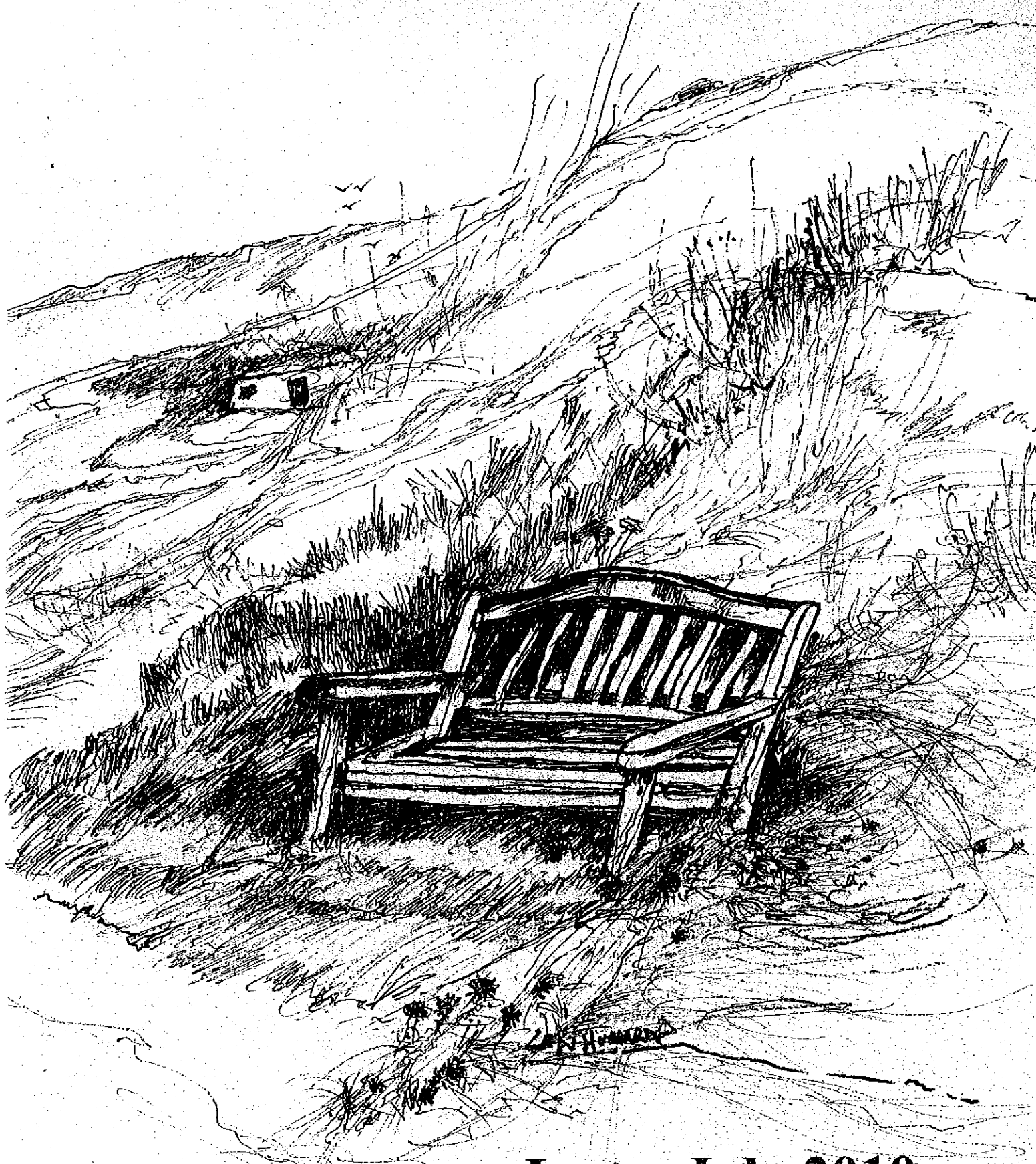


VILLAGE VOICE



June - July 2010

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone



NUMBER 163
JUNE - JULY 2010

With the tumult and the shouting of the general election now behind us, we can return to as normal an existence as the inevitable general belt-tightening will allow. However, the gravy days are over (or should be) and we may not find the future as cosy as the past.

But for the present we have a bumper issue of *Village Voice* for you - so much so that our regular features on *Bridge* and *Youth in the Parish* have had to be held over this time. The Parish Plan and housing consultation opportunities jostle with reports on all the main parish activities, while special new events are well to the fore. *Shifting Strands* is a wonderful example of skill, enterprise, and determination - read all about it! *Virtuoso Sax and Keys* will bring two exceptional young musical talents to Thurlestone for a live concert performance this month - don't miss it!

And at last summer seems reluctantly to have arrived. Moreover, the combined efforts of Icelandic volcanoes and British Airways cabin staff threaten to ensure that most of us will have to enjoy it at home. So it could be that Thurlestone will be in for a bumper summer of visitors. Well, the hotel is up for it, proudly sporting its new gold award; and local golf clubs will welcome an increase in their green fee income. Can the rest of us cope? Of course we can! Let us also proudly share our *best kept village* (regardless of denomination) with our welcome guests, and enjoy it as they do.

Founder Dudley Drabble

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Covers LEN HUBBARD

Published Bi-monthly

Cover Picture : Fred Shillabeer's seat on the coastal path

Village Voice - The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone

**Final Chance
to shape our Future**

THURLESTONE PARISH PLAN

*Thurlestone – A great place to live.
A great place to visit*

Q: Why have a Plan?

A: To ensure that in the short and long term the Parish develops in the way that we, the residents, wish and not as dictated by outsiders.

Q: What is happening?

A: Following last year's survey, many consultations and discussions have taken place and an outline plan has been drafted.

Q: What next?

A: There will be a final consultation meeting in the Parish Hall on
Monday July 12 at 6pm

A chance for you to discuss the Plan with your neighbours and to share additional thoughts.

Please put this date in your diaries. For the Plan to be effective, we need to show that it has been widely supported by residents

Some actions that will be in the Plan

- ☐ A clear policy on new housing development and affordable homes
- ☐ A policy to tidy up the signs in the village
- ☐ An effort to get improved broadband speeds and mobile phone coverage
- ☐ Setting up an Emergency Medical Post
- ☐ Winning Best Kept Village competitions and maintaining the standards in the future
- ☐ Supporting the Post Office so we do not lose it
- ☐ A comprehensive survey of traffic flows and safety - both in the villages and on the access roads
- ☐ A review of parking restrictions (and signs)

***More ideas for Action are needed. What are your concerns?
There will be a box in the Post Office throughout June for you to
drop in any thoughts,
or email thurlestone.survey@yahoo.co.uk
Please contribute!***

Parish Hall News

By Chris White



Since my last report, the AGM has passed, with attendance by a few faithful members of the Parish. They were pleased to hear that the Hall continues to flourish, and is financially sound, and my thanks to them for their time and interest.

I explained to the meeting that the committee had decided to bite the bullet, and undertake some expensive work to the heating and ventilation system, to correct some issues that have dogged it since the Hall first opened. This work has now been completed, and I am delighted to report that, as far as can be ascertained in this spring weather (which has been only marginally warmer than the winter), the work has been highly successful. Next winter will be the ultimate test, but I am confident that the endless (and fully justified) complaints from the Bridge Club, and other users, will be a thing of the past.

While all this has been going on, a large number of people enjoyed an entertaining and informative evening on Saturday 24th April with **Peter Fuchs**, and my thanks again to Patrick and Jane Stanley for organising this.

It was a particular disappointment for me that I was unable to attend our next event on Saturday 1st May – the **Concert for Megan**. This was a complete sell out, and every comment that I have heard reinforces the fact that it was a musical triumph, raising a substantial amount of money, whilst providing top quality entertainment. We are so lucky to have so many wonderful musical talents in our midst, prepared to give of their time so freely. Our thanks, as ever, to **Ron Parkin**, our own musical impresario, for masterminding this event.

We have two events coming up during the

lifetime of this edition of Village Voice. The first, on **Saturday 19th June** is the welcome return of **Tim Abel** (grandson of **Ted**, and the late **Dorothy Abel**), this time with **Huw Wiggin**. Tim, as I'm sure you will remember from his concert here in March last year with violinist **Matthew Glossop**, is a wonderful pianist, who trained at the Royal Northern College of Music, is a past winner of the annual Concerto Competition, and performs internationally.

