

VILLAGE VOICE



December 2009 - January 2010



NUMBER 160
DECEMBER 2009 - JANUARY 2010

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

Cover Picture : Providence rounding Bolt Tail

Founder Dudley Drabble

Editor PATRICIA MACDONALD
25 Mead Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3PB
01548-560436

Advertising
& Accounts
Manager JO PARKIN
Ardentigh
Court Lane
Thurlestone
TQ7 3ND
01548-561215

Production
Manager TOM TRENDER

Production Team

JOHN & MAUREEN BAKER
SHIRLEY BARNES
PAT CRAWFORD
MARGARET CULLUM
IAN & JANET FRASER
ANNE GROSE
NORMA KENDALL
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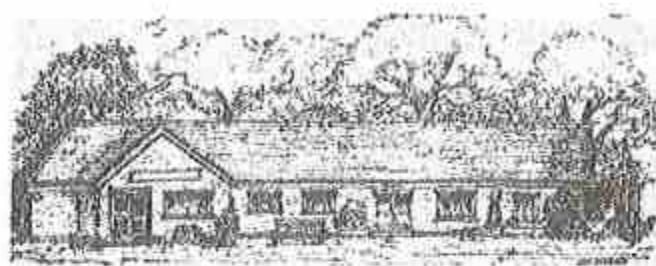
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Copies JUDITH REYNOLDS
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Covers LEN HUBBARD

Published Bi-monthly

Parish Hall News

By Chris White



I hope you are now extremely impressed with my ability to foretell the future. In the last Village Voice I predicted that by the time you were reading it, we would have enjoyed two splendid concerts by **Katz Quintet** and **Karema Quartet**. I am delighted to report that my prediction was entirely correct. Both sets of performers excelled themselves in front of capacity audiences, and your committee was complimented by one grateful member of the audience on bringing 'international quality' music to his doorstep. All those involved were mentioned in the last edition, so suffice it to say that I hope they know how much all their work is appreciated.

My next prediction was for another hugely successful Autumn Fair. Again, I was almost exactly spot on. The only bit I didn't quite get right was that it turned out to be our most successful Autumn Fair ever. Many thanks again to **Pat Macdonald** for putting it all together, and to all the Hall users for the splendid stalls they provided. The number of people involved are too numerous to mention, but special thanks must go to the **Bevens** who must have spent many weeks producing their colourful stall of Jams, Chutneys, etc.

On 10th October, **Peter Stafford** treated us to a lively and entertaining talk on the *Lost Gardens of Heligan*. It is easy to see how the Lost Gardens were found and restored when you experience his infectious and boundless enthusiasm. He gave his time free, 50% of the proceeds of booklet sales, and as promised, all those who attended were given a free family ticket for the Gardens. I predict major traffic flows from Thurstlestone to Cornwall early in the New Year! Peter has been one of our most consistent and generous benefactors since before the new Hall was built, and we are extremely grateful to him.

Our most recent event was the '**Celebrating Stéphane Grappelli**' on 14th November. I said in the last Parish Hall News that it promised to be lively and exciting. Again, my prediction was nearly correct - just rather understated. It turned out to be one of the most amazing musical evenings we've ever had. The Hall echoed to applause, cheers, and even whistles, from another capacity audience, from beginning to end. As the performers were leaving, discussion was already starting on a repeat evening in a year's time. If you missed this performance, you'll have to be quick if you want a ticket for the next one - those who went this year are already on the starting blocks!

So that's about it for 2009. Our final event of this year, and first of next year is the New Year's Eve party. Same relaxed format as usual, details elsewhere in this edition of *Village Voice*.

All that remains is to give special thanks to all of you, the parishioners, (and also the non-parishioners) who have turned out in force to support our events during the year. We have raised sufficient money to ensure that our Hall remains a viable asset for the community, and we hope that you have enjoyed yourselves along the way. Your committee is planning another action-packed year in 2010, and we look forward to seeing you all again, and again, and again.. The first event to tempt you from your homes and fires is an evening of fun with the **Widcombe Wag** on 20th February - and I don't have to make a prediction. I know from experience that it will be really entertaining.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas, and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

Chris White

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 5th October & 2nd November 2009

News and views by Citizen

The meeting in October was pretty full, with five Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, two Police representatives, the District Councillor and nine members of the public attending. In November we had the same number of bodies but with a slightly different mix - five Councillors, the Parish Clerk, John Halliday (Chief Assistant Engineer, Devon County Council) and eleven parish residents. *It must be quite encouraging for the Parish Council that more members of the public are showing an interest in their proceedings!*

OPEN FORUM

Parishioner **David Houghton** had written both to Devon County Council (under the Freedom of Information Act) and **Sir Simon Day**, our County Councillor, about the proliferation of 'No Parking' signs that had appeared in Thurlestone. To that date there had not been a response from either.

In November **John Halliday** attended and pointed out that yellow lines on a road without supporting signs were not enforceable, hence the signs installed to follow Road Traffic Regulations. These had cost £4,724. To reduce the unsightly proliferation of signs, the Parish Council will now write to DCC for amendment to the RT Regulation Order to have the signs placed only where parking is possible but not wanted.

PARISH HALL

Councillor **Peter Hurrell** said three tenders for the external painting of the Hall had been received. Mike Yeoman's was the lowest and would be accepted, with work to start in the spring of 2010. **Chris White**, Parish Hall Chairman, said the school had requested parking space for 5-6 contractors' vans during working hours.

HIGHWAYS

Signs restricting parking adjacent to the cobbled road by the church were now to hand. The new drains are causing flooding at the bottom of Buckland hill and the Parish Council will contact the South Hams District Council. Large vehicles using satellite navigation are still a problem in West Buckland. The Parish Council has contacted Devon County Council, who will consider the problem when resources allow.

FOOTPATHS & HERITAGE COAST

Weeds are encroaching on to the footpath below Heathfield.

SCHOOL

Enabling works are now complete for the school's rebuilding.

TREES

Reduction of trees requested as follows - Little Egrets (west side), Hotel (ash in Mallards Lane), Bantham (adjacent to car park hut) and at Mountstone.

PARISH PLAN

Survey now printed with copies to both South Hams District Council and Devon County Council. **Alan Taylor-Bigg** was thanked for all his work on the Plan. He will now also produce a list of actions required by the Parish Council. **A volunteer is sought from the parish to serve on a small committee relating to this project.**

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

Inspection was carried out without Parish Council representation and the initial report received was scathing - no life in the village, pump house a mess, litter by bus stop etc. - but upon a strong protest from **Councillor Kit Marshall**, they amended their views.

somewhat and said they had muddled things up a bit. On re-assessment they will now award us a certificate as runners-up in the New Entrants' section.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Shonagh Rankin came to the October meeting and reported that the SHDC co-operation with West Devon Council was working well - a shared Chief Executive as well as revenue and benefits. 50% funding is available to voluntary groups for small community projects costing £2,500-£15,000. She also has a personal fund available at £1,000 per annum. Allotment gardens can be part-funded. The 9.30 am bus from Dartmouth to Plymouth has been rescheduled to 10.30 am and by the time it reaches Kingsbridge it is often completely full. Although this is not a SHDC matter they are trying to sort something out. Funding is only available from 9.30 am, hence the time change at Kingsbridge.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Councillor Dale Came reported in November that he attended a recent 'Cluster' meeting of local Parish Councillors, where Thurlestone's Site No 1 was identified for some 15 properties, nine (60%) of these being affordable, with possibly 2016 as the

starting date. The Parish Council is to comment by the end of December.

POLICE

In October **PC Steve Mullen** and **PCSO Dave Gibson** attended, reporting that two burglaries had taken place - one in Bantham, and one in Thurlestone, both holiday homes. Two Newton Abbot men had been arrested and as a result there had been recovery of other stolen property. Regarding the motor cycle damage to the greens at the Golf Club, although there was no direct evidence, several likely suspects have been 'spoken to'.

GENERAL

- # The 'phantom' lamp post on Thurlestone main road has now been removed.
- # The adoption of an old red phone box in Thurlestone has to be considered carefully as it would need a lot of maintenance.
- # Prompt action by the Parish Clerk re fly tipping resulted in two unwelcome plastic bags of rubbish being removed near a field gate on Buckland Hill and SHDC are in a position to prosecute as Bank statements and other items in the bags identified the culprits!

NEXT MEETING

This will be on **Monday 7th December 2009**, at 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room.

GRAND NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



Thursday 31st December from 9.00 pm

***Bring Your Own Supper and Drinks
Fun & Games, Dancing, Karaoke, Quiz***

Tickets £3.00
(Best to reserve a table of 8)

Welcome in 2010
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(funny hats to be worn)

Reservations in advance to
John Lavelle (562203)
Chris White (560505)

Village News Round-Up

NEW BOY

Young Patrick (Paddy) Cleary has a new brother. Parents Sarah and Tom of Thurlestone are proud and pleased to announce the arrival on 17th September of a second son, Connor Robert, weighing 8lb.15ozs. Congratulations to all, and in particular to grandpa Nigel Hurrell and great-grandma Nina of Buckland!

KAREMA CONCERT

Madeleine and David Radford would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who came to the Karema String Quartet concert on Saturday 19th September, and contributed to the Arthritis Research Campaign, as a result of which they were able to send more than £300 to the charity.

MARGARET LAVELLE

It is with sadness that the death of Margaret Lavelle of Thurlestone is recorded, and we send condolences to John and the family. Many people will recall that it was Margaret and John who organised the New Year's Eve party which has now become a tradition at the Parish Hall, musical Margaret leading us all on her accordion in the sing-along. John's *Kingsmen* colleagues provided a beautiful and moving singing tribute to Margaret at her funeral in Thurlestone parish church on Friday 16th October.

PUB QUIZ

Mike and Brenda Jones and the quiz crew from the Village Inn tell us that they have decided this season the profit from their Tuesday evening sessions will be donated to charities in the parish. Bantham Surf Lifesaving Club and Pearsons Pre-School will be the first to benefit. So, surf lifesavers and pre-school mums and dads,

they are relying on you to make up some new teams to compete. They will also be holding a weekly raffle "with a worthwhile prize up for grabs....." to add to the funds.

PIANO LESSONS

Pippa James has recently come to live at Thurlestone. She is a very experienced and sympathetic teacher of piano and would welcome students of any age and any stage from beginners upwards. She also prepares students for the Associated Board exams. Her telephone number is 01548-560763.

FLY TIPPING

Our Parish Clerk, Phil Millard, had a phone call from a West Buckland resident reporting that two black sacks of rubbish had been thrown over a gate on the hill to Thurlestone. He immediately contacted the South Hams Council who put him through to *Street Scene*, a unit which deals with fly-tipping. At 2pm the same day, they rang back to say the offending articles had been removed and luckily they had found, from some bank statements and other items contained in the bags, the name and address of the culprit.... who will now be prosecuted. It's not often that VV gets to sing the praises of the SHDC, but well done them! Make a note of the Environmental Health department's telephone number - 01803-861296, and also their e-mail address at customer.services@southhams.gov.uk in case you come across any instances of fly-tipping.

NAMING OF THE SANDS

The parish has been informed by the Ordnance Survey that, after consulting with the three parishes concerned and the

National Trust, OS has decided to add the name "South Milton Sands" to the large scale data. They say it is clear to them that the name is in local use and is called that not only by the current landowner but also the previous one. As such it meets their criteria for adding the name to the map. Their research has indicated that this name only applies to the area owned by the National Trust which includes the area of the car park up to the sea defences but not the beach. This remains on their map as "Thurlestone Sand". The name "South Milton Sands" has been added to the large scale data and will appear in the OS Sitemap product in 4 to 11 weeks time. It is unlikely that the name will appear on the smaller scale maps Explorer and Landranger as this name applies to a small area and there will probably be insufficient space to include the text. So now we know.

SALCOMBE HEALTH CENTRE

Pat Brookes tells us that as a result of the summer lunch which raised £647 and the earlier Air Show which donated £1527, the Friends of the Redfern Health Centre (FORC) has, at the request of the practice doctors, been able to purchase an additional defibrillator. She wants to thank everyone *"who helped with, or supported, these events, and it is very gratifying that such an invaluable piece of equipment has been added to the Centre, for the benefit of patients and to help the doctors"*.

FIREWORKS

We have had several reports from pet owners in the parish about the great distress caused to their pets by people letting off fireworks thoughtlessly. Without wishing to play the killjoy, perhaps readers should inform their near neighbours when intending to set off fireworks..... and also remember that there are quite a number of thatched roofs which could be at risk.

