

VILLAGE VOICE



February - March 2009



NUMBER 155
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2009

Inundated as we are by the news of momentous events - military, political, economic, and financial - from all around the world, it comes as something of a relief to be able to turn our minds away from national and international problems, and focus on matters closer to home.

Accompanying this issue of Village Voice is a Parish Survey 2009 Questionnaire, which you are invited - nay, urged - to read carefully and then complete and return as directed. You may not have much of a say in what happens to the banks in New York or London, but here is a chance to do something for the banks, and the lanes, and the future planning of Thurlestone. Have your say.

This is not the only Thurlestone Survey for you to consider. Within our pages you will find a remarkable coverage of the Birds to be found here - residents and visitors alike - in Arthur Livett's special report, which may well encourage you to take your binoculars and camera out with you more frequently on your parish perambulations.

However, should you spot some unfamiliar flying visitors, don't report them all to Arthur. They may just be applicants for the vacancies at the Golf Club and the Parish Clerk's office (which you can also read about inside).

Cover Picture: Buckland Stream

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Covers LEN HUBBARD

Published Bi-monthly

Thurlestone Parish Survey 2009

With this edition of Village Voice you will receive the questionnaire for the Thurlestone Parish Survey 2009. This document has been produced after many months of hard work by volunteers from the Parish, but mainly Alan Taylor Bigg who has, after consulting many other Parishes, County and District Councils and many individual Parishioners, honed down copious documents to produce the finalised version now going out to you. The Parish owes him big thanks for his time, dedication and not least infinite patience. Also to be thanked are the volunteers who filled in the pilot draft questionnaire and offered much good advice, and also those of you who made the effort to come up to the Parish Hall for the open day and again came up with some wise observations which, where possible, have been taken into account.

The document is, I think, self-explanatory and straight-forward to complete. If there are any areas not clear then fill in the question to the best of your ability and the analyst will use his expertise to interpret.

There have been comments that you are not asked to identify who is filling in the form but it is generally felt that, as a survey, it is preferable to have anonymity. However, if you have a particular reason to identify yourself, then just leave name and contact

address/number on the last page. Please bear in mind that the questionnaires will be going to an outside professional analyst so that individual private questions or comments will not be dealt with through the questionnaire but should be addressed in the normal manner to your Parish Councillors.

I would like to urge you most strongly to do your civic duty by spending a little time to complete this survey. It will be fundamental in the shaping of policies of this Parish at Parish, District and County levels. This, in turn, will strongly influence the future quality of life and character of the Parish of Thurlestone.

I would finally like to thank Village Voice for all their assistance in producing and printing the questionnaire and to their teams of distributors for delivering it to you.

You can show your appreciation of everyone's hard work by filling in the questionnaire and making our Thurlestone Parish Survey 2009 a true representation of the views of the majority of Parishioners of the Parish of Thurlestone.

Kit Marshall
Vice-Chairman
Thurlestone Parish Council

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY!

There is an immediate vacancy
for a Clerk / Finance Officer to Thurlestone Parish Council

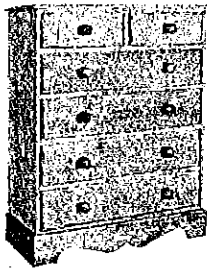
There are twelve Parish Council meetings a year, plus on-site planning meetings,
requiring approximately 30 hours per month.
Salary in accordance with NALC pay scale and experience.

Please apply in writing ***before the 10th February 2009*** to the Parish Council Chairman,
Mr Andrew Rhymes, 4 Island View, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, TQ7 3NH

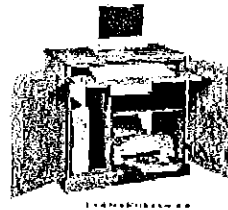
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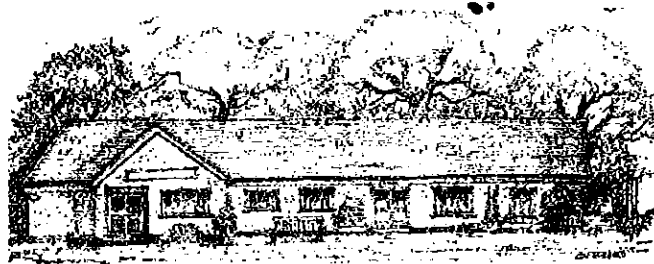
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Parish Hall News

By Ron Parkin



At their first meeting of the new year, the Parish Hall Committee were able to look back on the successes of previous years and plan the activities for the new. We are now into the fourth year of operation of our new Parish Hall. We are pleased to be able to report that the momentum of the earlier years has been maintained in the third.

The scope and variety of activities has continued to meet the strategic objective of the Hall being the focal point within the parish “....for the recreation ofthe inhabitants of the Parish of Thurlestone”. However there are many in the parish who never use the Hall and, if you are one of those, any member of the Committee would love to hear what would encourage you to do so. Do let us have your ideas. The Hall belongs to everyone in the Parish, including the children and the teenagers, and we would like all to benefit from it.

There is no doubt of course that all the children at the school do so with their exercise classes, parties and end of term Shows!

Looking forward, the Committee is confident the current level of hirings can be maintained - regular classes continue, private bookings are being made, and the school may even increase usage during the next phase of its rebuilding programme.

2009 started with the now traditional New Year's Even party, organised by **John and Margaret Lavelle** and their team of helpers, which lived up to the high standards of 'enjoyability' set in previous years. Party pieces by 'Flanagan & Allen' (**Chris White** and **Graham Palmer**) and **Judith and Malcolm Le Grice** on piano and guitar, a

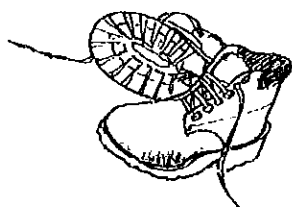
cunning quiz, a party hat competition and community singing all added to the fun, which culminated in the breath-taking spectacle of the London fireworks, which let in the new year, on the big screen!

Further on into 2009 we will have a lot to look forward to at the Hall, for plenty of social events have been lined up for us all to enjoy, starting with a Barn Dance (with Mrs Crotty's Ceilidh Band) on 21st February. Then on 28th March, **Tim Abel**, the talented pianist grandson of Thurlestone residents **Ted & Dorothy Abel**, with **Matthew Glossop** (violin) will be entertaining us - see notes in Village News Round-up.

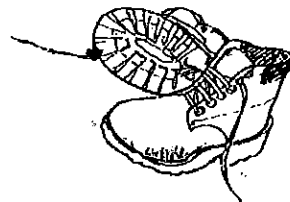
Over the Easter week-end we shall have the opportunity to take a leisurely look at an Exhibition of Photographs by **Michael Sparrow** and **Keith Millman**, both of whom have achieved the very exacting standards required to be awarded Membership of the Royal Photographic Society. There were just a few tasters of their work on show at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition last August, and this Exhibition promises to provide a real feast of their camera art.

By Sunday 21st June the lovely garden at Lower Kerse will be in full bloom, particularly the roses, to which **Stephen & Diana Parker-Swift** have very kindly said we may have access as a perfect setting for a Cream Tea. At the end of July we intend to have a **BBQ Bowls & Boule Evening**, and of course there will be lots of events to come of which more in later editions.

Despite all these activities, there are still a number of time slots available at the Hall - why not let us have your ideas on how they may be used to advantage?



TRAMP



1 A glorious day on the 19th November brought out a good crowd of walkers for our outing and nineteen of us plus one dog set off from the Cider Press Centre at Dartington for the four mile circuit.

This is a lovely and comparatively easy walk, initially following the curve of the River Dart before branching off into woods. Conditions were fairly muddy underfoot, but the falling leaves had soaked up much of the dampness, leaving quite a pleasant and colourful carpet to walk upon. From the centre of the river, a couple of young swans observed our progress with lofty disdain.

We by-passed Staverton, leaving the pleasures of the Sea Trout Inn for another day. Arriving back at the Cider Press Centre, most of us stayed for a light lunch at Cranks restaurant, where we were able to sit outside on the terrace in glorious late autumn sunshine. There was then the opportunity for a little timely Christmas shopping!

Christine Hammer

2 On a dazzling, early-December morning, a group of around twenty Trampers departed from Court Park for the annual Christmas lunch walk.

Along the way, extra members emerged from the furthest reaches of the Mead and South Milton, so that by the time the 'walking bus' reached Thurlestone Sands, the party numbered over thirty - plus two delightful dogs. At this point everyone was more than ready to enjoy a festive glass (or two!) of Bucks Fizz whilst basking in winter sunshine.

With energies recharged, the group divided and made its way to Hope Cover either by walking along the traditional coastal route or by a slightly more challenging one - inland via Pitchingstone Cross. Eventually both factions re-gathered outside the Hope & Anchor Inn - the lunchtime destination - and were joined by non-walking partners and guests, making a total of forty-one. Landlord Ian Pedrick and his team provided an excellent meal in the 'Boathouse' from where superb views across Bigbury Bay further enhanced the enjoyment of the occasion. The return walk was taken at a slightly slower pace..... but of course this was not in any way due to over-indulgence! Everyone is now looking forward to a

year of interesting and varied walks in 2009 with co-ordinators Roger & Trisha Wilson at the helm.

Graham & Val Palmer

3 The first long walk of the year took place on Wednesday 14 January with a figure of 8 from Ugborough village. Three dogs and fourteen walkers set off along lanes and fields, with lovely views of the South Moors, including Western Beacon, Ugborough Beacon and the building used by Western Machinery, formerly settling tanks for china clay.

Most of the party opted for a pub lunch at The Ship, which turned out to be very good indeed. During lunch, continuous rain dampened enthusiasm, resulting in an unanimous decision to abort the afternoon walk.

Trisha Wilson

4 Twelve walkers and three dogs assembled on 21st January for a short walk starting from The Royal Oak at Bigbury. The weather was sunny to begin with, but later clouded over with a short shower just before we finished. On arriving at The Royal Oak to change into our walking boots, junior dog caused much merriment by reverting to her puppy-hood and making off with at least two boots - leaving their owners hopping on one leg!

After retrieving the boots, giving our lunch numbers and visiting their magnificently-restored loos we managed to start the walk. Down the old lane and across the fields to Bigbury-on-Sea we were rewarded with a fresh view of Burgh Island. At Challaborough the dogs enjoyed a run on the beach while we watched some expert surfers. From Toby's Point to Ringmore we were delighted to discover a newly re-surfaced hard-core path had replaced what could have been a muddy track after the frequent rains. On to Houghton Farm, where the annual display of snowdrops was just starting, before crossing fields back to our welcome pub lunch. We were given tables next to the open fire and enjoyed good food and good company.

Sheila & Tony Ward

Village News Round-Up

Leonard James Jeffery

We are sad to report that the funeral of Thurlestonian **Len Jeffery** took place on Tuesday 20th January and we extend to his widow, **Yvonne**, daughter **Nita** and her family, our sincere sympathy.

NSPCC

The Sausage & Mash Supper and Quiz

on 10th January was a great success - despite several of our residents suffering from severe wrist strain after mashing about half a hundredweight of potatoes! The organisers would like to thank the cooks, the diners, the donors, and all those who helped in any way. Most particularly, of course, they want to thank **Mike & Brenda Jones**, our king and queen of the quiz world, without whom it would not have been half the fun. £500 was raised as a result of everyone's hard work.

Parish Clerk

We are sorry to learn that, for personal reasons, our Parish Clerk, **Cathy Tavender**, is resigning from her post as Parish Clerk. Cathy has been a huge support to our Parish Council since her appointment five years ago and will be very much missed for not only did she perform her job with skill and expertise, she was also a mine of information on local government. Good wishes for the future, Cathy, and our thanks!

