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VILLAGE VOICE

December 2008

January 2009



NUMBER 154
DECEMBER 2008 - JANUARY 2009

Village Voice
would like to wish all
its readers, contributors,
advertisers, producers,
and deliverers
A Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

Cover Picture : Boathouse above Duke's Mill

Founder Dudley Drabble

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PARISH HALL NEWS

By Ron Parkin



The *Taste of Christmas* should already be entered in your diaries for the evening of Saturday 6 December beginning - earlier than usual for Parish Hall events - at 7.00pm. It will counter the current gloom and lend some excitement to our preparations for Christmas. **Reeves Florist**, the new owners of the former Garden Shop, will demonstrate a table piece and a door decoration: **Red & White Wines** will run a tasting of bubbly, red and white wine: **Quercus Beer** will do likewise for their beers, all brewed in Churchstow; and **Red Earth Kitchen** will prepare delicious blinis, canapes, and a mouth watering dessert - with 'samples prepared earlier' for us to savour.

Our celebrations will continue with the now traditional *New Year's Eve Party* in the Parish Hall beginning as in previous years at 9 pm - with revellers bringing their own food and wine, and making up their own tables if they wish. A number of "Party Pieces" will be performed by special request. **John and Margaret Lavelle** will again be our hosts.

The W.I. with their 80th Anniversary Show on 1st November proved once again what a talented, lively and fearless lot they are. The songs and dances were taken from each of the decades and the script from the Minutes. It was notable how often their *annual resolutions* were, in today's parlance, 'ahead of the curve'. In 1936 they were deploring 'pollution of streams in rural areas'... in 1973 advocating 'clinics for breast screening'... in 1978 protesting against the 'closure of rural Post Offices'... in 1987 warning against 'the

hazards of borrowing money and getting into debt'... and in 2003 urging 'healthier diets for schoolchildren to avoid obesity'. We should also remember that the WI was one of the prime movers behind the building of the 1949 Parish Hall, and tirelessly supported the fund-raising campaign for building the new hall.

Did you see the photo in the *Kingsbridge Gazette* of the **Armada Jazz Band** at the sell-out evening in the Parish Hall on Saturday 8 November? An even better one was taken of the 3 brave dancers waving their crutches in unison: **Carole Taylor Biggs** recovering from a broken ankle, **Patrick Stanley** exercising two new knees and **Diana Parker Swift** one new knee.

Parish Hall funds received a welcome boost of over £700 from the very successful *Autumn Fair* organized with her customary flair and efficiency by **Pat Macdonald**. All the societies that use the hall and ran a stall may be assured that all their efforts are much appreciated.

The Parish Hall Committee are delighted to welcome back our Caretaker **Ray Tavender** after his illness and short spell in hospital and wish him well for a continued rapid recovery. In his absence **Jan Ledbetter** very ably stood in at short notice, for which the committee is most grateful - as they are for the recent repainting work in the main hall by the Maintenance Committee (and helpers!).

Remember - Christmas celebrations start in the Parish Hall on Saturday 6 December!

GRAND NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Wednesday 31st December from 9.00 pm



Bring Your Own Supper and Drinks
Fun & Games, Dancing, Party Pieces, Quiz

Welcome in 2009
with TV's Big Screen Fireworks
(funny hats to be worn)

Tickets £3.00 (Best to reserve a table)
Reservations in advance to
John Lavelle (562203) Chris White (560505)

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 6th October & 3rd November 2008

News and views by Citizen



ATTENDANCE

The October meeting had 6 Councillors, District Councillor **Shonaugh Rankin**, PCSO **Matt Blackmore** and 8 members of the public present, while November's had 7 Councillors and South Hams District Council chairman **Basil Cane**, but only 3 members of the public.

POLICE

All has been quiet in the South Hams recently apart from some criminal damage in Salcombe - and those responsible have been caught.

OPEN FORUM

(1) The first item was an apology to Councillor **Kit Marshall** for wrongly reporting from the previous meeting that the Golf Club was looking into the possibility of selling three of their *grass* courts when it should have been *HARD* courts. *[Clearly Citizen is in need of new batteries for the hearing aid]*

(2) Following reports of storm damage in Ottery St Mary in late October, the Parish Council was asked whether our parish emergency plans had been updated. This is currently being attended to.

PARISH HALL

Councillor **Peter Hurrell** said that the Hall's maintenance committee were due to start painting the main hall inside walls, below the dado. Hooks are being procured for the doors. The Hall's insurers are being asked if we can remove the padlock on the oil tank filler cap, as thieves tend to drill holes in oil tanks if they are padlocked,....and oil alone is cheaper to replace than oil plus tank. Fire alarms have been tested.

HIGHWAYS

Councillor **Kit Marshall** said that alterations to the cobbled road by the church have been re-assessed and new estimates sought. Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** reported that a tree stump was now projecting into the

road to Buckland, near the kiosk, and needs attention. He also said potholes on the same road were causing problems which were getting worse. A car recently got stuck in one and damaged the car. *[Citizen recalls that Devon County Council paid out more on damage to cars than on doing road repairs and is probably one of the reasons they say they have no money to spare!]*. Councillor **Peter Hurrell** reported that the culvert on Buckland Hill is faulty and that flooding occurs as a result of this neglect. The street cleaning situation is pretty useless. The last sighting was of a cleaner, wearing pink "cars", who was moving leaves from a road gully grating but leaving them in the gutter each side of the grating. Perhaps he was from another planet and unaware of our way of life? There is a similar situation down Warren Hill - the drain gully opposite Mallards Lane has a pile of leaves and such rubbish which is growing larger season by season. It may perhaps be removed when cars are blocked from using the road.

FOOTPATHS

The raised footpath at the bottom of Thurlestone's main street has finally been cleared BUT a large street light has appeared above the steps from the road. The Parish Council has not been consulted about this lamp and will take steps to get it removed before everyone in the parish wants one too.....well, we don't want the place to look like the Crystal Palace do we?

SCHOOL

Chairman **Andrew Rhymes** gave an up-date on Phase 1 which is proceeding to a very good standard with overtime being worked to make up some of the time lost at the start of the contract. It is hoped this will be completed by the end of November. Classes 1 and 2 are functional, as are the reception toilets. The Headmaster's office is just a shell and there will probably be no heating until January. The children are not bothered but the staff are!

TREES

When reporting that the Old Rectory trees had now been removed, Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** commented that this had also happened to the SHDC Tree Officer, making it more difficult to contact anyone in this department. The Chairman echoed this problem along with the increased bureaucratic paperwork which also made things worse. *With all eyes now focussed firmly on the SHDC Chairman who was amongst the gathering, Mr Cane said that if we write to him officially on such matters he will try to get things speeded up - not only trees but anything else concerning the District Council.* This is an offer too good to refuse!

PARISH PLAN

Councillor **Kit Marshall** said £800 had come from the County Council to help the £1500 costs of such a project (see also below).

It was revealed that *several months ago* the Parish Council had asked the SHDC to provide the domiciliary addresses of the second home owners in the Parish (some 250) only to be denied this request under the Data Protection Act. "But this is a SHDC initiative!" our Parish Council protested. "Sorry, still can't do" responded the SHDC. "How about if we send you the leaflets in unaddressed but stamped envelopes, and

persuade you to put the addresses on?" Back came the reply "We hadn't thought of that!" [*Citizen doesn't yet know if they are willing to do this - another letter to Mr Cane perhaps? Hopefully not a case of Ever Decreasing Circles becoming a reality!*]

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

Bus shelter being kept clean, but wood needs replacing and the timber treated. The new Snowdon seat and other timber seats in the parish to be treated with preservative and Councillor **Geoffrey Stidston** kindly offered a barn for the work.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

As Shonaugh Rankin could not attend our November meeting, Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** asked that she be requested, when unable to attend, to send a written report. In October she reported briefly on the proposed boundary changes, to which a large number of residents and the SHDC had objected, as costs would be enormously high.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Councillor **Peter Hurrell** has been nominated by the Parish Council for a Devon Association of Parish Councils award - see *Village News Round-up*

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 1st December 2008, at 7.30 pm

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The draft *questionnaire* for the Parish Plan Survey is now complete. As this issue of Village Voice goes to print it will be in the hands of volunteers who will be giving their views for editing and improvements.

The final draft will then be made available at an informal consultation meeting for all Parishioners for comments and input before the *questionnaire* is finalised and sent out to home-owners in January.

This meeting will take place in the Yeo Room in Thurstlestone Parish Hall on **Tuesday 9 December** from 5.00pm to 7.00pm. Parishioners views will be most welcome and it is your last chance to have input into this survey, which will be of immense importance to the future of your Parish.

Kit Marshall
Vice-Chairman Thurstlestone Parish Council

Village News Round-Up

Musical Success

A musically gifted young man who has made several very popular guest appearances playing piano at Thurlestone Parish Hall, **Jonathon Swinard**, has just gone off to Oxford. Here he will study music at St Catherine's College. Before leaving he heard that he had been awarded the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music diploma, with distinction in piano performance. Added to this, he has been awarded the college Repetiteur Scholarship, given to aspiring accompanists and conductors who have proven high levels of solo performance ability. This will now enable him to work with Oxford New Chamber Opera as well as helping to co-ordinate the musical life of his college.

Jonathon's family live at Bantham and he is a former Kingsbridge Community College student. Starting piano lessons at the age of six, for the past three years he has been studying with Thurlestone's **Alastair Durden**. *Congratulations are not only due to Jonathon but also to his teacher who must be feeling pretty pleased with his student's progress!*

Marathon Run

Taking part in the London Marathon next April in support of SENSE (a charity for deaf/blind children and adults) will be Thurlestonians **Graham and Liz Clack**. They will have sponsorship forms available nearer the date of the run but wonder if, between now and April, readers could show their support by putting any spare coppers they may have from pockets and purses at the end of the day into a jam jar and saving them for this very worthwhile cause. Meanwhile Graham and Liz can be contacted on 560050 and would be most grateful for any coins you can spare and any help you can give them with sponsorship.

Making A Difference

The Devon Association of Parish Councils makes a Special Award to a person "who has made a real difference to the local community" and our own **Peter Hurrell**'s name was entered by the Parish Council in the 'Small Council' category

(for populations of not more than 1000). While his nomination was not the winning one our Council clearly appreciate his valuable contribution. *Village Voice* would also like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for all he has done for our parish over many years.

Campaign for Bus to Derriford

A campaign is being mounted to try and persuade the bus company to reinstate its terminal at Derriford Hospital for the number 93 Dartmouth to Plymouth bus, so that passengers do not have to change buses at Bretonside bus station. Our readers are being asked to express support for this scheme, which will help the many people who have to rely on public transport to travel to and from the hospital, by contacting **Mr Andrew Davies**, 'Facilities', Level 2, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth PL6 8DH (telephoner 01752-439738). If there is a sufficiently large response it is hoped the pressure will encourage the bus company to take action.

Vintage Buses

Heavily involved in the Vintage Transport Running Day on 20th September was **Peter Stanier**, whose parents lived here and who still owns his family's former home on Yarnmer. He tells us that "A group called the West Country Historic Transport Trust organised a bus running day, centred on Kingsbridge, where many of the old routes were operated by period buses. Thurlestone was included in the schedule, with two routes - the old Great Western Railway 104, via West Alvington and Clanacombe Head, and the newer 161 route that operated via South Milton, Thurlestone, West Buckland, Bantham and Churchstow. Many local people took advantage of the free services and it is hoped that the same format can operate next year." **Gillian Marshall** was one of the passengers riding on the 104 on the day and says it was great fun and well-organised. *Village Voice* looks forward to learning the date of the 2009 run in due course so readers can be advised in advance!

Peter's other claim to Thurlestone fame is that he generously allowed the Parish of Thurlestone

Society (POTS) to have the run of his Yarmer home for editing their video 'Land of the Five Beaches' when lots of spare space was needed!

Historic Day

Forty-six Kingsbridge History Society members, including Thurlestone residents, enjoyed the Annual Lunch which was at Thurlestone Parish Hall this year. In previous years they had used various hotels and pubs in the area which incorporated a history theme, and in 2007 it was decided to have the lunch in a village hall and include a walk to the church or other interesting building. Sherford came first, as one of the Society's late and valued members, **Benny Goodman**, had written "1000 Years of Sherford" so there was an immediate historical link. **Joan & Fergus Mackenzie** were at Sherford and recommended Thurlestone for 2008.

The KHS secretary, **Ann Lidstone**, writes "*Hey presto, on 10th November we were there, and what a magnificent parish hall greeted us - large screen with rolling pictures of old Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland, the WI Scrapbook for 1965, a photo quiz and other local memorabilia. The weather was awful but was happily ignored as we chatted and viewed the on-screen photographs from the collection of Peter Hurrell and others.*"

Joan & Alan Booth's buffet lunch was much enjoyed, after which, with the weather improved, we headed for The Old Rectory by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Bryan and Marian Rigby. History all round us, and just the sort of visit members enjoy most. About twenty then went on to visit the lovely old, and beautifully kept, church. Kingsbridge History Society is most grateful to the several Thurlestone residents who made our day so memorable..."