TRAMP CO-ORDINATOR

As a volunteer Tramp co-ordinator could not be found for 2010, the role will be filled again next year by **Madeleine Radford**. The Walks Programme will be available later this month (December), and anyone requiring a full list is asked to contact Madeleine on 560867. Announcements will continue to be shown at the Post Office as usual. Meanwhile, all regular Tramps are already saddened at the thought of missing **Tony and Sheila Ward**, who have been such stalwarts of the group for many years.

THURLESTONE PARISH SURVEY

Alan Taylor-Bigg has advised us that the full details of the Parish Survey Report are available, and may be downloaded in pdf format by e-mailing a request to him at < thurlestone.survey@yahoo.co.uk >

And, of course, another volunteer is still required to assist the existing team with the preparation of the Parish Plan.

KINGSBRIDGE CHRISTMAS

There will be a lot going on in the town on Saturday 5th December - with market stalls, carol singers, farmers' markets and street entertainment - and the arrival of Santa likely to be a special high-note. Parking in the public car parks will be FREE all day. In addition, local bands will be playing into the evening after the shops have shut. Want to know more? Pop into the TIC on the Quay or visit < www.kingsbridgeinfo.co.uk >

PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

Older readers and residents will remember **Charles** (RN, retired) and **Jeanette Bickford** as former active Thurlestonians. We hear the happy news that they are both well and have recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a party at their home in Queensland, Australia.

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE & STORE

A Christmas Message from Sarah

Once again a big THANK YOU to everyone for their help and support through some difficult times. I am now back at the store, if only for short periods at the present time, to continue the smooth running of our village shop and Post Office.

THE SHOP

I would like to remind everyone that we still provide a wide range of goods and services, with ample free parking outside, for villagers and holiday-makers alike, namely:

Fresh Bread - we can order a wide range of products daily, including some speciality breads

Fresh Fruit & Vegetables

Newspapers & Magazines - most popular titles can be ordered if not currently held

Dairy Produce

Grocery & Deli products

Wines, Spirits & Soft Drinks

Hot Drinks Machine

E-Top Ups

Dry Cleaning & Laundry agents

Photocopying

Watch out for our new ideas and services, such as

Grocery Delivery - let us bring you your groceries if you are unable to get to us

Grocery Collection - have a selection of products ready for collection from the store on arrival for, or on return from, a holiday. (24-hour notice and minimum spend required)

THE POST OFFICE

We provide a wide range of traditional and new Post Office services

Car Tax - Postage - Savings & Investments

Free Cash Withdrawals (certain banks only)

Bill Payments (fees may be payable)

Whilst the economy and environment are uppermost in people's minds, we are trying to source goods locally wherever possible and are always open to new ideas and suggestions for improvement. With your continued support we can all thrive together!

*May we invite you all to join us for our Christmas Draw
with drinks & nibbles on Christmas Eve
Draw tickets on sale from 1st December
with the draw taking place at 11 am on Christmas Eve*

CHRISTMAS POSTINGS

Just a reminder that the last posting dates for Christmas are the **18th December** 2nd class, and the **21st December** 1st class. Overseas airmail last posting dates vary, starting 4th December. There will be no collections or deliveries from Christmas Day to 28th December inclusive.

Celebrating Stéphane Grappelli

A concert held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 14th November 2009, featuring Tim Kliphuis (violin), Tony Oreshko (acoustic lead guitar), and Glen Hawkins (acoustic rhythm guitar).

A full house (all 100 tickets were sold out long before the event, and in the end some 125 were found places) enjoyed a post-prandial entertainment which exceeded all expectations and drew a range of appreciative comments from which we include a selection below.

"As a fan of Stéphane Grappelli of many years standing I thought that the trio, led by Tim Kliphuis, was fantastic. Many years ago I saw Stéphane Grappelli live, accompanied by Diz Dizley on guitar. From the first number on that Saturday evening I was transported back those many years with the trio's effortless performance. Great stuff!"

(Tom Trender)

"A jolly good job there wasn't a fire in the Parish Hall that evening because the Tim Kliphuis Fiddlers had us all spellbound with magical music. (Apologies to Nero)"

(Rowland Cole)

"Thought the two instrumentalists were as good as the real thing and we want to see them again in the Parish Hall where the acoustics matched the brilliance of the players - no easy thing given the fact that the main instrument was a violin. If only we could persuade the Kingsbridge Jazz Club to use the Parish Hall!"

(Kit Marshall)

"Tim Kliphuis not only demonstrated he was a highly skilled violinist but also made some entertaining comments which amused the audience. In addition, we thought him very well supported by his two fellow musicians in what was an enjoyable and fantastic Grappelli evening"

(Jenny Sherrington)

"Yehudi Menuhin was a great admirer of Stéphane Grappelli and said 'music is magic'. Tim's Trio certainly gave us a truly magical evening. Please come again"

(Ian Fraser)

"Double Dutch, the ability to make a violin talk and sing at the same time"

(David Houghton)

"Excellent evening! Yet another display of professional musicianship to follow Catz & Karema - what a treat! Our guest, who is a

professional musician herself, and past music teacher at Kingsbridge Community College - and a Jazz enthusiast - was enthralled. We should invite them again"

(John and June Beven)

"Tim Kliphuis is a violin virtuoso extraordinaire. The way in which he effortlessly slips from normal string tone to harmonic frequencies on his violin is incredible. Double stopping, at will, with bow and then pizzicato plucking within the same musical phrase has to be heard and to be seen! (this comment from an old fiddle player). Tim's musicianship reflects well his classical /academic backgrounds, in that he combines three genres, in all performances given. This is unique and stunning. His true modesty accompanies a glorious sense of fun. Tony Oreshko's acoustic guitar accompaniment throughout the evening was of the highest standard. We can be proud of him as a Devonian."

(Keith Millman)

"Never heard double stopping and double-stopped harmonics of such clarity. Shut your eyes and lots of it really was Grappelli. Masterly musical conversations between Tim and the solo guitarist"

(Peter Gornall)

"Tim Kliphuis is a marvellous young violinist, classically trained and with an enviably solid technique, who would be at home in any genre. He now specialises in jazz, and with two guitarists gave a wonderful concert playing in the style of Stéphane Grappelli, but adding his own interpretations and cadenzas"

(Judith Reynolds)

"It is quite impossible to find the correct words of praise for Saturday evening. Perhaps the best reaction is to say, 'World-Class'. Thank you so very much, not only for arranging it, but for giving Rebecca and me the opportunity to attend. It was a fabulous evening."

(Keith Sykes)

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and a
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LAY READER: Peter Gornall

Peter Gornall writes:



TRYING TO UNTANGLE AT CHRISTMAS

I love the winter darkness setting in, for there will be frosty nights and such amazing stars. That breath-taking sky seems to imply a universe of order, brilliance and peacefulness. In contrast, dear me, it is so easy to get all tangled up in Christmas. I did find my way to the Christmas wrappings section at Trago Mills, and then I found it was quite a puzzle to get back out again. Typical problem for a man out shopping, you may say. (And you're right.)

I find you can choose wrappings to make a cheap present look as if it might be expensive (and vice versa), and a hum-drum present look quite exciting. Or you could wrap the latest electronic gadget to make it look Victorian – really the possible combinations are amazing.

I return home to find some very kind invitations waiting. The diary is already getting rather full, remembering that one or two evenings have to be kept for signing cards. It will be good to have drinks with friends, as well as timetable in the visiting relatives some of whom may be coming quite a long way.

Then I'm thinking, which are the real priorities? What level of real living is this? After all, long ago, when there was a summons for a major priority, there were shepherds who left their whole flocks and livelihoods to the mercy of wolves. There was something happening which was a compulsive experience, every bit worth the risk so as not to miss out. No one was going to record it on an i-player to re-play later on – second hand versions of it were never going to satisfy. And this was a Christmas, wasn't it?

I suppose you could infer rather the same about the priorities of those who travelled hundreds of miles of desert by camel for no commercial purpose, but to find the outcome to what in their philosophy was a supremely important celestial signal.

Not the theoretical foundation of a new order, but its originator himself was the experience, the focus of the search. Cutting through the trivial and mundane, the ordinary and distracting things, they preferred risk, endurance, doing the unthinkable, in order to find him.

It will cost us something for sure. But making space and time for the same kind of search behind all the trivia of Christmas will bring us to a universe of order, brilliance and peace, through discovering him for ourselves as well.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas

Peter

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All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Liz Webb 560090 & Graham Worrall 562016

Everyone is welcome at all services,
which are at Thurlestone, unless indicated otherwise

Church Services

Sundays

Every Sunday except Dec 27 & Jan 31	8.00am Holy Communion (1 st , 3 rd , BCP, 2 nd , 4 th CW)
DECEMBER 6TH, JANUARY 3RD	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)
DECEMBER 13TH, JANUARY 24TH	11.10am Matins (BCP)
DECEMBER 20TH	11.10am Crib Service
DECEMBER 27TH	10.30am Benefice Eucharist (CW) NOTE TIME
JANUARY 10TH	11.10am Searchlight's Epiphany Play & Service
JANUARY 17TH	11.10am Family Communion (CW)
JANUARY 31ST	11.00am Benefice Eucharist with Renewal of Covenant
NO SERVICES AT THURLESTONE	at South Milton NOTE TIME & VENUE

Weekdays

EVERY WED, THURS, FRI & SAT	8.30am Morning Prayer (said)
THURSDAY DEC 3RD, JAN 7TH	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship
See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

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

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20TH	11.10am Crib Service - Children especially welcome
TUESDAY DECEMBER 22ND	5.30pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
CHRISTMAS EVE	11.30pm First Communion of Christmas
CHRISTMAS DAY	11.10am Family Service followed by Holy Communion
NEW YEAR'S EVE	6.00pm New Year's Eve Service
SUNDAY JANUARY 10TH	11.10am Searchlight's Epiphany Play & Service



Everyone would be welcome to join the Searchlight children

Carol Singing HOUSE TO HOUSE IN BUCKLAND

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16TH MEET 5 P.M. BY THE OLD CHAPEL
In aid of Children in Distress



Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room (561246) for:-

Coffee-Time MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

10.30 - 11.30 a.m

Christmas Goods on sale

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THURLESTOBE GOLF CLUB



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The year is flying by now with only 2 months to go, but due to **Nick Nicholson's** untimely death in August, I have another year as Club Captain. I look forward to next year with **John Laphorn** as my Vice Captain.

The months of September and October have been busy with some important competitions. September saw the Seniors Open, the Canada Cup Open, and some Club and Seniors matches. October had the Turton Hart Salver and the reconvened 36 holes Club championship.

Kevin Mingo was a double champion for the second year running, but it was a narrow victory on both counts when Thurlestone's top players rounded off the season with two rounds of hard golf in the Men's championship. The gross and stroke play championships had been postponed in July because of bad weather but ideal conditions in October produced a crop of good scores. On day one Kevin, playing off three, clinched first place with a nett 68 on countback from **Richard Webb** (7). Day two saw a disappointing entry with only 14 turning out in dull conditions which steadily got worse. Despite Kevin's narrow lead more than half the field were still in with a chance of becoming handicap champion. Kevin's two round score of 145 was just good enough to pip **David Eva**, off scratch, who was just one behind. Kevin Mingo also won the nett championship by a one stroke margin, ahead of teenager **Oliver Walsh**.

In the Turton Hart Salver stableford competition in October the scores were very close. There were three eagles, one of them, on the par five 14th, scored by teenager **Joshua Walsh** who has been on a winning streak this year. His 42 stableford points earned him a one shot handicap reduction to six but were just not good enough to give him a winning score. **Philip Pailthorpe** took the salver with 43 points and saw his handicap cut to

11. Also in the Turton Hart Salver, Division Two was won by another junior, the steadily improving **Robert Came**, who has seen his handicap plummet by eight shots during the summer. His 40 points, playing off 20 were two shots better than **Eric Brisley**, also 20, stalwart of the Dawn Patrol.

The AGM in October was well attended by some 60 members and the rule changes went through smoothly.

In October the annual Devonians v The Rest of the world match took place. This was started in 2001 by then Club Captain **Keith Favis**. The only requirement to be in the Devonian team is that you must have been born in Devon. This year the men's matches were led off by **Keith** and **Anthony Buchanan**, the Assistant pro, against **Peter Laugher** and me. Unfortunately, we lost our match and the men's Devonian team won overall. It was a most enjoyable day with a lovely carvery afterwards thanks to club caterer **Robbie Robinson**.

I am looking forward to the Christmas festivities, with the Cocktail Party on the 12th December and the Christmas Foursomes Supper. I hope the weather will be a bit warmer for the Captain's drive in on New Years day when **Sue Explin** as the new Lady Captain will be taking to the first tee with me. Meantime, a very Happy Christmas to you all.

