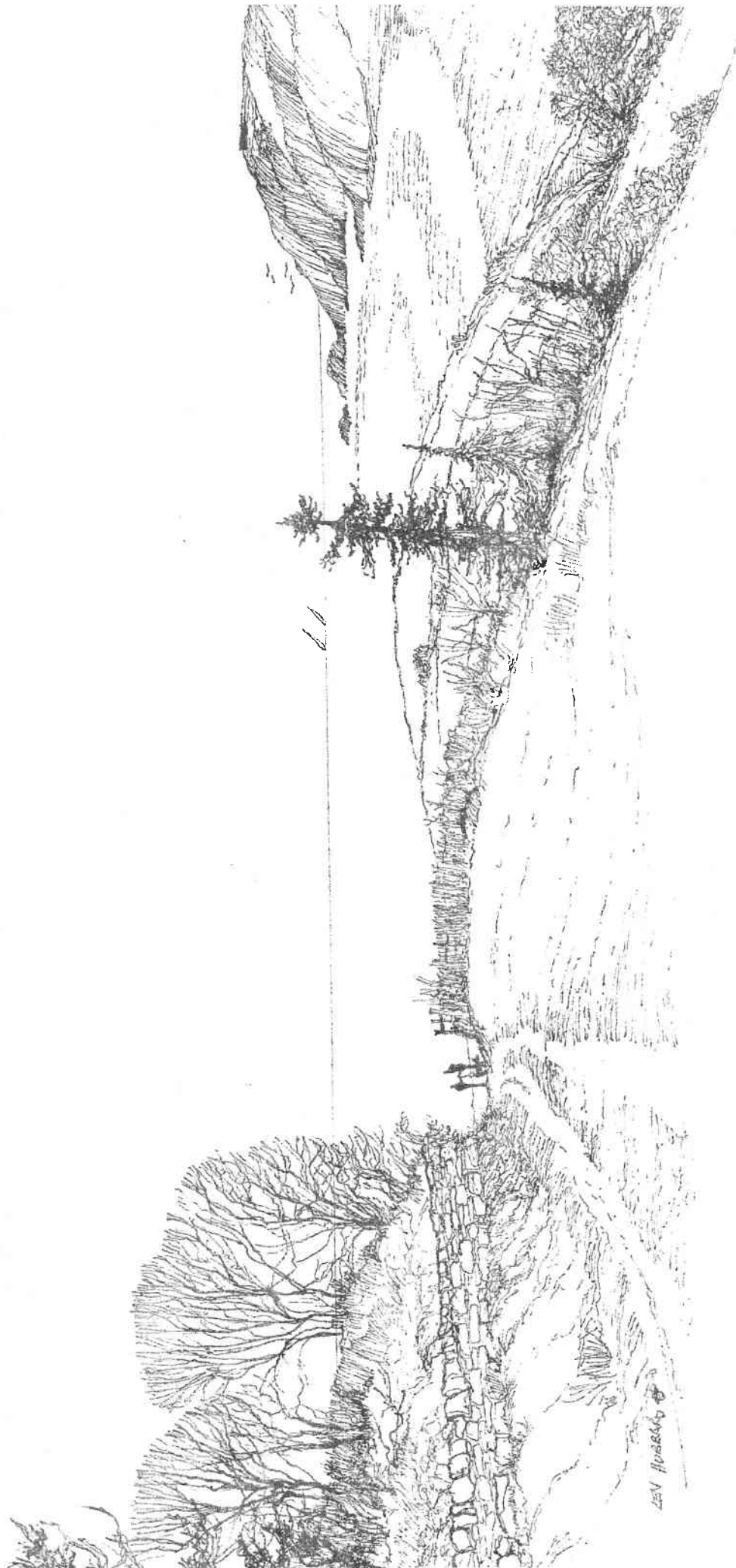


VILLAGE VOICE



June - July 2007



NUMBER 145
JUNE - JULY 2007

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by an even longer Brown Autumn.*

"I'm worried about bugs in my wheelie-bins".

Tried washing them out with disinfectant?

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*There's no need for a Home Information Pack
after all.*

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Front Cover : A View to the Sea

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Monday 2nd April 2007

Sir Simon Day (Devon County Councillor), **Shonaugh Rankin** (District Councillor), Sgt **Jane Corkhill** and PC **Steve Mullen** (Police), **Malcolm Elliott** of the District Council's Planning Department and 22 parishioners attended this meeting. Parish Council chairman, **Kit Marshall**, presented his Annual Report as follows.

Chairman's Report

"The Annual Parish Meeting signals the end of another four year term of Thurlestone Parish Council. Next month will see local elections, and I would urge parishioners to support the work put in by Councillors by casting their votes on the 3rd May. There will be some new faces to vote for, and we might even hope for a lady Councillor again. The role of the Parish Council is slowly changing with central government passing more and more responsibility down the line. We need to be prepared for it.

The past year has been as busy as ever for the Council with ten full sessions with an average attendance of 75%, an Annual Parish Meeting and a number of subsidiary meetings, site meetings, area forums, not to mention private individual meetings. If parishioners have misgivings or suggestions about the parish I would encourage them to discuss the issue with a Councillor before, rather than after, decisions have been made. It is important that Councillors are made aware of all sides of a story.

This time last year I stated that we would be completing the takeover of the green area in Island View to convert it into a safe children's area and also that we would be initiating a Parish Plan. Regrettably neither of these has been fulfilled. The green area project was halted because South Hams District Council cannot trace the title deeds, but despite that we are now going ahead and the new fencing should be in place in time for the summer holidays. We spent some time studying the model Parish Plan but feel that for a parish such as ours it was way 'over the top' and inappropriate. Instead, we are now proposing to send all households a modified questionnaire based on one used successfully by Modbury, which will give

parishioners a chance to make known their views on a wide range of topics. This will be used in the future as a basic policy guide not only to the Parish Council but public authorities as a whole. In fact this consultation should not be steered by the Council but by a group of independent parishioners, so we will be looking for volunteers to run the scheme. We will be organising a public meeting over the next couple of months to exchange ideas before the format of the questionnaire is finalised.

During the year we have seen our new Parish Hall prospering thanks to the hard work of the Parish Hall chairman and committee. We have seen first time sewerage in West Buckland and just completed the relining of the mains water supply. May we dare hope that this means an end to brown water? On the down side we will have a major problem with road drainage and I hope the incoming Council will make progress in solving this. We have instigated a system of "Approved Contractors" which has streamlined our ability to complete needed works quickly. We are trying to have safety buoys put back off our beaches - time will tell. On the police side, our new Community Support Officer, Matt Blackmore, will be holding monthly clinics in the Parish Hall to enable parishioners to discuss any policing problems on an informal basis. Details will be published, so please make the most of this. Our precept has increased by 5.7%, which is higher than hoped, but of this 4% is to cover 50% of the cost of the elections, estimated at £1000.

I want to thank your Councillors for their hard work and input into parish affairs. I would remind parishioners that Thurlestone Parish Councillors work on a purely voluntary basis and don't even charge for basic expenses such as petrol, phone calls etc.

The danger of giving thanks is that someone is always omitted. Last year it was Shonaugh Rankin, our District Councillor and, rightly, I subsequently had to eat much humble pie! Shonaugh has been very supportive of our parish and I know puts in a huge amount of time and effort in being a District Councillor. She has,

during her first term of office, become one of the leading lights of SHDC and uses her influence widely and wisely. Thank you, Shonaugh, and I am sure we will see you back here after the elections.

Village Voice has again given its full support not just to the Council but to the parish as a whole, and the editor and team deserve much appreciation from all parishioners and indeed holiday visitors.

And finally, where would we be without Cathy, our Clerk? Cathy has a most brilliant flair for turning our obtuse meanderings into coherent minutes, she has boundless knowledge of the obscure rules and regulations that govern public office, and she is ever willing to offer us sound advice. Thank you, Cathy, for all that you do for us."

Police Work

Sgt **Jane Corkhill** and PC **Steve Mullen** outlined their police roles, which deal mainly with 'quality of life' issues in the community such as parking problems and anti-social behaviour and, in doing so, working alongside other agencies such as Devon County Council Highways and Devon Youth Service. **Matt Blackmore** tries to come to the village two or three times a week to monitor issues with parking and will shortly complete training which will enable him to issue parking tickets! He is also seeking to establish Neighbourhood Watch schemes in areas where it does not exist, or where it has lapsed. They now have a new e-mail address [See Citizen's report for 14th May]

PC **Steve Mullen** then reported that in the year from 31st March 2006, of the 1093 crimes reported in Kingsbridge area, 20 of them related to Thurlestone parish - compared to 29 reported in the previous year. The constant closure of Kingsbridge police station was raised and this was due to sick leave and part-time working by desk staff but it was emphasised that the station is manned 24 hours a day, even if the front office is not, and that if the public knock on the door someone should be available to assist them!

County Council

Our Devon County Councillor, **Sir Simon Day**, was very complimentary about the new Parish Hall which he felt was the best in the area. As a

Conservative, he no longer has a major role at County Hall which is Lib/Dem territory, but keeps in touch with his parishes. Regarding Exeter's bid for unitary authority status, he regards it as a huge mistake and in response to a question as to what the effect would be on Council Tax he said he guessed we would be worse off. As he is on the Police Authority Board he took up Thurlestone's complaint about the frequent closed doors at Kingsbridge police station and suggested to Inspector Williams that temporary staff should be brought in. He is also part of the Regional Assembly, which has strategic planning powers, being the Conservative leader on this.

District Council

Malcolm Elliott had the unenviable task of representing the South Hams District Council to talk about a subject which can cause many parishioners to get quite 'hot under the collar' - Planning! He told us of the recent restructuring of his department which is aimed at providing a more efficient service with better feedback. 2000 applications were processed during 2006/7 - 39 from Thurlestone - and 95% of decisions made were in agreement with Parish and District Council recommendations. He explained how the process works, and they are very well aware that sometimes feelings can run very high on this topic. Inevitably the current proposals concerning new developments on the Mead came up and when questioned on whether there should be a mix of houses and bungalows he replied that *there is no planning condition stating what the properties should be*. Where certain areas on the local plan have specific policies attached, he was asked if the District Council is bound to abide by them and he replied that *the Council is allowed to use its own judgment*. Concerning the recent refusal for a barn conversion on a site which had similar properties, he said that where the numbers of changes to a structure were too great, as in this case, permission is withheld.

The meeting had started at 7.30 pm and finished at 8.35 pm, with a lot of points put and questions answered, so it was hardly surprising that by the time the last item on the agenda came - Open Forum - everyone appeared to have run out of steam and no one had any questions left to ask.

It was a good meeting - see you there next year!

Village News Round-Up

Baby Sam

Blue balloons were hoisted at "Hilltop" on the 8th May, the signal that a grandson had arrived for **Patrick and Jane Stanley**. Their daughter **Clare** and **Richard** (Bantham residents) are the proud parents of **Sam**, a welcome brother for **Molly** and **Nancy**. Congratulations to all concerned from Village Voice!

A Memorial for Vic

Tucked into the side of, and looking down, Chapel Hill at Buckland, a stone-faced plinth has been built to house a bench-seat in memory of the late **Vic Adams**, a much-loved member of our community who sadly died last year. Donated by his family and friends, the seat is in a sheltered and sunny spot and will doubtless be often used by grateful walkers and visitors.

Art Exhibition

Dick Bruff of Glebefield has been invited by Harbour House in Kingsbridge to hold a major retrospective exhibition of his paintings there. The show runs from 4th to 9th September next. Dick has painted for 40 of the 47 years he has lived at Thurlestone and is well-known for his watercolour and acrylic paintings of local scenes. *He is appealing to any local residents who have purchased any of his works over the years to allow him to borrow their pictures for inclusion in the exhibition.*

If you can help with the loan of one or more of Dick's pictures, please contact **Emma Johns** at Harbour House (01548-854708). Dick has also invited some of his long-time friends and fellow-painters - **Michael Hill**, **Val Morsman**, **Jean May Parsons** and **Lorraine Saveall** - to share the gallery with him. Full details of the exhibition in our August issue.

Kathy's Marathon

It took **Kathy Norris** of Buckland just 4 hours and 25 minutes to complete the 26-mile London Marathon on the 22nd April. Husband **Duncan** and daughter **Holly** were supportive at various points along the route on a beautiful day, and

Kathy raised well over **£2000** for the Devon and Cornwall division of The Lady Taverners (part of The Lords Taverners) charity, the aim of which is to *"Give young people, particularly those with special needs, a sporting chance"*. Kathy would like to thank her many friends in the area, and local businesses, for sponsoring her Marathon run so generously. Well done, Kathy!