Ann Lidstone's phone number is 01548-852662 if you are interested in knowing more about the KHS, or you can access the society website at < www.kingsbridge-history.co.uk >

Coffee Morning

On Saturday 15 November a coffee morning in support of St Luke's Hospice was held in the church meeting room. The sum of £732 was raised for the charity and **Lindy Price** would like to thank all those who supported and contributed to the event so generously.

RNID

On Tuesday 9th December from 10 am to 3 pm the Royal National Institute for the Deaf will be at the Age Concern Rest Centre on Kingsbridge Quay with an information stand, where they will have all the latest details of help and equipment now available for those with impaired hearing. The local Information Volunteer for the RNID is **Joan Mackenzie** (560671).

Pensioners' Ping Pong

Now a popular Wednesday (5 - 6 pm) activity in the Yeo Room. Plenty of skill on view at table-top level, but stooping to retrieve the ball sometimes provides a greater challenge. Rumours of a match against the youth of the parish are circulating, but have yet to be confirmed. Meantime, more pimpled bat performers would be made most welcome.

Internet Café & Computer Tuition

Both the Internet Café and Teamakers computer tutorial classes will close for the Christmas break from 4th December until 6th January 2009. The first class of the New Year will be on Wednesday 7th January and Saturday classes will commence on 10th January.

Mince Pie & Tea Party

All past and present pupils are invited to an end-of-term Christmas Mince Pie & Tea Party in the Yeo Room on Wednesday 10th December between 3.00 and 4.30 pm.

Bookings for classes in the Spring Term may be made at the same time.

While the Internet Café will continue to operate on Wednesday afternoons (2 - 4 pm) and Saturday mornings (10 - noon), and individual one-to-one tuition is available at these times from any of our experienced tutors, the numbers seeking help have dropped away significantly, and very few novices are now coming forward.

Is there anyone out there still holding back from taking the plunge? If so, please come along for a cup of tea and a mince pie on Wednesday 10th December, and see how simple it is to get started, or get help.

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Peter Gornall writes:



IT'S ALL A MATTER OF COMMUNICATION...

Christmas must still be a time when many people will unwrap and/or plug into a new form of communication. Getting a new ordinary mobile phone is rather unlikely now since these are a tool of daily living rather than the exotic luxury they once seemed. But might we get an iphone or a blackberry, a web-cam or a skype phone? Might we need to visit a wifi hotspot to get a message out?

We have come a long way from the days when a few academics in Persia wondered whether their counterparts in Jerusalem were taking the same view as themselves of a recently appeared comet or supernova star. Today they might put their ideas on a Babylonian blog and wait to see if anyone out there is interested. But in those days to find out they had to journey.

It was a long trip, probably dangerous, and even at Jerusalem, their first destination, still very puzzling. Worse yet, it was all getting political. But they put top value on first-hand information and personal contact, eyeball to eyeball with the ones who really knew what the signs in the sky were all about. Sometimes even with the most reliable gadgets there could be answers to searching questions which are too precious to leave to the risk of a poor signal, a wrong number or a misspelt e-mail address. Being there is the only solution, and then finding yourself part of the action - a scary but rewarding outcome.

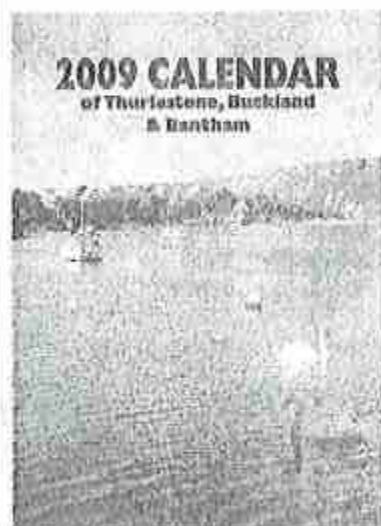
I wonder what the communications will be like in another 2000 years. Perhaps we shall be able to communicate by instantly transporting ourselves to those we want to talk to, a bit like the Star Trek "Beam me up, Scottie". Who is going to put that gadget down on their "most wanted" list for 4008?

After all, when your message is really important, coming yourself to deliver it, whatever that costs, is a league better than second-hand messaging. Which is pretty much the same as the whole idea behind the original Christmas, isn't it?

So occasionally sitting rather loose to lots of the communications buzz is worth it, so that you get not just the Christmas message, but actually the messenger; that scary but rewarding outcome.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas

Peter



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featuring the winning photographs of
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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)

DECEMBER 7TH, JANUARY 11TH* 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)

DECEMBER 14TH*, JANUARY 18TH 11.10am Family Communion (CW)

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21ST* 11.10am Crib Service

DECEMBER 28TH, JANUARY 25TH 11.10am Matins (BCP)

SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH* 11.10am Searchlight Epiphany Play & Service

Weekdays

THURSDAY DEC. 4TH & JAN. 1ST 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

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

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

You would be very welcome to join us at any of our Special Christmas & New Year Services

TUESDAY DECEMBER 21ST 4.00pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30pm First Communion of Christmas
Preacher & Celebrant: Archdeacon of Totnes

CHRISTMAS DAY 11.10am Family Service followed by Holy Communion

NEW YEAR'S EVE 6.00pm Informal Service for the Start of a New Year

Carol Singing

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16TH
BUCKLAND
MEET 5 P.M.
BY THE OLD CHAPEL

Everyone would be welcome to
join the Searchlight children
singing in aid of
Children in Distress

Christmas Goods

Wrapping Paper
Cards ~ Candles
Gift Tags, Bows and Bags
on sale during Coffee-Time
in the Meeting Room

Films for All

TUESDAYS 2.30 P.M.
(Please note earlier time)

DECEMBER 9TH
Mamma Mia!

starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan,
Colin Firth, Amanda Seyfried

JANUARY 6TH
The Duchess

starring Keira Knightley,
Dominic Cooper, Ralph Fiennes,
Hayley Atwell, Charlotte Rampling



Refreshment Interval for tea & biscuits

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People & Meeting Room Running Costs

More information from Joan Golding (560078)

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BANTHAM HOLIDAYS AS A TEENAGER, 1936-39

By Jeanne Sowry

I first came to Bantham in 1936. We stayed with Susie Dent at The Gables and there was only one other family staying then. What was it we loved about Bantham and what was there to do?

Oh, what wonderful memories and I shall never forget them.....the walk across the Ham, the sea - either sparkling and calm or dashing brown across the beach and tearing up the estuary - the night sky with thousands of stars, and shooting stars too, the glow-worms, the huge harvest moon, so bright we all went out into the street because we were told we could read by its light!

There was nothing to attract a modern teenager. No clubs, no bars, no music, no cars. But we were never ever bored and were busy all day long doing natural things. We learnt to swim in the rushing estuary and then swimming across the river (usually accompanied by our dog) was a great achievement. We jumped off the quay on an ebbing tide and minutes later we were at Jenkins boathouse, feeling we were the fastest swimmers in the world.

We learnt to row, usually a very small dinghy, and we learnt to sail, taught by a shouting father. We loved fishing and had to catch our own bait, which was an old skill taught to us by Jim or Henry Elliott. We fished in the estuary either from the bank or sitting in a boat. If we wanted to go over the bar we went with someone who had a motor boat. In the bay we caught mackerel, sometimes by the bucketful. To catch a bass was always an achievement. Pollack was useless "Cotton wool with pins in it" and we threw them back!

There was Cowrie Beach where we spent hours looking for the beautiful

little shells and at the end of our holidays we had a competition to see who had caught the largest or collected the most. We had family sailing races and at the end we had a splendid presentation down on the quay. Captain Chick presented the prizes and we received tiny silver cups, which many of us have still got.

We had expeditions up the estuary on a flooding tide, under the bridge and on to the water meadows - willows spreading out over the river made our passage in the boat difficult - up as far as the weir, where we all got out of the boat and tied it to the brambles. At the weir we watched hundreds of grey mullet trying to jump into the sea water. We also saw kingfishers and many other birds. I wish I could describe the beauty of this expedition - the estuary, the grasslands and drifting back home on the ebb tide.

Another wonderful excursion, also by boat, was along the coast to Scobbiscombe. The weather and the tides had to be just right and we had to have everything correct for such a day out - petrol, food, water, wet weather gear. We usually had two or three boats going, towing our dinghies for landing at Scobbiscombe. This was always tricky as the beach was rocky and we had to ease our way in a dinghy. But what a day it was! We spent most of the time prawning in the rocks. The prawns came rushing in with the tide and then out again when it ebbed. We had a wonderful picnic on the beach and it always seemed to be blazing hot.

The things we did taught us so many things - to swim, fish, row a boat, sail, and to be self-sufficient. Staying at The Gables with the Dents was wonderful. There was only one bathroom and loo for two families and

we sat up the stairs waiting our turn. A large jug of hot water was brought to our bedroom but I don't remember washing being much of a problem.

We had wonderful food, with everything we loved; all puddings swamped in clotted cream which was made by Susie. We had our own sitting room and I do hope we weren't too noisy and destructive. After supper we played games like Racing Demon, which must have been very rowdy. We did not go to the pub, although our parents did. (PC Tucker kept an eye on us and unless he knew we were old enough he wouldn't let us in).

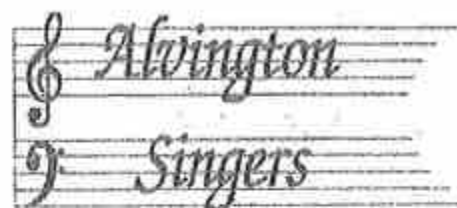
We hardly ever left the village as transport was very difficult. We had a dance at the village hall occasionally and it certainly wasn't like "Come Dancing"! I think now about what it was like to be a teenager then. We had very little money, although I suppose we were

children of privileged families. None of us was interested in clothes. Romance in the sand-dunes did sometimes rear its head, but it was a very innocent affair.

I always stayed with my aunt and uncle and two cousins. My uncle played golf every day and my aunt was left with all of us. She was a great sport and came with us on all the expeditions. One of the things I can't remember was family rows and teenagers being difficult. Why was this, were we too busy?

Then in September 1939, when we were all at Bantham on holiday, war broke out. Overnight we all went our separate ways and did not meet again for four years. Most of us came through these four terrible years and returned to Bantham. *It is not the same, but I say we all caught the Bantham Disease....and it is one of the most beautiful places.*

[The author of this article, Jeanne Sowry (nee Adams) writing from Radlett, describes herself as "...someone seriously ill with the Bantham Disease. For many years my husband and I had the lease of the End Cottage, Bantham. It was the loveliest cottage and we were all so happy there. I still come down, but mostly to Thurlestone now." Ed.]



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HORSWELL DIARY



What a firecracker of an autumn we've been given this year – a last exuberant hurrah to end a lack-lustre summer – the eleventh-hour flourish of a dying season to remind us that whilst stock-market values fall faster than an autumn leaf not everything is gloom and doom and we still have much to celebrate.

We had intended to go "leaf-peeping" in New England this year, to fly and drive and visit friends along the way. But seeing the beautiful colours here in "Old" England, the journey overseas became almost unnecessary. Wherever we looked, skies, sunsets, woodlands, waterways and hedgerows had been splashed with glorious shades of red and yellow, pink and gold, turning every view into an autumn wonderland of breath-taking beauty. Scrunching through the woods on a carpet of leaves I notice that although the sycamores and chestnut trees are almost bare, the leaves of beech and oak and liriiodendron still cling to their rain-soaked branches, shimmering in the currents of the air like shoals of fish swimming through a sea of black coral.

Squirrels race hither and thither across the lawn collecting their provisions while a flock of jackdaws quarrel noisily around our chimney pots. Our lone duck receives frequent visits from passing mallards. He greets them from his island, allowing them to share his pond and his grain for a few days before they fly away. The Guinea fowl and peacocks also help themselves to his food, often sharing it with a wild cock pheasant who comes to join them. Our most recent resident, the buzzard, has become so 'at home' that she hardly bothers to fly away when we approach. We leave bits of food out on the lawn for her. Raw chicken is her favourite, which she speedily consumes.

We also suspect her of eating the three baby Guinea fowl that we had so carefully hatched and nurtured as, sadly, they disappeared without trace soon after we released them.

Now that the wood-burning stove in their room has been lit, the dogs have become lazy, sprawling in front of it and huffing and puffing with the heat. Luckily the sight of us pulling on wellies, hats and coats, and the mention of the word 'beach' soon stirs them from their slumbers and catapults them into action.

As well as enjoying the colours and moods of the ocean from our walks on the shore, I've been lucky enough lately to be able to do quite a bit of sailing, viewing the South Devon landscape from the sea for a change. It has only confirmed to me how fortunate we are to live in this part of the world. Yesterday, sailing back to Torquay from Dartmouth, watching the cormorants dip and dive and the seagulls circling the fishing boats as they pulled up their nets, our sails gull-winged to make the most of a sudden drop in the wind, there was a sense of peace and kinship and the knowledge that it was a moment in my life that I would treasure forever.

