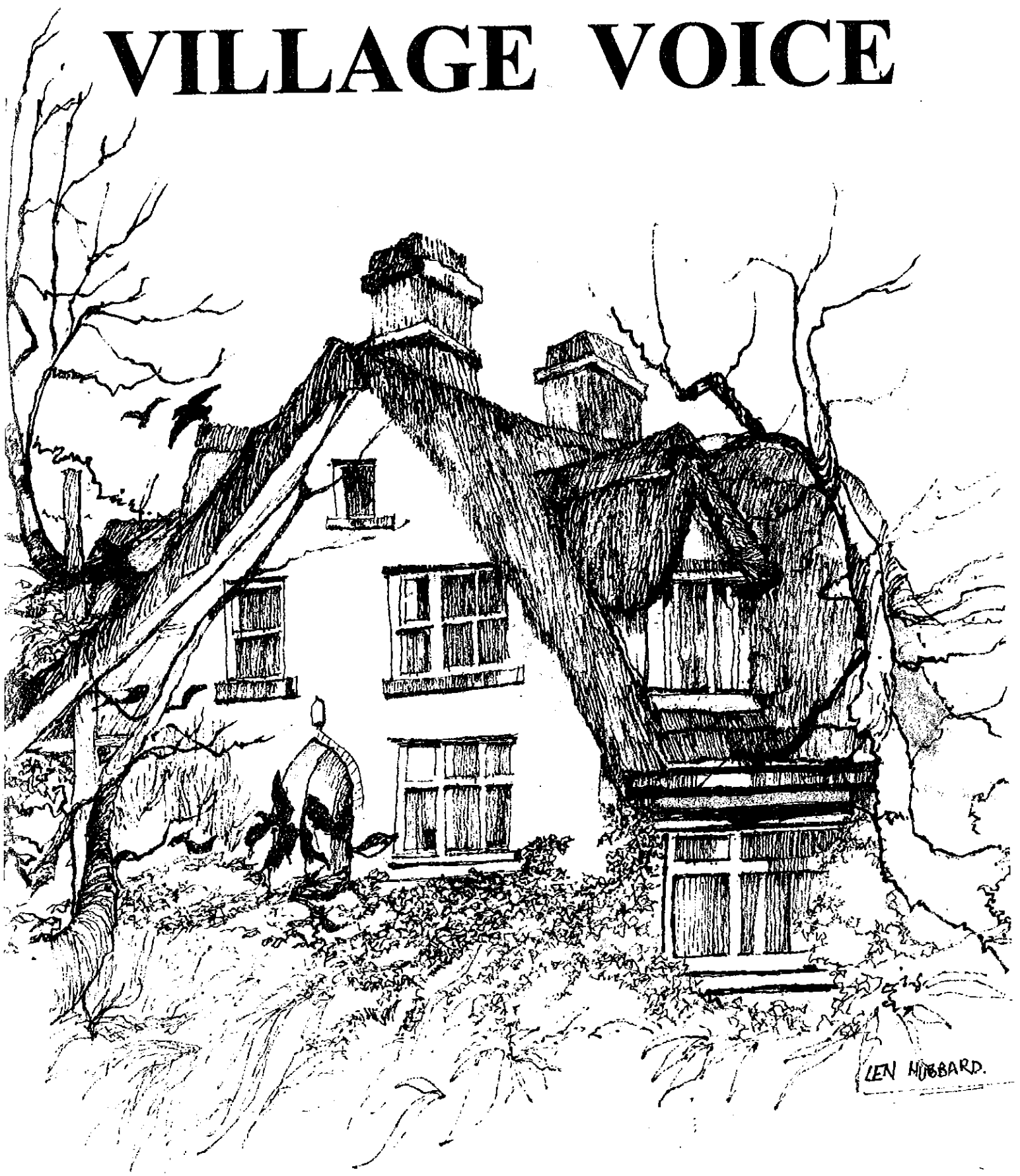


VILLAGE VOICE



April - May 2008



NUMBER 150
APRIL - MAY 2008

Our front cover picture by the evergreen Len Hubbard is of "The Thatches", formerly the home of Mr John Davenport, at the top end of the village. It has been there for the best part of the last hundred years, nestling within its own sizeable tree-lined garden and blending happily into the landscape, but this could be your last view of it. For now it has been acquired by developers, who are looking to demolish the existing building and replace it with two very high-priced properties in order to optimise their profit on the investment.

Nothing wrong with that - provided (a) the new buildings conform to the manifold constraints rightly in place for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and that (b) the regulations are properly interpreted by both the developers' architects and the Planning Authority. The first designs submitted by the developers aroused considerable hostility from local residents and objections poured in from every side.

Already engaged in the "Battle of the Moorings" on the Mead Estate, the planners have now called up additional resources (see Village News Roundup). For our benefit? Or the developers? Time will tell.

We should all seek to guard our heritage and our future against short-term exploitation and attempts to circumvent policies already wisely established to protect the village and the environment. The Annual Parish Meeting is on 14th April. Come and make your voices heard on these vital issues - next time it could be your back yard!

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Parish Hall News

By Ron Parkin



Good news was the theme at the second Annual General Meeting of our splendid new Parish Hall on Tuesday 4th March. The Hall is now firmly established as the focal point within the parish for a whole range of activities. In terms of hours used through the year, Bridge is far and away the leader, followed by Teamakers, Private Parties, School, Sewing, Tai Chi, Art, Youth group, Ballet, Bowls, Pilates, W I and Keep Fit. Sadly, the Bowls club now only play once a week and would welcome new members to be able to revert to their normal two evenings. Badminton on Monday evenings would also welcome new players.

Despite the slight fall-off in these two sporting activities, I am pleased to report that the Finances are in good shape. The Trustees were particularly happy with the fact that the Hall was some £2000 better off than a year ago - even after spending over £11,000 on a variety of refinements to the Hall facilities. These included screens for the stage, dimming lighting, badminton lines, a new heating timer, additional crockery, and several significant modifications to the kitchen to make it more suited to the professional caterers who are being increasingly hired for private functions.

There was also good news from **Philip Medway**, the Headmaster of Thurlestone School, who reported on the astonishing breadth of syllabus, the enthusiasm of the Staff and the aptitude of the children that lay behind the latest Ofsted rating - which had placed Thurlestone within the top 4% in the country. He also explained the rationale behind the major re- building programme planned for the next 5 years.

The Parish Hall AGM was again made livelier by **John and June Beven's** graphics illustrating the verbal reports.

Over the past two months there has been quite a variety of Saturday evening entertainment at the Hall for parishioners (and visitors) to enjoy. On 23rd February **Declan and Sue Dwyer** put together a fascinating collection of material in

their presentation "South". This began with Declan's account of the Shackleton expedition to the Antarctic, and the incredible story of the rescue - against all the odds - of the entire crew of the ill-fated *Endurance*. With a series of photographs, including many taken by the expedition's own photographer Frank Hurley, the dramatic tale was unfolded to a rapt audience, and given much individual and historical colour and perspective provided by Declan himself.

This was followed by a stunning film of aerial photography exploring the mountainous south west corner of the south island of New Zealand. Finally Sue Dwyer gave an account of their recent Antarctic cruise, illustrated with many of their own photographs and presenting the wide range of wild life that inhabits this inhospitable region.

The "Just Children Charities" held a well supported Quiz Night on Saturday 8th March, with **Mike and Brenda Jones** testing the wits of a range of local quiz teams. Our local Village Inn champions eventually came through after a play-off for first place against a visiting team.

A week later, **Roger and Carole Cole** made a welcome return visit to host another of their "Beetle" drives. While not as intellectually challenging as the Quiz night, this was just as enjoyable an evening, generating great energy and excitement, as well as an opportunity to meet new faces from other corners of the parish. The top coleopterist proved to be **Derek Brown**. At the end of the evening a donation of £50 was made to a Sri Lankan tsunami relief charity.

Sometime later this year we are planning to hold an "Arts and Crafts" Exhibition at the Parish Hall. Full details will be published as soon as all the particulars have been finalised. Meantime we hope that all local artists and craftsmen, photographers and needleworkers, etc., will prepare themselves to participate in this event, and to demonstrate the range of talents that are at work in our parish.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 4th February & 3rd March 2008

News and views by Citizen

The February meeting had six Parish Councillors, our District Councillor and fifteen members of the public present. The March meeting again fielded six Parish Councillors, nine members of the public but no District Councillor. Headmaster **Philip Medway** and a representative of LSN Architects were also present.

POLICE

Sergeant **Jane Corkhill** and PCLO **Matt Blackmore** attended in February and reported minimal problems in the parish - children knocking on doors along Sea View and a garage door off its hinges (either a break-in or wind damage). Under new regulations, Matt has to have a member of the police force proper with him when the speedgun is used. What chance now of checking speedsters in the parish? Due to an earlier call-out, there was no police presence at the March meeting.

It is hoped to revive Neighbourhood Watch and area co-ordinators are needed. Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore**, the parish co-ordinator, said more often than not he got messages about problems outside our area - even beyond Kingsbridge sometimes - and Matt will pass this on.

OPEN FORUM

Kerbstones below 'Swallows' - some of these needed re-bedding on the raised footpath.

Landslip opposite the Old Rectory - Devon County Council say the owner of the land is responsible for stabilising the bank.

Speeding on the Mead - the question of speeding, often heavily-loaded, building contractors' lorries was raised again by Mrs **Gill Munn**, who said Gerald Wood Homes promised to place 5mph restriction signs by the cattle grid in the hope this might help.

The Thatches - many of the public present at the February meeting supported Mr **Colin Knight** (spokesman for those against the development plans for the site currently with the District Council). *Allegedly*, it would seem, some of the SHDC planners were in favour of the

'modernist' design for new houses on the site! Mr Knight was in regular contact with the developer, the architect and the District Council in identifying the concerns of the parish. He had also contacted English Heritage about the proposed demolition of The Thatches. A site meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 9th February, which led to their rejecting the proposals for the site. *It was noted that the owners of The Downs - next door neighbours - had earlier been denied permission to build a bungalow in their own grounds.*

PARISH HALL

Councillor **Peter Hurrell** said that work on the kitchen hatch fire shutter to connect it to the alarm system was now completed. Quotations for extending the wooden fence at the end of the car park were being sought.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

Councillor **Geoffrey Stidston** said quotations for work on the alterations to the cobbled road outside the church were still awaited. The pot hole by the Mead cattlegrid had been made good as had the condition of Post Office Lane (aka Court Park Lane) and it was pleasing that a resident had taken the trouble to write a letter of thanks to the Parish Council - a rare thing!

A fairly deep trench-like pothole was developing outside *Hilltop* on Thurlestone's main road which could become a traffic hazard. A culvert at Buckland, partly owned by *Woodlands* and partly by the County Council needed attention. It was damaged when South West Water was doing work there and was now collapsing. Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** suggested that a stone wall adjacent to Glebefields and the main road, now badly cracked, should be demolished.

The encroaching of roadside banks on lane width was raised but the District Council has no money available for this work - last done fifteen years ago! The unswept condition of the lower road, West Buckland, and the raised footpath on Thurlestone's main road were also reported and will be followed up. The Aune Conservation

Association have a useful leaflet on footpaths.

SCHOOL

Headmaster **Philip Medway** and a representative from their architects presented preliminary plans for renovating and extending the school. It was emphasised that while this would NOT mean an increase in school numbers it was long overdue and necessary improvement work to update many building inadequacies at the school. They wished to involve parishioners in the planning stage and were thus advising the Parish Council as a first step prior to submitting the plans to the Diocese and the planning authorities. Work would be spread over five years. The problems with lack of car parking spaces (and the frequent use of the Parish Hall's facilities by the school sometimes to the detriment of Hall hirers), was raised.

Councillor **Andrew Rhymes** said a new parent-governor was urgently needed. The County Council apologise for the delay in installing the 'wig-wags' (mains, not solar powered) outside the school, which they hope to do soon.

TREES

Braeside had received permission to lop their eucalyptus tree. The old pine overhanging the churchyard wall seat would be removed to facilitate the placing of a new seat there - the felling cost to be borne by the Parish Council, who will also contribute £100 towards the fee of £177 (!) required by the Diocese for granting permission. [It can now be reported that the pine tree has in fact been felled. Meanwhile, a new oak tree has been planted by the bus shelter]

YOUTH

Signs for the Island Green play area now in place but a complaint received from a resident saying that an entrance to the area had encroached upon their land. The Chairman will arrange to see the complainant. The young people hope to make a regular contribution to *Village Voice*, and details of their activities and achievements will be collected and compiled by Councillor **Dale Came**. [See *Youth in the Parish* further on in this issue]

PARISH PLAN

No further developments were reported on this topic, but sample questionnaires circulated by other parishes had been received by Councillor **David Hugo**.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Shonaugh Rankin reported the considerable disappointment of the South Hams District Council at the very tiny increase in funds coming from central government - just 1% - the lowest of all the Devon authorities - against national inflation of 4%. On a happier note, recycling in the South Hams is doing well - we are ninth in a league table of 393 councils, achieving almost 47% recycling of household waste.

PARISH COUNCIL 'CLUSTER' MEETINGS

Councillor **Dale Came** attended and found that most parish representatives were unhappy about refuse collection and felt the system could be improved. The current contractors could not cope with the huge volume of glass being recycled. Holiday homes are ignoring recycling rules. A presentation was made about central government's increasing pressure on local councils to bear additional costs which will have a knock-on effect on Parish Councils. Feelings were expressed that Parish Council views on planning applications appear to be ignored. 2500 Post Offices are due to be closed, 50 of them in Devon (split between town and country). All will be revealed by the 28th May.

BUSINESS AT MEETINGS

The first item on the agenda is usually Open Forum and the last the Planning applications. Open Forum will in future be immediately followed by Planning applications.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

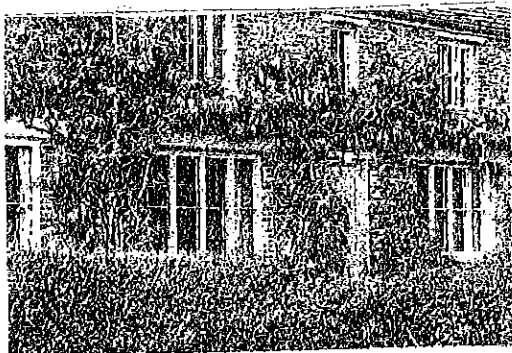
- * The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 7th April, at 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room at the Parish Hall.
- * The Parish Council AGM will be held on Monday 12th May, at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting will take place on Monday 14th April at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. Devon County Councillor **Sir Simon Day**, All Saints school Headmaster **Philip Medway**, and **Robin Toogood**, manager South Devon AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), will be the guest speakers.

All parishioners are encouraged to come along to this Annual Parish Meeting, and listen to what our three guest speakers have to say concerning their own roles and influence in the Parish.

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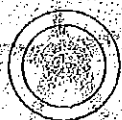
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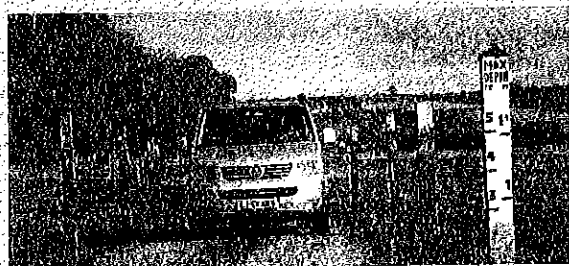
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Village News Round-Up

JOHN CRAWFORD MEMORIAL

The Aune Conservation Association intends to award up to £1000 per year as a memorial to the late **John Crawford**, to promote environmental studies anywhere on the River Avon in the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Projects must be for public benefit and be concerned with the conservation, protection or improvement of the physical or natural environment of the river. Proposals are invited from individuals or organisations and will be assessed by a panel assembled by the ACA. Applications (maximum 1000 words) and initial enquiries should be submitted by 1st June 2008, to **Dr Stuart Watts**, ACA Chairman, at: sdmw2@btopenworld.com

SARAH'S SHOP

News that **Adrian Masters** was leaving the Thurlestone PO Store (see Postbag elsewhere in this issue) was received with some alarm, but this quickly turned to delight when we knew that **Sarah Tyers**, our Postmistress, was going to be the new owner! May we all say how much we appreciated what Adrian brought to the village at a time when we had lost both our shops and thought the PO was going too. We thank him for providing our parish with a 'heart' over the past nine years and wish him and his family well. We congratulate Sarah on her undertaking which will continue to have the support of all of us. **Noelle Martindale** will become Sarah's assistant Postmistress.