SCOPE

This charity helps to achieve equality for those unfortunate enough to suffer from cerebral palsy. It has a shop on Kingsbridge Fore Street, for which, in the words of the manager, **Laura**, "*...we are urgently seeking more volunteers to help support the fantastic growth we are experiencing. We are currently the best branch in the South West for continued growth...*" There is also a vacancy for a paid member of staff,

applications for which can be made by phoning 01480-309628 or e-mailing www.scope.org.uk (reference 3720). If you can spare a few hours in your busy lives to help this charity in the excellent work it does for the human rights of the disabled, please get in touch with the contacts above.

Annual Luncheon

Every winter Village Voice invites all the people (and their spouses/partners) who contribute to the magazine in any way - be they writers, deliverers, printers, collators, staplers - to lunch at the Parish Hall. It is a way to say "thank you" for the work they do for the magazine throughout the year. Inevitably of the people invited a few cannot come, so for those of you who were invited this year but who couldn't make **Saturday, 17th January**, please accept our appreciation in print for what you contribute to Village Voice throughout the year. (Sadly, we have to relate that this year you missed out on fish pie or cottage pie, followed by sherry trifle!)

Piano & Violin Concert

Upholding Thurlestone's growing tradition of encouraging young musicians to showcase their talents here, two recent graduates of the Royal Northern College of Music, **Tim Abel** (piano) and **Matthew Glossop** (violin), have kindly agreed to travel from Manchester to perform as the **Maestoso Duo** at the Parish Hall on the evening of **Saturday 28th March**.

Tim is the grandson of Thurlestone residents **Ted** and **Dorothy Abel**. He currently holds a Junior Fellowship in accompaniment at the RNCM, having been a winner of the 2005 annual concerto competition with the Piano Concerto No.1 by Rachmaninov. His solo work has included a performance of Grieg's piano concerto in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, and in 2007 he was awarded the

Gwendolyn Reiche Scholarship following a solo recital in Nottingham. He performs regularly as a soloist, accompanist, and ensemble player for a wide range of musicians in both classical and jazz genres.

Violinist **Matthew** completed his studies at the RNCM in 2008 with a BMus (Hons) and a PGDip in performing. He is now regularly performing with orchestras in the north, and has toured England with the Manchester Camerata. He often appears on national television backing major pop artists as leader of the string section - such programmes have included "X Factor" and "This Morning".

The concert programme will consist of *both classical music and some modern jazz*, and include works by Strauss, Franck, Kreisler, Kapustin, Monti, and Gershwin. The evening of Saturday 26th March offers another rare opportunity for music lovers in Thurstlestone to enjoy a live concert performance by two outstandingly talented young musicians. Tickets for this *Maestoso Duo* concert may be obtained from **Pat Macdonald** (560436) or **Dorothy Abel** (560559)

School Building Fund-Raising

Do you fancy a nice curry supper and a fun quiz? If so, get your ticket either from the school or from **Sue Durant** (560204) for this evening event on Saturday 7th March, at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. There will be a bar available.

Winner of the School Christmas Quiz, and the £20 prize, was **Mrs Lisa White**.

Marathon 2009

It was reported in the last issue that **Liz** and **Graham Clack** were running in the London Marathon in April in support of SENSE, a charity for deaf/blind adults. They have sent us this update *"Our training programme is going exhaustingly well and sponsorship is also moving on, but we would welcome more to meet our target. Please put your small change into a jam-jar...!"*.

Liz or Graham (560050) would appreciate a call if you can help with sponsorship.

Chef On The Move

Sunday lunch enthusiasts at Thurstlestone Golf Club will be sad to learn that the club's talented and popular chef **Duncan Prowse** is bowing out of the catering business in favour of a career in the Police Force. Members have really appreciated the quality of both the food and the service that **Duncan** and his wife **Sarah** have provided over the past three years, and will be genuinely sorry to see them go. Everyone will wish them and their daughter **Millie** well for the future.

Internet Café & Computer Tuition

Following a review of the diminishing local demand level for computer tuition it has been decided to discontinue the Saturday morning Teamakers opening for both the Internet Café and individual tuition for 2009.

Mentoring on all subjects for individuals will continue as usual on Wednesday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm. Bookings should be made in advance for specific dates and hourly time slots through our Secretary **Michael Barnes** (562112).

Teamakers "On-Line" newsletter will continue on a monthly basis from February, following analysis of the results of an on-line questionnaire. Anyone wishing to join the mailing list should apply by e-mail to < teamakers@mail.ads14less.com >.

New Mobile Library Timetable

Our Parish Directory page at the back of this issue gives details of the new times and stopping places in the Parish for the Mobile Library vehicle. These vary by only five or ten minutes from the previous schedule, which may not sound very much, but when the duration of the stop is only ten minutes in total it could mean the difference between catching or missing your favourite author! So.....make a note of the new timings.

A little further on in this issue we include a contribution from the mobile Library driver, Gill, on recent developments in the Library service



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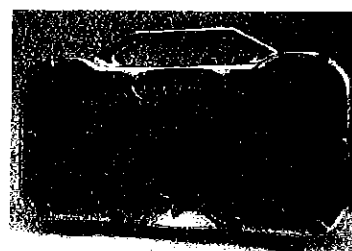
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LAY READER: Peter Gornall

Peter Gornall writes:

A DAFFODIL TOO SOON



There it was, on the January 8th, at the edge of some woodland, an open daffodil. Early signs of spring, so very early in the South Hams, are such an encouragement, especially after a frosty New Year. I suppose at one time Bantham daffodils went to Covent Garden soon after those from the Scillies. In the amazing micro-climate of Bigbury Bay farms and gardens can get well ahead.

There are also warnings in the warmth. The very rarity of this New Year's frost reminds us of the trend towards a three season year. At the comfort level of a mild winter we benefit enough from global warming that we want to ignore the risks lurking behind it. We feel we know how to cope with two world wars, the cold war, boom and bust and the credit crunch, so why not climate change too?

It is difficult to step back and measure how much we are taking out of the earth's resources and how little we are restoring. Every energy-saving bulb, every shared car journey, every extra cardigan instead of turning up more heating – they all count, but we cannot actually see much effect. We regard the affordability of resources in terms of our own budget, not the components of the atmosphere and the earth's balance.

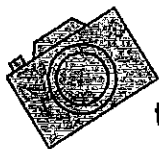
Looking round at our sunny, windy, tidal, surfing-wave environment, how much energy can we positively harness in order to lower our carbon output and help to keep this planet in its God-given beauty for our children? Perhaps some serious planning and accomplishment along these practical lines will prove to be as profound a prayer and prophetic a message as anything thought or murmured on our knees. The temptation is to say that there won't be much of a pay-back in our life-time. It is so much easier to invest when we can be sure of results in a short time.

So will we just wait for more evidence and procrastinate while the climate debate rolls on longer? Or shall we make the leap of faith and start investing now in our children's future world?

Final question - will the daffodils be all over before Mothering Sunday on March 22nd?

Best wishes

Peter



Everyone is welcome to enter the

Photographic Competition

**to choose 13 photos of Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham
for a 2010 Calendar**

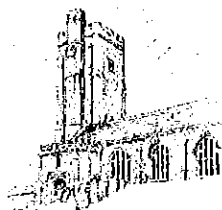
Entry forms available in back of Thurlestone Church, Church Meeting Room,
Bantham/Thurlestone Shop or from Liz Webb (560090/thurlallsaints@aol.com)
50p/entry in aid of church funds ~ **Entries must be received by May 1st**

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

Photographic Exhibition

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May 23rd - 26th



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 (except March 29th) 8.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, 5th BCP, 2nd, 4th CW)
and FEBRUARY 1ST (Please note time) 7.45am Holy Communion (BCP)
FEBRUARY 1ST, MARCH 1ST 11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) + Fairtrade Stall
 6.00pm Benefice Evensong (BCP) (Feb: TH, March: WA)
FEBRUARY 8TH 11.10am Morning Worship for All Ages
FEBRUARY 15TH, MARCH 15TH 11.10am Family Communion (CW)
 6.00pm Evening Worship (Feb: CH, March: TH)
FEBRUARY 22ND, MARCH 8TH* 11.10am Matins (BCP)
MARCH 22ND* MOTHERING SUNDAY 11.10am Morning Worship for All Ages with posies
March 29th (note time) 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (CW) at South Milton

Weekdays

THURSDAY FEB. 5TH, MARCH 5TH 10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham
ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25TH 6.00pm Benefice Eucharist at South Milton

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

Churches: TH = Thurlestone SM = South Milton WA + West Alvington CH = Churchstow

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

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MARCH 3RD

Something to talk about

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Fiennes, Hayley Atwell,
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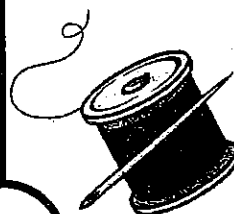
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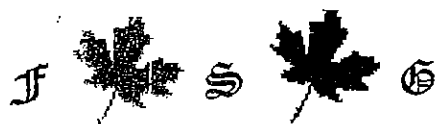
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BIRDING REVIEW 2008

by Arthur Livett

This article covers the area of Bantham, Buckland, Thurlestone, South Huish Nature Reserve and South Milton Ley, together with Thurlestone Bay.

The British Trust for Ornithology in 1968 to 1972 and 1988 to 1991 carried out a bird breeding survey for the whole of the UK, based on 10 km squares of the National Grid. The later survey had one important difference, by surveying tetrads (2 km squares) within each 10 km so that an estimate of abundance of each species could be obtained. A wintering bird survey was carried out 1981-84 using similar methods.

The BTO decided to carry out a further bird survey on breeding and wintering species combined from 2007-2011, again using the tetrad method. Each observer was requested to carry out the survey over a one or two hour period, and for species found, count as far as possible exact numbers plus an estimate of the total for each tetrad based on their own knowledge of the area. To ascertain the best possible evidence available of birds found in the breeding season, the observer could then follow up the record, using a separate sheet and so improve the coverage. Casual records outside a one or two hour period were encouraged to complete the survey. It is estimated that 20,000 observers are taking part, plus casual records from other birders. The survey commenced in November 2007 and excellent coverage was obtained locally.

In addition, the Wetlands Bird Survey was carried out monthly on set dates to ensure full coverage. This survey maps and counts all wildfowl, waders, gulls, terns, divers, grebes, cormorants, rails and kingfishers. All relevant details sent to the BTO and Wetlands Bird Surveys are useful for the Devon Birdwatching & Preservation Society, plus the normal recording by members of the Society. These are submitted for the local

county bird report so that this is as complete as possible. It has been an extremely busy year for active birders.

January and February were quiet - perhaps due to the mild winter - with low numbers of wildfowl and waders. Up to two Black Redstart were present to the end of March in Thurlestone Bay. Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs, normally associated with being early migrants to the UK, were relatively common in the Thurlestone area through the winter. Turnstone and Common Snipe were seen in small numbers, also the sometimes difficult to find Jack Snipe on Thurlestone Meadow. Little Egrets appear to be commoner now than Grey Herons, and up to six could be found locally. Fifty Common Scoter, a sea duck, were seen in the bay, a good number for this locality. Kingfisher was seen most days.

Purple Sandpipers were recorded in Thurlestone Bay during January and February. This species is often overlooked by many birders, but with patience can be seen, especially on Warren Point. Green Sandpiper was occasionally seen in Thurlestone Marsh. Normally, divers and grebes are present in the bay during the winter months, but only the Great Crested Grebe was found from January to March.