Bantham Rescue

A party of kayakers from a Totnes club recently paddled from Aveton Gifford towards the mouth of the River Avon, following a normally benign route, with the intention of having a break at Bantham beach. They had advised Bantham lifeguards of their planned journey, but unfortunately the kayaks were caught out by a combination of the outgoing tide's abnormally strong currents and a lot of recent rain, and they were dragged out towards the river mouth and capsized. Around twenty were in the water and had to be rescued but, happily, all have since recovered.

Fortunately for the canoeists the event was well-timed as had it been 45 minutes later there would have been no lifeguards on duty. Bantham lifeguard **Joe Kelly** supervised and co-ordinated communications throughout the rescue. RNLI lifeguard **Peter Dawes** stressed the need to take heed of the dangers when entering the water, and advised *"People should be aware of their limitations and parties should always cater for the least experienced participants"*.

Plants Galore

The annual fund-raising plant sale held by the Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show was well stocked and well attended, and assured the organisers that the 2007 Show (to be held at South Milton on Saturday 4th August) would be in good financial heart. A copy of the schedule accompanies this issue of Village Voice as a separate yellow enclosure. The Show is looking for a record level of entries this year, so come on, all you gardeners - pull your green fingers out! Get going - get growing!

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Parish Council Meeting

Meeting held on 14th May 2007

News and views by Citizen

There were seven members of the public present. (Gosh, could this be down to a wish to view the new intake to the Parish Council?) Fresh from the elections on 3rd May, six of the seven newly-installed Councillors were present and eager to get on with things parochial. **Kit Marshall** was re-elected Chairman, a unanimous choice. The Vice-Chairman will be **Andrew (Jack) Rhymes**, who will also double as All Saints School representative. **Peter Hurrell** will be Parish Hall representative, **Charles Mitchelmore** continues as Tree Warden & Police Liaison representative. Kit Marshall will also represent the Friends of Thurlestone Church. **David Hugo** was welcomed to the Council as one of the two "new boys". **Dale Came**, the second new recruit, couldn't come as he was away on holiday and sent his apologies.

[A full list of Parish Councillors, with their telephone numbers appears in the Directory at the back of this magazine].

District Councillor **Shonaugh Rankin** came for part of the meeting, gave us a brief report on District Council activities, and expressed thanks to those in the parish who had given her their vote. Unfortunately after Shonaugh's departure (she had to go on to another parish meeting), concern was voiced about the disturbing delay in publishing lists of successful Parish Council candidates. Despite promises that both Parish and District Council election results would be available the day following the election, the Parish Council results did not appear on the District Council's website until a number of days later - unlike the District Council results which appeared very promptly, as promised, on the Friday! Our Parish Council is to write a strongly-worded letter of complaint to the District Council's electoral office about this inexcusable lapse, with a copy of the letter to Shonaugh.

POLICE

Matthew Blackmore, the Police Community Support Officer, who will now be in the Yeo Room for consultation from 5.30pm prior to each

Parish Council meeting, gave us the encouraging news that no crimes had been reported in the parish during April. He was asked if he could have a word with the (several) building contractors whose poorly-parked heavy lorries and other vehicles often seem to be the cause of early morning traffic jams developing in Thurlestone. He said he would keep an eye on the situation and try to help. **There is a new police e-mail address -**

Kingsbridge@DevonandCornwall.pmn.police.uk

Later, after Matthew had left, Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** told us about two men "of Mediterranean appearance" (one driving a Nissan, the other a Mazda) who were trying to sell 'gold' chains around the area and who could become somewhat abusive if business wasn't good. We were urged to dial 999 if approached by them.

SWIMMING SAFETY

Our Parish Council had earlier appealed to the Harbour Board for local swimming buoys, stressing that these were needed on safety grounds, particularly as swimming is a tourist attraction. But it seems the beach is under the control of the Golf Club, and not the District Council, so the chairman, **Kit Marshall**, said he will now have a word with the Club.

PARISH HALL

Councillor **Peter Hurrell** gave a report, the main part of which concerned the plans to alter faulty kitchen work-tops and instal a more capacious dishwasher. Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** queried this expenditure but it turns out that the builders would contribute to the cost of work-tops, and the dishwasher was not now adequate for the considerably bigger-than-anticipated functions which were proving popular at the hall and a good source of income.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Poor road drainage and pot-holes around the parish, which had already been reported to Devon County Council, were matters unresolved

and reminders will be issued. There were further problems in Buckland - the concrete post and rail fencing at Chapel Cross was rotting and had become dangerous; rain was pouring down Chapel Hill, by-passing the buddle-hole, and where water goes under the road near Woodlands the retaining wall is being undermined. In Thurlestone, the slabs on the path near the War Memorial had not yet been given attention. It was agreed that problems with tree roots would be best dealt with by grinding rather than digging out. Severe pot-holes in Post Office Lane - a public footpath - were dangerous to pedestrians, and a letter asking for remedial work to be done would be forwarded to the Official Receiver, the company (Eagle Developments) responsible for maintenance being in receivership.

SCHOOL

Councillor **Jack Rhymes** said that the school now has 127 children, and two more teaching assistants had been engaged. It is hoped in due course the school may be able to gain recognition for excellence in IT skills. A number of pupils attend a maths *master class*. **PC Bond** now visits the school regularly to talk to the children about personal safety and the dangers of drugs.

THURLESTONE BUS SHELTER

This is very often full of rubbish, except for the occasional clearance by a public-minded member of the community, and notices get torn down

before they have been read. The worst of the mess seems to be deposited on Friday nights. The Pump suffers in the same way. The Parish Council will ask the District Council if the street sweeper could include these two points in his itinerary. This problem would also be drawn to the attention of the Police Community Support Officer.

TREES

Tree Warden Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** had inspected the trees at "Southview", and sent a report on them to the District Council, who had replied that

"...the trees are not considered suitable for conservation".

Only one tree at "Heathfield" has been made the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.

ISLAND VIEW GREEN

Fencing would shortly be placed around the proposed children's garden site, after which flower beds would be installed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Please note that the date has been changed. It will now be on **MONDAY 4th JUNE**, and not 11th June as previously listed. If you intend to be present, please make sure you have a note of this amendment.....you have been warned!

Citizen

Organised by Thurlestone Bridge Club in aid of the Parish Hall

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PARISH HALL NEWS

By Chairman Ron Parkin



The Circus Bezerkus came to town on Saturday 21st April, with a workshop in the afternoon and a show in the evening. Both were well attended and provided a feast of entertainment.

Sadly, the "special event" scheduled for Sunday 3rd June, a "Words and Music" evening with local singers Cindy and Robert Glyn, and international lecturer and artiste Karin Fernald, has had to be postponed due to the illness of Robert Gloyn. We wish him a complete recovery and hope to re-arrange this event for a later date. Watch this space.

Two splendid musical events will take place at the hall in June - see below. Demand for tickets is sure to be high for both occasions, so make sure you don't miss out.

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There will be two new permanent attractions appearing at the Parish Hall in the near future. The splendid wall hanging of embroidered views of the Parish prepared by the Womens Institute team will decorate the foyer, while the electronic Information Board sponsored by the Parish of Thurlestone Society with a grant from Awards for All will shortly be in place next to the current notice board at the entrance. These two new features will demonstrate that both new and traditional skills are alive and well in Thurlestone, and that many of its residents are prepared to give generously of their time and expertise for the general good. They deserve our warmest appreciation and thanks.

Ron Parkin

Fighting Your Corner with the Planning Authorities

A recent planning application in Thurlestone was rejected by the local Planning Authority, but appealed by the applicant. The appeal was considered by a Regional Inspector, who visited the site and then detailed his reasons for upholding the local Planning Authority decision, and turning down the appeal. His key findings are set out below, as follows.

- The site is within the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), an area of fine coastal scenery, which should be afforded the highest level of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. I saw on my visit that the site lies at the very edge of an area of estate housing, which gives way on to a most attractive open landscape in the vicinity of the south Devon coast. Existing development on this part of the estate comprises mainly bungalows of modest size and scale. To my mind, this serves to ease the transition between the built-up area of Thurlestone and the adjacent open countryside, thereby preserving a “soft edge” at the periphery of the settlement.
- I am therefore concerned about the size, scale and bulk of the proposed dwelling in what I consider to be a particularly sensitive part of the estate. In particular, I note that a substantial and imposing two-storey dwelling is proposed. In my opinion, a dwelling of this size and scale would fail to preserve a suitably soft edge to the settlement, thereby eroding its setting in the wider landscape, to the detriment of the AONB. The proposal is therefore contrary to Policy CO3 of the adopted Devon Structure Plan 2001 to 2016 (SP), which seeks to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.
- Furthermore, I am concerned that the proposed dwelling by reason of its size, scale, height and bulk would appear incongruous and rather overbearing in relation to the generally modest size and scale of existing development. I therefore find the proposal to be contrary to Policy CO6 of the SP and Policies SHDC1 and SHDC15 of the adopted South Hams Local Plan 1989 to 2001, which seek, amongst other things, to promote high standards of design and layout to ensure that the development is compatible with the character of the site and its surroundings. I also consider the proposal to be in conflict with the national advice in Planning Policy Statement 1 *Delivering Sustainable Development*, which makes it clear that design which is inappropriate in its context should not be accepted.
- In reaching this view, I acknowledge that there are some two-storey dwellings situated on or close to the edge of the built-up area. However, it does not seem to me that any of these other dwellings occupy such a prominent and exposed part of the site in the context of the wider landscape. In light of the above and having regard to all other matters raised, I find that the proposed development would harm the form and setting of Thurlestone, particularly in the light of its location in an AONB. This leads me to conclude that the appeal should be dismissed.

This judgement deserves to be more widely known throughout the parish, not simply for the specifics that apply in this case, but for the wider context it has taken into consideration. It should be assimilated and understood by anyone contemplating any form of building development within the parish. It also provides useful ammunition for any resident who feels unhappy about any proposed development in his or her immediate area, and wishes to object to the local planning authority. The catcall of “NIMBY” is inappropriate here – the preservation of a treasured environment is an honourable and worthwhile cause.

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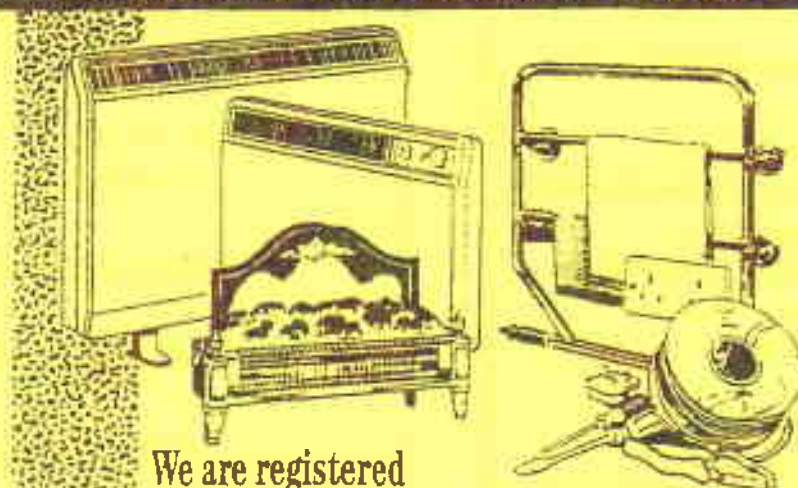
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*All
Saints*

RECTOR:

Revd. Andrew Girling 562219

Andrew Girling writes:

OUR CHILDREN



Children are the future. We all know that. But like many grandparents I worry about what our modern society is doing to them. Too much pressure, too many exams, too much time in front of machines rather than with people. We could all make our own lists.

Last year the Archbishop of Canterbury made his plea for the banning of advertisements aimed at the under twelves on T.V. and elsewhere. The Swedish government has already done this. We are told that it has been widely welcomed by parents. However in the U.K. the response of business corporations was predictable. 'It is an unjustifiable infringement on our freedom to market and sell our products'. The difficulty with this argument is that such freedom comes at the price of the loss of freedom of young lives whose desires are misshaped by the very powerful medium of modern advertising. A medium which children just do not have the rational faculties to resist easily.

Earlier this year U.N.I.C.E.F published a report on the state of children in developed countries.* Some of their findings should give more than a pause for thought. They found very worrying evidence that the welfare of children is declining in this country and in the United States: countries which, it was suggested, are most prone to put the interests of commercial corporations ahead of children and parents. Children's personal development is sacrificed on the altar of commercial profit.

The report also suggests that parents are at fault. In this wealth-and-work obsessed country too many of them are colluding with the loss of traditional pleasures of childhood. What's happening to family meals, walks and picnics, games of tag or rounders, making music together and, dare I mention it, attending family worship? Are they simply being replaced by electronic entertainment watched and listened to in lonely isolation in individual bedrooms?