THURLESTONE PUMP

The Parish of Thurlestone Society (POTS) have undertaken to provide and maintain a hanging basket in the old Pumphouse - keeping up the great tradition set by the late **Derrick Yeoman** which provided so much pleasure - and to plant up some other 'nooks and crannies' in the parish. This will be particularly important in 2008, when the parish is entering the "Best Kept Village" competition! [See Parish Council Chairman's article]

POLAR SOCIETY

Those of us who enjoyed **Declan and Susan Dwyer's** fascinating evening 'South!' a few weeks ago will be interested to know that there is a Polar Society which meets at Ivybridge. For details contact **Paul Davies** of South Milton on 01548-561798.

GARDENS ON VIEW

Aveton Gifford will be holding an Open Gardens event on Saturday 31st May and Sunday 1st June between 11.00 am and 5.00 pm. Visitors are asked to call in first at Aveton Gifford Memorial Hall to collect a map and instructions. Parking is available at the Hall and also in the main roundabout car park at the eastern end of the village. The event is in support of the Aveton Gifford Shop Association. Enquiries to **Jane Crichton** on 01548 - 550250.

SHAKE A LEG

Did you know that **Sue Bain** will teach you to Line Dance at the regular Wednesday sessions she holds at the Parish Hall, 2pm to 3pm? She says "This is a great way to have some exercise, make friends, and have lots of fun. Everyone is welcome". To enquire, contact her on 01548-550348 or mobile 07980-140557.

TRIANGLE CENTRE

We are so lucky in the South Hams to have a great little hospital at Kingsbridge and in particular to have a branch of the *Triangle Centre* based there. "What is the *Triangle Centre*?" you may be asking. It is a local healthcare venture which brings together the expertise of health professionals and therapists to offer support, information, advice and treatment to **cancer sufferers, their families and carers - delivered most importantly at a centre close to home**. It is open at the South Hams Hospital as a friendly 'drop-in' place every Tuesday between 10am and 4pm, under the **Derriford Mustard Tree Macmillan** centre umbrella. **Debbie Clift**,

their Outreach Information Officer, tells us they are happy to take phone calls if you can't get to the centre. Her number is 01548-852349

If you know of anyone who would benefit from such a wonderful facility, please encourage them to take up the support that this service undoubtedly offers. And please spread the word!

SOUTH MILTON THANKS

South Milton Village Hall committee would like to thank all their friends in Thurlestone who went along to their Valentine's dance.

Daphne Osmond says *"This is the first time we have held our annual dance at this time, and it seemed to be a popular decision so, looking ahead, we plan to hold the dance on Valentine's Day next year - which falls on Saturday 14th February 2009! We hope that you will be able to join us again and can assure you that your support is very much appreciated."*

JUST CHILDREN CHARITIES

Angela Ford and **Joan Booth** have written to us *"The committee of the Just Childrens Charities would like to say a big Thank You to all those who kindly supported their Spring Quiz on Saturday, 6th March. We raised nearly £600 thanks to your generosity. Special thanks to Mike and Brenda, who ran the Quiz with their usual warmth and efficiency"*.

CANCER RESEARCH BRIDGE EVENT

Rubber bridge enthusiasts have an opportunity for a pleasant afternoon on Thursday 3rd April at West Charleton village hall, in aid of Cancer Research, when the local branch of this charity is holding a Bridge Drive from 1.45 to 5.00 pm. The entry fee at £20 per table of four includes refreshments (sandwiches, cakes, tea or coffee). Contact **Pauline Howells** on 531703 to book your table.

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at Bigbury Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel, on Wednesday, 16th April, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Tea and coffee will be available before the meeting.

NATIONAL BUS PASSES RUNNING LATE

People waiting for their passes are asked to be patient. From April 2008 free bus travel will be available on all registered local bus services within England for eligible residents aged 60+ or those with disabilities. Those eligible who do not currently have a Devonwide bus pass, but would like to apply, should contact SHDC on 01803-861234 for details.

DEVON COMMUNITIES IN ACTION...

A new website is now available to "let local people see what is happening in their area and what is planned for the future. It makes it easier for residents to get involved in the development of their local community." You can visit this site at < www.communitiesinaction.org.uk >

And, of course, if you want to get involved in the Parish Plan for Thurlestone, you can contact **David Hugo** on 562267 and tell him about your vision of Thurlestone's future.

...AND MORE PLANNERS

SHDC have appointed two new full time planning officers and say they are *"confident that an even greater deal of professional care will be invested into the entire planning process. The team of dedicated planning officers are now equipped to deliver the highest possible level of customer care throughout the planning process."*

Well, there is clearly plenty for them to get their teeth into. Let us hope that these resources will be applied to those developments and planning applications that have caused such a storm of protest from Thurlestone residents in recent months, and that they do their job properly.

HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE

The South Devon Branch will be holding its 18th Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8th April 2008 in the Parish Hall, Thurlestone, at 11 am. All members and friends are invited, and after the meeting a Ploughman's Lunch will be available from Noon until 1.30 pm at a price of £7.00.

New members are especially welcome and are invited to contact **Midge Henderson**, (562073) or at 12 Cumber Close, Malborough, for details.



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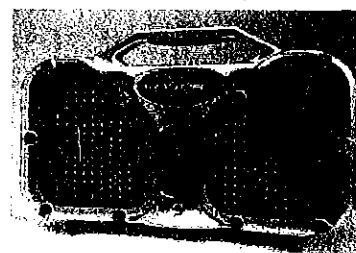
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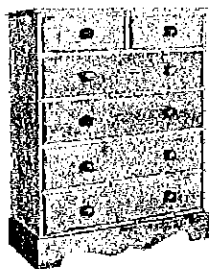
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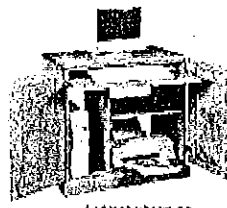
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Best Kept Devon Village Competition 2008

Thurlestone has been entered into the Best Kept Village in Devon Competition. In order to enter we have to present a map of the village drawn up by local children. Our excellent school has taken responsibility for doing this and I know they will do a brilliant job. Judging will then take place between May and August, based on the following criteria:

1. Absence of litter and unsightly refuse dumps on verges.
2. Condition of village greens, playing fields, school yards, public seats and noticeboards.
3. Condition of public and private buildings, gardens and allotments, including hedges, walls, fences and outhouses.
4. Condition of churchyards, cemeteries and war memorials.
5. Condition of public halls, sports facilities and car parks.
6. Cleanliness of public toilets, bus shelters and telephone kiosks.
7. State of footpaths, stiles, signposting, field gates, ponds and streams.
8. Condition of commercial & business premises including advertisements and other signs.
9. Clear evidence of local commitment and initiative in the care and maintenance of the village.
10. Evidence of community spirit.

I'm sure from this list everyone will recognise what they can do to help us reach a standard which might not only win us an award but which is also for the overall long term good of the parish.

Now there are some areas where we need help, please. We already have a volunteer to keep the bus shelter opposite the shop tidy (thank you C) but we might need some volunteers to do some paintwork there, and maybe on some of the public seats. In fact, we might get a small volunteer gang together to do a bit of scouting around and general odd-jobbing. Any offers, please?

POTS have taken over responsibility for the pump house in the centre of the village, including a hanging basket in the summer, continuing Derrick Yeoman's good work over many a year. They will also be looking after one or two other floral nooks and crannies that liven up our lives. Many thanks to them and their volunteer helpers.

Fly-posting has become increasingly a problem in the parish over the last few years and as I have recently received several complaints this is a good opportunity to bring it up. Fly-posting generally is taken to be a display of advertising material (posters, stickers etc.) on buildings and street furniture. This applies to all advertising materials, especially commercial. Advertising for charity events is deemed to be acceptable for up to 3 days prior to the event and must be taken down within 24 hours after the event. Those who put them up are responsible for taking them down. Recently there has been an abundance of posters about planning issues, and various charities have permanent posters up. Certainly many posters stay up for weeks after events are over. I even saw one recently on the cliff path.

'Fly-posting is unsightly and affects the image of the area' and it will be points against us in the competition. It is also illegal, contravening the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and punishable by fines of up to £2500. Central government has recently ordered County and District Councils to tighten up and start enforcing these regulations. There are public notice boards around the Parish which can be freely used and there are one or two other traditional sites, mainly telegraph poles, but actually these latter are illegal.

Litter and beach cleaning is another bugbear about which I am frequently approached, both of which are difficult to solve through official agencies. Volunteer groups occasionally get together in collaboration with the Golf Club to spring clean the beaches at the end (hopefully) of the storm season and before the main summer season starts. But the best I can suggest is to encourage public-spirited walkers to occasionally fill up a carrier bag with litter from pathways and the beach and dispose of it appropriately. (Yes, I know there is a lack of litter bins but when people can be persuaded to fill them with litter only and not a load of unmentionables then we can try again!)

So, let's have a go at winning! Thurlestone has so much going for it and it is certainly worth the effort. As I said, we will all feel the benefit.

Kit Marshall
Chairman
Thurlestone Parish Council

FERGUS ALASTAIR FERGUSON MACKENZIE

Surgeon-Captain, Royal Navy (Ret'd)

1922 - 2008

Fergus was born in Glasgow on the 22nd July 1922 and educated at the Loretto School, Musselburgh. He graduated in medicine from the University of Glasgow in 1945.

From here he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and later entered the Royal Navy, serving aboard *HMS Frobisher*. A posting to the Royal Naval Hospital at Simonstown in South Africa then followed. He later worked at the Medical Research Council's Radiobiology Unit at Harwell, then lectured in Atomics at the Royal Naval Medical School.

It was not all work, however, for by this time he had also joined the Royal Navy Pipe Band; music was one of his great leisure pursuits and pleasures. An accomplished pianist, a good singer - at an early age being declared his school's Best Voice in 1936 - he was also a keen exponent of Scottish dancing.

In 1955 he married Joan and Singapore became their home as by now Fergus had been posted to the Royal Naval and British Military Hospitals there. Their first introduction to Thurlestone was in 1959 with a game of golf in the snow with a red golf ball! The next move was to the RN Hospital in Malta and whilst serving on the island the running of the Royal Malta Golf Club was put into his capable hands.

In 1967 they came to live in Thurlestone at Grey Gables (now Leaside) and in 1976 Fergus became Medical Officer in Charge of the RN Hospital at Haslar, during which time he was appointed Honorary Physician to HM the Queen and also admitted to the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

On retirement from the Royal Navy in 1978 they moved to Taunton where Fergus was consultant radiologist at Musgrove Park Hospital. On his second retirement (1986) they returned to Thurlestone where they have lived for the past twenty-two years. It was here that Fergus was able to indulge his passion for gardening, in particular alpinists and cyclamen, to play golf and bridge, to paint and wood sculpt. Another large slice of his leisure time was filled with the pursuit of local history and he became an enthusiastic member and lecturer at the Kingsbridge History Society.

The people who were fortunate enough to know Fergus will recall someone who was kind and who had a great sense of dry humour. Generous and modest, he did not boast about his considerable talents and achievements in life. The many friends the Mackenzies made here in Thurlestone or wherever they were in the world will remember this man with great affection and mourn his passing. We extend to Joan our condolences.

*All
Saints*

RECTOR:

Revd. Andrew Girling 562219

Andrew Girling writes:



WHY MARRIAGE?

One of the real joys of my ministry has been conducting weddings. Even after 42 years and over 900 ceremonies, they still give me a buzz. There is so often a profound sense of shared joy and love being expressed as two people make a public declaration of their commitment to each other and ask for God's blessing on their relationship.

These days, though, marriage as an institution is under attack and often shunned. Social customs and attitudes have changed enormously over the last 40 years. Many of us, for whom the wedding night had enormous significance, have to deal with our children not only living with their partners but also having children before they marry. Some have to accept that their children and partners will never get married. 'Who needs a piece of paper or a contract if you really love and trust each other?' they say. 'Who needs to spend a fortune on lavish celebrations so that you can spend the rest of your life together?'

I am certainly not the sort of person who throws up holy hands of horror if couples do not get married. There are some wonderful families who never do. There are, however, important issues to be addressed.

First you don't have to spend vast sums of money on a wedding, though I admit there are social pressures to do so. Some of the best weddings I have shared in have been very simple and inexpensive and profoundly moving. Marriage is so much more than a fantastic day and a legal contract. The contract is important, ask a solicitor, especially if there should be problems later. A public ceremony is also symbolic of a deep personal and spiritual coming together which enriches and strengthens all that a couple mean to each other and all that they will share together in the future. For those who are Christians, a church wedding is not only a vow made in God's presence but a recognition that the love they are celebrating is His gift to them of Himself and a desire that their relationship be built on His love with His inspiration and strength.

Marriage is also important for the nurture of any children. It provides them with security and identity and a sense of who they are and where they belong. More than ever, children today need that knowledge. Marriage is also important because the wedding is a public declaration of a new relationship and family. Marriage is not private because it affects the way the rest of the family and the community relate to a couple. Indeed if the wedding is in Church, all those present promise to support and uphold the bride and groom in the future.

If, as seems possible, marriage comes to be regarded as an irrelevant anachronism, our society will lose an important contribution to its social cohesion and families will lose something which gives enormous strength and support to their life together through good times and bad.

Andrew

Everyone is welcome to join us for

An Informal Benefice Rogation Service

ROGATION SUNDAY APRIL 27TH 11 a.m. in THURLESTONE CHURCH

when we shall ask for God's blessing on this year's crops
to be followed by

A Bring & Share Rogation Lunch

in the **CHURCH MEETING ROOM**

Bring a plate of food to share ~ Salad, crusty bread & drinks provided





All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Peter Williams 531811

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)

APRIL 6TH & MAY 4TH

11.10am Morning Worship for All Ages

APRIL 13TH & MAY 18TH

11.10am Matins (BCP)

APRIL 20TH

11.10am Family Communion (CW)

APRIL 27TH

11.00am Benefice Rogation Service at Thurlestone

WHIT SUNDAY MAY 11TH

11.10am Pentecost Family Communion (CW)

MAY 25TH

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

Weekdays

THURSDAY APRIL 3RD

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

ASCENSION DAY MAY 1ST

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

6.00pm Benefice Eucharist at Churchstow

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

Photographic Competition

to choose 13 photos of Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham
for a 2009 Calendar

Entry forms available in back of Thurlestone Church, Church Meeting Room,
Bantham/Thurlestone Shop, Sloop Inn or from Liz Webb (560090)

50p/entry in aid of church funds ~ **Entries must be received by May 1st**

The winning photographs will be chosen by members of the public at a

Photographic Exhibition

In the Church Meeting Room over the late May Bank Holiday

PROVISIONAL OPENING TIMES:

SATURDAY MAY 24TH, SUNDAY MAY 25TH, TUESDAY MAY 27TH 2 - 5 p.m.

during which Cream Teas will be served

MONDAY MAY 26TH 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon with coffee & cakes

Please see posters or the May edition of *The Rock* for final details



Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for:-



Coffee-Time

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

Donations in aid of monthly charity

Lunch Club for those on their own

EVERY FRIDAY 12.30 p.m. for 12.45 p.m.