Because of the recent full moon the tides lately have been extremely low, exposing fascinating parts of the foreshore I've not previously seen. This latest full moon is, my husband tells me, sometimes called the 'Woodcock' moon because woodcock use it to migrate from Scandinavia to the West coast of Scotland, Wales and Cornwall.

For weeks, seemingly months, the walls of our kitchen and breakfast room had been a patchwork of differing shades of

cream whilst we awaited the arrival of the decorator and his team and tried to accept that after fifteen years, rag-rolled, peach-coloured walls were no longer acceptable. Peach? I hear you wince in pain. But the truth is, peach worked wonderfully well in these large airy rooms, transforming them into a Tuscan palazzo in summer, and in winter, turning every ray of cold sunshine into a warm summer's day. At breakfast, they created a comforting alternative to staying in bed, and at night, by candlelight seemed intimate and welcoming. But alas, the time had come to embrace modern taste, to clear the worktops, remove the clutter and bow to the gods of Dulux, Paint Library, and Farrow and Ball.

So numerous were our choices, I think just a couple more sample pots and we would've had the whole area covered. I had no idea cream had so many variations, becoming utterly confused between them. Did I prefer 'Oak 1' or 'Chalk 2'? Should it be 'Shell' or 'Suede', 'Pelican Throat' or 'Skeleton Coast'? (I kid you not!!) 'New White'? 'Lime White'? 'House White'? 'Sand 1'? 'Sand 2'? or 'Ivory 1'? An impossible choice. Eventually it became a decision by committee. Children, grand-children, friends, visitors, the gardener, housekeeper, carpenter, builder and plumber were all roped in to give their opinion. Mostly, they all chose the original peach, (which by then had been reduced to the same size patch as all the rest), which was not desperately helpful.

Our decorator, Roger, a David Suchet look-alike, popped in from time to time with admirable good humour to see how we were progressing. Resplendent in his snowy white overalls and eager to start work he oversaw our debates, suggesting solutions and looking for clues as to where our ultimate decision might lie with the patience and wisdom of Hercule

Poirot himself. Eventually, we decided on something called 'Irish Linen', a colour best described as somewhere between wet nappies and sour milk.

It has taken a lot of getting used to. Dreams of Tuscan sunsets have been replaced with thoughts of pole stars and northern lights. It all feels very restrained and Gustavian, as if the soundtrack of *Mama Mia* has suddenly been replaced by a symphony by Sibelius or Grieg. The atmosphere is so cool and Nordic I feel rather like a moose lost in the permafrost, or perhaps, bearing in mind the proximity of Christmas, a reindeer roaming amongst the tundra of Lapland.

All my cookery books have been consigned to a shelf in the pantry and apart from a candle and a fruit bowl the surfaces look unnaturally bare. The walls too are now unadorned. Previous paintings of yachts sailing sunny seas looked too incongruous against the new snowy wasteland and have had to be moved elsewhere. Everything looks so clean and uncluttered I now understand why those people one sees featured in magazines, photographed in their sleek, modern kitchens, look so unnatural and underfed. Cooking is clearly out of the question, lest a spot of oil should smear the worktop or splash the pristine paintwork. Perhaps, unwittingly, I have discovered the ultimate diet secret..... redecorate your kitchen.

All this new minimalism may be in keeping with the austerity of our times but as we huddle around the Aga I can't help thinking that the blue-fir Christmas tree looks more at home here than we do, and if any of those migrating wood-cock are passing by and feeling homesick, perhaps they might like to drop in and see us.

Happy Christmas!

Prunella Dart

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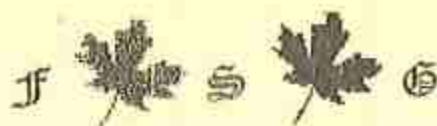
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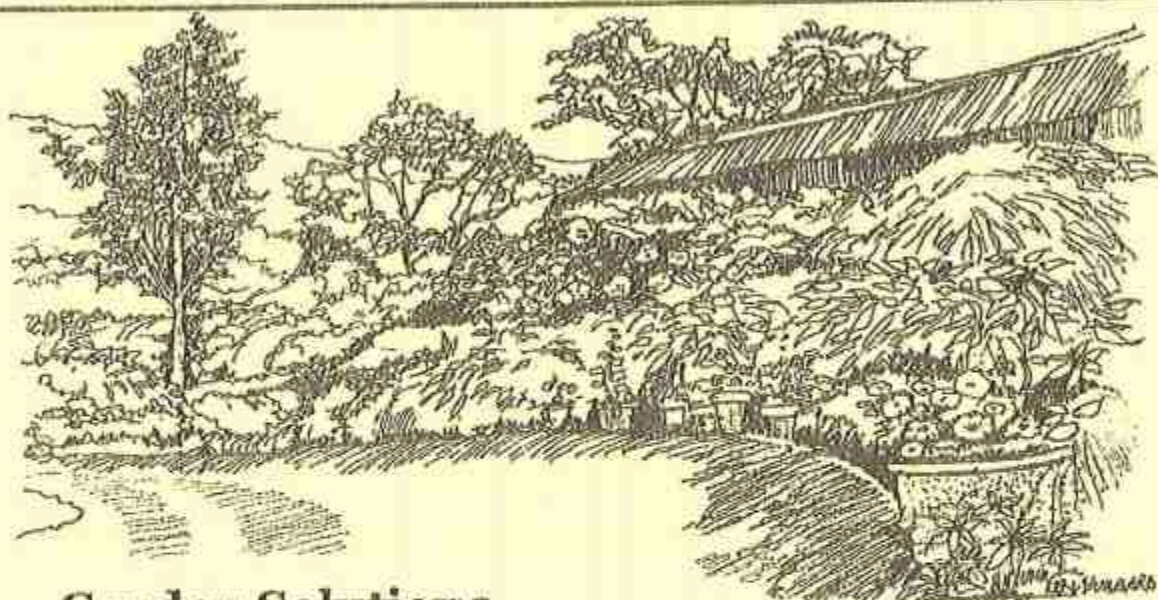
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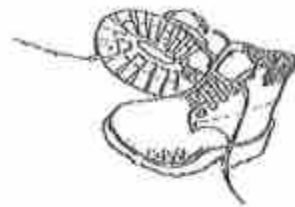
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TRAMP



1 Despite holidays and various other commitments, five stalwarts and two dogs made the journey to Woodbury on what was a dry but cloudy 17th September. Apart from Sally and myself, none of the others had walked on the Common before, and were very surprised at how varied it was. The seven plus miles included fields, woods, quarries and open heath land with the many ups and downs common to Devon.

We had however chosen a day when the Royal Marines from Lympstone happened to be on manoeuvres. This gave great pleasure to the two dogs as they flushed out the carefully camouflaged soldiers! The common has been an exercise area and in the past a camp since the early 1900s.

Our chosen lunch stop was occupied by fully-armed Commandos, so we quickly and wisely moved on to the next suitable spot. As we left the Common towards the end of the walk the sound of distant gunfire reminded us that the Commandos were still crawling through the bracken.

This will be our swan-song as far as organising walks are concerned, so we now both bow out leaving just Rosemary as the last of the original members. Many thanks to all past and present members who have helped to make our many walks so memorable. This goes particularly to the late Stuart Reynolds, and to Audrey, who started TRAMP those many years ago....when anything less than eight to ten miles was considered a morning stroll!

Derek & Sally Yeoman

2 A group of ten walkers - but sadly no dogs - assembled on the 9th October at the Victoria Inn car park, Ashburton. We set off and followed the bottom edge of a muddy slope adjacent to the clear, fast-flowing little River Ashburn.

As the adventurers marched north, they clambered gingerly over several stone stiles, eventually reaching the path through the

deciduous woodland of Whiddon Scrubbs. Beyond the river-edged woodland, the group turned right on to a mile long stony uphill track to Owlescombe from where a panoramic view of southern Dartmoor could be enjoyed.

A brief stop for refreshment preceded the beginning of the descent towards the A38, past the impressive colonial-style architecture of Waye House into the expansive campus of South Devon Community College. Finally, the happy band strode manfully (and womanfully!) down the slopes of Terrace Walk, returning to the Victoria Inn in order to replenish used energies in the traditional manner.

Graham Palmer

3 Five walkers and an eager dog made their way over an ancient bridge on Trendlemoor Down on a chilly autumn day (16th October) heading for Lustleigh Cleave. Prior to starting the walk we had our usual debate about the exact length it would be!

We found our way successfully through the maze of woodland paths and on to Hunters Tor. A drinks stop was an excuse to check that the Logan Stone was still balanced on the edge and we recollected the story of the ghostly Legions said to march across the top of the Tor. We also admired the view of Haytor and Lustleigh Vale. We picnicked under the shelter of some large rocks and noticed a herd of cows meandering nearer and nearer to the gate through which we were about to go on the next stage of our walk.

Wending our way around a cow, we wound down by the farm and then on to the very picturesque bridge at Foxworthy. Here we relaxed a while before threading our way back through the wood to a now very new and very stable bridge....but some of our party thought it would be more fun to wobble across the old one!

Our way then led us over rough cobbles and rocks by the ever-beautiful Bovey River. (Here there were challenges made to certain

members to try their balancing skills on logs stretched across the river!). But on and on, and by now we were all beginning to tire particularly with the slow grind up the last lap to the car. The dog however was leaping along, carrying an enormous log.

There was another enthusiastic but light-hearted discussion about whether the walk was eight or nine miles long. One member though it was more like twenty-five!

Heather & Richard Swan

4 Thirteen of us, a baker's dozen, went to Stover Park, on 22nd October, and we didn't lose any buns on the way. On arrival the heavens were very busy opening, so many anoraks were donned and umbrellas put up. We set off through the trees and by the time we reached open country it was a fine autumn day. Our back marker wore a very bright pink waterproof, so no one lagged.

We saw a very fine collection of birds on the many stretches of water, which pleased those with 'bins' (the modern word for binoculars), although I can't say we looked other than a group of old dears - with perhaps one or two exceptions (added hastily in case I upset or malign anyone!) It was an easy 4-5 miles - and back in time for a mass descent on Trago.

Rosemary Mackay

5 Yet again we were extremely lucky with the weather. Wednesday 12th November was a still, sunny day, after a run of terrible weather. Eleven trampers enjoyed a very indulgent circular walk from Malborough to North Sands.

Although only a 4.5 mile walk, we took a coffee stop at *The Winking Prawn* mid-morning, where we sat outside and basked in the November warmth. The sea sparkled and the colours of the trees were a particular bonus. We took a route through Maryknowle and Motherhill Farms, then Hangar Mill which was new to most of the group, and returned past some pretty thatched cottages at Combe. We certainly made the most of a fine autumn day!

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December Double Header

Saturday 6th December is a pretty crowded date in the local calendar, with all the Kingsbridge celebrations getting underway that day. In Thurlestone, however, we have our own "double-header" of events beginning with the "Tastes of Christmas" at the Parish Hall from 7.00 pm, followed at the Village Inn by our own barbershop singers, the **Magnum Quartet** at 8.00 pm. Refreshed and replete with Christmas fare you can be suitably soothed or stimulated by the Village Inn's son et bière. Enjoy!

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POSTBAG



Dear Editor

**Thanks from Staff at the Post Office
& Village Store**

We would like to say a big thank you to all the villagers who helped to empty the shop after the fire, and then wash and clean the salvageable stock. In particular we must thank Mrs Gillan, who kept us all going in the Portakabin with hot drinks and scrummy biscuits. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will be fully refurbished and operational, and ready to help make your Christmas go with a swing.

**Sarah, Noelle, Christine,
& all the staff**

Dear Editor

Thurlestone Sands

So the debate on Thurlestone Sands v South Milton Sands has crossed the bay now, I see! It has been a gentle contentious issue in the recent South Huish parish magazine.

In some ways it's very simple - it has been Thurlestone Sands going back a very long way. We have maps showing it as this in the nineteenth century. Indeed it obviously should refer to the beach associated with the "thurled stone".

However, it is privately owned and the previous owner decided, when he bought it, to rename it South Milton Sands, and this the National Trust inherited when it was donated to them...and they have continued to maintain that name. It's probably no different to a house when it changes hands - the owner can change the name as he or she sees fit.

It's interesting to note that Highways are somewhat confused as there is a fingerpost at Galampton Cross signing Thurlestone Sands correctly, and two in South Milton pointing down to Thurlestone village. The confusion will probably remain unless we wish

to try and persuade the National Trust to change back; but I suspect it's been too long now.

We were very sorry to read of Hubert Snowdon's passing - we remember several very good letters and articles from him.

**Peter & Di Stafford
The White House
Thurlestone Sands**

Dear Editor

WI Help Line

At last I was allowed out of hospital, having over-stayed my welcome I felt, though they were very good to me. When home I realized then that I was now alone - and my heart began to sink (even though I had Tesco deliver before I went to Torbay). I sat down with a mug of coffee and started to open the mail - there was a card from the WI Help Line with a telephone number. My heart began climbing up from my boots.