Huw is a saxophonist, ex Chethams School, and gained a first class honours degree in music at RNCM. He will begin his Masters in September at the Royal College of Music with a scholarship. Meanwhile, he is quickly becoming recognised as a virtuoso soloist and chamber musician, and was recently praised by the Times on his "liquid gold tones and enviable breath control".

Huw and Tim have performed recitals together throughout UK, and in London at the Purcell Room and St James's Piccadilly. We are indeed fortunate to have such talented musicians to provide a live concert evening for us here in Thurstone.

Their programme contains a wide range of music by composers such as Ravel, Debussy, Mancini, Monti, and Gershwin, and includes some particular gems for both saxophone and piano. **Book early to avoid disappointment.**

Moving on to **Tuesday 27th July**, we will be repeating our fun evening of **BBQ, Boules**, and other games and entertainments. We had a lot of fun last year, in spite of the cold weather, and as we're overdue some warm weather this year, we look forward to a cracking evening's entertainment for all the family. **Don't miss out - make sure you keep both these dates clear in your diary!**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

26th April 2010

This is the meeting at which the Parish Councillors report to the residents and review the past year. Six of our seven Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk were present, plus **Helen Clayton** (Devon County Council Rights of Way Officer), **Stuart Watts** (Aune Conservation Association Chairman) and **PC Steve Mullen**. Neither District councillor nor County Councillor came, alas, and, even more sad, only six parishioners (three from Buckland, three from Thurlestone) turned up!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman, Councillor **Jack Rhymes**, gave an excellent summary of the past year -

- * **Hal Plews** succeeded Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** as Tree Warden, and Charles was warmly thanked for his long-standing work in the arboreal interests of the parish.

- * The pump-house was damaged by a passing lorry owned by a Dartmouth building firm, who did a good restoration job.

- * Parking at the Parish Hall - despite the school's best efforts in suggesting alternative solutions the problem continues to rumble on. It is hoped that completion of re-building works at the school may help a bit.

- * The poor state of some parish roads causes anguish to the PC but despite repeated appeals, Devon County Council claim "lack of cash".

- * The sand-dunes, formerly known as Thurlestone Sands, have had their name changed by the Ordnance Survey to South Milton Sands, despite protests, but maps will still call the beach in front of the dunes Thurlestone Sand (singular).

- * **Helen Buckingham**, DCC's Public Rights of Way officer, had come to a meeting to explain the procedure on the Definitive Map Review she was to undertake in the parish.

- * Vehicular satellite navigation systems continue to cause problems on our narrow lanes.

- * Parking problems near the village green war memorial had been partly solved by the readjustment of kerbs and boulders and, in

the private lane adjoining, by the issue of parking tickets by Yarmer Estate. The large obtrusive "No Parking" signs on the green had been removed..

- * Two meetings were held in August to discuss the proposals within the District Council's Local Development Framework for the parish, which at the present included 15 houses (40% affordable) and no holiday homes.

- * A rash of DCC parking notice posts (costing over £4700 but how about our pot-holes?) had appeared from the church to beyond the golf club without the PC's prior knowledge. As these are considered misleading, unnecessary and unsightly, strong protests have been made and work is ongoing to have them removed. **John Halliday**, DCC's Chief Assistant Engineer, attended a meeting and listened to the vigorous objections, promising to investigate.

- * The "phantom lamp" erected near the steps from the main road to Parkfield which also arrived unannounced has now been removed.

- * The school's rebuilding is on time and on budget.

- * The old telephone exchange site (corner of Parkfield) would probably be redeveloped with 2 semi-detached houses (4 dwellings).

- * The Parish Plan is underway and will concentrate on planning, signage, improved broadband and mobile phone reception, and the Best Kept Village competition.

RIGHTS OF WAY

The DCC Rights of Way Officer, **Helen Clayton** (she was Helen Buckingham when she visited us last year) reminded us that the Definitive Map is a legal record of the existence of every path and public right of way which is shown on the Map. Thurlestone parish has 18 footpaths and 1 bridleway. The Review concerns updating, adding to or altering these shown rights of way and is a necessarily long and involved process. By 2026, the cut-off date for the final version, all the changes should be correctly recorded and inalienable.

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Stuart Watts, Chairman of the ACA (Aune Conservation Association), told us how it had changed over the years since it was formed. It is now a *bona fide* conservation charity, its main role being the conservation, protection and improvement of the Devon Avon in the best interests of the general public, via lectures, published information, social events and working parties. It also monitors wildlife, and works in liaison with (and lobbies) other concerned organisations. His committee has now been strengthened by representation from upstream fishing interests.

Unfortunately, phosphate levels in the river are too high and the ACA works constantly for their reduction. We are urged to use more phosphate-free cleaning products. Both Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are perniciously invasive plants; the ACA has two free booklets about their control and would welcome information from members of the public on the whereabouts of any local patches of either. ACA can be contacted by e-mail: chairman@auneconservation.org.uk or via website www.auneconservation.org.uk A single life membership costs £15.00 (family £20.00).

POLICE

Police Constable **Steve Mullen** told us that 6 crimes had been committed in the parish since January 2010 and said feedback from members of the public was excellent. PCSO **Dave Gibson** had done sterling work on running public surgeries, particularly at the Wednesday coffee mornings held in the Church Meeting room. Problems with parking are kept under review and followed up. Parishioners are thanked for their support. In turn Steve and Dave were thanked by the Chairman for their commitment.

Additional thanks were expressed, at the conclusion of the meeting, to *Village Voice* and the *Parish of Thurlestone Society* (POTS) for their support for the Parish Council throughout the year, and for their contribution to the life of the parish.

[Village Voice would like on behalf of its readers to express gratitude to those who serve as Parish Councillors. We should not forget that they selflessly give of their time and energy on a purely voluntary basis to help our villages and all our villagers. It is important and necessary work, which rarely gets the credit it deserves. Thank you all!]

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held 12th April and 10th May 2010

News and Views by Citizen

Attendance

In April seven Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, District Councillor and 8 members of the public attended. In May there were six Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, the District Councillor but only 4 of the public present.

Elections & Appointments of Councillors

Chairman, **Andrew Rhymes** (& also the representative for All Saints Primary School)
Vice-Chairman, **Kit Marshall** (& also the Friends of Thurlestone Church & Parish Plan representative)
Parish Hall committee representative, **Peter Hurrell**

Police Liaison committee representative & parish Tree Warden, **Charles Mitchelmore**

Open Forum

- # Some good news.....items discussed under this heading will now be officially minuted!
- # An additional dog litter bin was again requested. Despite several appeals from the PC the SHDC has failed to act.
- # If it is true that a fibre optic broadband connection has been made to the school, why not for the whole parish? Chairman to make enquiries.
- # Suggested that a mirror placed opposite the entrance to the Parish Hall carpark, to indicate approaching traffic, would be helpful

and this will be investigated.

Parish Hall

Councillor Hurrell said that an extension to the Parish Hall to provide more storage space might not be necessary if the school's gymnastic equipment was removed back to the school on completion of their building work. The floor has been oiled and remedial work to the heating system done. Financially the Hall is healthy.

Highways

Dangers posed by the possible collapse of a wall adjacent to Burnt House in Buckland due to large potholes, and a previously repaired pothole on the road from Buckland to Bantham, would be reported to the SHDC for action.

All Saints School

Building is progressing on target and the fund-raising total has almost been achieved. Dogs are being allowed to soil the playing field particularly at holiday times. In future dogs will be banned and notices to this effect erected.

Trees

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) have been placed on trees at Thatches.

Parish Plan

Volunteers still needed to assist in this project. The District Councillor confirmed that local authorities do consult and take heed of such documents and that they are a valuable tool in a Parish Council's armoury.

Best Kept Village Competition 2010

The Parish of Thurlestone Society has agreed to assist in the village thrust to try and achieve another award this year.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

Councillor Came reported that documents are available in printed form from the SHDC website at:

<http://consult.southhams.co.uk/portal>.