£5 for a glass of sherry & hot meal

Pre-book with Liz Webb (560090)

Films for All

TUESDAY APRIL 1ST

2.45 p.m. for 3.00 p.m.

Ratatouille

Donations to *Hearing Dogs* & MR expenses ~ More information: Joan Golding 560078



TUESDAY MAY 6TH

La Vie en Rose

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May Campbell 1912 - 2007

To some of you this lovely person was May - to others Granny, to two great grandsons she was Great Granny - to others: Aunt May, to others: Granny May. To my wife, Rosalind, and to me and my sister Margie she was Mum - but to simplify matters I will call her Mum from now on.

I thought that I would do a little biography for those who only knew her in her later years.

Mum spent the first 27 years of her life based mainly abroad. This was because her father worked for Cable and Wireless, which in those days was a pioneer company laying telephone cables around the world. This required him to be five years in any one place at a time - rather like a service career. Wherever he was posted the family went too.

Mum was born in 1912 and was one of twins. Her sister Phyll died in 1997. They also had a younger brother Tony who died in 1983. The first five years of her life were in Egypt. Then there was a home posting to Porthcurno in Cornwall from where she was sent to school at Notre Dame Convent in Teignmouth. From all accounts this seems to have been a very happy time, since to almost the end of her life she and her surviving friends had an annual Old Girls reunion!

Porthcurno was a double time posting and they were actually based there for about ten years. Whilst there she took part in the first performance ever staged at the Minack Theatre, playing the part of Ariel, aided and abetted by her twin sister Phyll, thus enabling her, much to the audience's surprise, apparently to be in two places at once! The family's next foray abroad was to Gibraltar, and then to Malta in 1930.

Malta in the 1930's was a wonderful place for somebody in their late teens and early twenties. Mum's father was by this time Head of Station and had lovely living accommodation thrown in with the job. In fact it was a flat covering the whole of the top of a large stone built house just outside St Julian's - the bottom part of the

building housed the offices of Cable and Wireless. It was (and still is) called Mercury House. Judging by the family photographs the girls seem to have had a wonderful time, picnicking and socialising with friends. They both had secretarial jobs with MI5 - though we were never allowed to know anything about that!

Since Malta was a British Naval base, there was no shortage of eligible young men who were duly invited up to parties at Mercury House. My father Robert, or Rob as he was always known, who had been brought up at Combe Royal just outside Kingsbridge, was the most eligible of them all as far as Mum was concerned and in 1936 Mum and he got engaged and were married in 1937. They set up house in Sliema in a first floor flat on the water's edge. Then in 1939 I was born and six months after that War was declared - whereupon everything changed.

Just before the actual declaration of war, the service wives were sent back to England and Mum went with them, carrying me in a Moses basket by ferry to Marseilles and then by train overland through France. We arrived at Victoria Station just as the first siren sounded.

By this time she was 27 and she went to live with Dad's parents who at that time were living at Bantham House in Bantham, where they were living after having sold Combe Royal. She did not know, of course, when she was going to see my father again, as was the case with pretty well everyone else at that time. Dad in the meantime was fighting the war in his submarine and was not seen again in England until a brief leave in 1940 and after that not until 1942. He was then posted to Scotland where Ardtarig House at Loch Striven Head had been commandeered as a Naval Base. Here Dad was involved with the training of the midget submarines that later were deployed against the battleship Tirpitz. Mum and I joined him there and at first lived in a large and cold house in Dunoon and afterwards for the remaining years of the war in the gamekeeper's cottage on the Ardtarig estate.

Once the war was over, Mum and Dad decided

that they wanted to put some roots down. Dad had been given a Plymouth posting by this time, so they decided that they would settle in the South Hams since that was where Dad had been brought up. They initially rented a house in Duncombe Street in Kingsbridge and looked around for a house to buy. Dad used to commute to work in Plymouth on a motorbike every day. Eventually in 1947 they found what was in those days a little square bungalow in Thurlestone called Madron and bought it. Mum told me once that when she was looking round it for the first time she just looked at the view and knew that that was the place she wanted to live.

My sister Margie was born in 1948 and as the family grew so the house grew - first a dining room extension, then a kitchen extension, then a sun verandah, then an extra bedroom, then, when Mum's father came to live with them in the 1960s, a second storey bedroom and extra bathrooms. Mum became involved with many of the village activities, in particular the Women's Institute of which I believe she was President at least twice.

Dad, when he retired from the navy in 1954, bought the field on the other side of the lane from Madron (which is now Lamb's Close) and started up a market garden. Initially he grew asparagus for sale in Covent Garden, but later he branched out into many other things - tomatoes, Giant Pacific polyanthus, artichokes, courgettes, aubergines, melons and raspberries. In this work he was aided and abetted by Tim Yeoman who has been a tower of strength to the family ever since. Mum was pressed into service picking and bunching flowers, together with several of her friends. She became very good at it!

Then in 1968 Dad got ill and in the space of a year, aged only 56, he died. Mum had to start again. She was amazing in the way that she coped with widowhood: she was a Roman Catholic by upbringing and her faith was very strong. Initially she kept the market garden going with Tim's help, but it was fairly obvious that this was not going to be her future since by this time she had a new interest - grandchildren! So she sold the field and threw herself into being a grandmother and as each of her five grandchildren will testify she was a brilliant one.

She was also a keen bridge player and had several 'fours' around the area with whom she played regularly. She joined an art class and became really quite proficient at painting in oils. She also did much fetching and carrying for the older members of the village not really acknowledging that she was getting on herself.

In 1990 Mum experienced tragedy in her life once again when my sister Margie died, which was obviously a devastation for her, as it was for all of us.

However, time galloped on and as Mum got older she became more and more of a character: actually she had always been a character, but old age caused it to ripen. She had a terrific sense of humour and was a great giggler. She was still in remarkably good health and continued driving until she was 87. We all noticed that her little Metro was getting more than its fair share of bumps and bruises as her spatial awareness deteriorated - as was the garden gate! Then she had what she always referred to as a "little turn" - which may have been a stroke, but nobody seemed to think that it was. Whatever it was, it started her on the last phase of her life. Then suddenly we were celebrating her 90th birthday! And one wondered where all the years had gone.....

Mum did not like being grounded. Initially she was still able to get around using taxis, but increasingly she found that she was confined to her own home and more and more dependent on other people and in particular, latterly, upon May Yeoman who was brilliant with her. During the last six months or so she used to say: "I want to go home but He doesn't seem to want me yet". Well the day finally came when He did want her - quite suddenly on the morning of 24 November after having had a fairly long phone chat with May Yeoman. She was found lying peacefully in her bed when her carer came to get her up half an hour later, just as she had always prayed - "to be in her own home and in her own bed."

She will be greatly missed - and certainly not forgotten!

Peter Campbell
March 2008

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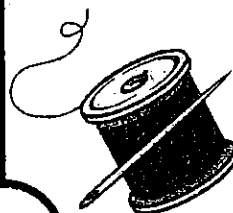
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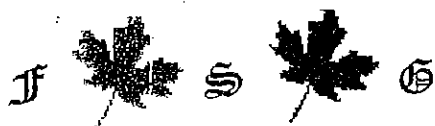
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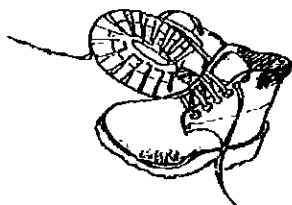
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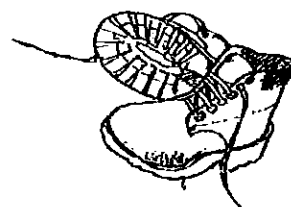
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TRAMP



1 The 25th January was the first fine day in several weeks and brought TRAMP members out of the woodwork.

Twenty-two of us met at the Level car park in Dittisham for a five mile circular walk with views and a range of scenery which was well worth the effort of three up-hill climbs. A large proportion of the walk was on well-labelled and maintained permitted pathways. The walk took us through Laphorne, Hole Copse and Bozomzeal to arrive back at The Ferry Boat three hours and 12 stiles later. The walk can easily be followed using an up-to-date version of OS map OL 20.

The walk is initially up-hill and then across rolling fields, with excellent all-round views of countryside and the Dart River, and interrupted by a short stretch of road to Foxenhole. Turning right at Laphorne Farm on the path labelled Old Mill Creek led us down by the stream. A left turn on to a permitted pathway took us through deciduous woodland following the edge of Old Mill Creek. Soon the woodland changed from deciduous to pine woods, dry underfoot but crossing a stream in full spate. There were tantalising glimpses of the creek and later we emerged to view it in all its beauty. The path then turns north up a steep slope and on to Bozomzeal, along a few yards of lane and down-hill back to Dittisham with stunning views over River Farm to the Dart and Galmpton Creek. We were ready for an excellent lunch at The Ferry Boat and enjoyed the hospitality of its jovial landlord.

Wendy Gornall

2 Wednesday morning 20 February was dull and misty as 18 walkers and 2 dogs assembled at the National Trust Car Park at Snapes Point. In the past, we have always experienced sunny weather with wonderful views down the Salcombe Estuary for this walk. This day, however, as we walked down towards Lincombe Boatyard, there was an eerie feeling around us. The tide was out, the air was still, the mist hung over the fields on the other side, and strangely there was no colour anywhere. The sky was grey, the mud on the Estuary was grey, and the fields beyond were grey. As we walked around Snapes Point towards

Salcombe, the tall posts of the new pontoons being built in the Estuary looked as though they were floating in the air.

We had high hopes that the sun would break through but it didn't. Having completed the walk around Snapes Point, one of our walkers and her dog returned to the car park whilst the rest of us followed the track down to Batson Creek, then onward up the hill before taking off over the fields. A steep climb took us back to the road. We had to negotiate two stiles on the way up, the first of which was not at all dog-friendly. However, several strong men manhandled our remaining dog over the stile and all was well.

The road took us back to the Car Park. It had been a most interesting walk of approximately 4 miles, displaying a very different aspect to the views that we would normally expect to see.

Lisa White

3 The weather stayed dry for sixteen TRAMPS, plus dog, who went on to the moors on 27th February. The walk began at South Brent and we followed the River Avon, looking out for the dipper that can be seen bouncing by the water's edge. The artists in the group wished they could stop to sketch Lydia's Bridge - a delightful scene with a waterfall in the background. As we climbed steadily north towards Luton and Didworthy, we enjoyed looking across the beautiful Avon valley. There were plenty of signs of spring, with daffodils, primroses and violets in flower and birds singing.

After the continuous climb, led by the dog, a welcome break was taken at Shipley Bridge, and we then headed towards Zeal and Ballgate, where we appreciated the beautiful views in all directions. As we headed south to Aish, I looked out for the redwing and fieldfare that were in the fields last month, but today there was no sign of them - perhaps our chatter had disturbed them. A small diversion was made before we returned to Lydia's Bridge - just to make sure we had walked six miles - and we then retraced our steps along the river and back to our cars.

Lesley Goonesekera

Grey Matter

A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st May 2008.
Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB
(or email: cgwonthenet@themead.co.uk).

A Little Gardening based quiz to get you in the mood for Spring....

1. What garden feature has sparked so many neighbouring disputes that the Government has become involved?
2. Who opened the National Botanic Gardens of Wales?
3. The French celebrate which national holiday with a 375 mile picnic in July?
4. What are scientists developing that will be a delight to all lazy gardeners?
5. How is the Severn Trent water authority attracting wild voles and mice back to an area near Nottingham?
6. Who wrote the classic children's book 'The Secret Garden'?
7. Which season is described by Keats as one of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness'?
8. According to e.e. cummings poems, which season is like 'a perhaps hand' and is 'mud-luscious'?
9. Who compared his love to a 'red, red rose'?
10. Which flower 'countest the steps of the sun' in a poem by William Blake?
11. In which film does Peter Sellers play a simple-minded gardener?
12. Andy McDowell plays a horticulturalist who falls in love with Gerard Depardieu in which film?
13. In a famous anonymous portrait of Charles II, the king is being presented with which exotic fruit by his gardener, John Rose?
14. Which gardener's boots are the subject of a painting by Sir William Nicholson, which is in the collection of the Tate Gallery?
15. The flower paintings of amateur artist Marianne North are on permanent display in which botanic gardens?
16. Which northern renaissance artist painted a beautifully detailed clump of turf?
17. Which queen is thought to have introduced the hollyhock to England?
18. Thomas Church established the 'Californian School' of garden design. In which city was his practice based?
19. Which Cornish garden has recently undergone a large restoration project and celebrates it's 405th Birthday this year?
20. Which feature of the gardens in Hampton Court was planted in 1768, making it probably the oldest of its kind in the world?

Solutions to Christmas Puzzle Page

Christmasograms: 1. The Christmas Alphabet 2. Mary's Boy Child 3. Mistletoe and wine 4. Two little boys 5. Bohemian Rhapsody 6. Can we fix it? 7. Moon River 8. Do they know it's Christmas? 9. Lily the Pink 10. Mull of Kintyre

Christmas Carols/songs initially:

1. See Amid the Winter Snow 2. Joy to the World 3. When a child is born 4. Away in a manger 5. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer 6. Jingle Bell Rock 7. Santa Claus is coming to town 8. O Come all ye faithful 9. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 10. O Little Town of Bethlehem 11. When Santa got stuck up the chimney 12. Once in Royal David's City

Congratulations and a bottle of wine to Joan Sparrow of Thurlestone for winning the Christmas Grey Matter. Congratulations and book token to Abbie Newman for winning the Kids Matter.

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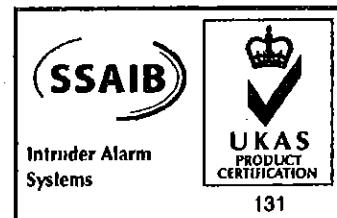


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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

Farewell

The 'new' Post Office stores has been open in Thurlestone for nine years this month (March). That's since the end of the last century! The time has passed quickly, and it is only on reflection that the changes in the village and in the shop are apparent.

Remember our shop assistants in that time - **Lynn, Emma, Louisa, Christine, Sarah, Ann, Alana, Kirsty** - not forgetting **Margaret, Eric**, and all the part-time staff? **Jean Yeoman** of course was there running the Post Office right at the beginning. She helped me out until computerisation happened (Jean said "No thanks" to that!).

Then there are all those character-ful customers! I have particularly clear memories of some who have moved on to 'the village in the sky'. **John Crawford**, who was most helpful at the outset and reminded me more than once of a long list of items requested for the 'new' shop. Fond memories, too of **Stella Newland**, who couldn't hear a thing (with or without her hearing aid), couldn't see much, but was always cheerful and called me her toy-boy!

Then there was **Pam Brewster** who often corrected my lazy speech. I recall her clearly, down on the floor of the shop surrounded by potatoes - she was trying to find enough of the same size for a 'do' in the old Parish Hall. Who would forget **Joan Galloway** and her ancient bike and even older car? "I need jars" she once told me. A prolific marmalade-maker it turned out. There are others who pop into mind, and of course those characters still with us, particularly **Michael Taylor** who was instrumental in getting me here in the first place.

I shall miss Thurlestone and will leave with good memories.....but my forefathers are still in the churchyard, keeping an eye on the place!

My thanks to you all.

Adrian Masters
The Post Office

Dear Editor

I have lived in the village for thirteen years now and, I'm not sure why, I hardly know anybody! I have been giving this some thought and have come up with an idea that may be of interest.

