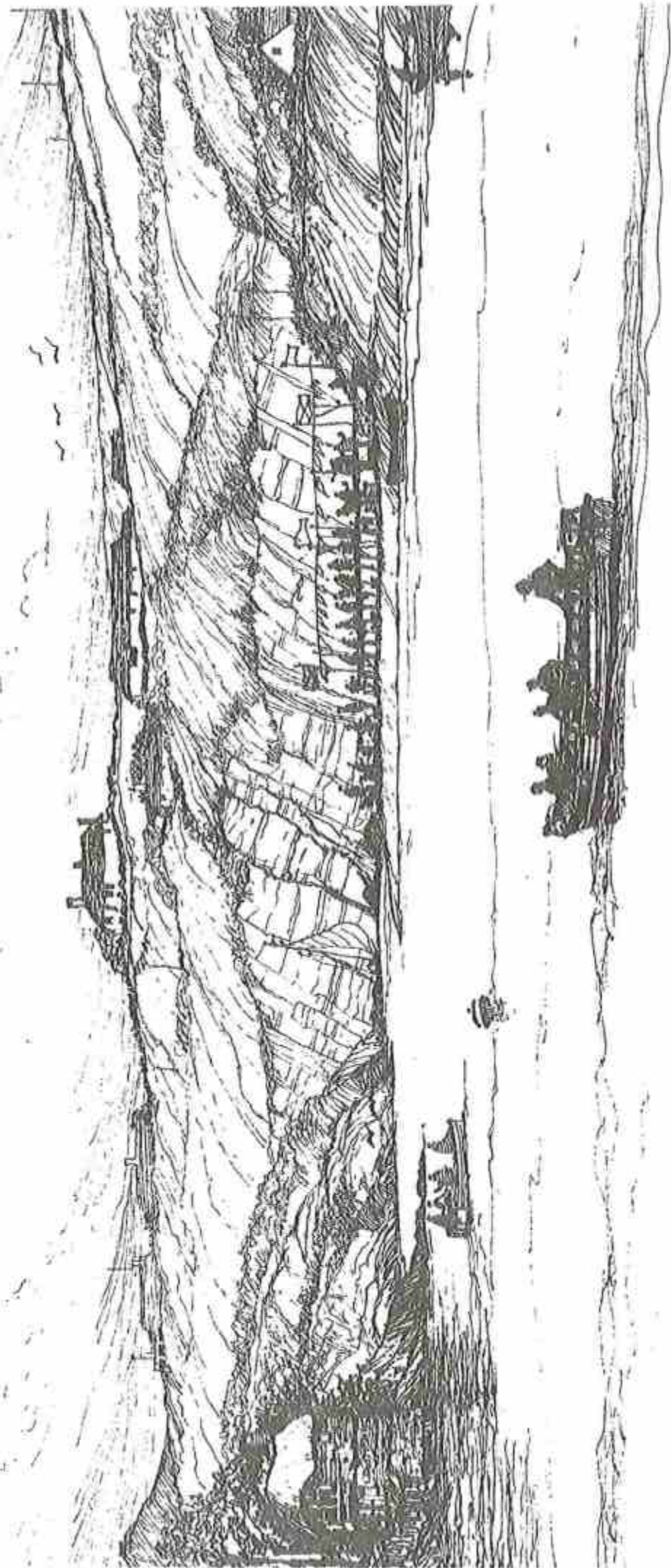


VILLAGE VOICE

October - November 2007





NUMBER 147
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2007

Village Voice, twenty-five years old this year, takes this opportunity to include, under the title **25 Years Ago**, a snippet from one of the first year's issues. The anniversary also prompts us to reflect how this magazine mirrors and chronicles our community life, providing glimpses (for better or worse) of who we are, what we do, and where we are going.

As individuals we shape our own destinies, as far as we are able, enjoying or protesting the local and national laws which govern our lives. We strive, in Kipling's unbettered words "to fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run". Or we favour the couch potato, simply watching the efforts of others to mould and shape the world around us.

Do we wish to remain exactly as we are, get better, or worse? What kind of community, **25 Years On**, do we want for ourselves and our successors? Well, there is an opportunity, here and now, to have some say in the matter; to put some little stamp upon the future of Thurlestone. Its title is **The Parish Plan**, and Councillor **David Hugo** is the man charged with its preparation, as the minutes of the Parish Council show. **He wants, and needs, your input.**

So come on Thurlestone. Get off your couches, seek him out, and help to shape your future, so that in another twenty-five years' time Village Voice may be able to look back and chronicle with pride - rather than dismay - the Parish Plan of 2007.

Founder Dudley Drabble

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PARISH HALL NEWS

By Ron Parkin



We are now looking forward to the autumn and winter events that will be taking place at the Hall, but first of all we have some special thanks to express for two excellent pieces of fund raising since the last report.

In July, **Kitty and David Cooke** generously loaned their lovely garden at The Downs as the venue for a Sunday cheese & wine lunch. It was a delightful occasion, enabling us also to enjoy one of Thurlestone's 'hidden treasures' of a garden, and raised no less than **£617** as a result.

The Autumn Fair in September opened with a fanfare by the Ghiassi Brass Trio, who then played during the afternoon, and was another success story, with many of the organisations which use the Hall combining to make this a splendidly communal affair. We must thank the Bowls Club, TRAMP, Horticultural Show, the Parish Council, the Keep Fit group, the WI, POTS and Teamakers, and individual residents for running the stalls and games, as well as those parishioners who contributed goods and who came along to join in the fun. This event raised **£721**. It is pleasing that so many people are willing to demonstrate their appreciation of the excellent facilities our Hall offers.

Forthcoming Events

We have a variety of events lined up for the remainder of the year at the Hall - things to suit all tastes.

Saturday 6th October

The **Alvington Singers** perform excerpts from Gilbert & Sullivan and part songs by Grieg and Elgar together with the violins of **Kathy Kenny** and **Judith Reynolds**.

Saturday 24th November

Superb French singer **Djamilah** and the powerful accordion of **Basil Bunelik** will bring the famous French *chanteuse* Edith Piaf to life with their 'Piaffinitee' show.

Sunday 2nd December

Robin Brett (recently-retired Head of Music at Kingsbridge School) will be talking and playing piano with "Christmas is Not Just Carols" - Christmas music through the ages.

Monday 31st December

Our fantastically popular Parish New Year's Eve party - details in the next issue.

In addition, you will find details of other events at the Hall in special advertisements in these pages, and in the **Parish Diary** dates at the back of this issue.

In the midst of all the *mental stimulation* - provided by the bridge clubs, lectures, quizzes, music, concerts, art classes and computers - the *physical well-being* of parishioners is not forgotten, as there is plenty of exercise to be had in the shape of bowls and badminton and classes for keep fit, Tai Chi and Pilates. Talking of Pilates, there has been the suggestion of trying to organise a **men's Pilates class**. Gentlemen, please let us know if you would like this and we'll see what we can do!

What a world of difference the provision of our splendid new Hall has made to the social life of this parish, with so many people really making use of and enjoying its facilities and being willing to organise and support all kinds of events. And note what was said by one of my predecessors about the Hall and its use **25 Years Ago** further on in this issue.

Parish Council Meeting

Meeting held on 3rd September

News and views by Citizen

There was almost a full house of Parish Councillors (one apology), but no District Councillor - for the second consecutive meeting. **Matt Blackmore** the Police Community Liaison Officer was there, as well as six members of the public.

POLICE

Thurlestone parish seems to have strayed from its usual law-abiding path lately! Eight parking tickets had been issued to vehicles near the Village Inn and two arrests made - one for drunken driving and the second for being drunk in a public place. A "Section 59" had been issued (anti-social driving) to a young resident. Two warnings will be issued and if he continues to misbehave his car will be seized. ***A speed gun will be in operation from the 5th September.*** Residents' parking spaces in Parkfield are being pinched by holiday-makers and Matt said he would put warning notices on offenders' cars.

OPEN FORUM

Planning A parishioner expressed the view - particularly on behalf of the Mead - that the Parish Council did not consult with residents, or seek their views, on planning applications. It was pointed out by the chairman that anyone is free to write to them when they had concerns so that the Parish Council can be made aware of people's feelings. Residents are strongly encouraged to do so.

Dog Bin The single bin provided for dog excrement in Thurlestone remained unemptied, was over-flowing, and extremely smelly over the recent Bank Holiday. An apology came from the District Council who said it had been "overlooked". Unfortunately, this bin is not being used for dog excrement alone but attracts other kinds of litter too. The possibility of a further such bin has also been explored without success.

Beach Buoys The dangers to swimmers from speed boats etc., without buoys being in place, was again raised. The Parish Council has tried on several occasions this year to get these re-instated but the District Council say that because the beaches are private it is not their job. Parish Council will now contact the Harbourmaster.

School Playing Field It was confirmed that access to this would still be available to children out of school hours.

HIGHWAYS

Mike Watts (Devon County Council) had paid a visit to the parish to give advice on how to re-arrange parking alongside the green to solve the problems of access (*as reported in the last issue of Village Voice*). This will entail expenditure of some £800 and the work will be done over the winter of 2007/8. The landslip opposite the Old Rectory had been cleared but the problem had still not been completely solved and Devon County will be asked once more to attend to it. Some damaged kerb stones on Warren Hill are to be repaired.

SCHOOL

Councillor **Andrew Rhymes** reported that building work to provide for new office space had been completed ahead of the School's return on 5th September.

TREES

Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** said that a request for cutting of the trees which border the bottom of the hotel golf course and the lane leading to 'Mallards' had been made to the hotel by **Mr Cant** (on the grounds of loss of light), but it was not clear to whom the trees belonged. Confirmation had been received from the church that if the Parish Council paid for the work, it may remove the poor conifer which overhangs one of the

seats at the Green. This will cost £350. The seat itself is beyond repair but an offer of a replacement, in memory of the late **Peggy Snowden**, has been made.

ISLAND VIEW GREEN

The fence is now in place. Councillor **Dale Came** reported that the grass needs cutting and this to be arranged. Some ideas for 'furniture' have been received (a swing and climbing frame) and there would be space for a children's vegetable/flower garden with the lower part to be left open for ball games. **Martin Beck** said that ideally the Youth Group would like some official support and funding but neither a person nor finance is available. *[See also Councillor Kit Marshall's report alongside].*

PARISH PLAN

Sadly, but not surprisingly, Councillor **David Hugo** said that no response had been made to the appeal in the last issue of Village Voice, apart from one person willing to "help". Several parishioners have responded by questioning the *need* for such a plan, saying that "there is enough good community spirit around". (Sometimes, maybe, but not always - the lack of volunteers for this project clearly underlining the point!).

POLLING STATIONS

It was agreed that there is no need for the second one, in Upton.

POSSIBLE POST OFFICE CLOSURE

It was confirmed that the Parish Council would support Thurlestone Post Office should its future be threatened.

PARISH HALL FAIR - 15 SEPTEMBER

Members of the Parish Council have contributed prizes, and will run the raffle at the fair.

PLANNING

The Parish Council voted unanimously against permission being given for the Plot 8 Leonards Close, planning application.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1st October 2007, 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room. Please come and support your Council. If you have any concerns, express them by letter beforehand and come along to the meeting to have your say in 'Open Forum' at the start of the meeting.