In March, the wildfowl return north and birders look forward to the spring migration. House and Sand Martins were seen on the 16th March, followed by a number of Northern Wheatears from 17th March. Cattle Egret had been seen in good numbers in 2007, but there were far larger numbers in 2008. The first found locally was recorded on 17th March, feeding with cattle near South Huish Nature Reserve, but it departed quickly. A Willow Warbler was seen on 27th March and an Osprey was also observed flying inland on the 25th March.

April and May are the peak months for spring migrants. Green Sandpiper was seen again on 2nd April and a steady volume of Sand and House Martins and Swallows were recorded. Many migrants appear to have flown direct to their breeding areas and did not stop at the coast this year. Common Scoter was recorded and a Black-tailed Godwit was seen at South Huish NR. This latter species is increasing locally, particularly in November and December. Sandwich Tern was seen on almost a daily basis and together with small parties of Turnstone, Ringed Plovers and Sanderling. Little Ringed Plover, a very scarce wader in the West Country, was seen early and late April. A further Osprey was seen flying over the bay on 4th April. A Honey Buzzard was seen on 16th April and a Goshawk the following day, also a Hobby on 28th April. Whimbrel in good numbers for late April were reported, plus the odd Bar-tailed Godwit.

A Garganey was found on 16th April at South Huish. This summer duck was scarce this year, unlike April 2005 when 65 were in Thurlestone Bay. From research this may be the second largest flock for the UK. The 21st April was an excellent day for sea birds with good numbers of Razorbills, Common and Sandwich Terns, at least one hundred Manx Shearwaters and seventeen Little Gulls (a high number for this diminutive gull, particularly in the West Country).

Reed and Sedge Warblers were present in good numbers at South Milton Ley, plus three pairs of rare Cettis Warbler. Cuckoos were virtually non-existent locally, but good numbers were recorded on Dartmoor. Nationally, this species is decreasing, perhaps due to the lack of suitable food. Seven Arctic Terns were seen in Thurlestone Bay on 29th April with a further seven on 22nd May. A Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail was at Thurlestone Marsh on 5th May - again a scarce race in the West Country. A Marsh Harrier was identified at Thurlestone Marsh, possibly a migrant bird, but most likely to be a female from Slapton Ley.

An adult Spoonbill was found on 7th May and re-appeared on 22nd, staying until 25th May. The endangered and rare Roseate Tern was in the bay, plus a dark phase Arctic Skua - a predatory sea bird, on 22nd May. South Huish NR produced another Cattle Egret on 25th May, and also a Little Tern in the bay. Thurlestone Bay produced Knot on 27th May and then three Cattle Egrets on 29th May at South Huish, plus nesting Shelduck. Interestingly, Cattle Egrets bred for the first time in the UK in 2008 in Somerset!

Three Teal were found on Thurlestone Marsh on the unusual date of 7th June. A pair of Egyptian Geese was seen at the same locality - part of a feral population which is becoming established in the UK. Dunlin and Turnstone were also present in the bay. Singing Cettis Warblers were located at Thurlestone Marsh and South Milton Ley.

July is usually a much quieter month, and by the end the wader passage had become very evident. South Huish NR and Thurlestone Marsh are excellent for visiting waders. Yarmer Beach, which is part of Thurlestone Bay and one of the best localities in South Devon, also produces high numbers of Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Turnstone and Whimbrel.

Another Little Ringed Plover was seen on 7th July and a Wheatear on 12th July - perhaps a failed breeding bird. In the bay Storm Petrel was seen, together with Balearic Shearwater. Cirl Bunting - a Devon speciality - was seen in late July. For some reason this species breeds on the other side of the River Avon and also inland from Hope Cove, but not often locally. Even the Breeding Survey this year failed to locate this species. Hobbys were much in evidence and must have bred locally.

In August a Nightjar was found at Thurlestone, an excellent find as they are not often seen on migration. Green and Wood Sandpipers and, increasingly, Black-tailed Godwits were recorded. Peregrine were

frequently seen chasing waders in the bay during August and September. Good numbers of common waders were recorded daily and a trickle of common warblers in suitable habitats.

In September, the passage of migrants continued with Whinchat, Wheatear and Yellow Wagtails abundant, together with very large numbers of Swallows and House Martins in Thurlestone Marsh. One estimate was of 10,000 Swallows on 18th September. Merlins were recorded mid-September, another Honey Buzzard on the 22nd and a Short Eared Owl flying over the Golf Course on the 23rd September. On 4th September Mediterranean Gull, Knot, and the scarce Grey Phalarope was found, the latter picked up by the greenkeepers on Thurlestone Golf Course and later released at South Milton Ley. Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stint were in Thurlesone Bay and then the wader passage started to decline in numbers. A Hobby was recorded in late September and large numbers of wintering wildfowl started to appear.

October can be one of THE months to find rare or scarce species, with Siskin, Firecrest, Black Redstarts and a Hen Harrier being identified locally. Best find was a Yellow-browed Warbler, identified and then ringed at South Milton Ley on the 10th October. This attractive species breeds in central and eastern Russia, but increasing numbers are now recorded in the UK in October. Redwings were found in small numbers but Fieldfares scarce.

Dark-bellied Brent Geese were found at South Huish on the 1st November, together with two Little Grebes and a Purple Sandpiper at Warren Point on the 4th November. A further Grey Phalarope was at Thurlestone Marsh for two days from 11th November plus two Brambling on 4th November at South Milton. A Great Northern Diver was seen in the bay. A record four hundred and thirty six Canada Geese were counted at South Huish and

increasing numbers of wildfowl seen. Also Kingfisher and Water Rails were seen or heard frequently.

In December, Blackcaps, Chiffchaff and Black Redstarts were found in good numbers. Two Water Pipits (originally a race of Rock Pipit) were found at Thurlestone Marsh and were present to the end of the year. Increasing numbers of Common Snipe were counted, also Lapwing in low numbers, together with a further Knot found at Thurlestone Marsh. Black-tailed Godwits were much in evidence at Thurlestone Marsh and South Huish NR. Purple Sandpiper was again reported at the usual site. In December, Dark-bellied Brent Geese were seen flying past Thurlestone with a flock of Wigeon, but the best bird found was a Slovenian Grebe near Thurlestone Rock on the 24th December.

People have asked me in the past how many species could be seen in the Thurlestone area. I have no idea! The well-respected scientific journal *British Birds* calculated, in December 2008, that the British List stands at five hundred and eighty species. There are, however, a number of 2008 additions and, when taxonomic revisions are included, the revised total could be beyond five hundred and ninety by the end of 2009. To put this into context, the Devon Preservation & Birdwatching Society stated in their annual report for 2007 - just received - that the official Devon List is four hundred and twenty - and that includes the Great Auk!

I felt it would be interesting to calculate the number of species recorded by local observers. I am grateful to Mike Passman for his contribution this year, and especially June and Harry Huggins who also reviewed their previous records for this area. No doubt other records should be included in the total, but it does indicate the potential of four active resident birders. ***The minimum number of full species recorded totals two hundred and twenty six plus four known races.*** This is a very respectable total for a small area. It will be interesting to review 2009!

Learning new skills....and having fun!

The National Trust wardens in Salcombe are looking for volunteers to help them maintain and manage important wildlife habitats and grazing in the area. A series of monthly volunteer days will be starting at East Soar Farm near Marlborough on Sundays from 1st February. Volunteers will be involved in a variety of tasks from re-building fences to cleaning up fresh water ponds.

"This is a great opportunity for people to learn some new practical skills in a relaxed environment. We are working in one of the most beautiful and dramatic locations along the South Devon coastline" explains **Stuart Macpherson** - Full Time Volunteer Warden. *"Last year we had volunteers drystone walling and rebuilding sections of wall along the cliffs at the Warren. People were really inspired and went away keen to try out their new skills on projects at home whilst others have returned again and again".*

On Sunday 1st February volunteers will be working with the wardens to maintain and improve the ponds around the East Soar farm. These ponds have a high conservation value and provide a vital habitat for a many species of invertebrates. On Sunday 1st March a volunteer group will work on rebuilding a fence and gate to stock-proof a field for the grazing of Dartmoor Ponies. The meeting point for both dates is East Soar Farm car park (GR: SX 713 375) at 10.30am, finishing around 3.30pm (or earlier if you'd like to spend half a day). No previous experience

is needed and all tools are provided so volunteers just need to bring lunch, old but warm waterproof clothing, boots and lots of enthusiasm.

For further information about volunteering on these days or volunteering in general across South Devon please call **Simon** or **Stuart** on (01548) 562 344 or send an email to :

< simon.hill1@nationaltrust.org.uk >

The National Trust South Devon Countryside lies between Plymouth in the west and Brixham in the east and covers an area of 2834 ha (7,000 acres) and includes some the most beautiful countryside in Britain. The whole area falls within the South Hams Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) and is a designated Heritage Coast. The Trust works with tenants and local communities, and with organisations and businesses sharing the significance of places and ensuring that their special qualities are protected, enhanced, understood and enjoyed by present and future generations.

Volunteers are a vital asset to the National Trust and the work it undertakes. During 2007/08 the Trust involved an incredible 52,000 volunteers. They contributed 3 million hours of their time every year. These figures include all types of volunteering - regular, casual, full-time, working holidays, Employee Volunteering Programmes, internal supporter groups and external partnerships.



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NEW LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

This is my first newsletter as Lady Captain, and I am looking forward to the year very much. I will still be involved with helping and playing golf with the Juniors, and thank Pam St Leger for taking over from me as Junior Girls Organiser.

The Captain's inaugural drive-in on Thursday 1st January was great fun, even though the Captain **Nick Nicholson** was ill and **David Wadey** the Vice Captain stood in for him. I managed to keep my drive out of trouble on the fairway and **Neil Thompson** guessed the square nearest my drive. **Al Parker** guessed David's drive, and both won a bottle of champagne.

We managed to raise £80 for the Captain's charities; The Children's Hospice South West and the Chestnut Appeal. The winners of the 11 hole competition were **Nick Crispin** and **Norman Barrett** with 26 points, from **Linda Cant** and **Brian Munn** with 24 points. **Wendy** and **Philip Laud** did a splendid job sorting out the score cards and **Vic Dyer**, Head Greenkeeper, and the greens staff did a good job measuring the drives.

The first ladies competition is on Wednesday 7th January, and will be a shotgun start at 9.30am followed by prize giving and Bucks Fizz. I look forward to telling you all about it in the next Village Voice.

My thanks go to the retiring Lady Captain, **Lindsey Fletcher**, for all her hard work this year for the ladies' section, and also for her help with the juniors.

I wish everyone a Happy New year, the best of health and good luck in your golf, and hope the weather will be kind to us all in 2009.

Liz Line

OUTGOING LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

It was my wish when I took over as Lady Captain in January 2008 that I would be able to give everyone a vibrant and interesting year of golf. Certainly there has been unstinting support for all the many activities that I and my committee have arranged during the year, and this enthusiasm for golf and competition has continued during this last period of my captaincy.

As you know, here at Thurlestone we are extremely fortunate to be able to play when many other courses are waterlogged or frosted, so that a busy programme continued right up to Christmas and beyond. As I write this, we have just finished a 'do as you please' morning of friendly games without the stress of card and pencil.

There are several events to report to you since the last letter. Apart from the formal Medal and Stableford competitions, we have had a number of special Christmas activities. The annual Ladies Christmas Lunch was well attended and as well as the delicious food there were readings organised by **Sheila Toothill** and **Sheila Norris**. The two Sheilas were joined by **Ann Williams** and **Lisa White**. The Christmas Dinner was a very different affair with, afterwards, putting, Wii computer games, cards, building bricks and so on, devised by the team of **Sara Harkness**, **Leslie Davey**, **Pam Adams** and **Gill Hicks**. We golfers can really let our hair down when we want to.....! We were glad to be joined on this occasion, for the first time, by the Club Chairman, **Roger Hind**, and by **Peter Laughner** and **Pete Mitchell**, the Pro and Assistant Pro, who do so much to improve our golf during the year. It was pleasant to be able to give them something back. We all admired the table decorations done by **Joyce Drummond**.

