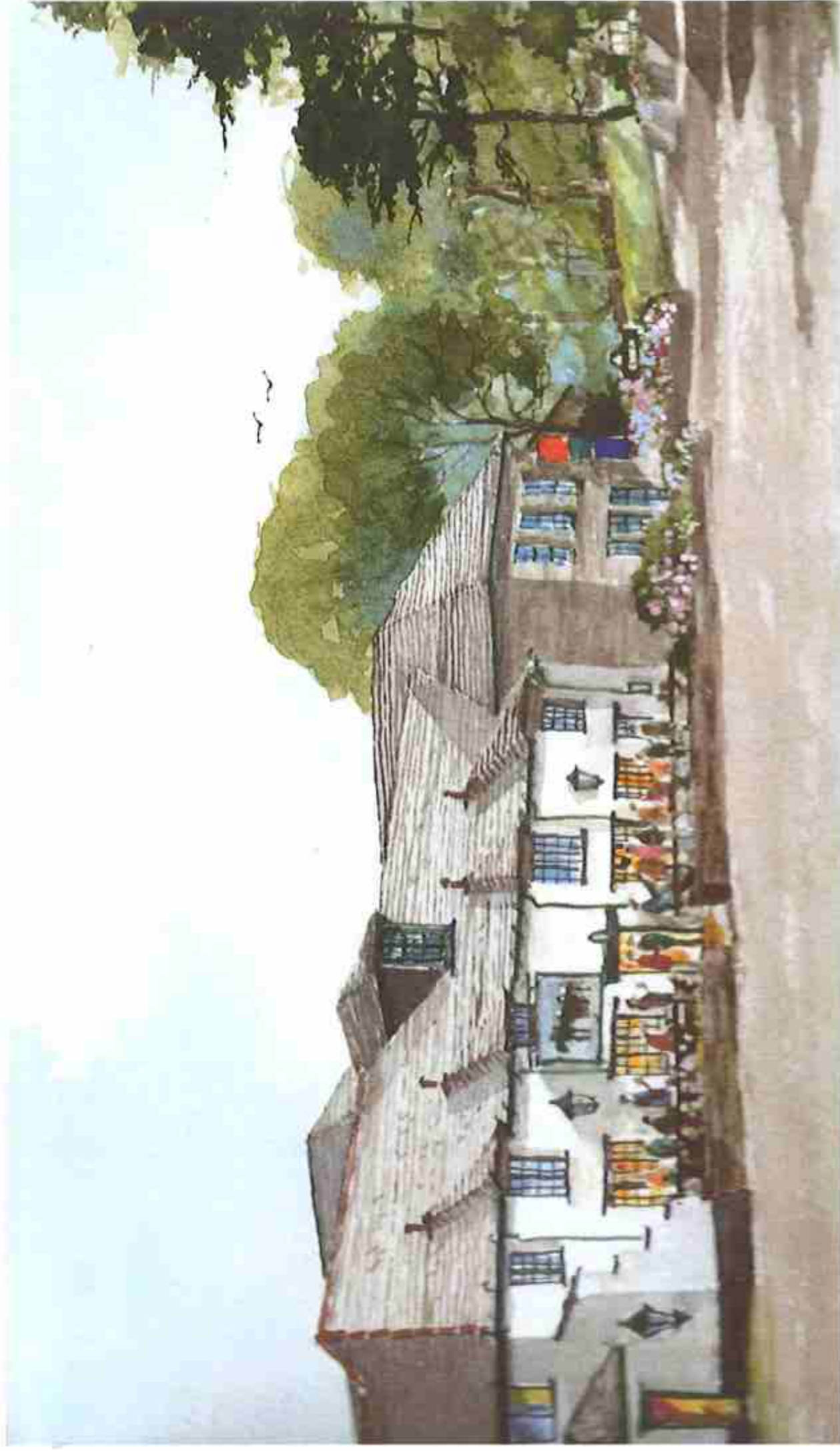


VILLAGE VOICE

June - July 2009





NUMBER 157
JUNE - JULY 2009

There was such a favourable feedback about the Christmas issue front cover - a winter picture of the Duke's Mill boathouse - that we have persuaded Len Hubbard to let us feature another of his splendid watercolours as our cover picture for June/July. This one presents an idyllic summer scene outside the Village Inn; one which it would be nice to be able to offer to the judges when they come to make their assessment of Thurlestone for the Best Kept Village awards for 2009.

However, a reality check around the village soon requires any rose-tinted spectacles to be swiftly removed. While most of our inhabitants take great care of their property there remain plenty of "grey" if not "black" spots around the village that would not escape the judges' eagle eyes and blue pencils. These will need some determined community elbow-grease, followed by sustained vigilance, if we are to be seen in what we hope are our true colours.

Perhaps we should invite the judges to make just a single inspection - at Burwood Gallery - where they may gaze on visions of Thurlestone in all its glory in Len's sketches and water colours. Sadly, it is more likely that they have other boxes to tick (litter, wheelie-bins, notice-boards, etc.) where their blue pencils could come into play. But maybe we can all at least try to do our bit to live up to Len's visions of Thurlestone, and help to make the reality of the village something - like our front cover picture - in which we can take a true delight.

Cover Picture : *Outside the Village Inn*

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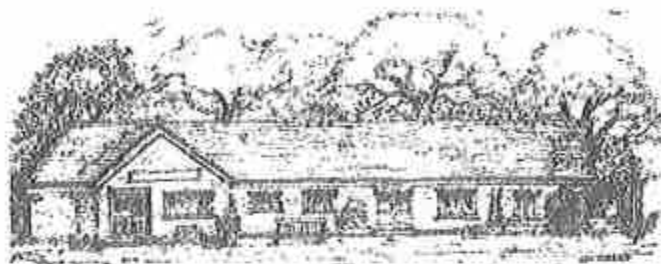
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Parish Hall News

by Chris White



Well, here goes for the first Parish Hall News of my term of office as Chairman of the Parish Hall. Yes, **Ron Parkin's** confident prediction was correct and I was duly elected at the AGM - and it is a genuine pleasure and a great honour. Being involved with the Parish Hall is hugely rewarding, and I can strongly recommend it to anyone who thinks they might have something to offer in the way of time or skills, or both! We are still looking for a volunteer to help with the lighting systems. How about it?

Ron was thanked at the AGM for his outstanding contribution to the development and first three successful years of the New Parish Hall, but it is worth saying again here just how much our community owes him for his hard work and the foresight he and his committee exercised to ensure that we have a building that is equipped for everything that we ask of it - of which more later.

My term started right away with the stunning *Photographic Exhibition*, put on over Easter by our two resident Associates of the Royal Photographic Society, **Keith Millman** and **Mike Sparrow**. We were treated to a feast of beauty and, pleasingly, the Exhibition was well attended by residents, visitors, and people from the wider local area.

In early May a simple letting of the Hall for a wedding reception turned into a spectacular event, when the bride and groom decided they wanted the interior decorated as an Arabian tent. I do know that Ron and his committee agonised for ages over the wisdom of installing the lighting bars in the Hall and, yet again, they were proved right,

as they have turned out to be not only excellent at what they were designed for, but also versatile enough to be exactly what was required as the fixings for an Arabian tent! The result was amazing and if you want see what it looked like just go to our website at www.devonvillagehalls.co.uk/Thurlestone and click on 'View more Photo' (thanks to **Keith Millman** for taking the photo). We wish **Nick** and **Emma Southcott** all the best for their life together and thank them for showing us yet another example of the versatility of our Parish Hall.

Coming up in June, a chance to see the beautiful gardens at Lower Kerse, courtesy of **Stephen** and **Diana Parker-Swift**, whilst enjoying a Cream Tea. Full details may be found elsewhere in this edition of Village Voice. This is an afternoon that is to be highly recommended and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there on Sunday 21st June.

The other fun event in the calendar for the Summer is the **BBQ, Bowls and Boules** evening on Tuesday 28th July. We have our very own highly experienced BBQ chefs lined up to provide the food. You will be able to enjoy traditional *French Boules* in the car park, and/or *Short Mat Bowls* inside the Hall, courtesy of the Bowls Club. Come along, have some fun, and you never know, you may find yourself a new hobby. We also have quite a bit more lined up for your entertainment later in the year but that's for the next issue.

Chris White
Chairman

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 6th April & 11th May 2009

News and views by Citizen

Attendance

In April, five Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and Sir Simon Day (Devon County Councillor) were present plus ten members of the public. At the May meeting six Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, two Police representatives and eight members of the public were present.

Appointment of Officers

The following Councillors were proposed, seconded, and elected for the year ahead:

Chairman - **Andrew Rhymes**

Vice-Chairman - **Kit Marshall**

Parish Hall representative - **Peter Hurrell**

School representative - **Andrew Rhymes**

Youth representative - **Dale Came**

Friends of Thurlestone Church & Parish

Plan representative - **Kit Marshall**

Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore**, the former Parish Tree Warden, did not wish to be re-appointed to this role. As a Tree Warden was not required to be a Parish Councillor, it was agreed that an appeal for a volunteer should be put in Village Voice.

Open Forum

Tree-felling at Warren Hill

In April questions were raised about the ownership of land adjacent to Warren Hill where all the trees, both healthy and diseased, have recently been felled in an act of "vandalism", as one parishioner put it. After checking with the Land Registry it was reported at the May meeting that land to the east side of the fence, containing 13 trees, belonged to the Thurlestone Hotel, and the land on the west (road) side of the fence, containing 50 trees, belonged to Devon County Council. The felling was at the direction of the Hotel, who had always looked after the land in question even though it was technically the County Council's.

The members of the public who raised this point wish the Parish Council to insist that the Hotel replant trees on the non-Hotel part of the site.

Councillor **Geoffrey Stidston** pointed out that this site was also home to a lot of the notifiable plant Japanese Knotweed.

Aspects Signs

The Gerald Wood Homes "Aspects" signs have been displayed for several months around the parish. According to Highway rules they are allowed for three days only and Councillor Stidston will speak to Gerald Wood Homes about their removal.

Flooding

Flooding of the road opposite Church Cottages has been worsened after recent road repairs. County Councillor **Sir Simon Day** arranged a site meeting accompanied by **Lester Wilmington** (Head of DCC Highway Management) and Councillors **Mitchelmore** and **Hurrell**. Results are awaited.

Bonfires

The question of whether they are allowed will be followed up with the District Council.

The Green Triangle

The small triangular green at the entrance to Eddystone Road was still the subject of much contention. Parishioner **Mr Mike Sparrow** said he had suffered over the years by having the passage from his lane at the side of the church to the main road obstructed by parked cars. It was his belief that the removal of this small green had not solved, but worsened, the problem and had left an eyesore. He had waited long and patiently and was not prepared to face another summer of parking hassle. An earlier plan to foil inconvenient parking had to be abandoned due to the high cost of implementation - probably around

£4000 out of a total budget of £6000! In a further effort to solve the problem, a notice board would be erected, on Parish Council land, as quickly as possible, warning that cars parked beyond a certain point would be clamped with a £120 release fee. It was pointed out that the removal of the small triangular green was in the nature of an experiment and if it did not work then it could easily be reinstated.

Thurlestone Sands

A letter should have been written by the Parish Council to the National Trust last December re the name "South Milton Sands" but it could not be traced so the new Parish Clerk wrote on the 27th April. The reply from the Trust is awaited with interest.

Parish Hall

Chris White was the new chairman of the Hall, following the retirement of **Ron Parkin**. The Hall's finances were kept healthy by the hard work of fund-raising. Various maintenance points were being attended to.

Highways

The culvert at West Buckland was still causing problems and this will be chased with DCC.

Footpaths

The raised footpath on Thurlestone's main road had been tidied up and the 'phantom' lamp-post should be removed by the end of June. A large shrub overhanging the path at Heathfield was causing problems to pedestrians and the property owner would be contacted. The Golf Club have now removed the steps down to Leasfoot beach at the eastern end.

School

50% of the pupils came from 'local' homes. Planning permission for work on the school buildings had been approved. The Daily Telegraph reported that the school was one of the top primaries in Devon. There is over-

subscription for the 2009 autumn term (is it surprising?)