'Another grumpy old man before his time', I hear you cry, 'just looking back to the good old days, which weren't as good as we remember'. Possibly, but it truly concerns me when, in our over commercialised society, there seems to be less and less space for children just to be children and so be formed in the kind of desires and practices which will enable them as adults to be emotionally and rationally mature and responsible.

Grumpy Old Andrew

**Child poverty in perspective: an Overview of Child Wellbeing in Rich Countries.*

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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 st , 3 rd , 5 th BCP, 2 nd , 4 th CW)
June 3rd, July 1st	11.10am Morning Worship for All Ages
June 10th	11.10am Matins (BCP)
July 8th	11am (?) Benefice Sea Sunday Service at Churchstow
June 17th, July 15th	11.10am Family Communion (CW)
June 24th, July 22nd & 29th	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

Thursdays

May 31st, July 5th, August 2nd 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

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

MONS. & WEDS.	10.30am <i>Coffee-Time</i> in aid of monthly charity
FRIDAY June 1, July 6	12.30pm Soup & Ploughman's Lunch
OTHER FRIDAYS	12.30pm <i>Lunch Club</i> for those living alone – Book on 560090
TUESDAYS	3.30pm <i>Searchlight</i> (primary age) Contact: Liz Webb 560090
THURSDAYS	9.30am <i>Under 5s</i> Contact: 560375/562417

Photographic Exhibition

We need **YOU** to come to help choose the winning photos of the Parish for a 2008 Calendar. The Exhibition will be open during the following events:

FRIDAY JUNE 1ST

12 noon - 2 p.m.

Homemade Soup & Ploughman's Lunch

Minimum donation £3

SUNDAY JUNE 3RD

12.30 p.m.

Parish Lunch £7.50

Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to come and/or could make a pudding

SATURDAY JUNE 2ND

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Cream Teas

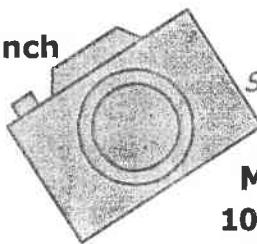
*Scones, jam & cream,
tea/coffee £3*

MONDAY JUNE 4TH

10.30 a.m. - 12 noon

Coffee, Tea and biscuits

Minimum donation £1



in aid of Church & Churchyard Maintenance

We should be pleased to see you at any of these events, which include entry & voting. However you can still come and pick your favourite photos even if you don't want to eat!

More information from Liz Webb (560090)

Films for All TUESDAY JUNE 5TH 3.00 p.m. Miss Potter

Donations to *Hearing Dogs & Meeting Room Running Costs* ~ More information 560078

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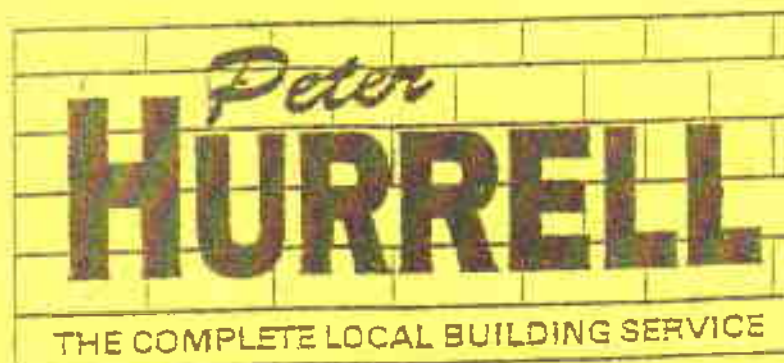
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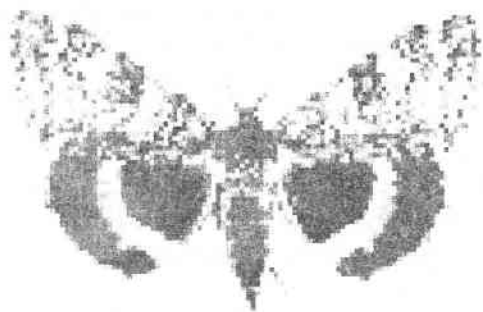
HARRY HUGGINS AND THE LATIN LOVERS

Among my inheritance I found a little book called "*A Moth-hunter's Gossip*" by P B M Allan. He had written a note inside "To H C Huggins from his friend the author". It is one of my favourite bedside books; others are Gilbert White's "*Natural History of Selborne*" and Lawrence Durrell's "*Prospero's Cell*", which he called a guide to the manners and landscape of Corfu. All have the same advantage - you can read snippets in the few moments before you doze off.

Allan's book really is gossip. He mentions the great Duke of Wellington as having said that the first, second and third essentials for an army were boots. What that had to do with moths I have not found out.

At night you can attract moths with a light. He has a page or two about the Rector of Burghfield who, writing in 1834, said he used a lamp on moonless summer nights to lure them into his house. Allan pictures the good Rector in his full-skirted coat with pockets big enough to hold the paraphernalia for a day's 'entomologising', a waistcoat that came half way down his thighs, Paley's "*Evidence of Christianity*" in one hand, his moth-catching net in the other, his eyes half on the book and half on the open window!

A constant theme throughout the book is Allan's longing to see what he calls *fraxini*. I don't think he ever did. This is *Catocala fraxini*, a big grey



Catocala fraxini

moth some four inches across its open wings. The forewings are pale grey with darker zig-zags.

The hind ones are dark grey and each has a broad blue band across it. A European species, it is very rare in Britain, but not so rare that the odd one does not turn up. Its English name is Clifden Nonpareil, named after one taken many years ago near the mansion where John Profumo and Christine Keeler did their thing (though you will notice that the spelling is now slightly different). Allan writes about his dying moments: he says he will ask the nurse to open the window and place the lamp on the window sill, in the hope that a Clifden Nonpareil will fly in. If one does, the sight of it will make him leap from his death-bed!

The problem with Allan's book is that for the most part he uses Latin names which makes it hard going if you don't know them - and I don't. At the time when he wrote, in the 1930s, entomologists used nothing else. Many things had no vernacular names and everyone knew the scientific ones. It matters. Scientific names don't change.....well, not much. I believe they have decided now that what we always called "Brontosaurus" is to be known as "Apatosaurus" because that is an earlier name and the earliest name is the one which counts.

But take, for example, *Vanellus vanellus*, the plover which looks black-and-white and has a long crest. June calls it "Peewit" from its call. I have always said "Lapwing" from its floppy flight. The old books called it Green Plover - when you see it in bright sunshine its upper parts are iridescent green. That is a simple one. In "*Birds Britannica*" Mark Cocker says that what is now usually called a Dunnock, a little brown bird you see in your garden, has around fifty vernacular names. H G Hurrell, who was the grand old man of Devon wildlife - he was a prime mover in what is now the Devon Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust, the Devon Bird Society and doubtless many more - had a little barn at Wrangaton, near where he lived. There he used to entertain school children and others. He had written up a list of all the names people had told him for *Armadillidium vulgare*. I have always called that a peabug. The more upmarket name is woodlouse. It isn't a bug and it certainly isn't a louse. It is a crustacean, like crabs and

lobsters, the only sort which is not aquatic. H G's list came to well over one hundred names.

When my father had his entomological friends to see his butterflies and moths, you wondered what they were talking about - it sounded so much gibberish. When my mother wanted to give them a cup of tea, she just interrupted. She knew that to wait for a break in the conversation was useless. Oddly, I don't recall that anyone ever came to see his slugs and snails - though after his death when the young men from the Natural History Museum came to take his collections away they were far more enthusiastic about those than they were about the insects. I don't know whether there are still any of the old-style collectors. Sentiment has gone against that sort of thing. I think there is now far more use of English names, there certainly is with dragonflies. When I was a child none had an English name but now they are all hawkers and chasers and things.

Faced with the welter of vernacular names they invented scientific ones which would be universal. Carl Linne, a Swedish botanist, dreamed up the system which has stuck. Good going for one who wrote in the middle of the 18th century. Every creature, bird, plant, animal or insect has two names - a generic, or family, one - like a surname - and a specific one, similar to a Christian name. For example, the generic name of most gulls is *Larus*. The specific name of those nasty thing which yowl round our chimney pots is *argentatus*, so a Herring Gull is *Larus argentatus*. The old entomologists mostly used just the specific name and ignored the first one - or only put the initial letter - which is why Allan wrote about *fraxini*.

We call these things Latin names. They are not really Latin - well, many are not - some came from Greek and others were just made up. But when Linne (who latinised his name to Linnaeus) wrote, every educated person read and wrote in Latin for scientific purposes. So any book could be understood by any educated person in Europe. Writing to Thomas Pennant in 1770, Gilbert White comments on a book by an Italian

gentlemen "...his Latin is easy, elegant and expressive". I always wonder what they taught them at school and university in those days (White was at Oriel College, Oxford) - Latin and Greek I suppose. At least you didn't go for a degree in media studies or surf-boarding then.

Linnaeus didn't think of his system entirely out of the blue. John Ray, of Black Notley in Essex started it. He died in 1705. He named things with just one word, or sometimes a little phrase. Gilbert White quotes many of these names in the "*Natural History of Selborne*". Come to that, Charles Darwin didn't think of evolution out of the blue. His grandfather Erasmus Darwin was into it. Charles developed it; he had the ability to marshal a vast amount of information and the time to do so. It is a great thing if you don't have to earn your own living, and he didn't. But despite the modern tendency to lean away from scientific names, there is one community in which Latin names reign supreme - the gardeners! I know we have holly, ivy and Sweet Williams but they are out-numbered. Think of acer, verberna, anemone, salvia, potentilla!

When they were giving things names sometimes they quoted something or someone they wanted to commemorate. For example, the Shag. In the breeding season it has a little curly topknot and nests on our cliffs. That is called *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, after the Greek philosopher. Linnaeus himself did that one. The book says he named over four thousand sorts of animals and even more plants. He must have scratched his head at times to think of names. If you go to South Milton Ley you may hear Cetti's Warbler. If you go to Slapton Ley you most certainly will. The male sings an explosive song - he shouts his name "Chetty chetty chetty". You will be very lucky if you see one: a little brown bird with a rounded end to its tail, it is a prize skulker. It was named after Francesco Cetti, an Italian priest who lived, taught and wrote in Sardinia.. Coenraad Jacob Temminck, a Dutch scientist, gave it its Latin name. The English one was given by a gentleman writing in 1823. We say "Chetty's Warbler" - that man must have had a sense of humour!



Linnaeus

In our area the most distinguished of the deceased ornithologists was George Montagu. I write "deceased" to avoid any comparison with today's distinguished ornithologists - Tony Soper, Gordon Waterhouse, Arthur Livett et al. Montagu quarrelled with everyone - his wife, his sons, his fellow army officers. But in 1798 he came to live in Kingsbridge, in a house near the top of Fore Street. He was accompanied by Eliza Durville (someone else's wife), who obviously calmed him down. He wrote, and she illustrated, his "*Ornithological Dictionary or Alphabetical Synopsis of British Birds*". This was valued by ornithologists for the best part of a century. They produced also "*Testacea Britannica, a History of British Marine, Land and Freshwater Shells*". Among much work on birds he showed the difference between Cirl Buntings and Yellowhammers and he proved, by rearing young ones, that what he called the Ash-coloured Falcon and a similar brown bird were in fact the same species. Eventually, some twenty years after his death, they called his Ash-coloured Falcon Montagu's Harrier, the name we know it by today.

It is quite usual to name a species after someone you want to honour. They called a very rare vagrant from Siberia "White's Thrush" after Gilbert White. It is a big thrush, very pale, with



White's Thrush

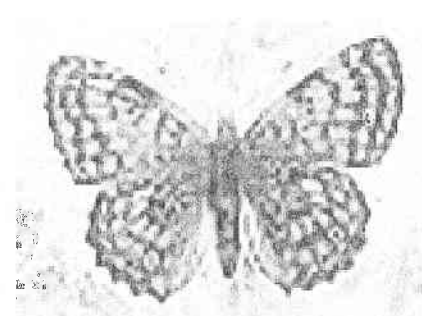
crescent-shaped markings all over and a black bar across its underwings. I doubt if White had ever heard of it, much less seen one (if he had, he would have sent someone to shoot it),

but none the less someone must have felt the name was appropriate.

What you don't do is name something after yourself. In the 1930s there was a member of our natural history society in Southend-on-Sea who did just that. He was a tiny, bouncy little man married to a lady much larger than himself. She ran a boarding house in what was then a

seedy part of Westcliff-on-Sea (maybe it still is, I don't intend to go and see) - the sort of establishment with one loo to ten bedrooms.

Whether he had employment outside or spent his time making beds and peeling potatoes I do not know, but when a little butterfly called the Heath Fritillary was on the wing he spent all the daylight hours catching it.