ISLAND VIEW PLAY AREA

(Up-date by the Parish Council Chairman)

This is finally under the aegis of the Parish Council. It has been fenced off, tidied up and hopefully will provide a safe area for children. *I would however stress that children must be adequately supervised by a responsible adult at all times.*

Procedure for taking over this area, which had been more or less abandoned by the South Hams District Council, has gone on for about three frustrating years. The Parish Council had thought it would be doing the District Council a favour in taking the area off their hands..... but then the District Council's Legal Department became involved. Enough said! Having finally agreed a 99-year lease arrangement in return for a rental of one peppercorn per annum, the District Council decided the deal was off as they didn't have the title deeds. Whether lost or non-existent we never did find out but eventually a deal was struck. **We must thank Cathy, our Parish Clerk, for her persistence in seeing this through.**

Parish Councillors decided that initially they would take over the area, fence it, tidy it up and leave it as a small play park. In the future we can look to installing some basic play equipment and maybe some benches, and would be pleased to receive ideas from people. I would however add a caveat that installing even simple swings or see-saws to Health & Safety standards costs £000s. There is also the possibility that the Youth Group will set up and maintain a small garden at one end. *So, it's finally there and I hope it will be well used and enjoyed for many years to come!*

Kit Marshall

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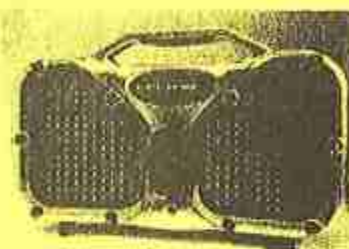
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The National Trust South Hams Centre October & November Programme

Wednesday 17th October 9.00am *Coach Trip to Lytes Cary Manor (NT)*

This is a return trip to visit the pretty town of Somerset and after lunch the charming manor house at Lytes Cary

Thursday 26th October 10.00 am *A walk from Bolberry Down*

Meet at Bolberry Down car park for a circular walk of about 4 miles via Bolberry, and Hope Cove. Return by lunchtime

Tuesday 13th November 2.30 pm *A South Hams Garden Odyssey*

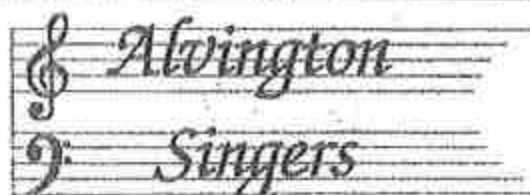
An illustrated talk by Bryan Ashby, Chris Pierce & Gordon Waterhouse describing their adventures bird-nesting in a South Hams garden. At West Alvington Village hall.

Friday 23rd November 5.30 pm *Skittles Evening at East Ogwell.*

Our popular annual coach trip to "The Jolly Sailor" at East Ogwell for another entertaining skittles evening.

For more information about any of these events or information about joining the NT South Hams Centre please contact me on 01548 561661 or at neill@southerncrosslimited.com.

Neill Irwin, Chairman



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Saturday 6th October - 7.30 pm

Tickets £7.00 - including wine (children under 16 free)

Tickets are available from Thurlestone Village Shop
from Liza White 560505 or from Lindy Anderton 560751

Village News Round-Up

Hospital Fête

Jeanne Barton and Wendy Gornall wish to thank everyone who so generously gave items for their Candles & Stationery stall at the very successful fund-raising event for South Hams Hospital. The support and encouragement they receive from local residents is much appreciated.

St Luke's Hospice Coffee Morning

Lindy Price tells us that the local fund-raising committee is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th November at the Church Meeting Room, 10 am to noon. They will be having a raffle and selling Christmas cards and cakes, would be most grateful for any contributions, and of course very much hope that as many readers as possible will come along to support the local hospice.

Proposed Building at Thatches

In *Citizen's* report on the Parish Council meetings of June-July in the August issue of Village Voice, under *Footpaths/Highways*, appeared the following:

The use of part of the driveway to Thatches as a footpath for school children was raised with the new owner (a building developer) who said he would be 'quite responsive to the idea'.

However, Mr Pat Brown of Bowmore Estates of Stroud, Gloucestershire, (owners of the site) wishes to point out that this information is erroneous and that they have not discussed the possibility of such a footpath. He said that, subject to Planning approval, they intend to build no more than two houses (at the top end of the market) on this site.

Richard's Success

Congratulations to Richard Bromfield who has recently gained an engineering degree at Cardiff University and completed an initial officer training course at the RAF College, Cranwell. Richard, who grew up in Thurlestone, is the son of Gordon and Frances Bromfield who ran Church Farm and the Thurlestone PO Stores at Homefield, as many Thurlestonians will recall, until their move to Ermington a few years ago.

Bantham Surf Event

In August Bantham Surf Life Saving Club held its Open Day and they are delighted that the event raised some £2000. This will be put towards the purchase of new training equipment for the ever-expanding number of Nipper and Junior members.

Christian Healing Hour

Kingsbridge Baptist Church advises that for 12 weeks from Wednesday 26th September to Wednesday 12th December, 2 pm to 3 pm at Harbour House (first floor room), the Quay, Kingsbridge they will be holding Healing Hours to provide opportunities for people

".....to gather for an hour to receive prayer ministry for the healing of body, soul and spirit. These hours are simple, relaxing and non-threatening".

Everyone is welcome, no booking is needed and there is no charge but participants may make a donation if they wish. Please ring the church office on 01548-852770 for more information.

Electoral Roll

By now you should have received the form to confirm your inclusion on the electoral roll to maintain your right to vote! This is required by law, otherwise you could be liable to a very heavy fine, and the deadline is 19th November 2007. If details remain the same as shown on the registration form, it couldn't be more easy - just dial the free telephone number the lines for which are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and follow the instructions or you can use their secure website. If you wish to change the electoral details shown on the form you can only use the postal system. Ring 01803-861368 to make enquiries

Tea Dance

Caroline Montagne, who lives at Bantham, would like to announce that she is organising an afternoon Tea Dance in Thurlestone Parish Hall on Saturday 12th January next year in aid of animal charities, and is calling on all who like to trip the light fantastic to put the date in their diaries now!

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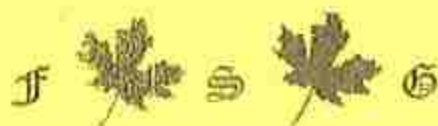
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work in September 1974. The most important part of the interview that Hughie recalled was being asked if he was intending to sell postcards to which he replied with a firm "NO" - but the very idea amused him greatly.

Over the next twenty-five years he and Marilyn enjoyed a wonderful life in his beloved Bantham, running the coastal footpath ferry service during the summer, as well as keeping order with boats and people at the Quay and on the river. During the winter he was kept very busy with boat repairs and building boats, starting with a Salcombe yawl in 1976 - which he and Roger Smith then took to Salcombe to win every race in the yacht club regatta that year.

He built four more yawls, at least fourteen Bantham dinghies and innumerable rowing boats and tenders. He continued working right up to his illness, when sadly he was unable to finish his latest boat. He died on 20th August.

The Bantham Sailing Club had been revived in 1976, and Hughie played a pivotal role in its continued success over the past thirty years. He also found time, along with Michael Toll, to take part in the Hawke Surfcat National Championships in Plymouth in 1985, where he became national champion, eliciting the headline in the national papers of "*Grandfather wins National Title*".

Hughie will be fondly remembered by all who knew him as a fearsome competitor but with a great sense of fair play, a wonderful sense of humour - not to mention the occasional scrapes he got into due to his capacity for sometimes indulging in a wee dram too many! He was an all round great human being who will be deeply missed by his wife Marilyn, daughter Sue and all his family....*and multitudes of friends on the riverbanks.*

Neil Schroeter, a former Bantham Harbourmaster has also written a tribute to Hugh:

"I first met Hugh shortly after he became Harbourmaster at Bantham following his return to this country after a stint with Cairns Harbour Board in Queensland, Australia. I got to know him better as the years passed, but it wasn't until he retired and I took over from him that I really got to know him well. We spent four to five hours a day, four or five days a week, for about eight years working together at Bantham - he building the lovely boats that we all know and love, and me repairing and maintaining the older ones. We really got to know each other very well, and I will always be grateful for his help and mentoring that I so badly needed during my early days in the post.

Hugh had a wonderful sense of humour, his great joy was to watch the antics of some of the summer visitors and then to tell them how he would have done it. Although he could be quite scathing, his comments were never hurtful, and he was always careful not to embarrass the recipient of his wisdom! I never knew him to be anything but completely honest and truthful. We shared a military background and spent ages swapping war stories, some of them a bit far-fetched.

There is now a large hole on and around the Quay at Bantham that will take a lot of filling. He was a good bloke to know and I miss him very much".

*A real para medic, a boat builder without equal, a great racing sailor,
a harbourmaster who kept order with a light touch.....here is the tale of*

HUGHIE OF THE RIVERBANK

Hugh Cater, or Hughie as everyone knew him, was born in St Tudy, Cornwall, on 7th December 1933. He came to Devon with his parents and brother Brian at the age of four, and they lived in East Portlemouth.

During WW2, East Portlemouth and Salcombe were a hive of activity and Hughie told of times when it would have been possible to walk from boat to boat across the Salcombe estuary on American naval craft waiting for the D-Day landings to begin. As children he and his brother would queue for 'chow' with the American soldiers who also taught them to drive their Jeeps along the beach.

From the age of fifteen, Hughie was apprenticed at Stone's Boatyard in East Portlemouth, where he learned the art of boat-building from old James Stone. During those times he also developed his great love of sailing, particularly racing sailing boats in Salcombe. As most of you will recall he was a fearsome competitor and even in later years, when sailing Bantham boats, his competitive spirit never diminished.

During the 1950s, Hughie was called up for National Service and, as was usual in those days, because he applied to join the Royal Navy as a shipwright the services decided he should become a medic in the Army. It was during this time that he saw service in Jordan, Cyprus and Egypt. He dropped by parachute into Suez to set up a field hospital during the Suez crisis.

Following National Service, Hughie decided to go to work in London and he joined Jack Holt, the well-known designer of sailing boats whose yard was on the banks of the Thames at Putney. During this time you could have seen him at the London Boat Show building a boat on Jack Holt's stand. London was not for Hughie, however, and in the late 1950s he returned to Stone's Boatyard.

He married his first wife in 1960 and their daughter Susan was born in 1961. Following a particularly bad bout of winter weather in 1963, Hughie and family decided to emigrate to Australia as '£10 Poms' as they were called. He went out to join a firm of boat-builders in Cairns, but the job only lasted a short time because the firm were putting together boats from rough-hewn wooden planks held together with galvanised nails. Definitely not the way a craftsman like Hughie would ever build a boat, so he left after about two hours! He eventually found work as a shipwright with Cairns Harbour Board where he stayed for three years. Because of the high humidity and pollen count from the sugar cane, he developed asthma and decided to return to England where he worked at Stone's Boatyard once more.

In 1969 he met Marilyn and in 1971 they became partners, subsequently marrying in 1975. In 1974 Hughie and Marilyn heard there was a vacancy for a boat-builder and harbourmaster at Bantham, where he was interviewed and then appointed to start

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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 (1st, 3rd, 5th BCP, 2nd, 4th CW)

October 7

11.10am Morning Worship for All Ages

6.00pm Benefice Evensong (BCP) at South Milton

October 14

11.10am Matins (BCP)

October 21, November 18

11.10am Family Communion (CW)

October 28, November 25

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

October 28

6.00pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

November 4

10.30am Benefice Operation Christmas Child at West Alvington

November 11

11.10am Remembrance Sunday Service & laying of wreaths

Thursdays

October 4, November 1

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

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RECTOR:

Rev. Andrew Girling 562219

Andrew Girling writes:



IN GOD WE DOUBT

The redoubtable John Humphries of Radio Four's Today programme has been on a Search for God. You may have heard his interviews with leaders of the main faiths recently. He has now written a book, 'In God we Doubt'. In it he shares his experiences of trying to face what he calls the big questions about the meaning and purpose of life and death. Questions that still live with him but to which he cannot find a conclusive answer. What is interesting is that he castigates the fundamentalists of both faith and atheism. He is as critical of Stephen Dawkins (The God Delusion) as he is of Christian or Muslim extremists.

Humphries is rightly sceptical of unthinking dogmatism. What he and many others long for is a thoughtful and rational appraisal of man's experience of something deeper and more profound than can be recognised in our purely rationalistic society. We long for answers to those profound questions but find difficulty in committing ourselves to a faith which cannot be proved.

In my experience faith is based on experience, often described as spiritual experience, and not on logical argument. I know many people who have come to faith because of what has happened to them and none who have come solely through rational discussion.