Youth

Toby Yeoman (Will and Cheryl's son) has made the South Devon Rugby team and Thurlestone had representatives taking part in the Ten Tors exercise.

Planning

The owner of plot 6 in phase 1 of the Mead estate has requested that the extension of Leonards Close that serves phase 1 be named **Whimbrel Edge**. The PC has no objection.

Bus Passes

Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** said the South Hams District Council appeared not to be willing to state how much the shortfall in the Over 60s bus pass funding from Whitehall was costing Council tax payers. All other Councils in Devon have disclosed this figure, which shows significant under-funding.

County Councillor's report

Sir Simon Day apologised for not being able to attend the Parish annual meeting due to being in Brussels. The County Council's budget was increased by 2.9%, police numbers were currently 3500 with a further 200 officers due and the unitary authority question was due to be finalised in July this year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 8 June in the Yeo Room.

Are You A Tree-Lover?

If so, how would you like to watch over all the trees in the parish on behalf of the Parish Council, as their Tree Warden? For more information about the role, please contact Philip Millard, Parish Clerk.

Village News Round-Up

Winifred Nash

It is with sadness we have to record the death of **Winifred Nash** at the great age of 96, and we send our sincere condolences to her daughter **Gill Durdon**, son-in-law **Alastair**, and the family.

Nick Nicholson

We understand that quite recently, after only a brief period in office, the captain of **Thurlestone Golf Club**, **Nick Nicholson**, has been obliged to resign as a result of ill health. He has been succeeded by his vice-captain **David Wadey**. We can only wish them both well in these difficult circumstances.

Damages

A high-sided vehicle struck a corner of the Pump House recently, shifting the building several inches and dislodging roofing tiles. More tiles had to be removed for safety purposes and the building roped off. Fortunately the driver of the vehicle has owned up and his employers, a firm from Dartmouth and the owners of the vehicle, have promised to pay for the repairs needed. The planting box opposite Toye's Orchard, which **Julian Lee** looked after so well last year, has also suffered, this time at the hands of unknown vandals over a week-end in late April. They not only broke the box and threw the pieces on the road, but also tore off the large masonry plug that kept it in place. Please let the police know if you have any clues to whoever did this damage. These two incidents have come at a very bad time...just as we have entered the **Best Kept Village** contest. [See **Kit Marshall's** letter to the Editor in *Postbag* elsewhere in this issue]

Spicey!

Over the early May bank holiday there was a bit of excitement down **Thurlestone** main street and in the **Village Inn** as a member of

a former well-known girls' pop group was spotted enjoying the sun on a visit to the locality. The clue as to who it was? Well, one of the other members of her former group is the wife of a famous footballer.

Marathon Run

Graham and **Liz Clack** took part in the London Marathon at the end of April, despite **Liz's** injury problems, and are happy to report that almost £2000 was raised in sponsorship money for their charity, **SENSE**, which supports deaf/blind adults. They send their thanks to all their supporters. Congratulations - well done and well run!

Keeping up with the Joneses

Mike and **Brenda Jones** of **Thurlestone** have excitements at both ends of their family spectrum. Not only have they recently welcomed the arrival of their fifth and sixth grandchildren within a week of each other - **Jack** to son **Gary** and **Steph**, and **Bethany** to son **Chris** and **Susie** - but on 14th May helped **Mike's** parents to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at **Salcombe**. Good wishes to all concerned!

Daughter **Claire** has also distinguished herself - on the hockey field as the captain of **Kingsbridge & Salcombe Ladies** team. She steered her girls to victory in the recent **Devon Trophy** final at **Exeter**. Playing against a strong side, **Trelawney Division One** champions, **Dart**, the local ladies fought well in a tense match and defied the odds to win 1 - 0. Great stuff and well done **Claire** and the **Jones** family!

Pub Quiz

A beautiful bouquet of flowers was given to **Mike Jones** to take home to **Brenda**, to say "thank you" for all the time and effort they put into making Tuesday nights at the **Village**

Inn fun. Their regular quizzes are really looked forward to by their loyal supporters who played their final match of the season on the 12th May, when it was announced that as a result of their regular brain-bashing sessions the sum of £2654 can be donated to their chosen charity, the Devon Air Ambulance. **The Tuesday quiz will start again on 15th September, so quizzers please make a note.** Meanwhile, an official from DAA will come to the pub on the evening of Friday 5th June to accept the cheque formally (some time between 5 and 6pm). This presentation will be followed by a special fun evening that is being arranged by pub landlord **Howard Turner**. This will feature the **Bad Knees Blues Band** and a buffet will be available at £4.95. Enquiries to Howard at the pub on 01548-563525. All readers will agree that this is a magnificent effort by the Village Inn quizzers, so please do your best to go along to enjoy the evening on the 5th June.

Andrew's Wood, Loddiswell

There are two events coming up, on which help from the public would be appreciated. The first is on Saturday 18th July when a Plant Survey of the wood takes place and the second on Saturday 8th August, the annual Heath Lobelia count, both starting 10am from the wood's car park which is on the left going out of Loddiswell towards California Cross. No experience is necessary as experts will be on hand for guidance. Suitable footwear and clothing is important, and a packed lunch if you are staying. Ring **Gordon Waterhouse** on 01548-852570 to enquire nearer the dates.

Off To Turkey

As a result of their victory in the Virgin Atlantic PGA National Pro-Am qualifier at Saunton Golf Club on Wednesday 6th May, our golf professional **Peter Laughner** and his amateur partner **Harry Milburn-Fryer** will be taking part in Europe's biggest Pro-Am Golf Final. This is to be played in December over the Sultan course at the Antalya Golf Club in Turkey, and carries a £30,000 prize fund. Peter and Harry will enjoy an all-expenses paid trip to the Sirene Golf Hotel at

Belek for the event, where they will compete against the other 15 finalists from Great Britain and Ireland. Well done, and the best of luck to you both!

The Avon Lantern

The visiting team from Bigbury very much enjoyed the catering of new chef **Carmine** on Saturday 9th May, and also clearly enjoyed the first of the two 2009 games against Thurlestone, retaining the Avon Lantern by the margin of 8½ matches to 1½.

Pensioners' Ping Pong

With regular numbers fully taking up the one hour session on Wednesdays between 5.00 and 6.00 pm, a second session on another day and/or time could be arranged for any more former enthusiasts who would like to revisit the game. Nor would there be an absolute bar to any aficionados of pre-pension age. If you are interested in finding out if your backhanders can still stand up to scrutiny (unlike some of our parliamentarians), and would like to have a trial knock-up, please contact **Robin Macdonald** on 560436.

Golden Oldies

The grapevine has it that the year 1959 must have produced a vintage crop, for we hear that a number of our residents are claiming to have reached a half-century of undivorced togetherness this year. The limitations of editorial space, and due consideration for a degree of bashfulness in some quarters, prevent us from providing a complete list of the celebrants, but Village Voice sends them all heartiest congratulations. Bravo!

Oops....Sorry!

We are grateful to eagle-eyed reader, **Pat Hill** of West Sussex, for spotting our mistake in the last issue. She writes "*I am sure 'Ten Times Table' by the Salcombe Players will be a wonderful play and success but I think £750 for a ticket is a little excessive!*" Due to a "typo" what should have been shown as £7.50 in fact came out as £750. We hope it didn't spoil any sales.



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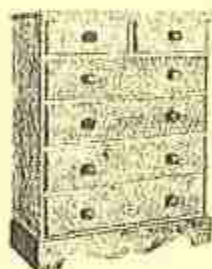
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PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Thurlestone Parish Hall - 20th April 2009

Seven Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, thirteen members of the public, and a Police representative attended this meeting. The guest speaker was **John Halliday**, Devon County Council Highways Engineer.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There were eleven full Council meetings during the year. Important points have been the ongoing building improvements at the school, the opposition to the redevelopment of The Thatches site, the closure of the Youth Club due to falling numbers, and the fire at the Shop/Post Office. A mystery street lamp appeared by the raised footpath on Thurlestone main road in September and by Christmas action to solve the problems with parking on the cobbled road by the church was started. In February long-time Parish Clerk **Cathy Tavender** resigned as she was moving to Wales, and tribute was paid to her invaluable work. This led to the appointment of her successor, **Philp Millard**, who lives in the parish. In April there was a presentation from **Helen Buckingham** who is responsible for the Definitive Map Review in Thurlestone, which will look at Public Rights of Way. Also in April **Sir Simon Day** our County Councillor arranged for **Lester Wilmington** and **John Halliday** of Highways to come to the parish to sort out the drainage problems on Thurlestone main street. Thanks were expressed to Councillors for their help and support over the year, to the Thurlestone Hotel for cleaning the bus shelter and to the Parish of Thurlestone Society (P.O.T.S.) for looking after the Pump House.

POLICE

Salcombe Neighbourhood Team of **PC Steve Mullen**, Police Community Support Officer **Matt Blackmore**, under the supervision of **Sgt Jane Corkhill** and **Inspector Chivers**, continue to look after us. Over the past twelve months there has been a total of 21 crimes recorded in the parish, representing a very small increase, and these are broken down as - 2 burglaries, 7 criminal damage, 4 thefts, 2 assaults and 6 miscellaneous offences (drink drive, domestic related incidents etc). Throughout the year **Matt Blackmore** has held surgeries in the Yeo Room prior to Parish Council meetings, but they have been poorly attended. Both **Steve** and **Matt** have also attended church coffee mornings on Wednesdays to give people a chance

to chat to them. An ongoing operation is the Pubs Against Drugs project, which involves using passive drugs-detecting dogs in licenced premises, and they also work with Neighbourhood Watch, housing providers and local service groups. There was an increased level of patrols over the winter, due to a number of ongoing incidents which warranted high visibility police patrols and protracted investigations. Even when not in evidence, the team is kept busy planning for high profile summer events such as regattas, fair week, and increased public order policing in Salcombe and Kingsbridge, but they strive to keep in contact with village communities through their parish meetings and other social events. They thanked our Parish Council for its continued support.

JOHN HALLIDAY - DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS ENGINEER

John Halliday looks after Area South which includes Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon districts. Within this there are 120 Parish Councils, 4000 kilometres of highway, 1000 bridleways, footpaths and by-ways and the new village of Sherford (near Plymouth) will also come under his wing. They have £7.9m of revenue which includes £4.5m for road maintenance, an £8.7m capital budget, and a staff of 50. He gave a contact number for reporting potholes, etc. (01392-380160) or e-mail to <Southareahm@devon.gov.uk> and said it was quicker for the public to contact them direct rather than through a Parish Council.

PARISH SURVEY

Kit Marshall gave an interim statement - see elsewhere in this issue for a preliminary report.

OPEN FORUM

The Mead Now that phases 1 and 2 are nearing completion at the bottom of the Mead a member of the public asked the Parish Council if they were happy with it, and if it was what they expected when they approved the plans? The Council responded that they did not have a view on it, at which it was pointed out what a lot of bad feeling there was amongst residents of the Mead that the Parish Council had not objected to the development when plans were initially put forward.

Drainage. Road drainage outside Church Cottages was again raised and **John Halliday** confirmed that this would be attended to as quickly as possible.

The Thurlestone Parish Survey

Preliminary report

The survey was carried out during February and March 2009 using a questionnaire developed by the steering committee based on advice from Devon County Council's Corporate Consultation Service. It was pilot tested during January and finalised after a consultation meeting attended by many parishioners.

Distribution

445 copies were hand delivered with Village Voice to known full time residents.

67 were sent by post to their Village Voice's "non-resident" list.

30 were sent to non-residents identified from the Yarmer and Mead Estate lists

25 were e-mailed to responders to a letter sent by SHDC to second home council tax payers

Copies were also made available in the local shops.

A total of 567 were distributed.. The number of dwellings in the Parish is 615 of which 204 are holiday homes. This means that the vast majority of homes had the opportunity to return the survey. There was certainly some duplication, so we cannot claim 92% coverage, but the figure must be in the high eighties. The most likely group not to have received a copy would be second home owners not living on Yarmer or Mead and who did not respond to the SHDC letter

Responses

204 completed questionnaires were returned, 75% of which were from people living in Thurlestone "most/all of time".