Heath Fritillary

This was in a heathery woody place on the outskirts of the Southend area. A plant called Cow Wheat grew there, the only thing the caterpillars ate. The butterfly's upper sides are coppery coloured, divided up by narrow dark lines. The colours varied quite a bit. This happens with insects, and collectors always hoped to find something different - like philatelists hope for a stamp with the Queen's head printed upside down. The little man caught everything he saw. If a butterfly was not different he pinched it and dropped it into the grass so that he wouldn't catch it again. He said it would recover during the night, which of course it didn't. He personally would have wiped the species out, only part of the area was built over and the rest became a nature reserve which grew up and killed off the butterflies. Nature reserves have to be managed, and this wasn't.

His cabinets were filled with drawer after drawer of these unfortunate butterflies. He called the ones which were most different "*picketaria*" after himself - his name was Picket - *Mellicta athalia picketaria*. Once he took some to a meeting in London of entomologists. He was dancing round them, and exclaimed to one gentleman "Aren't they remarkable? Aren't they extraordinary?" to which the gentleman responded "Not half so extraordinary as you are!"

Soon afterwards the little man passed on. As he breathed his last he whispered "Will there be butterflies where I am going?" to which his wife replied "Yes dear, I will put your net in with you".

Harry Huggins

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

	1						4	
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Easy

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Easy

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Medium

No. 21

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	2		5	7	4		6	

Medium

No. 22

With acknowledgements to Hueina Su's blog-site *Echoes of Cold Moon*

Lexophiles (lovers of words) will enjoy these SMILES

A bicycle can't stand alone - it is two tired. A chicken crossing the road - poultry in motion.
 With her marriage she got a new name and a dress. The man who fell into an upholstery
 machine is now fully recovered. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
 A plateau is a high form of flattery. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budget.

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HORSWELL DIARY

Mmmmm! Tigers and the Taj. The very words conjured up enough excitement to send me hurtling off abroad to escape what I had imagined would be the grey days of early spring. As it happened the weather in Devon proved every bit as sunny as Rajasthan and Maya Pradesh, and on my return I was able to acquire the suntan that had eluded me on my somewhat hectic visit to India. The visit (I can't in all honesty say it was a holiday) was only brief. I thought it unwise to leave the phantom Horswell Diarist on his own for too long (last month the Village Voice, tomorrow.....????). But it was long enough. Visits to India seem to be such an intense assault on one's senses, rather like a hot Madras curry, that it is sometimes necessary to stop and savour the flavours over a period of time, before feeling ready for more.

This time, although my priorities were seeing tigers in their natural habitat, and visiting the Taj Mahal, it was a chance to visit all those other famous places and monuments that I've heard about but never really thought I would enjoy: The Qutub Minar, the Red Fort, the Amber Palace, the Jaipur lake palace, the Bharatpur bird sanctuary, the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, and the Agra Fort. All of which, despite my uncertainty, were wonderful, far exceeding my expectations.

Delhi seemed remarkably orderly now that most of the cows that used to wander blithely between the traffic have been removed. Those that remain settle on the central reservations barely inches away from the hectic throng of bicycles, motorbikes, rickshaws and motor rickshaws; coaches, cars, camel-carts and trucks. They look remarkably serene, the only signs of life a twitch of an ear or the flick of a tail. Apparently the movement of air from passing vehicles provides the useful service of keeping away the flies.

A young beggar boy beats a drum with

ferocious determination to attract my attention. Maybe six years old, he is accompanied by his sister, a tiny little soul who exhibits her double-jointed ability to step through her clasped hands both forwards and backwards, vaguely in time to the insistent drumming of her brother. The little boy has the solemn face of a man resigned to his fate, the sole attempt at humour a huge Italianate mustachio drawn in charcoal on his top lip. I smile at him, recognising him from outside our hotel a mile or so away. He stares back, eyes challenging me to 'dance' to his drum. The traffic lights turn red and I hand him ten rupees through my open window. He takes them without a smile, eyes already searching for his next 'customer'.

We weave through busy streets to explore Ghandi's memorial, the wonderful statue of him on his famous 'salt march', and the Rajgat - the place where his remains were ceremonially cremated; a holy garden on the banks of the river. Then on through New Delhi, a city commissioned by George V and designed by Lutyens. We pass the homes of politicians and foreign diplomats; compounds designed originally for Civil Servants serving the Raj. Hollyhocks, dahlias, marigolds, and nasturtiums fill their gardens, lasting reminders of an English past.

Leaving Delhi, the long journeys between Jaipur, Ranthambore and Agra proved to be a hair-raising experience where life and limb were risked so often it was simply best to ignore the view of the road ahead and look elsewhere. Preferably not taking too much notice of the burnt-out shells of crashed coaches that littered the side of the highway. Or the ornately decorated Rajasthani grain trucks, so vastly overladen (their overstuffed sacks billowing out to twice the vehicles width and height) that they frequently tipped sideways, spewing their precious cargo, the lifeblood of many a poor peasant farmer, uselessly across the road.

Arrival in Jaipur was heaven: The Palace of the Winds built for the ladies of the harem, and the pink walls of the old city making a picturesque backdrop to the colourful life on its streets. Sadly, the number of visitors means that the city is changing fast. Already half-built 'skyscrapers' reach up above the high garden walls of faded palaces. But, at the Rajmahal, once home to the Maharajah of Jaipur, one-time residence of Lord Mountbatten, and host to Princess Diana when she presented the winners' trophy to the Jaipur Polo Team, there is still the peace and faded grandeur of an earlier time. It is a calm oasis from where to take tea on the lawn, to sit and read or take a dip in the swimming pool. And then to slip out quietly into the town to explore! To see the turbans and textiles, or the haudas and palanquins, at the city museum. Or take an elephant ride to the stunningly beautiful Amber Palace. Or purchase an emerald – for which Jaipur is famous. Or watch the snake charmers coax their cobras out of their baskets. Or.....? ? It is no good: I shall have to go back one day to that lovely place, to discover its treasures all over again.

I had never doubted that on our safari I would see tigers, however rare and elusive they have become. But when I saw three eagles soaring across the heavens in tight formation I just 'knew' I'd be lucky. It was a sign. And yes, although other people failed to see a single one, I saw tigers on all three days that I was in the Ranthambore reserve.

Day 1: A male, alone, camouflaged so perfectly behind thin black trees that he was invisible until a fly disturbed him, causing him to flick his tail. He was huge. Enormous. Twice the size I had expected.

Day 2: A mother and her cubs, screened by tall vetiver grass. Only the mother clearly visible. Then the tufts of the cubs' ears and the tips of their tails as they tumbled one

over the other in play. Magical!

Day 3: Nothing all morning. But I 'knew' she'd be there. Sure enough, around the next bend of the dusty track, there she was. Standing. Looking straight at us. Hearts stopped beating. She walked towards us. Elegant, slow, sure. Paws as big as dinner plates, fur dense and creamy, yellow barred with black. We held our breath as she passed by. Then, for a while, she stopped and lay on the track, watching us watching her. She turned and licked her fur, preening for her audience. Then rose and walked slowly away. The moment she turned off the track she became invisible, her markings replicated a hundred times by the scrubby black trees against dry golden bracken. Silent as a ghost she was gone.

A few days later, silent as a ghost, the Taj Mahal glowed softly in the rosy light of breaking dawn. And, just like the beauty of the tiger, it took our breath away. More impressive in reality than in any photograph she, for surely no building could be more feminine, held us spellbound as we watched the rising sun warm her cold white marble with its golden rays.

Inside the mausoleum itself, standing close to the tomb of its creator Shah Jahan, and that of his beloved wife Mumtaz, surrounded by all that sublime architecture and craftsmanship, I was filled with sorrow. An exquisite sadness seems to emanate from the marble itself. Love, in all its complexity, bitter and sweet, seems to fill the air, a feeling so strong it is almost tangible. I found the beauty of that moment in the Taj Mahal overwhelming. Haunting. Unforgettable.

No wonder people were queuing to have their photograph taken whilst sitting on 'Princess Diana's Bench'!

Prunella Dart

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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

John Crawford

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who attended John Crawford's thanksgiving service on the 14th April.

This is a very difficult time for our family as we are reminded daily of John's absence. I speak for all of us in saying how much it lifted our spirits to see so many local faces at his service, and it cheers us to realise how many people appreciated his kindness and neighbourliness. I know that my father would have been astonished and thrilled (and a little bit embarrassed) by such a turnout - especially on Grand National Day.

Our special thanks go to the bellringers who rang the bells so joyously as John asked, and also the people who conjured such a banquet apparently from nowhere. The family was particularly delighted to see the Bowls Club members so smartly dressed in their official pullovers - very impressive!!

With all our gratitude

Caroline Crawford
15 Bishops Way
London E2 9HB

Dear Editor

You Can Make The Switch!

How **green** are you, really? We are all aware of environmental issues, but what are **you doing** about it? Let's try to make our parish more energy-efficient. Here are some tips for you to start with:

- ✓ Use energy-saving light bulbs. Just one can save you £7.00 a year - and they last up to twelve times longer than ordinary light bulbs.

- ✓ If all UK homes replaced just one 100-watt light bulb with an energy-saving alternative, the money saved could pay about 75,000 family fuel bills a year.

- ✓ Switch them off! Don't leave lights on unnecessarily. If you leave a room for ten minutes, turn the lights off. **It is not true** that turning them on again causes a surge that uses even more electricity.

- ✓ Don't leave televisions or DVDs on standby.

- ✓ Unplug your mobile phone and MP3 player chargers when not in use. Chargers are not huge energy consumers in their own right, but across the UK those left plugged in unnecessarily waste over £60 million and are responsible for a quarter of a million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. Another tip - turn off mobile phones overnight so you have to charge them less often.

- ✓ It may not be practical to turn a computer on and off during the day, but don't leave your computer or printer on overnight.

And finally "*Never deny the power of a small group of committed individuals to change the world. Indeed that is the only thing that ever has*" [Margaret Mead]

Green Fairie
Thurlestone
(Name and address supplied)

[Green Fairie is keen to promote improved ecological practices throughout the parish in as many spheres as possible. We are hoping that further contributions may be forthcoming, and that readers may also be prompted to send in their own ideas and suggestions for a greener and more energy efficient parish. Ed]

STROKE AWARENESS 'DROP IN' DAY

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The aim is to increase awareness - what a stroke is, how to prevent it, about stroke rehabilitation and the services that are available through South Hams Hospital. Every year more than 130,000 people in the UK have a stroke and some 250,000 live with disabilities following a stroke. Any one of us, at any age, can suffer a stroke. **A STROKE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY!**

Lifestyle changes can significantly reduce the risk - through diet, by stopping smoking, limiting alcohol intake and having regular blood pressure checks.

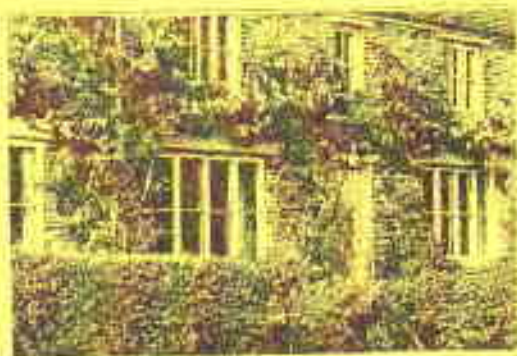
Being aware of the early signs of a stroke - facial & arm weakness and speech problems - and acting quickly to get specialist hospital treatment for the patient.

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DISCOVERING "DRYAD"

By Henry Alexander

The early part of 1891 was for the most part warm and spring-like, but March of that year was decidedly cooler and more like winter. On the 9th March there developed a deep depression which caused one of the worst storms in the south-west for many a year. Huge falls of snow disrupted life in this part of the country for a week or more, and within twenty-four hours over sixty ships had been wrecked along the coast of southern Britain. One of these ships was the 1035-ton clipper ship "*Dryad*", built of iron by T Royden & Sons of Liverpool and launched in November 1874.

The "*Dryad*" had sailed to many parts of the world during her seventeen years of life, carrying mostly bulk cargo - coal, flour, grain, nitrates, that sort of thing - but on occasions she carried general cargoes; a real mixture of things. She carried passengers only once, in 1879, when two gentlemen travelled from New York to Sydney.

The storm (known as the Great Blizzard) which blew from the north-east, carried many ships before it, and four of them were swept into the precipitous cliffs between Beesands and Start Point that night. Meteorological readings taken in the area at the time recorded seas in excess of thirty-six feet high, and winds gusting to over 100 miles an hour. No wonder poor "*Dryad*" was smashed to pieces in just a few hours. She had been loaded with coal at South Shields, on the Tyne, and departed that port on the 3rd March 1891 with a crew of twenty-one under **Captain William Thomas**, the owner's commodore captain. One young man had recently signed a five-year apprenticeship and this was to be his first voyage. Sadly, it was also to be his last.