Apart from those who have never really deviated from the familiar in which they were brought up, people have come to Christian faith because of the sheer power and attractiveness of the person of Jesus: his relationship with God, his compassion, his love and his forgiveness. Here is someone who seems to have the answers to those deep questions and as a result has the spiritual strength to lead a totally authentic life which, if I can put it like this, is at peace with itself: a 'whole' person. I hope that I too can find something of that wholeness by relating to Him.

I cannot prove the truth of that. But then there are many authentic experiences in life that I cannot prove. A friend of mine once told me that on the night before his wedding his best man sat him down and told him that in order to make sure he was marrying the right girl he should list all her good qualities and the reasons why he loved her. He said he could easily do the first, but could not do the second. His love for her was strong and powerful but he could not explain it logically.

Many of us who are Christians would say much the same about our faith. It is powerful and strong but we cannot give a totally rational reason for it. Might it be that we have found a truth which man in his arrogant insistence on being rational has not yet been able to recognise?

Faith, I believe, will always have an element of mystery within it but it still warrants our search for a fuller understanding.

Andrew

**ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUNDAY OCTOBER 28TH 6.00 P.M.**

A chance to remember departed loved ones and to give thanks for all they gave us and shared with us. During the service there will be a chance to light a candle of remembrance. We shall also read aloud the names of loved ones whose families would like us to do so. If you would like a loved one remembered by name, please fill in the proforma and return it to Andrew.

I should like the following name(s) read out at the service (*please print clearly*):

Signed:

Please return to: Rev. Andrew Girling, The Rectory, Homefield, Thurlestone TQ7 3LF

was so focused on his back (or possibly his inane argument) that she fell over the cliff as the path turned left just as he turned around. Not seeing her he exclaimed "typical of the woman, always disappears when she's losing an argument". This drowned the timid cry for "help!" coming from 12 feet below. Fortunately Hawaii has lush vegetation and when we eventually cleared it away, there she was, ready to argue again. Arguing on walks is dangerous. Another man fractured his femur arguing with his wife in the middle of Cape Town. He didn't fall, just swivelled in a frustrated manner. A "Rotational Fracture" they called it. Or was it Retributional?

Thus, on one of these tours, I found myself waiting at Mexico City airport for a group which arrived two hours late. Not their fault, you say. I'm not so sure!

It was late when we departed the airport but they wanted a food stop on route. So we checked in to the hotel in the centre of Mexico City close to midnight and I went to bed. I was woken at 6 am by an excited voice from hotel reception. An Englishman had fallen into the slimy canal next to the hotel, and the anxious receptionist was worried he was *"drowned and infected and dripping on the carpet"*.

Sleepwalking? No, he just wanted to get the tour started. As a result I arrived at breakfast early and the group began to arrive. First in was someone who had left his wallet in a guesthouse near Heathrow. Next down had left his camera and his binoculars in the toilet of the cafe we had stopped at the previous night and was panicking. A room key had been dropped through the door slit of the hotel lift and had somehow put it out of action. It seemed never ending. Two clients had blocked the delicate loo system of the Mexican hotel and flooded their bathrooms with goodness knows what and a lady was arguing with a receptionist

about the safe key she had lost. The hotel by this time was demanding megabucks.

As I sat pondering all of this and not least my prospects of surviving the next three weeks, I observed the real star client of the group trip in the middle of the restaurant and I saw a large bowl fly across the room and crash against the far wall covering a dozen Germans in strawberry yoghurt. My German was not up to this (I still don't know how to say "calm down, strawberry will wash out") and besides the coach for the Tour to the Ruins had just arrived. Yes, the holiday was only the lowest of grades, sight-seeing with a bit of walking. Usually reserved for the "office-type" guides, not the outdoor spirits like me.

I do not often feel pressure but I managed to miscount the number on the coach to the ruins so one of the few sensible people in the group missed the entire first day. As the Teotihuacan ruins were one of the tour highlights I was expecting a very upset cookie when we returned in the evening. However this gentle Indian aristocrat was so nice about it all. He had been "held" for four hours the previous day by US Immigration personnel while getting a flight connection to Mexico from Miami. There is no worry about racial discrimination amongst US security since 9/11 and you are guilty until you prove yourself innocent. Perhaps he was still in a state of shock, but I like to think he was just "nice".

What happened next? Well during the three weeks the tour lasted I spent most of one night in a Mexican police station, got to know the British Embassy staff by first names and chased a Mexican man down an alley in the dark. Risky that. When we arrived back in Mexico City at the end of the tour I noted our hotel had been changed. *I could only guess why.*

Declan Dwyer

THE TROUBLE WITH HOLIDAYS

....is the people. Since retiring at the beginning of 1998 I have spent about one third of each year abroad leading walking groups. No pay but many new experiences and as a result I have visited places I probably would never have paid to visit.

I have often been surprised at how beautiful and interesting they have been, particularly the view from the top of the mountain, the isolation, even in a group, of an empty hillside, ruined chapels, temples, fields of lilac or poppies or lunch by a babbling brook (really!). The company slogan is that the world's more beautiful on foot and although this is not always the case, walking certainly releases good things in to the blood and enables you to meet many different local people, mostly to ask the way!

It really surprises me everywhere I go how few other people appear to walk in the great outdoors, whatever the country or however nice the day. Walking a good distance is tiring, particularly for those who only do it on holiday, so that entertainment after dinner is not normally a problem. Twelve miles is a good night-cap and anyway one of the best times to walk is early next morning before it becomes too hot.

I am a centenarian tour-wise, and have been to more than seventy countries - only repeating the same tour on a handful of occasions. "The blind leading the blind" you may say and, as most "guiding" is by definition repetitive, you should, I suppose, have done it before. But not my type, where the technique is to stay half a step ahead of the clients and remain confident - even when you don't know exactly where you are, or what you are going to do. A case of "Don't panic, Mr Mainwaring!"

Clients appear in all shapes and sizes. Most turn their brains off when they come on holiday and some tend to become leader dependant. But some don't. The conversation on a walk is often surprising and one can drop back or march forward if you want a change of topic, or just peace and quiet.

Meeting your new group for the first time is always interesting. You get a glimpse of what may lie ahead. Certain characters begin to etch on your consciousness and what may appear to be an "unfortunate" arrival is usually nothing of the sort, but is the first example of repetitive behaviour likely to leave a stinging memory of the holiday and probably a complaint letter at the end.

For example the lady who met me twenty yards from passport control who had already lost her passport which had "flipped down" (her words) between some scanning machine and the airport wall. It was only retrieved two days later by taking the scanning machine apart. I had six (yes, six) weeks going around the world with this lady and "flipping" was only a small part of her repertoire! Or the Vegetarian, who did not want to offend the hotel chef on the first evening and poured her uneatable vegetable puree straight into her handbag. Unable to find anywhere to dispose of it ("it will block the loos") she poured it, a big mess, on to the hotel porch for the hotel dog. He sniffed the mess; then decided to roll in it (it had that sort of smell), and walk it through the foyer and around the lounge.

Unexpected consequences, at least to those to whom they happen, brings me to the husband walking along the north coast of Kauai, eyes to the front, striding out, arguing with his wife trailing behind. She

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MASTERCLASS IN POLITICAL SPIN

A professional genealogical researcher discovered that Hillary Clinton's great uncle, Remus Rodham, a fellow lacking in moral character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture is this inscription:

"Remus Rodham; horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, and robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889."

Hillary Clinton was e-mailed for her comments. Her staff of professional image adjusters cropped Remus' picture, scanned it, enlarged the image, and edited it with image processing software so that all that's seen is a head shot. The accompanying biographical sketch was as follows:

"Remus Rodham was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include the acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the Railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

[Thanks are due to a Canadian reader for this little gem. He says that he is now looking forward to the forthcoming US Presidential Election campaign with renewed interest. Ed.]

FLU JABS AND FRIENDS

REDFERN HEALTH CENTRE

We would like to notify residents in the Thurlestone and South Milton area, **who are registered at the Redfern Health Centre, Salcombe**, and who qualify as 'at risk' patients, that we are holding an

INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION CLINIC
on **THURSDAY 11th OCTOBER, 11.30 am** at
Thurlestone Parish Hall - **no appointment necessary.**

Eligible patients in the 'at risk' groups are as follows:

- * All Patients age 65 years and older
- * Asthma and chronic lung disease
- * Chronic heart disease, eg angina, heart failure
- * Diabetes
- * Chronic liver or renal disease
- * Those without a spleen
- * Main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill

If you would like to attend this session but have a problem with transport, please ring the Health Centre 01548 - 842284. If you are unable to attend this session, please make an appointment for one of the clinics held at the Health Centre.

DH

Friends of the Centre

The Friends of Redfern Health Centre are holding their Annual General Meeting in the Health Centre on Thursday 15th November, at 7.30 pm. The meeting will be quite short, with an opportunity to see some of the equipment purchased with donations - and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Everyone who is a patient at the centre is automatically a member of the Friends (FORC), and is made most welcome, so do come and hear how the centre has been faring over the past year.

Many people avoid AGMs in case they are asked to "go on the committee" or get involved in some way. You may be assured that this will not happen, as there is a very loyal band of committee members and no changes are envisaged in the immediate future..... so why not risk it?

PB

....BUT A NO-NO FROM NORTON BROOK

Footnote: **The Norton Brook Medical Centre in Kingsbridge** has been approached on behalf of their Thurlestone patients to hold a similar clinic at the Thurlestone Parish Hall but have responded to our request as follows:

"...This issue has, in fact, been raised before and our general feeling is that we can deliver flu immunisations more efficiently - time and personnel-wise - with clinics here at the Medical Centre. As you will appreciate we have patients in all the villages around Kingsbridge and it is just not practical to run clinics at each one. Our district nurses will, of course, administer flu vaccinations to people who are housebound and at the Residential Homes but, otherwise, our feeling is that the service is best provided here at Norton Brook."

[So much for our trying to save on carbon footprints! Ed.]

THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON

29th ANNUAL HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Despite the weather making this a very challenging year for every gardener, a very attractive display awaited the many locals and visitors who came to see the flowers, vegetables and other items which were benched at South Milton Village Hall on Saturday 4th August.

We were delighted that there were many more flower arrangements this year, and the judge commented on the excellence of the skills displayed. For the first time the Amateur fruit and vegetable section was dropped from the schedule to avoid over-crowding the hall. Whilst this caused a reduction in the total number of entries received, the entries in the Open fruit and vegetable section increased pleasingly. There was a large number of hydrangeas on display, proof that some plants had benefited from the wet weather! The set recipe for a Banana & Cherry cake attracted many entries, with **Alice Foster** winning this class. The children's entries were a delight, and we congratulate all those who entered. **Tom Newman** and **Oliver Elliott** did particularly well. There were many interesting photographs, art and handicraft entries. Among the cup winners were stalwarts **Tony Church**, **Derek Brown** and **David Coward** as well as **Diana Parker-Swift** and some first-timers in the shape of **Lesley Ferguson**, **Vanwy Conington** and **Kirstie Damerell**.

Last but not least our **Chairman**, **David Coward** and all his committee thank our excellent judges and stewards, the exhibitors and all the residents of both parishes for their support, enthusiasm and encouragement without which it would not be possible to have a show.