Thus we received response from 37% of resident households and 25% of non-residents.

A total of 376 individuals responded to the personal part of the survey.

A summary of the key results is given in the table opposite.

Looking at the responses, it appears that response was fairly consistent with known facts (ie the number of children compared with those going to school).

Next Actions

We shall be obtaining some cross tabulations to enable us to compare the views of different groups within the community. Residents v Second Homers is the most obvious, but there is scope to look at differences by age, length of residence, etc. Any suggestions would be welcomed.

Alan Taylor Bigg

April 2009

Thurlestone Parish Survey

Key results

<i>The population is very stable</i>	62% of households have lived in the Parish for more than 10 years (On average houses in GB change hands every 7 years)
<i>Household size is small</i>	Only 12% of homes have more than 2 residents. There are no homes with more than 5 residents
<i>Average Age is high</i>	86% of females are over 40. Only 6% are of childbearing age. 83% of men are over 40 Almost half the population are over 65
<i>Many people knew the area before moving in</i>	Almost 30% had "come for holidays", while many had "chosen it as a retirement area" or wanted to move to the South Hams
<i>Being "wholly retired" is the principal occupation</i>	60% are fully retired. 9% are employed full time, 7% part time and 9% self employed
<i>Village amenities are well used</i>	Almost 90% of respondents use the Post Office and 67% attend events at the Parish Hall
<i>Thurlestone is well wired</i>	Nearly 90% have internet access, with 60% on broadband
<i>Quality of life is satisfactory</i>	30% say that it has improved in recent years, while only 20% think it has become worse
<i>Change is not a priority</i>	60% would like the Parish to stay substantially the same. However, there is a recognition that the Parish would be improved if there were more families and young people (39%) and there were fewer second homes (47%). Very few would like to see a significant increase in new buildings.
<i>Expansion is viewed cautiously</i>	The majority say that new building should be within the existing area and that there should be a requirement for traditional materials and styles to be used
<i>"Urbanisation" is strongly disliked</i>	60% oppose the introduction of speed bumps and 64% are against street lighting. However, there is a small minority strongly in favour of both these actions
<i>Speeding is seen as a problem</i>	62% would like the speed limit to be reduced to 20mph
<i>Dog fouling is a negative</i>	Half the population say it is a problem (not presumably the 30% who have a dog as a pet!)
<i>The Church provides appropriate services</i>	Very few respondents were unhappy. The majority were satisfied
<i>The idea of extra involvement with the school intrigued</i>	40% would be interested in hearing more about the school. The provision of lunches for Over 65s had some appeal
<i>The Council could do more to keep the Parish Clean</i>	Beach cleaning and litter clearance were the most mentioned activities, with the Youth Club close behind.

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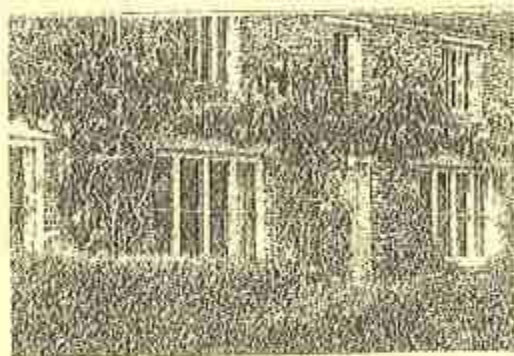
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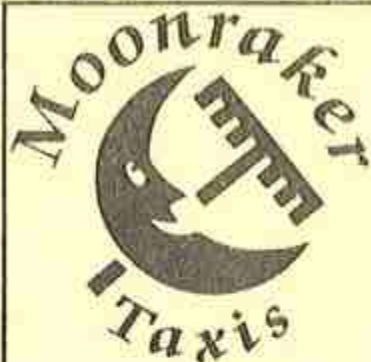
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LAY READER: Peter Gornall

Peter Gornall writes:

STATISTICS? – NO, THANK YOU.



Statistics – what a turn-off for most of us! They bombard us from our TV and website screens, from talk programmes and advertisements on the music stations. Crime or credit crunch, fish stocks or fatalities in Iraq, we are in no position to check how the figures were gathered, and whether the presenter has carefully selected the ones that best help a particular case.

Another annoyance is some researcher finding a very small percentage health risk from some food, drink or activity which most of us would reckon a pleasure, like, say, red wine, or a necessity, like staring at a computer screen (as I am now). I was fortunate once to help organise a medical trial where one very serious complication of treatment was 15% in one half of the patients and zero in the other. We were clear that the trial was a success and gave us an important outcome. Curiously the statisticians were in apparent difficulty with the maths of zero!

So to prevent you turning the page immediately, I won't dwell long on the results of the "Church" question in the Parish Survey. Over half of those who returned the questionnaire were aware of the church's activities, and 41% agreed that the church met their expectations. Considering the statistics published about recent attendance numbers and the understanding of the church in the population in general, Thurlestone All Saints' appears to be in a favourable position. Another very biased view, you say.

Of course it is biased, but not half as much as the fundamental *raison d'être* of the Church itself. The engine of its existence is the care and concern of the One we believe in for 100% of humanity – now there's a statistic. We won't survey how far short the Church falls in expressing that belief. Moments of great heroism, endurance or magnanimity prompted by that same belief rarely reach the media (small percentages). Countless private and unnoticed words and deeds expressing it are in fulfilment of the promises by the risen Christ of his continuing presence.

However difficult the maths of zero, pursuing 100% care and concern in a turbulent and often ungrateful world looks impossible (and can sometimes cost lives). Just two Confirmations after Easter from this Benefice might look like small numbers, but they are of infinitely more significance than the nice statistic that half the survey respondents were aware of Church activities. Commitment cannot be measured like counting awareness and such. Fulfilling the really big task begins and continues with personal conviction. After that, statistics – no thanks!

Every Blessing!

Peter

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All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

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Every Sunday (except July 12th and JUNE 7TH & JULY 5TH)	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP: 3rd Sunday, CW: 2nd & 4th 7.45am Holy Communion (BCP) (<i>Please note time</i>)
THURSDAY JUNE 4TH, JULY 2ND	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at White Horses, Bantham
SUNDAY JUNE 7TH, JULY 5TH	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (<i>Fairtrade Stall after the service</i>) 6.00pm Benefice Evensong (BCP) June: CH*, July: WA*
SUNDAY JUNE 14TH	11.10am Morning Worship for All Ages
SUNDAY JUNE 21ST, JULY 19TH	11.10am Family Communion (CW) 6.00pm Benefice Evening Worship June: SM*, July: CH*
SUNDAY JUNE 28TH, JULY 26TH	11.10am Matins (BCP)
SUNDAY JULY 12TH	11.00am Benefice Sea Sunday Service at TH * (note time) followed by optional "Bring & Share Lunch"

* TH = Thurlestone SM = South Milton WA = West Alvington CH = Churchstow
BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

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POSTBAG

Dear Editor

On behalf of the family, I would like to thank everyone who sent letters and cards following Graham's recent death.

We have a special 'thank you' for Joan Booth and her helpers, also Chris White who gave time to help at the funeral service. We are truly grateful to them and most appreciative of what they did.

**Rosemary Durant
5 Wingfield, Thurlestone**

Dear Editor

The End of a Name?

I think we have to draw a line under the efforts to revert back to Thurlestone Sands. Just to reiterate (apologies to all of you who are familiar with this) but I feel it is relevant to summarise the history of the naming of the area.

There is little doubt that for a very long time the area has been called Thurlestone Sands. Probably when Thurlestone was little more than a hamlet. It may be relevant to suggest that this name, which as we all know arose from the rock itself, may only have been applied to the beach itself, rather than the land behind it. Certainly almost any search of the early maps and a dip into Google will show you that it was indeed Thurlestone Sands. However, it is relevant to point out that more often than not the name is written on the beach or in the sea itself. Certainly I have known it as Thurlestone Sands for all of my sixty years - and my mother has known the name for a further twenty. But the beach, as we know, is owned by the Crown and the only land behind it is privately owned. It is this, privately owned, area which is the cause of the problem.

As we know it is owned by the National Trust, who inherited the name of 'South Milton Sands' from the previous owner who, in turn, donated the land (and the Beach Hut) to the NT about twenty years ago. When the previous owner bought it he gave that land the name of South

Milton Sands which, as the private owner of the land, he was perfectly entitled to do.

The National Trust are in a difficult position as they are facing flack from three Parish Councils, South Milton, South Huish and Thurlestone. As I am sure you are aware, the vast majority of the land and beach are in the parish of South Milton. There is none in the parish of Thurlestone, and only a very small bit in the parish of South Huish and that bit is owned by the National Trust.

The National Trust, I think rightly, would consider changing the name if there was a consensus view from the three Parish Councils, but there isn't. I cannot speak for Thurlestone PC as a body as I have not seen any clear statement from them; but the correspondence in their Village Voice clearly opts for Thurlestone Sands. South Huish PC has been specific in supporting this. South Milton remains consistent in its desire for the current name to remain. It is of some interest that during my research into this subject, I found my faded copy of *South Milton, the story of a Devon village* by G W Davis of Webbers, South Milton, published in 1965. This is very specific that it was and had been South Milton Sands.

It is interesting to see how the community of South Milton has positively reacted to the restoration of the land behind the beach. It is in their parish, they want the name to remain and I, for one, now accept and agree to this. I would ask others to do likewise and to remember the previous name in whatever way we wish. I for one, as I walk on the beach below the mean tide mark, will always consider myself to be on Thurlestone Sands; but be quite content to recognise that I'm on South Milton Sands as I walk eastwards up the beach and on to the new walkways. Let's draw a line in the sand with good grace - but not losing our sense of history.

**Peter Stafford
The White House, South Huish**

[Footnote: The RNLi red notice board at the entrance to this newly-planted area describes it as "Thurlestone Sand"! Ed.]

Dear Editor

From New Zealand

The article by Jeanne Sowry, nee Adams (any relation of Jack?) in January's Village Voice brought back many happy memories.

Our family spent every summer at the hut across the river from Bantham. My mother, Dorothy Woods, and her sister Vi Wilkinson bought it in 1915 and were semi-camped there for years. My grandfather used to stay with his cousin John Pitman, who had the living at Aveton Gifford. They used to bring a boat load of parishioners to picnic on Bantham Beach, coming down on the outgoing and going home on the incoming tides. He was offered Burgh Island for £100 about 1900 and said he had no use for an island....pity! Anne Jenkins of Buckland told me her father had the same offer - same reaction.

Part of the daily chores for we children - we were detailed off to fetch bread, milk etc from the Bantham shop (McBrearty's at the time). If we wanted cream, a treat, we had to walk to Chadders Farm at Buckland. Never wearing shoes we used to walk on the cowpats - softer on the feet!

We were at the hut in 1939 when war was declared. I well remember it and though only eleven at the time I knew our lives would change. To keep us away from Kent, and the possible invasion, we rented the Pilchard Cellars from Nancy Martin. My brother and I went to school in Bigbury, which entailed being rowed across the river then a walk up to the golf club to catch the bus to the village. On one trip up the river about then we found this lovely big *bomb* thing which mother would not let us touch. The army was informed and blew it up...sad really!

The Ridgway family were an important part of our lives. The twins, Mark and Edward, were somewhat older than me but we had a lot of fun. Phyllis Hamilton of Buckland was their cousin and my godmother. They all came to my christening in Thurlestone church in 1928. Early in the war we were all at David Dixon and Phil Geppard's wedding - such a handsome couple.

As we grew up we took many friends of all nationalities to the hut - can't say they were all impressed but the special ones loved it. My mother died in 1982, my sister later, and I am a

New Zealander. My nephew, Patrick Price, and family are now the residents of the hut. He has made it so *comfortable*. Another six years and the family will have occupied it for 100 years!

I am having my last last trip to England. In fact I leave tomorrow *[letter undated but received in mid-April. Ed.]*. Sorry to have bumbled on so but it was fun remembering!

Isobel King,
3 Hatepe Avenue,
Taupo 3330, NZ

Dear Editor

En route to another world

We have been very fortunate to holiday in Thurlestone since 2002 - we love coming down - and have taken to reading Village Voice as it keeps us in touch with Devon and settles us in for our times back home in Hurst Green, Surrey. We thought you might like this short account of how we feel when "en route to another world"!