I would like to start a book club, initially to be held at my house in Parkfield. Is there anyone interested? I used to belong to one in London, years ago, and it was a great way to meet people and gave a platform for discussion that extended from the book right through to life, the universe and everything. It encouraged reading, not only for pleasure but further than that - to provoke thought, share our thinking, hear others' views and interpretations - and was a lot of fun.

Discussing with a focus is a really good way to get to know others, to appreciate differences, celebrate similarities, and brings into play others' experiences and life stories. In other words, a good, all round, reason to get together, keep our brain cells going and keep the amazing variation of literature at our disposal alive. It is not intended as an academic exercise by the way! Or you may just fancy sharing a dog walk, a coffee or a pint some time.

A little about me. I live with my husband, have brought all three of my children up in the village, have one still here (20) - and I am the grand age of 47 in April. I am a homeopath and so work in isolation. I worked for many years in Nicholsons health shop in Kingsbridge, but since I left last year I have been very aware that I would just like to have more local contact, particularly with women of a similar age. Please get in touch.

Julia Hunn
Parkfield

560847 or hunn@jhunn.freemove.co.uk

[Our Directory at the back of Village Voice includes details of a wide variety of parish groups (and contact numbers) who all give a warm welcome to new members. Many of these make use of the unrivalled facilities of our Parish Hall, which is also available to anyone looking to set up a new village activity group. Ed.]



SUMMER SOIREE

SUPPER CONCERT

Saturday 24 May 2008
Malborough Village Hall
7.30 pm

Doors open 6.45pm - Food from 7.00pm

Summer Season *Songs & Readings*

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Saturday 10th May
2.00 pm

Thurlestone Parish Hall

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to help this most deserving charity.
May be brought to the Hall from 10 am, or
collected earlier by arrangement.
Regret no electrical goods.

Contact: **Lisa White 560505**
Judith Le Grice 562135

Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club

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Thurlestone Golf Club
Thursday 15th May 2008

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Kingsbridge Rotary Club

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The Road to Timbuktu

by Gillian Marshall

"Are you going somewhere nice?"

"Timbuktu"

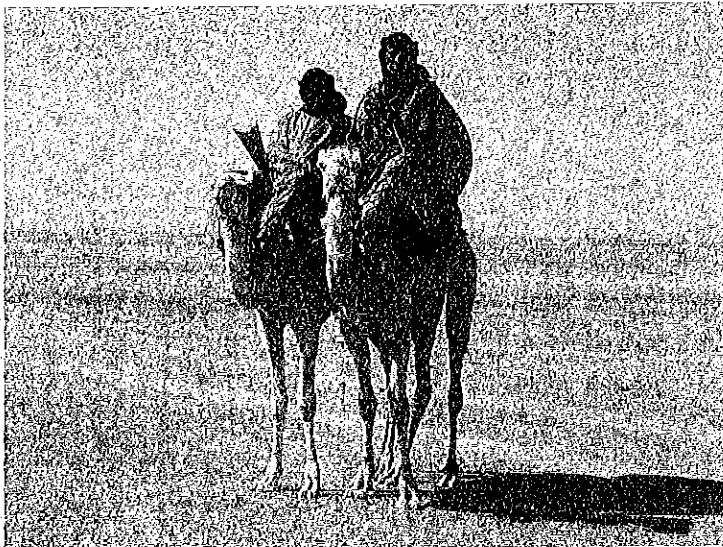
"Oh..... No, really, where are you going?....."

The road to Timbuktu is not for the faint-hearted! It involves many hours of travel in a 4 x 4 and the last part of the trek is over a sandy track and then a ferry across the Niger. Why go to Timbuktu? Well, just the name sounds intriguing and fascinating and our trip was certainly that. Timbuktu is in Mali which is one of the poorest nations in the world. Infrastructure is poorly developed and electricity and running water can be erratic or non-existent. The hotels were very basic - what we described as minus two stars with food to match! Mali is a landlocked country in the north west of Africa.

We flew into Bamako, the capital of Mali, and drove along a road which followed the course of the River Niger and stopped in various towns along the way such as Segou, Djenne and Mopti en route to Timbuktu.

Timbuktu is literally on the edge of the Sahara and was, in its heyday (15th & 16th centuries), the meeting place for tradesmen who would travel across Africa from the North, East and South, to barter their goods, mainly salt and gold, with the West Africans. Its name, in French "Tombouctou", means "well of the woman named Bouctou" and "Bouctou" is a word that means "belly button". Timbuktu was remote, desolate and incredibly difficult to get to, not just because of the terrain and heat (110 degrees is common), but because of the bandits who would rob everyone going in and out of the city. Rumours spread about the true nature of the city and the outside world considered it to be a land of wealth and gold - which was not exactly true. It has rightfully retained its reputation as being the most distant place in the world. In fact, it wasn't until 1828 that the first European, René Caillié, managed not

only to reach Timbuktu but also to leave it alive - unlike his many predecessors.



Tuareg lads we met on our way

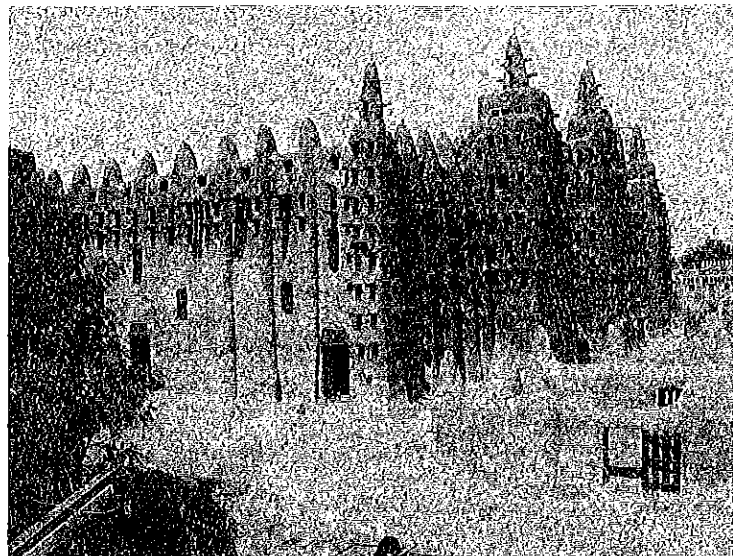
Timbuktu has long had its heyday. It used to trade not only in salt and gold, but also kola nuts (originally used in Coca Cola!) ivory, ostrich feathers and slaves from the south, copper, tin, cloth and horses from the north.

In the mid-16th century there were approximately 150 Islamic schools in Timbuktu, and students came from far afield - drawn by an academic reputation second to none in the western Sudan. But Timbuktu slipped into decline when the Moroccans took over in 1591 and religious leaders and scholars were either arrested or forced into exile.

Now the town relies heavily on tourism but the facilities are basic. There is only one paved road in town and many of the streets still have open sewers. There are three mosques but infidels are not allowed into any of them. There are bread ovens in the street where all bread is baked and consequently is combined with the 13th spice - sand! Our guide, a Tuareg, came from Timbuktu and whilst there, wore his traditional garb. He was a wonderful guide and spoke several languages of the various tribes that make up Mali. French is the basic language but not all Malians speak it. Mali only gained its independence from France in 1960.

Camels are still extensively used today, carrying tribesmen in the desert and particularly salt from the mines north of Timbuktu to the ports on the River Niger. Each camel will carry four salt slabs, each weighing 70 kilos, plus its own provisions.

Apart from Timbuktu there were, for me, two other particularly fascinating parts of our trip. One was the big Mosque in Djenne (right) which is reputed to be the largest mud structure in the world and holds 5,000 worshippers. We visited Djenne on a Monday which is also market day and it was bustling with people, colour and smells! Just crossing the Niger by ferry to get there was singularly chaotic and fun.



The Mosque at Djenne

The second fascinating part of our trip was our visit to the Dogon country. The Dogon people inhabit the plateau, cliffs and plain of an area in the south of the region of Mopti, on the border with Burkina Faso. There are over 700 villages and we managed to visit only 8 of these. It was such a step back in time and they live in the most primitive way as they have done for thousands of years. Their houses are made of mud and they grow mainly millet, rice and onions. Schooling is virtually non-existent. (In fact there is only 20% literacy in the whole country and life expectancy in Mali is just 46 years.)

Our guide would pay the Chief of the village to allow us to wander freely through their streets and take photographs. In one of the villages, Djiguibombo, we luckily chanced upon a masked dance which was being held to celebrate the death of their Chief a few days earlier. It was only 9.30 in the morning but most of the men were already quite drunk on millet beer. Only the men dance - absolutely no women - and they wear the most amazing masks made from the bark of a wonderful tree called the Baobab which can live to be hundreds of years old. Masks play a major role in Dogon culture and they represent various people and animals. We were very lucky to witness a genuine performance but didn't stay for too long as we felt we were intruding on their ceremony.

It was a wonderful experience but, I repeat, not for the faint-hearted. Our travel blurb said 'visitors need to have an adventurous and flexible attitude towards timings and schedules in order to travel in this country' Very true!

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A Tale of Two Horses' Asses

Railroad tracks are how far apart?

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet 8½ inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that spacing for the wheels.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8½ inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

So the next time you are handed a Specification/Procedure/Process and wonder "What horse's ass came up with this?" you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of the rear ends of two war horses... or two horses' asses.

Now, the twist to the story:

When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory at Utah . The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains. And the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds. So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass. And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important?

Ancient horse's asses control almost everything... and CURRENT Horses Asses are controlling everything else! (You need look no further than Washington..... or maybe Westminster, or Whitehall to confirm this.)

[We are grateful to Village Voice's Washington correspondent for this report. Ed]

SOUTH HAMS SOCIETY

It must seem as if the Society is always going on about planning but it does play such a large part in our every-day lives. Planning and the impact it will have on our community is the main reason people contact the society. Concerns range from over development, which now includes light pollution and run off, to gradual encroachment on town boundaries, sometimes in exchange for 'Affordable' Housing developments, to the decision to allow another supermarket in Kingsbridge, contrary to the Local Plan.

Amongst the planning applications that Thurlestone residents will be aware of is one for the demolition of The Thatches, a thatched 5-bedroom house constructed in the early years of the last century. It is proposed to build 2 large dwellings on the site, with all the paraphernalia of modern living including en-suite bedrooms and games rooms. This grandiose proposal, designed to maximise profit for the developer, overwhelms the site and is out of keeping with the more modest scale of the thatched houses with generous gardens around it.

A notice posted around Thurlestone comments that this type of over-development which has been inflicted on Salcombe, is now coming to Thurlestone. However the SHS with Salcombe residents have recently won a case where the planning inspectorate rejected an appeal by the developer for a similar type of over-development at Overcombe. Thurlestone residents take heart. *Your opinions do count!*

The society does not want to keep this area pickled in aspic, or as some sort of Olde Worlde museum. It is a working community. Along with increased interest in 'local' produce, which is more than farming and fishing, there is a wealth of small-scale manufacturing, IT, and highly skilled artisan businesses, to be supported and encouraged. This does not mean we have to accept poor design or cheap shoddy building or over-development, and it is that which concerns the society most at the moment.

The proposed Wind Farm at Goverton is an issue that society members cannot agree on. We are not against wind farms in general, but do share the general concerns about the siting of this one. Are we being nimble? Is there ever a 'good' site for a wind farm?

Social. On 1st April 08 we have a talk by **Tony Soper** at the Kingsbridge Methodist Church. The **Annual General Meeting** will be held from 7pm to 7.30pm, followed by refreshments, then Tony Soper at 8pm. There will be time before and after the talk to ask questions and give your opinions. *Admission is free, and open to members and non-members.*

As always, if you want to comment or join in please contact; **Gordon Waterhouse** (852570); **George Brownlee** (843384) or gbrownlee@toucansurf.com : **John Chalmers** (844174) or john@rathlyn.eclipse.co.uk: or visit our website: southhamsociety.org

THE NATIONAL TRUST - SOUTH HAMS CENTRE

Programme for April and May

- Friday 4th April:** Coach trip to Tavistock and Morwellham Quay. Shop and lunch in Tavistock before visiting the riverside village, quay and copper mine at Morwellham.
- Thursday 24th April:** Coach trip - Taunton and Hestercombe Gardens. Late morning and lunch in Taunton. On to Hestercombe's extensive grounds with stunning Victorian and Edwardian features. A new visitor centre has a shop, café and plant sales.
- Thursday 1st May:** A walk through Halwell Wood. Meet at the bridge in South Pool (GR 773401) for a walk of about four miles with the NT estate warden. The bluebells should be at their best! Return in time for lunch.
- Friday 9th May:** Coach trip to Sidmouth and Peco Gardens, Beer. Sidmouth is a delightful town and after lunch we return, by request, to the gardens and fascinating model railway exhibition at Pecorama.

For more information please contact Midge Elliott on 01548-562017 (9 am to 5 pm only please)



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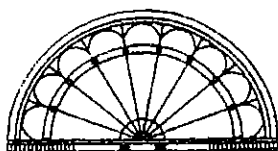
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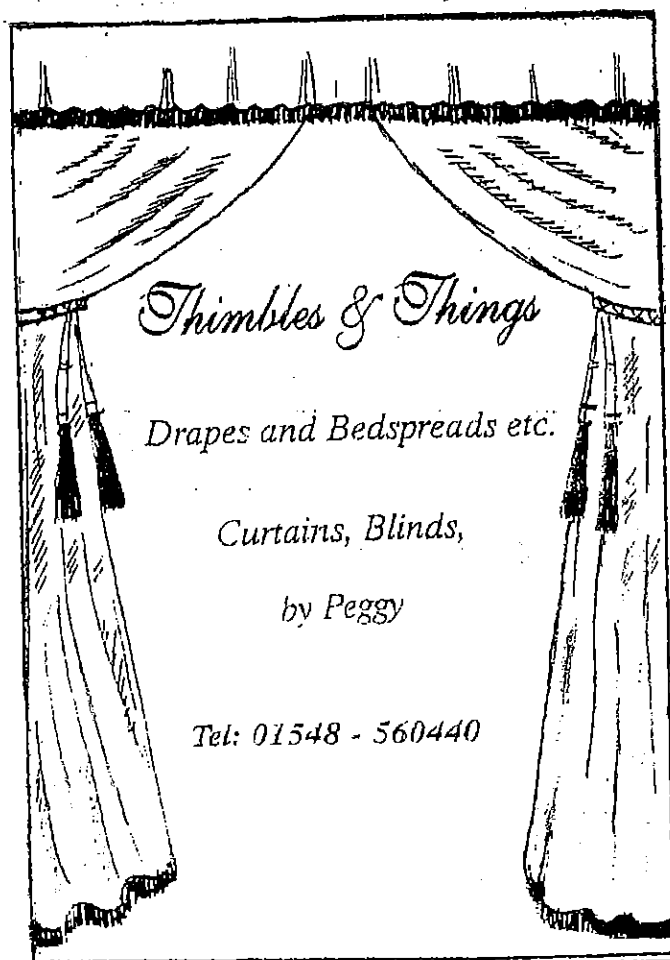
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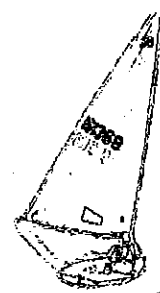
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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

So who wants to play golf in this weather (week of 10th March) even if we do have all the right clothing? The wind has always been Thurlestone's secret (not so sure about that) weapon when playing other clubs at home, but this is ridiculous!

Even so, we have had some recent competitions played, with **Philip Laud** (Div 1) and **Ted Taylor** (Div 2) taking the honours in the 3 clubs and a putter event. It is so important to decide on the right club selection to stand a chance of getting in the frame here, and I clearly didn't! Full results can be found on the Club's website.