They were marvellous - sorting out transport to various appointments at the South Hams and the Health Centre, arranging for my shopping to be done and, best of all, keeping my fridge full of delicious soups and meals. Judith was great the way she drove me over to West Charleton so that I could give the exercises to the Rejuvenated Teenagers every week. Friends very kindly took the dogs for a walk in the morning and afternoon till I was able to walk that far into the field.

All I was able to do by way of thanks for all the help given to me was to mend and alter trouser lengths - a sitting down job at my machine.

Now after six weeks I have won my freedom and am able to drive again. Please do not hesitate to contact the WI Help Line, as my name is now also on the list of helpers. Very many thanks to you all.

**Pat Crawford
Baidland
Thurlestone**





SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 7:00 p.m.



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Tuesday 13th January - "The Italian Lakes"

An illustrated talk by Odette Bailey, our Secretary, and accomplished photographer. At West Alvington Village Hall. Entrance £2.50 including tea and biscuits. All welcome.

Thursday 29th January - Coffee Morning at the Thurlestone Hotel

A warm welcome awaits at this lovely hotel overlooking Thurlestone's spectacular coastline. Entrance £2.50 including coffee. All welcome.

For more information about these events, or information on joining the National Trust South Hams Centre, please contact Midge Elliott on 01548-562017 (9am to 5 pm only please).

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The weather appears to be improving after an abysmal period for golfers and my Captaincy is coming to an end. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time especially visiting other clubs for matches and entertaining them at Thurlestone for the return - all very convivial. Thurlestone members have all been very kind to me during my year and I thank them - especially the ones who had their arms twisted to play in the club matches. Perhaps I should also thank their spouses for letting them off their chores for that day.

The Captain and Professional, and the Two Captains Challenge to other members were also most enjoyable and I thank **Peter Laughner** and **Lindsey Fletcher**, the Ladies Captain, for their enthusiasm and participation in these matches. In the Captain and Pro matches we played 8 and lost only one to a couple of members who were really on form (and I wasn't!). Similarly with the Two Captains we managed to play 5 and again lost only one - this time to an eagle on the 15th and a birdie on the 18th holes. How can one compete with that!

Our recent Presentation Evening for all of the competition winners was a great success, enjoyed by all who attended. It was fantastic to see all of the beautiful cups and trophies on display for both the Ladies and Men together with the glassware as prizes. Please look on Peter Laughner's website - I am sure that you will be able to find some pictures of the event.

I would like to wish **Nick Nicholson** who will be taking over as Captain on January 1st, all the very best for his year, and also to **Liz Line** the Ladies Captain.

Good luck and happy golfing, weather of course permitting, to all who play at Thurlestone for 2009, and to **Vic Dyer** and his staff who look



after our course so well. Very many thanks to everyone for their support. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year

Roger Hind

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

My last letter ended by reporting three holes-in-one, each player having the surname beginning with "W". Amazingly, another hole-in-one has been recorded - this time at the third hole by **Leslie Davey**, an up and coming player who appeared to have broken the "W" requirementuntil we discovered that her maiden name had been **Wills**! There are only thirteen more members whose names begin with "W", so it's up to you girls.

It seems a long time since my Captain's Day, but I must here record that the overall winner was Thurlestone resident **Lynn Hicks**, who was delighted to receive a photograph of Bigbury Bay as her prize.

After a summer of competitions, open meetings and matches against other clubs, it is always pleasant to do something entirely for our own members. This is known as the Closed Meeting, when only members can take part and win cups and prizes. A number of silver trophies have been given over the years for this event, and these are much sought after. The top award for the best gross score (the Marshall Salver), was taken by **Wendy Laud** with a gross 76, beating **Jenny Roberts** by one shot. The best score in the Bronze Division (for the Montgomerie Rose Bowl), was won by **Leslie Saifin**, with a gross 98, and the Veterans' handicap (Pearl Rowland trophy) went to **Mary Johnson** with a net 75.

Many of you will remember the people who gave these trophies and it was particularly pleasing that **Joan Mackenzie** and **Kit Marshall**

were able to present the prizes in person.

An unusual event recently has been a Bowmaker competition, organised by the Devon Ladies' County Captain, **Sue Persey**, who chose Thurlestone as the venue, because of its popularity, not only for the course itself but also for the delicious food always produced by our chef, **Duncan Prowse**. The Bowmaker is a three ball team event and it attracted players from 22 clubs out of the 28 in Devon, from as far apart as Bigbury and Ilfracombe, Yelverton and Budleigh. The weather co-operated to a certain extent, being cloudy and windy but dry, which produced some good golf. None of the local teams won prizes but were happy to entertain visitors from other clubs and spread the reputation of Thurlestone even further.

Our team away day, for teams and caddies, was held at China Fleet club on the other side of the Tamar. This was a chance for many to play a course they didn't know well and was voted a great success by all. Other chances to play unfamiliar courses were given by away friendly fixtures at St Enedoc in Cornwall and at Bristol and Clifton where we received wonderful hospitality.

Another annual event at this time of year is the Lady Captain's team versus the Ladies' Secretary's team. I am happy to report that this year the Captain's team was victorious. So you can see that as well as our weekly competitions Thurlestone members enjoy many exciting opportunities well into the autumn.

We are now looking forward to our winter programme, when we have 'fun' events every Wednesday, designed to mix everyone up and enable people to get to know each other better. There is also the Christmas lunch and dinner to look forward to and the Ladies AGM, when the Captaincy will pass to **Liz Line** from Salcombe. As she doesn't actually take office until the 'play in' on New Year's Day 2009, this will therefore not be my last newsletter for Village Voice, so more next time.

Lindsey Fletcher

JUNIORS' SECTION NEWSLETTER

The last major junior competition between the West Devon League teams was the Strashleigh Cup, held at Thurlestone on Saturday 4th October. Eight Devon clubs were originally entered but three of them could not raise a team, so Thurlestone, Staddon Heights, Yelverton, Dartmouth, and Elfordleigh had to fight it out on the day. The format consisted of a team of 7 juniors and one of the Junior Organisers. They each had to complete 18 holes and record their score in Stableford points. The scores were then added together and the team with the highest total won.

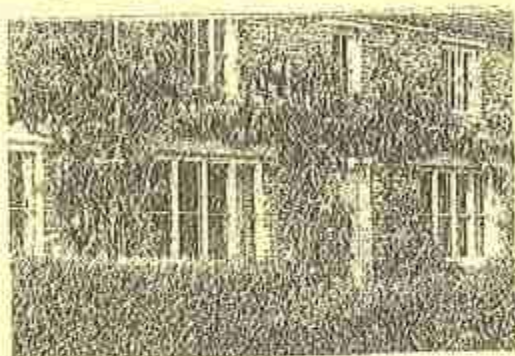
The weather was terrible and due to strong winds and driving rain the competition was reduced to 9 holes. Winners were Yelverton with 117 points, 2nd Staddon Heights with 102 points, and 3rd Thurlestone with 100 points. Well done the Thurlestone team of juniors; **Beth Peters, Laura Tregelles, Jamie Johnson, Robert Came, Tom Leach, Beth Yeoman, Callum Tollins** and **Hugh Bodger**, one of the Junior Organisers.

The October junior competition on Saturday 25th October was an Adult and Junior Canadian foursomes over 9 holes. With 8 pairs entered the winners off the red and yellow tees were **Beth Yeoman** and **Liz Savery** with 25 points, 2nd **Will Sarjeant** and **Lindsey Fletcher** 22 points on countback from **Robert Came** and **Tim Poyser**. The winners off the blue tees were **George Holland** and **Kevin Mingo** (18 points) with runners up a Grandmother and grandson team of **Val Favis** and **Sam Favis** (17 points).

In January, **Pam St Leger** will take over from me as Girls Junior Organiser, so she will be writing the next newsletter, and I wish her well and thank her for volunteering. Before that we have our November 9 hole Stableford competition, followed by a buffet and annual prize giving on Saturday 22nd November, and I hope a good number of our juniors and parents will support it.

Liz Line

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

	4			6			3	
6	5						9	8
		3				5		
		9		5		6		
	6		8				5	
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	8			4			1	

Easy

No. 31

				7			1	
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Easy

No. 32

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

Medium

No. 31

8	5	9						3
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9		3			4			
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Medium

No. 32

SUDOKU - Another four part challenge!

Sadly, no all-correct solution to our previous competition was received, so the bottle of our vintage *chateau sudoku* remains in the cellar! With plenty of leisure time over the festive season, and probably a few wet days as well, this is a great opportunity for ALL sudoku aficionados to throw their hats in the ring, rouse the grey matter, and try to get the New Year off to a winning start. Entries to 25 Mead Lane by 5th Jan 2009 please.



At the Bridge Table



After a gap of several editions, and in response to popular request (from at least three parishioners!), I am restarting my bi-monthly articles. As some will know, the gap was due to the death of my wife and long-time bridge partner in early August. I mention this simply to say that in addition to much support from family and friends, I have found playing bridge of great help in getting me through the most difficult period of my life. Many thanks to my partners, of whom there have been eight different ones in the last three months. It is a great game from both the social and intellectual aspects.

Turning to the game itself, I have noticed many variations in the standard of evaluating hands for opening 1 No-trump (12-14 points) bids. Essentially it is a matter of commonsense rather than complicated methods such as the losing trick count in making a bid which may well end up in the most common of game contracts - 3NT. In looking at the make-up of the point count in a No Trump hand, we find aces and kings are often overrated, whereas queens, jacks, tens and nines are worth more than their usual values. Personally, I always give half a point to a ten and add a point for a 5 card suit.

Hopefully, the following hands will illustrate what I mean.

	A	B	C
Spades	A 4 3	Q J 9	K J 8
Hearts	A 5 4 3	Q 9	Q J 7
Diamonds	A 4 2	K 10 9 8 7	Q J 19 9 8
Clubs	Q 5 2	K 10 3	A 10

Hand A appears to be a maximum for a 12-14 point 1 No Trump, but the make-up is all wrong - all aces and no "stuffing". If your partner raises to 2 NT to show 11 points, think twice before you bid 3NT.

Hand B has only 11 high card points but this should not prevent a 1NT opening. Revaluing for the tens, a five card suit, and the ample "stuffing" makes the hand worth at least 13 points - and if partner showed 11 points, I would be happy to go to 3 NT in Teams, where missing a game can be fatal. In Pairs the bid would be marginal because some players might throw the hand in.

Hand C is not a maximum 1 NT opener. If you revalue it on the lines suggested for the previous hand, it is far too good. So open 1 Diamond and be prepared to re-bid 1 NT to show a hand worth 15/16 points.

Hands of the 4-4-4-1 variety and 12/13 points are often troublesome to bid and can be passed. When there are good intermediate cards some partnerships solve the problem by bidding 1 NT. Not to my liking, but if you do adopt it remember to tell your opponents that the bid may include a singleton. Otherwise under the rules of duplicate bridge it will be an illegal partnership understanding.

This reference above to the rules of bridge reminds me that several minor changes have been made as from 1 August -

1. After play of a hand has finished, each player should shuffle his or her 13 cards before replacing them in the board. (You have to be really clever to gain from seeing the order in which tricks were played!!)
2. Dummy can no longer ask a defender whether he has revoked. He can still ask declarer.
3. Defenders can now ask one another whether they have revoked (an improvement, I think).
4. It is made clear that it is improper to ask a question solely for partner's benefit!

Victor

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YOUTH IN THE PARISH

Compiled by Dale Came

Thurlestone's Young Gymnasts

Kingsbridge Gymnastics Club held their annual Club Championships on October 19th, which saw six children from our parish scoop numerous medals and cups. Each gymnast competed against others of similar ability, in groups of about 10 children, on the vault, trampette and floor and some performed on the bars and beam.

Tilly McCarthy, aged 8, came 1st with her floor routine, and her brother **Wilf**, aged 6, was 2nd on trampette and 3rd on the floor. **Molly McIntosh**, aged 8, won the cup in her class winning 1st place on the floor and vault and 3rd on trampette. **Emily Lawrence**, aged 9, came 1st on vault and trampette, 3rd on the floor and 2nd with her duet. **Abbie Newman**, aged 9, won the cup in her class winning 1st place on bars, 2nd on the floor, vault and beam and 3rd place with her pairs routine. Her brother **Tom**, aged 7, also won the cup in his class scooping 1st place on the floor, vault and beam.

Congratulations to you all on such great performances.

Bantham SLC 2008 Season

Two words best describe Summer 08, wet and busy! The summer (if the word is appropriate for June, July and August) was as you know mostly wet and windy with a lot of unseasonable swell. This coupled with the great British public's steely resolve to go to the beach because *'we've paid for a beach holiday'* seemed to lead them in droves to the local store, purchase a cheap wetsuit and boogie board and gleefully abandon any sense of self responsibility by dropping into raging seas.

Consequently, much practice was gained for both RNLI paid and club volunteer lifeguards in challenging conditions using tube, rescue board and IRB (inflatable rescue boat).