Friday 20th March 8 pm, start to load the car. Is it all there? We'll probably think of something we have overlooked just as we leave Oxted tomorrow morning. The list we create is reliable but not, alas, always infallible. Saturday 21st March at 7.45 am, we set off for Thurlestone. The weather is favourable, traffic on the M25 is moving steadily. On to the M3 and it's all OK here too. The continually rising sun looks over us from behind as we enter Hampshire. One hour and thirty minutes have passed since we set off and quite soon we are through the Wiltshire border. We look in awe at the sun which is emphasising that Stonehenge is awake and looking blissfully serene, resting from the previous day's sightseeing public! The A303 is doing us proud and is now leading us at pace into Somerset. In another 45 minutes we will draw in for a sandwich and drink at the Chard Services, taking a well-earned rest at our usual 'milestone' for the journey - the Blackdown Hills.

Our minds at rest with the thought that we have a full fuel tank in the car we embark on our next stage of the trip and have to concentrate on the road ahead, though, as the eyes can wander involuntarily. We are pleased to see caravans passing us going east - but I have spotted one moving innocently in front of us, oblivious to the trail of traffic that has built up behind! On the

dual-carriageway ahead we are off at a more road-consuming pace down to Exeter. This is what we call the "Gully Run" - storm water is taken from the road and runs via a gully at each side of the carriageway.

Exeter Airport is quiet, the time is around 11 am and we are approaching the M5. Just a short sprint to the A38 in the Plymouth direction. Dartmoor lies to our right as we loom up the slip road to the last part of our outward journey and on towards Loddiswell. But the roads have shrunk and we have to take extra care squeezing through oncoming cars and farm machinery. The California Inn looks tranquil and affords us a nice Guinness and a serene spot in the garden where we hear only the sound of sparrows and distant tractors. A call at the farm shop in Loddiswell provides us with some food for the week ahead.

Almost at Thurlestone now, we creep through Churchstow. Just before we reach the village we see a buzzard perched on a telegraph post, the breeze disturbing a wing feather - or is he welcoming us? As we make our final turn, left hand down with the steering wheel, over the brow of the hill, it's like a camera has suddenly been thrown into wide-angle mode. As always we seem to be in another world - a world we like to be in!

At our destination the key is gladly placed in the lock and baggage is put inside. Then we put on the power and water, open the blinds and with that the bungalow breathes into life. It is worth taking ten minutes to gaze out over the bay - should be compulsory viewing for all visitors. Evening is now approaching and the clouds part for us to enjoy the stars and the quietude apart from the gentle rumbles of the tides. A very soothing end to our journey. We now look forward to the week ahead.

Peter & Caroline Watson
Hurst Green, Oxted, Surrey

Dear Editor

Best Kept Village in Devon
Competition 2009

This year Thurlestone village really is entered into the Competition for the Best Kept Village in Devon. I have a letter to prove it!

As far as judging is concerned apparently the first round is judged anonymously during May. If we get through the first round they will contact me and let me know that we have progressed to the next round, which will require another visitation some time in June. If we get through to the finals there will be a third visitation in July.

What is the competition all about? Basically, not about chocolate box thatched cottages and window boxes but, as the wording says,

".....the best kept village, embracing community spirit, general maintenance and cleanliness of all village facilities plus environmental friendliness."

I think we score pretty well on all fronts, and there seems no doubt that our village could be a worthy contender.

Maybe we could make sure our verges and banks are tidy and perhaps walkers could take a plastic bag and pick up the odd bit of litter. In the recent Parish Survey 46% of parishioners said they would be happy to help keep the beaches clean..... now is the time. Our notice boards and the information available will also come under the scrutiny of the judges.

Fingers crossed and, as I said last year, we will all benefit from being a strong contender for the Best Kept Village prize.

Kit Marshall
Vice-Chairman
Thurlestone Parish Council

Dear Editor

NSPCC

The local NSPCC committee would like to say how much they appreciated the efforts of so many kind people who donated goods to our recent jumble sale, those who helped sell it on, and those who came to buy. I am sure they will all be delighted to know that as a result of their support, and generous donations, we were able to raise some £390.

A very big 'thank you' to all concerned!

Pat Crawford
Baidland
Thurlestone

THE REPLANT OF THE SANDS

On 26th April, over 50 volunteers, mostly from South Milton and Thurlestone, helped the National Trust to plant over 8000 marram grass plants in the newly-restored dunes at South Milton. Some also came from Plymouth and even Holland. Two of the three dunes were planted and, at the time of going to press, the third is due for completion on 10th May.

Simon Hill, the National Trust warden says *"I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along to make the planting so successful. We were amazed at the amount of work achieved. There was a great atmosphere and people felt very happy to be part of a restoration project that visitors will enjoy for hundreds of years to come. We still have 6000 marram plants to put in and we hope also to get help from local schools..."*

It takes at least a year for the young plants to establish themselves. They send down deep and wide root systems which will help stabilise the dunes from damaging storms. It also won't be that long before they provide good habitats for small insects and birds.

It was at the end of February this year that work began. As well as the old damaged timber defences, over one hundred tonnes of waste material was removed before the actual work of landscaping could start. Improvement work on the car park and pedestrian access routes to the beach via large board walks has also been done. **The National Trust urges visitors to use these new board walks and to respect what has been done by not walking on the dunes, or allowing**

dogs to foul there, so that the dunes may re-establish.

The problems in this area originated in the 1960s before the National Trust owned it, as vehicles started to park on the existing sand dunes, destroying the natural and flexible sea defence provided by dunes. Then later in the 1960s and 1970s a car park was laid, covering the entire site. In 1980 the property was given to the National Trust and in consultation with local residents, parish councils and other conservation bodies it was agreed that some of the car parking at the front of South Milton beach should revert to sand dunes. The Trust has a coastal management policy, Shifting Shores, which recognises the long term impact of climate change on rising sea levels and the importance of working with natural processes where possible - taking account of public interests, including social or economic, in coming to decisions.

An assessment of the parking spaces has been carried out over two years, and the new parking provision will be adequate for 90% of the time when current parking is used. A neighbouring landowner has agreed to open a nearby field at peak times.

For further information, please contact **Sarah Freeman**, Countryside Visitor Services Manager, Saltram House, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 1UH on 01752-346585, or by e-mail to <sarahfreeman@nationaltrust.org.uk> or **Claire Bolitho**, National Trust Communications Officer on 01392-883105, or by e-mail to <claire.bolitho@nationaltrust.org.uk>



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
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DEFINITIVE MAP REVIEW FOR THURLESTONE

On Monday 6th April, **Helen Buckingham**, the Public Rights of Way Officer for Devon County Council came to the Parish Hall to tell us about the work she is undertaking on Thurlestone's Definitive Map.

The Definitive Map for the parish is held by the Parish Clerk and is a legal record of the existence of all public rights of way, with a description and a designation. It could be a **footpath**, a **bridle path** (for walkers, horse riders and pedal cyclists), a **restricted byway** (with usage as a bridle path plus horses and carts - but not motorbikes) or a **byway** (open for all traffic but not maintained as a road).

Definitive Maps came about because of the 1949 National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act and our Parish Council surveyed the parish paths in 1950. Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act of 1981 there is a statutory duty to keep the Definitive Map and statement under continuous review and this is done on a parish by parish basis throughout Devon. There are now 18 footpaths and 1 bridle path in our parish which can be seen on www.devon.gov.uk > Transport & Roads > Public Rights of Way > My Local Paths.

When any changes to the existing map are required or requested, there has to be a large amount of checking and evaluating, public consultation, reports prepared and many hoops to go through before an alteration is made. Supporting data such as user evidence, landowner evidence and documentary evidence, e.g., maps, photographs, estate plans and so on must all be gathered. User Evidence forms are with the Parish Council. **Suggestions must be with Helen** (who will give any guidance necessary) **by 6th July 2009**.

A parishioner reported that Evans Estates now require a permit before a horse rider can cross their land at Bantham. As horses had been ridden or driven over the same land for very many years it was asked if this was a legal requirement. Helen Buckingham knew about the matter and said that a horse rider had been thrown, the horse running scared amongst pedestrians and cars, so in future Evans Estates needed to have proof of a rider's insurance cover against accidents before a permit could be issued. Evidence is needed by DCC that a Rights of Way has been used for 20 years without challenge, by notices, from the landowners.

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Programme for June & July 2009

FRIDAY 9th JUNE. A walk from South Brent. Meet in the car park near the railway (GR 698602) for a circular walk of 4 miles to Shipley Bridge - return by lunchtime.

SATURDAY 20th JUNE. Coach trip to the Axe Vale Festival. This annual event at Axminster attracts exhibitors from the Hampton Court Flower Show. Plus craft and food stands and arena events.

WEDNESDAY 1st JULY. Coach trip to Exeter and Stuart Line cruise to Exmouth. Time for lunch and to visit the antique shops at Exeter's historic quayside. Afternoon cruise on the River Exe to Exmouth.

WEDNESDAY 15th JULY. Grand Summer Fair, Market Hall, Kingsbridge, 10 am to 2 pm. Browse through well-stocked stalls of plants and produce, gifts, books, cakes, bric-a-brac, plus raffle and tombola. Coffee/tea and cakes.

FRIDAY 31st JULY. Coach trip to Tavistock and Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre. Lunch in Tavistock before visiting the amazing exhibits of steam engines, fairground and vintage machinery at Dingles.

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

YOUTH IN THE PARISH

Compiled by Dale Came

Ten Tors Challenge

In earlier reports we have indicated that we would have representatives in the Ten Tors challenge. Now we can proudly record that **Lewis Durant** and **Alex Humphries** have cracked the Ten Tors!

It is very difficult to put into words what the Ten Tors challenge is really all about. Basically, it consists of 26 different routes around Ten Tors comprising 35, 45, and 55 mile distances and is tackled by teams of six. The event attracts schools and youth groups from as far away as Gloucester, Portsmouth and Cornwall. Around 2,500 young people take part in the two-day event. The Army runs the whole thing like a military operation (which it essentially is!). The event and atmosphere are uplifting. It is not just a race - it challenges every part of you as a person.

For **Lewis Durant** this was his second time taking part in the event. This year he was selected to be the Captain of the Kingsbridge Community College 35 mile team. He and his 5 team-mates set off at 7.00 am on Saturday morning. During the first day they reached the eighth Tor where they made camp for the night. **Alex Humphries** was also taking part for the second time. The first time he took part the event had to be halted half way through due to bad weather. **Alex** was part of the 45-mile team and they also got to the eighth Tor for the night. For both teams the eighth Tor was Great Mis Tor.

Sunday morning with a 6.00 am start in the mist made navigation tricky. However, both teams successfully completed the event along with the three other Kingsbridge Teams. **Lewis** led his team to a new school record time finishing the event at 10.23 am. **Alex** and his team finished at 1.05 pm. Both boys have been privileged to be part of this event. Both stepped up to the challenge and should be immensely proud of their achievement.

Ashley Yeoman - One Year On

Ashley, 17, has completed his first year as a Torquay United apprentice footballer. The highlight of his year was a first team call up in which he played the last 20 minutes. He has scored 13 goals in 23 games, playing in midfield before Christmas and returning to the position of striker after Christmas. In this role he went on to score 10 goals in as many games. **Ashley** confirms that there is a world of difference in the life of a trainee footballer compared with the glamorous lifestyle of the highly paid stars we see on the TV.

Peter Barnard is busy!

During the last few months **Peter** (17) has started to get back in the swing of things as far as Tennis is concerned. He recently made it to the quarter Finals of the Plymouth and District Open singles competition and actually won the doubles with his partner - a great start to the season! He is now playing doubles for the Ivybridge B team and has recorded 1 win from the 2 games thus far. In the coming months he plans to play in a lot more tournaments.

Peter has just finished the football season for Malborough FC scoring 4 goals in 10 games. The team finished 9th from 14 and are looking to improve next season. AS level exams in maths, business studies, ICT and Product Design are currently being worked on with the view to staying on in Kingsbridge sixth form to complete A levels. After that comes a planned Gap year prior to university during which **Peter** is hoping to travel and secure a position in ICT which is his chosen career path. In the meantime he will continue to work in the village shop mostly on Saturday mornings where he hopes to continue to see all of us.