Comments on the target of 40 houses (60% of which to be affordable) on Site No 1 are needed by 11th June 2010 [*Later: this date was extended to 4pm on Friday 2nd July*].

The Parish Council has forwarded to the SHDC comments received from parishioners,

which they will reinforce. Parishioners can also write to the SHDC, or telephone them at 01803-361202.

District Councillor's Report

The Standards for England Group Guidance guide-lines are being beaten by SHDC.

Planning applications for properties which are a habitat for bats will in future have to be accompanied by a survey, done between May and September, of the bat colony.

The Council's focus in future will be on efficiency savings in personnel and buildings.

The developer of Thatches will have to make a contribution towards local housing and the District Councillor will see if this can be ring-fenced for use in Thurlestone.

Kind householders are being sought by Night Stop Devon, to provide occasional overnight accommodation for homeless 16-25 year olds.

Old Telephone Exchange

Plans for the redevelopment of this site will be presented to the PC on 14th June.

Allotments

About a quarter acre of land which has hitherto been used as allotments at Bantham has now fallen into disuse. Should anyone want to revive these, they should apply as soon as possible to the Parish Clerk who can provide more details. If not, the land would be grassed over.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 7th June 2010, at 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room

STOP PRESS

News is just in that *Teamakers* have been awarded a grant of £750 from the District Council's Sustainable Community Locality Fund towards upgrading the software in the Parish Hall computer suite. Thanks are due to District Councillor **Shonaugh Rankin** for progressing this application on our behalf. The installation of the Microsoft Windows 7 new operating system on our seven lap-top computers is likely to be a priority use of these funds.

Village News Round-Up

Dorothy Abel 1929-2010

Ted and family would like to convey their sincere thanks for the support, kindness, and generosity shown by all Dorothy's friends in the village over the past nine months. A grand total of £1230 was donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Local Development Framework

Objections to the proposals for Thurlestone parish had originally to be registered with the South Hams Council before the 11th June, but this deadline has now been extended until Friday 2nd July 2010. Even if you have previously registered your objections - which went to the Prince's Trust - they now have to be sent *to the District Council*. You can do this on-line, or you can download a form for filling in, or just write a letter. You can get any further details you need from our Parish Clerk, Phil Millard on 01548-561151 or by e-mail to <millardpj@hotmail.com>

Marathon Men

No doubt there are two proud sets of parents in Thurlestone at the moment - **Kit & Gillian Marshall** and **Alastair & Gillian Durden** - as their sons, **James** and **Luke** respectively, both (independently) ran in and completed this year's London Marathon. Village Voice sends warmest congratulations to both.

Hotel Highlights

- (1) The Thurlestone Hotel triumphs again! The hotel has been crowned the best large hotel in the country at the Enjoy England Awards and collected their trophy - a Wedgwood plaque - at the Brighton ceremony on the 23rd April. Many congratulations to everyone involved.
- (2) Six cyclists are setting out from the Thurlestone Hotel on 6th June to ride the 100 miles to their sister hotel at Mullion. Led

by **Malcolm Johnson**, assistant manager at Thurlestone, they intend to raise funds for the charity *Hospitality Action*, an organisation which helps members of the tourist industry who have fallen on hard times. To sponsor these doughty pedal-pushers just go to : www.justgiving.com/thurlestone2mullion and help to keep their wheels spinning!

Book Search

A Mr **Roy Barnes**, who regularly visits Thurlestone, has been trying to get his hands on a copy of '*The Story of Thurlestone, Bantham & Buckland*', written by Kendall McDonald, but without success. If you have a spare copy he would be delighted to hear from you - phone number 01308 456718.

Allotments

The National Trust is in the process of making land available at several sites in the country for allotments; it seems there are waiting lists of people longing to 'grow their own' but who lack garden space. Seed companies report a huge increase in the sale of vegetable seeds. Readers may be interested to know that there are *some allotments at Bantham* now in need of new tenants. Interested? Please contact our Parish Clerk, Phil Millard (contact details above). But hurry - there are plans to have the area grassed over and made into 'amenity land' if there are no takers for the allotments.

Kite-surfing safety

On Easter Monday a kite-surfer got into difficulties off South Milton Sands and had to be rescued by RNLI lifeguards from Bantham. The sea state was rough with Force 6 winds and a 20 mph onshore wind. The man had been unable to relaunch his kite in the blustery conditions and became exhausted. He suffered no injuries.....but it could easily have been more serious. The RNLI has produced some key safety

advice, and further information is available on <http://www.rnli.org.uk/seriousfun>

Say No to 0870 numbers

There's a very useful website which lists alternative 01, 02, and 03 numbers for all kinds of businesses, including airlines and tour companies. You can find it at:

< www.saynotto0870.com >

This site shows how, by using multiple providers, you can reduce your call cost on standard telephone numbers to as little as 4p fixed cost (regardless of duration), whereas the cheapest provider to 0870 numbers during the day is said to charge 6p/min (+ 9.3p connection fee [with BT]) to call. Thanks are due to **Gillian Marshall** for this useful economy tip.

NSPCC

The local committee wish to thank all the many kind people who helped to make their recent Jumble Sale a great success, and raised some **£500** for this very worthwhile charity. They are most grateful to their helpers, for goods and donations received, and to all their generous customers.

Abseiling Postie

Debbie Cope, our post-lady, is abseiling down the 200ft drop of Canonteign Falls on 20th June in a fund-raising effort on behalf of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Debbie is seeking sponsors and will have the necessary forms with her on her rounds - or you can donate online at www.justgiving.com/debbiecope or by phoning 01548-562101.

The Gardens of Kingsbridge

20+ kind people will be opening their gardens in the town on the 5th and 6th June. £4.00 will secure your ticket (usable on both days) and a map - from the Tourist Information Centre on the Quay or at the St Luke's charity shop on Fore Street - available now. Proceeds will be divided between St

Luke's Hospice and the Kingsbridge Community Garden.

Planet Aid

The next time you visit the Parish Hall, you will see a bright green container which the Parish Hall has agreed to host on behalf of Planet Aid UK. All you have to do is deposit your unwanted clothes and shoes in the container, and Planet Aid will convert them into money to provide support for education, health, training and environmental programmes aimed at the relief of poverty and the development of the poorest communities in India and Africa. This is an opportunity for you to help the world and yourself, without leaving the village!

Parkfield Old Phone Exchange

South Devon Rural Housing Association will be holding an open meeting in the Yeo Room at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 22nd June from 5 - 7 pm to consult with the community on their plans to build affordable and sustainable housing on the old telephone site at Parkfield. The Association will showcase their ideas with plans and graphics along with technical information of the eco credentials of the proposals. **Steve Prime**, Chief Executive of SDRHA will be on hand to answer questions, along with directors from AROYH, a Devon company specialising in sustainable housing systems.

Shut that door!

The season of open windows and doors is upon us - and also the time for opportunistic thieves to be at work. There has been a spate of thefts from South Hams garages and sheds and police are urging householders not to leave their garage doors open when they are out with their cars - don't **advertise** the fact that you are not at home.

Library Closure

Kingsbridge Library will be closed from 7th to 24th June for refurbishment.



A.J. Gibbons



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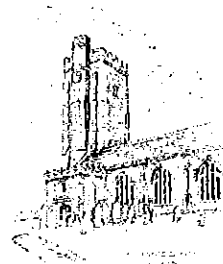
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Devon TQ7 3NW

Tel:
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560 664

*All
Saints*

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: Revd Phil Osler
The Rectory, Homefield, Thurlestone TQ7 3LF
(01548) 560967

LAY READER: Peter Gornall



Letter from the Rectory

When our Labrador Ella was a puppy, and then living with our daughter Helen, she made her first visit to our house one winter day. Having been let out to explore the garden she came in dripping water and festooned with pond weed having thought that the thin layer of ice on the pond was solid ground.

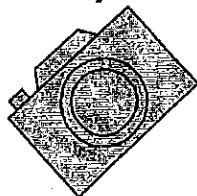
Appearances can be deceptive and things we put our trust in can unexpectedly give way. Who would have thought that something as technically sophisticated and reliable as air transport could suddenly stop because of barely visible particles of dust? Would we have predicted that there would be stranded travellers making their way across Europe like refugees? So many aspects of our modern lives outwardly seem safe and secure but yet rest on a very thin layer of dependability! I was talking to someone from one of the big retailers who was not only proud of the 'just in time' delivery system that meant that no more do you need a warehouse at each store but was also quite fearful of the fact that disruption to road transport or many other types of incident would all too quickly result in empty shelves.

