspector Williams of Devon & Cornwall Police have promised to come but no reply yet received to the cordial invitation to the District Council for someone to attend from their Planning department - but they will be reminded!

*This is your annual opportunity to get bees out of bonnets, so come along and have your say. Even if you haven't anything to contribute, it's always interesting to learn what is concerning your fellow-residents.*

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Shonaugh Rankin gave a brief report on the latest news from the SHDC. She urged us to ensure our names were on the Electoral Roll - if not, **ring Follaton House right away**. She thanked us for supporting her during the past four years as our representative, and looked forward to our endorsement for a further four years.

#### **CAR PARKING CHARGES**

Councillor Neil Girling took the opportunity whilst Shonaugh was with us, of asking her how she voted on the thorny question of the

District Council's proposal to charge for night-time parking, to which our Parish Council was vehemently opposed. She said, she had voted for the budget, which of course included the new parking charges, but assured us that our letter of protest had been read to the full Council. *(It was observed that night-time parking infringements would probably go undetected by a seemingly cash-strapped District Council - in which case why introduce the charge?)*

#### **POLICE STATION**

Inspector Williams has responded to our complaints by explaining that staff shortages, sickness and other policing priorities forced the reduced hours and occasional closing of the station in Kingsbridge. As mentioned earlier, he will be at our Annual Parish Meeting

#### **ELECTIONS**

*Elections for both District and Parish Councils will take place at Thurlestone Parish Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007, from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm.*

As a result of the Parish Council Chairman's "Kitchener" appeal in the February issue of Village Voice, he was happy to report that we had several new volunteers to serve our parish, and elsewhere in this issue there are details of all the public-spirited members of the parish who are standing for election.

#### **WATER ON THE MEAD**

Problems over many years with excess surface water (causing manhole covers to blow) may now be remedied as work will shortly be starting to increase the flow capacity of the sewer from the estate to the pumping station.

#### **PLANNING**

Our Parish Council has again written expressing opposition to the appeal currently under consideration concerning Plot 3, Leonards Close, Thurlestone.

*Citizen*

# A MEMORIAL ON THE AVON

Few people realised how much work and time **John Fergusson Crawford** put into Thurlestone parish. But they saw his big grey beard topping his big figure at almost every meeting in the parish and knew that his deep voice was giving them good advice. Plans for a memorial to John, who died at home in Thurlestone on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 at the age of 77, are well advanced and it is fitting that his memorial will be placed on the banks of the Avon.

It was to that delightful river's well-being that John Crawford devoted hours of dedicated service through his years of chairmanship of the Aune Conservation Association. He took that body from an organisation mostly concerned with policing the river speed limit and controlling water-skiers to one which took on serious conservation work such as the restoration of Stiddicombe Wood and a major investigation of the problems of siltation of the tidal part of the river.

Even his 'oysterfests' had a serious purpose (in addition to making John the champion cater of oysters in the South Hams) with his support of the oyster farm in the Avon - because he knew that the farm's presence carried a statutory requirement on official agencies to maintain high standards of water purity.

But the Avon project was only part of his work for the parish. Supported by his wife, Pat, he represented all that was good about the life of the villages. He took his turn in running the church fete, served time as the parish tree warden, acted as sidesman, and later became the very able secretary of the Friends of Thurlestone Church, taking on fund-raising projects with great success. In between times he had a brief brush with politics, standing as an independent candidate for the South Hams District Council, losing by only 13 votes.

His lesser roles in the parish consisted of being a keen and dedicated member of the Bowls Club and helping the club to get a grant for new equipment for the new Parish Hall, writing accounts of Parish Council meeting for Village Voice, cleaning the swallow-droppings from under the nests in the south porch of the church, and being mistaken for a Hell's Angel when wearing his leathers during a love affair with his 850cc Suzuki motor cycle.

Running beside all this activity was his deep interest in local history. In fact shortly before he died he was planning for the archaeologists who had excavated the beach at Bantham to report to parishioners in the Parish Hall with their final verdict on their finds.



The Crawfords had strong family connections with the parish. John's father, Bill, married Marjorie Shirley of the Thurlestone family, and so John and his sister spent much time in the South Hams during World War Two. John was educated at Sherborne, where he became Head of House, and went on to read Classics at New College, Oxford. He had a gift for languages and became an international marketing

management consultant, working in Africa, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Scandinavia and most of the rest of Europe. In later life he acted as a voluntary business mentor for the Prince's Trust.

He met Pat while they were both attending his sister's wedding in Thurlestone church. John looked after Pat from then on, regarding her as a mere youngster who needed protecting. They were married in 1960 in London. They have a son and daughter and five grandchildren.

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Crawford on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2007, at 4.00 pm.





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# PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2007

*At the time of going to press there were eight candidates seeking election to the seven seats of Thurlestone Parish Council next month. We invited them to send in a brief resume about themselves, and these are set out below, and overleaf, in alphabetical order. As the closing date for nominations is not until Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, there may well be more candidates than identified here. GO FOR IT - there's still time!*

## **David Hugo**

3 Leonards Close, 01548-562267

Devon born and educated, he has lived in Thurlestone permanently for coming up to eight years. Before retirement he headed the Fraud & Evasion department of the Inland Revenue, which gave him plenty of experience in both accountancy and law as well as man-management. After retirement he became chairman of Young Enterprise and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for schools in Hertfordshire, and also an advocate for Age Concern. He is a volunteer driver for Norton Brook health centre, a regular contributor to Village Voice, and still finds time for bridge and golf! Long-time married to Mary, he has four children, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## **Peter Hurrell**

Woodlands, West Buckland, 01548-560496

I have lived in the Parish all my life, and first joined the Parish Council in 1968, becoming Chairman in 1981, a position I retained for 21 years. I represent the Council on the Parish Hall committee, and also chair the Hall's Maintenance committee. I trained as a mason in Kingsbridge, and have run my own building business in Thurlestone for more than thirty years. This has helped me to get to know the the people and the parish very well. My great interest is in the history of the Parish, and my collection of old parish photographs shows what its three villages were like 100 years ago. Other hobbies include darts, boating, and riding a classic motor-cycle - in fine weather.

## **Kit Marshall**

Leaside, Ilbert Rd, 01548-560214

Third generation Thurlestone he returned to the family home in 1997 after a career (mainly in South America) marketing industrial machinery. Married to Gillian, they have four married children and seven grandchildren. Always interested in community and charitable affairs he has served on diverse committees with a hands-on approach and was very involved in the building of the new Parish Hall. He joined the Parish Council in 1999 and has been Chairman since 2002. His goal is to preserve the parish's unique character as a residential and holiday environment while balancing the needs to move forward with the times and conform to increasing bureaucratic impositions. Main hobbies are sailing, gardening and tennis which go hand in glove with a keen interest in the environment.

## **Charles Mitchelmore**

1 Glebefield, Thurlestone, 01548-560602

Born in Thurlestone, I went first to the village primary school, leaving secondary education in 1947. I worked in farming and horticulture before doing two years' National Service in the army, following which I worked for the South West Electricity Board in Kingsbridge for 38 years. I joined the Parish Council in 1991 and am currently the Parish Tree Warden. My great love for my home village makes me keen to foster the welfare of the parish as a whole.

### Maya Plass

8 The Cottages, Bantham, 01548-562449

I am a full time mother in Bantham and offer myself for election primarily to support a thriving community. My second interest relates to my professional background.

I am a postgraduate in Coastal Management and have worked in Argentina and the Exe Estuary towards balancing the many uses and users of the coast. Fortunately, I now work on my home estuary, the Avon, through being a committee member for the Aune Conservation Association. My personal interests are growing vegetables, keeping chickens and boating. I intend to support issues that positively affect the local community, safeguarding our beautiful parish for future generations.

### Andrew (Jack) Rhymes

4 Island View, 01548-560564

I was born and raised in West Alvington. I worked at Burton Farm in Galmpton, married a girl from Stokenham, and our first home was in South Milton. I am a local! Bett and I moved to Thurlestone eight years ago. Since then I have set up my own business (*Timberjack*), have had two children, and served on the Parish Council. Who said village life is boring? They say you are never too old to learn and in the short

time I have been on the Parish Council I have learned an incredible amount about our parish and its history. In addition to my role as a Parish Councillor I am a director of Kingsbridge Show, and a senior member of Young Farmers. My "spare time" is spent with my family, watching rugby, and sleeping!

### Geoffrey Stidston

Court Park Farm, 01548-560695

I am the third generation of Stidstons to have farmed at Court Park Farm, where I keep a herd of 250 South Devon cattle. I have served on the Thurlestone Parish Council for the past twenty-five years, and for part of that time I have represented the Parish Council as a governor of the village primary school. My background knowledge and experience of both the parish and the parish council is therefore quite extensive, and I should be pleased to continue to serve the parish in this way to the best of my ability. I trust that I can look forward to your support again in the coming election.

### Neil Girling

Buckland Cottage, 01548-560448

[We understand that Neil Girling may also seek re-election, but have not received either confirmation or a personal resume from him at the time of going to press. .Ed.]

## **Oriental Extravaganza**

A packed hall sat down to a sumptuous Chinese "take-away" supper on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March, and watched an Oriental Revue staged and performed by members and friends of Thurlestone Women's Institute.

Val Brown's "Alad & Alas" revealed an array of dramatic, musical, Terpsichorean, and audio-visual talent. Malcolm Le Grice's hilarious video, and expert lighting and screen control, together with the musical support of Judith Le Grice's Clavinova and Judith Reynolds' violin, all gave a professional finish to these amateur theatricals, which were enhanced by stunning costumes, exciting dance routines and some excellent vocal numbers, all splendidly performed by a cast too numerous to mention here individually. A fabulous evening. Lookie out for full report in next issue!



# PARISH HALL NEWS

By Chairman Ron Parkin



*An AGM with a difference* was the aim of the meeting on 26 March reporting on the first full year of operation of our new Parish Hall. **John Beven** had been busy in weeks past taking photos to illustrate the myriad of activities that now take place there and had skilfully blended these into an impressive digital presentation on the big screen. He and **June Murry** had also prepared a most interesting analysis of the usage through the year showing that the traditional pursuits of Bridge and Bowls were now being rivalled by Tai-Chi and the Teamakers Computer classes:-

Teamakers	210 Hours
Bridge (Fri)	200
Tai-Chi	180
Bowls	180
Bridge (Wed)	130

The All Saints Primary School only started regular use in the Autumn and, it was said, would certainly be joining this group of major users during 2007.

No less important in terms of serving the needs of the local community of course were the weekly Art classes, Keep Fit, Youth Club, Sewing Group, Pilates and Badminton, the monthly WI, Parish Council and other ad hoc meetings - plus, the Chairman emphasised, sporting events on the big screen!

The Hall had also proven to be a superb venue for Private Functions and for highly enjoyable fund raising events in aid of the Parish Hall -- Opera South West, Barn Dance, Autumn Fair, and Kingsmen had each raised between £500 - 1000. Another six events had been held in aid of other charities, NSPCC, Prawle NCI, Just Children, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, All Saints Primary School, and Just Children.

**Patrick Stanley** as Treasurer was able to report that the finances were in good shape, the budgeted surplus had been achieved and that the necessary reserves were being held against future maintenance, renewal and equipment expenditure. **Alan Chapman** was also given a well-merited vote of thanks for once more auditing the accounts and presenting them in the professional format that satisfies the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Extracts were also read out from a welcome and unsolicited written tribute by 13 year old **Daniel Murry** praising the initiative of the older generation in raising the money for the Parish Hall and running activities in which he and other young people could participate, such as Bowls and Teamakers, concluding with *"So a great thanks to these thoughtful people, we all have fun and good times at the Parish Hall"*.

The next event is *Circus Berzercus*, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, with a workshop in the afternoon and performance in the evening. This double act has got rave reviews from other villages so come along for more "fun and good times".

Make a note too in your diaries for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - a quality musical lecture, the music by two of the top local singers, **Cindy** and **Robert Gloyn**, and the lecture by **Karin Fernald**, an international lecturer, dressed in period costume reading humorous extracts from letters by Fanny Burney telling of her social life and the famous people she meets - thus Dr Johnson on making music - *"A method of employing the mind without the labour of thinking at all"*.

Ron Parkin

# Village News Round-Up

## Community Policing

**Matthew Blackmore** is the name of our Police Community Support Officer, who looks after the Thurlestone and Salcombe areas. He will be at the Parish Hall (Yeo Room) between 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm just before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and extends an open invitation to all parishioners to come and meet him, particularly if they have any police-related matters they would like to discuss. Afterwards he will be walking round the parish on foot (Bantham, Buckland and Thurlestone), when he also hopes to meet residents. He can be phoned on 01548-842107 (mobile 08456-567890).

## Lost spectacles

Mrs Anne Dixon of Kingsbridge has contacted us to say "My very lightweight spectacles blew away when I was leaving the Parish Hall on a dark, excessively windy, evening. I am hopeful that they are 'resting' or tangled up in a nearby bush or tree. Should you come across them when your spring gardening commences, I would be more than pleased to hear from you - my phone number is 01548-857172".

## NSPCC

The local committee of the NSPCC is delighted to report that their Jumble Sale on St Patrick's Day raised around £350 for the children. Many thanks are expressed to all the kind-hearted people who donated goods to sell, acted as salespersons/helpers, and the customers, without whom this excellent result could not have been achieved.

## Harbour Bookshop

The Harbour Bookshop in Kingsbridge was host to local book-reading clubs recently when their members' latest 'reads' were discussed with enthusiasm. The shop's owner, **Pat Abrehart**, has thoughtfully compiled a list of recommended reading, with short reviews, which can be picked up from them. You can also go on their mailing list to let you know about their planned future literary events aimed at widening reading horizons.