THE CUP WINNERS

Ben Horn	D Coward & T Church	Highest points onions & shallots Section A
Yeo Cup	D Coward	Best vegetable Section A
Fruit & Veg Cup	D Coward	Winner Section A
Flowers & Pot Plants Cup	T Church	Winner Section B
Marshall Cup	D Parker-Swift	Single rose bloom
Wray Cup	T Church	Roses highest points
Presidents Tankard	V Conington	Fuchsias
Garden Shop Cup	D Parker-Swift	Flower arrangements
Under 7 Cup	T Newman	Best in classes 49/50
Derrick Yeoman Cup	E Elliott	Best in classes 51/53
Oswald Junior Cup	A Newman	Winner classes 51/53
White Cup	O Elliott	Best in classes 55/56
Oswald Senior Cup	O Elliott	Winner classes 54/56
Doris Tyler Cup	A Foster	Winner of set recipe
Domestic Cup	L Gunning	Winner Section D
Doris Jackson Trophy	J Booth	Winner sewing
Handicrafts Cup	L Ferguson	Winner Section E
Millman Cup	K Damerell	Winner classes 78/80
South Milton Residents Cup	V Conington	Most points
Thurlestone Residents Cup	T Church	Most points
Novice Vegetable Cup	D Brown	Most points Section A
Novice Cookery Cup	J Sparrow	Most points Section D

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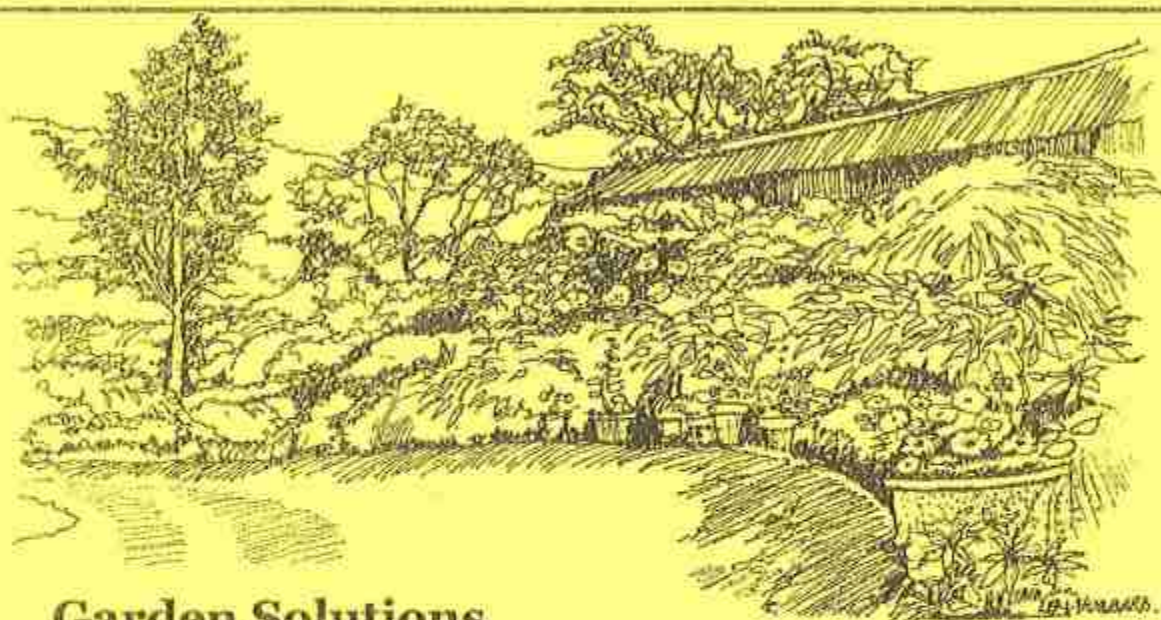


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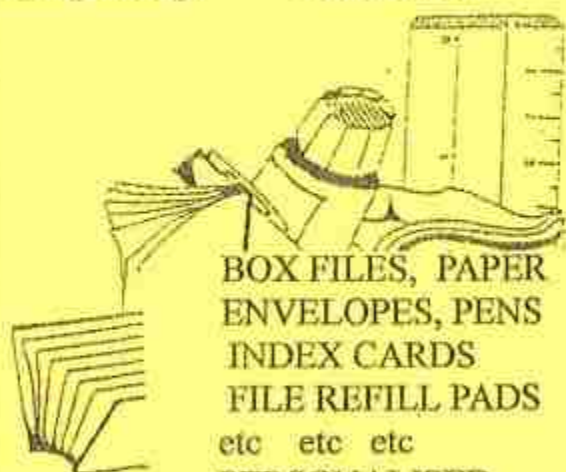
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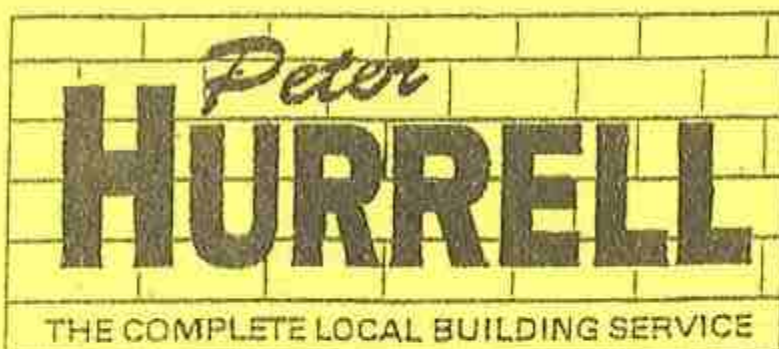
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it must have got much worse since. People suffered terribly in the floods this summer. Birds, some very rare, suffered too. The RSPB thought that 1000 pairs of wading birds in Cambridge and Norfolk lost their eggs or newly-hatched chicks. In Yorkshire, Moorhens, Coots and Oystercatchers lost eggs or chicks. So did Reed Buntings and Sedge Warblers which nest in low-lying herbage. Small wonder, therefore, that numbers in the Kingsbridge estuary were down - next year it is likely to be worse.

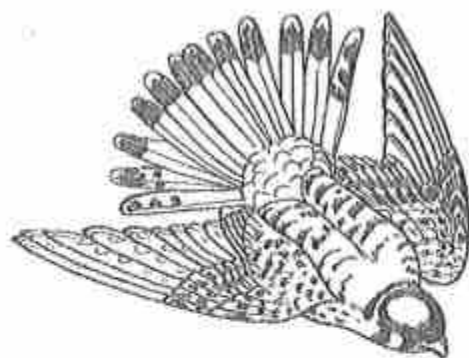
We still have one or two Goldfinches coming to our garden, and some Greenfinches, fewer of those than earlier in the year. The daily Sparrowhawk has reduced numbers. We have found piles of feathers around, and one day there were feathers in the cage of one of the feeders. Our feeders are plastic tubes with holes in and pegs for the birds to stand on. The present ones are caged to foil the Rooks, Magpies, Jackdaws and other large creatures which are wont to empty a feeder. We don't feel the need to nourish them - they can look after themselves. In theory the little birds go into the cage and feed in safety. Not when there is a Sparrowhawk about. They have long legs and will think nothing of reaching into a cage, or a bush for that matter, to seize a small bird. No, I don't mind. In all the years we lived on the east coast we saw just one Sparrowhawk; they had almost

time, effort and an awful lot of money hiring bulldozers and things to make what they call 'scrapes', areas of mud and very shallow water which ducks and wading birds love. Here at Thurlestone we have had one for free. There have been the odd Bar-tailed Godwit and Curlew and up to a dozen Dunlins (small sandpipers which in summer have black tummies - well, some of them do). There have been one or two Common Sandpipers (which are not common), and up to four Green Sandpipers (which are not green but look dark grey on top).

These sandpipers are not easy to tell apart at a distance; Common Sandpiper shows a white patch between the brown of its bib and the brown of its folded wings. Green Sandpiper does not show this gap; if it raises its wings, which it does very occasionally, their undersides are blackish. Just to complicate matters there have been a couple of Wood Sandpipers - very like the Green Sandpipers but brown on top and a bit fuzzy where the brown of the bib joins the white of the underside. As I write this we keep seeing more birdsfourteen Ringed Plovers and three Black-tailed Godwits have been the latest.

At all times there have been fluffy black Moorhen chicks. Though we found the best place to see those was Totnes: where you walk through from Morrison's car park to the town there is a small patch of water like a moat, and there was a pair of Moorhens with a couple of chicks just under the bridge. At Thurlestone we have seen lots of Mallards, no doubt the now grown up ducklings we saw earlier and of course two or three Little Egrets plus the odd Grey Heron. Apart from the Totnes Moorhens we have seen all these through the telescope, looking out of the window. Who needs to go away?

In fact we have no need to look as far as the valley. In our garden we have had Robins around. Not many: they are pugnacious little beasts which won't tolerate another on their patch, even the males and females squabble until breeding time comes. In *Birds Britannica* Mark Crocker attributes their popularity to their globular shape - he says Puffins are popular for the same reason. Robins are supposed to stand on the handles of our forks when we are digging - not that much digging goes on in this establishment, certainly not by me. But mostly they are a bit shy here in Thurlestone - they also have to fear the Sparrowhawk. They breed



Sparrowhawk

been entirely wiped out by agricultural pesticides, and it is a pleasure to find them quite commonly in Devon. When the Devon Birdwatching Society bought an extra slice

of South Milton ley, we invited a very big noise from the RSPB to come and advise us. It made his day to see a Sparrowhawk take a Goldfinch - and he was a man who had been everywhere and seen almost everything.

But, if birds have been scarce in places, they have still been around in the Thurlestone valley. Lake Stidston has nearly dried up. Not quite, it has become Puddle Stidston, and area of mud and very shallow water. People like the RSPB spend

HARRY HUGGINS EXAMINES THE LORE OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

I met a friend, one of the team which once a month spreads itself around the shores of the Kingsbridge estuary to count the water birds, geese, ducks, gulls, Curlews and things. He wailed that numbers were down. So we thought we would look at Dartmoor. The same story. We found just one Wheatear, one Stonechat and a few Linnets by the road below Rippon Tor. It must be admitted that on the moor we didn't walk anywhere. My legs have voted for industrial action and we did our thing from the car. The farthest we walked was from the car to the Rock Inn at Haytor Vale and even there, being early, we could park right outside the door. This visit was in the interest of research, of course. We had to check that the food was still all right. It was.

We came back via Widdecombe. We hadn't been there for many years and it will be many years before we go again. Little wonder that Uncle Tom Cobley and all, and the horse, handed in their dinner pails. They must have been stuck in a traffic jam. Thence we returned through Buckland-in-the-Moor. You turn into a tiny lane by the church (the one where the dial of the clock reads "MY DEAR MOTHER"). It descends through the trees to Spitchwick, where people were splashing about in the river, thence to New Bridge and so on to Ashburton. We met several cars on the road through the wood, where we have almost never seen one before. It was a fine day, which had brought out a lot of other folks as well as us.

When it perceives species are endangered, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds does campaigns. For years it was Cirl Buntings. As a result those are supposed to have increased their numbers in Britain from just over 100 breeding pairs to 700 pairs. Now the Society is getting into Bitterns, or the lack of them. Great Bittern we are supposed to call it, to distinguish it from Little Bittern, a heron not much bigger than a Jackdaw. That appears in Britain occasionally - the books show it as summering over much of

southern Europe and wintering in Africa.

We saw one first in what was then Yugoslavia (Montenegro now). Some way inland from the coast, where we stayed, is a lake - Scutari. That is the Italian name (the area must have had Italian influence at one time). I do not know the local name and could not spell it if I did. Near one end is a causeway, with a railway and a road. This cuts off an area of water and reeds. The other end of the lake is in Albania. Our birding party was walking along the railway when a bird popped out of reeds nearby. At once a lass with us chirped "Little Bittern". She must have seen one before when she and her husband were on a previous birding holiday. I remember her because she was the only person I have ever met who was as quick at seeing birds as my wife. Also, she caused a bit of a local sensation by strolling along the causeway in slacks and a bikini top - some ladies we saw in the fields wore Moslem dress.



Great Bittern

Great Bittern is a heron, nearly as big as the Grey Herons we see in Thurlestone valley. Brown, and a champion skulker. The odd one winters in Slapton Ley - we have seen one there once or twice, but they are very rare. The RSPB goes to much trouble and enormous expense trying to make habitat for them; they need reed beds with water

to encourage eels and the other fish they eat. People try to census them by listening for booming males. Their song is weird, likened to blowing across the top of an empty bottle; it carries a prodigious distance. They reckon that in Britain there are about 50 males booming. Earlier this year the RSPB did a study of nests near the east coast. They found nine but by the late May Bank Holiday only two had not been washed out, and you wonder what happened later to these.