A great season for club development saw **Duncan Norris** successfully pass his instructors qualification by coaching 7 new

seniors through their NARS, and **Kathy Norris** and **Mike Elliot** ably assisted by a gang of parent helpers regularly trained 70 plus nippers and juniors in sea survival and first aid.

Ashley Yeoman

Ashley Yeoman, 16, has always been a keen footballer, playing for both Thurlestone and Kingsbridge schools, along with KM United. Five months ago Ashley joined Torquay United as an apprentice footballer.

Although living in South Milton he has very strong ties with Thurlestone. His grandmother Jean is a well-known resident and Ashley attended both Pearsons and All Saints School before moving to Kingsbridge Community College.

Along with ten other trainees Ashley has been playing games against other South West professional clubs. He has progressed well and has been involved in Torquay United 1st team games, making the subs bench on two occasions. Against Oxford he played the last 20 minutes to become the fourth youngest player to play for Torquay. This game was also live on TV, which made it an extra special moment for him and his family. Although Ashley has impressed at this early stage, his goal is to earn a full contract when his apprenticeship deal ends.

Good luck Ashley and we will keep everyone updated with his progress.

Thurlestone's Young Entrepreneurs

Our budding entrepreneurs will be selling their hand made cards, jewellery and driftwood art at All Saints Christmas Fair on Friday 5 December and at the Kingsbridge Youth Market on Saturday 6 December. No doubt they have been busy preparing for these events. We wish them every success.

Youth News

If you have any items please e-mail **Dale Came** at dale@camelotfloridarentals.co.uk



NEWS FROM THE WI



October

The evening birthday picnic cruise upriver to Salcombe was very pleasant with the sighting of an osprey, egrets and then, one-by-one, the lights twinkling from the shore as darkness descended, but perhaps the most pleasing sight was a wonderful harvest moon on the return journey! The cake stall did well at the Parish Hall's autumn fair and **Pat Crawford** expressed appreciation for the help she had from fellow members during her recent incapacity. The speaker was **April Faulkner** of the Peninsula College of Medicine & Dentistry (its new name) Of the four oak saplings presented to every WI in the country by the NFWI, one would be planted in the President's garden and three at other sites in the parish.

November

The monthly meeting opened on a sad note, as members held a short silence to remember a much loved member, **Lyn Clements** (**Wendy Neukirchen's** mum) who had sadly died, and a very moving letter from Wendy was read.

This is election time, but we are happy to report that the same Officers remain - **Joan Booth** the President, **Judith Le Grice** the Secretary and **Lisa White** the Treasurer - and they were all warmly thanked for what they have done over the past year to make our WI enjoyable and thriving. **Pat Clarke** and **Julie Hanham** are retiring from committee and their commitment was also acknowledged and appreciated. The other members on the committee are: **Shirley Barnes**, **Val Brown**, **Margaret Cullum**, **Chris Field**, **Heather Hickey**, **Jen Heatley**, **Margaret Illingworth**, **Mary Johnson**, **Pam Knight** and **Mary Tregelles**.

Joan Booth, in giving her presidential address, thanked the membership for "...the loving support I have received which has made it such an enjoyable year for me..." (and for us too, Joan!).

Irene Fox received a birthday posy and when it was revealed, to our amazement, that she is

celebrating her 91st (!) we all sang 'Happy Birthday' for her with extra gusto!

At teatime **Deidre Franke** came from St Luke's Hospice to chat to us about their (and associated charities) work. It was a very illuminating, necessarily brief, talk and we look forward to hearing more about this later.

Concert

The highlight of our birthday year was the concert supper held on the 1st November. A **Val Brown** extravaganza was put on and this, combined with Judith's wonderful piano-playing (without which it would not have been possible) ensured much enjoyment by the cast and, judging by the applause, the audience too. Covering the period 1928 to 2008, there were readings from our records - all the high-spots, the achievements, national resolutions, snapshots of village life - interspersed with songs, dances, poems and music appropriate to the era. Here we also have to thank the men in our lives, the performers as well as the technicians, who all added that extra touch. As a result, £320 will be sent to the Triangle Centre to be used for South Hams patients. A happy way to end our special year!

Future Events

Thursday 11th December

Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1.00 pm,

Friday 12th December

Group Carol Service at Thurlestone church, 2.30 pm with tea in the Church Meeting Room to follow.

Next Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 8th January 2009. The speaker, **Jeremy Wells**, will talk to us about those industrious little creatures, Bees. If anyone who is not a member would like to hear this talk, please come as a visitor - you would be made most welcome.

Here's wishing all our members a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to seeing you all, if not at the Christmas events, in 2009.



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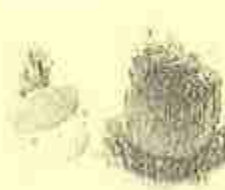
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BOOKSHELF



The Last Days of Henry VIII

by Robert Hutchinson
(Phoenix non-fiction £8.99)

If you've enjoyed the recent tv series, *The Tudors*, about Henry's early reign, you may enjoy reading this book which is about the last four years of his life (1543-47). The tv show was historically adrift in parts but this very readable book is certainly not. Just as enjoyable as *The Tudors*, it is also scholarly and well researched. The once splendid prince was towards the end of his life suffering great pain from illnesses which at that time could not be cured. It was believed that this made him both paranoid and melancholic, reducing those around him to living in great fear of his aggression - even his 6th wife, Katherine Parr, came close to losing her life. He was capable of remorseless cruelty. He was now seldom seen in public, increasingly unable to walk unaided, although still ruling through terror and manipulating the rival factions at his court with great skill.

There are many revelations - death warrants, confessions, pleas for mercy, evidence of blackmail, double dealing - and the uncertain atmosphere of the times is well conveyed. It is said that some 150,000 of his subjects (some his wives, best friends and distant relatives) were judicially murdered during his 37 year reign, and this at a time when this country's total population was under three million. An interesting local fact emerged from the book. The king's closest confidante in this period was Sir Anthony Denny, a Chief Gentleman of the Privy Chamber. Sir Anthony's wife was Joan, daughter of Sir Philip Champernown of Modbury. Apparently an attractive and interesting woman with a strong adherence to the reformed religion, she bore Sir Anthony twelve children and became lady-in-waiting to queen number four, Anne of Cleves, and later to queen number six, Katherine Parr.

Henry died at the age of 55 in 1547, weighing just under 30 stones and riddled with sickness, but he is arguably the most colourful and famous king England has ever produced..

Pat Macdonald

The Suspicions of Mr Whicher

or The Murder at Road Hill House
by Kate Summerscale
(Bloomsbury £11.99)

In 1842 the first detectives were appointed by the London Metropolitan Police. Mr Whicher was one of these early detectives, sent to investigate a murder in 1860 at Road, a village on the (then) Wiltshire/Somerset border. Kate Summerscale follows these investigations, along the way giving us fascinating details of early detection methods, the reactions of newspapers of the time, and the growing popularity of detective stories which were influenced by the murder. Eager members of the public wrote to the press and Scotland Yard with their solutions to the crime. As the author says, this was a classic 'country house' mystery where the inhabitants all had secrets to hide. An intriguing read, which will keep you guessing until the end!

Carolyn Taylor

In Tearing Haste

Letters between Deborah Devonshire
& Patrick Leigh Fermor.
Edited by Charlotte Mosley
(John Murray £25.00)

These are some of the letters exchanged, over fifty years, between Deborah, Duchess of Devonshire, and travel writer Patrick Leigh Fermor. Each has also produced quite a lot of highly readable books, but on totally dissimilar subjects. Hers are mainly about rural life as a farmer and, as chatelaine of one of England's greatest houses, about Chatsworth. His are generally concerned with foreign travel, written from his Greek home.

Their platonic correspondence began in the 1950s, after Patrick had stayed with the Devonshires. Debo and Paddy (as they call each other) shared the same high spirits, warmth, and a great zest for life. Never malicious, the letters are about things which caught their interest and they knew the other would be amused. Both sparkle with wit and insight. Hers are generally breezy and spontaneous. His are as beautifully crafted as his books - although occasionally just a few lines



BOOKSHELF



long, headed "In unbelievable haste" or "With one foot in the stirrup" - hence the book's title. They are now aged 88 and 93 respectively. Having enjoyed an earlier book about the Mitford sisters, of whom of course Deborah was one, this new book was not to be missed. It did not disappoint.

Pat Macdonald

The Great Western Beach

by Emma Smith
(Bloomsbury £14.99)

From 1923 until 1935 Emma Smith (then Elspeth Hallsmith) lived with her family in Newquay, and this is a beautifully written account of those childhood years. Newquay was a very different place then - Tolcarne was the 'smart' beach, Towan a bit rougher and the Great Western Beach 'middle class'.

Elspeth's father returned from WW1 hoping to become a recognised artist, but instead was forced to become a bank clerk. He takes out his frustrations on his children and his wife, whose popularity makes him resent her even more. However, this is not one of those tortured childhood memoirs that seem to fill the bookshops. Instead, Emma Smith writes with

great humour and elegance. The Great Western Beach forms the backdrop, where Elspeth enjoys peaceful and happy times with her mother, brother, sister and friends during the long summers. We see through the child's eyes the characters she encounters - the Italian ice-cream sellers, the beach huts taken down to the water each day, the social climbing of her father via the tennis club, the never-to-be-admitted poverty, the home-made frocks. This is a lovely book and one which leaves you longing to know what happens next!

Carolyn Taylor

Beach Music

by Pat Conroy
(Black Swan paperback)

This is such a well-written book told by a man who is just recovering in Rome from the suicide of his wife - off a bridge in South Carolina. He gradually peels off all the layers of his life, his childhood spent in the fun and nature of South Carolina and all the companions who shared his journey. Sensitive, historical, and interesting, this book makes one want to visit what would seem a rather magical US state.

Rosemary Mackay

ANSWERS TO AUTUMN FAIR PICTURE QUIZ

The winner was **Nicky Came** of Thurlestone. The photographs of Kingsbridge were:

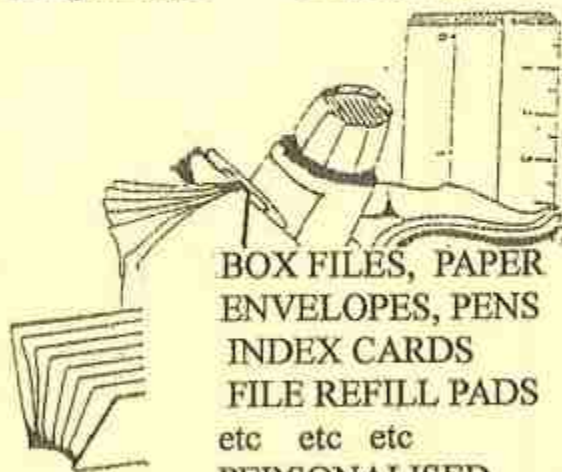
- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Norton Brook Clinic bridge | 11. Information Centre, The Quay |
| 2. The Anchor Centre | 12. Leisure Centre |
| 3. Richmond Terrace, off Duncombe St. | 13. The Promenade |
| 4. King's Market | 14. Recreation Ground |
| 5. Stags, Healthwise, Nicola's, Fore St | 15. Harbour House |
| 6. St Edmunds Church | 16. Cookworthy Museum |
| 7. Town Hall | 17. Ebrington St |
| 8. Lloyds TSB, Fore St | 18. Market House, Church St |
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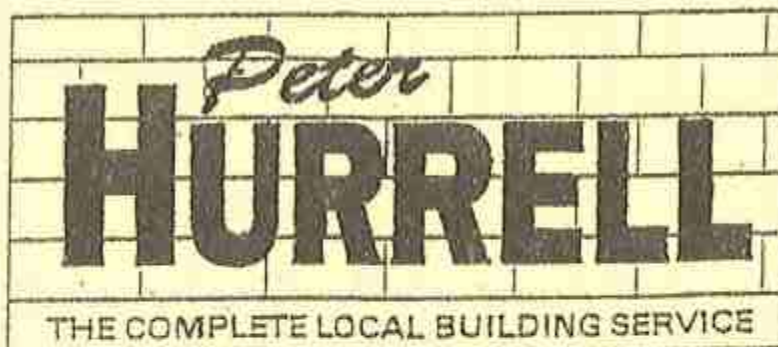
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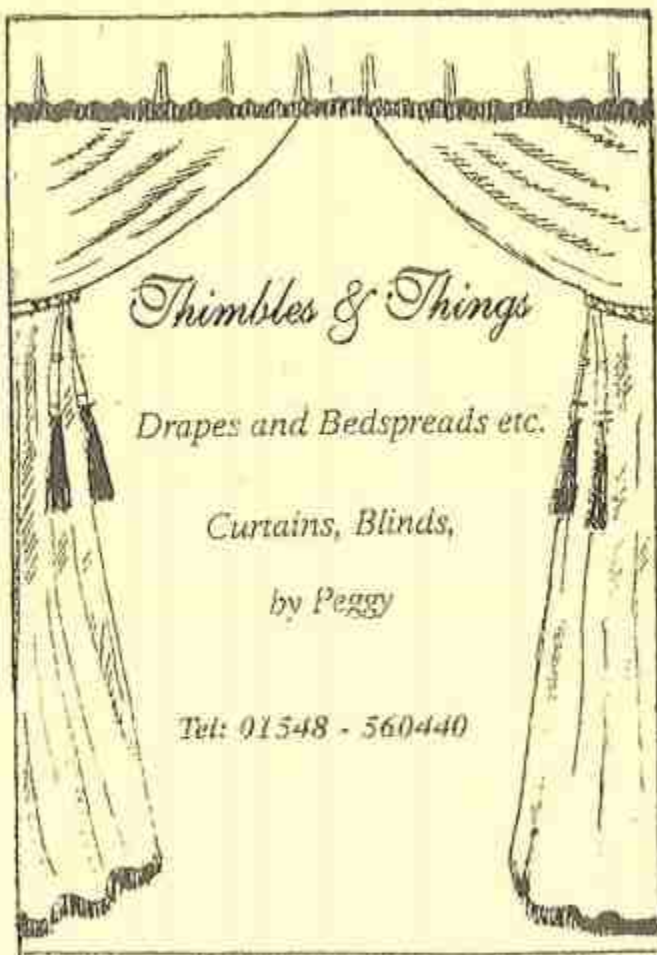
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Wonderful food need not cost a fortune. Try this easy recipe as a supper or lunch dish over the festive season. There's a huge selection of sausages available and pork based ones tend to have a great affinity with apple and cider. If you wish to splash out try some venison ones. Either way you will enjoy this delicious casserole. The recipe is for 4 people but may be doubled or trebled if you are catering for a large gathering. The dish is very good tempered and will last happily for another half-hour in a lower oven once cooked. Serve with jacket or mashed potatoes and briefly cooked crisp cabbage.