David Wadey

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The year has passed by very quickly for me with lots of competitions and social events for the ladies. I am now looking forward to the Christmas events; putting up decorations at the clubhouse and the Christmas lunch and dinner for the ladies on 7th and 14th December. Soon I will be wishing **Sue Explin**, my Vice Captain,

good luck with her Captain's drive in on New Year's day. I have really enjoyed my year as Lady Captain, and have found all the ladies very supportive and appreciative. I would like to thank my committee very much for all their enthusiasm and help throughout the year.

September was almost as busy as August with some big events like the Ladies Invitation day, Duchess and Junior trophy competition, the Closed meeting, Past Lady Captain's competition and lunch, and the Sheelah Creasy finals held at Thurlestone. The Ladies' Invitation day had to be reduced to 11 holes as the weather came in with a vengeance at about 11.30am and the later starters got wet through. The winners of the American foursomes competition were **Shirley Worrall** and her guest **Caroline Baker** from Bigbury with 26 points, 2nd **Liz Sharman** and her guest **Fay Stubbs** from Dartmouth with 25 points. My thanks go to **Robbie Robinson** for producing a lovely hot buffet, and everyone who managed to dry out and stay for the prize giving afterwards.

A large field entered for the Duchess and Junior cups and the Cooper putting competition. The Duchess cup for the best nett score of a silver player was won by **Sara Harkness** with a nett 74, from **Shona Wilson**, nett 75. The Junior cup for the best nett score of a bronze player was won by **Anne Seymour** with a nett 74, from **Jane Mason**, nett 75. The Cooper putting competition, and the trophy of a hickory shafted putter for one year, was won by **Pam St Leger** with 28 putts. The weather was dry but very windy for 46 ladies playing for 4 trophies in the Closed meeting. The winner of the Marshall Salver for best Silver division gross score was **Jenny Roberts** (3) with gross 78. The winner of the Montgomery Rose bowl for best Bronze gross score was **Yvonne Pike** with gross 97. The Mackenzie Rose bowl for best Vets scratch score went to **Gill Durden**, and the Pearl Rowland Trophy was won by **Penny Hind**. It was a great day with some good scoring and an enjoyable prize giving afterwards.

Also in September, organised by 2008 Past Captain **Lindsey Fletcher**, sixteen Past Captains had an enjoyable luncheon and prize giving after eleven of them took part in a Stableford competition. The winner was **Lindsey Fletcher** with 37 points, from **Mary Tregelles** with 33 points. **Lindsey** won the Hills Trophy, presented by Rosemary Hills, past Captain of 1983.

Four of the Devon County Sheelah Creasy teams descended on Thurlestone in September to play the semi-finals and finals of the Bronze division matchplay championship, with Saunton beating Fingle Glen in the final. The trophies were presented by the Devon Ladies' President **Joan Miller**. My thanks to all the Thurlestone ladies who helped to make it such a successful day.

Thurlestone ladies have also enjoyed some success in Devon County competitions this year. In the final of the Vets Interclub knockout matchplay competition at Exeter, **Shirley Worrall** and **Penny Hind** played against Teign Valley, and won on the 18th hole. At the final of Warren Crocus event, **Victoria Gibbons** and **Heather Spencer** had 43 points and came second of all the Devon teams.

The first *Hole-in-One* for ladies at Thurlestone this year was achieved by **Yvonne Pike**, playing a friendly match. She scored a hole in one on the 6th hole and won the sweepstake money and the *Hole-in-One* Cup. We all enjoyed a glass of wine with Yvonne on the next ladies' day.

In the internal competitions there have been some exciting finals this autumn. The final of the Scratch knockout matchplay competition was played in perfect weather conditions between **Tish Mawhood** (11) and **Jenny Roberts** (3). Jenny dropped only 2 shots over the first 9 holes but Tish also played very well and only lost on the 16th hole. The final of the Betty Ord Trophy was won by **Victoria Gibbons** from a junior girl, **Beth Peters**. The final of the Tatham Cup was a very hard fought match, with **Wendy Land** (5) just beating **Shona Wilson** (15) on the 19th hole. We now await the final of the Vets Salver and Winter foursomes.

Alan Chapman and his wife **Maureen** said goodbye to Thurlestone golf club in October after 20 years as a member and 4 years as Treasurer. They have moved to the Newcastle area to be nearer their daughter and family. In a party held at the club to say goodbye, **Roger Hind**, Club Chairman, presented Alan with a book on wine and several bottles of red wine. Alan has served the club very well as Treasurer over the last 4 years and his post will be hard to fill. He will also be very much missed by the bridge clubs of Thurlestone and Kingsbridge where he often did the scoring.

October saw the competition for the Ladies' Golf Union brooch, which was won by **Ruth Hatton** with a nett 70. The Golf Foundation brooch was won by **Hayley Pepperrell** with 44 points. The Tregelles Trophy for the best score in Bronze division 2 was won by **Kay Morley** with 42 points. We had an enjoyable away day for 18 team members and their caddies at Fingle Glen, although the hilly course was quite tiring for some ladies. This will be good practice as our Sheelah Creasy team have to play them next year. Also in October we had to reconvene the Three Ball Team Open which had been rained off in July. The weather started off dry but as on the previous date it then began to deteriorate into driving rain, and the players were informed that prizes would be given for both the 18 and 9 hole competitions. Only three teams completed the 18 holes and eleven teams completed the 9 holes so the prizes were awarded. The winning team were from East Devon, 2nd were a team from Bigbury. I only hope Sue has better luck with the weather in 2010 for her Open events.

I wish you all some good golfing in December and look forward to the new Captain's drive in on New Year's Day, when **Sue Esplin** will be taking over. Good luck Sue, I hope you have a lovely year and thanks for all your help as Vice Captain and Competition Secretary this year.

Liz Line

JUNIOR SECTION NEWSLETTER

With Guy Fawkes night looming it is hard to think this is my last report for 2009! It has been a fantastic year for our juniors both in the team and individually with several improving their handicaps significantly. Although natural ability and practice are important, it is also worth thanking all those who have been involved in helping over the year. Parents give up time to drive our juniors to competitions and of course **Pete Mitchell**, our junior professional, along with help from some club members hold weekly coaching sessions. As a new player myself I envy our juniors their natural swing and fitness. Oh, how I wish I had started young! All this brings me to a 'plug' for our next free taster session on Saturday 14th November. If there are any young people who would like to try golf, please give Pete a ring on 560715.

Now, to the results. On Friday 25th September it was Championship day for the West Devon Junior league top 4 clubs at Stover Golf Club. In the morning semi-finals Staddon Heights beat Dartmouth, and Thurlstone beat Wrangaton 3-2. In the afternoon Dartmouth beat Wrangaton to take 3rd place, and Thurlstone beat Staddon Heights 4-1 to win the Roy Wood trophy for the first time. The trophy will now reside in the Thurlstone cabinet for one year. The final of the Devon adult and junior foursomes also took place on 25th September at Honiton golf club. Playing for Thurlstone were **Darrell Day** and **Ollie Walsh** who scored 32 points and **Stuart** and **Josh Walsh** 28 points. The winners were from Honiton, with Stover the runners up.

In the last two junior Stableford competitions fine autumn weather brought out some great scores. In the September competition **Robert Came** was first with 47 points and reduced his handicap from 24 to 20, **Laura Tregelles** was second (17) with 44 points and a handicap reduction to 14, while **Jamie Johnson** (12) came third with 43 points, reducing his handicap to 11. **Beth Yeoman** was fourth with 40 points, and **Claire Harrison** fifth on 39 points.

In the October Stableford competition **Ollie Walsh** (13) was first with 47 points, and reduced his handicap to 10.6. **Tom Leach** (23) also with 47 points took second place (down to 18.7). Third was **Beth Yeoman** (26) with 40 points and a handicap reduction to 24; fourth **Claire Harrison** (25) with 38 points (cut to 23.2); and fifth **Callum Tollins** (27) with 38 points, down to 26.5.

In September, **Laura Tregelles** was picked to play for the Devon Ladies' B team against the Somerset Ladies' B team, and played very well. **Laura** (17) halved her match against a lady with a 6 handicap, after being 2 down with 3 to play! **Laura** also won the Thurlstone Ladies' Medal Winners Trophy with a nett 68 beating the other ladies who were winners throughout the year. In October, taking advantage of her half term break, **Beth Yeoman** won Bronze division two in the monthly Stableford scoring 40 points and reduced her handicap to 23. **Laura Tregelles** came 4th in the Silver division with 35 points.

The boys have also had their successes. In the Club Championship **Ollie Walsh** came second

with a score of 140 for the two days with **Jamie Johnson** fourth with 145. Both played extremely well, beating most of the men! **Josh Walsh** just missed qualifying for the Junior European Open in Spain by one place after a round of one over scratch at Tewkesbury in the qualifying event. He was beaten by much older and more experienced players but put up a really good show for Thurststone and enjoyed the experience.

This being the last report for 2009 I thought I would just report how well our juniors have played and summarise the handicap reductions

they have achieved. A little like Strictly come Dancing - 'in no particular order' - **Ted Taylor** 14 to 12; **Josh Walsh** 8 to 5; **Ollie Walsh** 24 to 11; **Beth Peters** 18 to 14; **Laura Tregelles** 19 to 13; **Jamie Johnson** 21 to 11; **Tom Leach** 25 to 19; **Claire Harrison** 29 to 23; **Robert Came** 28 to 20; **Beth Yeoman** 36 to 23; **Lottie Holland** 36 to 26; **Toby Peppereil** 39 to 28; **Callum Tollins** 39 to 27; **Cameron Day** 39 to 35.

Well done all of you! Keep on golfing!

Pam St Leger

Treasures of the Royal Collection

How could you possibly give the flavour of a collection of 485,000 items in only one hour?

Oliver Everett, Librarian Emeritus of the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, did just that, brilliantly and excitingly, in his October lecture to Kingsbridge Estuary Decorative and Fine Arts Society.

The Royal Collection represents the personal tastes of our sovereigns over the last 500 years - our present Queen added the first Turner, his magnificent watercolour of Windsor Castle; for surprisingly none of her predecessors liked him - plus gifts, and even booty from some of our past wars. The greatest collectors were, in Oliver's eyes, George IV, George III, Charles I and Charles II. The greatest vandal was Oliver Cromwell, who sold much of the collection to fund his Commonwealth. Fortunately, a good deal of it was later bought back by Charles II who also bought some 600 Leonardo Da Vinci drawings.

The statistics are mind-blowing: 30,000 Old Master drawings, 80 Holbeins, 27 Van Dykes including the triple head study of Charles I (for a bust by Benini, later destroyed by fire), 5 Rembrandts, 17 Stubbs, and 1 Vermeer. And that is before you get to the amazing pottery, gold and silverware, jewellery, Faberge Eggs, the Diamond Diadem (as

seen on our postage stamps) and of course the Cullinan Diamond.

Oliver Everett's great achievement was to put over all these facts whilst also showing us magnificent slides of many key works in the collection, so that we could appreciate the scope and scale of the whole Collection at the same time as absorbing the fine detail of many individual treasures.

Our next lectures will be

1. Wednesday, Thursday 25/26 November, *A Painted Mirror* - showing how Medieval Art brings our ancestors to life
2. Wednesday, Thursday 27/28 January; *Still Waters Run Deep* on the history and rebirth of Bath's spa waters
3. Wednesday, Thursday 24/25 February, *The Exotic in English Architecture*.

Non members are welcome for a donation of £6 per head. Wednesdays at 7.45 for 8 pm at the main hall, Kingsbridge Community College (phone 01548 844243 to book), Thursdays at 10.15 for 10.30 am at the Reel Cinema, Fore Street, Kingsbridge (phone 01548 550228 to book).

For more information on KEDFAS phone 01548 857507, visit < www.kedfas.org.uk > or e-mail < kedfasinfo@yahoo.co.uk >

Kate's Christmas Kitchen



Spinach, smoked salmon, and cream cheese roulade

An excellent stand-by for Christmas entertaining, this roulade is a star at parties. It may be chilled and kept in the refrigerator for a few days before being devoured. It also freezes well and takes up little storage space. I use a non-stick baking tray 33cm x 23cm and 2.5cm deep. You will also need 3 mixing bowls. Non-stick greaseproof baking paper is essential.