In early July we spent our wedding anniversary stamping round the Wildfowls and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge. Even then many of the paths were impassable without thigh boots, and



A Mike Jones

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somewhere around, we know because we see young ones, Robin shape but no red breast yet; they are brown with yellow speckles. We have never seen a nest, the Magpies are quite capable of finding nests without assistance from us.

My mother used to warble a song: it ended, sung with suitable passion.... "Poems are made by fools like me / But only God can make a tree". Somewhere in the middle was a bit "A tree that may in summer wear / A nest of robins in her hair". Maybe the verse was written by an American, who was thinking of the American Robin. That is nothing like our Robin but resembles our Blackbird in size and shape, with a red breast. I don't suppose the Pilgrim Fathers and those who followed them included too many ornithologists - the early European Americans saw something with a red breast and said "Ah, Robin". Or it may have been that the verifier was just plain ignorant of what our birds do - our Robins nest in old kettles under hedges, in pockets of jackets in outhouses and the like.

I read once that it is possible to tell male from female by the shape of the brown plumage on a Robin's forehead, where it meets the red just above the eyes. On one the brown is said to come to a point, on the other it is rounded. I can't remember which is supposed to be which and anyway after looking at lots of Robins have been quite unable to see the difference. Likewise our birding friends in Essex said they could pick out the continental birds which arrived in autumn by the different colour of their backs. I could never see this either.

Robin's tameness was reported in the 6th century - St Serf of Culross in Fife was reported to feed one which perched on his head while he prayed. Some of his disciples killed it but it was brought back to life by Kentigern who founded Glasgow Cathedral. The Robin is still commemorated in that city's coat-of-arms. Chaucer referred to the "tame Ruddock" - the termination "ock" presumably meaning small, hence *the little red thing*. The Sherborne Missal, from around

AD 1400, has an excellent picture of a Robin. The great French naturalist George Cuvier wrote that the birds were numerous in Lausanne and Burgundy where they were much sought after, their flesh acquiring excellent fat which rendered it a delicate meat!

Presumably the situation had changed when William Blake wrote "A Robin Redbreast in a cage / Has all of heaven in a rage". When we moved into our present house almost the first thing I did was to make a bird table. On a pole, with a roof and stout wires between table and roof to keep out larger birds which would scoff everything and to protect smaller ones from predators. It stood, in fact it still stands, where we can see it through a window. For a long time it was the only thing in the garden more than about four inches high - except the weeds where the builders had sown grass seed. "Keep knocking them down" said Derrick Yeoman. We kept knocking them down and in the fullness

of time we had grass. The bird table is still there - dilapidated and not much use, like me. We cannot really use it because mice climb up the adjacent rose bushes and eat whatever we put on it. When it was first there Meadcombe Road stopped level with the bottom of our garden. People used sometimes to sit in their cars there to eat sandwiches or whatever. One day a young lady in a car looked at the bird table and there, to her utter horror, was a Robin in a

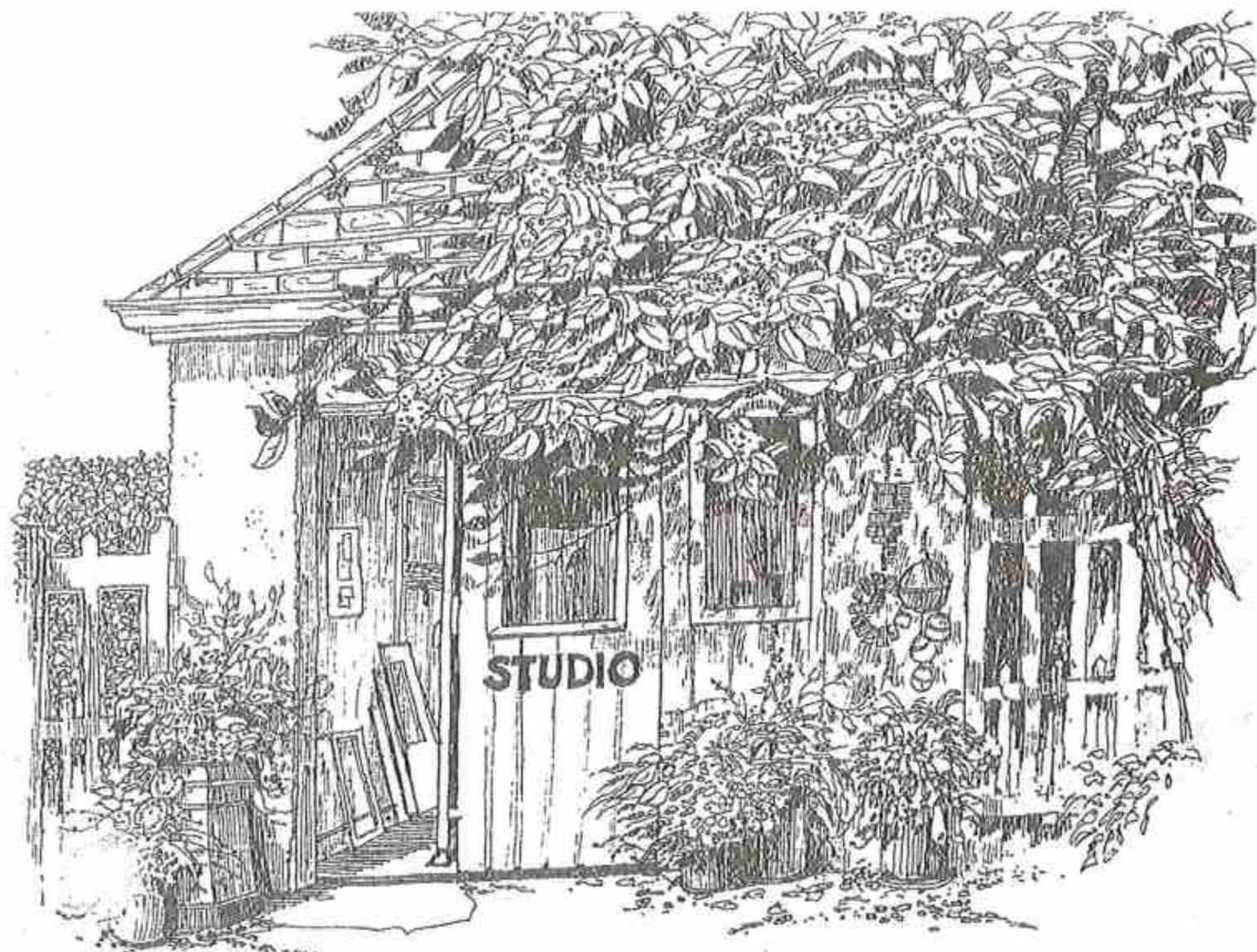
cage! She leapt out of her car and charged across the garden, whether to release the Robin or storm at us we did not know. Of course the Robin flew away.....she looked confused and we laughed!

Harry Huggins

[Editor's footnote: Our apologies to Harry. We inadvertently perpetrated two typographic errors in his article in the last issue - both on the final page, column 2 - "Siberian Chiff Chaffs" instead of "Iberian" and "8450" instead of "4450". Proof-reading fingers firmly crossed this time!]



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

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SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesday Fortnightly)		ROCK CLUB (Thursdays)	
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Mon 1 st	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 3 rd	TRAMP, Kingston / Dolphin lunch
Sat 6 th	Alvington Singers Concert, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Thur 11 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Care of the nails)
Sat 13 th	TRAMP, tba
Sat 13 th	Cancer Relief Musical Quiz, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm
Tues 16 th	Aune Conservation Lecture, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 24 th	TRAMP, Lustleigh
Sat 27 th	NSPCC Quiz Night & Pasty Supper, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm

NOVEMBER

Mon 5 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Tues 6 th	TRAMP, Cawsand
Thurs 8 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Annual Meeting)
Sat 10 th	St Luke's Coffee Morning, Church Meeting Room
Tues 13 th	TRAMP, Ashprington
Sat 24 th	PLAFFINITEE, BYO Bistro, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm (see ad)

DECEMBER

Sun 2 nd	Robin Brett Piano Evening, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm (see ad)
Mon 3 rd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 5 th	TRAMP Christmas Walk (details later)
Thurs 6 th	WI Christmas Lunch (details later)
Mon 31 st	New Year's Eve Party, Parish Hall, 9.00 pm

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th DECEMBER 2007

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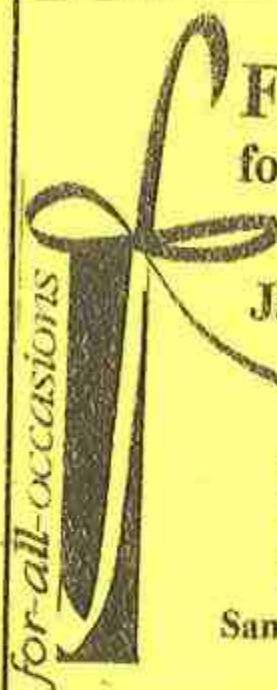
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I could almost hear the plants heaving a sigh of relief, especially the last runner beans. 1.5mm was measured in the rain gauge this morning. The high is beginning to slip south now, and certainly the evenings are more like Autumn. The stars are particularly brilliant at the moment. Venus is very special John C tells me.

All this is the blocking high which we have had over us for several weeks now. The areas to the south and east of us have not had such good weather, central Europe has been colder than usual, and in southern Europe - around the SE edge of the high - poor old Greece has had a dreadful time with high winds and fires (albeit some started by people). In France there has been more rain than is usual for this time of the year. Andrew and Sue Girling will endorse that fact. However, all too soon we will be back to normal, with dull dreary November fogs and frosts and winter will be here. Still, it is good to cuddle up on the settee with a good book and a roaring fire

while the winds blow and the rain batters the windows.

On a brighter note there are only 69 days to the shortest day, and everything gets better then doesn't it? Before that we have two occasions with very high tides - 28th to 30th September (5.4m), and 27th and 28th October (5.5m). The first is, of course, the Autumn Equinox highs. One side of me says it is exciting to have low pressure and rain, but too many folks are at risk really, so we hope that it will be fine and calm. I haven't had a reply about the times of these tides yet, but am working on it, Mr P!

I don't think that 2007 will be too different a year down here from the normal, but Central England will never forget the summer of 2007. Just spare a thought for those being housed in temporary accommodation whilst their homes dry out and are refurbished.

Jan Turner

CUMULUS CONGESTUS

My grandfather captured clouds, watercolour Cumulus
whose shadows surfed the rolling hills below
and through which shafts of sunlight struck the surface
spotlighting a vast and empty stage of pewter waves.

In Italy I copied ages of awestruck congregations
craning to view cathedrals' stuccoed skies
where putti plump celestial cushions on sofas for saints,
clouds which divided man from God.

Adam languishing, lowers a desultory digit to his deity
who stretches sinews to ignite the spark, born on host-held humilis;
Marys enshrined in virginous vapours on ethereal thermals;
Bernini's soft stone billows beneath his travertine Teresa.

Allah, Yahweh, Raiden, Oya and thunderous Thor
clothed themselves in clouds, muting their glory
to aid comprehension in our mundane minds or,
like Zeus with Io, ravaged, loins burgeoning with lust and fertile rain.

Flight and reason raised the curtain, yet their miraculous creation,
millions of droplets, diffusing the sun's rays, lifted by latent heat,
to etch themselves against azure in a brief burst of ambitious magnificence
still steals the show - an electric performance allowing us to see the light.

Fiona Drye, July 2007

Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

I guess that we all know what an Indian Summer is by now. It is a period of calm, warm and dry weather in the Autumn. I think it refers to the type of weather that regularly affects the eastern slopes of the Rockies when a warm wind descends to the plains in early winter extending the balmy weather of summer. The native Indians always made great use of the spell of tranquil weather to gather extra crops, berries etc to store for the winter. Having walked in West Alvington woods recently, the squirrels are certainly building up their strength for the winter. There are hundreds of opened hazel nuts on the ground and now the chestnuts are beginning to fall, they too are being attacked by all and sundry little furry creatures.