It all brings to mind that famous parable that Jesus told about house building. He reminded us that the foundations have to be right for if you build your house upon the sand what seems solid can soon be swept away. For Christians the place to lodge one's trust and hope is in Jesus. In our New Testament (1 Peter) we read "....we have a priceless inheritance - an inheritance that is kept in heaven, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay".

Not that I am against change, technology or modernity - I would sorely miss word processors, the internet, e-mail etc - but keeping a healthy scepticism in what we are told will be 'improvements' is surely just that - healthy!

Yours

Everyone is welcome to come & help choose the winning photos for a



2011 Thurlestone Area Calendar

in the Church Meeting Room at:

CREAM TEAS:

Saturday May 29th, Sunday May 30th, Monday May 31st
3 - 5 p.m.

COFFEE-TIME:

Monday May 31st & Wednesday June 3rd 10.30 a.m. - 12 noon

In aid of Church Funds



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 July 11th)	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP: 1st & 3rd Sunday, CW: 4th
SUNDAY JUNE 6TH	11.10am Holy Communion (CW) with Baptism (<i>Fairtrade Stall</i>)
	6.00pm Benefice Evensong (BCP)
SUNDAY JUNE 13TH	11.10am Morning Worship for All Ages
SUNDAY JUNE 20TH	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW)
	6.00pm Benefice Praise Service at SM*
SUNDAY JUNE 27TH, JULY 25TH	11.10am Matins (BCP)
SUNDAY JULY 4TH	11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) (<i>Fairtrade Stall</i>)
SUNDAY JULY 11TH	11.00am Benefice Sea Sunday Service in Jan Turner's garden SM* followed by optional "Bring & Share Lunch"
SUNDAY JULY 18TH	11.10am Holy Communion (CW) with Baptism

Weekdays

THURSDAY JUNE 3RD, JULY 1ST	10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham
EVERY WED, THURS, FRI & SAT	8.30am Morning Prayer (said) (HC on June 11th & July 3rd)

* TH = Thurlestone SM = South Milton WA = West Alvington CH = Churchstow

BCP = Book of Common Prayer CW = Common Worship

See Church Notice Boards for variations & more information

Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for:-



Coffee-Time

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

10.30 - 11.30 a.m

Donations in aid of monthly charity

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Everyone is welcome to join us for

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£3 in aid of Church Funds

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Penny Mary McDonald 1930-2010

Penny, the dearly loved wife of Kendall McDonald, mother to Joanna and the late Kevin and grandmother to Samantha and Ross, died on Friday 30th April and her memorial service and interment of ashes took place at the Parish Church on 20th May. Both Kendall and Joanna spoke movingly at the funeral and we are pleased to be able to use some of their words in our tribute here. But first, getting to know Penny came, for most of the 'new team' at Village Voice, through our introduction to the intricacies of the publication when Penny and Kendall relinquished it some 15 years ago. Jo Parkin here paints a touching picture of Penny.

"Penny was the first person we met when we came to live full time in Thurlestone in 1993. She made us so welcome and gave us very many invaluable tips that new comers should know about the social customs and practices of Thurlestone. We loved having her as a friend and neighbour.

In 1995 a team of about 16 villagers, mainly from the W.I., took over the editing and printing of the Village Voice which Penny and Kendall had been producing on their own for 9 years. Penny had been i/c adverts and took me under her wing to explain the joys and sorrows of this job. The magazine was at that time printed on a very messy duplicator and the adverts had to be electronically stencilled by an aptly named Mr. Trickey down in Cornwall. Most of the adverts did not survive more than 2 editions, they very often got torn, replacements could take 5 days and Mr. Trickey didn't always let us know when he was going on holiday. Penny also had a nice simple system of dealing with advertisers fees - if they paid they got a tick; I have adopted this ever since and it still works very well.

Penny knitted wonderful coloured characters, mostly from children's TV or books. She gave them as special raffle prizes in village events. I was so pleased when I won 'Wurzel Gummidge' complete with caterpillars and butterflies attached. To help celebrate the millennium Penny was asked to supervise the making of thirteen tapestry kneelers for the Church Altar. They were based on original paintings by Len Hubbard depicting the history of the Church. A lot of encouragement and help was needed for mine, my crooked and battered effort being transformed by the expert.

Penny and I shared a great love of reading and I was always expected to bring a new book when going in to see her. She must have read hundreds and I had to search hard to find one she hadn't read. They became increasingly important to her latterly when she was bed bound, but she was still as keen as ever to know what was going on in the village, still always so cheerful and we shall all miss her so much."

When Penny met Kendall she was a staff nurse (later sister) at King's College Hospital, London. After marriage, their first home was at South Norwood where Joanna and Kevin were born. When the London Evening News, of which Kendall was News Editor, closed down Kendall continued writing at home, but eventually they moved to Thurlestone, to their holiday home 'Just a Cottage' which Kendall had inherited, and Penny soon became immersed in village activities.

Joanna said 'She was my very own Egyptian mummy, as she was born in Egypt. She was brought up by several governesses of different nationalities, as her mum had died when she was only four. She spoke Arabic, French and German fluently, a fact that she kept quiet from Dad as he struggled through Europe with his school-boy French!

Mum was always very fit and loved all sports - we held the title in the Mothers & Daughters swimming race at school until I left. She was a fantastic springboard diver and below the water her diving was legendary. She was very brave in all aspects of her life - not least diving in wrecks, something she found very scary, to keep Dad happy. She tried snow-skiing, which terrified her, to keep Kevin happy. She even rode one of my horses to keep me happy. She adored playing tennis and badminton and swimming was her passion. When we arrived at Spain on one of our many visits there to see Kevin, she would kick off her shoes and run down the beach and straight into the sea.....that was the start of her holiday!

Mum was always making or knitting something, and when grandchildren came along they were so lucky, having huge stuffed toys of every description and wonderful sweaters that were the envy of the village.

I miss her terribly but I am sure she is free and active again, laughing and joking, having one of her fabulous tennis matches with Kevin, and sharing a rum and coke with him in the sunshine. She deserves that....."

Penny was diagnosed with both multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease some years ago, and was cared for devotedly by Kendall, at home, as her incapacities increased. She eventually died peacefully in her sleep. During her life she never failed to smile, never lost her sense of humour, and never complained despite her terrible health problems. One always felt cheered after a visit to her. She was a great lady - one in a million - whom we shall all miss and without whom Thurlestone will be the poorer.

April Meeting

Silent tribute was paid at the April meeting to **Dorothy Abel**, who had recently died after a brave battle against cancer. She will be remembered with much affection as a loyal and supportive fellow-member of WI and will be missed.

Rehearsals prior to taking part in the county's Festival of Performing Arts at the Barnfield Theatre in Exeter had figured large in the weeks preceding the event in March. Choral work, a 'Cranford' playlet and a comic solo performance 'Opening the Village Fete' provided Thurlestone's contribution to the day. The participants were thanked for their dedication which meant that all went successfully - no one forgot their lines - and they all declared afterwards that they had enjoyed every minute! Four of our members made it through to the final round of the county quiz and although they were not the eventual winners they were again thanked for their efforts on behalf of Thurlestone.

Unusually we had five 'speakers' at our April meeting, as **Nick Matthias** of the Haven Spa brought along four of his staff to tell us all about what was on offer there. Shiatsu, acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, the Bowen Technique, hypno-therapy, as well as the more traditional beauty treatments, are all available in the restful Spa surroundings.

Thurlestone member **Christine Field** and her husband, **Gordon**, put on a superb "Talking About Antiques" afternoon for the Home Economics Area at Frogmore, which some 80 members from across the south Hams attended, including a group from Thurlestone.

May Meeting

Carolyn Taylor and **Mary Tregelles** were thanked for their expertise in cookery and flower arranging which won us the Sea Coast Group's silver cup. After an intriguing

talk by **Tony Snell** of Exmouth on the work during WW2 at Bletchley Park, £75 was donated to the Bletchley Park Trust, with £50 going towards a Shelterbox.