Ingredients

- * A little oil for the baking sheet - this helps the fitting of the baking paper without slippage.
- * *For the Roulade base:-* 260g fresh spinach leaves; salt & pepper; 6 eggs
- * *For the Filling:-* 400g (2 pkts) light cream cheese at room temperature; 250g sliced smoked salmon

Preparation

- * Oven on at 200°C - gas mark 6. Place rack near top of oven.
- * Line the greased baking tin with non-stick baking paper. Slit the paper diagonally at each corner to allow it to fit well into the tin.
- * Wash spinach if necessary (ready washed and dried is easily available). It is important to ensure it is very dry. I place the leaves between two absorbent tea towels to absorb any excess moisture.
- * Place half the leaves in a food processor for about 30 secs. and place in a mixing bowl (or any other container). Process the other half the same way. Leaves to be well chopped but not pureed.
- * Divide the eggs placing the yolks in one mixing bowl and the whites in another.
- * Whisk the yolks (preferably using an electric hand whisk) until they are thick, creamy and pale in colour. Season with salt and pepper.
- * Fold the spinach into the egg yolks.
- * Whisk the egg whites (ensure the whisk is clean and dry) until they form soft peaks and immediately fold into the spinach and egg mixture using a large metal spoon.
- * Pour into the lined baking tray and coax very gently out into the corners. Avoid spreading out with a knife which will impede rising.
- * Place near the top of the pre-set oven and cook for 12 minutes. The top should feel firm when lightly pressed.
- * Whilst the roulade base is cooking prepare for turning it out of the tin.
- * Place a large sheet of the non-stick baking paper (cut to just larger than the size of the baking tin) on a cooling tray. Kitchen cutlery will hold it flat while you wait.
- * When the roulade base is cooked place it on a heat proof surface. Hold the cooling tray with the paper in place on top of it and turn it over so that the baking paper lies on top of the cooked roulade and is held in place by the baking tray.
- * Protect hands from the heat (I use a folded tea towel rather than cumbersome oven gloves) and invert the baking tray so that the roulade is now on top of the baking paper and the cooling tray underneath.
- * Remove the baking tray and the lining paper. Allow roulade to cool.
- * Gently beat the cream cheese with a wooden spoon.
- * Pull the paper holding the roulade off the cooling tray on to the work surface.
- * Spread the cream cheese lightly over the roulade.
- * Place the slices of smoked salmon on top of the cheese.
- * To roll up - working from the long side hold the paper underneath and use it to start rolling up. Press the edge of the roulade in firmly and pull the paper to encourage the roulade to roll. Keep the paper rolled tightly round the roulade.
- * Wrap over with cling film and chill before slicing.

Have a very happy Christmas

POSTBAG

Dear Editor [by e-mail]

Re: Your article 'The Progress of Maths Teaching' Oct/Nov 09 Edition

Like many, I read the start of this 'light hearted' article and found myself smiling at the wry observations of the PC world that we live in.

As the article progresses however, the sinister undertones then become apparent. Was it the intention of the writer to see how many different ethnic groups could be ridiculed in one single article? Muslims, Gypsies (I think you'll find the correct term is 'Roma people') and migrant workers.

I would not be so obtuse as to state that Nick Griffin's BNP has a ready made support base over there in Thurlestone but like Nick Griffin the author has held up their ignorant prejudices for all to see.

OK, the gist of the article was to hold up the Government's restrictive legislation on all manner of areas of our lives but I would say to you as to any playground bullynot big and not clever.

Christine Forrest
Aveton Gifford

[Editor's e-mail reply]

Dear Christine Forrest

Thank you for your letter and comments on the "Teaching of Maths" article included in the October / November issue of Village Voice. This was an anonymous contribution that came by way of the internet, and ought to have carried a note to that effect.

Your criticism is fairly made, and we will certainly be happy to publish your letter in our December "Postbag". It might stimulate a little debate on the boundaries of the no-man's-land between humour and political correctness. Our judgement call on this piece was that its humour outweighed its political incorrectness, which was without any trace of malice.

We would hope that your perception of Thurlestone in general and Village Voice in particular will not be unduly influenced by this single piece (if you are a regular reader), and very much regret any offence that it might have caused.

Yours sincerely

Pat Macdonald
Editor



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>(((o>`...>(((o> The Age of Stupid >(((o>`...>(((o>

This December is an important month for our global environment. World leaders from 192 countries will be meeting to create a global deal on climate change. The 4 essential requirements for this international agreement are:

- 1.) How much are industrialised countries willing to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases?
- 2.) How much are major developing countries such as China and India willing to do to limit the growth of their emissions?
- 3.) How is the help needed by developing countries to engage in reducing their emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change going to be financed?
- 4.) How is that money going to be managed?

We are all too aware now that our climate is changing. The evidence is all around us both locally and further afield. There is an increased frequency of 'freak' weather events. Our climate is certainly changing with wetter summers and seasonal inconsistencies. It's difficult to understand how it is changing and how to predict the change, but it is changing and rapidly beyond the course of Nature's global cycles. There are many predictions about the effects but we are sure change is afoot - there are now established organisations to reduce the impact of climate change in the UK and abroad. The Maldives are already in discussion about where their refugees will reside when the islands are gone. Indeed, it is predicted that global warming could create 150 million 'climate refugees' by 2050.

Sea level is rising and our ice caps are melting. What else is the future of our seas and oceans as far as climate change goes? Well, firstly it's important to reiterate that our atmospheric oxygen comes from trees and plankton. Scientists theorise that up to 50% of atmospheric oxygen comes from phytoplankton in our seas. It may surprise some to know that the sea acts as a great source and sink of atmospheric gases - both good and bad! As well as the contribution to the 'Greenhouse Effect' the ocean absorbs

more than 25% of carbon dioxide emissions. In response to this the ocean is becoming more acidic. Extreme ocean acidification could make it harder for anything that needs a shell to grow and for organisms to breathe and reproduce. Some will be more sensitive than others - such as giant squid - and there could be economic impacts on fisheries such as the shellfish industry. Could ocean acidification affect this important powerhouse that is phytoplankton? We can't be sure, but it's yet another reason to do something to minimise the impact of our wasteful ways.

On Tuesday 1st December at 7.30 pm there will be a showing of *The Age of Stupid*. This is the new four-year epic from McLibel director Franny Armstrong. Oscar-nominated *Pete Postlethwaite* stars as a man living alone in the devastated world of 2055, looking at old footage from 2008 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?

It's a great film and whilst it may seem a tad heavy leading up to the Christmas period it demonstrates real glimmers of hope. There are demonstrations of how we as a global and local community are becoming far more aware, pro-active and considerate. Locally, in the South Hams we have the second highest recycling rates in England, Modbury was the first plastic bag free town, our beach cleans are well attended, and we should be proud and encouraged by our collective efforts. It's not all doom and gloom! In view of the Copenhagen conference I thought it might be timely to show this film and to voice our support to the UK government for reduction in emissions. *Learn To Sea* is putting on this video free of charge but donations will be welcomed to cover the costs of the licence and use of the village hall.

Whilst our UK representatives are making decisions about how the UK can reduce any impact of climate change, I hope that watching this film might also spur us on to making further commitments for the future. Please do come along.

Maya Plass

National Trust South Hams Centre

Programme for December 2009 and January 2010

- Wednesday 9th December** Exeter Cathedral Christmas Concert. A traditional concert performed by the fine musicians of Exeter School. There will be time for shopping and an early supper before the concert.
- Tuesday 12th January** The Yangtse Gorges and the Terracotta Warriors. An illustrated talk by Odette Bailey, looking at the famous sights of the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China. At West Alvington village hall, 2.30 pm, entrance £2.50 including tea and biscuits. ALL ARE WELCOME.
- Friday 22nd January** Coffee Morning at the Thurlestone Hotel. A warm welcome awaits at this lovely hotel overlooking the coast. Entrance £2.50 includes coffee. New members welcome.

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

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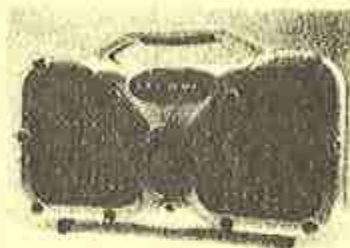
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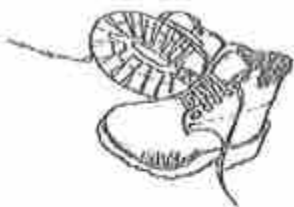
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TRAMP



1 Twelve of us met up on the morning of Friday 25th September and travelled to the southern edge of Dartmoor to do a delightful 4½ mile ramble across open moorland near Ugborough Beacon. We parked near to Wrangaton Golf Club, walked across the golf course, followed a stream upwards, then followed the contours round the lower slopes of Ugborough Beacon (resisting the temptation to climb to the top!) and found our way back to our starting point. Such beautiful views from the high ground were a real treat!

Afterwards, some of us met up again at the inn at Ugborough for a drink and a snack lunch.

Alastair Durden

2 Fourteen Tramp Members set off on Wednesday 30th September from outside the Durrant Arms in Ashprington for a figure of 8 walk. For the first part, we took the Totnes Road out of Ashprington, turning right at Ashprington Cross to follow the road up to Higher Bowden where we turned on to Totnes Down Hill and followed the road into Totnes. At Sharpham Drive on the lower end of Moat Hill, we followed the cycle track towards Sharpham. We had some lovely views over the River Dart and our refreshment stop attracted the curiosity of some very fine looking cows, before we set off up through the woodland emerging on to the drive to Sharpham House. The road then took us back into Ashprington and a well earned lunch at the Durrant Arms. We had covered approximately 5.5 miles.

After lunch, we lost nine of our walkers and only five continued for the second half. The afternoon walk was to have taken us down to the River Dart and along the foreshore before climbing back up to Ashprington. However, the tide was against us, and so we headed down the hill to Bow Bridge and then up to Beenleigh Cross where we had some lovely country views. The road got narrower and the Devon hedges got higher and as I hadn't actually "reccied" this part of the walk, I'm sure that my fellow walkers thought that we were lost.

We weren't, and we found the path back to Beenleigh where we followed the Harbourne River back towards Ashprington via Hothole. This part of the walk (which I had done before) is beautiful in February when the snowdrops are out.

At Hothole, we encountered a rather unhappy cow who was lying on its side making pitiful grunting noises. Its head was under a gate and we couldn't see how it could possibly get itself out of this predicament. One of our party headed back to where we knew there were some houses to report the problem. The rest of us had to climb over the gate and hopefully make our way towards the farm. We found the farmer who didn't seem at all perturbed by our news. We could only hope that he took some action. Our afternoon walk must have covered another 4-5 miles and it was five very exhausted walkers who returned to their car and the drive back to Thurlestone.

Lisa White

3 One man went to mow....or rather two ladies and one dog went to walk from Thurlestone to Hope Cove via South Huish on 5th October. We were then joined by two more members of Tramp at South Milton. It was a little wet when we set off, but we arrived back at Thurlestone in bright sunshine - by which time we were bone dry! A good walk over fields via green lanes and footpaths and back along the coast.

Rosemary Mackay

4 We were lucky enough to have a glorious day of blue skies and warm Autumn sunshine for our walk on Wednesday 14th October. After taking a moment to admire the lovely view across Start Bay, the twelve of us, plus two dogs, set off along the coastal path from Start Point car park. Arriving at Hallsands we turned inland, and very shortly negotiated our first stile. Here we encountered a slight difficulty in the form of a herd of skittish heifers crowding round us. Fortunately one of the men in the party bravely fended them off - whilst

the rest of us scuttled quickly and somewhat nervously along by the hedge, bearing in mind recent reports of people being trampled!

Leaving the field, we continued in a more relaxed way along tracks and lanes, enjoying the lovely countryside and pretty hamlets we were passing. After a bit of a climb, we paused to get our breath before turning back towards the coast and making the descent to Beesands, where we were all able to enjoy our lunch sitting outside at the Cricket Inn. Here we were joined by two visiting walkers, and two more dogs, who accompanied us on part of the afternoon's walk. This consisted of a steady climb back up the coastal path, pausing at Hallsands to inspect the new buildings and the memorial to the ruined village. It was a lovely walk of about six miles - in perfect weather.

Christine Hammer

5 Rain fell right up to 9.15 am on Thursday 22 October when 13 optimists set out for Tuckenhay and one of the longer 'short' walks. Fortunately, not a drop more came till we were back having a rather late lunch in the Maltster's Arms. We headed inland first, past a paper mill magnificently converted into holiday flats, to Coomery and Kerswell by drovers' lanes and open country, and onwards east to Barberry Water.

By far the most memorable event occurred on the 'Dart Valley and John Musgrave Heritage Trail' going up to Broadgates. A bright yellow courier's van wider than the steep-sided bridle way was jammed solid in our path facing down hill, driver's wing mirror broken. No driver, but the keys and a mobile phone were in the unlocked cabin. A phone call to the number on display revealed that DHL were apparently unaware of the plight of one of their vans. It cost bramble attack, nettle stings and insect bites to fight our way through the undergrowth and round the obstacle.