There hasn't been any measurable rain here since August 20th, but some mornings have been beautifully damp with heavy, sparkly dew. The plants seem able to cope for a while, but are now beginning to show signs of stress. The leaves are falling down quite fast, sadly without the lovely autumn colours, but I guess they will come a little later when there is a change. Again in WA woods there have been some casualties, and a couple of huge branches of beech trees have fallen. I wonder if it is just old age or maybe "limb shed", which is what happens when a tree begins to suffer severe stress. The natural environment is so linked up within itself that it is difficult to think about one thing without bringing up lots of other variables, influences; call it what you like. Whichever way I approach it, it is fascinating and I think basically unexplainable at the present time. All I think is; we humans have much to do with the way things are working out at the moment. What of the future?

Thinking back to the floods and heavy rainfall earlier in the summer, I read about its effect on possible winter floods (which is the normal run of things) where the aquifers of the south east and central England are now full, whereas normally they would empty over the summer months and be ready to be refilled in Autumn, winter and spring to supply the "dry" summer months. This means that should there be very heavy and prolonged rain later this year, the likelihood of more than usual flooding is on the cards. Apart from the few river flood-plain urban areas in Devon it is reassuring to live in the

county. We bless the hills at times but the terrain does not lead to large scale river plain flooding. We will always have the odd flash flood but generally we get away with it. I really feel for those who have suffered at the hands of nature this summer, but there doesn't seem to be any ready answer, and opinions are very divided.

Looking at the statistics for August, the last two days of rain were 18th and 19th when 30.4mm fell, since then, NONE. The monthly total was 69.4mm 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2004 had more. Despite this there was more sunshine this year. Last year, for example there was a great deal of high cloud which masked the bright sun but didn't effectively lower the temp all that much and of course it didn't rain. However TODAY 14th SEPT IT RAINED - for the first time since 19th August.

Alexander Murray, writing in *The Times* last month referred us to a monk by the name of Matthew Paris. He wrote a *History of England*, in Latin mostly just before 1250. In it he related the tale of woe about "relentless rain and wide-spread flooding". He says that the summer was "almost unbearably" hot and so dry that cattle died of thirst. But wind and rain were more prominent. The year 1237 had two hurricanes strong enough to knock down buildings, and another in early 1238 sank 20 ships at Portsmouth. He goes on to relate further torrential rains and extensive flooding in February 1236. At this time the rivers were unable to discharge their water into the sea because of high tides and a strong on-shore wind. The same happened again later in the year in East Anglia. Much devastation was experienced, with crops, animals, people and ships lost to the waters. Next it was the Thames valley which was to suffer. In November there was a deafening thunder storm, with terrifying flashes of lightning. It continued to rain for several days and the Thames overflowed its banks at Lambeth and extended for six miles!

I still think that there is something amiss with the way the weather is developing, which is convincing so many scientists of our influence on the patterns which we are experiencing.

Saturday 15th Sept. Well, well, it rained last evening, misty at first then good solid rain.

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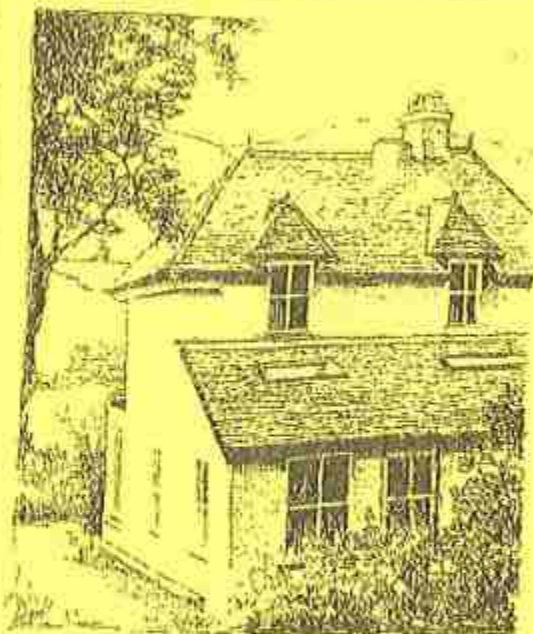
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At the Bridge Table



This article is a continuation of the previous one which considered your thinking when defending against No Trump contracts. It started with an example of the questions for which you need to have answers in mind before playing to trick one, including the importance of being ready to play smoothly in finesse situations, and went on to set out three further points:

1. Should you keep on leading the suit led by your side?

The answer is generally YES, but not if it will be 'bad' or if there is an excellent alternative. In the hand shown on the right played by **West** in 1 No Trump after North had led the 4 of Spades (the usual fourth highest), South had no desire to switch - his red Queens were needed to take care of dummy's Jacks (remember the guideline from the previous article of aiming to ensure that your high cards kill your opponents' high cards) and a Club looked too risky. Hence he continued his partner's suit and thus established the Spades.

North	
S	Q 6 5 4 3
H	K 9 4
D	K 9 2
C	6 3

West	East
S 9 8 7	S K J 10
H A 10 8	H J 6 5
D A 10 3	D J 7 6 4
C A 9 7 2	C K J 8

South	
S	A 2
H	Q 7 3 2
D	Q 8 5
C	Q 10 5 4

2. Should you hold up a high card in declarer's suit?

Often contracts of Three No Trumps can be brought home with a combined high-card count of fewer than 25 points where declarer can utilise a long suit. To kill such a suit is rewarding and often involves getting the timing right. The hand shown aside was played by South in Three No Trumps and West started by leading the King of Spades. Declarer won the second Spade and played on Diamonds. West played low (with the 4) and East took his Ace on the second round. He switched to a Club, keeping his Ace of Hearts for dummy's King. As South could no longer access the established Diamonds he was "dead in the water". Notice the significance of West's 4 of Diamonds which followed the rule of playing Low - High to show an odd number of cards and allowed his partner to count declarer for only two Diamonds. Hence he could safely take his Ace on the second round.

North	
S	9 6 3
H	K 9 6
D	K Q J 10 2
C	8 4

West	East
S K Q J 10	S 7 4
H 8 7	H A 10 4 2
D 8 6 4	D A 9 3
C Q 10 6 2	C 9 7 5 3

South	
S	A 8 5 2
H	Q J 5 3
D	7 5
C	A K J

3. What, if anything, should you switch to?

WHEN DUMMY IS ON YOUR RIGHT - the principle of "*Leading up to Weakness*" was explained with an example in my previous article.

WHEN DUMMY IS ON YOUR LEFT - "*Lead through Strength*". Your aim is to lead a suit in which your partner can kill dummy's high card; if dummy holds the King then you can lead through dummy and with your partner holding the Ace, the King is dead. Note that it is no good leading through an Ace, or an Ace - King; this is where the maxim "*Lead through strength*" is slightly misleading - it should read "*Lead through beatable strength*".

Patience is often the key. Do not switch just because a lead has been unsuccessful - quite often persevering with the same suit gives little away.

Victor

Grey Matter

With an Australian Flavour (thanks to Chris Haslanko)

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 31st October 2007. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB (or email: cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk).

1. Discover something or someone Australian in each anagram:

HUG AN OPAL

COOL CIDER

SORRY CAKE

2. The bushtucker man has 5 corks to hang off the brim of his hat. Two corks are dark and three are light. If he fixes the corks on to his hat at random one per string what are the chances that the two dark corks end up next to each other?



Illustration by Linda Benton

3. Gordon Bennet of the *Bush Telegraph* keeps his 'tinnies' in a refrigerated safe. The combination number is 16 digits long and consists of two 8s separated by 8 digits, two 7s separated by 7 digits, two 6s separated by 6 digits and so on, all the way down to two 1s with one digit between them. Unfortunately he has locked the number in the safe. All he can remember is that it began:

247*****

Help him fill in the missing digits before he passes out.

4. Translate:

umopuns

swnsod

spunod wod

Congratulations to the winner of the last Grey Matter and the bottle of wine: Joan Sparrow of Thurlestone who submitted the first all correct entry drawn from the hat. Thank you to everyone else that submitted correct entries. Solutions to the musical

diltoids: 1. Mambo No. 5 2. New York Mining Disaster 1941 3. You're 16 (You're Beautiful and You're Mine) 4. 20th Century Boy 5. 15 Men On A Dead Man's Chest 6. 3 Lions 7. 24 Hours from Tulsa 8. 48 Crash 9. 59th Street Bridge Song 10. Land of 1000 dances 11. My 1 Sin (Nat King Cole) 12. Takes 2 To Tango 13. 2 Kinds of Teardrops 14. 2 Little Boys 15. 3 Coins In The Fountain 16. When You Were Sweet 16 17. 7 Little Girls Sitting In The Back Seat 18. 19th Nervous Breakdown 19. The Night Has 1000 Eyes 20. 9 Million Bicycles 21. 4 Operas in Wagner's Ring Cycle 22. 9 Symphonies of Ludwig von Beethoven 23. 4 Movements in a Symphony 24. 88 Keys on a piano 25. 50 Ways To Leave Your Lover 26. 10 Green Bottles Hanging On The Wall 27. Happy Birthday Sweet 16 28. 3 Times A Lady 29. 3 Blind Mice 30. 3 Steps To Heaven 31. 3 Wheels On My Wagon 32. 7 Brides for 7 Brothers 33. 76 Trombones (Led the Big Parade) 34. 2 Quavers in a crochet 35. 99 Red Balloons 36. In the Year 2525 37. 16 Tons 38. 2 Out of 3 Ain't Bad 39. 8 Days A Week 40. 1 Man Went To Mow

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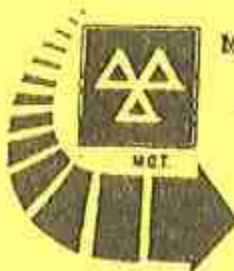
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country, what their daily lives were like and how they adapted and survived. In particular she writes about how they entertained and what they ate. She also writes interestingly about many aspects of Indian food and life which demonstrate clearly her great love for that country.

Today she and her husband live in California where, in 2000, they opened a restaurant "*Curries & Bugles*" in San Diego. This is a delightful book with as much good stuff to read as to cook!

Pat Macdonald

Sylvia, Queen of the Headhunters

by Philip Eade

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson [Hardback] £20.00)

A favourite walk of TRAMP over the years has been to Sheepstor on Dartmoor and their reports have made reference to the Brooke family - White Rajahs of Sarawak for more than 100 years - who are buried in the little grey churchyard at Sheepstor. The Sylvia of the book's title was the daughter of the 2nd Viscount Esher who was a close confidant of Queen Victoria, Edward VII and George V as well as "every Prime Minister from Roseberry to Baldwin". It chronicles 50 years of Sylvia's incredibly hedonistic lifestyle in Sarawak, against a backdrop of constantly warring Dyak tribal head-hunters, and elsewhere in the world, when she was wife of the third, and last, White Rajah, Sir Vyner Brooke.

In 1841 Sir James Brooke had helped the Sultan of Brunei to subdue Malay chiefs for control of Sarawak for which he was given the government of Sarawak by the grateful Sultan. The rajahs had the power of life and death over their subjects, their own flag and postage stamps and all the trappings of an absolute monarchy. Sir Charles succeeded him and ruled for 50 years, followed by Sir Vyner. Vyner was a strange man, awkward with Europeans but never happier than when with the native people, talking in their own language and sorting out tribal problems.

By contrast Sylvia was a much more colourful and drama-loving character who thoroughly enjoyed her opulent lifestyle as Raneé but who was always happy to return to England where she proudly wore Sarawak royal costume. Prior to her marriage Sylvia had enjoyed a certain amount of literary success, having had several novels published - perhaps not surprising with mentors,

through family connections, such as G B Shaw and J M Barrie!

By 1930 everything had started to go wrong in Sarawak and the British Colonial Office tried to steer the rajah on to a less eccentric path. Having three daughters and no sons the problems of accession also arose. Vyner's brother, who deputised for him during his often long absences from Sarawak, did have a son but Sylvia hoped that one of her male grandchildren might fill the gap and got up to all kinds of desperate intrigues to stymie the nephew's position. She also paid lengthy visits to Hollywood, hoping to create movie careers for herself and her daughters, but without success. She did, however, find several lovers, which her husband knew about, and he in turn took on many girlfriends.