In case you think that we forgot to play golf in this period, let me tell you that there were two competitions with a seasonal theme. The first was the Turkey Trot, played in threes with prizes of vouchers for turkeys. This was won by **Wendy Laud, Alison Daniels** and **Sally Rossiter**. Runners-up were **Alison Adams, Joyce Drummond**, and **Louise Gwynn**. The second Christmas competition was enlivened by a contest for the best Christmas hat. The winner here was new committee member **Gwen Hale** who devised a hat with flashing lights that would definitely put anyone off their putting! On this occasion I gave players mulled wine to drink and **Duncan Prowse** provided mince pies. The golf competition was won by **Leslie Saffin, Kay Morley** and **Maureen Groves**. (Many will remember Kay from when we had a second shop in Thurlestone - her ham was famous!). Runners-up were **Wendy Laud, Pam Ledger** and **Pam St Leger**. There were also prizes for Hidden Holes and for performance on the par threes and par four holes.

The golfing year finished as it started, with a 'Six clubs and a putter' competition, when we were pleased to see some of our most senior players taking part, notably **Monica Dickins**, so that participants were over a large age range and from the lowest to the highest handicaps. This was golf at its best - fun and friendship - and was a good way for me to end a year which has been never less than challenging.

It only remains for me to wish every success to incoming Captain, **Liz Line**, and to all members in 2009. *In the words (almost) of Bruce Forsyth "KEEP GOLFING!"*

Lindsey Fletcher

JUNIORS' SECTION NEWSLETTER

This is my last newsletter as Junior girls' organiser, but I have great news because in November, Thurlestone Golf Club Junior section was awarded the Golf Mark Award, with High Achiever status, from the English Womens' Golf Association and the English Golf Union. Only eight other clubs in Devon

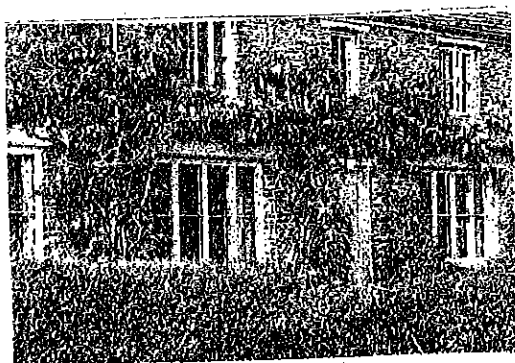
have achieved this award and only three of them have High Achiever status. This is a great achievement for the Junior organisers (**Jeremy Taylor, Pam St Leger** and myself), the club professionals **Peter Laughner** and **Pete Mitchell**, and the club secretary **Terry Gibbons**, as we had to answer 78 questions and provide a file of evidence for the EGU assessor.

The Junior section annual prize giving and buffet after a 9 hole stableford competition was held on Saturday 22nd November. Winner of the Junior girls cup for most competitions won in 2008 was **Laura Tregelles**. Junior boys cup for the boy who was the most consistent in League matchplay went to **Jamie Johnson**. **Beth Yeoman** won the Keith Favis Cup for the best results by a boy or girl in League Matchplay. **Robert Came** won the President's cup for the most improved junior in 2008, playing in eight league matches, and lowering his handicap from 45 to 28. The Emery Cup for the best scratch player in junior competitions went to **Ted Taylor**, who plays off a handicap of 14. The Eric Wilson cup, for the girl who has lowered her handicap the most, was won by **Claire Harrison**, with a handicap down from 39 to 30. Jades Components cup, for the boy who has lowered his handicap the most in the year, went to **George Holland** for reducing his handicap from 54 to 44. The Junior personality shield was awarded to **Liz Line**.

In December we held an adult and junior greensome competition but conditions were so cold and windy that we reduced the competition to six holes. The winners were the father and son team of **Jackson** and **Cameron Day** with 14 points, and 2nd was a father and daughter team of **Mike** and **Beth Yeoman** with 13 points. The Devon County Ladies Golf Association have continued to organise coaching sessions for the girls over the year, and six of our girls have been attending. The Devon Golf Union will be offering some coaching for the junior boys in 2009. However we are very fortunate to have our own coach in **Pete Mitchell** and he will continue to give lessons and coach the junior team in 2009.

Liz Line

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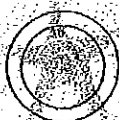
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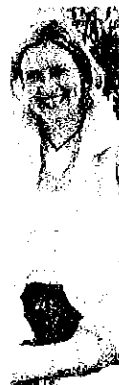
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ALL SAINTS SCHOOL REPORT

Compiled by Betty Rhymes

If I thought the build-up to Christmas with two children was exciting, it's nothing compared to the build-up with a school of children! December 1st saw the start of Advent and the school's Christmas activities.

Class 7 on the Catwalk

The fun started with a fashion show. Mr Medway's class had been studying Britain since the 1950s, and had looked at the changing fashions through the decades. Mods, rockers, hippies, preppies and teddy boys strutted their stuff down the catwalk to the cheers and applause of their parents and the rest of the school. It was a colourful and energetic display of their work and learning.

Nativity

Next, it was the little ones' turn to tread the boards - the reception class did a fantastic job of acting the nativity at Thurlestone church with the rest of the school telling the Christmas story via music and song. It was a lively and upbeat performance which left many with a tear in their eye.

The following morning the children tuned their voices again, as they had invited parish residents to the school to be entertained by the songs and carols from their Christmas story. Regrettably, not many attended, so the one lady from Thurlestone who did deserves the Head Teacher's Award! She, along with the school staff and helpers and their pupils and leaders from Pearson's Pre-School, enjoyed their efforts...as did the residents of Thurlestone Court when some of the pupils paid them a carol-singing visit.

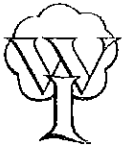
Festive Fundraising

The Christmas fundraising activities, thankfully, were not badly affected by the credit crunch. (*How do we manage to keep finding money when our children ask? And I'm led to believe it's not just little children that have this skill!*) The fair, raffle and quiz brought in a total profit of nearly £2000. Many thanks to those of you who supported these events. These monies will help bolster the school rebuild kitty. As you are probably aware, the school has to fund 10% of its rebuilding cost. Our contribution of £28k for the first phase of works is due in March, which we are well on the way to raising. The future three years work will require a further £112k, which is a huge challenge. Ideas are being discussed as to how we might achieve this, but new ideas are always appreciated. Please speak to me or Philip Medway (Head Teacher), if you are able to offer any help.

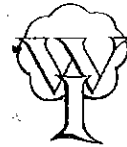
New Year, New Term

Six new children walked into All Saints for their first day at school in January. These little ones are the first to enjoy the benefits of the beautiful new reception class facilities. Four new children, including two that have moved to our village, were welcomed to the school also. Our headcount now stands at a healthy 122. So you can see why a bigger building is required!

That's about all the news from me and All Saints for now - other than to say Santa didn't bring me my mini-convertible so I guess I will have to work even harder this year!



NEWS FROM THE WI



December

We had an excellent lunch at the golf club on 11th December. The entertainment that came afterwards, written and produced by **Chris Field**, was in the form of a seasonal sketch which told of Santa's problems with naughty children and troublesome elves. Happily it ended with smiles all round and tumultuous applause, and the nine actors and producer are to be congratulated.

The following day, 12th, there was a Sea Coast group carol service at Thurlestone church, when we were joined by members from West Alvington, Salcombe and South Milton, and other friends, with tea and mince-pies to follow in the church meeting room. This was the occasion when the singing group, under the wing of **Judith Le Grice**, was able to show off the virtue of its Friday practises during November. There were also readings by individual members from the four WIs involved, and of course the opportunity for the assembled congregation to join heartily in the communal carols. The choir also sang at Thurlestone Court later in the month.

January

President **Joan Booth** wished everyone a good 2009, and the programme for the year ahead was unveiled. Speakers at monthly meetings will be: **Rosemary Howell** on Lukesland Gardens on 12th February; **Kate Gill** about her unique Button Collection on 12th March; **Norman Proctor** on Shelterboxes on 9th April; **Karen Purdy** on Indian Head Massage on 11th June; **Ed Welch** on his music for tv and screen on 9th July; **Pat Crawford** on Braiding on 10th September; **Julia Fox** on Victorian Ladies' Toilette on 8th October.

Meanwhile, our January speaker was **Jeremy Wells**, about Honey Bees. His talk was

fluent and most interesting, and he brought samples of hive equipment to show us some of what went on in the mysterious (to most of us) world of bee-keeping. So many of the world's food crops are pollinated by bees that their drastic reduction in numbers, to the point of extinction, is causing worldwide concern.

A group of Thurlestone members went to the resolutions meeting at Charleton, where they took part in the choosing of resolutions they would like to see go forward to the national AGM in June. By coincidence, one of those receiving the meeting's mandate was about the implications of the drastic drop in bee numbers. Others concerned the unfairness of financial help available to those in residential care and the outsourcing of hospital cleaning in relation to the spread of super-bugs.

Looking ahead

There would be a competition at the February meeting which Joan urged us all to enter! It is for a small flower arrangement, not exceeding 6 inches in any direction, including the container, and would be judged by **Rosemary Howell**, our speaker.

Then on 19th February there would be a 'Snowdrop Walk' from Harbertonford to Ashprington, with lunch at the Durant Arms, to enjoy the massed banks of these flowers along the wayside.

On 28th February, two teams would enter the county quiz.

The sewing group has recommenced activities in the Yeo Room every Monday morning from 10 until noon, and would welcome anyone who would care to join them with whatever they like to stitch. This would be a good chance to finish that 'unfinished symphony', be it a piece of sewing, knitting, or other craftwork, in congenial company.

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7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

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>(((°>'. . . . ^>(((°> Learn to Sea >(((°>'. . . . ^>(((°>

Not many people will admit to this, but I can. *I have been in contact with aliens* - of many shapes, sizes and colours. Some of you may be aware that we are never too far away from an alien species. They can be seen on riverbanks, in hedgerows, rockpools, clinging to the rocks and scavenging in our coastal waters. Some are pretty invasive and can cause great destruction to our sensitive local environment whilst others pose less of a problem to the local natives and cause less competition for food and space and appear to have more consideration for the habitat they are invading. No, I'm not talking about the ingress of holiday makers from upcountry. I am talking invasive species or, as I like to tell the children on rockpool rambles, the aliens!

Invasive species can be defined as non-native species that adversely affect the habitat economically, environmentally or ecologically. Some species appear to live happily alongside our native species with less damage than others, whilst others can colonise areas and out-compete our native flora and fauna.

There are several obvious examples all around us within the parish. The first, one of my favourites, is the Himalayan Balsam. At 3 metres tall it is one of the tallest annual plants in the UK. It was introduced to the UK from the Himalayas in 1839 as an ornamental garden plant and has now spread extensively around the UK. I am afraid to say that I was probably responsible for some of the spreading of this attractive plant. The seed pods of the pink flowering plant used to amaze me - with the slightest touch the bulging pod would explode and expel all the seeds in every direction - up to 7 metres away. I used to love walking along the river in my native county of Kent with handfuls of seed pods exploding in my small hands - the tickling explosion used to leave me in fits of laughter! In my defence, at the time I just thought they were the 'pink popping plant' rather than an 'invasive species'. However, on the down side, this rapidly spreading riparian plant dies down in the winter months and can leave large bare areas which have the potential to be more prone to erosion.