My interest in this ship was initiated in the summer of 1974, when I found her remains on the sea bed close to Start Point. I was at the time escorting a pair of student divers on one of their initial open-water dives whilst I was running a diving course at Slapton Ley Field Centre. We came across a number of artefacts which really intrigued me and, over time, I became 'hooked' on the ship. I decided to find out as much about her life and times as I could and, possibly, to write a book about her. Little did I know then

what I was letting myself in for - although I was warned by arguably the greatest authority on British shipwrecks that I had little chance of discovering much. However, as it says in the Bible, "Seek and ye shall find"!

I sought, and I found. It was a very long but enjoyable journey; years trawling through not only the mud, rocks and debris close to Start Point, but also many libraries, newspapers, museums, record offices, radio interviews, magazine articles and enquiry letters, both in this country and abroad. After a gestation period of thirty years my little project was born -

The Life & Death of the Liverpool Barque Dryad (1874-91)

Only three of the crew were positively identified, and they are buried in Stokenham churchyard, along with several unidentified bodies which may, or may not, have been "*Dryad*" crew members. Over the years I spent hundreds of hours combing the seabed for artefacts and clues as to her identity as, at the time of the discovery, I was not sure who she was - she could have been one of a number. As a scientist, guesswork is not my forte; I had to be sure. Eight years later I had my answer. I found the brass steering wheel boss which was engraved with the ship's name *Dryad* and her port of registry - *Liverpool*!

I was now in a position to undertake more detailed research, both in this country and abroad. I wrote to *Country Life* magazine seeking any information about her from readers. I had remarkably good fortune and got two replies - one was from **Mrs Mary Jenkins** of Pembrokeshire, the great grand-daughter of **Captain William Thomas** (the ship's master at the time of her loss), the other from **Mrs Nancy Batten**, the great grand-daughter of **Thomas Royden** whose company built the ship in 1874. The odds against hearing from these two ladies must be thousands, if not millions-to-one against! Mrs Jenkins had some letters and photographs written by the Captain during his travels round the world, and Mrs Batten told me of stories passed on by her father about his grandfather's firm.

One of the most intriguing things about most shipwrecks is that the ship becomes a time-capsule of the moment when she sank. All parts of the vessel herself, and those items contained within her, remain at the place where she was lost. Only disintegration (and/or removal) of parts lessens the stock. One only has to think of Egyptian tombs untouched for thousands of years to realise that items placed in the catacomb will be there for ever unless removed by grave-robbers or archaeologists. It has to be said that it is not quite the same with shipwrecks as the agents of destruction are often more vigorous. Nevertheless, many artefacts can and do get preserved in the sea bed, especially if buried under sand or mud. Also, marine deposits forming a type of natural concrete (called concretion) encase items (in many ways similar to fossilisation), and one may then have a cast of the object, if not the original.

Although there are some preserved ships around the world (such as the "Balclutha", "Cutty Sark", "Victory" and "Warrior") there are examples of ships which have been rebuilt/restored from their wreckage. This is especially true if the ships happen to sink in soft preserving materials. Two such examples are the English "Mary Rose" and Swedish "Vasa" both preserved and on display in Portsmouth and Stockholm respectively. Both

ships are accompanied by a range of artefacts which help to bring the vessels to life.

Although the "Dryad" was smashed to pieces in a few hours, I do have a number of artefacts from her, and also photographs of a range of items which help to bring the vessel to life. Remains of items such as the sextant, telescope, parallel rule, binoculars, navigator's dividers, barometer parts, sounding leads, navigation lamps, compass binnacle and chronometer key all contrast with today's advanced electronics for navigating around the world. Personal items such as a silver watch and chain, an 18ct gold ring belonging to the ship's carpenter, and a beautiful engraved gold bachelor button, probably the property of the ship's steward, all help to beautify some aspects of life in an otherwise prosaic existence.

It is a pity that there is nowhere locally that is able to house and display them.

Henry Alexander

[* Copies of the book may be obtained from Henry Alexander at Aune Cross Lodge, Bantham, TQ7 3AD (phone 01548-561182) at £10.00 each.]



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NEWS FROM THE WI



The Pantomime

As promised in the last issue, here is a full report on the Oriental Extravaganza held in March. A well-decorated (Far-Eastern style) Parish Hall greeted visitors and a delicious Chinese take-away meal preceded the cabaret. Devised, produced and directed by Empress **Val Brown**, the talented cast - roughly in order of appearance - comprised Aladdin (**Karen Livett** - who was almost totally unrecognisable in a jet black wig!), Princess Kishie (**Vida Alexander**), maids (**Shirley Barnes, Jo Parkin & Joan Booth**), & Mr Wu (**Chris White** - who brought the house down singing Chinese Laundry Blues whilst balancing a lampshade on his head). Nancy, Kishie's laundress mum (**Christine Field**), dancing laundry girls (**Jo Odams, Pat Clarke, Julie Hanham & Pam Knight**), and the Emperor of the Peking Palace take-away and Kishie's dad (**Ron Parkin**), with support singing from the dancing laundry maids plus **Margaret Illingworth** and **Dorothy Abel**, completed the all star cast. There were also delightful solos from Tai Chi dancer **Vida Alexander**, violinist **Judith Reynolds** and guest-singer **Kath Cowell** and the whole show was held together with a sparkling piano accompaniment from **Judith Le Grice**. The beautiful costumes and other props were amazingly inventive.

A specially-made comic video by **Malcolm Le Grice** then followed on the big screen which showed members getting to grips with learning hand-bell ringing, the Chinese language, and their imagined adventure trip to China and the Peking Opera - with entertainingly appropriate local sub-titles. Everyone went home that night with a smile on their face for it was yet another of Val's unique smash hits!

The profit of £210 from the evening would be donated to Devon Air Ambulance.

April

Glenda Cooper came from Derriford Hospital to show us the latest basic techniques in resuscitation and soon had everyone practising on dummies! The profit from the St Trinian's murder mystery evening would be given to the Parish Hall for use on kitchen equipment. A large wall-hanging, embroidered by members and showing buildings in the parish, had at last been completed by the hard work, and quilting, of **Joan Booth** and was presented to the Parish Hall for permanent display in the entrance foyer.

May

Members craft work was on display in anticipation of entries for the area exhibition on the 15th August and the Kingsbridge Show in September. **Carolyn Taylor** and **Dorothy Candy** had thoroughly enjoyed their course at Denman College on "Laughter Through Song". **Vida Alexander** and **Lisa White** had been to a county new members' tea party at Charleton and learnt a bit more about the WI as well as having a nice tea. **Karen Livett** and **Wendy Gornall** had been to the Great Milk Debate at Blackawton, and 14 members attended the Sea Coast Group meeting at Salcombe where the speaker was local celebrity **Tony Beard**, the Widcombe Wag.

Looking Forward

Reminders were given of the walk and lunch at Riverford Organic Farm on the 31st May, and the annual garden lunch at **Rosemary Mackay's** on the 5th July. Members were urged to think of bright ideas on how, fittingly, to celebrate our WI's 80th birthday next year! The speaker on 14th June will be **John Miles** on "What's the point of poetry?".

Visitors are always most welcome.

The National Trust South Hams Centre

During the past year the South Hams Centre has been active raising funds for the local National Trust properties, and I am pleased to report that we contributed £4800 to Overbecks. This was used to help pay for a new handrail to the picnic area, a new wheelchair, new garden seats, and also contributed towards the new greenhouse. We also donated £1500 for the production of Coastal Walk information leaflets, and a further £2000 towards the building of the rustic shelter at Coleton Fishacre.

Programme for June and July

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Wednesday
6 June | 8.00 am | Coach Trip to Abbotsbury Swannery & sub-tropical gardens
Swannery in the morning, and lunch at the sub-tropical gardens |
| Thursday
14 June | 12.30 pm | Lunch at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club
A popular annual event at a beautiful venue |
| Friday
29th June | 10.00 am to 2.00 pm | Grand Summer Fair , Market Hall, Kingsbridge,
<i>Our main fund-raising event of the year.</i> Lots of stalls (cakes, books, plants).
Please support. Contact Fair organiser Alan Booth (01548 853105) for details. |
| Thursday
19 July | 8.30 am | Midi-coach trip to Greenway and Coleton Fishacre
Visit to Greenway garden, then Coleton Fishacre house and gardens. |

For further information, or details of how to go about joining the NT South Hams Centre, please contact **Neill Irwin** (Chairman) on 01548 - 561661, or at neill@southerncrosslimited.com

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Daisy's Memories

(Part Two)

Continuing Daisy Cole's memoirs of "Life in Buckland 1898-1909" in which she recalls aspects of the parish from her childhood. In this second instalment we are introduced to some of the people who lived here 100 years ago.

Miss Amy Coope

She lived for a few years in the old house which I think was at some time connected with Sherriff Farm but, to my knowledge, never had a home. A date over the door (which I have forgotten) most likely indicated the year it was built.

Miss Coope, a tall angular lady set up a school room at the back of the house and taught her nieces, the children of her brother the Reverend Egerton Coope. Later the Misses Ella and May Phillips taught the same children and other progeny of the fortunate. Ella gave private lessons on the piano and May in singing. For two years I practised under their tutoring

Jim & Eliza Elliott

They spent some years in the cottage facing the Court. Eliza, known as "Aunt Liza", was thought by the superstitious to have the power to cast an evil eye and be capable of witchcraft.

The following true, but incredible, story was told to me by Sarah Pinney, long time parlour maid at Clanacombe House. She said that Liza once gained entrance through the rear door of Clanacombe House, cut down a ham hanging in the larder and carried it away suspended from her waist - concealed beneath her many petticoats. Old Mr Beer gave evidence that he observed her in the bushes adjusting the ham but feared to let himself be seen as he feared coming under her evil eye and declared he didn't "want to be witched". He let her go and Mrs

Jenkins would not allow any reprimand.

Jim suffered from a disease peculiar to the male. His wearied and distressed countenance betrayed the pain he suffered. Their daughter and only child, Polly, residing in Plymouth, promised to send to them a certain patent medicine - namely "Bile Beans". In receiving this "Dr Somebody's" concoction in pill form, Eliza was mystified and took the round wooden box to my mother and said "Look, missus, they'm b'aint beans, they be little black pills!". Mother explained and Eliza went home and faithfully followed the instructions written on the box.

Charlie and Jane Eley

They lived at what is now known as Pear Tree Cottage at the top of Monkey Lane. A childless couple, perfectly matched in size and stature, they were chapel-goers and spent part of the Sabbath singing favourite hymns from their "Sankey & Moody" collection. They harmonised quite well and their renditions were pleasant to the ear.

Around the year 1904, Jane, who was definitely not suited to business, but thinking to increase their income, set up and operated a sweet shop, with great hopes of substantial benefits thereof. Several boxes were placed in the kitchen window facing the sun - which softened or baked the sweetmeats thoroughly. Through the open window access was given to all manner of flies, wasps, bugs - and naughty boys who artfully stole from the messy collection. In a short time, as

feared, losses exceeded the gains and high hopes disappeared, which resulted in a closed shop and possible bankruptcy.

A small chicken house adjoined the cottage. Its small dimensions made it impossible to enter, except in a bent over position. The fowls, singing merrily, had a free way to nest boxes placed cosily behind the kitchen door. It was a case of "watch your step" when passing lest one's favourite footwear became very evil-smelling bits of leather.

Poor Jane's mind weakened, probably because of the lonely monotony of living at the end of the road. This weakness progressed to madness that became manifest when villagers observed her, clad only in a short chemise, a pitcher in her hand, going through the village to the tap for water. On a Sunday afternoon, a closed carriage rumbled through the village with young Bill Jeffery on the box handling the reins, with poor meek little Jane inside. And so she passed from our lives for ever.

In the garden at the back, and adjoining father's garden, grew a Stubbart apple tree, also gooseberries of the bell and hairy variety. These fruits seemed to be of a much nicer flavour than the chatter tree or the more common gooseberries in our own garden. Satan took advantage of our weaknesses as, with guilty conscience and stealthy steps, we ignored the Eighth Commandment "Thou shalt not steal".

Charlie & Sarah Edgecombe and sons Edgar Cecil and Ronald

Charlie wore the uniform of HM Navy and rose from the rank of Able Seaman to Chief Petty Officer.