300 yards up the lane the hapless lady driver, the RAC and local farmers were all trying, and at that point failing, to think up a solution. A tractor driver would drag the van out if only a way could be found to attach a rope to the rear. And not a Sat-nav problem either - the driver said she had been following instructions on a company map! We finished with a splendid autumn-coloured Dart-side walk from below Cornworthy back to

Tuckenhay and the welcoming log fire at the Maltster's Arms.

Peter & Wendy Gornall

6 Undeterred by the weather forecast, eight member of TRAMP met at East Soar and headed towards Soar Mill Cove before joining the coastal footpath and heading east towards Salcombe. There was no sign of any lingering swallows on 11th November but we did see large flocks of pipits and linnets. At 11 o'clock we stood in silence, thinking of recent deaths and those of long ago, but also appreciating our beautiful surroundings.

We then made our way towards Overbecks and all of us (including a member who had just celebrated 88 years) managed to reach the entrance without too much of a struggle. Whilst enjoying our picnic in the garden we also enjoyed the fuchsias, salvias and periwinkle all still in flower. A red admiral butterfly and two thrushes also appreciated the sheltered garden. Revived, we climbed through the wood to the viewpoint at Sharpitor and then on to East Soar Farm, admiring the many fungi we passed on the way, wondering if any was edible. We returned to the car park, thankful that the threatened rain had not arrived and having enjoyed another TRAMP outing.

Lesley Goonesekera

7 On Tuesday 17th November there was variety a-plenty on this short walk through surprisingly open and hilly country just south of West Alvington towards Collapit and Woolston. A herd of yearlings got very excited at the sight of the 3 dogs amongst the party of 17 walkers, and a herd of bullocks, thinking we were coming to feed them their daily bales of silage, persuaded us to brave churned up mud - deep enough for any hippo to wallow - and divert to the next field. One walker decided the final hill was just one too many, and gracefully sank to ground on the offer from one of the advance party to return to rescue her. Subsequent recovery was swift. This walk, which takes in fields, green lanes and minor roads, was a new one to most members of Tramp and proved to be enjoyable and challenging, and worth extending to a long walk.

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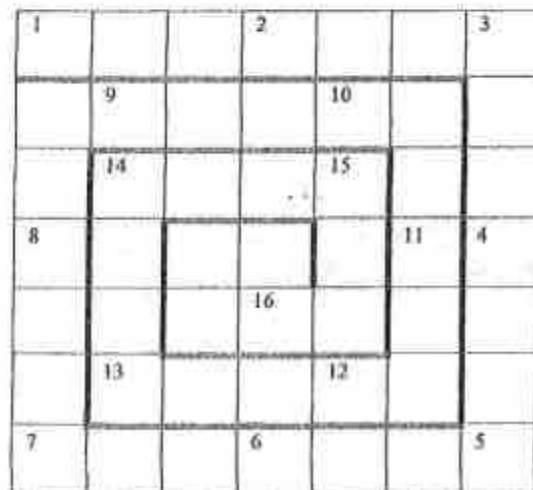
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Grey Matter

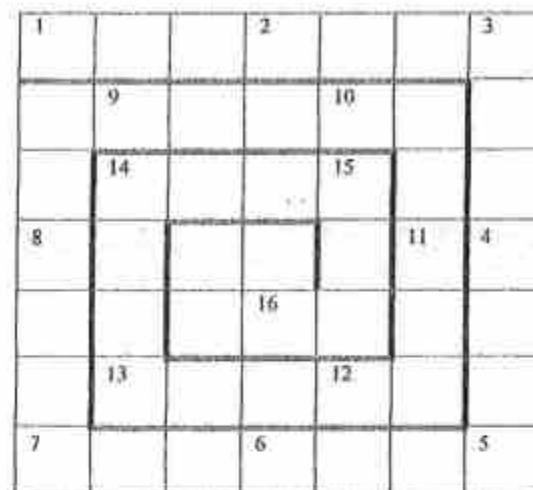
A BOTTLE OF WINE to the first all correct entry (or the closest to correct!) drawn on 1st January 2010. Please submit entries to: 5 Mead Lane, Thurlestone, TQ7 3PB or email: cgwonthenet@themed.co.uk

WORD SPIRALS

Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with 4-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the seven-letter key word in the shaded boxes. In each puzzle, the keyword has a Christmas connection. The first puzzle breaks you in gently. The second contains more challenging, sometimes cryptic clues. ENJOY!



1. Attic
2. Implement
3. Fewer
4. Pretence
5. Handwarmer
6. Liberate
7. Heroic
8. Gossip
9. A grave
10. Make cakes or bread
11. Finishes
12. Alike
13. Ages
14. Ego
15. Unsightly fat
16. Group of Musicians



1. Sounds like it was observed in a stage play
2. Short man's name!
3. Inaccurate shot
4. Sort through different flours
5. Hard labour
6. Home Ice or Lap
7. It can be played by a jockey
8. He rules he roost
9. Roy sounds very sharp
10. It doesn't hurt like sticks and stones
11. Send out of time
12. Start argument if folk don't agree
13. Accommodation that's rather squashed
14. Throw a coin
15. Insult that may be difficult to understand
16. Found foreign money when I ran down the road

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter Quiz:

1. Struck him blind 2. 23 3. The Trotters 4. Bird 5. Liquid paper 6. Anglesea 7. Mark Chapman 8. Guyana
9. Fido 10. Narberth 11. Isinglass 12. He has no beard 13. Henry VII 14. Capybara 15. Pontypandy
16. Alexandra Mary 17. Archimedes 18. Drey 19. Centre of the earth 20. Lala & Po 21. Playing fields of Eaton
22. Mutley 23. Earthworms 24. Wizard of Oz 25. 15 26. Joshua Slocum 27. Ena Sharples 28. Llantrisant 29. John Wayne 30. On the hull of a ship

Unfortunately there were no winning entries for the last puzzle page.

sudoku

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

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

Easy

No. 43

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

Easy

No. 44

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

Medium

No. 43

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

Medium

No. 44

SUDOKU - The occasional aberration

It is easy to make an error in a Sudoku puzzle - often you intend to put a number in a particular square, but by accident jot it down in an adjacent square. Only as you near the last few empty squares does the error come to light - and sometimes not even then! A final check is always a good discipline. Among our entries last time there were two which included errors. Of the all-correct entries, it was **Pauline Lonsdale** whose name came out of the hat. Our congratulations. With time to spare over Christmas, puzzlers can be extra careful with this quartet. Entries, for the usual prize, to 25 Mead Lane, by 5th January. Want a New Year resolution? Double-check!

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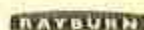


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WI NEWS



October

Our President's birthday fell on our meeting date, so we sang "Happy Birthday to Joan" and had a specially delicious tea and glass of fizz! The speaker was **Julia Fox** of Totnes Museum who showed us items of Victorian women's dress from their impressive Devonshire Collection, working outwards from the basic shift to all the top layers and bonnets. A lot was learned about social conditions in those times but today's easy-care fabrics and more casual dress have a lot to recommend them.

Three visitors and two new members were welcomed. The parish hall thanked us for running a cake stall at their recent record-breaking autumn fair. Fifteen members had been shown round the Peninsula Medical School and **Judith LeGrice** gave a report on this excellent facility for south-west medical and dental students.

The infamous Thurlestone establishment **Not-at-All-Saints Girls Academy**, threw its end of term School Dinners Party & Fun Night on 24th October for ninety brave souls. Under the eagle eye of the Head Girl, the gymnastics team set the tone for the evening by giving an energetic display - with some unexpected developments - and showing us all how egg-and-spoon and 3-legged races should be run. Progress reports on the girls' academic and other achievements (or lack of) were given by the heads of music, art, drama, domestic science, maths and German. Four gallant visitors from the nearby Boys School entertained, and surprised us, with examples of their schoolboy wit. This delightful and successful evening was rounded off with a quiz, a raffle, and the Head's address. All the profit from the event was for the benefit of St Luke's Hospice - *no less than £1115!*

November

A short silence was observed to remember

Barbara Watkinson, whose sudden death was announced. **Vida Alexander** had raised over £400 in sponsorship for undertaking the Extreme Challenge of the Lypstone Royal Marine assault course. This meeting was the Annual Meeting, and we are pleased to report that **Joan Booth** was re-elected President for the coming year, with **Judith Le Grice** as Treasurer and **Lisa White** as Secretary. The following members will form the committee: **Val Brown, Jen Heatley, Pam Knight, Karen Livett, Julia Thompson** and **Mary Tregelles**

Coming Events

- ★ 11th December - Carol service at S.Milton
- ★ 17th December - Christmas lunch
- ★ 27th February 2010 - First round of the county quiz at Blackawton.

Speakers 2010

- ★ January 14th - **Penny Hammond** "Saltram Garden through the Year"
- ★ February 11th - **Margaret Duffy** "Tiaras & Feathers"
- ★ March 11th - **David Ramsden** "Barn Owl Trust"
- ★ April 8th - **Nick Matthias** "Spa Pampering"
- ★ June 10th - **Roger Barrett** "Lighthouses & Shipwrecks"
- ★ July 8th - **Brian Vyner** "Haytor Granite Railway"
- ★ September 9th - **David Austin** "Austin's Department Store"
- ★ October 14th - **David Prout** "Births Marriages & Deaths"

Visitors are always made most welcome at our meetings. If any spouses or other non-members fancy hearing any of these speakers, please do come along to the meeting - and have a cup of tea too!

BOOKSHELF

The Family Man

by Elinor Lipman

(Headline Review £19.99)

Henry is a retired lawyer. He has a slightly deranged ex-wife, whom he divorced some years ago, and a step-daughter of whom he was very fond but with whom he has lost touch since the divorce. He is also gay - although didn't 'come out' until after the divorce. As the novel begins, we get a taste of the ex-wife who gets in touch with Henry when her third husband dies, leaving all his estate to his two sons. Henry then meets his step-daughter (now grown up) again. She is a would-be actress, estranged from her mother and involved in a complicated plan to further her career. She of course soon moves in with Henry, bringing her problems with her... and the story takes off.

A very funny book, with witty dialogue and not a word wasted. I enjoyed it immensely. *We should all have a Henry in our lives!*

Carolyn Taylor

The Perfect Summer

by Juliet Nicolson

(John Murray £8.99)

The summer of 1911 was an abnormally hot one in England. A new King was about to be crowned, there was trouble with workers at home and worry about German territorial ambitions but it was also the heyday of British aristocracy. This is the story of a year just before the First World War, which deals with groups of people (among them a butler, a debutante, a politician, a trade unionist, Queen Mary, a choirboy) living through the period. It is a highly entertaining page-turning account, wonderfully researched.

Pat Macdonald

Scandinavian Crime Writers

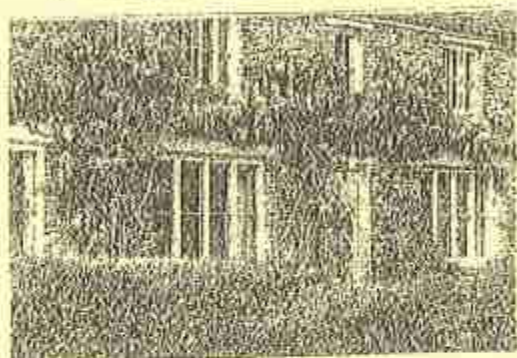
I love a good crime novel. I have my favourite English writers (there are so many in this genre that one can afford to be choosy) but for many years I have also been enjoying the Scandinavian crime writers. I started long ago with Henning Mankell but after two books found him a bit too bleak, so went on to different authors and am contentedly following **Arnaldur Indridason**, **Hakan Nesser**, **Camilla Lackberg** (who says she has been influenced by English writers such as Ruth Rendell), **Jo Nesbo** and **Karin Fossum**.

My favourite character must be the detective Martin Beck. Husband and wife team **Maj Sjöwall** and **Per Wahlöö** wrote just ten books during the 1960s and 1970s featuring this man. The plots concern police procedurals - a crime is committed, there are no leads and time passes but gradually small clues emerge and Beck is able to bring the case to a close.....sometimes to his satisfaction, sometimes not..

The books become addictive as one gets to know the characters and as they are all entirely without long passages of descriptive 'padding' they run to approximately 250-300 pages and so make a very satisfying read. I have recently finished the sixth book, and now must go slowly as I'm reluctant to leave him. But I have just found even more Scandinavian writers and have noticed a certain **Johan Theorin**, on whom I must now start!