## Aune Birds

Aune Conservation Association say that Rod Bone has kindly made his 2006 monthly bird sightings on the Avon available to members via their website

[www.aca.aveton.gifford.co.uk](http://www.aca.aveton.gifford.co.uk)

and add "The numbers are well worth a look and you can check your own identifications with the RSPB's help!"

## Summer Lectures

Repeating the success of last year's lectures, here is preliminary notice of a further three scheduled for the Parish Hall later this year. The first is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August when **Gordon Waterhouse** and **Brian Ashby** will be talking about "*The Ecology of Bigbury Bay*"; then on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August there will be "*News from the final symposium on siltation research*" with **John Peters**; and on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August it is hoped an archaeologist will talk about "*The Dark Ages in Bantham*".

These talks are being arranged by the Aune Conservation Association. Make a note of the dates and look out for further details in the June and August issues of Village Voice. For more information please contact the chairman, **Stuart Watts** on 01548-810373 or e-mail: [sdmw2@btopenworld.com](mailto:sdmw2@btopenworld.com)

## Kingsbridge Country Market

Formerly known as the W.I. Market, and operating every Wednesday morning at the Town Hall building, this local Country Market is moving across the street on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April for a

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Kingsbridge Market Hall

8.00 am to Noon

to include a large Plants section, and home-made cakes, savouries, preserves, vegetables, flowers, and craftwork. *Don't miss it!*

## Sudoku

Due to a typographical slip one of the puzzles in our last issue presented rather more of a conundrum than intended. Fortunately, a number of bright aficionados not only spotted, but also rectified, the error. Bravo!



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*Andrew Girling writes:*

**'WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE**



The passing of the Abolition of Slavery Act just two hundred years ago has been remembered and celebrated widely this last week. Inevitably William Wilberforce, who led the campaign in Parliament has been the focus of attention and with good reason. He devoted eighteen years of his life to the cause. There were, however, many others involved. One of them was John Newton. He is best known today for some of the hymns he wrote, notably, *Amazing Grace*.

It is indeed quite amazing that he wrote those verses when you consider the sort of life he had lived. Newton was himself a slave trader for many years. By all accounts he was a nasty piece of work. Motivated by sheer greed regardless of the cost in human suffering, he was renowned for his foul language and excessive drinking. He was also known regularly to rape female slaves on the long voyages.

Then during a storm at sea in 1748 he experienced a profound conversion to Christianity. This revolutionised his life, though it was another six years before he recognised the evil nature of the slave trade. Indeed during that period he often led prayers and bible study on deck while the hold was still seething with desolate slaves. When he eventually realised just how evil this trade was he very quickly became a committed campaigner for its abolition, working closely with Wilberforce and many others. Together they fought society's blindness and prejudice, not to mention its economic self-interest. They were determined to win freedom and justice for the slaves. Newton's famous hymn, with its telling phrase; 'was blind but now I see', reflecting, as it did, his change of heart and manner of life, soon became an anthem of Christian defiance.

The transformation of Newton's lifestyle and morality, is just one example, though a very dramatic one, of what conversion to the Christian faith has brought to many people over the centuries. An experience first known by Jesus' disciples whose lives were radically transformed by their conviction that He had been raised from the dead. A conviction and an experience that has brought renewal, courage and hope to people of every generation since. This is at the heart of what Christians celebrate at Easter. Christ has been raised to life, we can be raised to new life with Him.

*Andrew*

**We invite you to join us for our  
*Holy Week & Easter Services***

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Palm Sunday April 1st</b>     | <b>10.15am</b> Palm Sunday Procession with pony from Parish<br><b>10.30am</b> Hall to church for Morning Worship for All Ages |
| <b>Maundy Thursday April 5th</b> | <b>10.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham<br><b>6.00pm</b> Benefice Eucharist (CW) at West Alvington       |
| <b>Good Friday April 6th</b>     | <b>10.00am</b> Family Service at South Milton<br><b>2.00pm</b> Last Hour Devotion   |
| <b>Easter Day April 8th</b>      | <b>8.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) with hymns<br><b>11.10am</b> Easter Day Family Communion (CW)                              |

*All services are at Thurlestone Church, unless indicated otherwise*



# All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Peter Williams 853787

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

## Church Services

### Sundays

Every Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> BCP, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> CW)
April 15, May 20	11.10am Family Communion (CW)
April 22, 29, May 27	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)
May 6	11.10am Morning Worship for All Ages
May 13	3.00pm Benefice Rogation Service at S.Milton (no service at 11.10am)

### Thursdays

April 5, May 3	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham
----------------	---

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

For *Holy Week & Easter Services* (April 1-8) see overleaf

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

<b>MONS. &amp; WEDS.</b>	<b>10.30am</b> Coffee-Time in aid of monthly charity
<b>FRIDAY MAY 4</b>	<b>12.30pm</b> Soup & Ploughman's Lunch (N.B. No Ploughman's in April)
<b>OTHER FRIDAYS</b>	<b>12.30pm</b> Lunch Club for those living alone - Please book on 560090
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>3.30pm</b> Searchlight (primary age) Contact: Liz Webb 560090
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Under 5s Contact: Scilla Grose 560375, Janet Fraser 562417

**Films for All**  
3.00 p.m.

**TUESDAYS APRIL 10TH**  
*The Chronicles of Narnia*  
*The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*



**MAY 15TH**  
*The Queen*  
**JUNE 5TH** *Miss Potter*

Donations to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People & Meeting Room Expenses ~ More information 560078

Lifts can be arranged to Coffee-Time, Ploughman's, Lunch Club & Films for All



Don't forget to enter your photos by **May 1st** for the

## Photographic Competition

to choose 12 photos of the Parish  
(Thurlestone with Buckland & Bantham)  
for a **2008 Parish Calendar**

50p/entry *in aid of church & churchyard maintenance*  
Entry forms available in back of Thurlestone Church, Church Meeting Room, Bantham/Thurlestone Shop, Sloop Inn or from Liz Webb (560090)

The winning photographs will be chosen by the public at a

## Photographic Exhibition

**June 1st - 4th in the Church Meeting Room**

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# HORSWELL DIARY

I am left minding the shop as your usual contributor to Village Voice has taken herself off to Rajasthan on a Tiger Safari. More like a wild-goose chase says I, but no doubt everything will be revealed in the next issue.

The dogs and myself duly delivered her to her rendezvous in Oxfordshire. On the way back we briefly called on my mother-in-law and her companion, Marjorie. The result was that we came back with our car loaded to the gunnels with tins of rock-cakes (a truism) and pre-prepared meals all labelled with full instructions. I was touched by their concern for our joint welfare during the absence of the mumsahib. Little do they realise that actually I am the finest opener of baked-bean tins and am truly an expert at boiling eggs.

On the drive back from Oxfordshire to Devon I recollected how, as a new graduate, I lived with my employer and his family in the Potteries, and how Hilda, the wife of my employer, used to take herself and her mother off to her caravan at Rhyl for anything from a month to six weeks. The very next morning after their departure, we lads were summoned to the breakfast table by her husband, Sam.

Sam was used to giving orders and there was no beating about the bush. *'Now lads, as you know Hilda is going to be away for a few weeks and you have got to learn to live off the country, so I have drawn up a roster. Lionel, (his son) on Monday evening you call on Mrs Tunnicliffe, and Michael, you go and see our Mrs Johnstone. Furthermore, lads, do not forget to take some flowers. I see they have some wonderful wallflowers growing in Trentham Gardens and they won't miss a few.'*

Over the weeks we rang the changes and I gather that Mrs Johnstone referred to me as *'Ee, that poor starving lad from down south'*. At the end of six weeks Harry

Ramsden was able to declare an unprecedented dividend. (Fast-track fifty years on and I am led to believe that Mrs Johnstone seems to have changed her name to Mrs Mackay!)

I am aware that as one reaches the Biblical allotted span one does tend to look back rather than to the future, and this is something that I am, quite rightly, criticised for....but which actually I think is perfectly natural. Shakespeare got it so right in describing the Seven Ages of Man. Surely it is better to remember "And then the lover, sighing like a furnace/With woeful ballad made to his mistress' eyebrow" rather than looking forward to "Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything". Fortunately my eyes are good and so are my teeth, courtesy of the NHS, so there is hope. Enough said, I think.

As a boy I was enthralled by the stories of the experiences in the First World War, as told by my father and uncles, even if at times there was a little poetic licence. For example, father captured Baghdad with a few Gurkhas in March 1917, with some help from a chap called General Allenby. Uncle Bill won the MC at Gallipoli because he said at the end of the battle he was the only officer left alive in his battalion, and they were going to pin a medal on someone. Uncle Jack Newell, who never rose above the rank of corporal, always prefaced his stories by saying *'The General sent for me and said Newell.....'*. This was actually true because Uncle Jack was one of the General's batmen. Today, reminiscences are perhaps irritating, and not looked on kindly, especially by the young. Perhaps it is just as well that the postman has just delivered a communication from the Alzheimers Society, which is a timely reminder that I should stick to my brief.

The countryside is absolutely glorious at this moment, and I cannot help but feel guilty that, if this is global warming I, for one, am actually enjoying it, even if there is to be a day of reckoning. Here at Horswell the



ravens are already sitting on their eggs, and the dawn chorus from the other birds is wonderful to hear. The wood pigeons are cooing, the cock-pheasants are calling from the undergrowth (we have that sort of garden), the drumming of the great spotted woodpeckers has reached an almost deafening crescendo, and at night the tawny owls are calling in the trees. The peanut feeders are still heavily patronised.

I presume all this singing and spring activity makes for hungry birds. In fact, in farming parlance, it is known as 'the hungry gap' - when winter food stocks are diminished and

the grass has not really started to grow. I am writing this sitting on a bench outside the front door, in my shirt-sleeves with the dogs stretched out on the gravel. Looking across the lawn beyond the fountain the garden looks at its best, with the daffodils and primroses, the camellias, some bluebells, and with the huge rhododendrons just showing the first flowers. It's magical.

*And then I wake from my reverie.....Oh yes, the lawns do need mowing again!*

*Michael Dart*

---

## Where have all the words gone?

In the slumbering silence, the carpeted halls listened  
to whispered assignations with lovers, texts  
students' sleeves added patina to past pens' considered phrases.  
Between them ranks of shelving guarded secrets  
a forest of fecundity, whose branches bore hidden, and forbidden fruit.  
Here ancient tomes perused themselves or, wakened,  
frowned at upstart paperbacks, ephemeral fluttering butterflies,  
and ideas flew from pages, waiting to be aired and shared.

Now we lead such internet disconnected lives:  
eyes stare at the electric glare of screens,  
drives hum, keys tap, mobile mutterings intervene  
muffling our communication with the word.  
Children, attracted by pink plastic jackets  
lured by demons' grins, lap up the puerile pap within,  
their attention spans crammed with adverts' fleeting flickers  
fuelling young desires, dulling a generation's imagination.

At night brother's lost in his Playstation reality  
Mum's living in a solitary lottery logic, gambling online,  
whilst Dad remotes to vicarious victories on Sky  
and scans the paper, trying to find news of world import.  
With no heroes or heroines to share their beds  
a late night click transports them to another playground  
where paedophiles play and slip, silent  
To groom them in their rooms.

Fiona Drye, 2006

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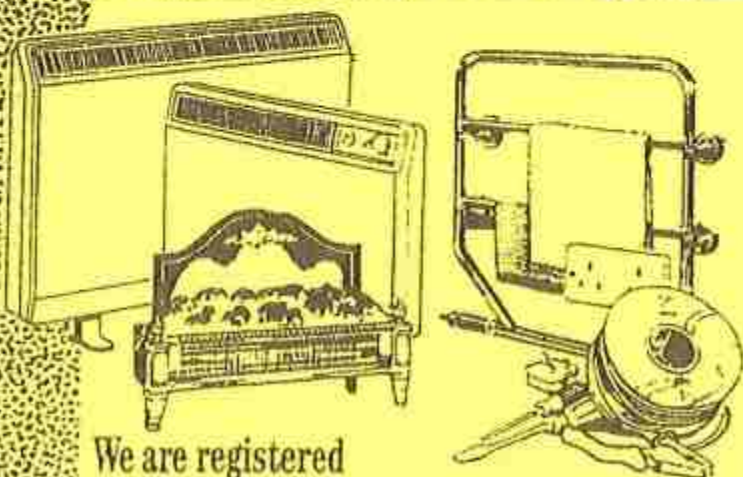
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# NEWS FROM THE WI



## FEBRUARY

Thurlestone WI entered a county general knowledge quiz and came through the first round at Ashprington with flying colours, qualifying for the finals day at Clyst St Mary. Out of 27 teams there, they won 5<sup>th</sup> place, a mere 7 points separating them from the winners, so congratulations to **Judith Le Grice, Norma Kendall, Joan Booth** and **Lisa White**

St Trinian's School was the theme for the murder mystery evening staged by the Ivybridge Players. Members seized the occasion to dress up in suitably disreputable school-type gear and enjoyed the event, particularly the delicious supper cooked by **Joan Booth**. In 1953 the WI presented two teak benches for outside the Parish Hall to commemorate the Coronation. With the passage of time, despite occasional 'doing up', one of the seats is now irreparable, so it was agreed the profit made from the St Trinian's evening could be used to help pay for a replacement.

**Dr Henry Alexander** from Bantham told us of his year as one of the first research scientists at the Royal Society's establishment on the tiny remote island of Aldabra in the vastness of the Indian Ocean. In the 1960s there was a plan afoot to turn the island into a military staging-post but luckily, owing to shortage of money, the Labour government decided not to proceed. The commentary and fascinating photographs were much enjoyed, particularly those of the unusual and uniquely Aldabran wildlife, most of which would have been wiped out had the plans proceeded. **Dr Alexander's** specialist interest was in land crabs.