Casserole of sausages in apple and cider sauce

Ingredients:

- ✓ 8-12 good sized sausages of your choice
- ✓ Tablespoon cooking oil
- ✓ 1 large onion finely chopped
- ✓ 4oz/100g sliced button mushrooms
- ✓ 1 dessert spoon plain flour
- ✓ ¾ pt medium cider
- ✓ 1 small cooking apple peeled, cored and roughly chopped
- ✓ 1 eating apple, peeled, cored and cut into slices
- ✓ Bouquet of fresh thyme sprigs or a pinch of dried thyme
- ✓ Salt and pepper to taste
- ✓ Freshly chopped parsley to garnish

Preparation:

- ★ Grill the sausages to brown the skins. Set aside in an oven proof casserole dish.
- ★ Heat cooking oil in a pan, add the onion, allow to lightly brown over a medium heat and then reduce heat to let onion sweat with the pan lid on.
- ★ Add the sliced mushrooms and cook until the juices run freely.
- ★ Mix in the flour and slowly add the cider. Stir until the sauce thickens.
- ★ Add both the apples and cook until soft. The cooking apple will become mushy and the eating apple should hold its shape.
- ★ Season to taste and add the thyme.
- ★ Simmer gently for about 10 minutes and pour over the sausages.
- ★ Cook for a further ½ - ¾ hr in a moderate oven.
- ★ Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

Enjoy with friends and family and have a very happy Christmas

25 YEARS AGO

The Sounds and Smells of Bygone Days

by Daphne Julian (December 1983)

I can recall many forgotten sounds and smells of my youth in South Milton, and wish to bring them to the reader's mind....

In the late summer, the sound of the brasses jingling on the harness of the cart horses as they plodded around a field in ever-decreasing circles, drawing a reaper binder behind them. Near the hedges stood the whining dogs waiting in anticipation for a rabbit to scamper from the last cut of the corn, and then one barking and chasing it until it was finally caught.

The sweet smell of the breath of a working horse as it stood waiting and resting with a nose bag over its ears, munching fresh oats.

The clicking of the hand shears as the Devon sheep were shorn, and smelling the lanoline from the fleece as it was deftly clipped, every now and again nicking the pink skin, where immediately a dab of tar was put on it to stop infection. The docile ewe would grunt as she gazed with frightened eyes from between the legs of the farmer.

There was the old fat sow, foraging the dark brown earth in many a cottage back garden, surrounded by piglets who squealed with delight when swill (boiled in a copper) was thrown in from an old bucket. Hens clucked lazily as they wandered around the quiet roads, hopping up into hedges to lay their eggs, and after fulfilling their mission squawking as they looked for food in the field, scratching and pecking happily. At dusk the 'gleanies' would be heard screeching in the trees, and were as good as any watchdog.

I well remember the smell of apples being crushed in the Pound House, and the pure apple juice being poured into barrels, and then taken by cart to the farmhouse cellar - filling the house with the strong smell of fermenting wine.

Around the cottages there would be the sound of people polishing the black-leaded Lidstone stoves, the cane carpet beaters being used on rugs thrown over clotheslines...and then the wonderful smell of baking from spotless little kitchens...Teddy cake, full of fruit and good dripping, real saffron

dough cakes, leek and potato pudding, and from the larger kitchens of the farmhouses, home produced roasting beef and goose fat buns. It was in these farms that you could smell the sweetness of the old-fashioned dairies. Standing on large stone slabs, big round enamel pans full of rich milk left to rise, and then the yellow crusty cream scraped off with a special flat ladle. Beside the pans a wooden safe where bread and apple tarts would be cooling. Buying a pasty then for 6 old pence meant that at the first bite, the contents of warm meat and potato would fill the air with a delicious aroma.

Mangle clamps, or caves, as they were called, would be opened in the winter and the faintly musty smell would drift out, the orange mangles would be deftly thrown into the waiting cart, one mangle on each prong of the pitchfork. The clamp would have the damp straw replaced, and on the way to feeding the stock one would fall out with a thud, roll to the side of the road, to be run over by the wheel of a following cart.

Those lovely rich voices of the Devon men as they threw sheaves of straw to more men on top of a rick, while the traction engine rattled and shook beside them....and then later in the evening listening to them in their allotments passing the time of day with each other as they sliced the earth with their long-handled Devon shovels, and as they gathered the fruits of their toils their leather gaiters squeaking as they rubbed against their heavy boots.

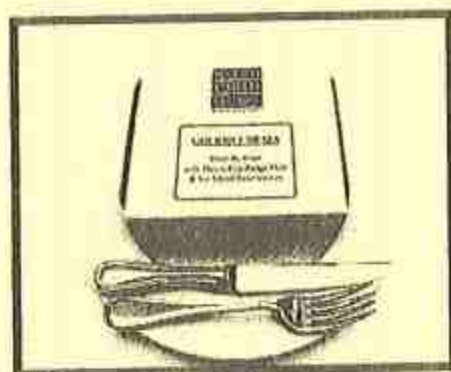
On Sundays the village would vibrate with the peal of church bells both morning and evening, and in the afternoons everyone seemed to be walking, either to the beach or around the lanes, acknowledging each other as they met. The centre of the village was often filled with the sound of the farmer, on horseback, driving his herd of Red Devon cows and shouting "Help! Help!" that being the name of his working dog!

The hedges were scented with the fragrance of wild roses and honeysuckle, the fields were full of meadowsweet, wild orchids, and heartsease pansies, and in Spry's meadow the tuneful song of the nightingale.

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>(((°>`...`~>(((°> Learn To Sea >(((°>`...`~>(((°>

What a load of rubbish! And for once I'm not talking about the weather - we've enjoyed some great crisp and sunny days in Autumn and early Winter. Sheer Heaven! I am, sadly, talking about the quantity of litter and plastic found on our beaches. We have such relatively pristine beaches and yet we find an extraordinary quantity of colourful and at times disturbing rubbish. There was a time, before the mass production of plastic in the 1940s, when the only items to be found would be the beautiful mermaids' purses - the egg casings of dogfish and rays; the buoyancy aid of the cuttlefish which fills and empties the tiny chambers of the 'bone' so as to sink and float in the water column, and dog whelk eggs - which are ironically reminiscent of balls of plastic bubble wrap floating on the sea surface. Children would explore these treasures with glee wondering what the sea had delivered to their shores on the last incoming tide.

Sadly, we now see mermaids' tears - small spherical plastic pellets which get washed ashore from containers and factories - crisp packets, plastic bottles and items you would rather not admit to having found. So who is to blame for this litter which today appears to have replaced the natural treasures of the strandline?

There is a chain of events with any number of individuals to be held responsible. Initially, we have the plastic producers. When they make the mermaids' tears (the raw product of plastic which is then sold on to mould into our everyday recognisable objects) are they doing all they can to prevent leaching to the environment, our rivers and seas? Is the government doing enough to prevent any escapes in production and transport? The end result is that these small (4mm diameter) spheres end up attracting pollutants in the surrounding water which stick to the surface of the pellets and then end up being digested when they are mistaken for fish eggs. Once in the stomach of birds and fish the pollutants can then absorb into the flesh

of the animals, build up in the food chain and then perhaps even in the fish we eat. Who knows the long term effects?

Dr. Takada is researching the worldwide distribution of these pellets with an 'International Pellet Watch' and is exploring the levels of toxic PCBs and DDTs which adhere to their surface. During local beach cleans at Cockleridge and Thurlestone Sands pellets were collected and will be sent to Japan to contribute to this research. At Cockleridge, during the Marine Conservation Society's 'Beachwatch' clean in September we (members of the Aune Conservation Association and other volunteers) found a disturbing 1644 pellets - that's one very unhappy mermaid!

The next chain of events - we as consumers buy the moulded plastic water bottles and other packaged items and some of these end up washed up on our shores whether it be through negligent beach users or dumpings at sea. Is this our fault that as consumers we don't select products which are made from recycled and recyclable products and do not ensure their proper disposal? How can we do this when we have no clear way of identifying the sustainability of our packaging? Again, should the government make more efforts to allow people to choose the best packaging through clear labelling? Without this, current levels show that 8% of global oil production is used to make plastic, 37% of which goes towards making items which are thrown away within a year of purchase. That is a lot of wasted, valuable, non-renewable oil.

But we must remember that some use of plastic is beneficial to the environment. The fact that our cars are so much lighter and therefore more fuel efficient is in part due to the light weight and durability of plastic. The real issue is the way in which we use plastic. If we recycled more of our packaging we might have less marine litter, less marine death, less use of global oil production and

who knows?... that might even reduce our petrol costs! This might be a pipe dream, but is it not our duty to take a minute before we buy our Christmas presents, food, and other household goods - look at the amount of plastic used, and think about what might happen to that item in 1, 5, 50 or even 500 years? Could we buy something else which can be re-used, re-sold or re-cycled in the future and which would reduce our global plastic consumption?

Perhaps the key is that rather than holding anyone to blame we should be sure of our own responsibility as consumers, and know that we can confidently say we are making our best efforts to reduce the amount of plastic disposed of wastefully.

The thrust of the above was derived from information given by Professor Thompson at the Aune Conservation Association August lecture on marine litter. He really captured my attention on the issue of mermaids' tears and made me realise that as well as valuable

beach cleans we can all contribute to reducing marine litter by the way in which we act as consumers. If you would like to make your contribution by taking part in any beach cleans then I would really love to hear from you.

I would also like to apologise for the confusion and controversy over Thurlestone Sands and South Milton Sands. Indeed, within most/all maps Thurlestone Sands is the name given for the beach which is recognisable for the huge stone arch from which Thurlestone gets its name. Due to the road signs within the village of South Milton I chose to use South Milton Sands as the 'name' but I can see that this is not strictly speaking true. I will therefore, from now on, use the historic name of Thurlestone Sands!

Finally, thanks to the Aune Conservation Association for the brilliant August lectures - watch out for next year's!

Maya Plass

A New Element of Government Today!

Recent research has led to the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, Governmentium (Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert; however, it can be detected because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact.

A minute amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second to take from four days to four years to complete. Governmentium has a normal shelf-life of 5 years; it does not decay,

but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time.

Since each reorganisation will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes, this characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration.

This hypothetical quantity is referred to as a critical morass. When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

(Contributed by Ron Parkin)

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ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL REPORT

Compiled by Betty Rhymes

The end is in sight! Phase 1 of the building works is nearly completed. The infants are enjoying their new classrooms and facilities, and Mr Medway is relishing having his own hideaway....will he ever come out again?

It has been incredibly hectic since September, but now the children and teachers are able to benefit from all the hard work that has taken place. Bring on Phase 2! Despite the chaos, the school has ensured the children have been provided with an exciting and motivating curriculum during the autumn term

"We went to the opera, darling"

Years 5 and 6 (9, 10 and 11 year olds) took part in workshops based on a Japanese opera entitled "The Whaletone Opera". The children were fortunate to work with Japanese composer, Makoto Nomura. He led them to develop melodies, write a song, compose an overture and produce a number of chants which, put together musically, interpreted part of the whaletone story.

They took their work to Kingsbridge Community College and performed their piece along with four other local primary schools. Their efforts produced a fantastic show which was well received and greatly appreciated by their audience. Bravo!

"Venimus, vidimus, vicimus"

Not only has All Saints been invaded by builders, it has also been invaded by Romans! Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 (7-9 year olds) have been studying the Romans.