Every two years we award two bursaries (this year to the value of £300 each) to Denman College for courses of the recipients' choice. This year the lucky girls were **Alice Foster** and **Margaret Cullum**. **Joan Booth** gave a good report on attending the DFWI spring council meeting at the Riviera Centre, Torquay, where **Lesley Garrett** was the principal speaker.

May is the time we discuss the resolutions to be presented at the NFWI annual general meeting in June (at Cardiff this year). There was only one resolution this time and we were all of a mind that our delegate should vote for it as it was a subject close to most women's hearts - the often misleading information which can appear on the labels of food products which make people think they are "Buying British" when the product is not.

The May meeting ended on a high note as it provided us with an opportunity to see the video made by DFWI at the Festival of Performing Arts in March

A walk through Dartington bluebell woods on the 25th May was followed by lunch afterwards at The Cott Inn.

Forthcoming Events

The annual garden lunch will be at Cowrie House on the 1st July by kind invitation of **Val Brown**.

This year DFWI will be celebrating its 90th birthday, so there will be a special exhibition at the Kingsbridge Show on 4th September of South Hams members' craftwork throughout that time. Anything members may care to include should be brought to the June meeting for selection. Val Brown appealed for more books and produce for the sales table.

The Miracle of WD-40

Do you know what WD-40 stands for? Well, it's 'Water Displacement - 40'. The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a 'water displacement' compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Convair Company bought it in bulk to protect their Atlas missile parts. Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you. When you read the 'shower door' part, try it. It's the first thing that has ever cleaned that spotty shower door. It works just as well on plastic as on glass. It's a miracle! Then try it on your stove top ... voila! It's now shinier than it's ever been. You'll be amazed. Here are some other uses:

- # Protects silver from tarnishing.
- # Removes road tar and grime from cars.
- # Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
- # Gives floors that 'just-waxed' sheen without making them slippery.
- # Keeps flies off cows.
- # Restores and cleans chalkboards.
- # Removes lipstick stains.
- # Loosens stubborn zippers.
- # Untangles jewelry chains.
- # Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- # Removes grime from the barbecue grill.
- # Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing.
- # Removes tomato stains from clothing.
- # Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- # Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors.
- # Keeps scissors working smoothly.
- # Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes.
- # Removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor! It doesn't seem to harm the finish and makes the marks come off more easily.
- # Gets dog mess off the soles of shoes - use an old toothbrush to clean in the crevices.
- # Gives a children's playground gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
- # Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers.
- # Rids kids' rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises.
- # Lubricates sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
- # Cleans and lubricates an umbrella stem making it easier to open and close.
- # Cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
- # Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
- # Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans.
- # Lubricates wheel sprockets on bicycles and tricycles for easy handling.
- # Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
- # Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.
- # Removes spattered grease on stoves.
- # Keeps bathroom mirrors from fogging.
- # Lubricates prosthetic limbs.
- # Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
- # Removes all traces of adhesive tape.
- # Frees stuck Lego blocks in the kids' playroom.
- # Eases the removal of super-glue from fingers.
- # Removes cat's paw marks from patio furniture and car bonnets.
- # Takes the sting of insect bites away immediately and stops the itch.
- # Removes crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean cloth.
- # Displaces moisture on the distributor cap, and facilitates engine start.

[Thanks to Mike Barnes and an anonymous USA internet source for this information about a remarkably versatile product. Village Voice would like to hear from any of our readers who can claim to have used this product for the highest number of the different purposes specified above - and any additional ones! Ed.]



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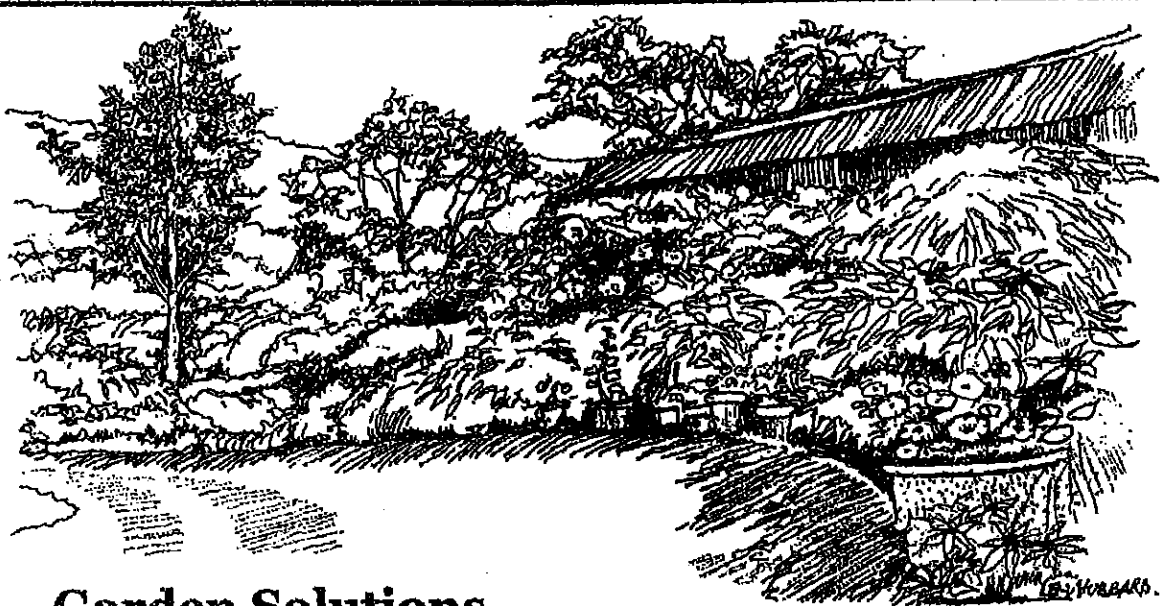
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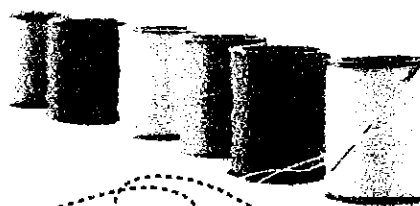
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9					8		4	
				1			8	
8								1
5		9	4			1	3	
	2	1				7		5
7			6					2
	3			8				
	5		3					8

Easy

No. 47

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

Easy

No. 48

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

Medium

No. 47

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

Medium

No. 48

SUDOKU - The latest four part challenge!

Oh dear! Despite all our exhortations for careful checking of completed puzzles before final submission, yet another entry bit the dust last time with a single blank cell in an otherwise correct solution,. Come on, puzzlers, remember the Avis slogan? (*We try harder*). As it happens, of the all-correct solutions going into the hat this time, the lucky winner was in fact **Val Harder** of 6 Crosslands who will receive the coveted specimen of *Chateau Sudoku*. Well done, Val! Entries this time (checked) please, to 25 Mead Lane as usual, by 5th July. Good luck!

BOOKSHELF

The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society

by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows
(Bloomsbury Publishing £7.99)

As its title suggests, it is a very quirky and original tale written by Mary Ann Shaffer and completed after her death by Annie Barrows. The novel is set in 1946 and is in the form of letters, mainly to and from the central character, Juliet Ashton, a successful writer who becomes involved with a group of people on Guernsey who lived through the wartime German Occupation.

Rosemary Mackay

The Long Song

by Andrea Levy
(Headline Review £14.99)

This is written by the author of *Small Island*. Although she was born and brought up in England, the author writes about the life of a slave girl in the 1830s in Jamaica. It depicts, graphically, what it was like to have to work as a plantation slave. Although they were freed, life continued to be very harsh. The heroine is taken into the home of the slave-owner as a sort of ladies maid.....but still a slave.

Rosemary Mackay

Just Me

by Sheila Hancock
(Bloomsbury Publishing £7.99)

A very well-written and easily read book, philosophising about life and how to tackle it after being widowed. Each chapter starts with a poem or a quotation, which is a sermon in itself. It is full of humour and observations on how to cope with, and overcome, the changes for a lone woman. One reviewer wrote "This book should be prescribed on the NHS for the depressed, the recently-bereaved and the down-at-heart, as

it's more soul-soothing than any self-help book." I quite agree!