This is a good time of year to visit the Pro Shop and make sure you have the correct equipment for the season. There have been a few changes to the rule of golf this year, particularly with regard to conforming drivers - which I'm sure you have all heard about, but have you done anything about it? It is so important to have your club checked out. Wouldn't it be terrible to win a match or competition but then be disqualified for having a non-conforming driver?

This year's matches and competitions will have started again in earnest by the end of March, when hopefully the weather may have improved. I think they are all good fun, and would encourage anyone to join in. Playing in Club Matches gives you the chance to visit and enjoy other courses, meet other golfers, and have a convivial meal afterwards - all very friendly, whether the team has won or lost, though the food and drink always seems somehow a bit more enjoyable if you, and the team, have won.

This year we have the usual Captain and Pro Challenge starting shortly. My thanks to Peter Laughner - and our challengers. We are also holding a Two Captains Challenge, in which Lady Captain Lindsey Fletcher and I are issuing a similar challenge to any mixed pair who think they can beat us! Thanks to all who have entered these competitions - good fun, and a good cause.

The 4th May sees the first round of the Palairret competition, and I am sure we all wish the team every success and a good run this year.

On the 15th May the Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Club are holding their special Charity Day at Thurlestone, and I am sure that David Wadey, the organiser, would be delighted if many of you will organise teams of three to participate. As usual, the prizes will be well worth the winning, and the cause well worthy of your support.

Good luck and happy golfing.

Roger Hind

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

It is universally acknowledged that Thurlestone Golf Club is a very special place. Never more so than at this time of year when it seems to rain almost every day and many courses are shut because of frost or flood. Play nearly always carries on as normal here. Trolleys are seldom banned, temporary tees unheard of and temporary greens reserved for times of greens maintenance. So in spite of the weather, Thurlestone Ladies have been able to play their January and February competitions, even returning scores which would have been good in the summer.

We had two glorious days for recent Stablefords, with **Hayley Pepperell** scoring 41 points and **Liz Line** 35 points. **Wendy Land**, a newish member, scored 37 points and reduced her handicap to 6 in the Silver Division. **Gwen Hale**, another new member, had 34 points and **Joan Booth**, who now has many other WI duties to attend to, also had 34 points in the top Bronze Division. In the February Medal, **Wendy Land** returned a gross 76 in Division One, **Gill Beavis** a net 76 in Division Two, and **Hayley Pepperell** net 76 in Division Three. There were 47 entries. In the February Stableford, **Liz Line** (35 points) topped Division One, **Mary Wilkes** (31 points) won Division Two, and **Lisa White** (35 points) headed Division Three. There were 55 entries.

Looking back at last year's overall results, our promising junior, **Laura Tregelles**, won the County Prize for the best four Stableford scores returned in 2007, with **Hayley Pepperell** second and low handicap **Sue Laughter** third. The Sports Relief competition was won by the Ladies Secretary, **Liz Line**.

We are now anticipating the new match season, when the ladies have a full programme. We shall be fielding teams in the three official county events, the Still Cup played off scratch, the President's Cup and the Sheelagh Creasey Bowl, as well as a team in the Devon League. On top of these we also have friendly matches and Vets' matches against other clubs such as Yelverton, Bigbury, Staddon Heights, Dainton Park, Churston and St Enedoc, so there is much to fill our diaries. In an effort to improve performances in the inter-club matches, the teams are having coaching from the Assistant Professional, **Pete Mitchell**.

Golf is not the only activity for the ladies of Thurlestone Golf Club. We also arrange (very friendly) Bridge afternoons once a month in the winter. Then in April we look forward to the traditional Lady Captain's Luncheon, when I have asked **Kay Dunbar** to be the speaker to entertain us all. Kay is well-known in these parts - and nationally - as the founder of the very popular *Ways With Words* festival at Dartington, attended by many of us. So, all in all, there is much to be gained from membership of Thurlestone Golf Club, and much to enjoy.

Lindsey Fletcher

(Contact telephone number 01548-560157)

JUNIORS NEWSLETTER

Since the last newsletter we have had junior competitions in January and February. In January the cold and windy weather did not deter 10 pairs of Adults and Juniors who took part in the 9 hole foursomes competition on a Sunday. There were 5 father and son or daughter combinations and one grandfather and grand-daughter team. The winners off the red and yellow tees were father and son pairing of **Jackson and Cameron Day** who scored 19 points and won on countback from **Abi Edmonds and Darrell Day**. 3rd **Mike**

and **Beth Yeoman** (16), 4th **Roger and Tom Leach** (15), 5th **Liz Line** and **George Berry** (12), 6th **Jane Edmonds** and **Lottie Holland** (11). The very young juniors went off the blue tees and this section was won by father and son **Phil and George Holland** (20), 2nd **Keith Crawford** and **Becci Collacott** (16), 3rd **Denise Crawford** and **Abi Jeffrey** (13), 4th **Julie Holland** and **Emma Adams** (12).

For February there was a good entry of 14 pairs for the adult and junior American foursomes competition. Both competitors have to drive off and then take each other's drives for their second shot. The juniors proved to be well up to the task and some very good scores were returned. Over 9 holes off the red and yellow tees the winners were father and son team of **Toby and Steve Pepperell** with 26 points, from **Robert Came** and **Robbie Robinson** (25), 3rd **James and Laura Tregelles** (23), 4th **Mike and Beth Yeoman** (21), 5th **Ann Best** and **Will Sargent** (21). In the competition for the younger juniors the winners were a grandfather and grand-daughter team of **Keith Crawford** and **Becci Collacott** with 20 points, 2nd **Jane Edmonds** and **Abi Jeffrey** (15) on countback from 3rd **Emma and Pam Adams**, and 4th **Julie and George Holland** (14).

There will be a free coaching afternoon for juniors who are non-members on 17th April. This will hopefully give many children from the Primary and Secondary schools the chance to sample some chipping, putting and target golf with professional **Pete Mitchell**. This will be paid for by a grant from the English Golf Union.

Liz Line

TENNIS SECTION NEWS

New Tournaments

The five new club tournaments (60% of members wanted more) introduced in the past three years are well established alongside our traditional events. We now have an average event entry of 42, with 4-5 events being regularly over-subscribed. Our 2 hard and 10 Grass Courts make all this possible (79% of members want to see the number of grass courts retained, while 70% want to see all 10 improved 'to an equal standard').

Dress Code

The successful policy of the dress code relaxation for July-August, which allows tennis dress in the bar and Clubhouse is being continued by the General Committee in 2008. The Club rule is that tennis dress should be pre-dominantly white, including recognised tennis footwear. It really helps the General Committee continue this policy if we all make the effort. Fashions change quickly but we all know that tennis dress does not include cut-off jeans, combat trousers, flip-flops, everyday shirts and tops, football and rugby gear etc. This dress code relaxation has proved very popular with members and visitors, many commenting that it makes them feel genuinely welcome; so much so that now July and August typically represent nearly 40% of annual bar and 30% of annual food takings.

New Club Website

Terry Gibbons has got an excellent new club website up and running. It includes visitor as well as member information, and includes both tennis and golf diaries of forthcoming events.
www.thurlestonegolfclub.co.uk

Adult Tournaments - Over 16s Only

Entry to all adult tournaments is now restricted to players 16 years and over. This applies to all men's, ladies' and mixed events. As a reminder, all sign-up sheets will make it clear.

Coming Events

April 7th - 18 th	Easter Holiday Courses and Tournaments
May 26th - 30 th	Grass Court Opening Tournament & Meal Bank Holiday Courses & Tournaments

Thanks

- * We would all like to thank **Vic Dyer** and his team for looking after our prized assets so well.
- * Thanks to the General Committee who have formalised our use of Thurlestone Hotel courts for year-round Social and Club play during windy weather.
- * Finally, on behalf of all tennis interested members many thanks to **Duncan & Sarah Prowse** and their team who look after us all so well throughout the year.

Marc Lepere



ON-LINE

*The Internet Café, open to all,
Wednesday, from 2, in the Parish Hall*



- ✓ The Internet Café (currently open on Wednesdays 2 pm to 4 pm, and Saturdays 10 am to noon) will NOT be open on **Saturdays** after 24th May this year.
- ✓ It will remain open on **Wednesdays** throughout the summer, and up to 24th September, for Internet use and individual tuition (bookings preferred) from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm. Open to all.
- ✓ Commencing **Wednesday 28th May**, Teamakers will circulate to alumni "**On-Line**", a weekly e-mail newsletter containing items of computer news, tips and hints, and answers to questions submitted. If you wish to be added to the list of recipients, and / or to submit a question, please contact < Teamakersclub@aol.com >
- ✓ Commencing **Wednesday 24th September**, the Internet Café will be open from 2 pm to 3 pm only. Thereafter, from 3.00 pm until 4.00 pm in the Yeo Room, Teamakers will hold a "**Topical Forum**" in which there will be a 30 minute presentation on a particular computer-based subject of topical interest, followed by 30 minutes of discussion, and Q and A. Open to all.
- ✓ The title and date of each topic will be circulated in advance in the weekly "**On-Line**" newsletter.
- ✓ Computer **novices** seeking tuition welcomed (see Directory in this issue for contact details).

How To Keep Your Sewage Treatment Plant Running Sweetly

Contributed by Dr Stuart Watts

Sewage treatment plants use colonies of live natural micro-organisms to break down pollutants in domestic sewage. Many chemicals found in the household can inhibit or kill these micro-organisms, particularly if used in excessive amounts. Bear in mind that treatment plants serving a few houses do not have the benefit of dilution that occurs at a large sewage works. A bottle of bleach tipped down the toilet in Birmingham would be virtually lost amongst the millions of gallons of sewage arriving at the city's treatment works; a bottle of bleach in a plant serving half a dozen houses could be a lethal dose.

If the micro-organisms are damaged, they will usually recover in time. But in the meanwhile one of the more obvious symptoms is an unpleasant smell, so it is in residents interest to avoid this. Generally speaking all common household cleaning fluids are acceptable, provided they are used in accordance with the makers instructions and stipulated concentrations. The following are some of the most common chemicals found in household situations. It is not an exhaustive list and the golden rule is "If in doubt - leave it out." Bear in mind too that it isn't only the toilet that is connected to the treatment plant; anything that goes down the sink, bath etc., also ends up there.

Washing machine and dishwasher detergents, and washing up liquids:

Perfectly all right in normal concentrations and usage. Problems can occur if, for instance, you are washing the jerseys of the local rugby club's five teams! Excess amounts of biological detergent can affect the biomass development so, if you have to do unusual amounts of clothes washing, it would be a good idea to spread it over a few days.

Nappy disinfectants and bottle Sterilising fluids: eg. Milton:

When disposing of the used fluid, ensure that it is well diluted with water. The easiest way of doing this is usually to flush it away down the toilet.

Floor cleaners, disinfectants and bleaches:

These are safe to use in accordance with the makers recommendations and in the minimum necessary concentration. Do not pour neat

disinfectant or bleach down the sink or outside gullies. If these are smelly it usually indicates a build up of decaying material or a plumbing problem and should be dealt with accordingly.

Waste disposal units:

These do not inhibit the micro-organisms but, depending on use, they can present the treatment plant with considerable extra load. Much better to compost your vegetable peelings, etc., - it's cheaper and environmentally friendly.

Home beer and wine making:

This presents a similar problem to waste disposal units. The treatment plant has to work as hard to treat one pint of beer tipped down the drain as it does to treat all the normal waste produced by one person in 24 hours. See also the notes above regarding Sterilising fluids.

THE FOLLOWING MUST NOT BE DISCHARGED INTO THE DRAINS

Motor oil, grease, anti-freeze, brake fluid etc. Cooking oil and fat. Weed-killers, insecticides, fungicides and other gardening chemicals. Paint, thinners, white spirit, turpentine, creosote, etc.

Medicines - Take unused medicines to a pharmacist for safe disposal.

Photographic developing fluids. Nappies, sanitary towels, rags, soft toys, tennis balls etc. It may seem a bit obvious to say this, but it is amazing what gets flushed down the loo from time to time. Although such items are not directly damaging to the micro-organisms they can cause problems, not the least of which is simple blockage of the drains. Even so-called disposable nappies and sanitary towels often do not degrade fully in the treatment plant and can lead to malfunction, so it is best to dispose of them by other means.

ROUTINE DE-SLUDGING & SERVICING

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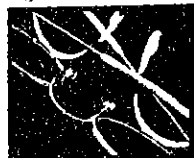
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School Report

Compiled by Betty Rhymes

The pupils of All Saints Primary School have been very busy this term. In addition to learning the basic 3 "R"s they have been creative and productive.

World Book Day

Jo Hyde from the Schools Library Service came into school support this event. She read stories to the children in the new spacious library helping to enthuse the children with regard to reading. Each class had chosen a book to depict for the day ranging from *Cinderella* to *Lord of the Rings*. All the children and teachers dressed as a character from their chosen book.

Creative writing Workshop

Eight pupils from the school attended a three day workshop at Kingsbridge Community College to learn new skills in creative writing and presentation. Their task was to merge non-fiction and fiction texts. Having researched the life-cycle of the salmon they used the factual information as the basis of a narrative story. They presented their narratives in poster form and also illustrated them. The pupils produced some excellent work and were highly praised by the course co-ordinator for their enthusiasm.

Decorated Eggs for Adumasa

Class 1a and teacher *Mrs Dawe* organised an egg decorating competition to raise money for Adumasa. Children were invited to decorate an egg in any way they wished for an entry fee of £1. Easter egg prizes were awarded to the winner of the infants and junior pupils. The winning entries and some other humorous and interesting efforts were displayed in All Saints church for all visitors to see over the Easter weekend. The children had a lot of fun with this competition and produced some eggcellent work!

Gym and Dance Show

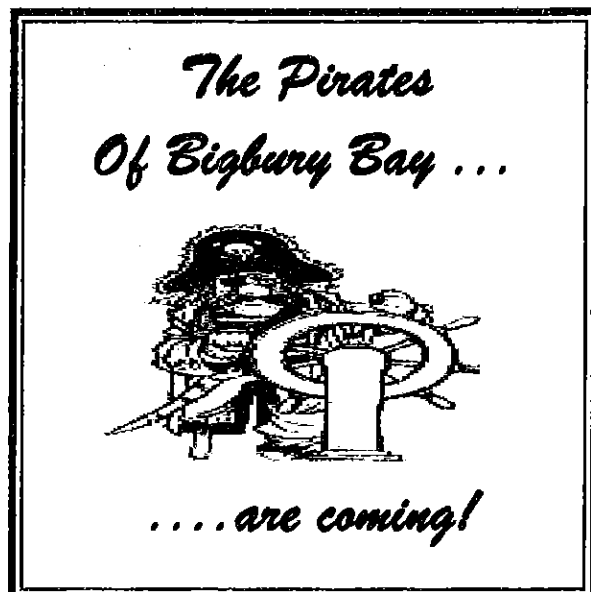
Pupils from class 1 and *Mrs Carpenter's* gym club performed at this festival held at Kingsbridge Leisure Centre for local primary

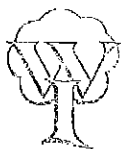
schools. Class 1 performed the *Haka* and Mrs Carpenter's gymnasts performed a delightful piece based on North American Indians. Both groups did the school proud and performed with enormous skill, enthusiasm, and great composure.

Fancy Joining In?

Years 5 and 6 pupils are going to put on a musical show, *The Pirates of Bigbury Bay*, in Thurlestone Parish Hall on Friday and Saturday, 27th & 28th June. The show is open to the local community as well as to pupils and parents. This is a really exciting opportunity for the children to show off their acting, singing, and dancing talents. The show will be produced by parents and local people, so whether or not you have experience of drama, if you would like to help out with costumes, props, set design, sound, in front of house, etc., please contact **Tim Falla** at timfalla@btinternet.com or by phone on 562265.