Youth News

Please send any items for Youth News next issue to dale@camelotfloridarentals.co.uk.



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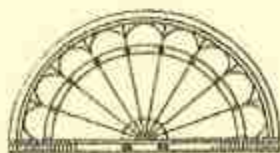


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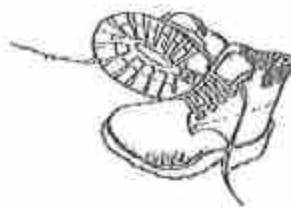
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TRAMP



1 On the 6th March, in excellent walking conditions, 14 members of TRAMP, accompanied by Dogs A and B, embarked on a fairly gentle stroll round the Slapton village area.

The group set off, in close harmony, to the bridge which has linked Slapton to the coast since the 1850s, then followed the footpath west along the rear of the Ley. On the way the activities of birds such as great-crested grebe, tufted duck and coot were observed. The next section of the walk required a gradual climb past the attractively-developed barns at Lower Coltscombe to Pittsford. Our canine companions were uncomplaining as they were manhandled over three formidable stiles before the descent to the village began. Spring flowers were beginning to show themselves in the hedgerows as the hike approached the old village school, now a residential centre for school groups and clubs.

Thirsts and hunger pangs were assuaged at the Tower Inn, which provided excellent food and ale in a traditional, welcoming, pub atmosphere. Fortunately, from there it was then a very short distance back to the parked cars!

Val & Graham Palmer

2 March 25th - On a rather windy but dry day, fourteen of us set out on a fascinating six-mile walk on Dartmoor, starting at Combstone Tor (referred to in some guide books as Cumston Tor). This is a mile or so from Venford Reservoir, and we walked the mile to the reservoir then headed for the valley of the Double Dart (so called because it is just downstream from Dartmeet where the East Dart and West Dart meet). The path followed an old pipeline and had gorgeous views over the river valley with its steep, wooded sides. We passed through Combstone Farm, then took a path down the slope to Dartmeet, where we crossed the famous stepping stones. Crossing fields and along footpaths brought us to Huccaby, then across the West Dart at

Hexworthy Bridge to our lunch destination at the Forest Inn, Hexworthy. Everyone was very impressed with this Dartmoor pub, vowing to return to it some day. After lunch a shortish walk took us back to Huccaby, then back to the starting point via, would you believe, another set of stepping stones! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the variety of scenery and terrain on this walk, even if the stepping stones provided a challenge for some!

Alastair Darden

3 On Wednesday 29th April, eleven ramblers arrived in Dittisham and parked on the road leading down to the Ham ready for the long walk along the Dart Valley Trail.

We crossed the River Dart via the Greenway Ferry and took the new footpath up towards Greenway House, the family home of Agatha Christie which is now open to the public. We were tempted to stop, but we had a lot of miles ahead of us and it was time to press on with an immediate and steep climb up through Greenway gardens to Maypool. However, we were rewarded with wonderful views towards Dittisham on the way up, followed by fine views down river towards Kingswear at the top.

The walk took us through Long Wood and we were treated to a wonderful show of bluebells and wild garlic. Long Wood is an ancient wood, with semi-natural oak stretching over 100 acres and is largely owned by the National Trust. It is a real haven for wildlife, and the pathway through the woods affords views of the River Dart and the picturesque creeks.

We descended down towards Kingswear where we were hoping to have a sighting of the Paignton to Kingswear steam train. However, none appeared that day. We then crossed the River Dart via the lower ferry to Dartmouth and settled ourselves in Royal

Avenue Gardens for a picnic lunch. However, you must beware of the seagulls. We watched one unlucky person have his Cornish pasty plucked from his hands by one opportunist seagull. Three of our walkers decided not to complete the afternoon section of the walk and were able to catch the ferry from Dartmouth back up the River Dart to Dittisham.

After lunch, a steep and seemingly endless climb via Brown's Hill Steps brought us out at Townstal and back into the countryside, where we followed the lane down to Old Mill Creek. The remainder of the walk took us on another long uphill trail through dense woodland until we emerged on to fields with glorious views over Torbay. The fire beacon heralded the summit of the climb and from there it was downhill all the way back to Dittisham.

We were rewarded with excellent weather for what proved to be a very strenuous walk of 8.5 miles in length.

Lisa White

4 On 13th May twenty-two walkers and one dog started the walk on Dartmoor with the aim of 'bagging' five tors within a fairly easy 6.5 mile walk north of Ashburton. The Thurlestone regular numbers were swelled by three hotel visitors and others from Newton Ferrers and Newton Abbot who met up with us on the moor.

The weather was disappointing as a heavy mist blocked out the views, a feature of this walk, for most of the day. It also made navigating challenging, having to rely on compass bearings at times with visibility down to less than 200 metres. Our first objective was Rippon Tor, then on to Top Tor, Pil Tor, and Tunhill Rocks - four down - before leaving the open moor and heading south to Buckland-in-the-Moor. On the way we encountered new-born lambs, a Dartmoor pony foal with parents, and a fine display of orchids among bluebells and many other wild flowers.

The group split up temporarily before lunch for half of the group - including all the

'guests' - to visit St Peter's church with its interesting clock face which spells 'My Dear Mother' instead of the usual numerals. This was a tribute that a local landowner, William Whitley, had placed there in the 1920s. Inside other features included a remarkable original fifteenth century rood screen, medieval tiles and a collection of telegrams from King George V, King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth II.

After a picnic lunch we climbed steadily to the summit of Buckland Beacon but, due to the mist, this time we were not rewarded with the far-reaching views over the Dart gorge and Holne Chase. Perhaps next time! Here there are two granite stones carved with the Ten Commandments at the behest of the same William Whitley. From this point we headed north to return to our starting point. Despite some rather atmospheric 'Hound of the Baskervilles' weather it was another enjoyable outing. At least it didn't rain!

Tony & Sheila Ward

5 On a bright sunny Spring morning three very eager dogs and a dozen slightly less eager walkers set off on Monday 20th April up a rather steep hill at the start of the Avon Wood / Loddiswell walk. The path then wound around another populated by sheep. Admiring the early spring flowers - particularly the abundant primroses - we followed the course of the river towards Topsham. Approaching the bridge, we heard a peacock calling, and there it was in all its splendour among the azaleas.

After a welcome coffee break at the bridge we crossed over to the eastern side of the river. This is a lovely sheltered walk and we saw a lone kingfisher fly low over the water. Noting the old abandoned railway equipment in the hedgerow, we passed an old maintenance hut and the now disused railway station - always a nostalgic sight. Back at the garden centre we enjoyed excellent food, with meals large enough for two to share.

A perfect spring walk!

Heather Swan



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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

In the men's section, the Seniors side has enjoyed the best results to date, albeit the matches this far have been played at home. Teignmouth went down to a 6 - 1 defeat and later Wrangaton suffered a 5 - 2 loss. Sandwiched in the middle was a halved match with Dartmouth with each side scoring 3 1/2. This could indicate that the away tie will be a difficult one. More recently the British weather was to be seen at its very best when the game against Churston was halted as a result of lightning followed by a substantial hail storm which left the course resembling a white Christmas.

The Club side which travelled to St Mellion suffered a heavy defeat against a team that could be too strong in the return match. More disappointingly after an extremely close contest, with three of the five matches needing to go down the 19th fairway, our Palairret team were defeated 3 - 2. This match was against Saunton Artisans and the result hinged on the final group which included a very young **Ted Taylor**, making his debut in this team, and was decided on the 20th green.

The Mixed Greensomes competition for the John Batchelor trophy took to the field on Monday 4th May. The trophy was presented to the club by Joan Batchelor and first played for in 1978 in memory of her late husband, a keen golfer at Thurlestone. Unfortunately Joan was unable to attend to present the trophy but sent a telephone message of good luck to the players. The winning pair were; **Fish Mawhood** and **Norman Barrett** with 43 points, 2nd **Jo and Nick Crispin** with 41 points, 3rd **Steve and Hayley Pepperrell** with 40, and 4th **Liz Line and Hugh Bodger**



with 38 points on countback from **Sally and Clive Nelson-Robert**.

Nick Nicholson

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The season is now well underway, the first 4 months have flown by and have been very enjoyable and rewarding. The medal and stableford competitions have been well supported with around 50 ladies braving the weather conditions and turning in some excellent scores. **Janet Richardson**, a new convert to golf from tennis, has reduced her handicap from 32 in January to 25 in April, with still more reductions to come I expect over the next few months!

The junior girls are really starting to show their promise in the ladies' competitions, with **Laura Tregelles** winning the Betty Ord Trophy in the April medal and reducing her handicap from 21 to 20. The Betty Ord trophy commemorates a member whose record it would be difficult to equal. Betty was County Champion four times, County Captain twice and later became County President. She was also Lady Captain at Thurlestone no fewer than seven times between 1932 and 1964.

Laura Tregelles also came 2nd in the April Stableford and is now down to 19, while **Claire Harrison** reduced her handicap to 29. **Beth Yeoman**, another junior girl, has also had a winning spree, reducing her handicap to 34 and winning the Easter Greensome competition with her father **Mike Yeoman**.

The friendly matches have been very well supported, and teams of 14 ladies, captained

by **Sally Rossiter**, went to play at Exeter, Yelverton and Dainton Park. The Lady Vets team has been in action with a team of 12 ladies, captained by **Anne Seymour**, and achieved a good win 4 -2 against Yelverton. However, their match at Staddon Heights was rained off in a thunderstorm.

The County teams have now started their inter-club matches. The *Still Cup* team, captained by **Tish Mawhood**, played at Stover. This team has to play off scratch (no shots given) and it is always difficult if you have to play a team with much lower handicaps than ours. The *Presidents* team, captained by **Jo Crispin**, is for ladies up to 20 handicap, and had a narrow defeat against Okehampton by 4 matches to 3. The *Sheelah Creasy* team (for handicaps 21 - 36), captained by **Linda Cant** had a good match but narrowly lost against Teignmouth. However all matches were played in a friendly spirit and a lovely match tea was a good consolation afterwards.

The LGU (Ladies Golf Association) Coronation Foursomes produced some excellent scores, with the winning pair of **Jenny Roberts** (2) and **Wendy Laud** (6) coming in with 42 stableford points. They will go through to represent Thurlstone in the Regional final at Oake Manor in July.

The final of the winter foursomes was a close fought match with **Wendy Laud** and **Sally Rossiter** beating **Ann Best** and **Gill Durden**. The final of the Murray-Smith Trophy saw **Wendy Laud** in action again, with Wendy winning on the 18th hole against myself.

We welcomed our new chef **Carmine**, and stewardess **Pamela** at a wine tasting evening with an Italian buffet in April. 75 members sampled 8 different Italian wines provided by St Austell Brewery. **Rebecca Mitchell** from the brewery delivered a most informative and interesting talk while we savoured each wine and then sampled the Italian buffet made by our new chef.

The Thursday evening mixed Greensome competition is now in its third week with numbers getting up to 54 at the last evening. This is an excellent way for members to get to know each other by playing 9 holes of golf and having a lovely meal afterwards.

Liz Line

JUNIORS' SECTION NEWSLETTER

The start of the better weather has heralded some great results for our junior golfers, particularly in the Betty Ord trophy as the Lady Captain has already reported.

Beth Peters and **Laura Tregelles** played for the Devon County Girls' team on Wednesday 1st April at Stover against the Devon boys under 16. Beth won her match, but Laura lost hers. Overall the boys won by 6 matches to 4. Congratulations should be given to Beth and Laura for being chosen to play in the Devon County Girls' Team. Following this, we are encouraging our junior girls to enter the Devon Girls' championship at Tavistock on 28th May, and also the Junior Girls' EWGA championship at Bude on 12th July.

On Friday 17th April at Dainton Park Golf club, the junior team played their first round of the Basil Steer knockout trophy against Honiton juniors. **Ted Taylor** (13) the Junior Captain had a good win of 3 and 2, but **Jamie Johnson** (21) had a hard fought battle and lost 3 and 1, and **Robert Came** (28) lost 4 and 3. The reserves of **Claire Harrison** and **Beth Yeoman** were able to play the Honiton reserves behind the main matches.