This is the issue with invasive species - to weigh up any benefits or impacts of such an invasion with the adverse effects. For example, what are the knock on effects to the local insects and wildlife or ecology if one plant dominates the bank as opposed to a variety of long standing

residents? It is a difficult conundrum for environmentalists to weigh up and manage.

So how do they get here? Many of the marine invasive species arrive in ships' ballast water where muddy water in the base of the ballast tanks proves to be perfect habitat to hitch a ride to foreign climates. Once the boats are in dock and ballast water is expelled so begins the invasion. Conversely, there is a natural migration of species from continents through larval distribution and 'natural' means. However, this does not match the rate and quantity of distribution by humans.

Within the marine/freshwater environment we have the Chinese Mitten Crab. These crabs are distinguished from native crab species by, as their name suggests furry mittens on their claws. These crabs cause destruction to the riverbanks and potentially can lead to collapse of the banks. They compete with our local green shore crabs and velvet crabs for food and territory. They were first seen in Germany in 1912 and are now widely distributed throughout Europe. They can migrate great distances, even across the land and so they spread from one river catchment to another. They migrate to the sea to breed but then move back up into freshwater for the majority of their lives, inhabiting and destroying riverbanks. To date the closest they have got to our parish is the River Teign.

So next time you're on the beach or rockpools keep an eye out for some of these aliens that may appear on our shores - Pacific Oysters, Chinese Mitten Crabs, Waikame seaweed, colonial sea squirts and many more. If you spot something you don't recognise you can contact me and I will pass on the sighting to the relevant people.

On a separate note of invasive litter - on Sunday 3rd January twelve cheerful (apart from my three year old daughter!) volunteers congregated on Cockleridge to collect litter in pretty bitter conditions. Despite this, fun was had by all and six bin bags of litter were collected and removed from the beach as part of the 'Adopt-a-beach' Marine Conservation Society campaign. There was a huge array of polystyrene which, with cold fingers, proved difficult to collect but a large amount was removed. If you'd like to get involved in the next clean up - in April/May - then please do get in touch - **Maya Plass** on 07811 349966 or at < info@learntosea.co.uk >.

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AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2009

These ACA events have been arranged for the enjoyment of members and the general public.

Thursday 12th March - evening, Reunion Supper at the Sloop Inn, Bantham - members and guests only. Menu details, etc. to follow. Contact Mike on 01548 810920 or via e-mail to < m.gartonsprenger@btopenworld.com >

Saturday 14th March, 2.00pm, Tidal zone clean up between Aveton Gifford and Bantham. Contact: (Bantham) Maya on 01548 562449 and (AG/ Stakes Road) Stuart on 01548 810373 or < sdmw2@btopenworld.com > for details.

Sunday 19th April, 2.00pm, 2.00pm, 'Beachwatch' clean up on Cockleridge in association with the Marine Conservation Society. Contact Maya on 01548 562449 or via e-mail to < info@learntosea.co.uk > for details.

Tuesday 21st April, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start: AGM followed by a TALK by Robert Waterhouse on 'The Archaeology of the Avon Valley from Moor to Sea'.

THE NATIONAL TRUST - SOUTH HAMS CENTRE

Programme for February and March 2009

Tuesday 9th February 2.30 pm West Alvington Village Hall. "The life and death of the Duchess"- the story of *The Herzogin Castle*, the famous barque wrecked off Salcombe, will be told by the present owner, Tim Noyce. Entrance £2.50 (inc tea and biscuits) All welcome.

Wednesday 11th February Our popular Winter Lunch, Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove.

Monday 23rd February Coach trip to Exmouth and winter Birdwatching Cruise on the River Exe. By request another trip to see migrating birds. Full commentary during the three hour cruise. Refreshments available (own food may be brought for lunch)

Thursday 12th March 29th Annual General Meeting, 2.00pm at West Alvington Village Hall followed at 2.30 pm by a talk by John Ridsen, a favourite speaker, on "The Royal Borough of Dartmouth". Entrance to talk £2.50, including tea and biscuits. All welcome.

Friday 20th March A walk at Wembury Point. Meet in the car park (GR 517484). A walk of about 4 miles to see the progress by the NT in restoring the area. Return by lunchtime.

Friday 27th March Coach Trip to Tavistock and Ken-Caro Garden, Cornwall. Time for shopping and early lunch before visiting the 5-acre garden near Callington

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

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- # Reduce body fat
- # Enhance mental well being

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and to go at the child's pace, no matter how often they want to stop and look at things; take treats to eat and plenty to drink; and head for some landmark that will appeal to them such as a castle, a playground, an ice cream van or a boating pond. If children experience walking as part of a fun activity they are more likely to want to go again.

John Harris, a keen walker, got fed up with the lack of information on walks that were going on in the County. So, he decided that if he couldn't find what he was looking for - he had better create it! So he set up a website < www.walkingindevon.co.uk > which now gives you all the information you need for the best walking in the County. There are details of more than 120 walks to download and print free, details of all the Devon walking groups, maps and walk books - plus loads more information

So check out the website - and get walking!

YOUR MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

South Hams Mobile Library made a step into the 21st Century in 2008 by adopting a computer issue system. Now we can track all the books, which is a big improvement to the service. Our customers need to remember to bring their tickets each time they use the mobile library and most of them do - thank you.

We continue to offer a personal touch and can perform most of the services of a branch library because we are part of the county-wide service offered by Devon Libraries. We can't yet offer computer access on the mobile, but you can visit your local library to get a free half hour per day online. We can get any book in print or in audio format, DVD or CD that you want and bring it to your neighbourhood for you. Popular books recently have included *The Return* by Victoria Hislop and *Friday Nights* by Joanna Trollope as well as the latest thrillers - all available on the Mobile Library. Other items may have to be ordered, like a recent request

for the words and music of a Victoria Wood song for a harvest Festival presentation. Our large size picture and local history books are often borrowed by friends and partners for the housebound to reminisce.

The highlight of 2008, for me, was my nomination (by a customer) for the Local Government Worker of the year. This is a nationwide competition, now in its third year. The winner in my category - Care and Commitment - was a Community Worker from Doncaster. The Awards dinner at Bournemouth International Centre was hosted by Jeremy Vine. The highlight of my evening was being interviewed on camera by Jeremy! I must acknowledge the help given by Kingsbridge Library staff and the Library Manager Wendy Bloomer. Their support was brilliant and over the top at times! So thank you to Devon County Council and to everyone who voted.

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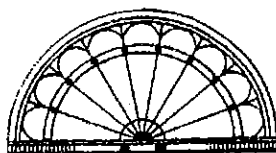


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NO SPIKKA DA LINGO?

The English language can be a minefield for foreigners. It is often also difficult for us (we?) natives. There can be many different meanings for the same word. Can you read all these right the first time?

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down; in which you fill in a form by filling it out; and in which an alarm goes off by going on. English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible; but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

[Thanks go to Kit and Gillian Marshall for this contribution. We are content with its content. Ed]

KATE'S



KITCHEN

Apricot Cheesecake (serves 8-10)

This is a delicious dessert just right for Eastertide. Use 'ready to eat' apricots and soak them (preferably overnight) in orange juice. Use an 8 inch loose-bottomed tin.

FOR THE BASE:

Ingredients:

10 digestive biscuits made into crumbs.
Approx 2 oz melted butter.

Preparation:

Stir the crumbs into the melted butter and sprinkle over the cake tin base and very lightly press down. (base should be crumbly)

FOR THE TOPPING:

Ingredients:

Handful of ready to eat dried apricots	300 g cream cheese
Enough orange juice to cover them for soaking	1 pkt gelatine
$\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ jar apricot conserve according to how sweet you may like it.	
$\frac{1}{2}$ pt whipped double cream (don't overwhip - the cream should just hold its shape)	

Preparation:

Chop up the soaked apricots and mix with any excess orange juice, cream cheese and conserve
Melt gelatine according to packet instructions, fold into mixture and allow to start setting.
Fold in the softly whipped cream

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

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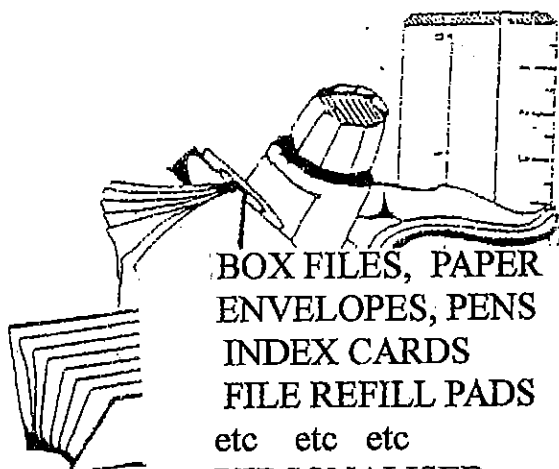
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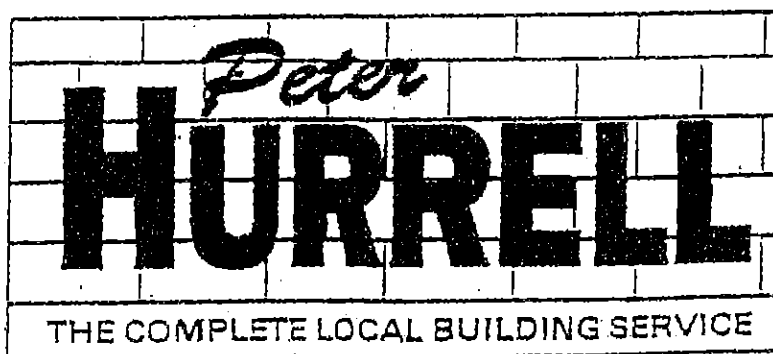
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YOUTH IN THE PARISH

Compiled by Dale Came

LONDON FESTIVAL OF GYMNASTICS

As regular readers may remember, **Tilly Durant**, 10, of Thurlestone, was part of a gymnastics group Eagles Acro based in Kingsbridge who attended the above Festival back in October. The gym club travelled by coach to Brentwood in Essex where they put on a brilliant display.

The gymnasts wore their club leotards that are in red and black holographic foil, over which they wore black trousers and white shirts and started off their first display wearing a black bowler hat. The theme of the routine was Michael Jackson and the Thriller album. The group performed twice during the weekend, once on the Saturday afternoon and then first thing on the Sunday morning. The display went down very well with the very large audience. The club are already planning a theme for the next London Festival later this year.

Just prior to Christmas the Club took part in a competition in Bristol where virtually all the gymnasts came back with medals. Tilly in particular did very well and got a silver medal as a grade 2 mixed pair. She is now training hard for her next competition where she hopes to compete at grade 3. An excellent performance all round.

WELL DONE ALEX!

Alex Humphries, aged 15, is now in his 3rd year in the Kingsbridge/Thurlestone area and is taking advantage of the 'outdoor' environment in which he now lives and the opportunities available to him from attending Kingsbridge Community College.

After a somewhat hesitant (and frequently very wet) start, Alex's sailing skills are improving as a result of evenings spent on the Salcombe estuary under the guidance

of the local youth club. Apart from the sailing tuition Alex is also enjoying the hospitality of the catering facilities and bar!

Having played the clarinet for a number of years and being a member of the Kingsbridge Community College Big Band, he has recently joined the South Devon Peninsula clarinet choir. This resulted in a weekend practising and performing in Bideford and playing Christmas carols outside the Powderham country store, to the delight of the many shoppers. In February they will be performing at Exeter Cathedral. Alex is now busy teaching himself to play the saxophone so that he can join the school jazz group.