It's not surprising they were awarded an outstanding school rating by Ofsted, is it?





WI NEWS



February

Julie Turner certainly had members on the edge of their seats as she regaled them with stories from her life as a store detective in the South-West. With lively robustness, which instantly endeared her to the audience, this Devonport girl outlined the law relating to shop-lifters, how some miscreants structure their activities and other intriguing stories of her career. Indeed she gave some very good pointers for any of us who decide to take up a life of crime! Members were pleased to know that **Pat Crawford** had now returned home from hospital and was slowly progressing. President **Joan Booth** urged us to keep our sales table more interesting by bringing more produce from our kitchens and gardens.

March

- * Good news of another member who is recuperating - this time **Tricia Millman** who has had a knee joint replaced and is doing well.
- * The Snowdrop Walk - from Harbertonford to Ashprington on Thursday 21st February was a great success. The flowers were prolific, the day was dry, the company good and lunch at the Durant Arms delicious. It was so enjoyable that plans are afoot to make luncheon walks a regular feature.
- * **Debbie Clift** spoke about the Triangle Centre and the sterling work it does at Kingsbridge Hospital with and for local cancer patients, their families and carers [See News Roundup].
- * Thurlestone WI is taking part in the Festival of Performing Arts at the Barncott Theatre in Exeter on the 29th March, and it is hoped to fill a coach of supporters (!) Rehearsing a sketch and brushing up on the singing and the dancing was going on apace.
- * Reminders were given about the Sea Coast Group meeting on the 8th April, when West Alvington host the event in Thurlestone Parish Hall, and the Spring Council Meeting at Exeter University on the 17th April.

Birthday Events

- * As 2008 marks Thurlestone WI's 80th birthday, there will be a President's Tea Party in celebration on the same day and month it was founded - 25th March. Later on, there will be a river-boat picnic cruise from Kingsbridge to Salcombe - to which husbands/friends are invited.
- * The beautiful scrapbook which contains many lovely watercolours of surrounding areas, compiled by the members in the 1960s, and which records what life in the parish was like then, is being reproduced and it is hoped to give a copy to each member to mark our 80th year.
- * On Thursday 10th April our speaker is **Margaret Wilkins** talking about *Treasures & Trinkets*. She is a personal friend of **Margaret Illingworth** and is coming from Somerset to stay with her for a few days so that she can talk to us; we are very grateful to Margaret for 'fixing it'. The suggestion has been made that we should revive the idea of having a small competition each month which relates to the speaker, so please bring a small treasure (excluding your husband) to the April meeting to start the ball rolling.
- * If the fancy takes you, and you would like to hear any of our speakers, please feel free, without obligation, to come along to the Parish Hall on the second Thursday of the month, about 3pm, and stay for a cup of tea.



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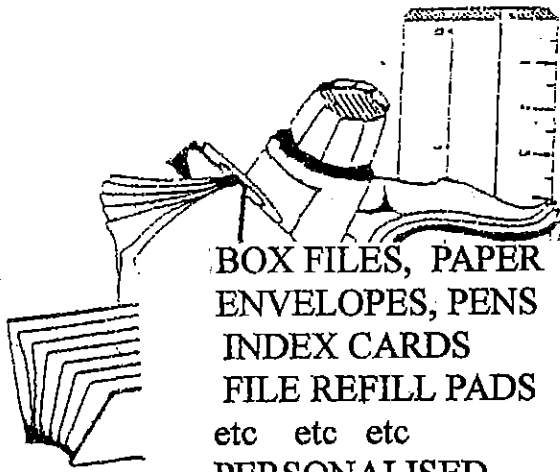
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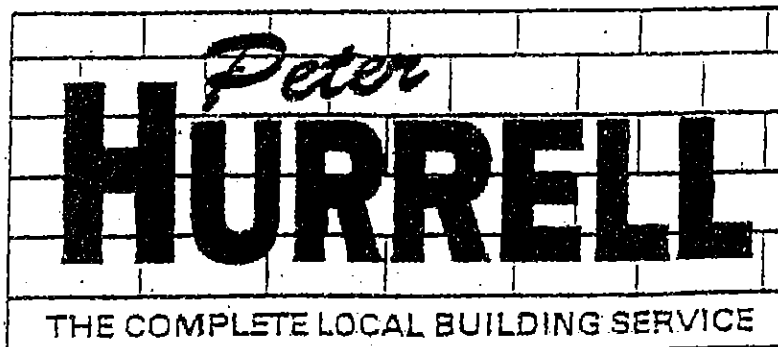
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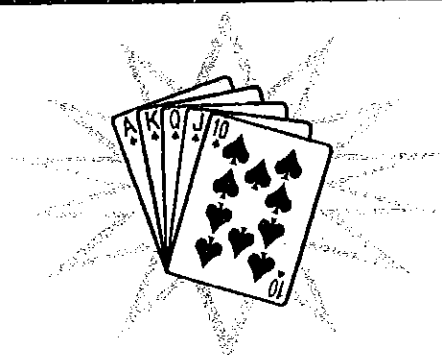


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HORSWELL DIARY

"Oh what a beautiful morning, ... oh what a beautiful day! I've got a wonderful feeling..." Hold on, didn't some kill-joy once say: "Sing before breakfast, cry before night"? Is that the same old misery-guts that is now on breakfast TV telling me that although it may be the most perfect day today, with blue skies and sunshine, arctic winds are on their way and snow is forecast for the Easter weekend? I sometimes wonder if they do it on purpose, that there's a media conspiracy to nip joy in the bud and keep us all depressed. To borrow a phrase, is depression now the opiate of the masses?

But today the world around me looks so fresh and bright I want, for once, to be left to revel in the beauty of the moment, rather than to feel under constant threat from what may possibly happen, depending on which of the various experts, soothsayers, and / or pieces of seaweed that have been consulted. I am not going to let them ruin my day.

As I switch off the TV I can hear the water from the fountain gurgling into its pond. The birdsong is so loud and rich I could be standing beneath the canopy of a rainforest. Birds chatter and trill, whistle and whoop, filling the air with their busy, avian conversations. There's not a cloud in the sky, only a light wind stirring the branches. In the orchard, blossoms of cherry and malus rise above a sea of yellow daffodils, while here, nearer the house, the peacocks are grooming their tails contentedly in the sunshine.

Mmmm! Take a deep breath, enjoy the moment, hold the dream. For now, as I sip my morning coffee and open the newspapers, the intrusion of the real world is about to come flooding in... "Chaos on Wall Street, the London Stock Market plunges to lowest for two and a half years; Tibetan prisoners paraded in shackles through the streets of Lhasa; the supply of mortgages dries up, property prices slump; no public outcry from the Church as clergyman is taunted and beaten; rape and murder in Goa; huge increase in on-line

distribution of paedophilia; 20,000 families on benefits worth more than the average salary; binge drinking up by 26 per cent since 24 hour licensing began." Aaagh! And all of that, before I've ingested even my first piece of toast!

But don't let me depress you. Think instead of the wonderful early Spring we are enjoying. In London and Oxfordshire only the first shoots of spring bulbs were showing, when here our daffodils and camellias had been in full flower for weeks. Despite their differing varieties they all seemed to come out at the same time, providing us with our most colourful display ever. While the storms have left us windswept and untidy, strewn branches and twiggery across the lawns and battering the flowers already in bloom, bluebells are spreading beneath the magnolias and primroses are gradually forming into galaxies of soft yellow stars.

Thinking of storms, what a furore Lord Goldsmith caused by his suggestion of a national oath of allegiance for school-leavers! At first I thought it was rather a good idea – a bit like being christened as a baby and then, through Confirmation, taking personal responsibility for one's beliefs at an age when one can fully understand the commitment. And frankly, if one wants to be a member of 'Club Britain', surely it's not unreasonable to have to formally accept to abide by the rules? If nothing else, it might serve as a reminder that there are standards of acceptable behaviour required for the successful cohesion of an increasingly multicultural nation.

But then, I reasoned, confirmation of one's faith is (for the moment at least) a voluntary decision, whereas the proposed oath presumably was not. Therefore one could argue that it might be yet another infringement of our civil liberty if it were to be forcibly imposed upon us. Hmmm! Strange, isn't it, how modern political correctness has taken so much clarity out of life, turning everything into a heated debate

and a hundred shades of grey.

Certainly the strength of condemnation and contempt for Lord Goldsmith's well-meaning suggestion has been astonishing. But at least it shows that, although as a nation we will never be united in our views, we are, at least, united in our determination to speak out against something deemed to be at odds with our democratic freedom. I had begun to believe, perhaps mistakenly, that somewhere under the increasing burden of state intervention, we had lost our British grit.

Raised on a literary diet of swashbuckling pirates and tales of derring-do, I have been following the fate of Simon Mann, presently incarcerated in the infamous Black Beach Jail, with great interest. If ever a situation cocked a snook at 'Health and Safety', 'Human Rights', and 'Political Correctness' his is surely it. Regime change of an African country is not to be condoned, but the audacity of it thrills my misguided sense of adventure.

Certainly, the story of his attempted coup in Equatorial Guinea has all the ingredients and intrigue of a first-class novel: an exotic location, a shady mix of politicians, financiers and mercenaries, plus the lure of unimaginable power and wealth. Regime change in Iraq was effected with the full weight of the British and American forces behind it, whereas the planned coup in Equatorial Guinea was altogether a more private affair – although, bearing in mind the outcome, perhaps not quite as private as its perpetrators had intended.

I expect I am wrong to elevate this pseudo-military misadventure above the daily gun crimes in Manchester or the lawlessness and petty thuggery found on many an urban street. Stealing a country and its resources is certainly not heroic – but – compared to mugging the owner, and stealing the takings from the local corner store, it seems a lot less cowardly. Certainly, when the plans were being hatched, the conversations regarding the division of the spoils would have been somewhat more exciting, even if the intentions were no less dishonourable.

Seeing Simon Mann, the scapegoat of the failed operation, hung out to dry by his co-conspirators, sitting in chains chatting and smiling with his TV interviewer as if they were buddies shooting the breeze over a crisp martini, outwardly neither shaken nor stirred... I admired his courage. A man in the most desperate situation, fighting for his life and his freedom, he exhibited that special English breed of courage that is recognised and admired around the world, from our British tommies to our greatest generals; cool under pressure, brave, understated, self-effacing, humorous and quietly heroic. Fully aware that he is in a predicament of his own making, not once did he complain, moan or whinge. With the quirky reasoning of the true eccentric he believes in fair play, accepting his fate, while professing amazement that his friends have deserted him. After all, as he says, if someone has an accident on a mountain climbing expedition you don't expect the rest of the team to pack up camp, put their tents away and go home.

I'm not saying his exploits should be held up as an example, but let's say I'll be delighted if and when he returns to the safety of his family. And when the film of his inevitable novel comes to the screen of the Reel Cinema in Kingsbridge, I'll be there in the front row, thanking him for bringing some colour to the dreary grey bilge that usually fills our news items.

Prunella Dart

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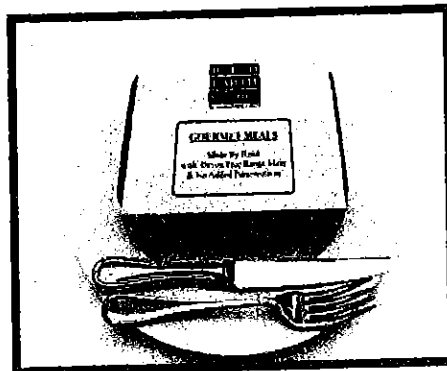
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KATE'S KITCHEN

Asparagus and Smoked Ham Quiche

This is the time of year for lovers of asparagus to indulge in a wonderful locally-grown crop. The season is short, so make the most of it! Asparagus is delicious simmered until just tender and eaten simply with melted butter, but it also works well with other ingredients to make a very special quiche. You will need a 10 in (25 cm) flan tin and the filling may be prepared while the pastry is resting and baking. Jamie Oliver's cheesy pastry makes an excellent base.

Pastry Ingredients

200g plain flour, 80g small cubes of lard, 80g freshly grated cheddar, sea salt, teaspoon fresh thyme leaves, 1 medium beaten egg, a little milk

Pastry Preparation

- Put the flour, lard, cheese and pinch of sea salt into a food processor and pulse for 20-30 seconds until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
- Add thyme, egg, and milk. Pulse for a few seconds more until a dough is formed.
- Place dough on a floured surface, gently shape into a flat round, then wrap in cling-film and refrigerate for 30 mins.
- Roll out pastry on a floured surface (having floured the rolling pin) until large enough to line the tin. Trim off the excess, but leave a 1 cm overhang, then pinch this up to make a little rim (stops the pastry from shrinking so there is no need to fill the case with beans before baking blind). Prick the base with a fork and chill in the freezer for another 30 mins.
- Pre-heat oven to 170-190°C (fan/gas 5). Cook for 6-8 minutes until lightly golden.

Filling Ingredients

24 small/medium asparagus spears, 4 shallots finely sliced, a little olive oil, sea salt and freshly ground pepper, 500g crème fraîche, 3 medium eggs, 130g freshly grated Parmesan cheese (plus extra for sprinkling), 100g smoked ham (or smoked salmon).

Filling Preparation

- Fry shallots gently in oil for about 10 mins - but do not allow to colour
- Trim asparagus spears at the base, rinse, and plunge into boiling, salted water for about a minute. Drain well and dry
- Stir the parmesan, eggs, and a good pinch of salt and pepper into the crème fraîche
- Spread the shallots and chopped ham (or salmon) over the pastry base
- Put asparagus on top so it radiates from the centre with the tips pointing out
- Spoon the crème fraîche mixture evenly over the top
- Sprinkle the extra parmesan and bake in the pre-heated oven for about 20 mins, or until the top is golden and the filling set
- Allow to cool for 30 mins. Serve with a watercress salad and warm crusty bread

Youth in the Parish

Compiled by Dale Came

All Saints Rock Club

Did you know that every Thursday in term time the Parish Hall is open to all children in the Parish aged 11+ ?

The Club uses the facilities provided by the Parish Hall, for football, basketball, table tennis, badminton, tennis, dodge ball, etc. It is a chance to let off steam, play games, be creative, and have fun. From time to time the club makes visits to different places, and during the summer months we enjoy games and BBQs on the beach.

If you are 11+, and haven't already been along, please come and join us - and have some fun.

If you're over 18 and enjoy putting in a little time to get a little back (just an hour a week), then please volunteer your help.

Call **Martin** on 01548 560979 or **Colin** on 01548 562280.

Bantham Surf Life Saving Club

BSLC is gearing up for another busy season on the beach at Bantham.

It doesn't feel quite right to be talking about life guarding when it's still officially winter, but this year with Easter falling so early lifeguards will already have been on the beach in late March. The club is looking forward to another busy and enterprising season building on the success of 2007.

As well as providing volunteer lifeguard cover on Sundays alongside the RNLI who provide cover Monday to Saturday, the club is active in training nippers (7-11 yrs) and juniors (12-16 yrs) in essential beach and sea safety with a view to becoming qualified

lifeguards when they are 16. This season we already have over 90 junior and nipper members, who will be enthusiastically learning to safely swim, paddle, resuscitate, use first aid, race, BBQ, and generally have fun. The club is always looking for new members, both junior and seniors to play an active part in this essential service in our community.

If you are interested in finding out about more about the club, please telephone **Pete Lawrence** on 01548 562121.

At any beach it's always good to remember "FLAGS" for safety

- F** Find the red and yellow flags and swim between them
- L** Look at the safety signs
- A** Ask a lifeguard for advice
- G** Get a friend to swim with you
- S** Stick your hand in the air and shout for help if in difficulty.