Rosemary Mackay

Give Me Ten Seconds

by John Sergeant
(Pan Books £7.99)

Written long before his much-criticised but enjoyable appearance on *Strictly Come Dancing*, this concerns John Sergeant's earlier years at both BBC and ITN. Some of the intricacies and intrigues associated with high-level news gathering and political commentating, at home and abroad, are revealed in a very readable book. The choice of title came from the many times the author has said to his production assistant "Give me ten seconds...." indicating that he would like to be given a warning of this length before the end of his allotted broadcasting time! It is a fascinating story from a man with a gift for words.

Pat Macdonald

Guided by a Stone Mason: Cathedrals, Abbeys and Churches of Britain unveiled

by Thomas Maude
(I B Tauris & Co. £9.99)

If you like looking around ancient ecclesiastical buildings but sometimes feel a bit frustrated by the official guide-books - which can assume you have much prior knowledge of architectural history and terms - this is a book which will gladden your heart. Written by a vastly experienced working stone-mason in a very engaging manner, it will help you both to understand and to enjoy these old buildings - from the humble parish church to the mighty cathedral. Armed with much easily-assimilable knowledge via this book, you are sure to get even more from your visits.

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The Pink Panther - *Mancini*
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- Run, Bird
Rustle of Spring - *Sinding*
Malaguena - *Lecuona*
2 Jazz Preludes - *Kapustin*
Fantasy on a theme of Carmen - *Borne*

The Performers

Huw Wiggin trained in Manchester at Chethams School of Music and further at the Royal Northern College of Music gaining a first class honours degree in 2008. He then moved to study under Daniel Gauthier at the Musikhochschule, Köln in Germany. Huw will begin his Masters in September 2010 at the Royal College of Music under Kyle Horch with a scholarship. He has performed solo recitals and played with orchestras in Manchester, Leeds, Utrecht and at The Henley Festival of Music and the Arts. In Manchester Huw was leader of the Evoke Saxophone Quartet. In May 2008 Huw received a Star Award from the Countess of Munster Musical Trust and was selected by the Park Lane Group to appear in the New Year Series 2010.

Tim Abel began his studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in 2003 under the tuition of Dina Parakhina. In 2005 he was a winner of the annual concerto competition resulting in a performance of Grieg's Piano Concerto at Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall. In 2007 he won the RNCM John Ireland prize and following a solo recital in Nottingham was awarded the Gwendolyn Reiche Scholarship for postgraduate study. Tim travelled to the International Viola Congress in Cape Town in July 2009 where he accompanied the complete viola works of Paul Hindemith. He is Junior Fellow in Accompaniment at the RNCM for 2008-10.



Summer Vegetable Lasagne

This is a colourful dish packed with cheesy flavours. The crispness of the courgettes complements the rich creamy flavour of the sauce. Serve with crusty bread and a green salad, and you will enjoy a scrumptious meal.

Ingredients

Packet of fresh lasagne sheets	1½ pints milk
50g butter	50g plain flour
300g fromage frais	2 tubs Italian Ricotta cheese cut into slices
75g grated Cheddar cheese	25g extra Cheddar cheese for the topping
3 medium tomatoes, sliced	1 - 2 medium courgettes, sliced
Salt and pepper	Freshly grated Parmesan cheese to serve
280g (2 packs) spinach leaves, washed, thoroughly dried then finely chopped	

Method

Melt butter gently then remove from heat and stir in flour. Cook gently about one minute, gradually adding milk, stirring continuously until thickened. Add grated Cheddar (75g), stir well until melted. Remove from heat and stir in fromage frais.

Pour in enough sauce to coat the bottom of a greased oven-proof dish. Place a layer of lasagne on top (trimming with scissors if necessary to fit), then a layer of sliced Ricotta cheese and smooth over with a palette knife. Add a second layer of lasagne and cover this with a layer of spinach. Season with salt and pepper. Add another layer of sauce, then a layer of lasagne, a layer of tomato, then a layer of courgettes. Pour the remainder of the sauce over this, and sprinkle with the extra (25g) Cheddar.

Bake at 180°C (gas mark 4) about 40 minutes until golden. Allow it to 'rest' for about 5 minutes before serving. Hand round the grated Parmesan when serving. Should there be any left over, it is surprisingly delicious if eaten cold next day!

Make Perfect Poached Eggs

You know it is possible to keep the whites intact when you poach eggs - you've had them served like that in a restaurant. But no matter how careful you are, the whites always diffuse into the water when you try to poach eggs at home. **So what's to be done?** Here is the secret that restaurant chefs use - sprinkle about 1½ teaspoonsful of salt into the water just before you put in the eggs. This helps to "set" the whites into a neat package. A tiny dash of vinegar helps - and also improves the taste of the eggs. **There - no problem at all!**

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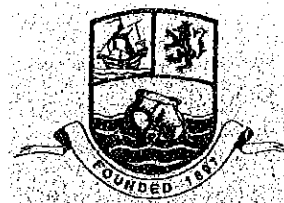
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THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB



CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The last two months have been very busy and the weather has been good for golf. The Palaret team unfortunately were knocked out 3½ - 1½ in the first round by Dawlish Warren at Wrangaton. For the Thurlestone team **Steve Pike & Chris Jones** won their match, and **David Eva & Alan Winrow** pulled back from 3 down at the turn to halve. So this year, sadly, we are not progressing into Round 2, but will be playing in the Plate Competition. The Palaret Team was sponsored this year by *Sabre Finance*, a local Kingsbridge company, and looked fantastic in new blue shirts. The team had two junior boys playing; **Josh Walsh (5)** and **Oliver Walsh (10)**, and also another junior **Ted Taylor (12)** as reserve - which is a fantastic achievement for them.

The Men's Friendly matches so far were a loss of 5-1 against St Mellion and one match cancelled by China Fleet. However, the Seniors' matches led by Seniors' Captain **Ron Bancroft** have had a lot of success. The home match against Teignmouth was a win 4-2; the home match against Dartmouth a win 5-1; the home match against Wrangaton a win 5-1; and the home match against Torquay a win 3½ - 2½. The home match against Churston was a loss 5-2. The seniors now have a stableford competition once a month either on a Tuesday or Thursday which is proving very popular. The old Artisans section of the golf club had a number of trophies which are no longer played for and one has been donated to remember **Derrick Yeoman** who was a committee man and a popular member until he died a few years ago. The trophy will be played for by men over 60 years of age, and will recognise his service to the community and also the help that Derrick gave to the Seniors section. After a shaky start this section now boasts a large membership, with 30 plus players regularly turning out for their early morning activities and for the seniors matches which are well supported.

We have had two bank holiday Mixed greensome competitions. The first one on Easter Monday was won by **Graham** and **Linda Cant** with 42

points from **Philip** and **Wendy Laud**. The second mixed Greensome, on May Bank holiday, was the John Bachelor Trophy and was won by **Shirley** and **Eric Worrall** with 42 points, from **Sheila** and **Graeme Fairley** with 40 points. In March we held the Monthly medal in conjunction with the Virgin Atlantic PGA qualifier. The top scoring man goes to Saunton to play with our Professional **Peter Laughler**. For the second year running it was a run-away victory for 20 year old university student, **Harry Millburn-Fryer**, who returned a nett 59 off a handicap of ten. We will be hoping that history continues to repeat itself at Saunton because if they win this event they will be jetting off to play the final as they did last year, where they were narrowly beaten into second place in a playoff. We wish them good luck.

The Mail on Sunday team have recorded a second round home victory over Dartmouth, winning by 3½ - 1½. Again good luck in the third round. One of our talented juniors, 15 year old **Robert Came** won the three clubs and a putter competition in March with 40 points and a handicap reduction to 18. Robert was also runner up in the March medal with a nett 66 and with another handicap reduction to 17. The winner of Division one was **Chris Jones** with a nett 65 and the winner of Division two was **Hywel Jones** also with a nett 65.