Carolyn Taylor

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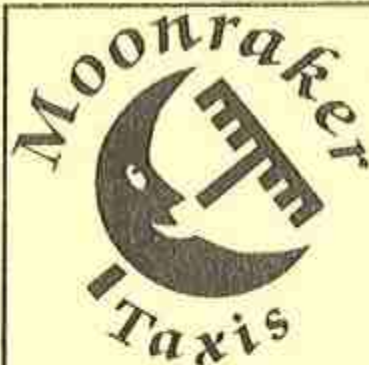
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SCHOOL REPORT

By Betty Rhymes

We're off!

The new All Saints School is under construction. The car park has disappeared and the foundations of a new room have been laid. Once this new building is complete, Mr Medway and his class will move into it while their old classroom is demolished to make way for a new two-storey wing. The school and the contractors, ROC, are doing their utmost to minimise disruption to the school and to village life. The next year will mean a considerable amount of upheaval and hard work for all - but by this time in 2010 we will be rewarded with a first-class, state-of-the-art school which will meet the needs of local children for many years to come.

'Allo, 'Allo

The school went cosmopolitan for a week. Class 3 teacher, Mrs Phipps, a modern foreign language graduate, headed this exciting week of activities. The children learnt to speak a little Russian, Italian and Polish, they learnt to cook crepes, and performed a traditional dance from Brittany accompanied by music played by a folk band. The school kitchen provided a foreign menu for the week, allowing the children to sample different foods from five European countries. The week finished with pupils and teachers dressing in a variety of costumes representing European countries. They ranged from Spanish dancers and bull-fighters, to Vikings, to famous footballers but the award for the most imaginative had to go to a certain 9-year old girl from Buckland - she came as a "French" fry. Very witty Miss Mc!

Felt Feet

Did you see a group of children on Yarmer beach in October, practising their dance moves? Did you think 'Strictly' had come to Thurstone? It was the children of Class 2 performing dance moves based on the theme of the storm in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. As part of this work the children gained an important life skill - how to multi-task (maybe there's hope for tomorrow's men!). Their little feet were doing more than just dancing, they were making something very beautiful. Before leaving for the beach the children had wrapped their feet in felt and cling film, and then put their own shoes back on.

Having practised dance moves at the beach and given their feet a good workout, they returned to school to perform their storm dance. Then they removed their outer footwear to reveal beautiful handmade (or rather footmade) felt creations which resembled little elves' shoes. The 6 and 7-year olds were delighted at what their efforts had achieved and each now has a special keepsake of their primary school days in the form of pixie-like shoes. Jimmy Choo would be very jealous of some of their efforts!

Out & About

A lot of the education and activity has been happening off-site this term (may have something to do with Bob and his team of builder friends!) Mrs Dawes' class have made two trips to Buckfast Abbey on poetry and music workshops, and also took a trip to Morwelham Quay as part of their work on Victorian Britain. Class 2 continued with their Tudor studies by visiting the home of Sir Walter Raleigh and had great fun trying on all the Tudor costumes.

Fifteen children took part in the Swimathon organised by Kingsbridge Rotary Club and the three teams together managed to swim over 350 lengths in an hour and raised a lot of money in doing so. Sponsorship continued with Mrs Dawes organising an early morning yomp from South Milton to school, the children walking at a very brisk pace. Was this because they were keen to get to school - or because of the hot chocolate and toast waiting for them when they got there? No matter, their efforts raised over £200 for Adumasa.

Christmas is coming.....

Like many of us, All Saints is busy preparing for Christmas. The children have all had a stir of the pudding (and made their wishes) which will be served and enjoyed at their Christmas lunch. The rehearsals are underway for this year's carol service, which is based on an Austrian nativity play titled *Silent Night* - will it be Heidi knocking at the stable door this year? Mrs Dawes' class are tuning their voices ready to sing some carols to the residents of Thurstone Court.

The festive fun kicks off with our Christmas Fair

on Friday 4th December at the Parish Hall - to which you are all invited. Doors will open at 2 pm so you will have a chance to look around before the children are let loose at 3 pm. The fair will offer you handmade gifts, many crafted by parish residents, cakes, refreshments and a grand Christmas raffle with a chance to win a first prize of £100 as well as many other exciting prizes. Tickets are on sale at Thurstlestone Post Office.

End of school Bell

Friday 18th December is the last day of term and will be the last day of work for one lady. Cherry Bell, the school administrator is retiring after 17 years of dedicated service to our school. Her hard work and efficiency have ensured that the school ran smoothly during this time. She has played a

large part in making our children's time at All Saints happy and memorable. We are going to miss her greatly. We wish you well, Mrs Bell.

Calling all Quiz fans!

For those of you wishing to give your grey matter a test in the New Year, we are holding our annual quiz and curry night on Saturday 30th January at The Sloop, Bantham. Please contact me for more details on 01548-560564

Time now to think about my own Christmas preparations - (1) Stuff the kids, (2) Ice the turkey, (3) Freeze the presents, (4) Crackers? I will be by 25th December!

Betty Rhymes

A School Lesson for Remembrance Day

(This little piece from America appeared on the Internet, and is said to be authentic)

Back in September, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School, did something not to be forgotten. With the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom. When the first period pupils entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

'Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?'

She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.'

They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.'

'No,' she said.

'Maybe it's our behaviour'

She told them, 'No, it's not even your behaviour'

And so they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. And the classroom remained empty of desks.

By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her classroom. The final period of the day arrived and as the puzzled

students found seats on the floor of their still desk-less classroom, Martha Cothren said 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.'

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven war veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place the students had started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education.

Don't ever forget it.'



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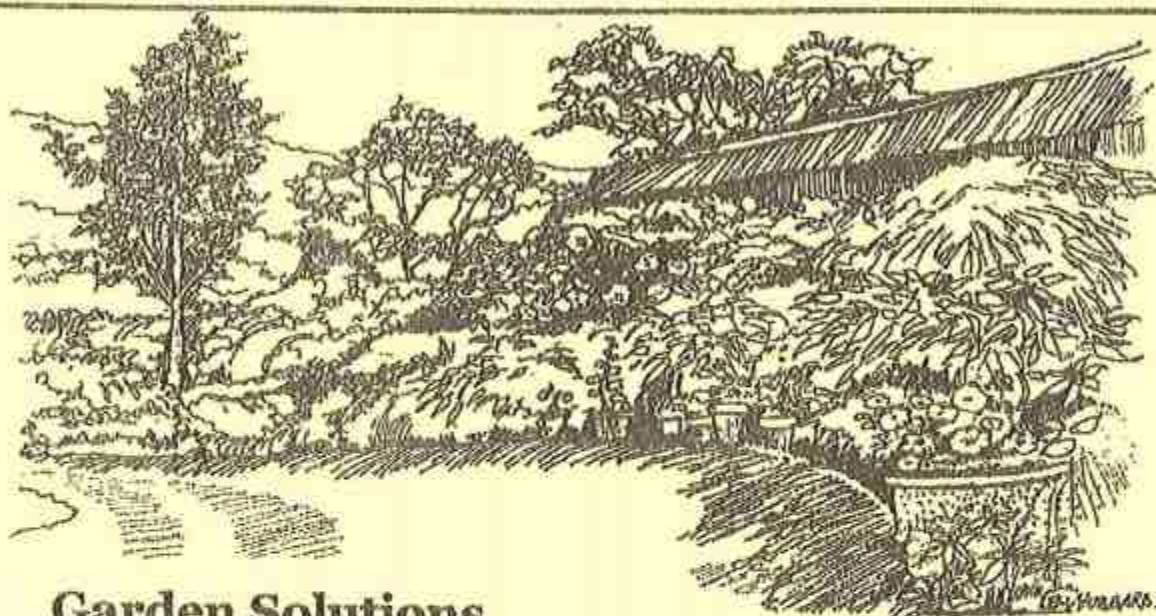
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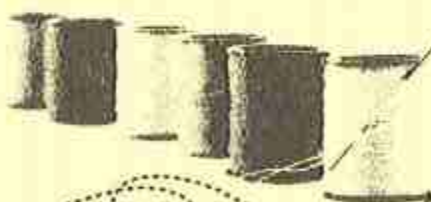
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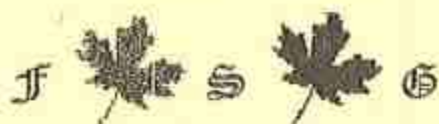
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At the Bridge Table



Most bridge players make use of conventions, which can be defined as partnership arrangements whereby special meanings, not obvious (but disclosable) to opponents, are attached to particular bids. The most well known is Stayman (named after the American expert, **Sam Stayman**) which uses 2 Clubs as a conventional response to 1 No Trump, and is the subject of this article. Over the 2 Club response, the no-trump opener rebids 2 Diamonds with no-four card major, 2 Hearts with four hearts (also with four cards of each major) and 2 Spades with four spades. The logic behind Stayman is the emphasis all bidding systems lay on the search for a 4-4 or better major suit fit. At no-trumps a 4-4 holding can take no more than four tricks, but in a trump contract it may win the same four tricks in one hand and one or more ruffs in the other. When game in either strain is likely, you will often be better off in the suit contract, especially in duplicate competitions.

Can you bid Stayman with less than game invitational values? The answer is Yes, but there are fewer opportunities. Essentially you are using the convention to improve the part score, and must be able to handle all possible replies (2 Diamonds, 2 Hearts or 2 Spades). Provided you can cater for any of these three possible replies, your point count may be minimal. Here is an extreme example where North had a Yarborough (zero points) and the bidding went:-

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass(1)	2 Clubs(2)	Pass(3)
2 Spades(4)	All Pass		

Notes: (1) West is "frozen out" (2) Stayman-asking for a four-card major and intending to pass all three possible replies. Happily he has five diamonds and a 2 Diamond response-which might reflect only two of that suit - would at worst result in a seven card trump suit. (3) Whereas West could not safely enter the auction, East missed an opportunity to double: a bid best played as showing clubs and at least a hand of overcalling strength. (4) Showing four spades, and not four hearts. As can be seen, the use of Stayman produced a much better contract than the other viable alternative of a measly weakness take-out into 2 Diamonds. South bought the contract in 2 Spades without East-West even entering the bidding despite their 26 points and an easy 3NT game to make.

North	
S	7542
H	8532
D	87542
C	Void
West	East
S	Q8
H	KQ104
D	KJ9
C	K1065
South	
S	AJ63
H	AJ9
D	63
C	A742

But things got worse for East-West. In 2 Spades declarer won the king of hearts lead with the ace and led a diamond. East won with the ten and led a second heart. West covered the nine with ten, cashed the queen, and then led a fourth round. East trumped dummy's master eight with the nine of trumps (not best but understandable). Declarer overtrumped with the jack and led a second diamond. East won with the queen and switched to the queen of clubs. Declarer trumped in dummy, trumped a third diamond (noting the even split), cashed the ace of trumps and led a second trump. The queen and king crashed together, enabling declarer to trump the club return in dummy and cash two established diamond winners. Eight tricks made without even using the ace of clubs!

Further examples of Stayman will appear in my next article, but at this stage it is worth mentioning that with one exception the 2 Clubs bidder will always hold four cards in at least one major. The exception arises because the convention results in the natural bid of 2 Clubs - as a weakness take - out showing at least six clubs - becoming unavailable. For instance, if you hold a poor hand of say, five points, including KJ7532 of clubs, the way to 3 Clubs by opener is the sequence 1NT - 2 Clubs - 2 any - 3 Clubs. This mechanism - known as Phoney Stayman - simply says to partner "Cancel the message of the original Stayman bid. All I want to do is to play in clubs". Naturally the 1 NT opener must pass 3 Clubs

Victor

Christmas Carol Quiz

Each of the following series of letters contains the first letter of each word in the title or the first line of popular Christmas carols or songs. A little gentle mental exercise for that quiet pause after the turkey or the mince pies - very good for the digestion!

1. OLTOB
2. HTHAS
3. WC
4. TTDOC
5. WSWTFBN
6. GRYMG
7. UUACIB
8. DTHWBOH
9. AIAM
10. JB
11. SN
12. OIRDC
13. GKW
14. RTRNR
15. THATI
16. OCOCE
17. ICUAMC
18. OCAYF
19. TFN
20. JTTW
21. FTS
22. LDB
23. AIWFCIMTFT.....
24. SCICTT
25. DDMOH

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Revised Policy

Effective immediately, the following economy measures are to be implemented.