Rugby

Thurlestone's **Toby Yeoman**, who plays rugby for Salcombe Under 13s, has been selected to represent Torbay & South Hams Inter-District development squad at a tournament in April. This April Tournament will bring the 5 Devon regions together, with a view to future selection as the boys progress towards a full Devon squad, which begins with the Under 15s age group.

Toby, a powerful "Back Row" forward, has performed exceptionally well over the last few years, which has not gone unnoticed by the Club or the selectors. He was recently presented with the cup for *Player of the Season* at the Club's presentation evening.

Well done, Toby! And good luck for the April Tournament.

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HARRY HUGGINS ADMITS TO WATCHING BIRDS IN BED

We live in a bungalow. Outside our bedroom window is a crab-apple tree, about the first thing the head gardener put in when the rest of the garden was just weeds. There was supposed to be grass which Eagle Developments had sown, but that took time, much advice from Derrick Yeoman and quite a lot of effort on our part before it appeared.

Before we came to Thurlestone, we lived at Clacton-on-Sea (don't, unless you have to). There she planted a crab-apple tree, the same sort, *Red Sentinel*. Its blossom is, well, just blossom, but it has red apples which stay on the tree all winter and until the next flowers appear, unless something eats them.. The Clacton one flourished far better than ever the one here has done. The garden was more sheltered, with high fences and not swept by salty winds. I don't know about the soil; the house was new and the garden came on lorries: goodness knows where the builders got it from. Suffice it to say that although in our time the little tree never got very big, it used to be covered in apples and looked like something which Faberge might have made with rubies.

At that time the bird-food industry was in its infancy. The newspaper says it now sells 60,000 tons each year. I bought something which was supposed to be food for wild birds, scattered it around and got into trouble for introducing club-root to the cabbage patch. The house was on what we now call a brown-field site, and the garden was quite large - big enough for a few trees, the aforesaid cabbage patch, a little pond and a tiny octagonal greenhouse like a space module.

We tried peanuts. But we had squirrels, which defied every attempt to hang up the nuts where they could not reach them. Susie the Jack Russell enjoyed the squirrels. She used to chase them. I think it was a game enjoyed by both sides, squirrel along the top of a six-foot fence, and Susie down below. There was also a cock sparrow with whom she enjoyed a similar game. We said we would buy her wings for Christmas. But we didn't enjoy the squirrels. I made a trap,

a narrow wooden box with a seesaw inside which, when trodden on, let a door come down to close it. It worked, except when, in her excitement at finding the trap occupied, Susie trod on the simple mechanism and the occupant got out. Once we caught the most beautiful Persian pussy. I found him in the morning, slid him out and he gambolled away, quite unharmed of course. The trap did not harm anything but I bet there must have been consternation when he didn't come home the night before.

The first squirrel we caught we tried to transfer into a sack. We took the trap into the garage, held a sack over it and let the squirrel out. But of course it didn't go into the sack; it sprang all around the garage, up on the shelves and against the window, while we pursued it with the sack and neighbours banged on the front door to say "You have a squirrel in your garage!" "Yes, thank you, we know".

Eventually, almost paralytic with laughter, we stood, luckily holding the sack open, when the squirrel obliged by leaping into it!

After that, when we caught one, we put the trap in the back of the car and deported it. June had done so once, and had managed to let the squirrel out of the back of the car, not always an easy matter, when another car came along. The squirrel disappeared under the front to emerge at the back. The lady driver said "Oh, wasn't that wonderful...I have never seen one so close". June said she felt like saying that if she had been there a minute earlier she could have had him!

If we didn't have much success with small birds there was sometimes another consolation. We got a Ring-necked Parakeet. I would hear a squawk, and June would shriek "Polly's here!". There it would be, sitting in the crab-apple tree eating the pips of the little apples. Ring-necked Parakeet is a central African and Indian species. They must have been released in Britain and have thrived, especially in an area to the west of London where there are now thousands. A little bit smaller than the pigeons which live by the loos at the top of Kingsbridge harbour, they are bright green, with a large head and bill of a

parrot, sickle-shaped wings, like a wading bird, and long tapered tail. They started to form a colony in north Essex, but fruit farmers had orchards: the parakeets wrecked the apples to get at the pips. Parrots do that sort of thing. In New Zealand there is an olive green parrot called a Kea. They climb on cars in car parks to rip off the rubber bits. They have also an endearing habit of digging into the backs of sheep to eat their kidneys. So the farmers in Essex shot the parakeets. They also shot Bullfinches because they pulled to pieces the buds on fruit trees.

It wasn't only fruit farmers who massacred little birds. In the Southend-on-Sea area for many years the leader of the birding revels was the headmaster of a nearby school. He resembled Chalky, Giles cartoonist's teacher, but taller, thinner, and rather more miserable-looking. Dr Richard Fortey of the Natural History Museum in London, wrote that 19th century German professors of geology were like God, but more frightening. An apt description for this gentleman. He was one of the old school, chalk in one hand, cane in the other. Juvenile delinquency was unknown in his catchment area, they were all so terrified of him. So was I, and I wasn't in his catchment area.

He was a distinguished egg-collector, oologists they call themselves, but I don't think he knew all that much about birds. In his day there weren't the optical equipment nor the fantastic field guides that we have today. Nor could folks go abroad to see things like most of us did later. None of this stopped his pontificating about birds. We told him that once, when sailing in the Thames estuary, we saw a Gannet: he said that was quite impossible - they never came there. Neither he nor any of his other acquaintances had ever been there and you can't mistake a snow-white bird with a six foot wingspan, black flight feathers and a huge beak when it flies within forty feet of your sailing boat to look at your mackerel spinners. A true bird-lover, he used to set mouse traps in his apple trees to kill the Blue Tits which pecked at the buds.

Our garden was shaped like a piece of pie, with the road and house at the point. At the other end were several huge macrocarpa trees, one or two in our garden, the others in gardens of houses in the next road. They must have been planted when people built the school which was pulled down before our houses were put up. In these

big trees was a colony of Collared Doves, small pale pinky brown pigeons with dark marks on the sides of their necks. We reckoned there were perhaps sixty of them. They sang monotonously "Coo-COO-coo". People asked how we could stand that noise - the answer was the Joyce Wethered "What train?" syndrome; we never even noticed them. This was quite a new species for Britain. The Ring-necked Parakeets had been introduced, or had escaped from captivity. Like the Lulu of the song, the Collared Doves 'came by themselves'.

Originally from India, they spread across Europe and got here in the 1950s. In fact there were worries that, as seed eaters, they would become an agricultural pest. But their spread stopped. You will see a few around our parish and in February we saw four in West Alvington but they are certainly no problem. Not like some things which have been introduced - rabbits, camels and cane toads in Australia, opossums and Indian Mina birds in New Zealand. In the latter, the wildlife people say that if something can get there under its own steam good luck to it. But if something is introduced, they exterminate it relentlessly.

What happened to the Clacton crab-apple tree we do not know, because we left just as it was getting into its stride. The one we have here at Thurlestone has grown and now, like me, has seen distinctly better days. It doesn't like the wind and the salt. Also we chop it back pretty severely so it doesn't make our windows too dark, and in the hope that it doesn't interfere too much with other people's views. It is gnarled and puts you in mind of something in Wistmans Wood. It is infested with woolly aphids and covered in lichens: Blue Tits, Long-tailed Tits ("Lotties") and Goldcrests hunt through its twigs for little insects and their eggs. For us, its main use is as something on which to hang our seed feeders, plastic tubes in cages. The latter deter bigger birds, Jackdaws and Rooks and the like which would delight in our handouts. The small birds go into the cages, of course, except those which have never learned to do so. They have to cling on to the outside of the trays at the bottom and hope the ones on the perches inside will drop little pieces to them. The cages are protection for those inside against most predators, but not against Sparrowhawks which will happily put a foot in and seize a meal which thought it was safe.

On the bird table at the other end of the garden we put peanuts, chewed up in the mincer. We put some of those on the grass for Pied Wagtails. But in the feeders we put only sunflower hearts. Those are the richest and most nutritious food you can buy. In 2007 we bought 65 kilos at a cost of £105. We read the price is about to rise, something to do with the Chinese. There is usually nothing left after the finches have taken the seeds out of the feeders and others have eaten any bits they might have dropped. Even Woodpigeons do that. But there is the ultimate advantage that if any seed is left on the ground and grows, the odd sunflower does no harm to anyone.

Before we get up we sit in bed drinking our early morning cup of tea, without which neither of us would get started. We watch the regulars come for their breakfasts. Robins nip in, grab a seed and go. With their insect-eating beaks they cannot chew seeds up like the finches do. They swallow them whole and somehow digest them. They must nest somewhere in the garden, we never know where, but in the early summer we see the occasional young one - brown all over with yellow spots. These are the ones which have escaped the Magpies.

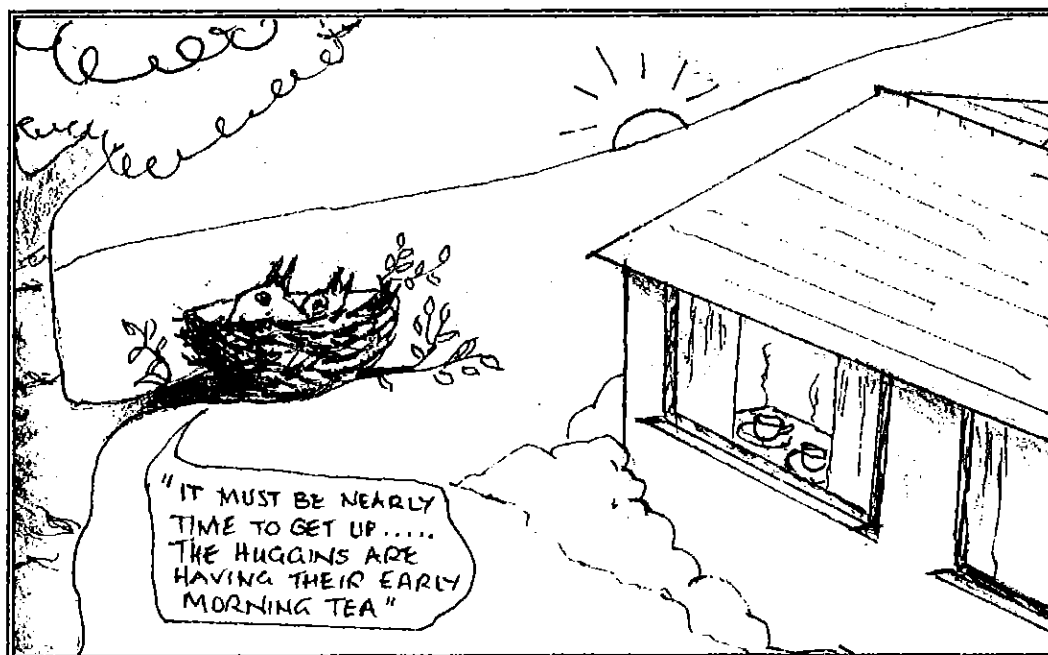
There are Dunnocks, brown with greyish heads. I was brought up to call them Hedge Sparrows, but someone in his wisdom thought "Dunnock" was a better name....it only means little brown thing. There must be six or more around the garden; they seldom go to the feeders but pick

up what they can underneath. We see them pottering around, flipping their wings high above their backs. People who study them say they have a sex life which would make the editor of the *News of the World* blush.

Two or three Chaffinches come. In 2007 there were several with bad feet - covered with what looked like fungus - and one had lost a foot. The ones in 2008 have clean feet, the diseased ones must have died: in any case the life of a wild bird is short. They say that if a pair of Blue Tits raises a brood of ten chicks, by the following spring only one parent and one chick will have survived. I have a record of seven Greenfinches together in 2007. But they got a disease. We found two dead ones and after these we saw none, but to our great joy a couple came in early February. To compensate during the past winter we have had Goldfinches, often twenty in the tree and bouncing around the feeders. Once a flock of nearly fifty flew away. Lots more birds come in penny numbers, some every day, like Blackbirds and Magpies, others rare enough to be exciting.

But the Robins, Dunnocks and finches are our regulars, part of the family. We don't get up in the mornings until they have arrived for their breakfasts. In the darkest days of winter they don't arrive until quite late. That means that waiting for them we have to stop longer in bed, which suits us!

Harry Huggins





At the Bridge Table



Recent articles have been about the opening lead in defence. For a change, future ones will relate to aspects of declarer play, starting with the subject of **endplays**. An endplay can always be considered where you have a suit combination that is likely to produce more if it is led by the opposition, or when you have ample trumps and will get a **ruff-and-discard** if an opponent is obliged to lead a suit in which you and dummy are void. The essential elements are (a) a losing trick with which to lose the lead and (b) one or more losing tricks elsewhere - one of which you hope to avoid because of an opponent's lead. In order for a throw-in to succeed you must first remove all safe exit cards from one or both opponents' hands - a process known as **stripping the hand**. The idea is that the opponent is then forced to lead a suit that will benefit you. Frequently this is a lead into your waiting tenace (AQ or KJx), or round to an unsupported honour (often Kx), or conceding a **ruff-and-discard**.

Here is a simple example in which South is playing in four Spades and the defence start by taking the Ace and King of Diamonds followed by a switch to the Jack of Spades. **How should South plan the play?** As he has three certain losers - two Diamonds and a Club - all depends on the position of the Queen of Hearts. Clearly a finesse could see him home but at the table he would not know which way to try it. It is much safer to avoid the guess by eliminating the opponents' safe exit cards and forcing them to lead Hearts. So take out the trumps ending in dummy and ruff the third Diamond. Follow this with the two top Clubs and exit with the third. Whoever wins must either give a ruff and discard in a minor suit or play a Heart into a tenace. The fact that the 10 of Hearts was in the North hand made the elimination play perfect in this situation. But even without it declarer would still have a better chance of success as, if East wins the Club trick and leads into a holding of, say, Ace 7 6, with West holding 10 of Hearts declarer can win with the Ace and take the finesse as a last resort. If it doesn't work it was never going to work anyway so nothing is lost.

In No Trumps an end-play is best described as a **Throw-in**, as obviously the option of playing for a ruff and discard is not possible. So the sole purpose is to force an opponent to make a favourable lead into one of your suit combinations. The hand shown aside was played by South in 3 No Trumps. On the lead of the King of Spades declarer ducked and took the second Spade with the Ace. There are eight winners on top so all that is needed is an extra trick from one of the tenaces in Hearts or Clubs. As the cards lie finesses in the latter suits would both fail, but there is a route which guarantees the contract. The first two tricks have shown that West started with 5 Spades so the plan is simply to throw West on lead with the third Spade, as he cannot win enough tricks in this suit to defeat you, and force him to lead a Heart or Club into one of your A-Q tenaces. But first you must remove West's safe exit cards. So cash two Diamond tricks - sufficient to strip West of his exit cards - and then lead a Spade. West can cash his remaining Spades but is then forced to set up your ninth trick. Note that you take an unnecessary risk if you cash 5 Diamond tricks before leading a Spade. West will hold on to all his Spades and un-guard one of his Kings. You can still make the contract if you read which suit is down to a bare King, but why take the chance?