In fine weather the Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary Day at Thurlestone organised by **Graham Worrall** was very well supported, and raised a total of £7,000 for the charities of *Shelter Box* and *Help for Heroes*. With 57 teams of three competing, Tetley Boys **Richard Sherrington**, **Graham Cant**, and **Brian Munn** took the men's 1st prize, and the T-Bags team of **Linda Cant**, **Ann Best**, and **Gill Durden** the ladies' 1st prize.

David Wadey

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

The match season is now underway and we have had the following successes and disappointments. *The Mail on Sunday* (2nd round) was won by

Thurlestone against Dartmouth at home, but unfortunately we lost against Wrangaton away in the 3rd round.

Daily Mail Foursomes - 1st round was won by Thurlestone at Dartmouth. The 2nd round was won by Thurlestone against Torquay at home. The 3rd round is against Exminster away shortly.

The Vets Salver 1st round was won by Thurlestone against Torquay at Wrangaton.

The Still Cup - I am delighted to say we won the first match at home against Teignmouth. Unfortunately, the return match was lost.

The Presidents - halved the first match at home, but then lost 2 away matches.

The Sheelah Creasy - lost the first match away.

The weather has caused more problems, with a number of the vets and friendly matches having to be called off or abandoned.

The Stableford Winners Trophy (competed by the winners of the previous year's Stableford competitions) was played in April and won by **Linda Cant** - resulting in a handicap reduction.

Our regular Wednesday mornings are showing a good number of ladies competing - in excess of 60 ladies. We have the following notable results. In the May Medal **Gill Hicks** won Division 1 with a net 66, and **Lesley Saffin** took Division 2 with a net 68.

I am looking forward to hosting our first Open in June with a **4 Ball Team Open**. This has a large number of entries from many different clubs and will hopefully show off Thurlestone Golf Club at its best - provided the weather is kind to us.

Happy golfing throughout the season,

Sue Esplin

JUNIORS' SECTION NEWSLETTER

The juniors are now well into their matches for the West Devon League, the Basil Steer Trophy and the Tamar Cup. The first West Devon match was against Staddon away which we lost 3½ - 1½, but our second match at home against Tavistock we won 4-1. The team is led this year by a new junior Captain **Laura Tregelles** with Vice Captain **Tom Leach**. They take over from **Ted Taylor** who has done an excellent job for 2 years but has to concentrate on his A level studies this year. The junior team's new sweatshirts have

arrived, sponsored by the Thurlestone Hotel, and we are very grateful to their support for the team again this year.

In April the Devon County Ladies came to Thurlestone with the Devon County Ladies 2nd team (mostly junior girls) and the Upcoming Devon County junior girls team to play for a trophy. Four of Thurlestone golf club junior girls were playing in the Devon County junior team; **Laura Tregelles** (13 handicap) **Beth Peters** (13) **Lottie Holland** (26) and **Beth Yeoman** (22). All four of our Junior girls won their matches and the overall score was 6½ - 2½ to the Junior girls' team. Also in April the Thurlestone junior team of **Ted Taylor**, **Jamie Johnson** and **Robert Came** lost to Downs Credition in the Basil Steer cup at Dainton Park Golf Club. All matches were keenly fought - Ted lost on the 18th hole to a birdie putt, Robert lost 2/1, and Jamie won 2/1.

Six of our juniors applied for the Devon County Junior Spring meeting at The Warren on Thursday 15th April. There were 180 entries for 70 places and unfortunately only three of our juniors got in. They were **Beth Peters** who won the girls competition, **Jamie Johnson**, and **Robert Came** who was 2nd in the Boys handicap competition. They did extremely well against all the other juniors in Devon.

The junior Monday evening sessions led by parents **Stuart Tollins** and **Steve Pepperrell**, and coached by **Pete Mitchell** have now got underway and have been supported by ten to twelve juniors each Monday. Pete organises a programme of lessons each week and is assisted by one of our own juniors **Beth Peters** who recently passed her Level 1 coaching course. Some of our juniors have already had handicap reductions this year. **Robert Came** has won two Men's Competitions and his handicap has been reduced from 20 to 16. **Beth Peters** won a ladies competition at Bigbury and was reduced from 14 to 13. **Lottie Holland** won the Kingsbridge Community College Annual golf competition with 44 points and was reduced from 26 to 23.

Five girls from Thurlestone Golf club have also entered for the Devon girls' championship at Churston in June, and the English Women's Golf Association South West championship at Royal North Devon in July. We wish them all good luck and hope to have some good reports for the next newsletter.

Liz Line

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

TENNIS SECTION

EVENTS & TOURNAMENTS JUNE-SEPT

Sunday 20 June	Ladies Doubles Charity Tournament
Week-end 9/10/11 July	LTA Open Veterans Tournament
Monday 12 July	Holiday Programme starts
Tuesday 20 July	July & Lepere Junior Cups + BBQ
Saturday 24 July	Woodhead Mixed Doubles Cup
Friday 30 July	Thurlestone Quaich – Golf and Tennis
Tuesday 3 August	Egan and Leonard Junior Cups
Saturday 7 August	Bryan Brown Mixed Doubles Cup
Wednesday 11 August	Annual Tennis Meeting
Wednesday 8 September	End of Season Tournament, presentation and bar meal

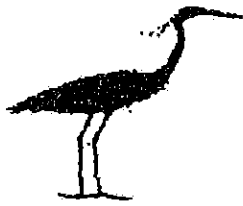
*For sign up lists, entry forms and further details
please see separate notices in the Tennis Pavilion at the Golf Club.
Or contact Janet Richardson - Tel: 01548 856007*

NATIONAL TRUST SOUTH HAMS CENTRE

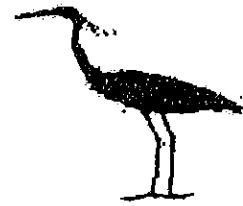
Programme for June and July 2010

Tuesday 8th June	A walk from Dartington in time for lunch. Meet at Dartington Cider Press overflow car park (GR 788624) for a four-mile walk through the estate, returning by the riverside path.
Friday 11th June	Grand Summer Fair , Market Hall, Kingsbridge 10 am to 2 pm. Everyone welcome. Free entry. Lots of stalls to browse - cakes, plants, gifts, books, bric-a-brac. Come and enjoy a coffee with friends and fellow Centre members.
Saturday 26th June	Coach trip to the Axe Vale Festival . A return trip to one of the best gardening and flower shows in the county. Craft and food stands and so much to see.
Friday 9th July	Coach trip to Topsham and Jurassic Coast cruise from Exmouth . Time for a stroll and lunch in Topsham before going on to Exmouth for a two-and-a-half hour coastal cruise along the World Heritage Site.
Wednesday 28th July	Coach trip to Seaton Tramway and Sidmouth . At Seaton we board open-top tram-cars for a return trip through the lovely Axe valley to Colyton . Afterwards to Sidmouth for a late lunch and the afternoon.

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)



AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



'Conserving the Devonshire Avon, from source to sea'

At our AGM in April, the existing committee was re-elected with the welcome addition of **Mike Cooper** of Loddiswell (representing upstream interests) and our activities for the coming year were outlined. We shall continue to concentrate on the central issues of water quality and quantity.

Specifically, we shall be building on our information database about the location of two species of invasive weed, *Japanese Knotweed* and *Himalayan Balsam* which threaten the Avon, with a view to controlling the weeds' spread. We hope to arrange some 'balsam bashing' working parties early this summer, as explained in the leaflet which is available either as hard copy or on our website. A pilot scheme will probably be arranged around the heavy infestation in Duke's Mill Creek.

Our second main area of activity will be our *beach and river clean-ups*. In addition to our quarterly beach cleans on Cockleridge, we shall be extending our work on cleaning up around the Tidal Road between Aveton Gifford and Stakes Road. That stretch has now been accepted into the Marine Conservation Society's 'Adoptabeach' scheme which means tightening up on our safety procedures and adding another couple of clean-ups per year. Fortunately, the South Devon AONB Unit's Sustainable Development Fund and the Duchy of Cornwall have helped us with some of the extra costs of safety signage and insurance for which we are very grateful.