Eventually Sarawak was ceded to Britain by Vyner after WW2 and he returned to England. Sylvia meanwhile continued her world-wide travels, charming and vivacious, then retired to Bermuda where she died in 1971. The book throws up loads of fascinatingly strange people and, as the old saying goes, if the story was not for real there's no chance you could make it up!

Pat Macdonald

A Thousand Splendid Suns

by Khaled Hosseini

(Bloomsbury Publishing [Hardback] £16.99)

Another book by the author of *The Kite Runner* (reviewed in the previous issue of Village Voice).

Anyone reading this harrowing and sad account of the lives of two women, Mariam and Laila, living in the Taliban dominated era in Afghanistan, will understand just how much our brave troops are helping to ease the lives of these tragic people. Even under the Russian occupation they were able to live the life of a woman. An unforgettable portrait of a wounded country, and a deeply moving story of family and friendship.

In 2006 the author was named a US goodwill envoy to the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Rosemary Mackay

[Please note that the review, in the last issue, of "*Small Island*" was by Judith Le Grice and NOT Sheila Ward - apologies to both ladies! Ed.]

BOOKSHELF

Sink the *Belgrano*

by Mike Rossiter

(Bantam Press [Hardback] £17.99)

I enjoy reading accounts and historical novels about the Royal Navy, having served during 1957/59 (National Service). This book was borrowed from Kingsbridge Library, under their new books section, and I found it to be a fascinating and difficult book to put down.

Mike Rossiter details the situation leading to the Falklands War in 1982, the actual sinking of the Argentine capital warship the *Belgrano* and the controversy after the event. His style is fast-moving and reads like an action 'thriller' and the narrative gives a unique insight into the conflict between the British Cabinet, the Admiralty, and also the task force in the Falklands.

The author had access to sailors from the *Belgrano* and the submarine *HMS Conqueror* and their stories of the sinking of a warship make the retelling a personal experience. Apparently this was the first time since WW2 that a British warship had sunk another vessel. The book also provides brief accounts of damage to other RN ships in the conflict, including details of the lack of suitable defence equipment - we were apparently ill-prepared for war.

I found this book well worth reading, and recommend it not only to those who usually read 'sea stories' but also to those who enjoy discovering the story behind the political headlines.

Arthur Livett

The Vitamin Murders

by James Fergusson

(Portobello £12.99)

This book was written when the author discovered that his body was full of unwanted and potentially very harmful chemicals due to the foods we eat today. The story is largely about Sir Jack Drummond, a brilliant biochemist, who was appointed by Churchill as Chief Food Scientist during WW2, when Britain faced the prospect of starvation. Drummond's food policy meant that,

as a whole, the people fared better nutritionally than they ever had, before or since - but that was in the days before the widespread use of agrochemicals. He set up Food Advice Centres throughout the country to demonstrate to the public how to eat well on wartime rations and a group of Home Economists (including Marguerite Patton, the well-known food writer in later life, and myself) used to travel the country demonstrating food preparation and talking on nutrition at clinics, schools and to groups such as the WI etc.

Drummond became acutely aware of the many harmful substances that had found, or were finding, their way into the human food chain post-war with the widespread use of agrochemicals. By then he had left government employment and had joined the chemicals branch of Boots the Chemists in Nottingham. During a camping holiday in France in 1952 he, his wife and 10 year old daughter were brutally murdered....only ten miles away from the major source of chlorine for the agrochemical industry. Local farmer Gaston Dominici was convicted of the crime but not everyone was sure he was the true culprit. *Why* was Drummond murdered is a question that is still asked.

Rosemary Mackay

Curries & Bugles - A Memoir and Cookbook of the British Raj

by Jennifer Brennan

(Tuttle Publishing US \$24.95)

This year's celebrations of the 60th year of Indian Independence has brought many enjoyable radio and television programmes, as well as newspaper and magazine articles and books. It also prompted me to look out this book, received a couple of years ago but which had inexplicably remained unopened. What a treat I had been missing!

Jennifer Brennan, a child and grandchild of the British Raj, grew up in the Punjab and Mysore, and at the time of her birth in 1935 her father was an army officer serving in the North West Frontier Province. She writes well about what her and her parents' lives were like pre-1947 - how the colonialists and empire-builders lived, why they worked and often died far away from their home

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NEWS FROM THE WI



August

Although they had no meeting in August it did not mean that Thurlestone WI was sitting back doing nothing. Far from it! A very large exhibition of crafts and a competition at Stokenham kept the members on their toes, as they produced entries not only to show but also to compete against eleven other WIs. They didn't win any cups, but didn't disgrace themselves either, with their *'We do like to be beside the seaside'* entry in which several members scored very high individual marks.

September

Still filled with competitive enthusiasm a group of members made the annual pilgrimage to Kingsbridge Show and came around the middle of the field in the WI Cooperative class. Again, several members scored high individual marks. All these contributors insist they had a fun time at both the shows, and **Julie Hanham** - who was responsible for getting them into competition mode - was thanked most warmly for cracking the whip. Julie in turn thanked those members who had made entries and reminded them *"It's not the winning, it's the entering"*. But they were far from down-hearted. She also reminded us of the forthcoming one-day workshops (Silk Painting on 27th September at **Frogmore**, and Patchwork Chicken Door-stops (!) at **Thurlestone** on the 25th October).

President **Karen Livett** introduced the September speaker, **Janet Harding** from Stokenham whose talk was entitled *"From Dairy Maid to Vicar's Wife"*. Not being completely sure of what to expect, but having had her highly recommended as a speaker, we were totally charmed with what she told us of her life - in line with the title of her talk. It was delivered with such ease and pleasant confidence that one member said *"I could have gone on listening to her all afternoon"*! So that made an extremely

good start to the autumn session.

The combined profit from several events during the year, with a little cash top-up, resulted in a donation of **£500** being sent to Devon Air Ambulance. **Lisa White** gave an excellent report on a visit to Exeter with several Thurlestone members, to join a group of over 100 members from all over the county who were conducted on a 'literary' walk in the city - places connected to famous writers - and an in-depth tour round the cathedral.

A WI cake stall at the Parish Hall Fair on Saturday 16th September raised close on £100 for Parish Hall Funds. Many thanks, girls!

Forthcoming Events

- # **Wednesday 17th October** - a ramble round and about Noss Mayo will be held with lunch to follow at the Old Ship.. If members don't feel like walking, they can join the party for lunch only. Husbands and friends are also welcome on the outing.
- # **Tuesday 23rd October** - the Autumn Council Meeting will be held at Plymouth Guildhall.
- # *(Please note that the annual meeting in November will be on Thursday 8th and not the 9th as shown in your programme).*
- # **Wednesday 14th November** - a 'taster' of Aquarobics and Indoor Bowls will be held at Kingsbridge Leisure Centre, starting 1.30 pm.
- # **Thursday 6th December** - is the date for our Christmas Lunch, so keep the date free - further details later.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 11th October, when **Oonagh White** will talk on *"Care of the finger and toe nails"*. Visitors are always most welcome - particularly if you're new to the area, or if you would like to make some new friends. Come along and hear the speaker and have a cup of tea with us - *no obligations, honest!*



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Ingredients:

- # 400g (1lb) minced pork, 600g (1½ lb) pork sausage meat, 1 rounded tablespoon white breadcrumbs, 1 teaspoon grated lemon or orange zest.
- # 1 flat tablespoon finely chopped parsley, 4 finely sliced spring onions, ½ level tablespoon all spice, pinch of thyme, 1 small beaten egg
- # 2 boneless chicken breasts, 6 rashers of back bacon trimmed with fat
- # salt and pepper to taste, garnish with parsley and sliced tomatoes
- # I use a round oven-proof dish approx 9" diameter and 3" deep.

Preparation:

- # Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F)
- # Tip pork mince into a large bowl with the sausage meat.
- # Add the rest of the ingredients listed before 1 beaten egg.
- # Mix together thoroughly with hands or wooden spoon.
- # Mix in beaten egg and seasoning, and then set aside.
- # Finely slice chicken breasts. Cut each bacon rasher into 3 or 4 slices.

Assembly:

- # Place half the sausage meat mixture into the base of the dish and press down firmly.
- # Lay the bacon over the sausage.
- # Layer the chicken pieces on top.
- # Finish with the remaining sausage mix and press down firmly.
- # Place dish on a baking sheet and cover with foil or butter paper
- # Bake in the oven for 1hr 40 mins, removing the foil/butter paper 15 - 20 mins before cooking ends to lightly brown.
- # Leave until completely cold before serving.
- # Refrigerate if not eating immediately, but allow to come to room temperature before serving.
- # Cut into slices/wedges and garnish with parsley and tomatoes.

*Enjoy as a Harvest Supper, or as part of a Bring Your Own Picnic occasion
at one of the Parish Hall evening entertainments*

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

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

Easy

No. 25

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

Easy

No. 26

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

Medium

No. 25

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

Medium

No. 26

Aune Conservation Association October Lecture

Tuesday 16th October *The River Avon - Sedimentation and Sea Level change*

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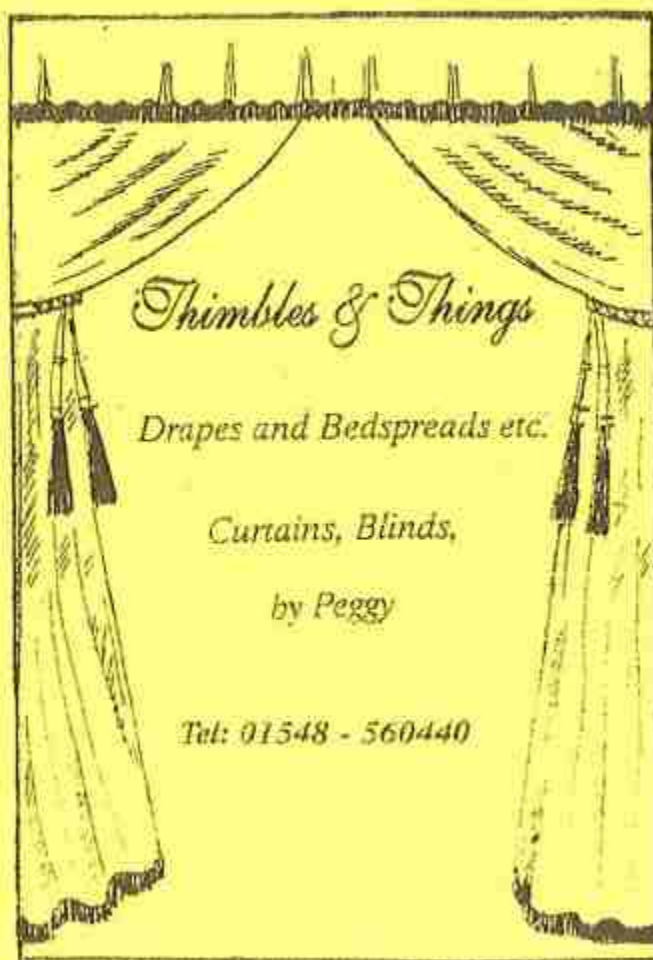
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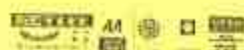
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carvings of all the local wildlife. Leaving the water behind, we found the terrain becoming rather marshy, and we were glad of the walkways to get us across. The dogs managed to pick up a fair bit of mud, but this was removed with a quick dip in the river when we reached Deer Bridge.

From there we had a fairly steady climb up the lane, before cutting across to pick up the track which took us down into Stokenham. A very convivial hour or so was spent in the garden of the Church House Inn, leading to some comment that we are becoming something of a dining club! However, we

felt we had earned it, and knew there was more exertion to come.

Leaving Stokenham, we climbed the hill opposite, giving us wonderful views back to Slapton, before continuing through woodland and farmland to pick up the coastal path above Beesands. One last stiff climb, and then an easy and picturesque descent back to Torcross.