## MARCH

Members felt moved when **Pat Crawford's** letter to them following her husband's death was read out by President **Karen Livett**. The speaker was **Dr Joan Golding**, standing in for Pat who was due to talk in March, but on

a very different subject to Pat's! From Joan we heard all about Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, a charity founded in 1982 to help people who are afflicted by deafness. Their disability can cause the sufferer to feel cut off, followed perhaps by loneliness and a sense of isolation. But the provision of a specially trained dog, able to alert the owner to specific sounds, can help combat these problems. As most of the dogs used are from rescue centres it has the happy dual benefit of providing a dog with a home and the deaf person with renewed confidence.

**24<sup>th</sup> March** saw the much looked forward to Oriental evening at the Parish Hall, complete with Eastern-themed entertainment and Chinese take-away supper!

We are sad to record the recent death, in Kent, of **Wyn Cousins**, a former President of our WI, after a two year illness.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**19<sup>th</sup> April** - Ten members will depart on the coach from Kingsbridge to Exeter University for the Spring Council Meeting, which is always an action-packed and enjoyable day. One of the speakers there will be **Tricia Stewart**, Miss October ("*Fruity and Full-bodied*") and the originator of the calendar produced by Yorkshire WI members on which the film *Calendar Girls* is based.

**27<sup>th</sup> April** - A WI-inspired Great Milk Debate will take place at Blackawton village hall at 10.30am, examining the plight of British dairy-farming, and in the afternoon of the same day there will be the Sea Coast Group spring meeting at Salcombe, when **Tony Beard**, the *Widcombe Wag*, will be the guest speaker at 2.30pm.

**30<sup>th</sup> April** Our newer members are invited to a tea party at Charleton village hall to meet the county chairman.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

The April meeting will commence *early* at 1.30 pm.



# South Hams Society

Spring is here, and I have returned from a lovely walk from Bolberry to Bolt Tail. Looking at the views reminded me how lucky we are to have so much of the coast cared for and preserved by the National Trust and Devon Wildlife and protected from rampant development and exploitation.

Despite the work by these charities and, more locally, by the South Hams Society, unsuitable development and dull design is still happening but may be at a slower pace. Our Planning department at Follaton House has my sympathy. Whilst local plans for areas are established and support Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Area, Development Policy Areas etc., Planning law seems to be weighted in favour of the rapacious developer.

Alongside its more 'worthy' activities, the SHS has an active social calendar:

- **Tuesday 17th April 2007** we are visiting the Avon Oyster Farm, followed by lunch at the Oyster Shack
- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July** we have a visit to

Andrews Wood, led by Gordon Waterhouse.

- In the autumn we hope to visit the Buckfast Steam Railway, have dinner at The Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove, and in December a Christmas Lunch at Riverford Organic Farm.

Our new website ([www.southhamsociety.org](http://www.southhamsociety.org)) with a Blog will have been launched at the end of March at our AGM. Blog sites seem to be a very effective way of gathering and communicating views. We look forward to hearing what people really think and want for their area. The website will contain the objectives and activities of the Society, Officers details, recent Bulletins and Society events, lists of important Planning applications (with an automatic link to the South Hams District Council website), and an application form for joining the Society.

For more information contact: **Gordon Waterhouse**, President (012548-852570), **Gordon Brownlee** (02548-843384 or e-mail [grandp.brownlee@ulonline.co.uk](mailto:grandp.brownlee@ulonline.co.uk)) or **Vivien Napper** (e-mail [vivien@rathlyn.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:vivien@rathlyn.eclipse.co.uk))

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## PICTURE OF HELIGAN FOUND!

Those who came to the January talk by Peter Stafford, Managing Director of Heligan Gardens, might like to know of a fascinating story he *didn't* relate that evening. Christies, the famous London auction house, contacted Heligan as they were due to auction a miniature portrait of the Reverend Henry Hawkins Tremayne, the squire who inherited the estate in 1766, painted by Henry Bone in 1795. Bone was born in Truro, became court painter to both George III and George IV, and exhibited at the Royal Academy.

Henry married a local heiress, who brought a third interest in the extensive Hearle estates and mining businesses, and he also inherited estates from distant relatives at both Croan and Sydenham in Devon, making him significantly wealthy and influential in Cornwall. He aspired to create a great garden at Heligan. By the 1820s his garden was maturing and acknowledged to be an impressive example of the contemporary landscape taste. He died in 1829, having

established the structural framework of the gardens as we know them today.

The portrait shows Tremayne looking towards the artist over his left shoulder and dressed in full-collared "black coat waistcoat with aubergine lining, white cravat, powdered hair" and Heligan felt this was such an important part of the estate's heritage that they must make a bid. They bought it for just under £3000, with funds from the Friends of Heligan.

To use Peter's own words "*The miniature is really delightful. It is painted with enamel on copper and the colours are as fresh as the day they were painted. It has the original frame with curved glass cover and hanging thread*" If you are interested in becoming a Friend, ring 01726-845100 or e-mail: [friends@heligan.com](mailto:friends@heligan.com) and I am sure Peter would be pleased to show the portrait to you when you are next at Heligan!

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

Easy

No. 19

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

Easy

No. 20

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

Medium

No. 19

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

Medium

No. 20

## IMPORTANT NOTE

If you want to vote on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May you must have applied BEFORE 18<sup>th</sup> April to be on the Electoral Register. Paying Council Tax does not mean that you are put on the register automatically. Towards the end of last year you should have received a household registration form to be completed and returned to the Electoral Registration Officer at South Hams District Council. (If you have not done this contact 01803-861369 or e-mail [jennybishop@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:jennybishop@southhams.gov.uk)) This information is required by law and failure to comply can result in a fine of up to £1000.



# **UNDERSTANDING SILTATION IN THE DEVONSHIRE AVON** *A Symposium organised by the Aune Conservation Association* Thurlestone Parish Hall, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007, at 10.00 am

## **PROGRAMME**

1000-1030	Arrival, coffee & video of bird life on the estuary
1030-1035	Welcome, Stuart Watts, Aune Conservation Association
<b>Session I</b>	Chairman, Professor Des Walling, University of Exeter
1035-1045	Introduction, Professor Walling
1045-1110	Our South Devon landscape in context. Roger English, S.Devon AONB
1110-1135	Avon estuary basin - a 3D survey of the tidal river bed. John Peters, ACA
1135-1150	Sedimentation processes in the Avon estuary. Dr Gerd Masselink, University of Plymouth
1150-1215	Determining the sources of the sediment in the Avon. Sam Pillidge, University of Plymouth
1215-1240	History of sedimentation and sea-level change. Dr Roland Gehrels, University of Plymouth
1240-1300	General Discussion
<b>Lunch</b>	A light buffet featuring local produce
<b>Session II</b>	Chairman, Professor Walling
1400-1500	Physical processes in the Avon estuary and the application of modelling. Dr Reg Uncles (PML Applications Ltd) Plymouth Marine Laboratory
1500-1530	Review and summing-up, Professor Walling
1530-1555	General Discussion
1555-1600	Closure - Stuart Watts



# **UNDERSTANDING SILTATION IN THE DEVONSHIRE AVON** *A Symposium organised by the Aune Conservation Association* Thurlestone Parish Hall, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007, at 10.00 am

## **REGISTRATION FORM**

**Entry to the Symposium will be restricted to those registering in advance**

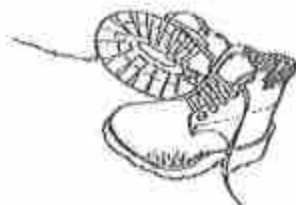
The registration fee will include morning coffee and a light buffet lunch of local produce. The cost per person is £10 (£7 for members of the Aune Conservation Association). **The deadline for registration is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007**

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Cheques should be made payable to 'Aune Conservation Association' and sent to:  
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 (01548-810373 or sdmw2@btopenworld.com).



# TRAMP



**1** It was said of our last Rambling Club that you could take them into a large field and walk around it the required number of times for the distance, and nobody would notice as they'd all be too busy chatting. So with this in mind I (note "I" and not "we") decided to make the South West Coast Path walk around Plymouth, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, into a treasure-hunt-cum-quiz, to try and make sure all the models, memorabilia and quotations were not missed.

Twelve of us, and two dogs, set off with varying degrees of enthusiasm on a bright morning (but there was a bitterly cold wind). It was an ideal walk for this time of year - avoiding the mud and walking on pavements kept the dogs' claws from needing clipping. We parked at Devil's Point, past Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's old street with its excellent architecture and many brass pavement-set quotes, past Mill Bay Docks and on to the Hoe before catching the water-taxi to Mount Batten from the Mayflower Steps. I was so relieved at this point that the usual "only taking 12 people" taxi was in for a service and a much larger ferry, capable of accommodating possibly 100 people, was in its place. I had dashed ahead, to nobble any other prospective sea-goers, unnecessarily!

On arriving at Mount Batten, a friendly 'domestic' (if there is such a thing) happened with my other half (hence the "I" not "we" at the beginning) with most of the men going around Mount Batten Island (not really - just a peninsula) one way - past yachts dry-harboured for winter and boat yard - and myself and most of the females doing it the purist way, via the fort. I had to eat humble pie as the many steps caused a problem for two of our Tramps and the men were at least five minutes quicker. We let the dogs off their leads across two fields to arrive at Jennycliff, where we only had to wait a couple of minutes for the bus. The majority of the walkers were thankful to use their bus passes - the dogs had their own aptly-named Rover ticket.

After passing the stone rhino (opposite McDonalds) and the poetry wall on Laira

Bridge, opposite American Golf, all on the second half of the SWCP, I ignored my long-suffering better-half yet again, who wanted to alight too soon, and dismounted the bus on Royal Parade where we headed up to the Hoe, but turned off before the lighthouse and, with the large crane on the horizon to head for, arrived at the Cremyll Ferry's Café Elvira which was thankfully open - being a Monday and we'd done the 'recce' on a Tuesday. In our walking gear we added to the diversity of clientele for one of its famous all-day breakfasts - a huge plateful with fresh mushroom for £3.85. Well sated, we found the last three clues, including the vinegar factory, and returned to Devil's Point with still lots to explore another day. One member was heard to say "It was the most interesting walk I've ever been on".

Winner of the quiz? None other than queen of the quizzes Lisa White, the decider being "In 1564 what did Sir John Hawkins ask people to keep which is relevant to Tramps today"? The answer of course GOOD COMPANY!

**PS.** An excellent publication is *Plymouth's Waterfront Walkway, a Guide to the South West Coast Path* - £2.50 from Plymouth TIC at the Barbican.

LH

**2** The leader of this walk earned the distinction of being accused, by a revered founder member, of turning TRAMPS into a Luncheon Club, the excellent lunch - which included pudding - at the Fortescue Arms at East Allington having taken just two hours. The leader maintained he was only striving to balance the day - the miles to be walked being less than normal - and therefore puddings were justified. It was actually a new walk, devised for winter conditions, being a mix of quiet roads, green lanes, footpaths and fields. It went from Bowcombe north to Bearscombe, Flear Mill and Weir Bridge to East Allington and returned via the wind farm site at Goveton and Buckland Tout-Saints.

RP



**3** We had a very good turnout of eighteen walkers on 20<sup>th</sup> February for a circular walk to and from Bigbury via Bigbury-on-Sea, Challaborough, Black Stone and Ringmore. We parked at the Royal Oak, walked down the hill towards Bigbury-on-Sea and up the other side of the valley, the first of three short climbs to exercise hearts and lungs.

Just past Tapfield Cross we turned right on to the footpath which led to the top end of Bigbury-on-Sea, giving us excellent views of Burgh Island and the sand spit. Turning right along Ringmore Drive, and right at the end on to the coast path, led us to Challaborough. After a comfort break in the caravan park, we rejoined the coastal path to Black Stone. At the top of the rise we stopped to admire the view, still magnificent despite the inclement weather.

I had been told by a long-standing member of TRAMP that it was always a good idea to have a point of interest and we discovered that Challaborough beach is a favourite departure point for divers wishing to visit the wreck of the *Persier*, an armed Belgian merchant steamer, torpedoed by UB 1017 in February 1945. Sadly lives were lost only because the propeller cut through two full lifeboats.

Turning right inland brought us to Ringmore, a long-established and affluent village where, in 1831, the living was worth £309. We walked round the bend past the church and then turned right on to a footpath which took us to the top of the field, and then left along the ridge. A right and left turn brought us back on to the main road and back down to the Royal Oak.

We were joined by our own Rector for an excellent lunch and several members enjoyed the Tuesday special "Over 60s" 2 course meal for just £4.00! This walk (4.5 miles) can be easily followed using the Ordnance Survey map OL20.

WG

**4** Eighteen walkers and two black Labradors turned out for an extra short walk arranged to take advantage of the 'Daily Telegraph' £5 two-course meal offer on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The walk was centred on the Hunters Lodge Inn at Cornworthy.

Our convoy of five cars arrived just as some surprised guests were loading their car with young children, but they were soon on their way and we were able to enter the car park. The junior dog made off with someone's sock, but this was soon coaxed from her and we set off without further delay.

The weather was beautiful and walking along Bow Creek to Tuckenhay was a delight, culminating in a noisy courting display by a pair of greylag geese. We set off uphill, first along a well-defined track and then across fields, until we reached the lane leading back down to the village. The Inn was most welcoming, having laid up a self-contained section of the dining area for us. The meal was excellent value and concluded a popular extra event.