This summer Alex is taking part in an exchange visit to Thailand with a small group of KCC students. In May the Thai students will stay with their host families to learn about life in Devon. The Kingsbridge students then visit their new Thai friends in July to learn about their lifestyle and culture, and hopefully have time to visit some of the many temples and palaces in Bangkok as well as to enjoy snorkelling in the warm waters.

TEN TORS TRAINING

Training is due to start shortly for this year's event. Teams of 6 people will cover either 35, 45, or 55 miles over a 2 day period. This is a very tough event and the places are closely contested. In excess of 100 pupils are keen to gain a place in one of the 4 teams. **Lewis Durant** and **Alex Humphries** both of Thurlestone who successfully completed the 35 mile event last year, are keen to compete in the event again this year. Good luck to them both.

YOUTH NEWS

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

Grey Matter

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



VALENTINE'S DAY QUIZ:

1. Like the Taj Mahal, which of the 7 ancient wonders was a gift of love from a king to his queen?
2. Complete the words to the classic love song L-O-V-E from Nat King Cole...
L is for the way you.... O is for the only V is very, very E is even more than anyone that...
3. Which lusty king who hated monks made Valentines Day a national holiday in England?
4. Which one word is missing in all three of the following song lyrics?
"I was kissing....."
"..... looks very much alive and he looks up ladies dresses as they sadly pass him by"
"Be your just for you"
5. Complete the following pairs of famous lovers:
Aphrodite and A....
Dante and B....
Cupid and P....
6. Who wrote "'Tis better to have loved and lost, Than never to have loved at all"?
7. Who's loving hands created the famous 1886 statue Le Baiser (The Kiss)?
8. The following words mean or meant love in which languages?
Agape
Lufu
9. Complete these words in the song title..
"Thy vacant brow and thy tousled hair conceal they good intention. Thou noble upright sincere and slightly dopey gent, you're....."
10. Which colourful 'language' of love was introduced into western Europe in the 16th Century?

10 QUESTIONS OF SHROVE TUESDAY CUSTOMS

1. What is the meaning of "Shrove"?
2. What do women wear for the traditional Olney Pancake race?
3. And the men?
4. Why do we eat pancakes?
5. Between which dates does Shrove Tuesday fall?
6. What games are traditionally played on Shrove Tuesday?
7. With what was Sedgefield's traditional game said to be played?
8. What do Catholics do the day after Shrove Tuesday?
9. What happens on another February religious occasion, the Feast of St Blaize?
10. Where does the word Lent or Lenten come from?



Solutions to the musical instrument quiz:

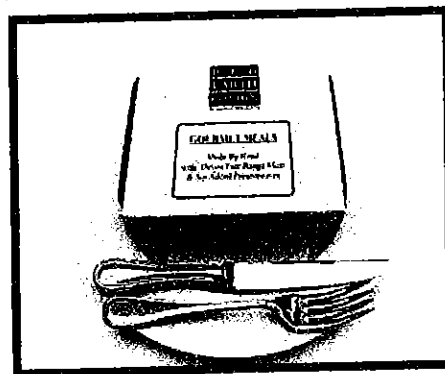
- a. piano b. accordion c. viola d. drum e. concertina f. banjo g. piccolo h. trumpet
i. lyre j. fiddle k. cornet l. violin m. cymbal n. organ o. castanet p. tuba q. harp

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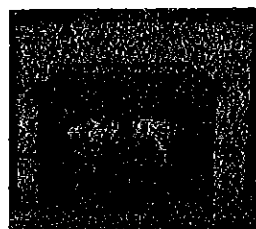
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HORSWELL DIARY

Having struggled to contain my wanderlust for several months I finally 'fell off the wagon' a week before Christmas and gave in to my craving. Yes, I can appreciate the solemn beauty of grey English days, but sometimes I hunger for the warmth and colour and heady perfumes of exotic shores with a desperation that cannot be denied. I had to go. My inner travel-junkie insisted. Not some time later, next year, or in the future. But then, right then, at that very moment.

Luckily, my husband has learned to read the signs (the obsessive viewing of holiday destinations on the internet, the whining, snivelling, moaning response to getting up in the morning, the biscuit-y scent of fake tan), and knows that resistance is counter-productive. So, a quick trawl through www.lastminute.com followed by a flash of plastic, and in a matter of hours I'd printed off my e-ticket, swapped my tweed and thermals for swimsuits and white linen and was heading for Thailand. Hooray!

I know some people find travel exhausting, standing around in airports, especially. And it is! But, for me, the high-pitched scream of a jet engine revving on the tarmac, and the smell, the intoxicating, evocative mix of scorched tyre-rubber and aviation fuel, works like magic. All thoughts of fatigue immediately disappear. Suddenly, the adrenaline kicks in, the world is at my feet, and the lights on the runway become my beckoning pathway to adventure.

On the outbound flight every seat on the aeroplane was taken. As I looked around at my fellow travellers I thought what a poor, pale, exhausted bunch of winter-escapees we must appear. Two thousand and eight had obviously been a tough year for us all.

At the airport in Bangkok, not a single political protester was in sight, only polite efficient people to speed us through the arrivals hall. A car and driver were waiting for me and together we wove through the rush-hour traffic travelling south into the countryside and the darkening night. With 'hello' and 'thank you' the only Thai words I could remember, we journeyed without speaking, two strangers cocooned for three and a half hours in the comfort of our vehicle, watching the unfamiliar scenery reel past our windows. The countryside looked poor and low-lying; an untidy mix of light industry and

man-made ponds for the extraction of sea-salt. Eventually, as the light faded, there were only dark shadows and the glare of approaching headlights, leaving each of us to companionable silence and the privacy of our own thoughts.

These are the moments I cherish, when travelling alone. Moments when you have no idea where you are, where you're going or what might occur along the way, moments when you have that wonderful feeling of being suspended somewhere between time and space. Not exactly moments without care, because there's always the excitement of expectation combined with a frisson of uncertainty; but there's also the sense of absolute freedom that comes from handing over responsibility and letting go, simply living in the moment, absorbing, experiencing, accepting, ... and trusting that all will be well.

My hotel was perfection. I had sought peace and refreshment and stumbled upon this eco-friendly paradise set in 76 acres of lush water-gardens and coconut palm trees. Calm as a sanctuary, it had no cars, no plastic, no metal, no litter, no canned music and no noise. Only the sounds of birdsong and the occasional plip plop of someone playing tennis. It was green in every respect. Tall slender water-grasses sprang from idle lagoons and water-lilies covered the surfaces of tranquil terraced pools. Men, bearing circular baskets that dangled from either end of the pole they carried across their shoulders, ferried fresh herbs and produce from the organic gardens to the kitchens, and women with brooms swept fallen leaves and petals from immaculately manicured lawns. Inside, the décor was stunning in its simplicity, using only natural materials and minimal furnishings. A snowy mosquito net billowed above my four-poster bed and around my bath were wonderful smelling soaps and bath salts, shampoos and creams made from local products. Sinking into a bath scented with lemon-grass became a regular treat.

One day I hired a bicycle and pedalled along the coastal road, much to the amusement of the local inhabitants, and in the case of some small children unused to seeing light hair, utter amazement! Beyond the chic beauty of the hotel, the locality looked extremely poor. There were a few small family-run hotels along the

beach and one or two ladies offering nail-painting and massage, but otherwise there were only hard-working fishing villages with a sprawl of nets and a strong odour from the squid laid out on tables to dry. As I cycled (wobbled) along the road the surf was pounding on the rocks beside me with such ferocious insistence that it made me realise how small a tsunami it would take to sweep us all away. It was easy to see how neighbouring Burma had suffered such rapid devastation. Short of shinning up the tallest palm tree, there would be nowhere to hide.

One night, a tiny young woman called Bo who served me breakfast each day with a delightful giggle and mischievous smile, took me on a ride on the back of her little motorbike into the night market in the local town. Her boyfriend, Lung, followed on his bike, with three other young friends on the pillion... which all too clearly showed the Brit. versus Thai weight ratio! With no helmet and a driver too tiny to hold onto, it was an exciting journey, with lots of laughter and excited squeals. At the market, I realised I was the only white face there. A young Burmese girl turned to look at me. I don't know which of us registered more surprise. Me, because she looked so sad and had a yellow paste painted over her face, or she, who had clearly never seen anyone of my colouring before.

My new Thai friends all insisted on buying me small treats to eat from the various stalls. Some, like the coconut fritters, were scrumptious, others, smelling of fish and beyond translation, were truly weird. The vegetable produce in the market was wonderfully fresh and looked delicious. By contrast, non-food stalls seemed stocked with only the very poorest of items, cheap radios, cooking pots and broomsticks and a stall selling vile smelling copies of well known perfumes. I was expected to try them. Bo handed me one labelled 'Paris'.

"Is real thing?" she asked.

I smiled non-committally, not wanting to offend.

Bo's mother had a stall in the fish market so we went to visit her and I was proudly introduced. Our lack of language prevented conversation but I think, from the shy smile it elicited, I managed to convey that she, like her daughter, was very beautiful.

We all ate together, by gaslight at a table

covered with oilcloth, in the middle of the market. I was given a tin plate containing something that looked like rice noodles and chicken, and passed a tin cup filled with water. We helped ourselves to the herbs and salads heaped in the centre of the table and, having scrubbed up a fork with a paper napkin, ate. It was delicious! It cost twenty five pence, and when I offered to pay for my little gang, they all refused to accept. "No, Prunella, you are OUR guest," they said. Their pride, their quiet dignity will stay with me always.

They had all laughed at me for trying to find something on the bike to hold on to, so, on the way home I tried to hang loose and look more relaxed, more cool – but, I am sure without success. We made it back to the hotel with so much noise and laughter that the old ladies who sleep in their 'massage' huts ran out clapping their hands and laughing to see 'their' foreigner on a motorbike. Those 'old' ladies were actually a lot younger than I, but a harsh life had left them bent over and wizened before their years.

The day before, they had put my poor creaking body through more positions than the Karma Sutra. If all their pushing and pulling was to be believed, then every bone and muscle in my body must have been in the wrong place. I thought I may never get up off the mattress, let alone walk again. But in fact, I felt more lithe and fitter than I'd felt for a very long time. They seemed amazed to get a tip and insisted in cutting up a pineapple and giving it to me to take back to the hotel. How is it that the people who have the least to give, are always the most generous?

Saying goodbye to everyone was surprisingly hard. I wanted to give Bo a leaving present but had nothing to give her. Money seemed so crass. In the end I wrapped up my bottle of Chanel perfume and tucked some money in with it. She looked stunned when she opened it and ran her fingernail shyly under the word 'Paris' on the box. I nodded and said,

"Is the real thing."

We both had tears in our eyes.

"I'll be your daughter, always," she said.

And in my heart, she always will be.

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At the Bridge Table



My previous article was about the evaluation of hands for opening bids of 1 No-Trump (12-14 points) and emphasised the importance of queens, jacks, tens and nines, particularly where those cards are held in combination. Similar thinking applies when responding to 1NT bids and I hope the following hands will illustrate the theory.

	A	B	C
Spades	A 4 3	Q J 9	8
Hearts	K 4 3	Q 9	J 7
Diamonds	A 4 2	K 10 9 8 7	A K Q 7 6 4 3
Clubs	J 5 3 2	K 10 3	7 4 3

Hand A has twelve points, but lacks the "stuffing" to make it a good hand. So make the Standard Acrol response of 2NT which promises 11-12 points. It is not worth more.

With **Hand B** bid 3NT. You have a five-card suit and with the tens this hand is worth about 13 points, and well worth raising to game.