Centurion Optio, from Exeter Museum, visited the school to teach the children about life in Britain in the 4th century AD. The children formed an army and went into 'battle'. "Sin, Dex, Sin, Dex" (left, right, left right) could be heard as they marched to attack.

Ho, Ho, Ho!

The Christmas preparations are in full swing. Mary and Joseph are still trying to get to Bethlehem, the Christmas pudding is maturing nicely, and the All Saints choir are hitting all the right notes in their carol singing. They will be performing to the residents of Thurstlestone Court and are inviting parish residents to a selection of carols at the school hall during the morning of Friday 12th December. I hope to see some of you there with your finely-tuned voices.



I'm off to write my letter to Santa to see if he can spare me a diamond ring or mini-convertible this year - Sir says I've been a good girl!

Merry Christmas.



MR PICKWICK'S CHRISTMAS EVE



From the centre of the ceiling of the kitchen old Wardle had just suspended with his own hands a huge branch of mistletoe, and this same branch of mistletoe instantaneously gave rise to a scene of general and most delightful struggling and confusion; in the midst of which Mr Pickwick with a gallantry which would have done honour to a descendant of Lady Tollinglower herself, took the old lady by the hand, led her beneath the mystic branch, and saluted her in all courtesy and decorum.

The old lady submitted to this piece of practical politeness with all the dignity which befitted so important and serious a solemnity, but the younger ladies not being so thoroughly imbued with a superstitious veneration of the custom, or imagining that the value of a salute is very much enhanced if it cost a little trouble to obtain it, screamed and struggled, and ran into corners, and threatened and remonstrated, and did everything but leave the room, until some of the less adventurous gentlemen were on the point of desisting, when they all at once found it useless to resist any longer, and submitted to be kissed with a good grace.

Mr Winkle kissed the young lady with the black eyes, and Mr Snodgrass kissed Emily; and Mr Weller, not being particular about the form of being under the mistletoe, kissed Emma and the other female servants just as he caught them. As to the poor relations, they kissed everybody, not even excepting the plainer portion of the young-lady visitors who, in their excessive confusion, ran right under the mistletoe, directly

it was hung up, without knowing it! Wardle stood with his back to the fire, surveying the whole scene, with the utmost satisfaction; and the fat boy took the opportunity of appropriating to his own use, and summarily devouring, a particularly fine mince-pie that had been carefully put by for somebody else.

Now the screaming had subsided, and faces were in a glow and curls in a tangle, and Mr Pickwick after kissing the old lady as before-

mentioned, was standing under the mistletoe, looking with a very pleased countenance on all that was passing around him, when the young lady with the black eyes, after a little whispering with the other young ladies, made a sudden dart forward and, putting her arm round Mr Pickwick's neck, saluted him affectionately on the left cheek; and before Mr Pickwick distinctly knew what was the matter, he was surrounded by the whole body, and kissed by every one of them.

It was a pleasant thing to see

Mr Pickwick in the centre of the group, now pulled this way, and then that, and first kissed on the chin and then on the nose, and then on the spectacles, and to hear the peals of laughter which were raised on every side...

Then they sat down by the huge fire of blazing logs to a substantial supper, and a mighty bowl of wassail, something smaller than an ordinary wash-house copper, in which the hot apples were hissing and bubbling with a rich look, and a jolly sound, that were perfectly irresistible.

"*This,*" said Mr Pickwick, looking around him, "*this is, indeed, comfort.*"



Mr Pickwick under the mistletoe

(From "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club" by Charles Dickens, Chapter XXVIII)

Weather Wag

I'm not sure that I ought to put pen to paper, so to speak, this month. We have certainly had some weather situations that are "interesting" to say the least. I think there are more to come as winter progresses. Make a note and then you can see if I am right or not. (There is a 50-50 chance I guess, but it is fun trying to predict.) Fill up your oil tanks and stock up the freezer just in case. Hope the "lectric" keeps going.

Back to the weather. September and October have been interesting but not startling as far as stats go. Thankfully, we did not have an "Ottery" event although there was some heavy rain on that day; 11mm here. **Ottery had 100mm and 4 feet of hail and snow!** September was a quiet month, with most of the windy days during the first week. After that it was a very pleasant three weeks of calm balmy days, and lots of folks on the beach, sitting or lying in the sun. Seas were calm and clear, just right for the numerous divers who entered the water to view the seabed around the Louis Shied. The month ended with a bit of a blow which carried on into the first week of October, when the NW reached a maximum of 53mph (5th October).

Everything settled down for the middle two weeks and then prepared for half term by gathering speed and dumping rain on all those hoping for sunshine. Then came the "Ottery" event - exactly the same weather conditions as Boscastle and Lynton/Lynmouth; slow moving, very low pressure, lots of water vapour with nowhere to go except up. This time it formed a mass of snow and hail-stones that fell out of the sky in vast amounts (4 feet deep on the ground) and was still there after a week. The wind was in the east instead of the south west, and hence the conditions for cold precipitation.

It was on these three days that I recorded the lowest temperatures for quite a while. The frost was enough to blacken many plants eg, fuchsias and hydrangeas. Guy Fawkes night

By Jan Turner

arrived with rain yet again. Those who had their bonfires the weekend before were well advised to do so.

Thinking about the "Ottery" incident, it was almost like a very short, sharp blizzard. I have experienced only 3 events that would fill the bill, 1947/8, 1963, & 1979. The last was nothing like the first two, but bad enough. (The definition of a *blizzard* is a combination of falling snow and strong winds which cause the snow to drift and blow about.)

Sometimes, after a fall of powdery snow, it can be lifted off the surface and blow along so as to produce blizzard conditions at a low level. This is called 'drifting snow'. For it to happen the winds need to be at about 15mph, so that sometimes it would be difficult to tell if it was actually snowing or not. Winds of 25mph can lift the snow from the ground to a much higher level. This is called 'blowing snow'. This type is very difficult to endure and visibility is often reduced to a serious level. The snow is still only about head height but that's all you need to blot out your vision and the way ahead. It is interesting that Antarctica does not have vast amounts of snow in relative terms, but the blizzards so often witnessed are produced from blowing snow. Winds of course are much, much stronger, hence the extreme conditions experienced.

There are many accounts of snow storms or blizzards the world over. Here are just a few snippets of actual records, eye-witness stories and observations.

"The Great Blizzard of 1993" occurred in March, along the eastern seaboard of the USA. from Florida and Alabama as far north as New York. The cold front associated with it stretched over 1,200miles. The storm was so intense and widespread there were actually seven states that saw more than 40 inches of snow in some places. It was accompanied by lightning and thunder, and temperatures

down to -16C in Birmingham, the capital of Alabama. (A record low for March.)

In addition to the winds, snow, thunder and lightning, there were over a dozen tornadoes recorded over northern Florida. The storm generated more than 60,000 bolts of lightning. They lit up the snowflakes in lurid shades of green or blue. This phenomenon is known as 'thundersnow', and only occurs in the most violent storms. I don't think we need to worry about seeing this as yet, but you never know! That storm in 1993 cost over \$3 billion and 270 people lost their lives, either in snow related accidents or being swept out to sea in Florida.

There is a formula which relates to human flesh freezing. In Antarctica the scientific bases there developed the figures 30-30-30. In a 30mph wind, at 30°C below freezing, exposed human flesh will freeze in 30 seconds. Wind chill is an insidious adversary, so wrap up well, especially around the trunk area of your body. Lots of layers. You have been warned!

What does -30°C feel like? A Californian student Owen Paun in St. Petersburg in 2006 described on his blog how he felt. "When the air is so cold it freezes in your nose, you soon learn to take the weather very seriously". How can we begin to imagine what -30°C feels like. Owen says, "Imagine +30°C. We've all felt that. Nice, pleasant, even bordering on a little too warm. Now try to compare that to 0°C freezing. Try to judge the difference between the two, get a good mental feel for that gap. Now reverse it. Imagine a change of temperature of that magnitude, but below zero."

Freezing is actually pretty cold. We have our fair share of days when the temperature may fall to zero but not too far below. In this country -30°C is almost unbelievable, just as it was for Owen whose home was in Los Angeles. Now add humidity into the equation, and just as wet heat is worse than dry heat for us to endure, so wet cold is worse. He also says that people living in

Siberia at temperatures of -40°C are much happier and feel warmer than they do in St Petersburg at -20°C simply because of the humidity. I would concur with that. Here in Devon we experience wet cold much more than a dry cold as in East Anglia.. So 3°C in East Anglia in dry conditions is far more comfortable than 6°C here in the damp of Devon. Wind plays a vital part too, causing us to feel colder. We say that it blows right through you, instead of around you. All is not lost because these events are not common, just rare and extreme. How will climate change affect these types of conditions? We'll see in the years to come.

I still get a thrill out of a good snowfall. It is a fabulous experience, and strangely there are many youngsters in our community who have never seen a good fall of snow and the fabulous shapes and effects that it can have, to say nothing of the fun in sledging down the hills, and getting stuck in a snowdrift, or being sent home from school in case the school gets cut off or the buses can't run. It has all happened before but not for a long time. Ask Al Parker, he'll tell you all about that. Here's to an exciting winter - but not too extreme. It's now only 5 weeks to the shortest day! Keep warm and safe.

Postscript 1. Some of you will remember Rev Cate Edmonds who took some services for Andrew. She is now a member of the Ottery team ministry. She looks after three parishes, one of which is Feniton. Their little medieval church of St Andrew was totally flooded during the "O" event. Some £200,000 worth of damage was caused. Many pews were badly water-logged and most of the fittings, like kneelers and books were found floating in thick brown muddy water. Another phenomenon (I like that word and can now spell it correctly!)

Postscript 2. Today, 17th November there is a warning of *blizzards* in Scotland. How's that for coincidence. Let's hope they stay there!

Jan Turner



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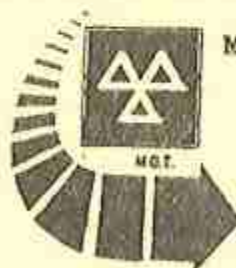
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A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry drawn on 1st January 2009. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@

Fill in the gaps in the story with the name of a MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

Joe met Ena on a(a)..... Liner. She looked marvellous in an(b)..... pleated skirt with a bunch of(c).....s at her waist. Hearing her voice, he rushed to see her, falling over a(d)..... of oil on the deck. He said, "Would you like to come with me to the ...(e).....?" But she said, "No, I would rather listen to the(f)....."

Eventually, they decided to have a game of cards. After losing the first few games, Ena became rather bad-tempered. She said crossly, "When you need to play a high card you always(g)..... one and if I play an ace you always(h).....!" "You're a(i)....." he said. To which Ena replied, ".....(j)..... sticks, let's pack it in and have an ice-cream(k)....."

Later, he kissed her(l).....tly as a(m)..... of his affection but she wriggled from his grasp, accidentally hitting him on a rather delicate(n)..... Joe walked away to a quiet spot where he could watch fishermen(o)..... From a passing trawler.

Leaning against the rails, Joe got through a(p)..... Polos whilst pondering whether he would be better off without her – she was always(q)..... On at him!

Solutions to the previous dingbats:

1. Three Piece Suite
2. Blue Movies
3. Doctor Dolittle
4. Don't Talk Back
5. Kiss And Make Up
6. Long Time No See

Congratulations and a bottle of wine to: Wendy Harvey, c/o Mrs J Gillan, 5 Furzey Close, Thurlestone

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Carols in the School Hall

Friday 12th December 10.30am

The "Little Angels" of the school invite you to join them for Carol singing and Christmas cheer.

*Admittance is free, **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.***

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All monies raised by these events will support the fund raising activities of your local village school, for on-going activities and future plans. We have started a necessary and ambitious rebuilding programme to bring the school buildings up to 21st Century standards. We need to raise a huge amount of money and we welcome your support in helping us raise these funds. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you this Christmas.

**WE WISH A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL,
FROM ALL THE CHILDREN, STAFF, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF
THURLESTONE ALL SAINTS SCHOOL**

For enquiries: Telephone 01548 560494 or e-mail: admin@all-saints-primary.devon.sch.uk



AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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Call for New Committee Members

Sadly, we are losing 3 highly valued committee members - Pat Cassidy, Maya Plass and Mike Garton-Sprenger. For family- or work-related reasons they no longer are able to find the time they believe the committee deserves and have decided to resign although their involvement with the ACA will continue. Maya, for example, has agreed to continue to run ACA's collaboration on Cockleridge with the Marine Conservation Society's *Adoptabeach* scheme. I'd like to thank them all on your behalf for their contributions over the past couple of years.

As a direct result of these vacancies, we are seeking new committee members who might be able to help out in various ways. All committee members are involved in formulating ACA policy and liaising with other stakeholders about the river but there are also opportunities to help with the organisation of our finances and with social events such as our occasional lectures, regular estuary clean-ups and reunions. We hold several committee meetings each year in addition to the AGM. Ideally, you should have easy access to a computer. It goes without saying that your personal objectives as a new committee member should be aligned with those of the ACA. If this all seems a bit formal; the idea is to enjoy yourself whilst helping the local environment! If you would like to become involved in helping to run our charity or would like to find out more about what it involves, please contact me.