TW

**5** Eight walkers and a black Labrador joined up with four more walkers and three sheepdogs at Norsworthy Bridge on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007, for a walk in the area round Burrator Reservoir. After some wet and cold days we were very lucky to have a dry, warm, sunny day. Shortly after starting, the leaders had arranged alternative routes for the group. A group of eight, plus all the dogs made the 140 m steep ascent of Sheeps Tor to enjoy the 360° views over moor, forest, reservoir and sea. It was a crystal clear day and well worth the effort. The other four skirted the foot of the Tor, the groups rejoining at the church in Sheepstor village.

The church is notable as the burial place of the Brookes of Sarawak. Three generations of this remarkable British family had ruled Sarawak between 1841 and 1965, the first of whom, James Brooke, was made their Rajah after pledging to help the local population overcome the problems of inter-tribal warfare, piracy, head-hunting and slavery. He retired to a house in Burrator in 1859.

Onwards through woods, field, and across stepping-stones, the group reached the Royal Oak at Meavy for an excellent lunch, which was taken outside in the sunshine. The afternoon brought a walk along a leat and then a road walk along the north shore of the reservoir back to the cars. Next time we resolved to return and explore the area north of the reservoir, which looked equally interesting.

TW

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## **TRAMPS SCHEDULE FROM MAY TO JULY 2007**

Long walks (6-8 miles) in bold    Short walks (3-5 miles) in lighter type

Date	Walk	Leaders	Phone Numbers
Thurs 3 May	Tba	Derek & Sally Yeoman	01395-232618
Tues 15 May	Coleton Fishacre	Maureen Baker	01548-60537
		Jenny Sherrington	01548-561943
Tues 22 May	Avon Mill	Lisa White	01548-560505
Fri 1 June	<b>W Portlemouth &amp; Lower Soar</b>	<b>Lynn &amp; Derek Mansell</b>	<b>01622-892425</b>
Tues 5 June	East Prawle (No 52)	Wendy Gornall	01548-560333
Sat 9 June	Stepping Stones	<b>David &amp; Madeleine Radford</b>	<b>01548-560867</b>
Mon 18 June	Snapes Point	Lisa White	01548-560505
Wed 27 June	<b>Grimpound (No 31)</b>	<b>Tony &amp; Sheila Ward</b>	<b>01548-560544</b>
Wed 4 July	Bolberry/supper	Tricia Wilson	01548-561328
Wed 11 July	<b>Wembury (No 6)</b>	<b>Rosemary Mackay</b>	<b>01548-560758</b>
Fri 20 July	Higher Lutton	John & Christine Wilson	01752-872775
Wed 25 July	Avonwick	Tricia Wilson	01548-561328



## NORTON BROOK PATIENTS SUPPORT GROUP

This was formed in 1996 at the old Kingsbridge Health Centre, above the Library, to provide equipment and facilities not supplied for patients by the National Health Service. In 1999, after the move to the new premises at Norton Brook Medical Centre, a patient transport system was inaugurated which now provides a valuable facility for all patients registered with the practice at Norton Brook. The car/telephone services are run by volunteers and transport can be provided to the Norton Brook Medical Centre, South Hams Hospital, dentists, chiropodists and opticians. The transport office phone number is 01548-856490, and is manned by volunteers on Mondays to Fridays from 8.30am to 11.30am, with an answer-phone service outside these hours. Donations towards running costs are welcome. The charge for journeys is 40p per mile.

The patients group would welcome anyone who could spare some time to help on the days mentioned above; also with organising fund-raising and with new ideas and enthusiasm! You may like to have a note of two events coming up.

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Cake & Plant Sale at Norton Brook, from 10 - noon**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May, Car Boot Sale at Kingsbridge Quay, from 9.00 am**

We would be *most* grateful for any goods readers can spare for these events.

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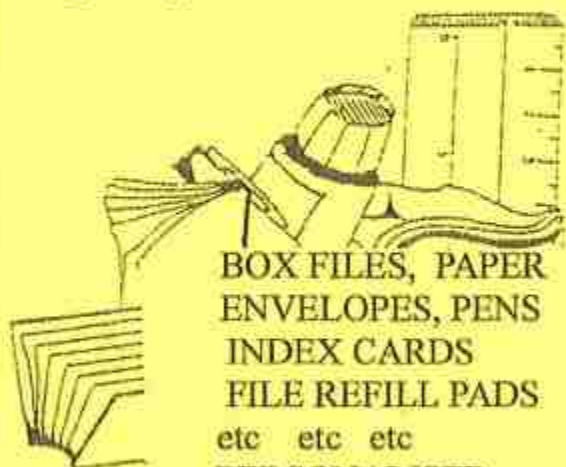
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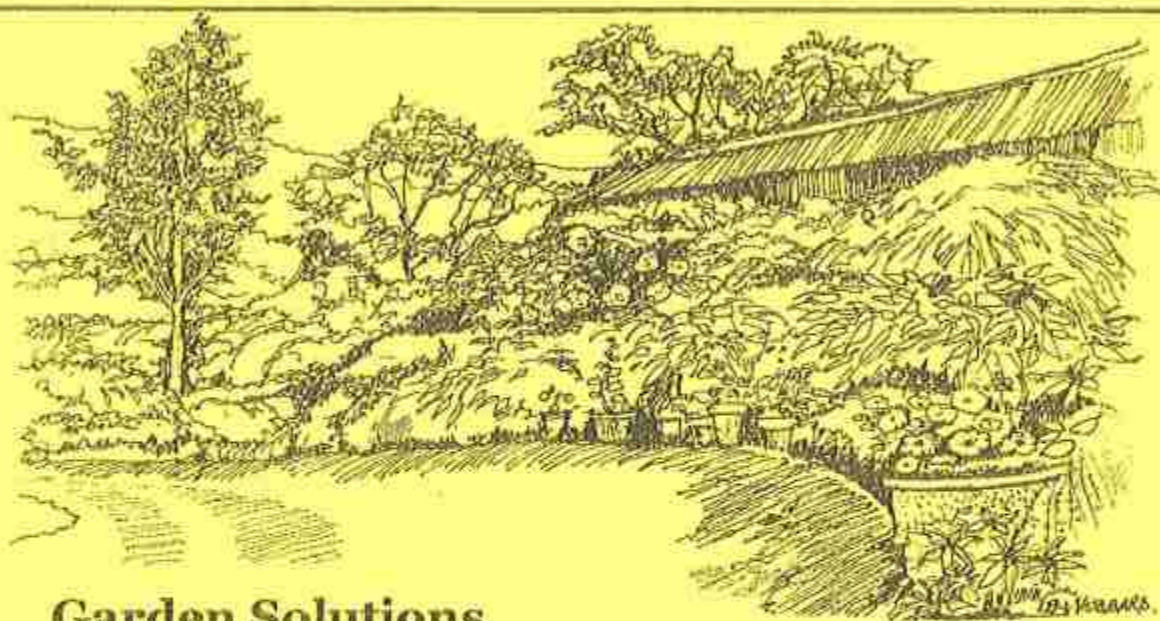


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# BOOKSHELF

## Untold Stories

by Alan Bennett  
(Faber & Faber £9.99)

This book is a mixture of autobiography, his diaries, excerpts and reminiscences from his lectures, plays and other writings, told simply by Alan Bennett. He is able to describe everyday events most entertainingly as well as the grander moments of his life after he became well-known and often rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous. There is much humour which, although mostly gentle, is sometimes biting and pitilessly observed. But for all that he comes through as humane and self-aware.

*Untold Stories* was started when he was convalescing after cancer treatment, and was intended to be, in the author's own words, "chatty reminiscences". It is certainly that and such a lot more. Every one of the 627 pages that make up the book is enjoyable to read!

PM

## Never Let Me Go

by Kazuo Ishiguro  
(Faber & Faber £7.99)

This is written by a Japanese author who was born in England, and is both haunting and simultaneously sinister. The narrative is set in England of recent times but obviously began in the nineteen fifties or early sixties.

The story is related by Kathy H, who is now thirty-one and is a "carer". This is not the country we recognise from Kathy's early days at Hailsham School until the final denouement. *We* realise immediately that these children are very different as they have no families - only members of staff known as guardians. It soon becomes clear what these children have been created for, and none of them can escape their destiny.

This is a strange and moving tale, well written

and at times beautiful. The characters are entirely convincing but I really am unable to say just how I felt about it. Definitely worth reading and, if you do, please let me know what you thought!

MH

## Human Traces

by Sebastian Faulks  
(Vintage £7.99)

This author made his name with a couple of novels dealing with war and its effects on the individual. His new novel is entirely different, exploring the birth of psychiatry through the eyes and experiences of two young men from very different backgrounds.

Jacques Rebiere lives in a poverty-stricken rural area in Brittany, and Thomas Midwinter comes from middle England. Jacques has a brother considered to be mad and who is locked in the stables and Thomas has a sister who appears to have been sold off as part of a business deal.

The two young men meet at Deauville in 1880 and find an instant rapport, deciding to devote their lives to psychiatric medicine. As they grow older, their ideas and attitudes to mental illness diverge, although Jacques is now married to Sonia, Thomas's sister, and they open a clinic where Olivier, Jacques' brother, is an honoured patient.

This is a complex novel which starts well but tends to lose sight of the characterisation and become bogged down in intellectual argument.

*It contains many thought-provoking ideas but is not a novel for the faint-hearted!*

MH

[ Readers interested in other reviews of these books can find a selection by looking them up on the Amazon website. Ed]

# Grey Matter

## Spring fruit, flowers, herbs and spices Cryptic Quiz

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Wise old man of the garden        | 18. Travel in a straight line             |
| 2. Wed into riches                   | 19. Branding iron                         |
| 3. One in the eye for a girl         | 20. Hot stuff may be feeling the cold     |
| 4. Half of pussy's feet              | 21. Bar Miss Ford                         |
| 5. The vehicle's been towed          | 22. Steer in a hurry                      |
| 6. Mrs Langtry who lives in the dale | 23. Do ships of the desert tell porkies ? |
| 7. Pillory                           | 24. Part of a foxtrot                     |
| 8. Wise King's mark                  | 25. Dad's field                           |
| 9. Yearn for Adam's temptation       | 26. Adore getting older                   |
| 10. Citric Healer                    | 27. Regret the nasty remark               |
| 11. Sad clanger                      | 28. Dapper sign for July and August       |
| 12. Sounds like a duo                | 29. Invitation to enter                   |
| 13. The way to urge on the bird      | 30. Hope you recover soon                 |
| 14. Money maker                      | 31. No-one to dance with ?                |
| 15. Royal mug                        | 32. Take the prickly plant to Uncle's     |
| 16. Keep to this for punctuality     | 33. Part of speech for Mrs. Sharples      |
| 17. Annoying offspring               | 34. Faulty hotelier?                      |

*A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 30th April 2007.*

*Please submit entries to: 5, Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB*

*(or email [cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk](mailto:cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk))*

## Solution to last month's Crossword

### ACROSS

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 3. Patricia Scanlon | 32. Renown     |
| 10. Sliding Doors   | 33. Fat        |
| 11. Right           | 34. Yule       |
| 13. Square          | 36. Trireme    |
| 15. Cue             | 38. Window     |
| 16. Houda           | 40. Way        |
| 18. Conga           | 41. Bum        |
| 19. Drum            | 42. Iris       |
| 22. Sofa            | 44. Infatuate  |
| 24. Paul Hogan      | 47. cf         |
| 25. Sineu           | 49. Ankh       |
| 26. On              | 50. Ur         |
| 27. Ice             | 51. Cartland   |
| 28. Tense           | 54. Milkmaids  |
| 30. Fluff           | 55. Add        |
| 31. If              | 56. Flamboyant |

### DOWN

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. West Side Story     | 21. Mansfield Park |
| 2. Adieu               | 23. On             |
| 4. Annie Hall          | 29. Elf            |
| 5. Rod                 | 35. Union          |
| 6. Coo                 | 39. Emma           |
| 7. Aisle               | 41. Be             |
| 8. American Graffiti   | 43. Randy          |
| 9. Northanger Abbey    | 45. Full           |
| 12. Gone with the Wind | 46. Avid           |
| 14. Out of Africa      | 48. Flab           |
| 15. Casablanca         | 52. Ria            |
| 17. Basic Instinct     | 53. Ado            |
| 20. Upon               |                    |

Anagram:  
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# HARRY HUGGINS IS OUT FOR THE COUNT

Early in 2007 a heavy little tome thumped on to our doormat - an annual thing called *Waterbirds in the UK*, this one for 2004/5. It covers one year - its year runs from July to June because most of the birds involved are in Britain only in winter; in summer they are in far-away breeding places. It is a history book, yes, but so is any report. It records birds counted at about 2000 sites, in what they call the Wetland Bird Survey, WeBS for short. The prime movers are the British Trust for Ornithology and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The RSPB and a few others also have fingers in the pie.

I suppose you can say that people who work at places like WWT Slimbridge and RSPB Minsmere are paid because they count as part of their official duties. However, most of the 3000 or so counters are birders like us, who get no pay and no expenses. Each, however, gets a copy of the book - price £30.00 - for free. The places covered are estuaries, rivers, inland lakes like Roadford, anywhere in fact where water birds might congregate.

We counted on the Erme estuary from 1983 until March 2005, by which time we decided that I, for one, was too feeble to continue. You could count just in winter months, September to March. You didn't need to do it all year round, but we did. You didn't have to count gulls, but we did. The Erme estuary is a pleasant place to count. We did about a mile and a half of the west bank, where it widens into a basin frequented by most of the birds. There are hard roads to walk on, and it is sheltered by trees, so much so that you cannot see the water in places, especially towards the river mouth, so we never went there.