In the first round of the Tamar Cup on May 2nd at Looe our juniors won 3 -1 against Killiow in a four-ball-better-ball format. **Jamie Johnson** and **Laura Tregelles** won on the 19th; **Tom Leach** and **Claire Harrison** won 4 & 3 while **Lottie Holland** and **Beth Yeoman** won 3 & 1. The three reserves, **Robert Came**, **Callum Tollins** and **Toby**

Pepperell all played behind the matches. The first match of the West Devon League got underway on Sunday 10th May at Elfordleigh and the team, which is sponsored by the Thurlestone Hotel again, won 3 - 2.

Another sure sign that summer is on the way - the first Monday evening junior coaching session took place on 20th April. We had 21 juniors attending. Pete Mitchell the assistant coach gave a 1 hour coaching session before they all went out to play 9 holes of golf. While on the subject of coaching - our junior boys impressed the county coaches at Yelverton. All those in the scheme (which included **Jamie Johnson** and **Robert Came** from Thurlestone) will now have to show

improvement every time they go. If not, they will be dropped. When this happens someone else will be asked - and for us this means **George Holland** who was asked to attend on 10th May with Jamie and Robert.

Finally, an early hint for those non-golfers who would like to try their hand. Thurlestone will be hosting a number of free taster lessons later in the summer. Dates are currently being sorted with professional **Pete Mitchell** and will be advertised both in the Village Voice and other local publications. There will be a separate session for adults and juniors - so watch this space!

Pam St Leger

The Disability Information Service

The Disability Information Service for disabled residents, their families and carers throughout Devon was set up in 2006 by Devon County Council and the Devon Strategic Partnership. It offers information, help and support across a vast range of issues and services, utilising many agencies throughout Devon apart from Torbay and Plymouth which have their own well established Information Services.

The advisers are able to answer many queries about benefits and services available to people with disabilities, and if they don't know the answer, they will research before getting back to the customer to be able to signpost to the right person or organisation to meet the customer's needs. The advisers take applications for Blue Badges for people who are under 65 (for those 65 and over ring Care Direct 0845 155 1007) and while doing this can offer benefit checks and advice.

One of the many challenges for the service is to make the information about services and support for people with disabilities easily accessible. To do this, the service has web pages on the Devon County Council web-site at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/dis> where people can search for information about their particular health condition or support need.

The service can be contacted by calling 0845 155 1005 (free to BT customers on certain packages) between 8 am - 8 pm on weekdays and 9 am - 1 pm on Saturdays. If an advisor is not available the call will go to an answer-phone and the advisors will ring back as soon as possible.

The service can also be contacted via:

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NEWS FROM THE WI



APRIL

The story of 'Shelterboxes' was the subject of the very fluent speaker, **Norman Proctor**, from Plymstock. These are sent all over the world, at very short notice, in times of emergency and contain basic vital ingredients to keep life going for those who have lost their homes and all their belongings through disasters of various kinds. Including such things as tents, blankets, small cookers, water purifiers, first-aid kits and so on, these boxes were initially thought up and developed by Helston Rotary member, **Tom Henderson**, and are despatched from their storage base in Cornwall. Box number one was sent out in 2001 to the earthquake at Gujarat, India, since when many thousands more have gone to all corners of the globe and they are now supported financially by organisations of many kinds throughout the world.

A cheque for £300 was given to **Debbie Clift** for use by the Kingsbridge Triangle Centre (cancer support). The Sea Coast Group meeting at South Milton had a wonderful talk about the famous Nancy, Lady Astor, the first Lord Mayor of Plymouth and the first woman MP, and after an excellent tea and super entertainment from South Milton members, the afternoon was pronounced a resounding success. The vintage hat competition was won by South Milton with an Edwardian motoring hat and our own **Tricia Millman** got the runner-up cup with a 1920s-style Charleston hat.

Members who enjoy sewing made the journey to Frogmore village hall with their machines to produce some creative textiles under the expert and entertaining guidance of **Tracy Curtis** at a one-day workshop. Later in the month a small group joined the coach for Exeter University and the big county meeting where, in a well-packed day, they were treated to a very entertaining talk by

Lars Tharp from the Antiques Roadshow. Interesting facts and figures, as well as amusing anecdotes, emerged as this speaker got into his stride - he even managed to capitalise on the occasional breakdown of the Great Hall's audio system. A consummate professional!

MAY

The month of WI resolutions, when no speaker is engaged. Unusually, there is only one resolution to be debated this year - on the world wide decline of the honey bee, the serious implications of this for mankind and what could/needs to be done. There could really only be one outcome on this debate, a wholehearted "In favour". **Judith Le Grice** will be our delegate to the Albert Hall in June.

Following **Rosemary Howell's** talk in February, several carloads of members (and a number of husbands) headed to **Lukesland Gardens** near Ivybridge to enjoy the wonderful rhododendrons, azaleas and other horticultural pleasures. It was an overcast afternoon (which made for better colour appreciation of the flowers), and a very cold day, despite being 6th May, so the cups of tea and delicious home-made cakes in the Courtyard Café, where there was also a welcoming log fire, were much appreciated at the end of our tour.

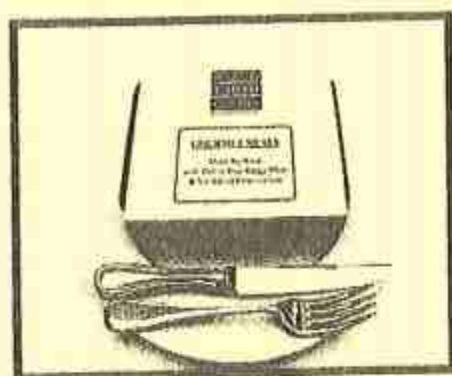
LOOKING AHEAD

- # **Thursday 11th June**, monthly meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Indian head massage)
- # **Thursday 2nd July**, garden lunch at Cowrie House, Ilbert Road, 12.30 for 1.00pm
- # **Friday 18th September**, HE Area Buffet Lunch, at Sherford village hall, 12.30 for 1.00 pm

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Summer Pudding (serves 6)

We have just been forecast a warm, sunny summer! Just right for enjoying summer fruits at their best. Serve with quick and easy home made ice-cream. The pudding recipe makes a loaf shape which cuts easily into slices. It is best left overnight (or 8-12 hrs) before slicing. Use a 2lb loaf tin (liquid capacity 2 pints)

Ingredients

- 6-8 slices stale medium sliced white bread with crusts cut off.
- Approximately 2lb dark coloured mixed summer fruits (raspberries, redcurrants, blackcurrants, etc. - frozen fruit may be bought instead of fresh).
- 150g/6oz caster sugar
- 2 ½ oz /100ml water

Preparation

- To avoid any sticking, line the loaf tin with a large sheet of cling film which generously overlaps the sides.
- Place the blackcurrants and redcurrants in a pan with sugar and water. Heat gently until the juices run and the sugar has dissolved, stirring from time to time. Cook until just tender. Raspberries do not need cooking and should be added after the other fruit has cooled a little.
- Line the base of the loaf tin with bread slices.
- Soak the bread thoroughly with a few spoonfuls of juice.
- Top with some cooled fruit mixture.
- Cover with 2nd bread layer, soak with juice and fruit mixture.
- Continue the layers ending with a bread topping which should be again soaked

with the juice.

- Stand the loaf tin on a shallow dish to catch any overflow juice.
- Pull the overlapped cling film over the top layer and place a kitchen weight over the top (a can of food will do).
- Allow to chill, preferably overnight.
- Remove the weight and peel back the film. Invert the tin over a serving plate. Remove cling film and slice.

Quick 'n Easy Vanilla Ice-Cream (serves 6)

(An electric whisk is recommended)

Ingredients

- 6 eggs separated
- 150g/6oz caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1pt double cream whipped until it forms soft peaks

Preparation

- Place egg yolks and vanilla essence in a bowl and whisk until pale and creamy.
- Whisk egg whites until stiff in a large bowl.
- Add sugar 1 dessertspoon at a time and continue whisking until stiff and shiny.
- Gently fold the whipped cream into the egg yolks.
- Fold the cream and egg mixture into the egg whites.
- Turn into a large shallow freezer container allow to freeze for 8 hours or overnight.
- Transfer ice-cream to refrigerator and allow to slightly soften for about 5-10 minutes to ensure easier scooping.

BOOKSHELF

The Road Home

by Rose Tremain

(Vintage £7.99)

This is the story of Lev, who travels from his home village in Eastern Europe to find a job and earn some money. His wife has recently died and he leaves behind his mother and small daughter. He knows very little English and has very little money.

At first I thought this was going to be a rather gloomy book, but as I followed his travels - starting with the long coach and ferry journey - I became increasingly fond of Lev! There are some splendid characters, from his stubborn mother who only wants him to "come home" and who stops writing to him or even thanking him for the money he sends, his Irish landlord, his lifelong friend, Rudi, back home who lives for his ancient Chevrolet (he calls it his 'Tchevi').

The book was published in 2007 and times have changed, but the author is particularly good on the social scene of the time.

Carolyn Taylor

The Sisters Who Would Be Queen

by Leanda de Lisle

(Harper Perennial £9.99) October 2009

Do you ever wonder what eventually happened to some of the shadowy figures that lurked at the edges of history? Here is a well-written factual account of what became of the two Gray girls, Katherine and Mary, sisters of the unfortunate Lady Jane Gray, the so-called "Ten Day Queen".

To ensure the country had a Protestant monarch, the sickly Edward VI was persuaded to decree that his heirs should be the three Gray girls, bypassing his half sisters Mary (staunchly Catholic) and Elizabeth, in favour of the daughters of Henry Gray, Duke of Suffolk, whose wife Frances had as a maternal grandmother a sister of Henry VIII. In those far off days anyone who had descended from Henry's father and who married into a wealthy, influential and ambitious noble family stood a good chance of bagging the

crown. And so it was with the 17 year old Queen Jane, who had been ruthlessly manipulated on to the throne by her parents. However, the Catholic Mary Tudor rallied enough support to uphold her counter-claim to the throne and, after only ten days as Queen, Jane was deposed, tried and sentenced to death, as was her father the Duke.

The story doesn't end with her, and her father's, eventual execution and the accession of Mary Tudor - as most of the books about Lady Jane do - but throws an interesting light on her sisters' fate first at the hands of a merciful Mary Tudor and later of a more unkind Elizabeth. Constantly in fear of being usurped and betrayed, Elizabeth made sure that neither Katherine nor young Mary Gray offered competition. Both continued at court and were tolerated but both took the unwise step of marrying without Elizabeth's prior knowledge or consent.

They and their husbands were separated and made virtual prisoners. Katherine Gray died aged 27, pining for the husband and the two children she was never to see again. She had married Edward Seymour, cousin to Henry VIII's third wife, Jane, mother of Edward VI, which probably posed the greater threat to Elizabeth's position. Mary Gray married someone of considerably lower rank to her own and probably provided no threat at all but even so it was seven years before she was released. Her husband had meanwhile died in prison. She was allowed to inherit some of her mother's property and was eventually rehabilitated at court but died as the result of plague in 1578. Unlike her older sisters, Mary had achieved freedom at the end of her life and, perhaps, peace.

The author read Modern History at Oxford, where she took an honours degree. A successful journalist and writer, she has been a columnist for the *Spectator*, the *Guardian*, *Country Life* and the *Daily Express* as well as writing for *The Times*, the *Daily Mail*, the *New Statesman* and the *Sunday Telegraph*. While *The Sisters Who Would Be Queen* is a scholarly and fully indexed book, it is nonetheless a very readable one.

Pat Macdonald



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

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

Easy

No. 37

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

Easy

No. 38

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

Medium

No. 37

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

Medium

No. 38

SUDOKU - Maybe not so easy!