Recent Examples of the ACA's Activities

Sewage overflow at Aveton Gifford (AG). This overflow threatens the water quality of the Avon and all that entails for wildlife and recreation on the river. The ACA has supported the actions of AG Parish Council and local residents both in lobbying Gary Streeter MP and in participating in an on-site meeting with representatives of South West Water (SWW), SHDC Environmental Health Dept., the Environment Agency (EA) and SHDC's engineering contractors (May Gurney). There are obvious deficiencies in the sewage system at AG which all parties now seem committed to correcting. Gary Streeter has asked to be kept informed of developments.

Mooring management at Aveton Gifford.

The absence of any management of the moorings at AG threatens both the physical and natural environment of the river. The ACA has been in discussion with the Duchy of Cornwall's Land Steward and other parties to promote more active management of the moorings. Negotiations are still progressing but we hope that a satisfactory resolution is now not far away. The *Gillaroo* is still moored at AG despite our best efforts and a DoC warning of legal action. I am told that an eventual move to Saltash (presumably to a properly equipped boat yard) is now planned by the owner, to conduct the renovation he originally intended to take place on our river.

Cherish the Avon and A Conservationist's Fishing Guide.

In 2008 we published and distributed these two leaflets locally. The first offers advice about good environmental practice around the river for residents and holiday-makers; the second attempts to clarify the restrictions and bye-laws on fishing - which are both poorly known and misunderstood, or are widely ignored. Both leaflets are available on our website.

Tree-felling in the Avon valley. The wooded valley of the Avon is one of the delights of the South Hams; it forms the backbone of the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the trees are a valuable asset for many reasons (tourism, wildlife haven, prevention of soil erosion, etc.). Two incidents of large scale tree-felling have been brought to my attention by ACA members within the last couple of months. We can do little about these operations as an organisation beyond referring the details to both the AONB Unit and to the EA. Unfortunately, it seems these agencies are also unable to take any preventative action beyond asking the ACA to check whether the individuals concerned have a Forestry Commission tree-felling licence - a less than satisfactory outcome! It sometimes seems these salaried bureaucrats from different agencies who are supposed to be guardians of our environment have a policy of not communicating with each other at the pragmatic level where it really might make a difference.

Trout Farm below Avon Mill.

This development threatens both river water quality and wildlife. The resurrection of the old trout farm near Loddswell raised no objections from SHDC's planners because no change of use was perceived to be involved (despite the planned, additional development of a packing and merchandising facility). The project is being funded by a Marine and Fisheries Agency grant for around £400,000, despite the fact that it lies on the river's flood plain (we have photographs, supplied by the Avon Fishing Association, which show flooding of the site when the Avon was in spate) and, therefore, could lead to an environmental disaster if the farmed fish escape. We have passed these photographs to both the EA and to SHDC's planners (via the Tidal Waters staff of the EA) in the hope that inter-agency communications can be improved, that the required land drainage certificate will not be issued, and that development might be halted. Worryingly, the EA has recently been criticised for inaction elsewhere in the UK over fish farms which, according to a DEFRA-funded report, led almost invariably to the quality of the water below fish farms being poor; the water contained testosterone, steroids, ammonia and several other substances harmful to fish.

England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (CSFI). You may remember that the ACA part-funded the inclusion of the Avon in the original CSFI scheme (managed by the local AONB unit), to improve river water quality by reducing agricultural run-off. In the first phase, the Avon was only an 'associate' catchment but after the success of our collaborative participation, which was acclaimed as an excellent example of how the scheme could work, we are delighted to confirm that, in the second phase, the Avon has been included in the 'primary' catchment area covering several local South Devon rivers. This 'promotion' to primary catchment status should mean that further resources will be made available to help our local farmers improve soil and water management to the benefit of the environment.

Sewage sludge. The increasing practice of spreading sewage sludge on farms within the Avon's catchment area is a growing concern because of the danger of water pollution and public nuisance. Several weeks ago, I was alerted by an ACA member to the problems of smell and potential pollution of Torr Brook (which feeds

into the Avon) at several sludge piles near Woodleigh. As a direct result of ACA involvement, a principal scientist from SWW has been invited to give sludge management an "airing" at the next Avon Estuary Forum on 18th November at 7.00 pm in Thurlestone Parish Hall. This will provide the chance for anybody to ask questions about sludge-spreading policy and practice.

'Adoptabeach'. As reported in the local press, the ACA successfully participated in the Marine Conservation Society's *Adoptabeach* scheme, in which we have 'adopted' Cockleridge because it is the primary deposition site for much of the rubbish that litters the river. Our involvement in this rubbish monitoring and recording scheme will continue with Maya's help and she will need plenty of volunteer collectors and counters. The next clean-up will be on Saturday 3rd January. The precise timing will be dependent upon the tides; details to be confirmed.

Signage. Signage on the Tidal Road is totally inadequate to protect pedestrians (wildlife watchers, walkers, etc.), vehicle users and the road itself. Like it or loathe it, this treacherous road has become an important part of the physical environment of the tidal part of the river. We are lobbying the Highways Dept. of DCC for more comprehensive hazard warning signs and for the road to be removed from satellite navigation systems.

John Crawford Memorial Award.

The award scheme that we launched last year to commemorate the late John Crawford's contribution to the ACA over many years has not, so far, been a resounding success. We had hoped that more schools, colleges and individuals would apply for modest grants to fund studies on the river. To date, we have received (and supported) only one application from Plymouth University as reported in my last newsletter. As a result, the Committee has now decided in addition to erect a commemorative wooden bench on the public footpath in Stiddcombe Wood with the kind permission of the Directors of Evans Estates and in consultation with John's family. We are commissioning a suitable bench made from local wood at the moment and hope to be able to make a further announcement on progress very soon. Interested members will be invited to a simple ceremony to mark the occasion.

Stuart Watts, Chairman

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DECEMBER

Monday	1 st	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, 7.30 pm,
Wednesday	3 rd	TRAMP Christmas Walk
Friday	5 th	School Christmas Fair, Parish Hall, 3 - 5 pm
Saturday	6 th	Tastes of Christmas, Parish Hall, 7.00 pm
Tuesday	9 th	RNID Information Day, Quay House, K'b 10 am - 3 pm
Thursday	11 th	W1 Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1.00 pm
Friday	12 th	Carols in the School, 10.30 am
Friday	12 th	W1 Carol Service, Parish Church, 2.30 pm
Wednesday	31 st	New Year Party at the Parish Hall, starts 9 pm (details later)

JANUARY

Saturday	3 rd	Avon clean-up (contact Maya Pless, 562449)
Monday	5 th	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, 7.30 pm
Tuesday	6 th	TRAMP, Noss Mayo (short walk)
Thursday	8 th	W1 Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Bees)
Saturday	10 th	NSPCC, Quiz Night, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Tuesday	13 th	N Trust talk, "Italian Lakes", West Abington Hall
Wednesday	14 th	TRAMP, Ugborough (long walk)
Wednesday	21 st	TRAMP, Torcross / Stokenham (long walk)
Thursday	29 th	N Trust coffee morning, Thurstons Hotel

FEBRUARY

Monday	2 nd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Tuesday	3 rd	TRAMP tea (short walk)
Wednesday	11 th	TRAMP, Loddiswell / E. Allington (long walk)
Thursday	12 th	W1, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Lutesland)
Wednesday	18 th	TRAMP, Malborough (short walk)
Tuesday	24 th	TRAMP, Brixham / Torquay (long walk)

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VILLAGE VOICE

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PARISH DIRECTORY &

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The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate. It was founded on behalf of Thurstons 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 Thurstons, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers organised by Ian Fraser

In Banham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (FEB-MAR) ISSUE = 5th JAN 2009

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)

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

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 Vice - Chairman: Kiri Marshall
 Parish Clerk: Cally Twissler
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 (Evening) 823139

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561505

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 Linc Webb (360090)
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 SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesday's Family) FILMS FOR ALL (Tuesday's Monthly) Contact: Linc Webb 560090

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560214

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560051

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810373

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560593

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 560720

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 10th December)
 11.35 - 11.55am Blarham
 11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Primary School
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Situated in
the heart of the
village, just minutes

from the South West Coast path

and the stunning scenery of Bigbury

Bay. A 16th Century Inn owned by the

Grose family, since 1896. We pride ourselves

On offering good service, well kept real ales, an extensive
wine list and a superb selection of freshly prepared meals.

Inn

You are invited to join
Howard Turner and Chef Rene Muller

Non-smoking
environment
Cappuccino and
Pastries available
from 11.30am
Children welcome
Dog friendly

Weekly Events

Monday - Thursday 6pm-7pm

Happy Hour on Beer & Wine

Tuesday is Quiz night

Friday - Live entertainment

Sunday - Roast Lunch

Open daily
From

11.30am - 3.00am

6.00pm - 11.00pm

Sunday

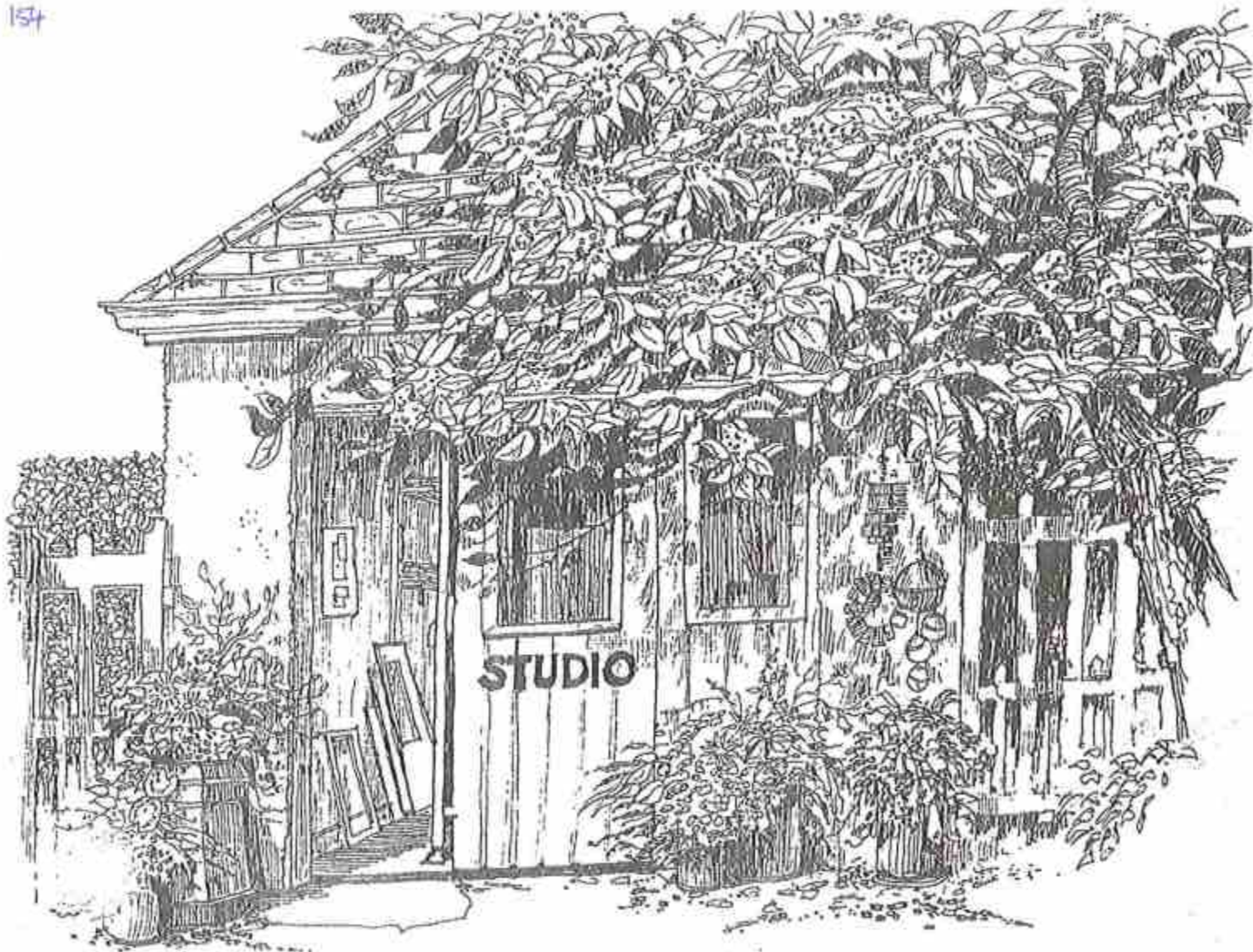
12.00 - 3.00am

6.30 - 10.30pm

Please call to find out our special offers over the
winter months.

Thurlestone 01548 563 525

www.thurlestone.co.uk



Len and Kate Hubbard
invite you to come and browse at

BURWOOD GALLERY

Thurlestone, Kingsbridge

WATERCOLOURS by LEN HUBBARD

Telephone: Kingsbridge 560731