A lovely day's walking of a little over seven miles.

Christine Hammer

25 Years Ago

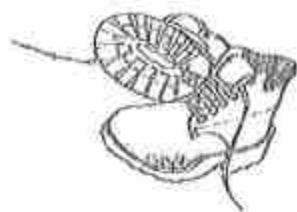
Extracted from the Village Voice issue of November 1982

Since I last contributed to the Village Voice on the subject of the Thurlestone Parish Hall the financial situation has not improved, if anything, it has become worse. The reason is simple, the Parish Hall is not being used sufficiently to cover the fixed outgoings. May I once again encourage everyone in the Parish who wishes to hold an event to consider using our Parish Hall as a venue.

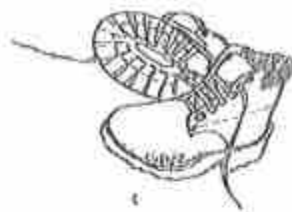
Looking further ahead, the Parish Hall was built as a temporary structure in 1947 and now has an estimated life of approximately 10 years. Thus we must plan to replace the building in ten years time. At today's values, a conservative estimate for the rebuilding of the Hall is £60,000. However, if the present system of grants continues we may be able to obtain some £40,000 of this total from grants, leaving us £20,000 to be raised locally over a 10 year period. The committee are busy formulating some ideas on fund raising, with the aim of raising at least £2,000 per year. One way that you can support us is by joining those generous folk who have already made a gift in the form of a covenant to the Parish Hall Trust.

If you are willing to support us in this way, please complete the attached coupon and send it to our President, Admiral Bickford, or telephone him for further information on Thurlestone 595.

A.E. SADLER
Parish Hall Chairman



TRAMP



1 On 2nd August seven walkers, plus one dog, set off in the rain on this lovely short walk to Bantham and were soon rewarded with some dry fine weather. It is a walk one never tires of, picking up the South West Coast Path by the Thurlestone Golf Club and heading towards Bantham. We stopped a couple of times to watch and admire some of the golf shots being executed by local members.

On arriving at Bantham we gave the Sloop Inn a miss and decided that coffee and home-made cakes were the order of the day in the Bantham Village Store. We were able to sit outside on the terrace, where they now have a large canopy for inclement weather, and admire the magnificent views of Bantham and the River Avon.

Jenny Sherrington

2 Friday 31st August was a perfect day for walking on Dartmoor. Nine Tramps, accompanied by Dog the Younger, set off from Swallerton Gate car park, north of Ashburton, for a seven mile circular tour of varied scenery. Passing Hound Tor we paused at the ruined Medieval village before crossing the Becka Brook at the clapper bridge and skirting Black Hill before descending to Becka Falls.

Here we encountered a sty of saddleback pigs and two Shetland ponies along the route of the public footpath through the complex. After the village of Water we passed close by a modernistic grass-roofed house that had apparently been featured in one of a newspaper's colour supplements. Its grounds currently house a range of marquees and about five 'yurts' (Mongolian-style tents) - for what purpose we did not discover.

A picnic lunch was enjoyed on Manaton village green before climbing Bowerman's Nose and returning, past a pair of rather aloof chocolate-brown llamas, to our starting point. By now the 'Hound of the Basket Meals' had arrived in the car park and supplied us with ice-creams, teas, coffees and crisps!

A welcome end to another enjoyable day.

Tony Ward

3 On a beautiful sunny day (Tuesday 4th September) one dog and eight of us, with ages ranging between two and quite a bit more, set out from the car park at Ringmore on a short walk. On our way to the coast path at Toby's Point we enjoyed the stunning views towards Burgh Island. Reaching the coast we set off down towards the beach at Aymer Cove.

At the beach the tide was full, the sun shone on the sea, and the cry of the peregrine falcon filled the air. After that we climbed the steep cliff walk, reducing the walk leader to abandon all thoughts of purple prose in a mere struggle to keep up with the others. After a short rest at the top of the hill we marvelled once more at the glorious views, ambling along field paths, down through woodlands until we came at last to the lovely village of Ringmore.

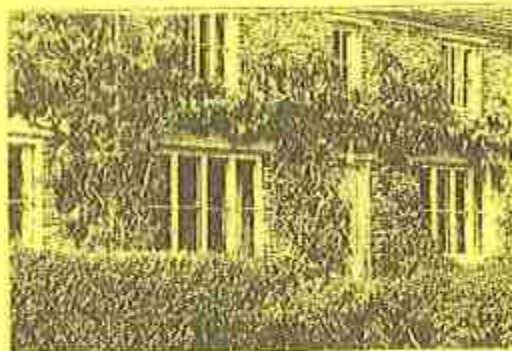
A short walk uphill and we arrived at the *Journey's End* pub, just a couple of minutes before the landlord opened up. Our Tramp leader for the year joined us for lunch, and later we set off, much-refreshed by our lovely morning and the hospitality of all at the *Journey's End*.

Sheila Ward

4 A good turnout of fourteen, plus three dogs of assorted size and colour, set off from Torcross on Wednesday 12th September. It was some years since we had done this particular walk, as the last time it was planned the weather let us down. Today, however, was glorious, and perfect for walking.

The first stretch was all round Slapton Ley giving us a chance to admire the various forms of bird-life. Several wooden observation platforms have been erected in recent years, one with particularly fine

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tournaments, Ladies, Men's and Mixed Doubles the numbers have ranged from 12 to 30 pairs.

New Members

We have had five new Senior members this year, and one new youngster who has taken up the Mini Pass.

Junior Team

We entered the South Hams League this year, and used a total of five players, all of whom were quite young by comparison with their opponents. Of the four matches played we won one and lost three, finishing fourth of five in the league. However, a great team spirit has developed among the players, and all of them are very keen to play again next year.

Coaching

Forty children attended the Easter and May half-term courses which were timed with golf lessons so that members could attend both activities. Fifteen children from All Saints Primary School attended a ten week Mini-Tennis course during the summer term. Thanks go to **Cheryl Beck** for organising this activity. Up to twelve ladies have attended Thursday morning coaching, while both Seniors and Juniors have had individual and group lessons throughout the year.

Tournaments

The new July, Lepere, and Woodhead Cups - all in their second year - attracted record entries, while the club BBQ after the Lepere Cup also saw around eighty people gather on Leasfoot. Thanks to **Janet Richardson, Zoe Lepere, Barbara Woodhead, Gill Egan, Hugh Leonard, and Roddy Hill** who presented the various trophies. The results are on the board for all tournaments held so far and, where relevant, will go on to the various club honours boards.

The Charity Ladies' Doubles Day in aid of Macmillan Nurses had an entry of sixteen pairs but was cancelled due to the weather. Despite not going on court we managed to raise £200 from donated entries and the Wimbledon Sweepstake.

The 12 and under Devon LTA Junior Open Tournament attracted over thirty children, twelve of whom were local. It proved a very successful afternoon with strawberries and ice cream, crazy golf, and plenty of spectators. Thanks go to **Mary Bayliss** for organising this event.

Thurlestone Grass Court Veterans is a new Open Tournament backed by the LTA, sponsored by the Thurlestone Hotel, and held over three days on 13, 14, and 15 July. Forty-four mainly county players took part, coming from the Home Counties, the Midlands, Wales and the South West, and including a couple of England and Wales internationals. The tournament was refereed by **Peter Bayliss**. With everyone promising to bring 2 to 3 friends next year, we can look forward to as many as 100 people in 2008 - great for the Club, for Duncan, and the village. Special thanks to **Lindsey Shedel**, who organised all the entries and battled with the LTA software, and to **Martyn and David Grose** and to **Julie Baugh** of the Thurlestone Hotel, and also to **Stephen Parker-Swift**, who very kindly allowed us to play one of the final matches on his court.

A unique new club competition, called the *Thurlestone Quaich*, was also started this year. This is a combined golf and tennis event with adults and juniors entering in pairs. The event attracted the maximum entry of 24 pairs (48 players). Greensome Stableford points over 9 holes were added to games won in tennis round-robin play to give total "Thurlestone Points". The top two pairs, **David and Will Dodds** and **Paul and Emma Turner**, then played a set of tennis to decide the winner. Congratulations to **David and Will** for being the inaugural winners. It was great to see old Devon family names - **Luscombe Tregellis, Yeoman**, - mixed in with everyone else on the leaderboard. And to see people picking up a racket or a club for the first time in ages. At lunchtime, over 70 people enjoyed a BBQ served by **Duncan** at the tennis pavilion.

Huge thanks to **Judy Beecroft** who presented the *Quaich* - a Scottish drinking vessel - to the club, in memory of her husband **Bobby**. Three generations of the family - **Judy, Juliet** and **Michael Beamish** and their children **Sophie** and **Charles** - make them an ideal Thurlestone family to play in and help organise this event. Thanks also to **Rod Moore**, the Club Chairman, who came in especially to support us and thank **Judy** on behalf of the Club. Thanks must also go to all who have helped with organising Junior and Senior tournaments, and to those who have manned the pavilion serving teas, snacks and Pimms throughout the year.

Nicky Came and Janet Richardson.

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Well, summer has finally arrived, if a little late, but it has allowed us to be out on the golf course enjoying the competitions. July commenced with the Lady Veterans' Handicap Prize, which was won by **Mary Johnson** playing off a handicap of 33 with a score of 76 from **Sara Harkness** playing off a handicap of 19 with a score of 78.

The Three Ball Team Open and the Silver Open were also played in July with competitors from Devon, Cornwall and as far away as Bristol all competing for the variety of prizes on offer. Thankfully the weather remained reasonable for the Three ball Open but for the Silver Open the wind was so strong that it almost made the course unplayable. The Money Cup for the best scratch score by a Thurlestone player went to **Shona Wilson** playing off a handicap of 14 with a score of 92.

My Lady Captain's Charity Day at the beginning of August was a great success with 84 ladies taking part all helping to raise money for the Childrens Hospice South West. Because the mascot of the charity is a bear the day revolved around the theme of bears. There were a variety of competitions including Teddy Bear Crufts where members were able to enter their bears in three different classes. **John Bevan's** was the oldest, **Liz Line's** the cuddliest and **Anne Seymour's** deemed the ugliest - due to only having one ear. **Peter Laughler**, the Golf Club's Professional, stood on the first tee and challenged every player coming through to get their ball nearer the flag than his ball. **Jane Stanley**, **Jan Brooking** and **Liz Line** all managed to beat him. The principal competition was a Canadian Greensome and was won by **Jo Crispin** and **Pam Adams**. **Liz Roe**, a volunteer from the Hospice, presented the prizes. Great fun was had by all

and the day raised £1,040 for the hospice.

The Allcomers Cup was won for the third year running by **Sue Laughler** playing off 10 with a score of 70. The runner up with a score of 72 was **Jo Crispin** playing off 20.

The Duchess and Junior Trophies were the final competitions played in August. **Gill Hicks** playing off 21 won the Junior Trophy with a 62 and **Sara Harkness** playing off 19 won the Duchess Trophy with a score of 68. Both ladies are delighted with their handicap cuts.

August ended with the Devon County Still Cup (ladies) Finals being held at Thurlestone. Many supporters were out on the course for both the semi-finals and in the afternoon the finals. A tremendous way to finish the month - watching the best teams in the county compete for the trophy, which was eventually won by Exeter.

Pam Ledger

TENNIS SECTION 2007 PLAYING REPORT

Due to the very wet and windy weather in May, June, and July there has been a lack of court availability and our playing has been severely disrupted, but thanks to **Vic** and his groundsmen the courts have withstood the onslaught well.

Club Play

Up to sixteen members have come regularly to Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday evenings throughout the year. Thanks to the Thurlestone Hotel for letting us use their courts during the winter. During the holidays, Mini-Tennis has run every week - numbers between 12 and 26. For Junior tournaments the numbers have been between 12 and 50. This year several children have come through from Mini-Tennis and joined in tournaments for the first time. For Senior

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VILLAGE VOICE

October - November 2007