We will admit that we have been gradually stepping up the level of difficulty of our puzzles in recent issues, following a number of complaints that they were all too easy. Whether they are still too easy, or whether it is the lure of our supreme *chateau sudoku*, we cannot quite determine - but correct solutions continue to drop through our letter-box. The name out of the hatful of correct solutions for the April/May prize proved to be Gill Proops of The Links. Well done, Gill! This issue's four-part challenge offers puzzlers yet another bottle of our splendid *premier sudo-cru* by way of a bribe. All entries, please, to 25 Mead Lane as usual, by 5th July.

Grey Matter

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

Some Trivia to test the grey matter

1. Calipee is used to make which slow food?
2. A question to chew on. What is the name of the famous department store in Moscow?
3. Which street in London takes its name from a croquet-like game once played by Charles II?
4. Which two Disney 'characters' appear in the James Bond film "Diamonds Are Forever"?
5. What is a Sikh holy building called?
6. What was legalised in Ireland in 1997?
7. In which Northern English town do Wallace and Gromit live?
8. The bestselling books by Stephanie Meyer, Breaking Dawn, Eclipse and New Moon among others are collectively known by what name?
9. "Killing Me Softly" was a career -defining hit for Roberta Flack and much later The Fugees. Whom was it written about?
10. What kind of car did Emma Peel drive?
11. Who famously said, "I am the president of the United States and I am not going to eat any more broccoli"?
12. Which film is the highest-ever grossing film in the UK as of April 2009?
13. How is the Baron of Foy in the county of Herefordshire and Hartlepool in the county of Durham better known?
14. How many replies did Sting get to his message in a bottle?
15. In the classic comedy series "The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin", what was Reggie Perrin's middle name?

Solutions to the Places on our doorstep-agrams:

1. Malborough 2. Coletton Fishacre 3. Loddiswell 4. Revelstoke 5. East Prawle 6. Buckfastleigh 7. East Dartmoor 8. Snapes Point 9. Sheepstor 10. Ashburton 11. South Brent 12. Charleton Marsh 13. Hallsands 14. Little Dartmouth 15. Moreleigh

Thank you to all of you who entered the Anagram quiz, there were so many all correct answers that we had to resort to drawing one from a hat! Congratulations and the bottle of wine goes to: Richard & Nikki Turton of Cotliss, Devon Rd, Salcombe

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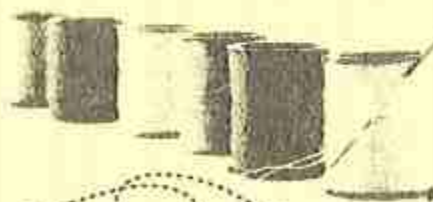
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HORSWELL DIARY

The scent of bluebells is sweet in the air as we drive through narrow lanes, marvelling at nature's roadside garden of pinks, blues and citrus greens, topped with its cappuccino froth of cream cow-parsley. Above us, a solitary swallow hints at Summer and, higher still, a lone buzzard swoops and drifts in search of prey. Mmmm! It must be Devon! It must be May! Shhh! Don't tell the world, they'll all want to come and share our bounty and, by their numbers, risk eroding the beauty that makes our long and blustery winters worthwhile.

I have never seen more flowers on the fruit trees than this year. Orchards are filled with pink and white as the sagging branches of apple, pear, plum and quince reach down to long grass filled with wild garlic, late daffodils and fading primroses. Stopping to make a phone call from the car, I can see through a farm gate, a field filled with buttercups, interspersed with wispy spheres of wind-blown dandelion clocks. Beyond, a slash of vibrant yellow rape-flower divides one field of grazing black and white Friesian cattle from another where sheep lie slumbering in the sunshine. I describe the scene to my mother, in Oxfordshire, where, she tells me it is grey and overcast.

"I'm sorry," I say, 'that, up there, you're not having a lovely day.'

"When you get to my age," she replied, 'every day is a lovely day.'

A thought worth remembering in our politically/financially/economically testing times! I wonder if Gordon Brown is old enough yet to agree?

Can any leader of our country have inherited a more poisoned chalice than Mr. Brown in his succession to Mr. Blair? As our former Chancellor, surely he must have had some idea of what lay ahead? Or did he rush into office with the same glee as a street-sleeping alcoholic suddenly finding himself in a five star hotel, only to discover that the mini-bar had already been raided and 'happy hour' did not exist?

In this, the thirtieth year since Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister, she is still hated and maligned by many, but her detractors should perhaps remember the parlous state of Britain when she came to power – the depressing three day week, the electricity blackouts, the garbage piled in rotting heaps on the streets – and how, through the sheer force of her character she gave Britain back its dignity and its pride. By standing up to the unions and all who stood in her way she transformed the British economy from the most pitied to the most admired in Europe, albeit creating many enemies along the way. Who, I wonder, will have the ability and the courage this time around to rescue us from the dismal mess we're in?

Discussions about whether or not offering people two thousand pounds for their old cars would kick-start our ailing motor industry seem unresolved. Certainly, if they do agree to the idea, it will be too late for us. With a tear in our eye and a heavy heart we recently waved goodbye to our ancient but most loyal friend as the scrap-man drove away our oldest BMW, its faithful engine roaring into life at the turn of a key, for the very last time. I don't know who felt more bereft, us or the dogs. After all, for its latter years, it had been their car, their mobile kennel, their magic carpet to and from the beach, and we merely their chauffeur.

It is hard to say what we shall miss most. The friendly greeting of its smiley radiator grill? The familiar aroma of fur and mould? The green moss growing in the rubber seals around the windows? The seats made threadbare and sodden from wet dog bodies? The accumulation of mud and sand in the footwells, providing thriving seedbeds for grass and weeds? The distinctive scratches made by peacocks sunbathing on its roof? The customized interior with its dog-chewn foam-exposed seat backs? The 'devore' doorpanels? Or was it the tooth-indented wiring that hung like spaghetti from places where switches once had been? Or the fact that we'd just replaced the gear

knob for the fourth time? Or that we were finally growing accustomed to listening to the radio through a deafening fuzz of static, because the buttons and sliders that used to enable us to change stations were still being digested somewhere deep inside our collie-dog's intestines along with the last gear knob? Whatever memory we recall, no car could have served its owners better. It was always reliable and true. In its next incarnation it deserves to be a Ferrari.

Weekends now are mostly taken up with sailing. I've discovered there are several different types of sailing. There's sailing while feeling guilty that I should be at home gardening, sailing while feeling guilty that I should be wading through the mountain of laundry that has accumulated since our last guests left, sailing whilst feeling guilty that the heap of gravel I ordered to fill the ruts in the driveway is, well..., how can I put it? Still in a heap? And then there's sailing because you just can't wait to release that boat from her mooring lines, unfurl her lovely big sails and set her free. And then, as you reach the open sea you feel her response through the boards under your feet, and your hands on her wheel, and together you buck and weave to catch the wind while the land and all its demands recede into a half-forgotten blur. That's the kind of sailing I like best.

I know I have a lot to learn. The naval commander with whom we sailed recently has asked us to join him on his boat in Lymington this weekend. I have a feeling my raw, seat-of-the-pants, 'let's go faster' attitude is about to be honed into something with considerably more nautical precision. Or else! Look out for future headlines: "Devon sailor made to walk the plank for insurrection and un-seamanlike behaviour!"

Meanwhile, back at Horswell, the garden is coming alive. Birdsong fills the air, the box hedging has put on a mass of growth and the herbaceous border that had

looked so empty is rapidly filling up as half-forgotten plants emerge from their winter sleep. Our magnolias were beautiful but short-lived this year while the vast magenta rhododendron on the front lawn has been a truly spectacular blaze of colour.

In areas where primroses and spring bulbs have flowered and are dying back, the grass is tall and weedy and desperately in need of a trim, but elsewhere, the lawns look green and tidy, their neat stripes a good contrast to the wilder growth elsewhere. We were worried that the frost earlier this year had damaged the huge Tasmanian Tree Ferns at the back of the pond, so it is with great relief that we can now see their long, tightly curled fronds beginning to appear. Six visiting mallard drakes are making a nuisance of themselves with our one female duck. Sadly, the chances of her sitting and raising young are very unlikely with so much attention.

The British Trust for Ornithology is running a survey to find out where all the tawny owls have gone. At least two of them are living here, and perhaps to make up for any lack in numbers, insist on hooting not just all night, but most of the daytime too! Despite the rain, at Horswell it is obviously not too wet to woo!

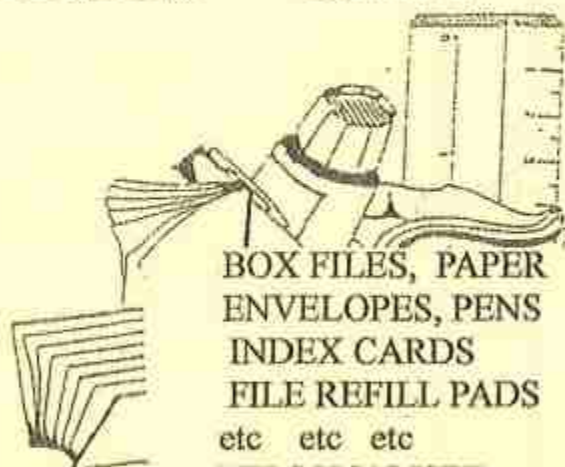
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At the Bridge Table



This article continues the Andrew Robson series on common mistakes in bidding, and the sound principle that you should try to tell partner something new with each bid - and also that if you have already revealed *your* hand, you should respect partner's choice of contract. We saw in the previous article that, generally, the sequence 1 Heart - 1 Spade - 2 Hearts shows six Hearts. So if partner chooses, say, 3 NT as the contract, you should not overrule him merely because you have the six Hearts you have already shown.

In the hand shown aside the bidding, with East/West silent, went North 1H - South 1S - North 2H - South 3NT - North 4H. North was blinded by "Six Appeal" - the overstatement of his six-card suit - instead of reasoning (correctly) that "I have described my hand, now it's up to my partner." The 4 Heart contract stood no chance on the four - two trump split (the most likely split of six cards) and declarer had to lose a Spade, two trumps and Ace of Clubs. He won the opening Diamond lead in hand, cashed the Ace & King of Hearts and tried a third round hoping for an even split. No luck - one down!

The fault, of course, lay with North's failure to respect his partner's judgement. If he had done so, 3NT would have fared much better - as you would expect with good stoppers in all suits and no eight-card fit. West's four of Diamonds lead would have run to declarer's ten, and without bothering about dummy's Hearts, he (South) would have flushed out East's Ace of Clubs. There is nothing the defence could do to prevent declarer making the contract via Ace & King of Hearts, four Diamonds and three Clubs.

It is worth reminding ourselves of Opener's three choices of rebid when his hand is unbalanced (i.e., not 5332, or 4432, or 4333)

- (1) Support responder's change of suit.
- (2) Repeat his first suit
- (3) Bid a second suit

In general, introducing a new suit - exploring all possible trump suits - is good bridge. Here is an example of Opener failing to do this, with the bidding going as follows:-

South	West	North	East
1 Spade	Pass	2 Clubs	Pass
2 Spades	All Pass		

The mistake was South's preferring to repeat his anaemic six-card suit (and ending in a contract which had no chance of success), instead of

South	West	North	East
1 Spade	Pass	2 Clubs	Pass
2 Diamonds	Pass	3 Diamonds	All Pass

North would be happy to speak again after South's new suit bid, resulting in a far better contract. 2 Spades was bound to fail with West holding no fewer than four trump tricks. But 3 Diamonds would almost certainly have succeeded with declarer scoring two Hearts, a Club and six trumps (achieved by not drawing trumps and trumping twice in one hand). The message is that with hands containing both a six-card suit and a four-card suit of similar quality, opener should bid his second suit if it is cheaper. Thus, if opener bids 1 Heart and partner responds 2 Diamonds, it is cheaper (better) to rebid 2 Hearts rather than 3 Clubs. But if partner responds with 1 Spade it is preferable to rebid 2 Clubs than 2 Hearts. In other words, give your partner as much information as possible

North

♠ 6
♥ AK9843
♦ Q65
♣ K76

West

♠ AK7
♥ J5
♦ J9842
♣ 932

East

♠ 108532
♥ Q1076
♦ 3
♣ A84

South

♠ QJ94
♥ 2
♦ AK107
♣ QJ105

North

♠ 5
♥ AQ4
♦ J1098
♣ K10652

West

♠ AQ108
♥ 1095
♦ 764
♣ A84

East

♠ K9
♥ K8763
♦ 32
♣ Q973

South

♠ J76432
♥ J2
♦ AKQ5
♣ J

Victor

SCHOOL REPORT

compiled by Betty Rhymes

The final term of the year has kicked off - the summer term - and with it comes a mixture of tests and treats. The month of May is largely spent preparing the children for their exams, which they sit prior to the half-term break. Amongst all the hard work a little light relief is necessary.....