We often expressed our sympathy for the hardy souls doing the Exe estuary. The bit we know best runs from Powderham to Turf. You park near Powderham church (but if you do it on a Sunday you get a flea in your car from the church-wardens) and walk along the sea wall towards Turf. It is always draughty, usually muddy, and the birds are apt to be a long way away. At least if you do it often you know where

to look - like when Rod Lawrence does the commentary for the bird-watching trips which Stuart Line do from Exmouth. He could do it in his sleep, the birds are always in the same places.

The object of such exercises is to maintain, over a long period, a record of what birds are where, so that if for example they talk of putting a dam across the Salcombe estuary, people will know what birds will be displaced - and can yell accordingly. What are counted are water birds - divers, cormorants, herons, swans, geese, ducks, waders, gulls, terns, kingfisher. It includes Woodcocks, which you don't think of as water birds, but they are closely related to the snipes, which are. They live in damp, wooded places. We have seen the odd one below the Thurstlestone Hotel golf course, and Bob Burrage called to see us once when we were out, but he found a Woodcock in our garden. In spring the males do what they call 'roding' at dusk - flying around on stiff wings, croaking. I was surprised to read that the wetland bird survey counters had found some - they are probably not uncommon, especially in winter, but seldom seen.

You need a good dog to find one - hence Cocker spaniels. When I was a late teenager we had one of these - a golden one - given to my father when she was two. Her name was 'Precious'. When she came to us my mother said we would call her 'Tessa' but 'Precious' would have none of it, and 'Precious' she remained. It was all right for me, I could whistle to her, but my father could not whistle and had to call her by name. It was a bit comical as he was a rather stiff-looking bank manager. But she was a wonderful gun dog and he was always welcome at shooting parties, even though she did pick up everyone's rabbits and take them to him. She caught nearly as much game as he shot - partridges and the odd pheasant, and of course rabbits. She never chased anything, but knew that animals and birds in bushes or tall-growing crops would often sit tight and hope a dog would not notice them. She scented them and we often heard a wild scream from a rabbit as it was seized.

A proper gun dog has a tender mouth and never harms anything it has picked up. They talk about nature versus nurture. For a gun dog nature is what it is. You cannot teach a dog to have a soft mouth, it has to be born with it. You cannot teach a dog to retrieve, just perhaps to do it a little better. And you certainly cannot teach a dog to hunt. 'Precious' just did it of her own accord. Oddly, as she grew in experience, anything she brought was always dead when she got it to us - never a mark on it, but she was tiny, little bigger than a rabbit, and to cope with a struggling animal she squeezed it just enough to make it go quiet.

We took over the count on the Erme from one Dorothy Yoxall, who lived in Flete House, run then as a retirement home. She had been a dispenser and a school marm - in what order I do not know - but most meticulous is what she was. Owing to failing health she had done her counting from a motorised buggy. There are good estate roads all the way from Flete House to near the mouth of the river, though she could not go very far towards the sea for fear of running out of electricity. She was accompanied by Mr Le Blanc Smith, also a Flete resident, who worried about her going to all those woods by herself (though what protection he would have been against a robber or rapist - the latter very unlikely - I do not know). They are both dead now.

On the Sunday on which we were to take over, we collected them at Flete House at 10am (too late, but they didn't have breakfast until 9am). They had to show us where to go and we drove through Holbeton and down the little lane to the top of the estuary. All counts are supposed to be done on the same Sunday each month, notified in advance; otherwise birds might move from one site to another and get counted twice. Dorothy was insistent on going on the right day, and that we all agreed the figures for the birds that we counted. It doesn't seem to matter much to me whether you see 59 or 61 of something - there can always be the odd bird somewhere where you cannot see it.

Gordon Waterhouse, who has counted the Kingsbridge estuary since time immemorial, said that the wildfowlers once told him how many Teal they had shot, which figure was way above what Gordon and his team had counted. And there were still plenty left. His playmate, Bryan

Ashby, told me that on one occasion, to check the number of Golden Plovers they counted, he photographed them as they stood in a flock (you can do that with Golden Plovers, they don't spread out so much as some birds do). He enlarged the picture (this was in the days before digital cameras and things) and counted the plovers. There were far more than ever they had counted. So what to do? They went on counting as they had always done.

So we agreed our figures (I pretended to do so). At that point Dorothy was still the boss and bossing was something she was good at. The problem was, having been taken to the estuary in our car, she thought it would be rather nice to continue counting. We felt it wouldn't be kind just to kick her in the teeth and say she was redundant; it took us some months and some cold weather to ease her out. When we did it by ourselves we chose any day but a Sunday. On Sundays there were likely to be people wandering about on the estate roads - the estuary is quite narrow and the birds easily frightened. Also when we had finished we liked to go to a suitable watering-hole for a warm-up and a snack and on Sundays watering-holes were apt to be full of Sunday lunchers.

June counted - she is better at it than I am. Counting birds is not always easy; outside our bedroom window we have a crab apple tree with three feeders holding seeds. During the last winter this tree has been a favourite of up to twenty Goldfinches and to count them has been most difficult as they dance about among the branches. Though as I write this it is getting easier to count - their numbers are reducing because a most beautiful male Sparrowhawk has also found the tree and sits in it until they come. No, we don't chase him away. When we lived in East Anglia we never saw one - farm pesticides had wiped them out - and so now we like to see him.

As well as counting, June noted the numbers in a little book. Quite easy, except when it was raining, when it was a problem to handle binoculars, book, pencil and an umbrella. My tasks were to carry the telescope, try to identify something unusual, sometimes gulls if there were a lot and (when we had one) hold the dog's lead. Mr Mildmay White, who owns it all, was quite insistent on no dogs without being on leads and no cars as he didn't want someone's Fido chasing



his pheasants and foxes. When we got home I transferred June's figures to the bird diary and, once every six months, sent in a form with the details to the county organiser. He sent in all he collected to the British Trust for Ornithology at Thetford. Professional data producers were employed to key in the figures (two separate ones, so errors in keying would be apparent), then the BTO people compiled all the comments, comparisons etc, and the book appeared. It took about a year. I would have thought it would have taken much longer.

A typical count - this one for 18<sup>th</sup> February 2005 - which began at 9.15am and finished at 11am was: 3 Little Grebes, 6 Little Egrets, 1 Heron, 1 Mute Swan, 48 Wigeons, 5 Teals, 28 Mallards, 10 Oystercatchers, 33 Curlews, and two each of Shelducks, Greenshanks and Common Sandpipers, plus some gulls. A rarity, especially at that time of the year, was a Wood Sandpiper. Those were the waterbirds, which June did, while I kept a note of what was in the trees beside the estuary - Jay, Goldcrests, etc.

When you do this counting you don't see everything - we had a friend who lived at Kingston and looked at the estuary from the east bank (ours was the west). He was apt to tell us that he found more birds than we did. And folk sometimes told us about some rarity which had been on the river the day before our count. We ignored all that - rarities don't tell you the long-term trend and that is what we were interested in.

The people who organise the counting arrange for it to be done at, or near, high water. Most water birds feed on mudflats or other places covered at high water. When they get washed off by the rising tide they come in to roost on higher ground where you can count them if you are good at assessing the number of 500 or maybe 1000 waders all standing shoulder-to-shoulder. At low water they are spread out over maybe a wide area and on somewhere like the Exe estuary are quite impossible to count. On the Erme, however, at high tide the birds disappeared into the woods or to other places where we could not see them, which is why we went at low water, or preferably as the tide was flooding, moving up any birds which were down by the river mouth.

In the case of some birds you have little difficulty in counting them all, well, most of

them. For example, during the winter 2006/7 we have had a small flock of Wigeons in the Thurlstone valley; mostly they keep together and you can count them, usually about sixty or so. If you want to know the precise figure, ask Arthur. But some birds are elusive, Water Rail for one. That is a little thing which lives in reed beds and skulks. In fact it's a murderous little thing. When we went to Eilat, in Israel, and visited the bird-ringing station they were trying to trap a Water Rail which persisted in attacking the birds in their trapping nets before they could get them out. You don't usually see Water Rails, you hear them - a noise which is likened to that of a pig being killed. Jack Snipe is another elusive bird ('Jack' meaning little because it is smaller than the other snipes). Unlike a Common Snipe - which flies up, zig-zagging, when flushed out and goes for miles - Jack Snipe sits in low foliage until you nearly put your foot on it, whereupon it flutters a hundred yards and settles in more low foliage.

The book has a list of locations referred to in the text. The Avon estuary - seven Greenshanks there. The Erme gets a mention also but, try as I might, the only reference I can find is one small black dot on the map showing where it is.

At Christmas we went to Slimbridge as usual. Outside the centre the fields were flooded, not entirely, there was still a lot of grass, but huge puddles as well. There were Wigeons. On the notice-board it said around 8000. The book quotes a maximum for the Somerset Levels in the winter of 2004/5 of 15,000, this being little more than half of the usual winter figure. The maximum for the Ribble estuary was just in excess of 86,000. It puts our 48 on the Erme into perspective! Here at Thurlstone this winter we have seen a maximum of 4 Lapwings (maybe Arthur has seen more). At Slimbridge there were more than 15,000 (the sky looked dark with them at times). The figure for the Somerset Levels for the winter of 2004/5 was just over 60,000.

*We enjoyed doing our counts on the Erme estuary and what we did must have helped the overall coverage of the survey.....even though our contribution amounted really to no more than that little dot on the map!*

**Harry Huggins**



As Spring approaches we look forward to lighter food, so why not try some fish? This dish is quickly prepared and makes for easy and delicious entertaining.

## Fish Kebabs with Spring Onion Mash

### Ingredients

1½ lbs thick white fish fillet with skin removed and cut into cubes. Cod is a good choice but there are many alternatives like whiting, haddock, skate or gurnard. The firm flesh of monkfish is particularly appropriate. Your fishmonger will be able to advise you and also prepare the fish for you. You will need 4 metal or wooden skewers and lemon wedges.









#### For the marinade

6 fl. oz natural yogurt.  
1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic.  
1 teaspoon chopped ginger root.  
1 teaspoon chilli powder.  
6 cardamom pods - crushed using a pestle and mortar and the pod casings removed.  
1 teaspoon ground coriander.  
Seasoning.

#### For the Spring Onion Mash with fresh coriander

6 - 8 large potatoes. Floury ones like *King Edward* or *Maris Piper* are best.  
¼ pt crème fraîche.  
4 tablespoons finely chopped coriander - parsley is also suitable, especially the flat leaf variety.  
6 spring onions thinly sliced.  
salt & pepper.

### Preparation

-  Place the fish in a large dish (do not use metal)
-  Mix all the marinade ingredients and coat the fish well.
-  Cover and leave aside
-  Peel and cut the potatoes into small chunks. Place in lightly boiling water for about 10 minutes until tender. Drain and return to the pan.
-  Mash the potatoes with an ordinary old fashioned masher until smooth (electric beaters toughen the mash).
-  Add crème fraîche then stir in coriander/parsley and spring onions. Season, cover and keep hot.
-  Heat grill using hottest setting
-  Thread cubes of fish on to skewers and grill for approximately 8 minutes turning once

Serve immediately with the Spring Onion Mash and garnish with lemon wedges. A green salad will make an excellent accompaniment. Have a very happy Easter.



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# THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



## CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

In this, my first newsletter, I would like to introduce myself to Thurlestone readers. My name is **Nigel Holland** and I have been given the honour of being Club Captain of Thurlestone Golf Club as from the 110th AGM which took place on Saturday 3rd March 2007. I follow in the footsteps of **Alec Esplin** and take this opportunity to thank him and his wife Sue for a very enjoyable year during his captaincy - I wish them both a well-deserved rest and I hope they can now enjoy some relaxed time together after all their hard work.

My vice-captain is **Roger Hind** and I welcome him to the General Committee and look forward to working with him. This is also an opportunity to thank the Ladies' Captain, **Pam Ledger**, for making me feel so welcome and for her support in helping me put forward our Golf and Social events for the coming season. Congratulations also go to **Marc Lepere** as the Tennis Committee Chairman and **Ann Best** as Membership Chairman. I welcome them both to the General Committee.

As Chairman of the Greens Committee last year, a role I am continuing with this year, I would like to make a very special vote of thanks to the "Green Staff", for it was their hard work under the leadership of **Vic Dyer** that made me proud to be a member of Thurlestone Golf Club. Their efforts in presenting the course to such a high standard throughout all conditions, restored our well-deserved reputation and made Thurlestone such a pleasurable golfing experience for all.

On the golfing side, my first match on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March was something of a damp squib - it had to be cancelled due to torrential rain! However, with the onset of the lighter evenings and, we hope, finer weather, Pam and I are looking to continue with as many

of the competitions and social functions that took place last year as we can; we also plan to reintroduce the monthly mixed "Captains' Dinner and Golf evenings" and so continue the successful golf/social evenings of the past. My first major golfing event of the year will be "The Captains Drive In" on 1<sup>st</sup> April. This will be continuing the tradition started last year and will be combined with a "Fun Day" for our joint charity.

My chosen charity for the year will be the same as that of the Ladies' Captain - "The Children's Hospice South West" - a charity local to the area. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nick Walker of Nick Walker Printing, Kingsbridge, in helping us promote our charity events.

In my next newsletter I plan to give you more reports about the golfing competitions. Let's hope that our Palairret team have another successful season, despite being narrowly defeated last year at the quarter-final stage, losing to Churston. This year we will be electing a new Palairret team captain as we will be losing **Keith Crawford** who has held this title for the past three years. Thank you, Keith, for all that you have done during this time.

I hope this has given you a brief insight into what we believe will be a very enjoyable year's golf ahead. I leave you with a final thought from my Captain's speech from the AGM and that is to wish all members a happy and successful year's golf. I would urge you all to support the club at every opportunity, whether by entering competitions, or through our excellent social events run by **Nick Nicholson**, **John Jacobs** and the House Committee, supported so well by the excellent catering from **Duncan** and **Sarah Prowse**.