Mr & Mrs Frank Hewitt

Thurlestone parish, with a wealth of pastoral landscape and sea views, has

always been a painters' paradise. Around the year 1903 Mr & Mrs Hewitt settled in Buckland. Mr Hewitt, an artist in water colours, was of the rugged type, a perfect gentleman. Dressed in plus-fours, Norfolk jacket, two-peaked cap of the Sherlock Holmes variety, and an Inverness cape in inclement weather, he became a very familiar figure in the parish. Villagers stood by his easel watching, fascinated, as his dull black sketches disappeared and his canvas came alive in true colour

Mrs Hewitt was rarely seen in the village. Her gowns, always in pastel shades, were very lacy and frilly. Hats of the boat or toque shape were her choice, adorned with flowers or feathers, with a white veil attached and fastened with a knot under her chin. Her cream-coloured, French heel, high button kid boots were a dream, as were her gay parasols. I envied her and looked forward to the day when I would own one just as pretty - but I doubt very much if I ever carried one as gracefully as she did.

Bill & Annie Jeffery

Bill, a heavy-set fellow, developed a bone disease in one of his legs and walked with the aid of crutches. In spite of his affliction, he displayed a great sense of humour, laughed heartily and was never heard to complain because of his suffering. He kept himself informed on current events, chiefly through the "Western Weekly" and the local "Kingsbridge Gazette". He was often heard to say "I raid pon tap the paper.....so and so" but drew very little interest from those who did not read and cared less. Annie was the breadwinner - a valued helper in the Hewitt household.

(Part Three of Daisy's Memories will appear in the August edition of Village Voice, with more recollections of village inhabitants)



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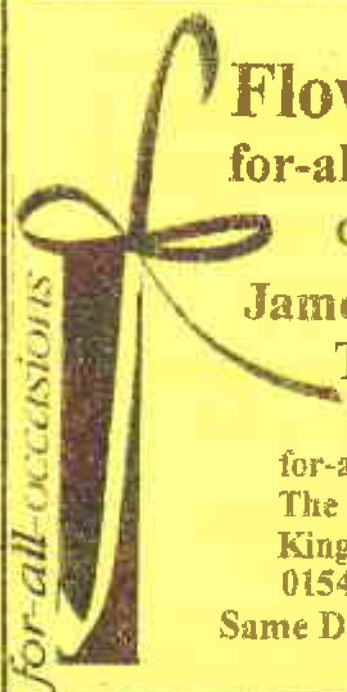
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KATE'S



KITCHEN

Baked Salmon With Pesto Topping

We recently had baked salmon with a crunchy pesto topping cooked by a friend, and it was really delicious. I haven't located the original Delia Smith recipe, but here is my version. It makes a splendid meal for the dining-room, and goes equally well outdoors in summer.

Ingredients (for 4)

- 4 salmon steaks
- 4 finely sliced spring onions
- Juice of a lemon
- 4 dessertspoons ready made green pesto
- 2 tablespoons fresh white breadcrumbs
- Egg-cupful of pine nuts
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 oz butter (extra for buttery dish)
- Basil leaves and lemon wedges to garnish

Preparation

- Preheat oven to 180° C (Gas mark 4)
- Butter an oven proof dish
- Season the salmon steaks and dot with butter
- Add a layer of spring onions.
- Sprinkle with lemon juice
- Spread a dessert spoon of pesto on each steak and then cover with breadcrumbs
- Sprinkle the pine nuts over
- Cover with foil and bake in oven for 10 minutes
- Remove foil and continue baking to crisp the topping for another 5 - 10 minutes until the flesh flakes easily
- Serve garnished with basil leaves and a wedge of lemon

*A crisp salad and new potatoes is all you really need to go with this dish.
Imagine eating this in a sunny garden, with a carefully chosen bottle of wine
- or maybe a nice cold glass of ginger beer.*

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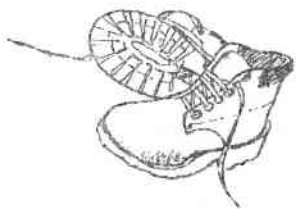
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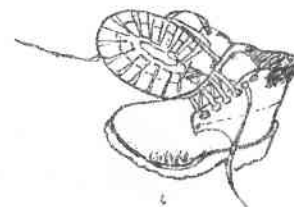
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TRAMP



1 It was a beautiful Spring morning when we assembled at Plym Bridge for our riverside walk to Shaugh Prior on 2nd April. This was the first time that Tramps had walked the Plym Trail in several years and we soon realised how much we had missed the attractions of this scenic riverside walk. The river sparkled and our group of nine walkers enjoyed the profusion of spring flowers and blossoms and glimpses of wildlife all along the river banks. Our canine companion was in and out of the river at every opportunity and usually managed to soak nearby walkers after emerging from the water! At Bickleigh we left the river for a brief detour but soon rejoined the river for the remainder of the walk to Shaugh Bridge. Here we enjoyed our picnic at an idyllic spot on the river bank and recharged our batteries for the return journey.

Taking the road from Shaugh Bridge we climbed a steep gradient to join the Plym Valley cycle path that runs along the track of the old Great Western Railway Line from Plymouth to Yelverton. This trail now provides an easy route back along a level paved surface for walkers, horse riders and cyclists all the way to Plym Bridge and into Plymouth. This route has been made even easier recently by an extension to the path straight through Bickleigh and avoiding the detour through the village that was previously necessary. The highlight of the return journey was a stop at the National Trust facility on the Cann Viaduct near Plym Bridge that provided telescopic viewing of peregrine falcons and other birds, including ravens feeding their young on a nest on the distant quarry face. This provided a fitting culmination to a near-perfect Tramp walking day under idyllic conditions in the Devon countryside and was enjoyed by all.

Graham Durant

2 Thirteen TRAMPS (including two of the canine variety) gathered at the lay-by just outside Slapton village on the 19th April - a clear, bright and increasingly warm morning. The group quickly got into its stride, skirting the

western edge of the village and climbing 'gently' to the former school which is now a residential centre for environmental education.

Keeping to virtually traffic-free lanes, we aimed for Merrifield Cross, then started the descent to North Mill, a bridging point on the River Gara, passing through the delightful hamlet of Hansel on the way. The bridge provided a perfect backdrop for a group photo-call, and a short lecture from one of our leaders about the journey of the Gara from its source near Blackawton to Higher Ley near Strete Gate.

Another (not quite so gentle) climb took us out of the valley in the direction of Burlestone Farm. This section of the walk offered superb southerly views of Start Bay as far as the lighthouse. On reaching Gara Mill the walkers were given the option of a short diversion into Burlestone Wood to see the flora, fauna and geological rarities on display there. However, by this time the hills and the heat must have been taking their toll since the majority vote was in favour of continuing the journey to ensure arrival at the designated hostelry before last orders!

A steady uphill slog brought us to a footpath through agricultural land from Buckland to Pollard's Combe. Several stiles had to be negotiated, at least two of which were not very dog-friendly. Thus there were opportunities for some of us to practise our team-building skills as our rather sturdily-built canine companions had to be carefully man-handled over the obstacles and gently lowered on the other side - a challenging feat at this stage of the proceedings!

At this point in our journey cries of "Are you sure this is a short walk?" and "How many more hills?" persuaded the leaders that the most direct route to the inn was the sensible choice in order to avoid mutiny in the ranks! Thus, the Tower Inn was reached in good time and the charming beer garden provided the perfect setting for our well-earned refreshments.

Val & Graham Palmer

3 In spite of a rather contradictory weather forecast, the morning of the 26th April dawned fine and clear, with none of the threatened rain. A little cooler than the previous week, it was ideal for walking.

Leaving the Cider Press Centre at Dartington, we enjoyed our usual riverside walk, with the obligatory wave at the steam train en route to Buckfastleigh as it passed us by. Flowers of wild garlic surrounded us along the way, with quite a few late primroses, and a wonderful carpet of bluebells greeted us in the woods. The dogs were able to indulge themselves with numerous dips in the river.

A diversion at Staverton - over the lovely old bridge and along the railway line - took us into the village for lunch at the Sea Trout Inn. Here a pleasant hour was spent around a large table in the garden before returning to pick up the remainder of the route back to Dartington. We had covered a little over six miles.

Christine Hammer

4 Wednesday 16 May saw the dawning of a rather cloudy Spring day, although we were rewarded with some warm sunshine later on. Eight bold walkers (no dogs this time, though they were invited!) assembled at Coleton Fishacre, in an area of truly outstanding natural beauty, and set off in the direction of Kingswear on a circular walk, arriving back at Coleton Fishacre for a more leisurely stroll (much needed) through the beautiful gardens to the tea-rooms of this National Trust establishment. There was then a chance to visit the house, designed in 1925 for Rupert and Lady Dorothy d'Oyly Carte.

About half an hour after setting off we arrived at a valley which must be one of the prettiest in South Devon. Unfortunately we were just too late for the carpet of primroses, everything being at least a month earlier this year. A steep climb down and back up the other side brought us to a cliff path where we stopped to admire the magnificent vistas across the bay to Dartmouth and the Castle. We followed this path, which was adorned with many varieties of colourful wild flowers and plants, eventually arriving at the Coastal Watch station. Here we were made most welcome, and appreciated the opportunity to

learn about the day-to-day operations of the station. The final stage of the journey was the strenuous coastal path, where a picnic was enjoyed on a bank of bluebells and campions, from where we were able to watch at least five seals playing on the nearby rocks. Sighs of relief were heard when we came upon the gate leading into the gardens and the last trek back up to the house. A truly beautiful walk not to be missed.

Jenny Sherrington

5 Our walk on Tuesday 22nd May explored a beautiful section of the wooded Avon Valley, with its mass of wild flowers, from the hilltop village of Loddiswell; and the weather was perfect as we parked in the free car park at Loddiswell. There were 11 of us in total plus 2 labrador dogs. We set off past the church, along the walled lane to Ham Butts, and onwards to Read's Farm where we joined a signed public footpath. The footpath took us to a stile, and from there we then followed a delightful brook downhill to a small footbridge which was not easy to find - a large tree had fallen just by the footbridge and we had to negotiate our way around this. Crossing the footbridge, we continued down to the bank of the River Avon, where we followed the delightful footpath up-river to Silverton Bridge.

We then followed the old rail-track bed downstream, where the trees provided a beautiful arch over us, to Loddiswell station. Now a private house, it was built in 1893 and is instantly recognisable by the GWR cream and brown paint and characteristic stonework. By the station, we were warned not to wake the dormice who live in the nesting boxes attached to trees by the footpath. We followed the lane down-river past the Avon Mill Garden Centre to New Mill Bridge. Crossing the main Kingsbridge Road, we continued over several fields, braving a large herd of cows with a rather large bull, and on to Hatch Bridge.

Our return to Loddiswell took us uphill over several fields. Rests were obligatory on the way up so that we could look back to savour the wonderful views over the Avon Valley. After 5.5 miles, the Loddiswell Inn beckoned us in for some well-earned refreshments.

Lisa White

Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 30 June 2007. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB (or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk).

Quiz: (These are not trick questions)

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw" and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "S."



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You are standing outside a room.
There are 3 light switches on the wall.
Only one of them turns on the light in the room.
You are only allowed to enter the room once to check the light.
How can you determine which is the right switch?

Last month's bottle of wine goes to Rodney Horn of Thurlestone ~ There were no all correct entries, but Rodney's was the closest. The solutions to the Cryptic Quiz:

1. Sage 2. Marigold 3. Iris 4. Paw Paw 5. L Caraway 6. Lily of the Valley 7. Stocks 8. Solomon's Seal 9. Pineapple
10. Lemon Balm 11. Blue Bell 12. Pear 13. Larkspur 14. Mint 15. Kingcup 16. Thyme 17. Damson 18. Arrowroot
19. Red Hot Poker 20. Chilli 21. Banana 22. Bulrush 23. Camellias 24. Sloe 25. Parsley 26. Lovage 27. Rhubarb 28.
Dandelion 29. Cumin 30. Speedwell 31. Wallflower 32. Hollyhock 33. Verbena 34. Basil

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Siltation Symposium

It is with great regret that the Aune Conservation Association has to announce the cancellation of the symposium on siltation of the Avon Estuary scheduled for 1 June. The decision was taken owing to the relatively small number of people registering for the meeting by the closing date and is no reflection on the high quality of the work that has been carried out during this research programme.

Much of the work that has not yet been described in public will be presented, instead, as part of the ACA's forthcoming series of evening lectures, as detailed below. The committee hopes you will be able to come along to those lectures as an alternative to attending the symposium. We hope to draw together the different threads of this research and the local observations that John Crawford had so painstakingly collected in the autumn. In addition, a written report will be prepared in due course for general circulation, separate from any academic papers that are likely to be published.

August Lectures

Monday 6th : *The Ecology of Bigbury Bay* - Brian Ashby & Gordon Waterhouse

Monday 13th : *Siltation of the Avon Estuary (Part 1 : The Influences of Land & Sea)*
- Will Blake & Reg Uncles

Monday 20th : *Flushing Pollution from the Avon* - Stuart Watts & Sally Hope-Johnson

All at 7.30 pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall

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***I look forward to seeing you all, and your friends as well, at as many of these events
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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

I'm already into my 3rd month of my Captaincy. The weather has been wonderful and we are well into the golf and tennis season.