1. **The Partridge** will be retained, but the pear tree, which never produced the cash crop forecast, will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant.
2. **Two Turtle Doves** romancing during working hours cannot be tolerated. Their positions are therefore eliminated.
3. **Three French Hens** will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French.
4. **Four Calling Birds** will be replaced by an automated voice. An analysis of monitored calls is under way to determine who the birds have been calling, how often, and for how long they talked.
5. **Five Golden Rings** have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals, as well as high technology stocks, appears to be in order.
6. **Six Geese a-Laying** constitute a luxury that can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day was an example of the general decline in productivity. Three geese will go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure will assure management that, from now on, every goose will be a good one.
7. **Seven Swans a-Swimming** is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is purely decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The current swans will be re-trained to learn some new strokes, thereby enhancing their outplacement.
8. **Eight Maids a-Milking**. This concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEOC and a male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. The more militant maids consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to upskill by training in a-mending, a-mentoring or a-mulching.
9. **Nine Ladies Dancing** has always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps.
10. **Ten Lords a-Leaping** is overkill. The high cost of Lords, plus the expense of air travel, has prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work MPs. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant as we expect an over-supply of unemployed MPs this year.
11. **Eleven Pipers Piping and Twelve Drummers Drumming** is a simple case of the band getting too big. Substitution by a string quartet, a cutback in new music, and no uniforms, will produce savings which will drop right through to the bottom line.

Overall we can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and related expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can drop all shipments in one day, our service levels will be improved

Regarding the lawsuit filed by the Attorneys Association seeking expansion to include the legal profession (Thirteen Lawyers a-Suing) a decision is pending. Deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to remain competitive. Should this happen, the Board will request management to scrutinise the Snow White Division to establish if seven Dwarfs is the most cost-effective number.



AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

*Conserving the Devonshire Avon
from source to sea*

Thurlestone and Bantham residents might like to know about another spillage (a combined sewage and rainwater 'bypass event' of which 10 are permitted per year) from the Aveton Gifford Sewage Treatment Works during the first week of November. The reason given for the most recent spillage is the failure of a pump. (At the same time, coincidentally, a similar failure affected the Kingsbridge / Salcombe Estuary.)

The Aune Conservation Association (ACA) thinks there should be a form of public warning system put in place so that river and beach users can make informed decisions about their recreational use of the river and estuary after any such spillage. Environment Agency monitoring of river water quality for bugs of faecal origin is not continuous and the beach areas are only monitored during the tourist season, from May to September.

At present, no public environmental health warning is provided by SWW in the event of a bypass. In addition to a warning system, the sewage outlets into the river at AG should be permanently signposted with biohazard information. The ACA is currently considering how this might be achieved. Bigbury Parish Council has already expressed support and we are currently seeking additional support from AG and Thurlestone PCs before proceeding.

The presence of Sea Lettuce in the estuary over the summer at Bantham is suggestive of high nutrient levels in the water (N & P). Overgrowth with these marine algae can upset the balance of estuarine and riverine ecosystems by suffocating slower growing plant species and lowering oxygen levels in the water. DEFRA is continuing to encourage farmers to reduce agricultural run-off of fertilisers, etc., into waterways. In addition, we can all do our bit to lower the nutrient content of river water by restricting our use of detergents containing phosphates. If you'd like more information about the ACA or would like to join us, see our new website at <www.auneconservation.org.uk> for full details.

Stuart Watts
Chairman



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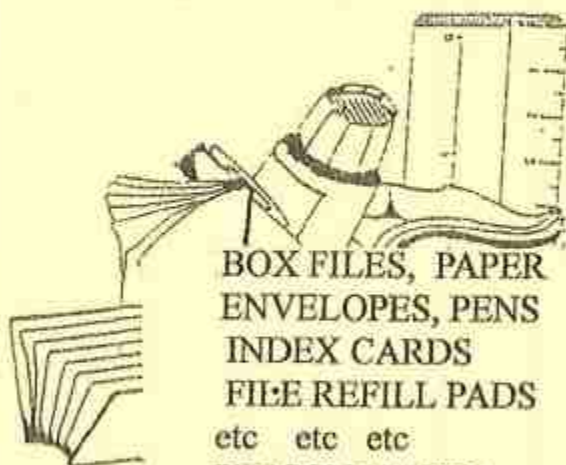
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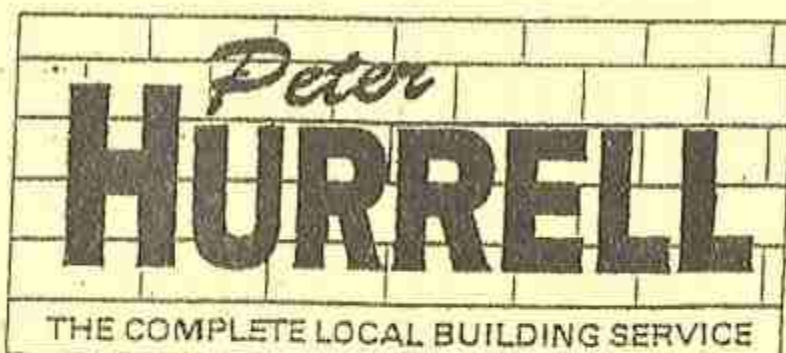
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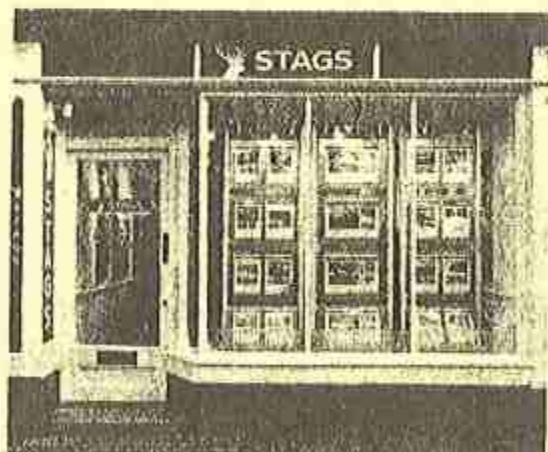
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HORSWELL DIARY

The first fires of winter are alight, the wood-burner in the dog's room pumping out so much heat that the dogs will soon be abandoning their fur coats and be stretched out on their loungers demanding iced drinks. With so much warmth in the house and a sprinkling of primroses, violets and daffodils emerging in the garden it's hard to believe that Christmas, with all its imagery of snow flakes and sleigh bells, is already close at hand. Autumn in all its golden glory has seemed short-lived, the last glowing embers snuffed out by the recent storms.

I wasn't aware that I'd offended any wolves recently but clearly the Big Bad Wolf that threatens to 'Huff and Puff and blow your house down' is bearing a grudge.

As I write, cowering indoors by the fire with a stiff drink to steady my nerves, some unrelenting force of nature seems intent on destruction. The roar as the wind charges towards us is deafening. It reverberates through every room of the house, making the air tremble in nervous anticipation, rattling doorknobs and shaking windows in their sashes. Then, as the full force of the onslaught slams up against the front of the house, walls three feet thick deflect the impact sending the invisible monster roaring like a pride of lions through the attics and screaming in fury down the chimney pots. To quote Ariel in *The Tempest*, it feels as if "Hell is empty and all the devils are here."

The dogs and I huddle closer together as the unseen beast claws at the windows and hurls itself at locked doors, toppling plant pots as it passes, snatching at rose bushes and prising creepers from the walls. The whole garden is a swirling maelstrom of leaves and branches as trees squirm and writhe, filling the air with their agonising creaks and groans, battling helplessly against such overwhelming power. I pray that they still have enough sap and sinew in their ancient roots and boughs to hold fast, despite the ferocity of the assault. It's as if Prospero has indeed "bedimmed the noontide sun, called forth the mutinous winds and, twixt the green sea and the azure vault, set roaring war."

Although we may not know exactly what we've done to justify this petulant show of strength, one thing feels certain. Nature is angry.

Whatever the cause, I wish it would stop. In the same way that I wish global warming would stop, that the war in Afghanistan would stop, that political hypocrisy would stop, that terrorism and extremism would stop, that intolerance, abuse and neglect would stop. In fact, I think all this wind is making me have a Judy Garland moment. Perhaps, like Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz*, I could simply be swept up by the storm and taken somewhere else. Somewhere untroubled and serene. Somewhere ... over the rainbow (I feel a song coming on...). Somewhere "Where skies are blue and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true." A place "where troubles melt like lemon drops, away above the chimney pots, and bluebirds fly..."

As opposed to here, where the only birds that fly around our chimney pots are big black Jackdaws. Of which, one, earlier this year when testing suitable nest-building venues, must have dropped a lump of rock down one of our drainpipes. The ensuing blockage only came to light a few weeks ago, during a recent monsoon when gallons of rainwater cascaded down the inside of the wall rather than down the outside, creating a mini lake in the middle of our office.

Since then, ladders have been hired, the rock has been removed and quotes for replacement carpet have been received, all of which have had a devastating effect on my hopes and plans for popping off to Borneo to see the Orang Utangs in the New Year. One rock and one curious Jackdaw and suddenly all thoughts of escaping to the sunshine this winter have been firmly relegated to the bottom of the 'To do' list.

Thankfully it looks as though a week's skiing in March may still be a possibility – although I'm not sure skiing is a true description of my efforts, if last year was anything to go by. Seeing me lying in the snow with my limbs/skis/poles entangled at impossible angles, onlookers may

have assumed I was engaged in a masochistic form of human origami.

Some lessons on a dry ski slope before my next attempt at snow seemed like a good idea, so last week I took myself off to the Plymouth slope to make enquiries. Amazingly, the approach through pinewoods felt surprisingly alpine and remote.

"We had several deer up here the other day," said the girl behind the desk, "some of them with huge antlers."

"May I actually see the slope?" I asked, having picked up brochures of opening times and costs.

We went outside. The air felt cold and wet and it was beginning to sleet. We walked out to the slope. It was made of white plastic matting that looked like it might skin a rabbit if it rubbed up against it.

"Does it hurt if you fall over?" I asked.

"Yes," she said.

I scuffed it with my foot.

"It feels jolly slippery," I said, voicing my fear.

She looked at me strangely.

"You have skied before haven't you?"

I nodded, feeling pathetic.

"It is very slippery, very fast when it's wet," she said, "but normally it's a bit like skiing on ice."

"Ice!!!" I could feel my body automatically folding itself into the crash position.

"Yes," she said. "If you can ski on this you can ski on anything. It's very good for your technique."

"Ha!"

For the first time I dared to look down the steeply undulating slope and immediately felt sick with apprehension. I felt like Eddie the Eagle at the top of an Olympic ski jump. Feelings of nausea and panic collided with a vision of me pointing my skis downhill, hurtling down the slope, unable to stop, getting faster and faster until I launched into the air and soared higher and higher, no, not somewhere over a rainbow, but somewhere out over the A38 before an abrupt and painful crash-landing in Sainsbury's carpark.

"Are you going to book up now?" she asked.

I thought of my red ski suit and of how quickly one could harness the wild deer with the antlers to a shopping trolley. All I'd need is a false beard.

"Why not?" I said, trying to sound nonchalant, while thinking that if all did go wrong, at least I might be mistaken for Father Christmas.

See you at Sainsbury's then?

Happy Christmas!

Prunella Dart



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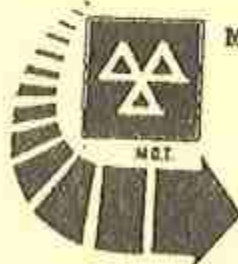
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By Jan Turner

Today is **Saturday 14th November**, the "storm of the year" (so far!). Certainly the wind speed is impressive, though thankfully there is not too much rain as yet. I have just run up to look at the speed recorder = 68mph at 11.30am. The forecast was so correct, even as it was saying 'some sunshine in the west country', the sun peeped through the clouds for a brief second. The beach, which yesterday was littered with large banks of seaweed and a great gash across from the Ley as it ran into the sea, is today pristinely clean, with large quantities of sand blown/washed up to the base of the cliffs and the Ley is once again blocked by a massive sandbank. The sand is absolutely level from north to south. By this afternoon after high tide the whole thing may well be completely different. (Needless to say the shutters are all up at Beach Cottage.)

Sunday 15th November. To bring you up to date with the events of the last 24 hours; at about 2.15 pm yesterday the wind gusted to 73 mph here, but thankfully there was no rain, the beach stayed clean, and the seas were mountainous. Today, there is a little more seaweed across the beach, and the Ley well blocked by a wide sandbank. By mid-day some happy diggers had carved a small channel from the front of the lake, and by 4.30 pm the Ley was running out in full force.

It is such a pity that the reed beds were not allowed to enjoy a good soaking for a bit longer. The sea would have opened the Ley when nature timed it as right. To interfere seems a shame, although I can see the enjoyment of watching a trickle turn into a torrent as a result of scooping the sand out and making a trench. Without a good soaking the reeds do not grow as well as they should and the knock on effect is reduced habitat for the bird population. Also the channel that reaches up the Ley needs a good scour out every now and then. This really only happens

when the level is very high and the exit rate is very fast. Only mother nature can do this effectively and we would be wise not to interfere. The owners should be the only ones to artificially breach the sand dam.