North	
S	Q J 9 5
H	A 10 6
D	J 10 7
C	K 5 3

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

South	
S	A K 10 7 4
H	K J 8
D	4 2
C	A 8 6

North	
S	8 7 6 3
H	8 4
D	A Q J 5 4
C	8 2

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

South	
S	A 10 6
H	A Q 2
D	K 9 7 3
C	A Q 6

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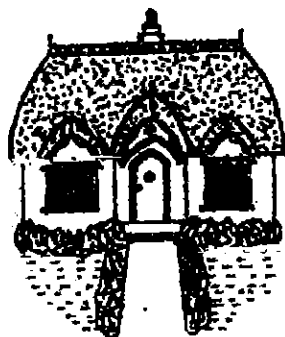
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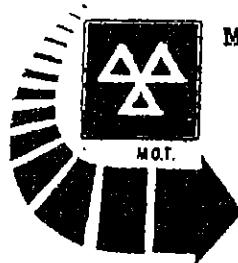
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

This year has been quite eventful in different ways weather-wise. January began very quietly with a warm southerly wind, no rain and a top temperature for 1st as 12°5 C. Three days later it was 4.4°C. After that, every day in the month registered above 10°C. On two days (17th & 18th) it was 13.3°C. The rest of the month saw westerly winds, quite strong on many days but not an excessive amount of rain. The 9th was the wettest day, with 17.4mm. In fact the second week accounted for most of the rain for the month - 64mm. After that only 17mm.

One would expect there to have been lots of sunshine, but with the calm westerly and high pressure there was lots of anti-cyclonic gloom; and only 34hrs recorded. Temperatures were above average generally with the monthly mean of 9.5°C the highest since 1995. February was about average. Last year was an exception with a very warm month and lots of rain. This year was much more normal - av temp: 7.5°C, total rainfall: 36.1mm, hours of sunshine: 68.3hrs.

The most interesting item was the rainfall, with 21mm in the first week then none until 24th (10.5mm and once again high pressure and anti-cyclonic gloom). However, there was sunshine on most days and winds were light (except for 31st Jan/1st Feb when I recorded 71mph). Over those two days the barometer dropped from 1033mb to 1009mb, a very steep fall which led to the fierce winds out of the North West. This leads me on to the events of this month.

A so called "Bomb", describes the intense low pressure event we experienced last week. On Monday 3rd March things were "hotting up". Winds were increasing as the pressure started to fall quite quickly, the temperature went up. It began to rain, a little at first, then on Sat/Sun the total was 23mm. After that not so much fell, but the winds increased as the barometer fell further, 1015mb on Sat 8th down to 972mb by 8.30am on Monday 10th. At about 10.45am on Monday morning I was watching my wind speed arrow as the house vibrated in the onslaught and it reached 77.8mph. That was my top speed for the "Bomb" depression. Almost as quickly the pressure rose and resumed its more normal level. One or two slates off and lots of sand around the back of the house on a flat roof. My ground level rain gauge

had a layer of sand in the bottom! The electronic one was blocked almost completely.

You all know how jealously I guard the beach in front of the house, and on that Monday morning the appearance was unique in my experience:-

(a) I could only just stand up, by leaning into the wind and shielding my face from the sand.

(b) The whole beach as far I could see towards Rock House was completely clean and smooth.

(c) The Ley was blocked with a high sandbank, and water within it was bright red (evidence of erosion of the sandstone cliffs along the edge of the beach).

(d) So much sand had been shifted up the beach with the high Spring Tides which coincided with the storm, that the dunes fence has almost disappeared along its complete length. Leas Foot was being kindly treated with sand being built up against the edge of the dunes (much of this has since been removed by further action of the sea).

(e) Thursday and Friday saw the tides dropping but much rainfall on the land leading to an over-full Ley, which happily broke through during Friday night, leading to a direct path down the beach and a good scour of the bed. But it makes me wonder what happens to the fish life, as I saw a whole shoal of little fish struggling in the current yesterday (Sunday 16th). I guess they were Sticklebacks - I only hope there are more where they came from.

(f) The other effect of the storm is the almost complete removal of the debris from the cliff fall in the cave below the Links Car Park.

Now the beach is back to its normal self, a line of seaweed, plus bottles, plastics, boxes, netting, etc. You name it, it's there.

A few days before the storm I was fortunate enough, along with a friend, to witness two weather phenomena:-

- (a) A Green Flash along with
- (b) A Sun Pillar.

Both are not so unusual as to be rare, but are uncommon in these latitudes. Ingrid Holford in

The Guinness Book of Weather Facts and Feats, explains:- "The Green Flash sometimes accompanies the last or first glimpse of the setting or rising sun. It is caused by the greater refraction of the green wave band, the shortest after the blue and violet which are scattered by the molecules of the air. The flash is momentary only," - and if you blink at the crucial moment you will miss it. It was actually quite exciting and I have to admit to a loud whoop of joy. I have watched hundreds of sunsets and never seen one before. Johnny McKillop said when I told him, "Oh yes, I've seen hundreds, but in the tropics where there is less cloud on the horizons more often". It was nevertheless an event for me to remember.

Ingrid Holford describes the Sun Pillar as "a column of light above or below a low level elevation Sun, caused by reflection in ice crystals which are inclined slightly to the horizontal. Being reflected light, a sun pillar has the same colour as the Sun. It is often best observed when an obstruction blocks out the view of the Sun itself, but the sun pillar may remain visible for

a short time after the Sun has sunk below the horizon". On this occasion it was the pillar that first attracted my attention. It was quite outstanding and held our attention, so we watched for it to disappear and the Green Flash was our reward. The pillar stayed for quite a while afterwards. Another event to remember.

Then on Saturday afternoon 15th March, in between Rugby matches, I nipped out for a quick walk with Ayla and saw two swallows swooping over the beach. Has summer arrived, or is it "Two swallows don't make a summer". Still it was heartening to see them. Had they been blown over with the storm, or have they stayed here and just emerged from their refuge (like the one in Cornwall according to the WMN this morning - 17th March)? Perhaps Harry can enlighten me as to his first sighting over the years.

Must get out into the garden while it is dry and not too cold. Good weather watching, and here's to a good spring and summer. I think we deserve it!

Jan Turner

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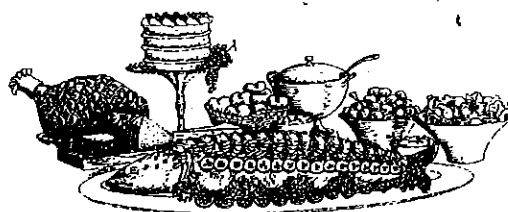


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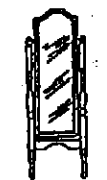
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DIARY DATES

Internet Café & Individual Tuition, Parish Hall Yeo Room,
Every Wednesday 2 pm to 4 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to Noon

APRIL

Wed 2 nd / 5 th	Old Time Music hall, Cliff House, Salcombe, 7.30 pm
Thurs 3 rd	Cancer Research Bridge, W. Charleton 1.45 pm (see inside)
Mon 7 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Tues 8 th	TRAMP tba (short walk)
Tues 8 th	Hearing Dogs AGM, Parish Hall, 11 am (see News Roundup)
Thurs 10 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Treasures & Trinkets)
Sat 12 th	Rotary Open Garden Day, Bowringsleigh, (11am to 4.00pm)
Mon 14 th	Annual Parish Meeting, 7.30 pm (Chairman, Kit Marshall)
Wed 16 th	TRAMP Malborough (long walk)
Wed 16 th	ACA AGM, Bigbury Memorial Hall, 7.30 pm
Thurs 24 th	TRAMP Ayrmer Cove (short walk)

MAY

Fri 2 nd	TRAMP, Slapton / Gara Mill (long)
Thurs 8 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Resolutions)
Fri 9 th	TRAMP, Loddiswell / Avon Mill (short)
Sat 10 th	NSPCC Jumble Sale, Parish Hall, 2.00 pm
Mon 12 th	Parish Council AGM, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wed 14 th	TRAMP, Coletton Fishacre (long)
Thurs 15 th	Rotary Charity Golf Day, Thurlestone, (see advert)
Sat 17 th	PLANT SALE, Parish Hall, 10 am - Noon (see advert)
Sat 24 th	Stanborough Chorus, Malborough, 7.30 pm (see advert)
Mon 26 th	Craft Extravaganza, S. Milton, 11 am - 5 pm (see advert)

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

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

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (JUN-JULY) ISSUE = 5th MAY 2008

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

PARISH

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

PARISH COUNCIL	Meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf	
Chairman	Kit Marshall	560214
Vice - Chairman	Andrew Rhymes	560564
Parish Clerk	Cathy Taverder	(Daytime) 01392 - 385161 (Evening) 852139
District Councillor	Shonagh Rankin	561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	691212
Members	Dale Caine	562089
	David Hugo	562267
	Peter Hurrell	560496
	Geoffrey Siddons	560695
	Charles Mitchellmore	560602
Tree Warden		
PARISH HALL	Chairman	Ron Perkins
	Bookings	Judith Le Grice
		561215
		562135
PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)	Chairman	Chris White
		560505
RECTOR	Rev. Andrew Girling	562219
CHURCH MEETING ROOM	Office	561246
CHURCHWARDENS	Peter Williams (560672)	Liz Webb (560090)
PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH (1 st Friday)	LUNCH CLUB (Other Fridays)	UNDER 5s (Wednesdays)
SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesdays Fortnightly)	FILMS FOR ALL (Tuesdays Fortnightly)	ROCK CLUB (Thursdays)
COFFEE TIME (Monday & Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30 am)	Contact	Liz Webb
		560090
FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	Contact	Kit Marshall
		560214
BOWLS CLUB	Contact	Eileen Dayment
		560051
AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	Chairman	Stuart Watts
		810373
BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	Contact	Marilyn Cator
		560593
BANTHAM STRF LIFE SAVING CLUB	Clubhouse	
		560447
BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m Wednesdays and Fridays	Contact	Dorothy Stone
		560708
THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	Secretary / Manager	Terry Gibbons
		560405
TENNIS SECTION	Chairman	Marc Lepore
		0208 671 4156
KEEP FIT	Contact	Karen Livett
		560131
TAI CHI	Contact	Vida Alexander
		561182
HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	Contact	John Lonsdale
		560742
PROBES	Contact	Tom Trender
		560893
SOUTH HAMPS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS	Contact	Pat Crawford
		560688

DIRECTORY

TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)	Contact Madeleine Radford	560867
W. I.	2.30 pm Parish Hall	Contact Karen Livett 560131
Second Thursday monthly (except August)		
TEAMMAKERS	INDIVIDUAL TUITION AND INTERNET CAFE (Computer Club) Wednesdays 2 pm - 4 pm Saturdays 10 pm - 12 noon Contact: Robin Macdonald 560436 Michael Barnes 562112 Chris White 560505 John & June Beven 562074 Graham Durant 560007	Yeo Room
HEALTH CENTRES	Kingsbridge 0844 477 8953	Salcombe 842284
MILK DELIVERY	R. Bruckner & Son	01803 - 832801
NEWSPAPER DELIVERY	Dave & Sandra Edmunds	01548 - 853132
VILLAGE SHOP	Thurlestone Village Shop	M, T, Th, F, 8.00 am - 5.30 pm Wednesday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm Saturday, 8.00 am - 1.00 pm Sunday, 8.30 am - 1.00 pm
(Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm)		
THURLESTONE POST OFFICE	(NB. The 1.00 pm closing times may sometimes be extended during school holidays and at weekends) Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30pm Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Postal collections: 4.00pm Monday - Friday; Noon on Saturday; NO collection on Sunday	561917
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Co-ordinator Charles Mitchellmore	560602
POLICE	Matthew Blackmore (Community Support Officer) 842107 Or mobile 08456 - 567890 Emergency 999 Non-emergency calls 08705-777-444 Minicom users 01392 - 452935 Confidential information 0800-555-111	
RUBBISH COLLECTION	Monday (But Tuesday in Bank Holiday Monday weeks) Brown Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 7 th April Coloured (White, Blue) Sack collections (recyclables) and Grey Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 14 th April	
RECYCLING CENTRE (Tor Quarry Site, Tottes Road - Telephone 521609)	Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Saturday & Sunday 10. am - 4.30 pm	
PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE	For ALL bus, rail, or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day) 7.00 am to 9.00 pm Devonbus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk	0870 608 2 608
GARAGE (Blight Engineering)	Maurice Blight	560220
KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY	(Mobile library calls alternate Wednesdays from 2 nd April) 11.15 - 11.30am Bantam 11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel 12.20 - 12.30pm Thurlestone Church	852315
MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN	Alternate Wednesdays from 2 nd April 2008, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside school	

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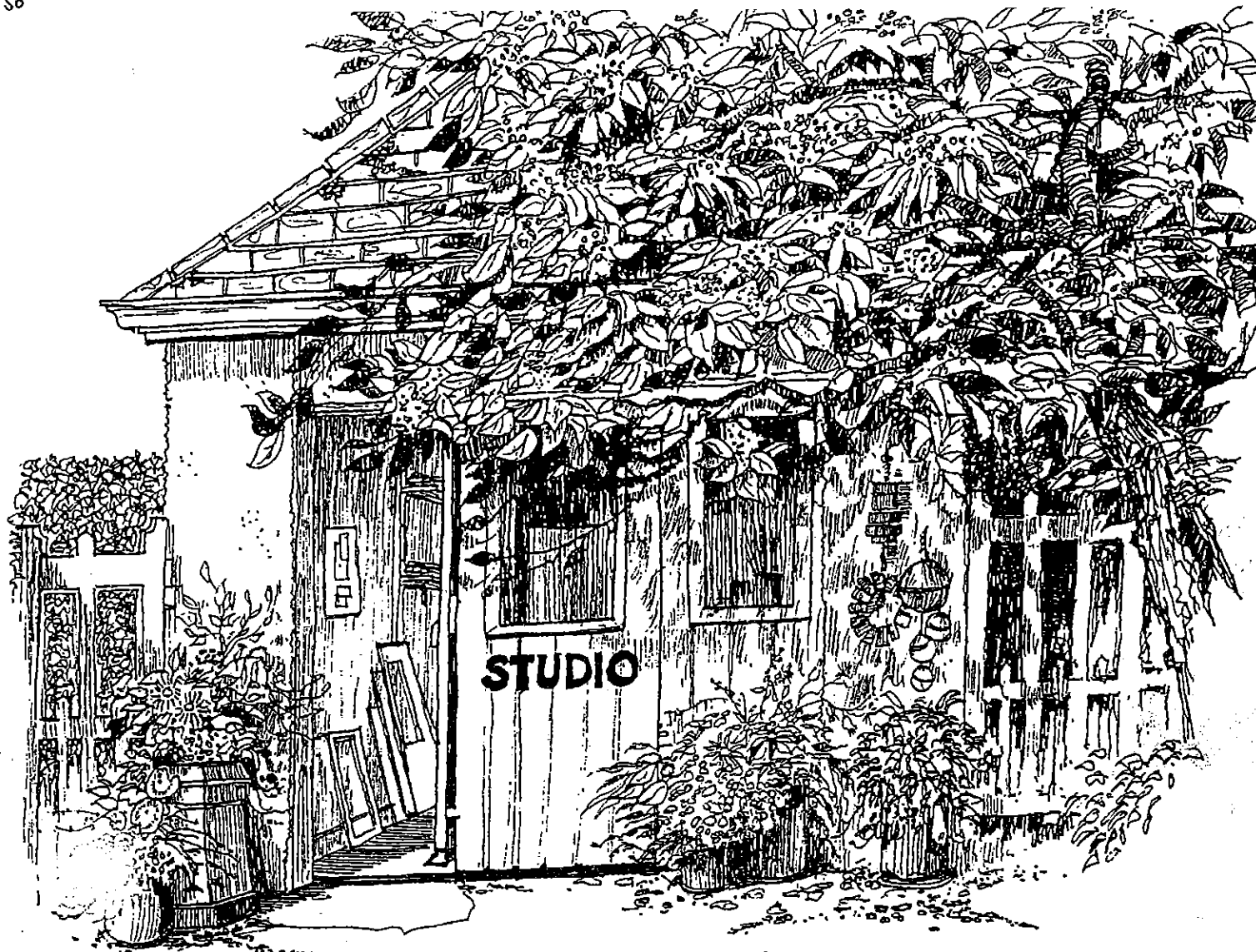
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