*We have a course and club of which we can be proud. Let's make the most of them in 2007!*

**Nigel Holland**



## LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Oh dear! The weather has really not been at its best over the past couple of months with heavy rain and storms in evidence, however most of our Wednesday competitions were able to be played, except for the first medal of the season in February. January saw the finals of the Winter Foursomes matchplay event with **Mary Tregelles** and **Midge Henderson** triumphing over **Ann Best** and **Pam Ledger** on the eighteenth green – a most enjoyable and hard fought match.

The January Greensome Stableford which is played in partnership with another player was won by **Trish Cooper** and **Pam Ledger** on countback from **Jacqui Tillott** and **Jenny Underhill** with both pairs scoring 33 points. The February club morning where the competition is played over nine or eleven holes was a Texas Scramble, when 34 ladies participated, the winning team consisted of **Alice Foster**, **Midge Henderson**, **Jane Mason** and **Val Pearce** with a creditable score of 33.5. These competitions are always much enjoyed by the competitors with the time saved out on the course due to playing fewer holes being spent socialising in the clubhouse, always a relaxing and enjoyable activity.

Early February saw Thurlestone ladies team compete against Torquay ladies team in the first round of the *Mail on Sunday*. In truly atrocious weather with everything from heavy rain, sleet and strong winds thrown at the players and their caddies, all the players acquitted themselves very well and it was deemed a good exercise for team bonding and generating enthusiasm for playing in the teams. The eventual winners were Torquay, by four games to one. However, when the teams were able to relax over tea and cakes the sun decided to put in an appearance!

Later in February the Fielders Choice – a new competition that we introduced at the end of last year where the player takes into account their best scores on a total of nine holes – was won by both **Lesley Saffili** and **Pat Townsend** both players returning a score of 33 points each. **Jacqui Tillott** won the Captains Prize for the neatest card in the

February Stableford competition. Finally, a Veterans match, which was forced to be abandoned due to heavy storms, was followed by a ploughmans' lunch. These matches are always oversubscribed and thanks go to **Liz Evans** for her excellent organisation on these occasions.

In February the ladies Annual Luncheon was held. Fifty-one ladies enjoyed an excellent luncheon prepared by our chef **Duncan Prowse**, followed by a most interesting and interactive talk from **Sally Fisher** on her life, role as an artist and being a cartoonist for a national paper, the talk being entitled "Nurse to cartoonist in thirty years".

Finally I would like to welcome our new Club Captain **Nigel Holland** who took over from **Alec Esplin** at the Club Annual General Meeting on March 3rd 2007, and thank **Alec** for all his help and wish him well now that he will have so much more free time. I am looking forward to a great year working with **Nigel**. Let us hope that all the spring sunshine is on the way.

Pam Ledger

## JUNIORS' SECTION NEWSLETTER

This year we have been holding both boys and girls competitions once a month at Thurlestone. They have been Stableford singles competitions or Adult and Junior competitions. Usually about 14 juniors take part and some have already reduced their handicaps.

On Saturday 17th March, Thurlestone held the first Adult and Junior foursome competition of the year. Fourteen juniors and ten adults took part so, as we were short of four adults, some juniors had their own singles competitions. The competition was held over 9 holes as conditions were very cold and windy. The results were -

(Men and juniors) 1<sup>st</sup> **Abi Edmonds** with **Darrel Day** 18 points on countback from **Toby Pepperell** and **Steve Pepperell**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tom Leach** with **Roger Leach**, 4<sup>th</sup> **Stuart Tollins** with **Callum Tollins**. (Ladies and juniors) 1<sup>st</sup> **Hannah Clark** with **Liz Sharman** 12 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> **Lottie Holland**

with **Liz Line** 9 points on countback from **Claire Harrison** and **Kath Saunders**, 4<sup>th</sup> **Tim Fenton-Jones** with **Pam Adams**. (Boys singles) 1<sup>st</sup> **Jamie Johnston** 20 points, from **Robert Came** 19 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> **Lewis Durrant** 16 points. (Girls singles) 1<sup>st</sup> **Becci Collacott** 12 points, from **Emma Adams**, and **Grace Collacott**.

We also have free coaching sessions arranged with **Andy Pye** the assistant professional at Thurlestone. The first session is on Sunday 26th March, from 1.00 - 3.00 pm. Please contact Andy at the Pro Shop if you would like to be included in the coaching.

Andy also has an extensive programme of lessons and coaching planned for the Easter holiday.

After Easter we will be starting the Monday evening junior competitions. **Jackson Day** the Junior organiser will be sending out letters to all junior members. **Jeremy Taylor**, Junior Team Captain will soon be selecting the juniors for the club team as matches against other clubs will be starting in May. There are a number of Junior Opens that can be entered this year. The folder is in the entrance to the clubhouse.

All the dates of the junior competitions are in the diary this year and juniors should sign up on the notice board in the clubhouse.

**Liz Line**

## TENNIS SECTION NEWS

All members received in February the first issue of the new Thurlestone Tennis - 2007 newsletter. We reproduce here a couple of extracts which may also be of interest to non-tennis playing readers.

**Thurlestone Grass Court Veterans**  
*The LTA have chosen Thurlestone as the venue for a new Veterans event taking place on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> July*

This will be one of only very few LTA events outside the South-East and is something of a coup for the club. The LTA are especially drawn to our grass courts - so much so that

they have chosen to call it the "Thurlestone Grass Court Veterans". It is a credit to **Vic Dyer** and all his groundsmen, and to "Henry Junior" (a specially designed grass court mower purchased this spring - thanks to **Nigel Holland** and the Grounds Committee for the funding) on the improvements to the playing surfaces and also the surrounding areas.

The tournament is expected to involve three days of competitions for men and women, singles and doubles over 45s, over 50s, and over 60s. The LTA are hoping the event will carry international ranking points in the future. Importantly, from the Club's point of view, it will bring in additional bar and restaurant custom as well as increased tennis income. It will also be good for the village and surrounding areas as many of the contestants are expected to come from outside the South Hams.

### **Ilbert Road**

Rumours that the courts on Ilbert Road were going to be disposed of for redevelopment purposes have now been formally rebutted.

Assurances have been given in writing by the Club Treasurer on behalf of the General Committee that there is no such intention. A local planning consultant has advised that the area is outside the development area which stops at "Dormers" and that the field was unlikely to receive any permission for change of use, even sporting use.

A full copy of the Club Treasurer's letter has been posted on the Tennis notice board and is also available from  
[marclepere@msn.com](mailto:marclepere@msn.com)

Members can also be re-assured by Club Rule 6.1 to the effect that "no land may be sold or otherwise disposed of without the sanction of members at a Special General Meeting".

### **Extra Benches**

Owing to the success of last season's appeal, we have sufficient funds to purchase two new benches. One will complete our "grandstand" above court 13. The other will go alongside court 8. Thanks again to **Roddy Hill** for organising and to everyone who contributed for your generosity.

**Marc Lepere**





# At the Bridge Table



My wife and I recently returned from a two week holiday in Tunisia with "Mr Bridge". The bridge was well organised - we had a few wins! - and was supported by excellent seminars by the bridge director, Bernard Magee. The first seminar was on the topic of what you rebid after opening the bidding and, with Bernard's permission, a summary is shown below.

In Acol as in most natural systems the opening bidder is expected to bid again if responder changes the suit. This means that when opening the bidding you should **PLAN YOUR REBID**. This can even affect your opening bids on 11 points. (See example →)

There are two basic situations: (A) Partner has **CHANGED SUIT** OR  
(B) Partner makes a **LIMIT BID** [either (i) in **SUPPORT** for your suit or (ii) in **NOTRUMPS**]

## REBIDDING after partner has CHANGED the SUIT

- 1) **SUPPORT** partner's suit (with 4-card support)
- 2) **BALANCED** - show strength (**NOTRUMP TABLE**)
- 3) **UNBALANCED** - try to show a second suit and strength if possible.

### (1) WITH SUPPORT (four cards)

Make a limit bid in response [e.g. 1♠ - 1♥]

- |       |              |    |            |
|-------|--------------|----|------------|
| 12-14 | WEAK         | 2♥ | (7 losers) |
| 15-17 | Intermediate | 3♥ | (6 losers) |
| 18-19 | STRONG       | 4♥ | (5 losers) |

♠ K Q 4 3	♠ 4 2
♥ K Q 6 4	♥ A J 9 8
♠ A J 6	♠ K Q 5 4 3
♠ A 2	♠ Q 5
1♥ - 1♠ - 4♠	1♠ - 1♥ - 2♥
Rebid to show your fit rather than in notrumps	A weak rebid - 12pts (7 losers)

### (2) WITH BALANCED HANDS

- 12-14 Open 1NT  
15-17 Open suit & rebid in **NOTRUMPS**  
18-19 Open suit & jump rebid in **NOTRUMPS**

You will notice a change in these values - many of you will play a 15-16 1NT rebid. So why 15-17? In the old system with 19 points you were supposed to rebid 3NT, but this is very cumbersome and undesirable, taking up much too much space and often misplacing the contract, now you are able to rebid 2NT and this allows for more precise bidding. (See example →)

♠ K Q 4	♠ A J 9 7 6
♥ K Q 6 4	♥ J 5 2
♠ A J 6 4	♠ 8 3
♠ A 2	♠ 7 6 5
1♥	1♠
2NT	3♥
3♠	4♠
West rebids 2NT and now East-West can bid neatly to the best game. Much better than: 1♥-1♠-3NT	

### (3) UNBALANCED HANDS (12 - 16 = WEAK & 16 - 19 = STRONG)

With sixteen point hands you have to decide whether your hand is Weak or Strong - things that help you to decide are **TENS & NINES**, **DISTRIBUTION** and the **STRENGTH** of your **SUITS**. With a weak hand you must rebid 2-of-your-first-suit or below (except when supporting).

Any rebid in a new suit above the level of two of your first bid suit shows a strong hand - this is called a **REVERSE** bid. (See examples - right)

Note however that a change of suit at the three-level after a 1-level response shows a very strong hand and should only really be used with a hand of at least 19 **TOTAL POINTS** (HCP + Length). This is because such a bid forces your partner to bid again and he could have just six points.

**SUPPORTING ON THREE CARDS** (See example - right)

When you can't bid your second suit then consider supporting partner with just three cards.

## REBIDDING after PARTNER has made a LIMIT BID

Basically it is a case of adding up! Remember that if you partner has made a weak limit bid (6-9) you should not make your normal notrump rebid - e.g. if you have 15 points you know there is no chance for game.

Over a 1NT response you should generally only consider a suit contract if you have a six card suit or you have two long suits and can show the second suit. It is important not to rebid a five-card suit over a 1NT response.

♠ A 8 4 3	♠ 5 2	♠ K Q 9 7 4	♠ 2
♥ K Q 6 4	♥ A J 9 8	♥ A 2	♥ K 7 6 4
♠ K Q 6	♠ J 5 4 3	♠ 7 6 5	♠ J 10 9 2
♠ J 2	♠ 9 6 5	♠ A 6 4	♠ Q 9 8 2
1♥ - 2♥ End West should not bid again since East has limited his hand (6-9).		1♠ - 1NT End West should pass 1NT You need a 6 card-suit or a 2 <sup>nd</sup> suit to rebid.	

## MINOR SUIT FITS

Playing **PAIRS** when you agree a minor suit, that does not set the suit like a major, in fact you should often prefer to play in **NOTRUMPS** - thus your bidding should be geared towards finding a notrump contract. 1♠ - 3♠ - 3♥. This 3♥ bid shows a stop in hearts and suggests 3NT as a contract.

♠ A Q 5 4 3  
♥ K Q 3 2  
♠ 7 6 5  
♠ 4  
1♠ - a reasonable light opening con you can rebid 2♥.  
♠ K Q 3 2  
♥ A Q 5 4 3  
♠ 7 6 5  
♠ 4  
PASS is best cos after 1♥ you will have to rebid 2♥.  
♠ A K Q 3  
♥ A K J 9 4  
♠ 4  
♠ 7 6 5  
1♥-2♥  
2♠  
With 17 pts you can 'reverse'.  
♠ A K 3 2  
♥ A J 10 9 4  
♠ 4  
♠ 7 6 5  
1♥-2♥  
2♥  
With just 12 pts you can't bid 2♠ so you rebid 2♥.  
♠ A 4  
♥ A Q 4 3 2  
♠ A 7 6 5  
♠ K 5  
1♥-1♠  
2♠  
17 points but not strong enough for a high reverse so rebid simply 2♥.  
♠ A 4  
♥ A Q 4 3  
♠ A K 9 6 5  
♠ 5  
1♥-1♠  
3♠  
18 pts & two five-card suits. Strong enough for 3♠.  
♠ K 9 4  
♥ 2  
♠ Q J 6 5  
♠ A K 7 6 4  
1♠-1♥  
2♠  
You aren't strong enough to rebid 2♥. 2♠ is a much better bid than 2♥.