Hand C is also worth raising to 3NT. If you don't respond 3NT quickly on this type of hand you will miss a lot of game calls: The ten high-card points plus three for the extra length in Diamonds makes the hand worth 13 points.... and you can be certain that there will be no communication problems, because partner will have at least two Diamonds for his opening 1NT.

But what about a similar hand where your only strength is a long solid suit in a major, for instance A K Q J 10 x of Hearts? A slam is unlikely; Stayman may not be helpful, and if you do arrive at a 4 Hearts contract, a partner with most of his 12-14 points in one suit may well be open to attack in the remaining suits. Three NT may well be the best option, and perhaps (if playing transfers) the solution is to invite game with 3 Hearts and leave it to partner to choose between 3NT and 4 Hearts. On balance there is much to be said for treating all long suits held by responder as equal assets, regardless of their denomination. Such bidding has its risks, but in my view shows a clear gain in the long run.

It is also important that partnerships have a clear understanding as to how they will deal with doubles of their opening 1NT bids, which these days usually mean that the doubler has 15 (sometimes 14) points or more, and a hand which is at least semi-balanced. Suppose your opening 1NT has 13 points with 5 Clubs to the King Jack and partner passes a double. The inference is that he has 5 points or more and doesn't see a better spot than 1NT, even doubled. However, if partner is very weak he redoubles for rescue and you would bid 2 Clubs. If you have no 5 card suit, the usual method is to "wriggle" up the suits until you find an 8 or 7 card fit....and hopefully escape the double.

I have recently read of another method of combining your chances when your opening 1NT bid is doubled. If you (as the opener) redouble, you are saying that you have a five-card suit which you could bid, but you are consulting partner first. If partner fancies 1NT redoubled - because he has 7-9 points and hence a better than 50% chance of making seven tricks - he passes. If he is minimum, and wants you to bid your suit, he relays with 2 clubs, and you either pass or correct to your suit. You may like to try this method - it doesn't happen very often, but making 1NT doubled and redoubled can be most enjoyable.

Finally, a quote from a bridge club's newsletter-

"The road to hell is paved with good conventions"

so try and make sure that (most of the time) you and your partner are on the same wavelength!

Victor

sudoku

www.sudoku.com

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Easy

No. 33

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

Easy

No. 34

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

Medium

No. 33

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

Medium

No. 34

SUDOKU - Another four part challenge!

Our December challenge was taken up by a number of readers, so that we had to resort to a ballot to find a winner from among the all-correct (and occasionally multiple) solutions received. This proved to be **Gill Proops**, of 1 Links Court, who receives a bottle of our infamous *chateau sudoku* with our congratulations. This month we offer a similar bibulous temptation. All entries, please, to 25 Mead Lane as usual, by 5 March.



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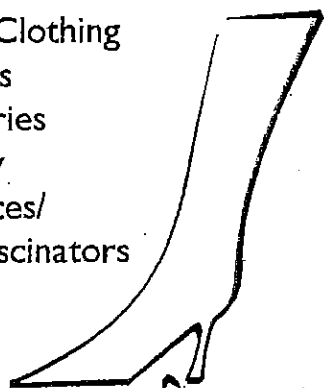
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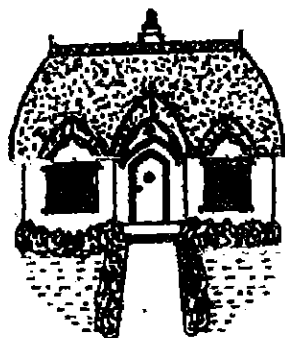
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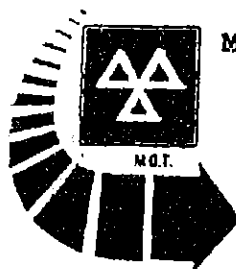
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

December 2008 Weather observations - Beach Cottage, South Milton, Kingsbridge.

Wind Speed & Direction

- # Top Gust = 61mph recorded 4/5th Westerly
- # Highest daily mean speed = 40 mph 3/4th Westerly
- # Direction = East 18 days, North 8 days, West 5 days.

Rainfall

- # Total for month = 61mm (only 1996 and 2001 were less 41.0mm and 46.6mm resp.)
- # From 14th -31st just 0.8mm recorded.
- # On 11th = 33.1mm (the most measured in 24hrs in the 20 years I have kept records)

Temperature

- # Monthly mean = 7.5°C
- # Highest daily mean 12.4°C on 20th.
- # Highest Max = 14.6°C on 1st
- # Lowest = 0.0°C on 16th

Sunshine

- # Total = 76.9hrs (3rd highest since 1996)
33% recorded before Christmas
- # 10 days = nil
- # Most number of hours = 7.6hrs on 3rd.

Comparison : 10 Year Average (2008)

Rainfall = 900.5mm (886.3mm)
Temperature = 12.3°C (12.4°C)
Sunshine = 1566 hours (1455 hours)

I have not recorded any very startling figures except the days rainfall already mentioned. The year has been very much an average one here. The only area which was different was the number of days with frost; with none in January, 2 days in November, and 8 days in December. By way of contrast, on December 21,22,23,24 the lowest temps were recorded as 11.1,11.2, 10.7 and 10.0°C respectively. In previous years, frosts have been rare, just one or two. This year only the November

ones were *hoar*, the rest, just on or below zero and very dry.

I hope 2009 will prove a bit more interesting. The beach at Thurlestone Sands needs a good gale to re-arrange the sand for the summer months. Well, by today (18th January 2009) Thurlestone Sands has now been re-organised for the summer! As I suspected, the gales of this last week have brought the sand back to its normal state and the Ley blocked, giving the reeds a good drink. On Sunday night, with all the rain overnight and a very heavy sea, the Ley broke through the sandbank and made its escape directly across the beach and into the sea. The westerly winds reached 64mph and there was 11mm of rain that night, so it was not surprising really. Much sand thrown up at the base of the steps and into the dunes was a welcome development, and keeps the system alive and growing.

Against that, across the beach and under the infill in front of Link's Court, one or two of the limestone boulders have been unceremoniously tossed about and moved down the beach as sand has been eroded from under them. I still have moments of wonder at the power of the sea when roused.

As I searched along shelves of books at Christmas, I came upon a new reference book. It was reviewed earlier in the year, with favourable comments. Actually, it is a chronicle of events, personal experiences, snatches of poetry or songs and sayings, all put together by Antony Woodward and Robert Penn, and entitled *The Wrong Kind of Snow* (Hodder & Stoughton). It collects together a vast amount of information across the years and arranges it into a daily log, showing the weather conditions prevailing for each day of the year. The 2007 hardback edition is available via Amazon at only £5.71 delivered. *A snip, really!*

Restoring the Dunes

The National Trust is ready to embark on an ambitious project to re-establish sand dunes at one of its popular South Devon beaches. South Milton Sands is a beautiful stretch of sandy beach on the south Devon coast between the seaside villages of Hope Cove and Thurlestone. Acquired by the Trust in 1980 the existing timber sea defences are disrupting natural coastal processes and no longer protecting the shore from coastal erosion. At the beginning of February 2009, work will begin to re-establish the sand dunes in the area and restore the natural environment to ensure visitors are able to continue enjoying a safe and pleasant beach. The first phase of the project involving the removal of timber piles and earth moving is due to be completed by Easter 2009, after which a programme of replanting maram grass will begin.

The problems at South Milton Sands originate from the 1960s before the National Trust owned it, when vehicles started to park on the sand dunes, destroying this natural and flexible sea defence. In the late 1960s and 1970s a car park was constructed on the entire site and in 1980 the National Trust acquired the property. In consultation with local residents, parish councils and other conservation bodies the scheme will see some of the car parking at the front of South Milton beach reverting back to sand dune. The vast majority of those commenting on the proposals have supported the scheme for ensuring the long term sustainable management of the South Milton beach.

David Ford, National Trust Property Manager for South Devon explains, "We believe this is an exciting scheme which will help restore the local environment and safeguard this much loved local beach. We will have to accept some changes, including a reduction in total car parking capacity. This should not affect normal day to day use by residents and visitors, however it will have some impact at peak times, when we hope neighbours will help by providing alternative parking. We have been tremendously encouraged by the input local people have

made into shaping the final scheme and providing information on the history of the site".

The Trust is very keen to see the continued involvement of local people in the project. Practical activities will include the construction of board walks and maram grass planting along the dunes. We will also be looking for volunteers to help monitor the wildlife benefits brought about by the project and individuals who will help care for and keep the beach clean. If you are able to help or would like to be kept informed please contact our Countryside Team on 01548 562344.

The work at South Milton is supported by the National Trust's coastal management policy. This policy recognises the long term impacts of climate change on rising sea levels and the importance of working with natural processes where possible. However it also recognises the need to take account of public interests, including social and economic factors, in coming to decisions.

The National Trust has actively involved a group of 'Stakeholders' including a number of representatives from the service to help guide the development of the scheme. The detailed plans have been drawn up by independent coastal engineers, Hyder Consulting. Two public exhibitions have been held over the last two years attended by one hundred and seventy people. In addition the proposals have been displayed by the car park hut throughout the summer of 2008.

In total around forty spaces will be lost. An assessment of the parking spaces has been carried out over two years and the new parking provision will be adequate for more than 90% of the days when parking is currently used. A neighbouring landowner has also agreed to open a nearby field at peak times. Pedestrian access to the beach will be provided as close to the three existing entrances as possible. The approach next to Rock apartments will be rebuilt to provide significantly improved access.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 1st December 2008 & 5th January 2009

News and views by Citizen

In December five Parish Councillors, the District Councillor and five members of the public attended. In January six Parish Councillors were there but only four members of the public (shame on you!).

OPEN FORUM

Potholes in the road to Churchstow from Whitley Cross are getting worse and the Parish Council have contacted the County Council who so far have not responded. **Mr George Hubbard** raised the problem of builders' huge lorries causing traffic congestion and delays in the narrow lanes. The Parish Council will contact the highways authority about this also, asking them to have a re-think on road signage leading to the village. **Mr Ron Parkin** said how good the new Peggy Snowdon seat looks now it is in place opposite the cobbled road, and is pleased that the Parish Council are to re-seal existing parish seats.

POLICE

Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** reported that marine items were continuing to be the objects of theft. There was also a warning about "car-napping" - where a bogus notice is stuck on the back windscreen of your parked car, which you may not see until you have started the engine, so you get out to retrieve it and a felon jumps in and drives off without you. Be warned! Also do not leave your car unlocked when you go to pay your parking fee. Letters have been received by the Parish Council asking for applications to be an Independent Member to the Police Authority and Independent Custody Visitor.

PARISH HALL

The excellent job done by **Ron Parkin**, the Parish Hall Chairman, who is retiring in March, was formally acknowledged and commended by Councillor **Peter Hurrell**, warmly supported by the Parish Council. Councillor **Peter Hurrell** also said that the shrubs adjacent to the car park

lighting are to be trimmed. The second coat of paint to the interior walls will be applied shortly, followed by treatment of the floor and badminton lines. Electricity consumption was lower in 2008 than in 2007; water use was greatly reduced; oil consumption was about the same.

HIGHWAYS

Councillor **Peter Hurrell** reported that the roads in Buckland are getting into an appalling state due to encroaching hedges and despite continued requests no action has been taken. Overhanging trees on the road near Valley Side also need to be cut back. The tree stump projecting from the hedge into the road at West Buckland has still not been removed. But the good news is that the work on the problem culvert at West Buckland is about to start.

Regarding state of parish roads generally, it seems that the SHDC has money to spend on Kingsbridge Fore Street, much to the annoyance of the town traders, but not on our parish. Attempts to get someone at SHDC to come and have a look have been met with silence and no action. Could it be that the desk-bound Council employees are more keen to look after their pensions than to look after our parish roads? A street-cleaning vehicle has actually been seen in the village.