Planting the Dunes

All Saints juniors were invited by the National Trust to attend a coastal education day at Thurlestone Sands (or is it South Milton Sands!) The children helped in the final phase of the dune restoration by planting different varieties of sea grasses on the dunes.

Remembering the good old days

Class 1A have been learning about World War 2 and what life was like during that time. Rachel Bellinger, a musical therapist who works with various residential homes, suggested an 'old time' singalong for the residents of Thurlestone Court and the pupils. The children learned to sing old favourites including *Run Rabbit, Run Rabbit* and *The White Cliffs of Dover*. The two generations joined together in chorus for the afternoon at the home and sang their hearts out. A good time was had by all - the older generation happy to recount their stories and memories of war time and the children happy to learn from their elders' experiences.

Bats about learning

The infants have been learning about nocturnal animals. As part of their learning they were invited to The Old Rectory at Woodleigh to learn about the three different types of bat that reside there. Local expert Nigel Mortimer talked to them about these interesting creatures. His enthusiasm really rubbed off on the young pupils - they have become quite batty!

All Saints has got talent!

Rehearsals are under way for this year's school production. The musical '*Lost in Time*' written by a parent, is based on the

journey of a time traveller. Two performances, a matinee and an evening show, will take place on Saturday 11th July at the Parish Hall. Tickets will be available from Thurlestone shop. **The children are putting a lot of time and effort to make this a really good show for their audience - they would be delighted if you could be part of it. Please come along if you can.**

Achieving today....

How many of you read about our village school whilst eating your cornflakes recently? The school was delighted to find it praised as one of the best primary schools in Devon in a recent edition of the *Daily Telegraph*. How nice to have some positive breakfast reading before turning to the share index!

Building for tomorrow

The plans for the proposed building project are progressing well. Undoubtedly the alterations to the school will be of interest to many of you. The detailed plans are now available for viewing on the school's website - www.all-saints-primary.devon.sch.uk - for those of you who wish to see what the future All Saints might look like.

Fund-raising for the new venture continues. You may be aware that the Bantham Sailing Club is holding its "Bash" again this year. In previous years the club has donated a percentage of the profit to a charitable cause within the local community. The school is immensely grateful to the Sailing Club for their support and generosity by offering to donate part of the funds of this year's profit to the school's rebuilding fund. **Further details of this event can be obtained from Mrs Sarah McCarthy on 01548-560321**

By the time June arrives the exams are finished and the fun can really begin - activities week, sports day, school concert, musical, and residential are just a few of the things the children have to look forward to before breaking up for the long, hot summer holidays that we are promised this year!



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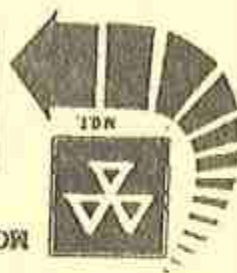
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Graeme Martin

Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

I am so enjoying the daily log of interesting historical weather facts in the book **"The Wrong Kind of Snow - Temperatures averaged for Middle England for the years between 1878-2006"** by Woodward & Penn. I feel I must share some of the April records with you and quote from the book, contrasting them with the weather statistics that I have recorded at Beach Cottage for April 2009. It makes quite interesting reading!

April at Beach Cottage this year was not startling weather-wise. It was not particularly windy, although the last week was about the windiest, not very wet overall but most of the rain fell in just six days. The worst was 14th and 15th, with 17.5mm recorded, followed by the freak hailstorm on the afternoon of the 28th, which produced 10.9mm. Temperatures were about average but we did have some nasty frosts on 11th and 12th (my *echiums* succumbed much earlier and did not recover). Temperatures this month have been much affected by wind - north-westerly mostly, except for these last few days when, out of the wind, it felt warm and pleasant, but put your nose out!

2nd April 2000 - Min 3.1°C Max 10.9°C (2.4.09 Beach Cottage 4.4°C & 17.5°C)

"It was paradise in the puddles, frenzy in the frozen wind" during the Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield. Curtains of sleet swept across the pitch and, as the ball becomes increasingly slippery the fast, open rugby England have played with such success all season falls apart. Scotland won 19-13. So rain, wind and mud means sunshine in Scotland. In Cumbria, at -15C, it was the coldest April day in the coldest month of April on record."

10th April 1736 - Min 3.6°C Max 11.5°C (10.4.09 Beach Cottage 10.3°C & 13.6°C)

"One Robert Marsham records that the first swallow arrives in the village of Stratton Strawless, Norfolk. No one had done this sort of observation before - when the first cuckoo is heard, when he sees the first frogs spawn, first rooks nesting, first butterflies etc. which his descendants continued to do right up until 1958."

26th April 1908 - Min 4.7°C Max 13.1°C (25.4.09 Beach Cottage 9.1°C & 15°C)

"Heavy snowfalls, mostly in the Home Counties, the worst since the Great Blizzard of 1881. A Mr Gladstone Adams, after a snowy car journey from Newcastle to London, was so exasperated by having to stop and wipe snow from the windscreen, that he invented the windscreen wiper - too late, as it had already been invented in the United States."

30th April 1746 - Min 4.9°C Max 13.6°C (30.4.09 Beach Cottage 7.5°C & 15.4°C)

"The freezing sleet, slicing across Drumossie Moor could easily have rendered the Duke of Cumberland's muskets useless. It is a century before the all-weather percussion cap and the flintlock. In the wind and rain the fusiliers must perform seven separate actions in order to fire the gun. On a damp day like this either the powder doesn't ignite or it ignites in the priming pan - a flash in the pan! - but with waterproof wallets for powder and keeping their backs to the wind and rain all is well for the English. The Highlanders were no match for the hail of lead and the last battle on British soil - Culloden - is over, along with the Jacobite Rebellion, in sixty minutes."

There are so many interesting and historical facts about the weather in this book, that I am sure I will be referring to it lots more in the future!



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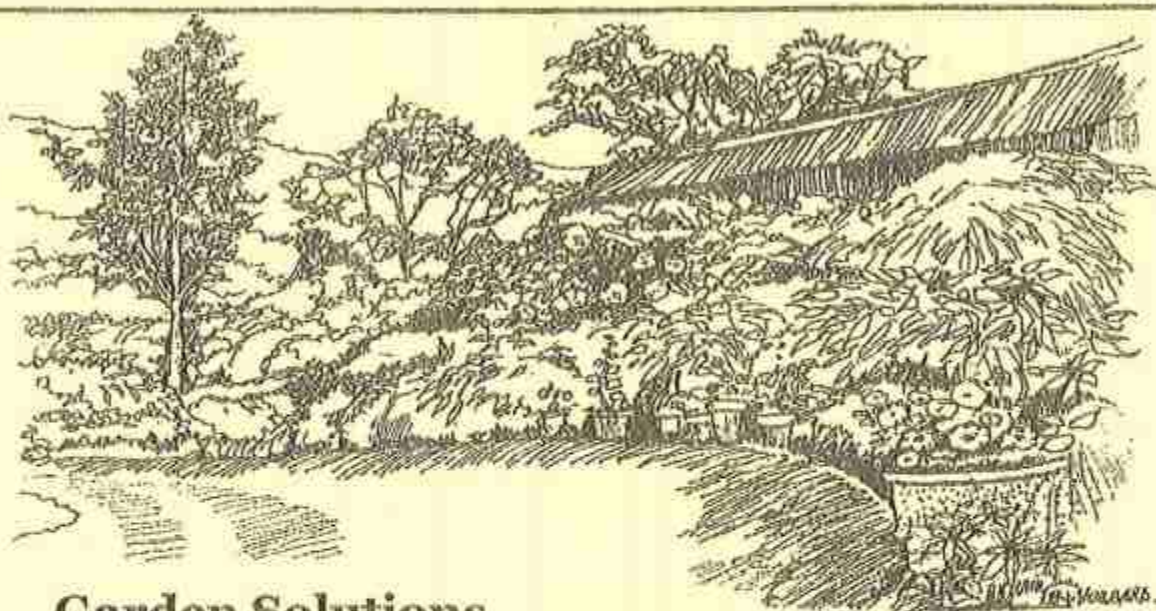
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June		
Friday	5 th	TRAMP - Ayrmer Cove (short walk)
Monday	8 th	Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm, Parish Hall
Thursday	11 th	TRAMP - Gera Bridge (long walk)
Thursday	11 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Indian Head Massage)
Friday	12 th	School Sports Day + Fair
Saturday	13 th	QUIZ, Church Meeting Room, 6.45 pm (Christian Aid)
Friday	19 th	TRAMP - Soar/Bolt Head (short walk)
Sunday	21 st	Cream Tea & Roses at Lower Kerse (see ad for details)
Wednesday	24 th	TRAMP - Burrator (long walk)
July		
Monday	6 th	TRAMP - Bantam (tea & cakes)
Monday	6 th	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, 7.30pm
Thursday	9 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm, Ed Welch (Screen Music)
Saturday	11 th	School Show 'Lost in Time' afternoon & evening
Saturday	11 th	Church Fete
Wednesday	15 th	TRAMP - South Brent (long walk)
Tuesday	21 st	TRAMP - Hope Cove (evening stroll)
Tuesday	28 th	BBQ, Bowls & Bowles, Parish Hall, from 6.00 pm.
Wednesday	29 th	TRAMP - Modbury Battlefields (long walk)
August		
Saturday	1 st	Annual Horticultural Show, S Milton Hall, 2.30 pm
Friday	7 th	Barbecue on the Green
Friday	14 th	TRAMP - Higher Lutton (long walk)
Monday	17 th	TRAMP - Brixton (short walk)
Saturday	22 nd	Bling Barn Dance (contact 560321 for details)
Wednesday	26 th	TRAMP - Abbot's Way (long walk)

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

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PARISH DIRECTORY &

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

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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 Bantam and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (AUG-SEP) ISSUE = 5th JULY 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 dates on Diary page overleaf

Chairman	Andrew Rymant	560264
Vice - Chairman	Nat Marshall	560214
Parish Clerk	Philip Millard	561151
Diocesan Councillor	Shirley Jenkins	561185
County Councillor	Sir Simon Day	01752 - 691212
Members	Dale Carr	560289
	David Hugo	560267
	Peter Hurrell	560496
	Geoffrey Siddons	560095
	Vacancy	

Tre Warden

Chairman	Chris White	560305
Bookings	Joan Le Grier	562135
Pay-phone in foyer		560300

PARISH HALL

Chairman	Chris White	560305
Bookings	Joan Le Grier	562135
Pay-phone in foyer		560300

PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)

Chairman	Chris White	560305
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PRIEST IN CHARGE

Philip Oaker	857658
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CHURCH MEETING ROOM

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COFFEE TIME (Monday & Wednesday 10.30-11.30 am) LUNCH CLUB (Friday) UNDER 5s (Thursday) SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesday's fortnightly) FILMS FOR ALL (Tuesday's Monthly) Contact: Liz Webb 560090

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

Contact	Nat Marshall	560214
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ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headmaster	Philip Medley	560494
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ALVINE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Chairman	Shirley Watts	810273
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BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

Contact	Marilyn Carr	560393
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BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Clubhouse		560447
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BOWLS CLUB

Contact	Eileen Dayman	560051
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BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays

Contact	Dorothy Squire	560708
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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

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TENNIS SECTION

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KEEP FIT

Contact	Karen Lloyd	560131
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TALK CH

Contact	Vida Alexander	561182
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HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)

Contact	John Lovelace	560742
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PROBUS

Contact	Toni Trencher	560893
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TRAMP (Thursdays Ramblers)

Contact	Theresa Walker	561325
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