My next article will review aspects of the suggested rebids and give more examples

Victor



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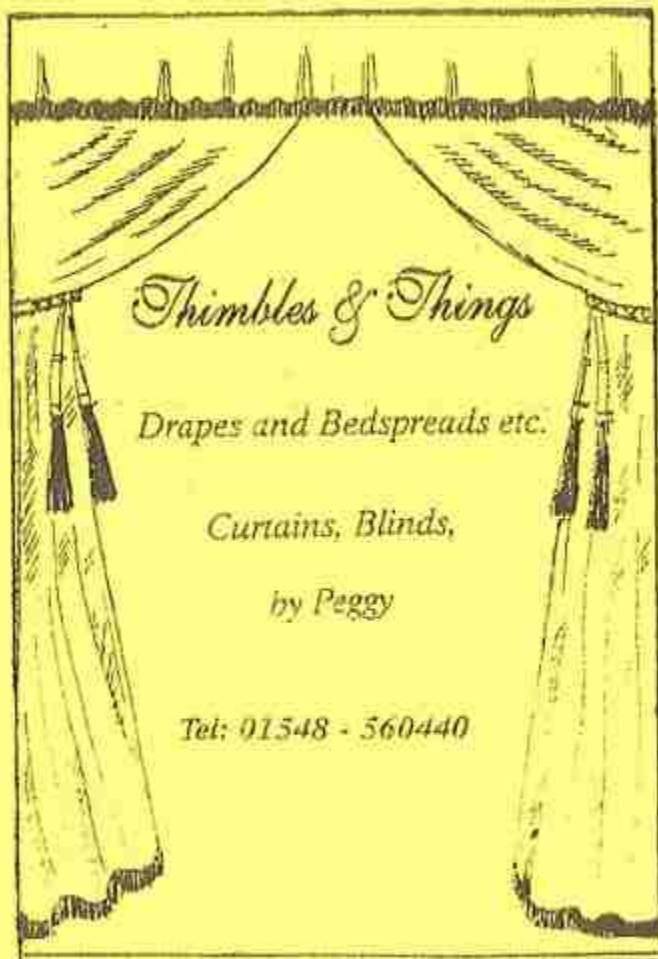
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# Daisy's Memories

## (Part One)

*We are grateful to Derrick Yeoman for drawing to our attention a memoir written by a lady who was born in Buckland in 1894. It is entitled "Life in Buckland, 1898-1909, by Daisy R. Cole" and in it she recalls from her childhood many of the houses in the parish, and their inhabitants. Daisy Cole was one of the daughters of John Ingram, the blacksmith at Bantham. She emigrated to Canada as a young woman and when aged 74 she wrote this memoir. Village Voice will be reproducing what she wrote, in instalments, over the next few issues as we feel sure readers would be interested to know a little of what life was like for some sections of our parish in former times.*

### John Ingram and his family

In the year 1898, father brought his family from Milton, his native home, to West Buckland. Here he worked at his trade as the village blacksmith and set up his forge on the site of the old Buckland Farm. This was destroyed by fire, or so we were told. We were eight children to the family - Frank, Blanche, Henry and Ethel by a former marriage of my father, and Violet, Reginald, Courtenay and myself. The cruel hand of death struck our home and three of our family - my mother, Ethel, and Reginald were laid to rest in Thurlestone churchyard within three years.

After mother's death my sister, Blanche, kept house and cared for us. I was seven years old at the time of mother's death. Time is a great healer and, with Blanche's loving care and cheerful disposition, our home once again became a happy one. Father was as honest as the day and fair to all people, asking very little pay for the heavy hard work done over the blazing forge. The whirr of the bellows and the ring of the anvil, as the gig sledge and smaller hammers came down upon it, are sounds I can never forget. No doubt similar sounds from some other anvil may have inspired Verdi's "The Anvil Chorus" in his opera *Il Trovatore*.

In the spring of 1904, father courted Mary Brinkworth, a spinster in her 40<sup>th</sup> year and engaged as cook in the home of the lord of the manor, Squire

Brunskill. A cause for repairs to the stove of the Brunskill bungalow at Thurlestone, (the bungalow was situated in the field directly opposite the church) brought about father's and Mary's acquaintance. At this knowledge, a cloud of gloom lowered upon our home and caused we children sad concern. Before their marriage, father brought Mary to visit at our home. It was on a Sunday afternoon and we children, on arriving home from Sunday School, met Mary for the first time.

We were very unhappy. Courtenay sat on the back steps and wept big tears and I, not to be outdone, sat beside him and wept, too. In the meantime, Blanche and Violet busied themselves with preparing the tea. Blanche behaved very stiffly. She had seen the handwriting on the wall and went to live in the Henry Clark home at Bantham. Violet with father - and with Blanche's good advice - carried on with the housekeeping.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> May that year father brought to our home his third wife. From then on the atmosphere within the walls changed. Mary, with no conception of family life and no love of children and domineering, set up a rigid routine to which we were unaccustomed and we became as strangers in our own home. Courtenay, being a boy, spent much of his time outdoors and whiled away hours in the shop with father, making miniature tools etc. Some of these little replicas are among his souvenirs, arranged here



and there in his home at Ladysmith. I, as a girl, was forced to spend much time in the house and I longed for the return of happy days of years past. My love for my father kept me obedient to Mary, and so time passed until I left home to be on my own and to earn my own living.

It is a strange truth that we remember so clearly the days of our childhood, while we so easily forget the happenings of yesterday. Often in my quieter moments have I, in reminiscence, brought back to mind the years long past and life at Buckland. Sometimes it seems that no bridge of time existed between then and now, and only a review of the years between, with the ups and downs and various experiences, bring reality of the passing of time. In this, my 74<sup>th</sup> year, I remember in detail every cottage and house in Thurlestone parish and all that dwelt therein - young and old, rich and poor. Between wars the villagers lived a peaceful and unchanging life. As in all places, there are those that stand out as real characters, and there are many episodes worthy of mention.

I will start these memoirs at the beginning of Brook Hill, at the edge of the village, that led to the meadows where we fished for fat-headed minnows and tadpoles, and gathered kingcups in season, made daisy chains and paddled in the stream. Here was more than once the scene of a pretty wedding. Arrayed in old lace curtains and old cast-off apparel a bride, generally my sister Violet, would sally forth with a large bouquet of wild flowers to take the solemn vow of matrimony and to receive the blessing of the officiating 'parson'. Bert Masters was called in to 'tie the knot', which he did quite ably. Courtenay filled in as 'best man' or 'husband'. Owen [Masters] and I had to be content to play a much lesser role and brought up the rear with noisy beating on tin cans, singing snatches from familiar hymns and school songs - *Men of Harlech*, "Rule Britannia" or "God Save

*the King*" - in an off key.

After the ceremony the 'forward march' was given. In single file we proceeded via the orchards to my father's trap linhay, or the loft. Here the all-important breakfast was served. The menu consisted of natural health foods such as sliced turnips, sliced apples, blackberries and whatever happened to be in season. The traditional punch was substituted with pure pump water to wash it all down. Occasionally an upset stomach resulted, but a good dose of castor oil was administered by one of our elders which put all organs functioning again in a short while.

In the narrow Monkey Lane, where grew the blue periwinkle, children would search regularly for treasures among the discards. We gathered shards for our playhouse and other items of interest, including valuable earthenware jam jars which, if sound, we exchanged for an orange with the sixpenny-halfpenny man who peddled ware in the villages whenever the spirit moved him and the weather permitted.

His visits may have been periodically arranged, but the time of his visits was not advertised beforehand, and only the rumble and jingle-jangle of the wagon proclaimed the advancement of the travelling bazaar towards the village. Whether he travelled by the clock or not, this collection of a little bit of allsorts arrived in the village during the dinner hour. A hurried round-up of jam jars took place and father, untying his rabbit skins from the beams of the loft, sold them, all dry and rattly, for twopence each. I have been told that these gipsy-like people now own half of Kingsbridge. If this be true, so much can be said for their ambitions which brought them much prosperity!

*(Part Two of Daisy's Memories will appear in the June issue of Village Voice)*

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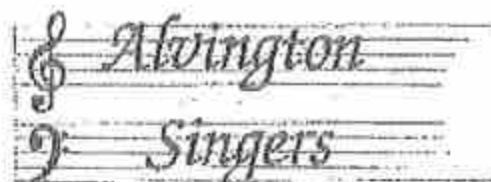
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# POSTBAG

## Dear Editor

May I thank the many kind people who sent to me and the family messages of sympathy and have given us so much support following John's recent death. These have both touched and helped to sustain us and we are so grateful to everyone.

**Pat Crawford  
Baidland  
Thurlestone**

## Dear Editor

I am writing with reference to the closing sentence of the Foreword in the last issue of *Village Voice* about supporting and sustaining our local Post Office.

At present the Post Office plan relating to the closure of rural Post Offices has not yet been published, even to the postmasters involved. Therefore it is by no means certain that Thurlestone will not be a closure target.

It is not generally known that postmasters are not Post Office employees but are self-employed. The building is owned or leased by the postmaster, not by Post Office Ltd. They don't get a fixed salary or a Post Office pension and have to pay the office expenses like electricity and business rates. All they get is a small fee for every individual transaction they do, a fee for each stamp sold, for each licence issued or each cash payment made - everything counts. It is obvious, therefore, that since the government has seen fit to remove much of the work they used to do, it is perfectly possible for them to keep the office open but starve it to death.

Those Post Offices that have already had to close were not closed by Post Office Ltd. or by Government order but simply because they had reached the point where the costs were more than income and the building was worth more as a house than as a shop.

So, please, your help is needed. No signing petitions, writing letters or attending protest meetings - not at this stage anyway. Right now it is the old cliché about "Use it or lose it". To avoid closure now and to remain viable for now and the future they just need to do enough transactions. One day, presumably, our present postmaster will have to retire and nobody new will invest all his/her own money in a Post Office for Thurlestone unless it has a future.

Every time you buy a stamp elsewhere, or get your licence over the Internet, or pay your bills by phone, you are voting for the closure of your local Post Office sooner or later. Of course it's your decision as to how you do your business but you should make that decision knowing the facts.

Thurlestone is much luckier than many other places. It is a community, and having a Post Office is a part of that, so please help to keep your local Post Office healthy by exercising it regularly.

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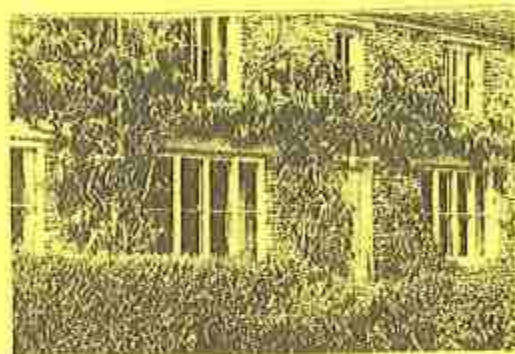
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# Weather Wag

by Jan Turner

**Warm, Wet and Windy.** These are very apt words to describe the weather since Christmas. In today's *Western Morning News* (8<sup>th</sup> March) there was an article describing the trend of weather now and for the spring months that lie ahead. If today is anything to go by, we are already proving the gentleman from the Met Office correct. Keith Fenwick says that December, January and February in Devon and Cornwall were the warmest since records began in 1914, and he predicts that there is a 70% chance that temperatures from March to May are going to be above the average.

The mean temperature for the Westcountry in spring is normally around 8.2°C and around 7.4°C nationally. The mean temperature in Devon this winter reached 7.08°C, 36% above the long term average of 5.19°C. The previous record of 6.93°C was recorded in 1989. Cornwall was even warmer at 7.87°C, although it saw a smaller increase of 28% above the average, which is based on figures from 1971 to 2000. Before this winter, the record was 7.68°C in 1943 and 1989. From the contents of this article it would seem that our experiences of no heavy coats, the odd sunny day, but warm south westerly which carried lots of rain and warm air being much the more common sort of weather, day after day has proved to be correct. Warm, wet and windy.

Here is a synopsis of my record for February, just because of the rainfall, but the rest of the figures are interesting. The rainfall was the highest Feb amount since I began recording the rainfall in 1996. Most of my other observers in the south West experienced the same excess rainfall for February.

## Beach Cottage Weather Statistics February 2007

### **Wind Speed and Direction**

Top Gust = 60 mph on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb from NE

### **Direction**

N = 0, NW = 7, NE = 7, S = 0, SW = 7,  
E = 2, SE = 2, W = 3, Total = 28

### **Rainfall**

Total for month = 161.38 mm  
Highest recording since 1996 = 117 mm  
11 year average = 52.37 mm  
Rain days = 22  
Highest in one day = 18.65 mm (28<sup>th</sup> Feb)

### **Temperature**

Highest daily = 13.3°C on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb  
Lowest daily = 0.3°C on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Frost on 2 days (very slight) 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Feb

### **Sunshine**

Total = 55.3 hrs  
11 year average = 81.47 hrs

It would seem appropriate that, in this article, I tackle the history of **Rainfall Recording**. I refer to Philip Eden's book of Weather for the information. To the early weather enthusiasts it seemed a simple operation to measure the amount of rain that fell in any given period. All you had to do was to place a container out in the open, then measure the depth of water in it at regular intervals, say once a month. But it was quickly realised that, especially in sunny climates and especially in the summer time, a large proportion of the rainwater would evaporate when the sun shone and the wind blew. Sometimes in heavy downpours drops of water also splashed into the containers, and occasionally some water splashed out as well. Additionally it became apparent that daily values of rainfall deserved study, and very often these were exceedingly small and therefore difficult to measure.

The shape of rain gauges soon evolved into double-sided cylinders to minimize evaporation, surmounted by a funnel with a substantial vertical lip to reduce splashing. The rain gauge was, and still is, usually made of copper. Various sizes of funnel were tried,



but those with a diameter of either 12.7 cms (5 inches) or 20.3 cms (8 inches) became the standard. If the water caught in these gauges was poured into a much narrower measuring glass, small amounts of rain could be measured more accurately.