We started on the 1st April with "The Captains Drive In" and "Fun Day". With heavy betting that my drive would not make it over the road, and with knees trembling, I managed to drive off the 1st tee and surprised everyone (myself included) when the ball landed on the green! Although no-one had predicted this magical feat, **Roy Townsend** won the bottle of malt whisky for being the nearest.. I will leave it to the Lady Captain to describe her drive. Earlier in the day we had a mixed four-ball better-ball which was won by **Pam Adams** and **Nick Bowles** with 49 points. The day was great fun, raising over £500 for the "The Children's Hospice South West".

Other competitions in April were the rescheduled 3 clubs and putter, played on a glorious spring Saturday and won by **John Baker** with 41 points, with **Jono Franke**, on a visit from university in Scotland, second overall (40 points). The April Stableford was won by **Martin Adams** with a great score of 44 points to beat **Roger Seymour** by a point into second place. In Division 1, **Dan Knight** just pipped **Simon Gibbens**.

A good field turned out for the Easter Monday Mixed Greensomes with some excellent scores being recorded. **Lindsey** and **Alan Mann** won from **Phillip** and **Vera Pailthorpe** with 46 points. Third were **Hamish** and **Pattie McPhie** (44 pts); fourth on count back from **Sue** and past Captain **Alec Esplin** were **Keith** and **Denise Crawford** (43 pts); and sixth in the prizes were **Paul Milburn-Fryer** and **Midge Henderson**. The Scratch Matchplay Qualifier and April medal was played in calm but slightly misty conditions, and there was a wealth of below par scoring. **Graham Smith** produced an excellent net 63, but late in the day young **Jack Wallace** produced the round of his life with a gross 64 which would have certainly been a new course record if it had been off the white tees. Jack recorded seven birdies plus a hole-in-one at the

par three 17th. The following players qualified for the Scratch Matchplay event: **Jack Wallace, Stephen Pike, Keith Crawford, Mark Knight, Chris Jones, Peter Chapman, Chris Johnson & Alistair Whalley**.

With the lighter evenings we were able to have our first Captains' Dinner and Fun competition. Those who attended enjoyed the light-hearted evening, with the winners **Fiona** and **John Jacobs** scoring 24 points over nine holes, just pipping an excellent round from **Pam Adams & Malcolm Franke** on 23 points. Fiona scored five points on the first and third holes leaving her husband (who only scored on two holes) rather embarrassed to collect their prize. The evening was again all in aid of the Captains' Charity.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CAPTAINS' CHARITY DRAW 2007 - "A WEEK'S VILLA HOLIDAY IN SOUTHERN SPAIN" which has been generously donated by **Linda Kendall**. The villa is situated at the Desert Springs Resort Almanzora in Southern Spain; it will sleep up to eight people and affords the opportunity to try one of Spain's best Golf Complexes. Please check it out for yourselves at www.estrellaville.com and www.almanzora.com. The Draw tickets are available at £1.00 each and are eligible for a bar raffle on the day of issue, which will be drawn when 25 tickets have been sold - typical prize will be a bottle of whisky and winners' names will be posted in the bar. All tickets sold are eligible for the main draw for the week's villa holiday which will take place at the Club Presentation Evening on 11th November 2007. All monies other than prize money will go to "The Children's Hospice South West".

As Chairman of the Greens Committee, I would like to compliment our Greens Staff, headed by **Vic Dyer**, for the course being in such excellent condition for the start of the new season. Already several local clubs have visited us for Matches and expressed pleasure in playing the course – this only enhances our reputation in the area.

In my next newsletter I plan to give you more reports about our Palaret team. However, I have pleasure in announcing that **Peter Eva** has been elected as the new Palaret team captain for 2007 as we will be losing **Keith Crawford** who has

held this title for the past three years. Once again, thank you Keith for all that you have done during this period and a warm welcome to Peter – let's hope we make it to the final this year!

Nigel Holland

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

We have been so lucky with the good weather over the last couple of months with April being especially dry and warm; this has meant that we have been able to play all our competitions.

March's club morning commenced with a Texas Scramble, the winning team of **Rona Burgoyne, Sheila Harrison, Daisy Sanders** and **Jenny Sherrington** gaining 32.1 points, and pipping the team of **Ann Best, Shirley Worrall, Jane Stanley** and **Jane Mason** who returned 32.9 points. After the competition a very successful Bring and Buy sale was held which raised £485.75p for the Travel Fund.

The March Foursomes Stableford and Killard Leavy was won by **Ann Williams** and **Dawn St. Pier** (36 pts) from **Liz Line** and **Shirley Worrall** (35 pts). However the qualifiers for the Killard Leavy were **Trish Cooper** and **Pam Ledger** with 32 points who go to Tiverton in September to play in the finals.

1st April saw the Captains' Drive-In, after a lively mixed competition played over 18 holes. Both Nigel and I had to take our respective drives off the first tee. Although Nigel drove the green, my ball stopped short of a bunker on the left hand side of the fairway. **Lindsey Fletcher** won a bottle of bubbly for being nearest.

Following a 3 Clubs and a Putter competition, played in teams of three - the winners of which were **Pattie McPhie, Lesley Davey** and **Jo Crispin** (50 pts) from **Val Pearce, Bunny Clarke**, and **Maureen Groves** (48 pts) - an Easter Bonnet Parade was held with a variety of Easter Eggs as prizes. There were prizes for the prettiest, the most original, the funniest and the most useful golf hat. The judges were the Club Captain **Nigel Holland** and a Past Lady Captain **Val Brown**. The ladies participated wholeheartedly. Oh, what a task the judges had with so many wonderful creations. **Audrey Grose** managed a chicken on her head, winning the funniest prize; most original was won by **Joyce Drummond**; the busiest by **Bunny**

Clarke; the best in which to play golf went to **Sheila Reed**, but the overall winner was **Jenny McKeague** for the prettiest hat. Well done all those ladies who participated in both the competition and the Parade.

Congratulations go to the following competitors - **Louise Horn** who triumphed in the Stableford Winners Cup, (where the competitors are only those ladies who have won a Stableford during the past twelve months), with 36 points from **Trish Cooper** on countback from **Lesley Davey** (34 pts). **Liz Line** and **Mary Wilkes** with 39 points won the Coronation Foursomes from **Eileen Holland** and **Pat Cope** (38 pts). The winners go forward to play at Exeter in August. Finally, the Betty Ord Trophy was won by **Wendy Stewart** with a net 67. **Beth Peters** (14yrs) who has recently gained her CONGU handicap also came in with a 67, but was ineligible to win the Trophy. However, she was able to win the medal and have her handicap cut. Beth has a great future ahead - I wish her well.

The match team events have now started with the League first off the blocks! They commenced with winning at home to both Churston (6-1) and Staddon Heights (4½ - 2½) gaining a total of 17 points. The other teams - Still, Presidents, and Sheila Creasey - commence their home matches in May. I wish them all good luck, - play well and enjoy. The Veterans lost their match against Yelverton at Yelverton, but halved their home match against Torquay. Well done, team.

In the Devon County Veteran Ladies Golf Association's Silver Spring Meeting, held at Yelverton, **Trish Cooper** played very well to take third place. **Lindsey Fletcher** also played well to come in fourth in the Silver division of the South West Veterans Association Spring Meeting at Stover. Congratulations to both of them. The first round of the Daily Mail Foursomes played at Bigbury was won by **Mary Tregelles** and **Jan Brooking**, but unfortunately they lost at home in the second round against Wrangaton. Commiserations to both of them. **Sue Laugher** (Silver) and **Joy Hailey** (Bronze) qualified to play in the County Medal finals at Libbaton, but did not make it to the top in their respective divisions. However, it was a tremendous achievement to qualify for the finals, and next year who knows what may happen!

I wish all of you a good summer, with plenty of fine weather for golfing, and plenty of good results out on the course.

Pam Ledger



At the Bridge Table



My previous article considered the various rebids you should make after opening the bidding and distinguished hands where partner changes the suit from those where he makes a weak (6 to 9 points or 5 to 8 depending on your style) Limit bid of either two of your suit or one No Trump. One important point is the general rule that a **Reverse** bid (ie, a new suit above the level of two of your first bid such as 1 Heart - 2 Clubs - 2 Spades) shows a **strong** hand.

Two examples

(A) West: S KQ94 H AK765 D KQ6 C 3
East: S A2 H 43 D AJ10842 C J76

West opens and the bidding is 1H - 2D - 2S - 3D - 4NT - 5H - 6D. West's bid of 2 Spades is a **Reverse** which both shows his strength and conserves space. Over East's 3 Diamonds West uses Blackwood to reach the Diamond slam.

(B) North: S QJ3 H 7 D AK54 C AK876
South: S K742 H 1098 D 72 C QJ42

The bidding by North & South goes: 1C (North) - 1S - 2D - 3C - 3S - 4C - 5C. This time North's 2 Diamond bid is a **Reverse**, and then over 3 Clubs he tries for 3 NT (3 Spades shows 3 card support). But South has no Heart stop so they reach the safe haven of 5 Clubs.

Conversely, the mere fact that you make **no reverse** or other strong bid should allow partnerships to stop at a safe level.

Two more examples

(C) North: S QJ96 H AK876 D K42 C 7
South: S 73 H 92 D QJ65 C J1064

Bidding: 1H by North - 1NT by South - Pass by North. North is not strong enough to reverse and bid 2 Spades. And he needs six cards (not five) to rebid 2 Hearts. So Pass is the answer.

(D) East: S AK876 H 4 D J32 C KJ64
West: S 42 H J976 D 1074 C AQ83

Bidding: 1S by East - 1NT - 2C - Pass. East rebids 2 Clubs, showing 5 Spades and 4 Clubs. Now that a fit has been found West is happy to Pass. (At this point North/South should realise that their hands are at least equal in strength to their opponents and re-open the auction.)

The hands at (B) above illustrate the point that, when playing duplicate Pairs, finding a fit in a minor does not necessarily set the suit like a major. Often (because of the scoring system) **No Trumps** is the targetand there are fewer tricks needed for game! Thus the bidding should be geared to this end. If the bidding goes 1 Diamond - 3 Diamonds - 3 Hearts, then the latter bid shows a stop in Hearts and suggests 3NT as a contract.

With balanced hands many of us have played 15-16 points as a rebid of 1 NT, 17-18 points as 2 NT and 19 points as 3 NT. As mentioned in the previous article, this seems cumbersome and leads to taking up too much bidding space. **Recently the thinking has changed** so that one opens a suit with 15 to 17 points and rebids in No Trumps, reserving a jump rebid in No Trumps for 18-19 points. The system change is small but can save a lot. For example, if you open a 17 point hand with 1 Heart and partner responds 1 Spade, it is clearly dangerous to rebid 2 No Trumps. Partner may only have 6 points. The new system of NT rebids allows you to finish in 1 NT **making**, rather than in 2NT minus one.

For a change my next article will be about "Thinking Defence".

Victor

BOOKSHELF

King's Counsellor

- The Diaries of Sir Alan (Tommy) Lascelles
edited by Duff Hart-Davis
(Weidenfield & Nicolson £25.00)

Tommy Lascelles first entered the Royal Household in 1920 when he became private secretary to Edward Prince of Wales. He tried for eight years to make the prince fit to be a king but decided the task was hopeless and resigned. He gives a devastating retrospective assessment of the prince's character.

In 1934 he was made assistant private secretary to King George V and served the royal family for some seventeen years but when the Prince of Wales succeeded his father, Tommy found himself back in the service of the man from whom he had parted company several years earlier. Fortunately the reign of Edward VIII was short. Tommy then worked as assistant private secretary to George VI and in 1943 he was elevated (slightly reluctantly) to principal private secretary.

The diaries and letters in this book cover the period 1935 to 1981 and in particular throw a fascinating light on George VI and his wartime relationship with Winston Churchill. All the important visitors who came to have an audience with the sovereign were first received by Lascelles whose job it was to put them at their ease before the meeting. There are thus many 'snapshots' of foreign potentates, statesmen, ambassadors, politicians, soldiers, bishops, et al. He had a unique overview of the lives of royalty and the cabinet, and also of military strategy during World War Two. Mostly living and working at Buckingham Palace he travelled extensively with the king. His loyalty and discretion did not waver and developed into a warm affection for both the king and queen. Following George VI's death, he worked as private secretary for the first year of Elizabeth II's reign.

Threaded through the story there are lots of glimpses into his happy personal life with his wife and family. In this chronicle of royal service it is clear that this scholarly but kind and unpompous man was by no means the sycophantic courtier and was not afraid to tell the story as he saw it, most interestingly and with much dry wit. He

retired when he was 66 and died in 1981 at the age of 94.