I hope that there will be some feedback on my observations. Maybe I am wrong, but great damage can be done when the path of the outgoing rush of water is in the wrong direction. This has happened because of our actions as well as despite no action, so it is all a chance event as to where the water will make its path. It is different most every day. But I am happy if it is all as a result of a natural event and not precipitated by human hands.

There have been lots of disturbing reports of huge floods, landslides, mud-slides and great loss of life and livelihood across the world. There is an *El Nino* event again and this does seem to be affecting the weather patterns world-wide (as is its wont). However, the presence of strong winds, freak winds, hurricanes and tornadoes is nothing new. Many events have been documented throughout history with a considerable degree of accuracy and authenticity, which has helped those studying the weather in the modern age. With all our gismos to hand, the weather has usually got the upper hand so to speak. Conditions are never the same for two days running, even two hours running, with the result that to try to forecast what will happen (and when) is nigh on impossible. We do have a good stab at it though, and overall resulting forecasts are fair to middling and getting better!

The wind in all its moods is a very absorbing topic and would take a large book to write about everything. I'll try to tell you a few facts and record some of the outstanding wind events over recent times..

Wind is present due to the need for there

never to be a vacuum in the atmosphere. Hot air originating from the Tropics rises and is replaced by cool air rushing in from the high latitudes both north and south of the Equator. You will remember this from previous articles in this magazine. In our location (50°N) there is a constant battle between the polar air sinking south and the warm damp tropical air drifting north. The POLAR FRONT (a battle ground along the edge of the two airstreams) affects the whole of Canada, Europe Northern Asia and the eastern seaboard of Asia – as far south as Beijing, and also most of Japan. The whole lot is dragged along by the Jet Streams and altered by the tilt of the globe in space. And that's for starters!

Briefly then, **Freak Winds**. In this scenario we will exclude Hurricanes and Tornadoes, they are a separate study. My friend **Paul Simons** writes "In 1961 a freak wind blew across the Pennines with such astonishing force that ninety thousand homes were demolished in Sheffield. Terrified residents looked on in horror as roofs were flung off and their possessions sent scattering. One eyewitness, **Douglas Wilson**, described how his home was ripped apart, *'The wardrobe was going - clothing, mattress - all went straight through the roof.'*"

Hills and mountains can conjure up spectacular winds. It was unlucky for Sheffield that they caught the full blast of winds compressed into a vicious sandwich over the Pennines. Luckily it is a very rare event, but elsewhere in the world these sorts of winds are more common. The Mistral is a strong, dry, cold north wind funnelled through the valley of the Rhone between the Alps and the Cevennes. The victims of the Mistral lie along the French Riviera and the Gulf of Lyon where the howling winds blast down at up to 93mph, smashing chimneys, roofs, and walls.

The worst gusts of wind surge across the polar ice-caps. Wind speeds regularly reach 120 miles per hour in Antarctica. They are called Katabatic wind; from the Greek word

meaning 'to go down'. The freezing temperature of the ice sheet chills the air above it making it denser and it slides down the slope. In a continuous process, like a never-ending avalanche, warm air rushes in at the top to replace the sinking cooled air below.

But the fastest gust of wind ever recorded on Earth was at Mount Washington in New Hampshire on 12th April 1934. It measured 231mph. The wind there is funnelled between the tops of the mountains and the ceiling of the troposphere – the layer of our atmosphere where all the weather takes place. As it is forced through this gap it speeds up, just like water when you put your thumb over the end of the hosepipe'. (You can read the account of this event on Google - **Record wind Speeds**). There is lots more of interest on the site as well.

In our neck of the woods the high winds also produce stormy seas and this weekend has been no exception. **Freak Waves** is another topic, already written about in a previous edition. There were certainly some gigantic waves pounding in on Thurstlestone Sands. The new dunes are holding up well, much sand has been driven up to raise the level and the sea has reached just beyond the fence, not as far as the first row of maram grass as was planned. Below the Links Court Flats the boulders protecting the base of the slope have been moved about rather like pebbles. The original cage of wire is visible at the northern end, so here much sand has been removed. It just goes to show how the sea is forever re-arranging the beach material despite human efforts.

The fascination of all this will continue to interest us for the rest of time, of that I am sure, and we will never be able to tame either the wind or the sea.

From a gusty Beach Cottage (only 51mph this morning, 15th November 2009), hold on to your hats and have a happy, calm and dry Christmas season.

Jan Turner

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December

- Tuesday 1st "The Age of Stupid", Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
- Friday 4th School Christmas Fair, Parish Hall, 2pm - 5pm
- Saturday 5th 'Christmas In Kingsbridge', Farmers Markets, etc, all day
- Monday 7th Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
- Friday 11th WI Carol Service, S.Milton church, 2.30 pm
- Friday 11th 'Sing Christmas', Parish Church, 7.30 pm (Stanborough Chorus)
- Wednesday 16th Carol Singing in Buckland, meet old chapel 5 pm.
- Thursday 17th WI Christmas Lunch, TGC, 12.30 for 1.00 pm
- Thursday 24th Post Office Party & Draw, 11.00am in shop
- Thursday 31st New Year's Eve parish party, Parish Hall, from 9pm

January

- Monday 7th Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
- Saturday 9th NSPCC Quiz + Sausage & Mash, Parish Hall, 7 pm
- Thursday 14th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Penny Hammond, Saltram Gardens)
- Friday 22nd National Trust Coffee Morning, Thurlstone Hotel
- Saturday 30th School Quiz & Curry, The Sloop (560564 for details)

February

- Monday 1st Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30pm
- Thursday 11th WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Margaret Duffy, Tiaras & Feathers)
- Saturday 26th The Widcombe Wag, Parish Hall, 7.30pm (details later)

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (FEB - MAR) ISSUE = 5th JAN 2010

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

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

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	Geoffrey Stinton
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Chairman	Chris White
Bookings	Judith Le Gize
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PARISH OF THURLESTONE SOCIETY (P.O.T.S.)	
Chairman	Chris White

PRIEST IN CHARGE	
CHURCH MEETING ROOM	Rev Philip Oler
CHURCHWARDENS	Office
COFFEE TIME (Monday & Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30 am) LUNCHEON CLUB (Friday) UNDER 25 (Thursday)	Graham Worrall (562016) Lia Webb (560090)
SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesday's Fortnightly) FILMS FOR ALL (Tuesday's Monthly) Contact Liz Webb 560090	

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH	
Contact	Kil Marshall

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL	
Headmaster	Philip Medway

ALNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION	
Chairman	Stuart Wain
Contact	Marilyn Carr

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB	
Clubhouse	
Contact	Edith Daymont

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB	
Contact	Dorothy Stone

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BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays	
Contact	Dorothy Stone

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB	
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Chairman	Mare Legere
Contact	Karen Liven

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Contact	Mare Legere

KEEP FIT	
Contact	Karen Liven

TAI CHI	
Contact	Vida Alexander

BORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)	
Contact	John Lonsdale

PROBUS	
Contact	Tom Treadler

TRAMP (Thurstone Ramblers)	
Contact	Trish Wilson

DIRECTORY

W. L.	2.30 pm Parish Hall	Contact	Joan Booth	561537
Second Thursday monthly (except August)				

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Contact: Michael Barnes 562112 June Brown 562074 Robin Macdonald 560416 Chris White 560595	

TABLE TENNIS	Wednesday 5.00 to 6.00 pm Yeo Room, Parish Hall	Robin Macdonald 560416
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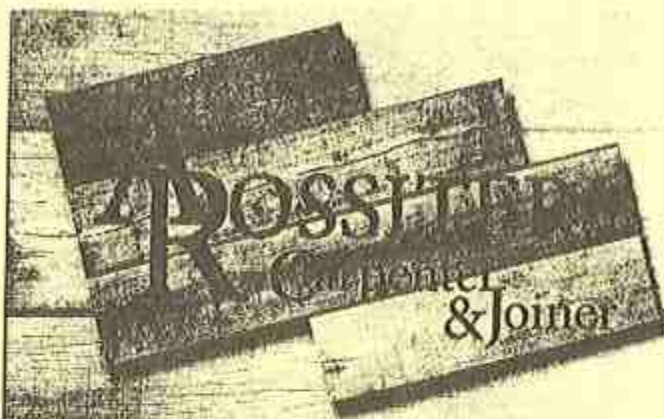
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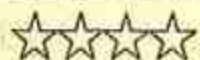
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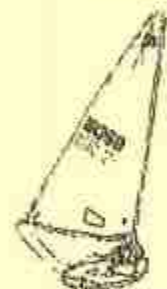
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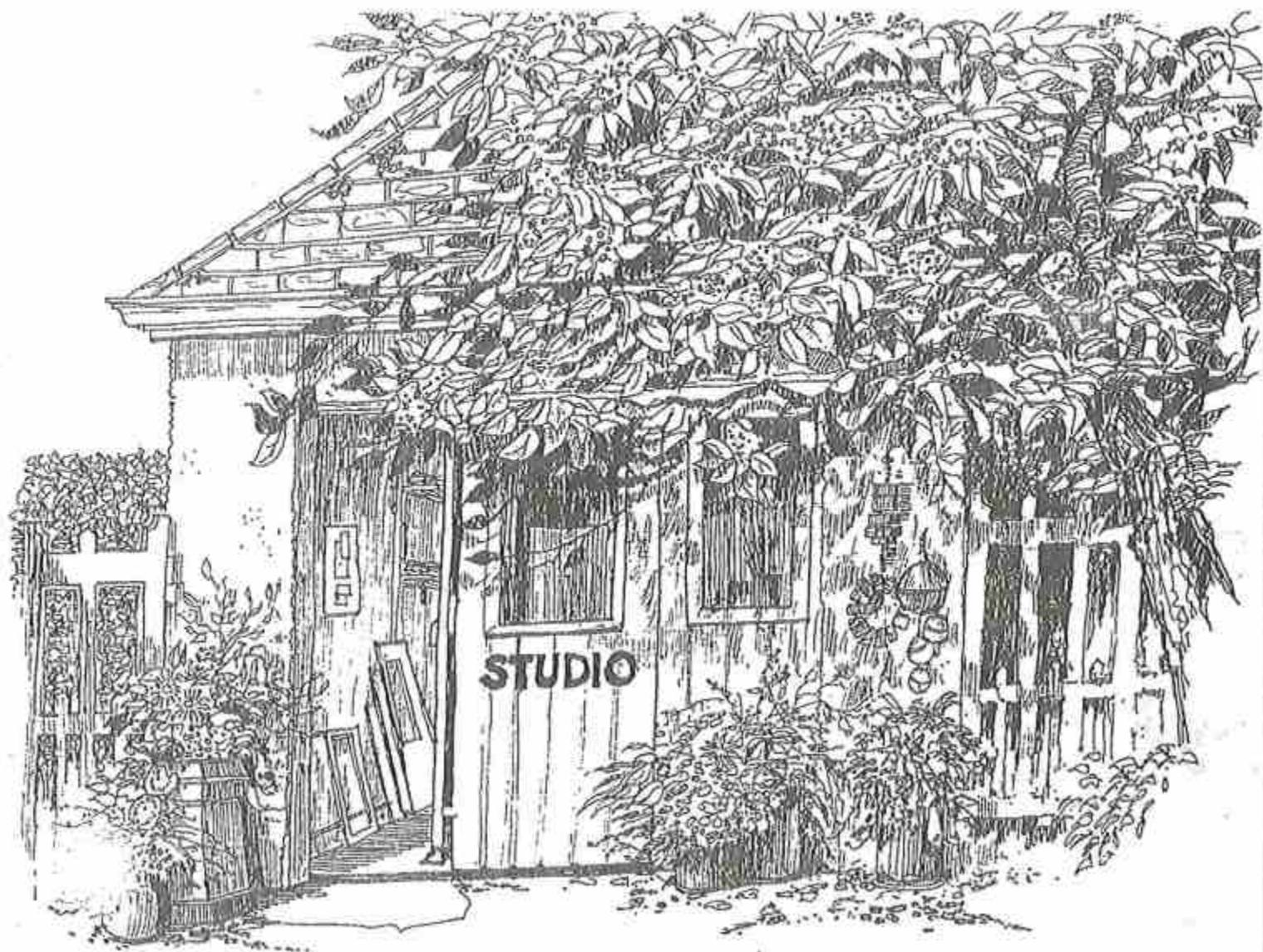
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