The next piece of information I find very interesting, as I use both methods and observe the differences. In the early days of rainfall recording, the rain gauge was often sited on a roof or a wall, but our early rainfall observers discovered that rooftop gauges caught less rain- as much as 30% less – than gauges at ground level, due to the effects of air turbulence. The modern rain gauge is inserted in the ground with its rim about 30 cms (12 inches) above the surface, but it is accepted that even these instruments catch up to 5% less than the actual amount of rain that falls.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century mechanical rain gauges were invented that allowed a continuous record of rainfall to be obtained over a specific time, usually a day or a week. The rain gauge discharges the rain into a container with a float which rises as the water level in the container rises. This float is connected to a pen which draws a line on a chart. The chart is attached to a clock-driven drum which rotates once per day or week. From the line on the chart rainfall duration and rainfall intensity can be measured.

The one I use with my main instrument is an electronic one where the funnel is standard but the rain falls through it in measured drops, so it is self draining and the amount of drops counted add up to a minimum of 0.01 mm. The amount of rain that falls therefore is gradually totted up and displayed on the dial. It is almost always less than the amount in the rain gauge on the ground. However I cannot accurately measure such small quantities in the ground version. Indeed I would not want to really because a rain day must have 0.2 mm of rainfall to count. I do often record 0.01 mm and it is usually the result of condensation during the night.

Living in the South Hams, a top tourist destination (and the top area for £1 million houses!), I guess that sunshine should rate pretty highly in our weather facts. Philip Eden calls it a "British Obsession". Probably this is because of its unreliability to shine each day, or even for days at a time. Today we measure sunshine electronically, but of course it was not always so.

Until the 1990s, the official worldwide standard instrument for this purpose was the Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder. The original recorder was invented by the Scottish amateur scientist John F. Campbell in 1853, and it was refined by the famous physicist Sir George Stokes in 1879. It works on the same principle as the schoolboy who uses a magnifying glass to make scorch marks in his desk top by focusing the rays of the sun into a point. Stokes used a solid glass sphere, with a piece of card in the place of the desktop. The card is chemically treated so that it does not catch fire and the sun's heat burns a narrow trace along the length of the card, which has time marks every half an hour. Some measurements of the sun's hours were made at Greenwich and Kew, but the new Campbell-Stokes method was more simple and trustworthy. Systematic sunshine recording began at several stations around the British Isles in 1880 or 1881.

So far, in this month of March, I have registered 8 days out of 11 when there has been over 5 hours of bright sunshine. Today (11<sup>th</sup> March) has been a glorious day, many people out walking and sitting on the beach enjoying the really warm sunshine. The newly exposed rock face below Links Court was shining brightly, with the next pieces ready to fall at the storms over the Equinox. *Shall I prove to be correct in my surmise that March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> may be rough?* My Grandad always predicted a storm or two about that time.

*With that thought I will sign off and prepare to be rather lazy for a couple of weeks!*



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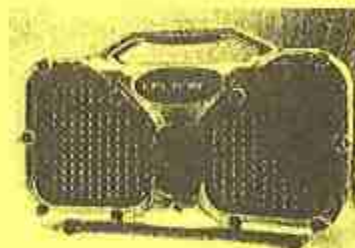
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## DIARY DATES

Internet Café, Every Wednesday, Parish Hall Yeo Room, 2pm to 3pm

### APRIL

- Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> TRAMP, PlymTrail (long walk)  
Community Police Officer, Yeo Room, 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm  
Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm  
Thur 12<sup>th</sup> WL, Parish Hall, 1.30 pm (Updating Resuscitation)  
Aune Conservation AGM, 7.00pm, Bigbury Memorial Hall  
Thur 19<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Gara Mill / Slapton (short walk)  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Circus Bezarus, Parish Hall, 2.00pm (workshop), 7.00pm (show)  
Thur 26<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Staverton / Darlington (long walk)

### MAY

- Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> TRAMP, Iba (short walk)  
Parish & District Council Elections, Parish Hall, 7am - 10pm  
Thur 10<sup>th</sup> WL, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Current affairs resolutions)  
Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm  
Tues 15<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Coleton Fishacre (short walk)  
Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> TRAMP, Avon Mill (short walk)  
Thur 31<sup>st</sup> WL walk & lunch at Riverford Organic Farm

### JUNE

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> TRAMP, West Portlemouth / Lower Soar, (long walk)  
Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Music & Words, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm (see notice inside)  
Tues 5<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, East Prawle, No 52 (short walk)  
Sat 9<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Stepping Stones, (long walk)  
Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm  
Thur 14<sup>th</sup> WL, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm, (What's the point of poetry?)  
Mon 18<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Snapes Point, (short walk)  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> TRAMP, Grimspound / Warren House Inn, (long walk)

Advertising Rates for Village Voice - 12 months (six issues)

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

## VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

## PARISH DIRECTORY &

## DIARY DATES

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

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

Judith Reynolds, Pilgrim Cottage, Post Office Lane, Thurlestone  
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 Banham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th MAY 2007

Please drop any contributions marked "Village Voice" through the letterbox at 25 Mead Lane before that date (or e-mail to [Vvoice@aol.com](mailto:Vvoice@aol.com) or [RbnMacd@aol.com](mailto:RbnMacd@aol.com))



# PARISH

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

## PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman

560314

Vice - Chairman

Neil Marshall

560346

Parish Clerk

Neil Gilling

560319

District Councillor

Shanagh Randon

561185

County Councillor

St Simon Day

01752 - 691212

Members

Neil Gilling

560346

David Gross

560375

Peter Hurrell

560496

Andrew Rhymes

560564

Geoffrey Stedson

560695

Charles Murbelmore

560602

Tree Warden

Ron Parks

561215

Parish Hall

Pat Crawford

560688

Parish of Thurstone Society (P.O.T.S.)

Chairman Chris White

560505

Rector

Rev. Andrew Gilling

562219

Church Meeting Room

Office

561246

Ploeghman's Lunch (1<sup>st</sup> Friday)

Lunch Club (Other Fridays)

560092

Searchlight (Tuesdays fortnightly)

Films for All (Thursdays fortnightly)

560090

Coffee Time (Monday & Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30 am)

Li Webb

560090

Friends of Thurstone Church

Contact: Ed Marshall

560214

Bowls Club

Contact: Eileen Dayman

560091

Alpine Conservation Association

Stuart Ward

810573

Bantham Sailing Club

Contact: Hugh Carter

560593

Bantham Surf Life Saving Club

Clubhouse

560447

Bridge Clubs 7 pm Wednesdays and Fridays

Contact: Dorothy Stone

560708

Thurstone Golf Club

Secretary / Manager: Terry Gibbons

560495

Tennis Section

Chairman: Matt Lepore

0208 671 4156

Kee Fit

Contact: Brenda March

560487

Tai Chi

Contact: Viki Alexander

561182

horticultural show (annual)

Contact: John Lovelace

560742

Probus

Contact: Tim Trender

560893

South Hams Spinners, Weavers & Dyers

Contact: Pat Crawford

560688

# DIRECTORY

## TRAMP (Thurstone Ramblers)

Contact: Madeline Radford

560867

W.L. 2.30 pm Parish Hall

Contact: Karen Llover

560131

Second Thursday monthly (except August)

Teamakers

560131

Internet Cafe

Wednesday: 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm

560131

Tuition Classes

Wednesday: 3 - 5 pm

560131

Computer Club

Wednesday: 10 am - 1 pm

560503

Contacts: Robin Macdonald

560436

John Beven

562074

Health Centres

Nudgebridge: 0844 477 8963

562284

Milk Delivery

R. Bruckner & Son

01803 - 832801

Newspaper Delivery

Dave & Sandra Edmonds

01648 - 851122

Village Shop

Thurstone Village Shop

561917

(Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm)

M. T. Th. F.

561917

Thurstone Post Office

Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

561917

Postal collections: 4.15 pm Monday - Friday; 10.30 am Saturday; 11.00 am Sunday

Wol. Sat. 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

561917

Neighbourhood Watch

Co-ordinator: Charles Murbelmore

560602

Police

Emergency: 999

08705-777-444

Minicom users

01392 - 452935

0800-455-112

British Collection

Monday (But Tuesday in Bank Holiday Month)

560602

Coloured (White, Blue) Stock collections (recyclables) and Grey Whistles - alternate Mondays from 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Brown Whistles - alternate Mondays from 9<sup>th</sup> April

560602

Recycling Centre (Ton Quarry Site, Tonnes Road)

Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm

560602

Public Transport Information Line

For A.L. bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRA VELINE

0870 608 2 608

Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day)

7.00 am to 9.00 pm

0870 608 2 608

Devotional publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devotional@thurstone.gov.uk

0870 608 2 608

GASAGE (Bright Engineering)

Maurice Bright

560220

Kingsbridge Library

Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 4<sup>th</sup> April

852313

11.35 - 11.45 am Bookend Old Chapel

11.15 - 11.30 am Banham

852313

12.20 - 12.30 pm Thurstone Church

11.45 - 12.15 pm Thurstone Primary School

852313

MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN

Alternates Wednesdays from 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside school

852313



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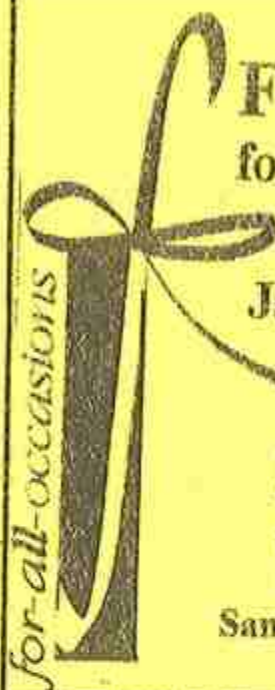
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561947

CAR  
PARK

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Unit 10, Orchard Industrial Estate, Poplar Drive, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1SF

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- Special celebrations

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- Fitness Suite
- 9 Hole Par 3 Championship Golf Course
- Tennis, Squash and Badminton Courts
- Hair Salon
- Decleor Beauty Salon
- Contact Reception for membership details



## Salon Opening Times

Decleor Beauty Salon (call 560382)  
5 Days a week 9.30am - 5.30pm

Hair Salon (call 563524)  
Tues - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm



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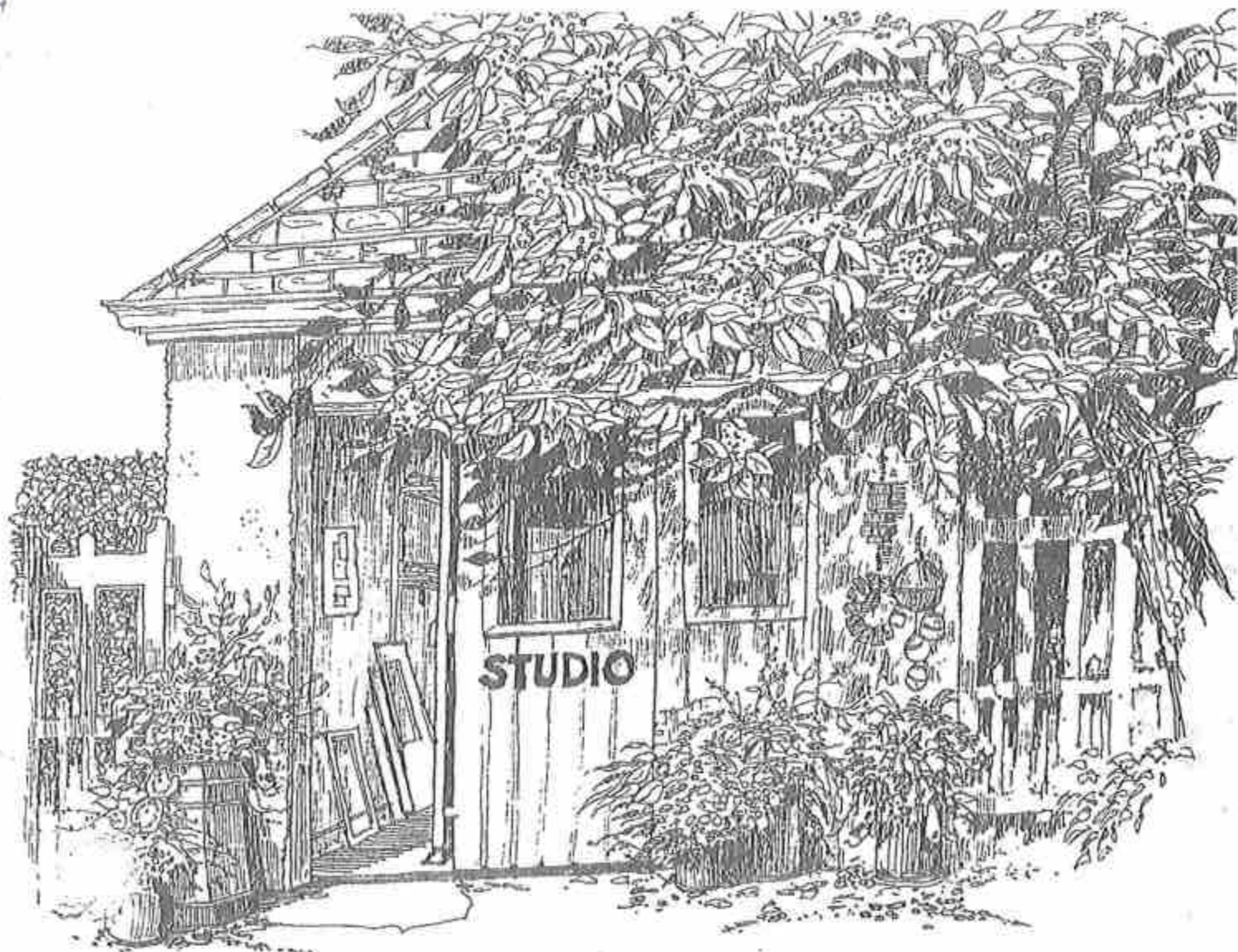
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Properties in and around Dartmouth 01803 839499



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