Keeping Mum - A Wartime Childhood

by Brian Thompson
(Atlantic Books £7.99)

How Brian Thompson can write of his traumatic childhood circumstances with such enormous humour is fantastic. Surviving and thriving despite very cold dysfunctional parents, he has the ability to observe and record in delightful detail the adults and children with whom he comes into contact in the time between 1940 and the early post-war years.

His father, who works as a telephone linesman, and his depressive mother, whom he describes as a "a rather crazy Vivien Leigh", hate each other. His mother's unstable mental condition prevents a close relationship with her son, and his discouraging and bullying father was often absent. His early years were spent in Cambridge where, by 1942, the US air force had arrived in quantityand his mother found their company congenial. Because of his parents' problems, and at the height of the London blitz, he was shunted around amongst a swarm of eccentric but kindly relatives in Lambeth and other London boroughs. At this time his father was on active service as an RAF navigator.

Eventually, when back living at Cambridge, a scholarship to the grammar school becomes the passport for him to enter the world of learning, on which he thrives. But as soon as he gains ten GCSEs, his overbearing father gets him a job as a Telegram Boy. Fortunately, his ex-headmaster intervenes, brings pressure to bear on his father, and the lad returns to school Sixth Form.

And here the book ends, with Brian on the threshold of young adulthood, and with this reader wanting to hear more! In all the story there is not one shred of self-pity; the book is full of positive humour. It's a 'laugh out loud' type of book and a tonic. A sequel will shortly be published - more of that anon.

Pat Macdonald

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PETROL
TYRES
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

We seem to have leapt from Spring to Autumn in just a few hours. Such is the vagary of our weather systems in the north Atlantic. The jet stream has slipped again, or is it the far reaching effects of an El Nino which is already causing some problems world wide? Whatever it is, I don't like it. I blame the arrival of my eldest step-son Alistair, who has come home for a holiday from Madagascar. It always rains when he comes! At least there have been some useful amounts of rain which we really needed for the gardens and fields. The South East of the country too can be more assured of a water supply in the summer now, which is a change for them.

Useful amounts of rain I say! With 20mm in about 4 hours yesterday (14th May) we are now well blessed with the stuff of life. The Ten Tors adventure was sadly but very wisely abandoned and all the youngsters are safely back at school and parents much relieved. My total rainfall in April was 17.5mm, while yesterday produced 20mm. The weeds pull up more easily now, but the grass grows ever faster.

I have a new and up-to-date reference book entitled *Climate*. Compiled by three authors, it contains some quite explicit information on climate as it stands now. It also includes conjectures about the future and gives many scenarios as to what may happen, where and when. With the topic of rain in our minds just now I thought I would give you a sample of their ideas about our future and **RAIN**.

Rain really means 'Water Supply', either for plants and animals in their natural habitats, replenishing the land or the oceans, and aiding our usage in the best possible way.

"Earth's changing climate will affect the world's water supply in many far-reaching ways. It will influence water temperatures,

weather systems and the amount of water in streams, rivers and aquifers. Changes in the world's water - how much, where and when it is available - are a matter of universal concern."

This is a very telling statement, don't you think? Whether or not you are convinced of the theory of *Climate Change* something is happening out there that we, at the moment, have not yet grasped. I believe we must very soon identify the key causes, and come up with realistic solutions.

Baden Powell gave the Boy Scouts the motto "Be prepared". Perhaps it is not such a bad idea in relation to the problem of *Global Warming*. I know that I have written about *GW* before but in this issue I would like to draw your attention to an interesting item relating to wild-life.

The particular creature is the **SALMON**, particularly those in the North Pacific area. Animal and plant species in general are vulnerable to very slight changes in their habitat which can lead to them suffering deprivations and possible extinction. With the salmon, and its associated species like amphibians (frogs, toads and newts) their extreme sensitivity to variations is critical to their survival. For example, they depend on vernal (springtime) pools and stream flow, and are sensitive to variations in moisture. These are affected by climate change in that warming speeds and evaporation can cause some areas to become drier. The little animals don't like it!

So, back to the salmon. The wild salmon is a symbol of the Pacific North-West region of the United States. Salmon have long been central to the area's native American culture and are important to the regional economy, both in the United States and Canada. However, the salmon in this area share their

ancestral rivers with a rising tide of human population and contend with scores of dams that support a large agricultural system. The eight dams on the lower Columbia and Snake rivers provide 60% of all the electricity produced in the Pacific North-West and help to ensure the irrigation essential to the region's multi-billion dollar agricultural industry. Yet salmon, also an essential part of the economy, have been brought to the edge of extinction.

Salmon like cold water: it is rich in oxygen, inhibits diseases and lowers fish metabolism, making a long migration easier. Salmon swim upstream to spawn, generally in autumn and winter, and the young fish migrate to the sea in spring and summer.

Before the region's first hydro-electric dam was built in the 1930s, the salmon were already in decline due to overfishing and destruction of habitats by pollution from mining and logging, among other causes. Dams have also affected water levels, temperature, turbulence and nutrient flows on the Columbia River. Climate change and withdrawal of water for use in irrigation have had their own impact on temperature, water levels, water quality and river flow, increasing the stress on salmon - and not only in the Pacific North-West. Europe's wild Atlantic salmon too are sensitive to increases in water and air temperature, and they also are showing the effects of climate change. Some scientists predict that Atlantic salmon may soon become locally extinct at the southern edge of their current range, at the same time that they establish new habitats further to the north.

For many years competing agencies have battled to find a balance of interests. Many remedies have been tried and tested with varying levels of cooperation and varying results. Now, with the added complication of *Climate Change*, the task of trying to preserve what is a way of life and a source of income in the area is increasingly difficult. My book concludes this little item with the following paragraph.

"Given the many pressures on salmon, it is not clear how they will adapt to changing climate - or whether they will adapt at all. The effect of climate change on ocean temperatures, flows and nutrients is poorly understood. If climate change forces a choice among salmon, farming, and hydro-power interests, as some experts predict, hydro-power is unlikely to lose".

So what do you think? Is all this *hoo-ha* just a blip, a flash in the pan, or is there a very serious problem looming only just in our line of sight? And what are we going to do about it? Or will we be able to do anything about it? Shall we wait and see, or shall we be pro-active in our thoughts and life-styles?

I could go on, but really we have heard it all before, and that may be the essence of it. Familiarity breeds contempt and we all just shrug our shoulders and carry on as before. Or perhaps not this time? We'll see.

Anyway, keep catching the rain, watch out for sunburn all you follically-challenged gardeners, and mind your backs whilst digging in God's good earth.

Jan Turner

SMILES

Time flies like an arrow: fruit flies like a banana. A backward poet writes inverse. A will is a dead giveaway. A lot of money is tainted: 'taint yours and 'taint mine. If you jump off a bridge in Paris you are in Seine. A calendar's days are numbered. A grenade exploded on a kitchen floor in Paris. Result? Linoleum Blownapart.

DIARY DATES

Internet Café, Every Wednesday, Parish Hall Yeo Room, 2pm to 4pm

JUNE

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Fri 1 st | TRAMP, West Portlemouth / Lower Soar, (long walk) |
| Mon 4 th | Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Tues 5 th | TRAMP, East Prawle, No 52 (short walk) |
| Sat 9 th | TRAMP, Stepping Stones, (long walk) |
| Mon 11 th | Stroke Awareness Day, Quay Leisure Centre, 11am/2pm |
| Thur 14 th | WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm, (What's the point of poetry?) |
| Thur 14 th | Aune Conservation Ram Roast, Folly Hill Farm (see inside) |
| Sun 17 th | Midsummer Madness, Parish Hall, 7 pm (see inside) |
| Mon 18 th | TRAMP, Snapes Point, (short walk) |
| Wed 27 th | TRAMP, Grimspound / Warren House Inn, (long walk) |
| Fri 29 th | Alexander Winter, Piano Recital, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |

JULY

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mon 9 th | Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Thur 12 th | WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Positively Hair) |
| Sat 14 th | South Milton Gardens Festival, 1 - 5pm |
| Sun 15 th | South Milton Gardens Festival, 1 - 5pm (see inside) |
| Fri 20 th | TRAMP, Higher Lutton - short walk |
| Fri 21 st | Thurlestone Church Fete, Toyes Orchard, 2 pm |
| Wed 25 th | TRAMP, Avonwick - long walk |
| Sun 29 th | Garden Wine & Cheese Lunch, The Downs (see inside) |

AUGUST

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Thur 2 nd | TRAMP, Bantham & Cakes |
| Sat 4 th | Horticultural Show, S Milton Village Hall, 2.30 pm |
| Mon 6 th | Ecology of Bigbury Bay - talk at Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Sat 11 th | TRAMP, tba |
| Mon 13 th | Siltation of Avon estuary - talk at Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Sat 18 th | Windsor Castle - talk at Parish Hall, 7.30 pm (see inside) |
| Mon 20 th | TRAMP, Kingsston / Ringmore - short walk |
| Mon 20 th | Flushing Pollution from the Avon, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Fri 31 st | TRAMP, Hound Tor / Becka Falls (long walk) |

VILLAGE VOICE

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PARISH DIRECTORY



DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PARISH

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

| | | | |
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| Vice - Chairman | Andrew Rhymes | | 560564 |
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| SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesdays Fortnightly) | FILMS FOR ALL (Tuesdays Fortnightly) | ROCK CLUB (Thursdays) | |
| COFFEE TIME (Monday & Wednesday 10.30 -11.30 am) | Contact | Liz Webb | 560090 |
| FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH | Contact | Kit Marshall | 560214 |
| BOWLS CLUB | Contact | Eileen Dayment | 560051 |
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| BANTHAM SAILING CLUB | Contact | Hugh Carter | 560593 |
| BANTHAM SURE LIFE SAVING CLUB | Clubhouse | | 560447 |
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| TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers) | Contact | Madeleine Radford | 560867 |
| W.I. 2.30 pm Parish Hall | Contact | Karen Livett | 560131 |
| Second Thursday monthly (except August) | | | |
| TEA/MAKERS | INTERNET CAFE | Wednesday 2 pm - 4 pm | Yeo Room |
| (Computer Club) | Tuition (Individual) | Wednesday 2 pm - 4 pm | Yeo Room |
| Contacts: Robin Macdonald 560436 | Michael Barnes 562112 | Chris White | 560505 |
| John Beven 562074 | Graham Durant 560007 | June Murry | 561398 |
| HEALTH CENTRES | Kingsbridge 0844 477 8953 | Salcombe 842284 | |
| MILK DELIVERY | R. Bruckner & Son | 01803 - 832801 | |
| NEWSPAPER DELIVERY | Dave & Sandra Edmonds | 01548 - 853132 | |
| VILLAGE SHOP Thurlestone Village Shop | M, T, Th, F, 8.00 am - 5.30 pm | 561917 | |
| (Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm) | Wednesday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm | | |
| | Saturday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm | | |
| | Sunday, 8.30 am - 1.00 pm | | |
| (NB. The 1.00 pm closing times may sometimes be extended during school holidays and at weekends) | | | |
| THURLESTONE POST OFFICE | | | 561917 |
| Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm | Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm | | |
| Postal collections: 4.15 pm Monday - Friday, 10.30 am Saturday, 11.00 am Sunday | | | |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH | Co-ordinator | Charles Mitchelmore | 560602 |
| POLICE | Matthew Blackmore (Community Support Officer) 842107 | Or mobile 08456 - 567890 | |
| Emergency 999 | Non-emergency calls | 08705-777-444 | |
| Minicom users 01392 - 452935 | Confidential information | 0800-555-111 | |
| RUBBISH COLLECTION | | | |
| Monday (But Tuesday in Bank Holiday Monday weeks) | Brown Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 4 th June | | |
| Coloured (White, Blue) Sack collections (recyclables) and | Grey Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 11 th June | | |
| RECYCLING CENTRE (Tour Quarry Site, Jones Road) | | | |
| Opening Hours | Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm | Saturday & Sunday 10.00 am - 4.30 pm | |
| PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE | | | |
| For ALL bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE | 7.00 am to 9.00 pm | 0870 608 2 608 | |
| Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day) | | | |
| DevonBus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk | | | |
| GARAGE (Blight Engineering) | Maurice Blight | 560220 | |
| KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 13 th June) | | | 852315 |
| 11.15 - 11.30am | 11.50 - 12.15pm | Thurlestone Primary School | |
| 12.20 - 12.30pm | 12.35 - 12.45pm | Thurlestone Sands | |
| MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN | Alternate Wednesdays from 13 th June 2007, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside school | | |



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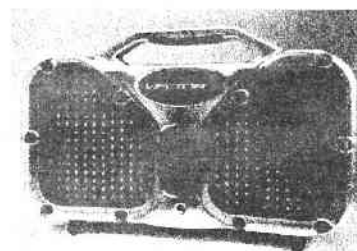
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