FOOTPATHS & HERITAGE COAST

Severe damage to the small green triangle and granite setts near the War Memorial and damage to parked cars has been caused by large farm tractors with trailers, and builders' lorries, being unable to negotiate the curtailed space on the cobbled road beside the church. Councillor **Andrew Rhymes** will speak to the parties involved to ensure that the necessary repairs are carried out at their *and not the Parish Council's* expense. A quotation has been received for the amendments to the cobbled road, and a decision is to be made by the Parish Council on proceeding with this work.

Regarding the raised footpath on Thurlestone main street, Tor Homes have removed some of the trees, but the Parish Council will find out why not all of the trees. Councillor **Andrew Rhymes** said that Tor Homes will remove the 'phantom' lamp post (which they allege was wanted by all the villagers!) and replace the lighting built into the steps from the road. The footpath along the coast and golf course is wearing away and the sand forming steps down to Leasfoot Beach is disappearing. It is understood that the Golf Club is responsible for maintenance - possibly the credit crunch applies - so let us hope no one gets hurt.

SCHOOL

Councillor **Andrew Rhymes** said the heating was now working, painting finished, and only 'snagging' remaining to be done. The school have been praised for the fortitude with which they tackled the upheaval while work has been in progress. The next phase starts in April 2009.

TREES

Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** said a reply was awaited from SHDC regarding the trees at The Grove, West Buckland, and what they intended to do to protect them from further damage. Our District Councillor said she would look into the delay in getting a response. The sycamore at Mallards is to be removed and a replacement tree planted.

PARISH PLAN

Following the useful response to the 'pilot' questionnaire, an informal public consultation was held in the Yeo Room on 9th December 2008, and a revised questionnaire will be sent out with the February Village Voice.

BUDGET

The investment account is healthy. Expenses for 2009 are anticipated to be in the region of £14,000, with a call on the funds for the work on the cobbled road mentioned earlier, the repair and refurbishment of Thurlestone's bus shelter opposite the shop, and various other projects. The aim is to keep the precept as low as possible but the 3% proposed was challenged by

Councillor **Peter Hurrell**, who thought 4% was more realistic. A majority vote agreed to increase the precept by 3% to £13,779.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Three things are exercising our District Council at present

- (1) the outcome of the Local Government re-organisation is still hanging in the air and the uncertainty is causing low morale amongst District Councillors and staff. (Citizen wonders if this is causing what seems like complete inaction in some departments).
- (2) A South Hams wide campaign with officers going on the road to encourage an even greater awareness of the urgency and importance of recycling. (Let's hope they won't be dissuaded from coming to the parish because of traffic jams and pot holes!)
- (3) the provision of more affordable homes in the South Hams

Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** caused amazement to be expressed by all present by saying he would like to praise the work of the Kingsbridge traffic wardens on stopping "all day parkers" (generally thought to be shop owners) on Fore Street. Our District Councillor urged him to write a letter echoing his praise to 'the powers that be', as such praise was rarely, if ever, received. (They would probably frame his letter).

THURLESTONE SANDS v SOUTH MILTON SANDS

The disquiet rumbles on. At Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore's** request a letter is to be sent from the Parish Council to the National Trust, in the faint hope they will agreed to change the use of the name 'South Milton Sands' on their literature to its correct one, 'Thurlestone Sands'. Although shown as Thurlestone Sands on Ordnance Survey maps, it was felt that with continued mis-naming, particularly by the National Trust, the correct name would eventually fall out of use.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 2nd February, at 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room.

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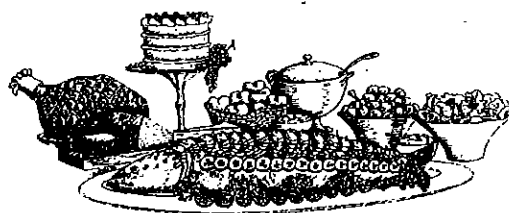


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DIARY DATES

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February

Monday	2 nd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Tuesday	3 rd	TRAMP tba (short walk)
Friday	6 th	Mazaika Concert, S.Milton Village Hall, 8.00 pm
Wednesday	11 th	TRAMP, Loddisswell / E.Allington (long walk)
Thursday	12 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Lukesland)
Saturday	14 th	Valentine Dance, S.Milton Village Hall, 8.00 pm
Sunday	14 th	Valentine Supper, Church Meeting Room, 7 for 7.30 pm
Wednesday	18 th	TRAMP, Malborough (short walk)
Tuesday	24 th	TRAMP, Brixham / Torquay (long walk)

March

Monday	2 nd	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Friday	6 th	TRAMP, Slapton Ley (short walk)
Wednesday	11 th	TRAMP, Yealtonpton (long walk)
Thursday	12 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Buttons)
Tuesday	17 th	TRAMP, local bus walk (short walk)
Wednesday	25 th	TRAMP, Venford Reservoir (long walk)
Saturday	28 th	Piano & violin recital, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm (see ad)

April

Monday	6 th	Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Tuesday	7 th	TRAMP, Little Dartmouth (short walk)
Thursday	9 th	WI, Parish Hall 2.30 pm (Shelterboxes)
Saturday	11 th	Photographic Exhibition, Parish Hall (see ad)
Sunday	12 th	
Monday	13 th	
Monday	20 th	TRAMP, Avon Wood/Loddisswell (short walk)
Monday	20 th	Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Wednesday	29 th	TRAMP, Dart Valley Trail (long walk)

Advertising Rates for Village Voice - 12 months (six issues)
Whole Page - £70.00 Half Page - £50.00 Quarter Page - £30.00

VILLAGE VOICE

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PARISH DIRECTORY &

DIARY DATES

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

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (APR-MAY) ISSUE = 5th MARCH 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)

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL Meetings take place on Mondays. See days on Diary page overleaf

Chairman Andrew Rhynas 560564
Vice - Chairman Kit Marshall 560214
Parish Clerk Cady Taveender (Daytime) 01392-385161
 (Evening) 852139
District Councillor Shonaugh Rankin 561185
County Councillor Sir Simon Day 01752-691212
Members Dale Carne 562089
 David Hugo 562267
 Peter Hurrell 560496
 Geoffrey Stidson 560695
 Charles Mitchelmore 560602

Tree Warden

PARISH HALL **Chairman** Ron Parkin 561215
Bookings Judith Le Grace 562135
Pay-phone in foyer 560300

PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.) **Chairman** Chris White 560505

RECTOR TBA
CHURCH MEETING ROOM Office 561246
CHURCHWARDENS Peter Williams (531811) Liz Webb (560090)
COFFEE TIME (Monday & Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30 am) **LUNCH CLUB** (Fridays) **UNDER 5s** (Thursdays)
SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesdays fortnightly) **FILMS FOR ALL** (Tuesdays Monthly) **Contact** Liz Webb 560090

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH **Contact** Kit Marshall 560214

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL **Headmaster** Philip Medway 560494

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION **Chairman** Stuart Watts 810373

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB **Contact** Marilyn Carter 560595

BANTHAM SURE LIFE SAVING CLUB **Clubhouse** 560447

BOWLS CLUB **Contact** Eileen Dayment 560051

BRIDGE CLUBS 7 pm Wednesdays and Fridays **Contact** Dorothy Stone 560708

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB **Secretary / Manager** Terry Gibbons 560405

TENNIS SECTION **Chairman** Marc Laperre 0208 671 4156

KEEP FIT **Contact** Karen Livett 560131

TAI CHI **Contact** Vile Alexander 561182

HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual) **Contact** John Lonsdale 560742

PROBUS **Contact** Tom Trender 560893

DIRECTORY

TRAMP (Thurstone Ramblers) **Contact** Tresha Wilson 561328

W. I. 2.30 pm Parish Hall **Contact** Joan Booth 561337
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11.30 - 11.40am Buckland Old Chapel 11.45 - 12.10pm Thurstone Village Hall
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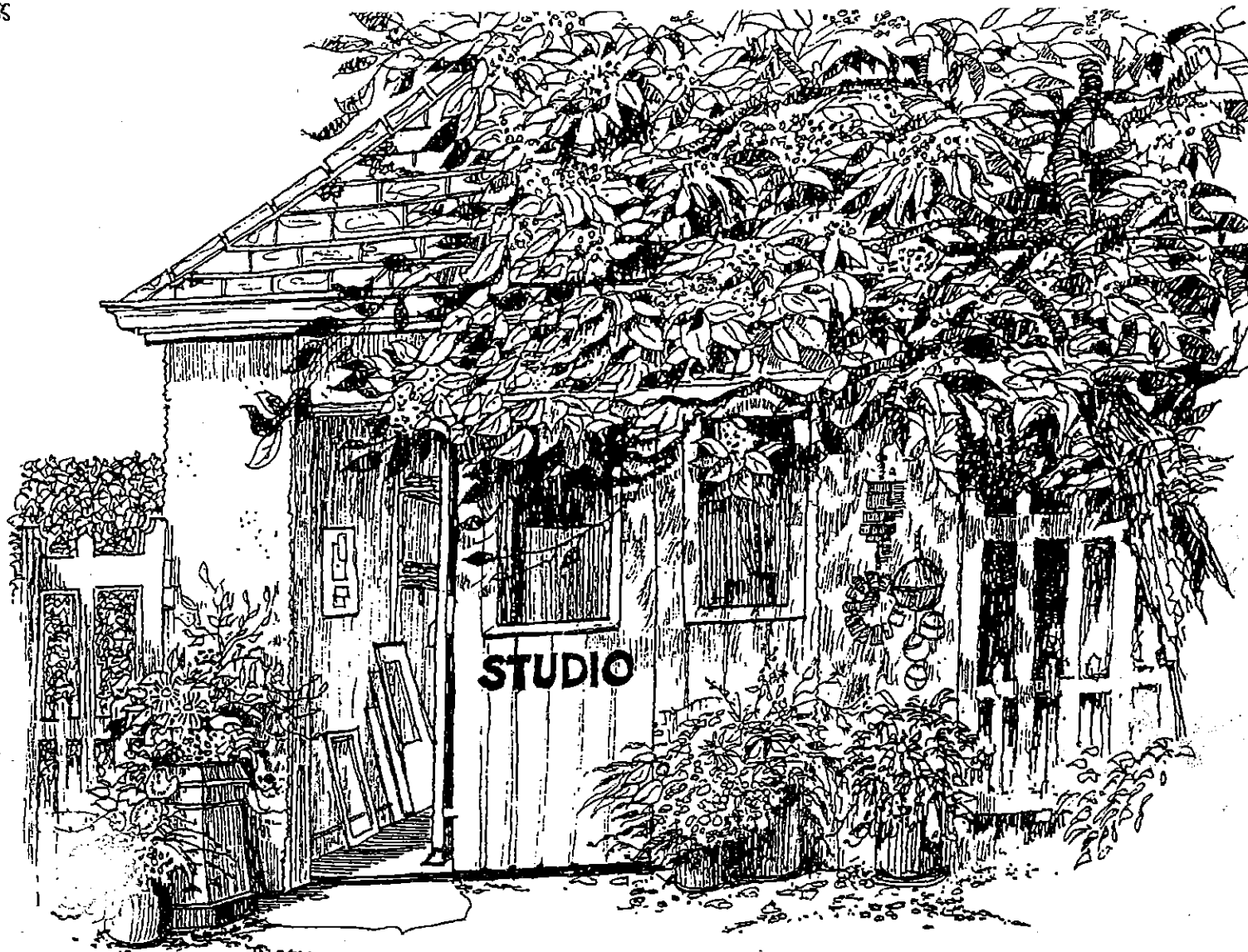
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