On a different tack, we shall be looking more deeply into the occurrence of phosphates in the waters of the Avon. Historical Environment Agency data indicate that the levels of soluble phosphate have been too high, resulting in abnormal stimulation of algal growth and the early stages of eutrophication of the river. Our working hypothesis is that this condition is having a detrimental effect on the ecology of the river, with a slow but steady reduction in biodiversity; such effects have been widely recorded elsewhere – you need look no further than Slapton Ley for a more extreme example.

For light relief, we are organising a few social events, the first of which will be a '*bluebell picnic*' in Stiddicombe Wood (in May) and a *ram roast* at Folly Hill Farm in July. We are also arranging an *art competition* (photographs, drawings or paintings) to find a suitable image for an ACA greetings card. If you are interested in submitting an entry or in finding out more about any of our activities, please keep an eye on our website at

www.auneconservation.org.uk

for details or contact me at

chairman@auneconservation.org.uk

Stuart Watts
Chairman



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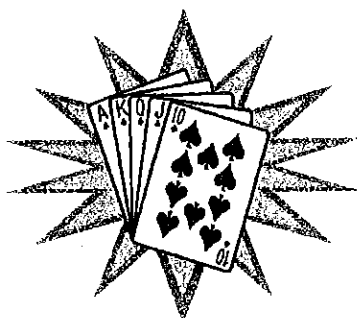
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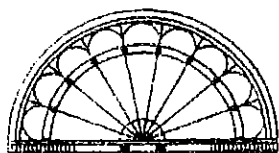


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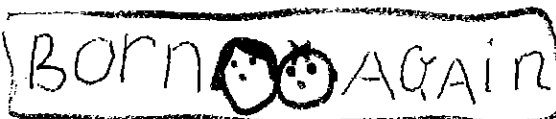
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HORSWELL DIARY

Red, blue or yellow, it's been rather an unpredictable month, whether in the world of politics or here, along our Devon lanes.

Yellow, at first, seemed to be the star of the show with our pale primroses quickly being superseded by an altogether bolder specimen. Often overlooked because of its common familiarity, this year the humble dandelion was dressed to impress. A thousand beaming suns shone out from every roadside verge, determined to catch our eye.

Similarly, the Liberal party, usually perceived as a pale alternative to Labour and the Conservatives, slipped off its colourless ideals and stepped into the limelight. Nick Clegg's platform in the televised political debates gave the Liberal party the chance to be seen and heard by people who would normally not give credence to their policies. To a jaded electorate, weary of the same old jousting between Left and Right, the prospect of a viable alternative, as so eloquently outlined by the personable Mr. Clegg, seemed, suddenly, rather attractive. As the public reaction to the broadcast poured in, pale primroses had become vibrant dandelions overnight.

After such unexpected brilliance, the first showing by the blues seemed rather weak and wilted. Despite early sunshine, bitter winds and cold night air had delayed the usual rush of early Summer growth. A scattering of violets shyly showed their colours, then, after a slow start, the bluebells began to find their feet, lifting their heads more proudly on straighter spines, their subtle perfume carried by the breeze on scented air. Steadily, the Conservatives fought back, reminding us of childhood values and, despite the current economic chill, offering us a hopeful, responsible future.

Not to be outdone, the reds soon made a startling re-appearance. For a long time they had looked not red but grey, tired, inert, barely alive, but suddenly, just as the Red-Campion and Herb Robert were brightening our hedgerows, Gordon Brown fought back, defending his corner with renewed vigour,

reminding us of his track record and assuring us of his competence to lead us further. Further into... the future? Or into further debt, maybe?

The result of all that competitive electioneering now seems as tangled as a patch of weeds, but if, like the coalition of our wayside flowers, the new Liberal Conservatives add colour and diversity to our lives, they may yet succeed in offering a better future for us all.

Thinking of coalitions even the trees seem to be working together this year, the oak and the ash both coming into leaf simultaneously. Had the oak greened up before the ash, Summer, we are told would have had 'just a splash', if the ash before the oak Summer would surely 'be a soak'. Now, it's anyone's guess. Another barbecue summer perhaps?

Michael and I now seem to spend a great deal of our time working to keep our house and garden looking as tidy as it does in our agent's brochure. Anyone who has ever sold a home will know what a soul-destroying process it can be. And selling our beloved Horswell is not at all like selling any other home that we've owned. It's like cutting out your heart and wondering how long your body will function without it. No, it's worse than that, because the process is so slow. It's like death by a thousand cuts.

Every 'viewing' takes its toll. Any criticism is a body-blow, while every word of praise makes the thought of leaving ever more painful. The only good thing about it is that having shed tears for weeks at the thought of selling, by the end of this process, I suspect, we'll be begging for it to be over, for a deal to be done.

Waiting for prospective buyers, and then later, after their visits, waiting to hear their reactions, reminds me of the many times I used to have to stand outside the school Headmistress' study awaiting her verdict on my latest misdemeanours.

Punishment at school was writing out a hundred lines from a copy of the Highway Code. (I soon knew every word by heart,

all of which proved a terrific bonus when I came to take my driving test.)

Punishment here, is:

a) If someone looks keen to buy:-
sleepless nights and endless
discussions along the lines of:

'Remind me, why did we think it was such a good idea to sell?' or 'Where on earth are we going to move to?' or 'What ever do we do with all our furniture and possessions?' Counting sheep has been replaced by counting rooms..., and their contents..., and the number of boxes required to contain all those contents..., and the number of vans needed to remove said boxes..., and the number of containers needed to store those boxes..., and the number of pound notes needed to pay for that storage..., and then the number of years we may be paying for those containers to store those boxes..., and then 'Brrrring! Brrrrrrrrrrrring!', before you know it, it's time to get up and worry about it all over again in the cold light of day.

or b) If one more person, having travelled for half a day to get here, says: "Oh, it's much too big. We only need three bedrooms"...

do we suggest they re-read their brochure... or simply shoot the agent?

For us, it all seems rather like the end of the world, or certainly, the end of life as we know it, but I suppose in the greater scheme of things our proposed house-move is fairly inconsequential. I mean, compared with the oil leak in B.P.'s Transocean pipeline, pumping out 2.9 million gallons of oil a day into the Gulf of Mexico, destroying the environment and the wildlife in its path, our worrying about who would feed our peacocks does seem a little trivial.

And then of course there's the ghastly disruption caused by Eyafjallajokull's volcanic ash filling our skies, the slump in the value of the Euro, the fact Britain has a financial deficit greater than that of Greece. Until now I would have been able to brush it aside and get on with my gardening, mentally pulling up the Horswell 'drawbridge', grateful to live peacefully in our perfect bubble. The realisation that our sanctuary may soon be in other people's hands leaves me feeling anxious, as if I'm about to re-enter the real world like an alien landing on earth for the first time, ill-equipped and vulnerable.

Prunella Dart

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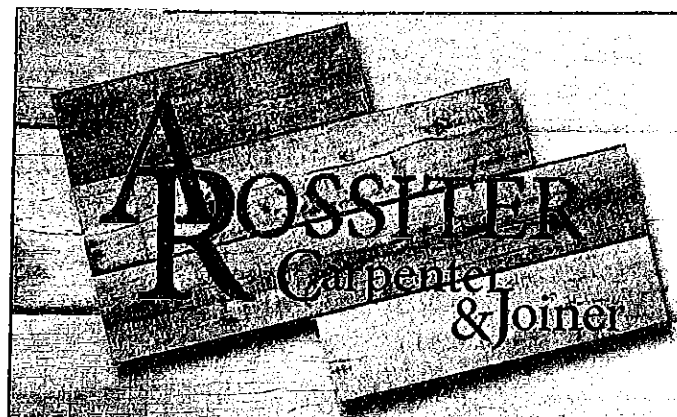
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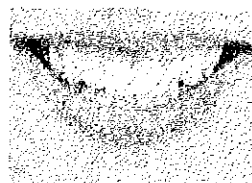
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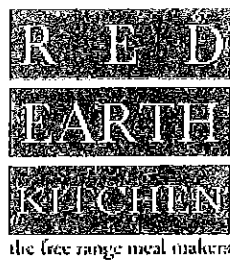
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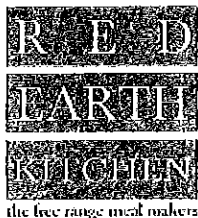
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For the love of Weaving

A look at the Devon Weavers Workshop

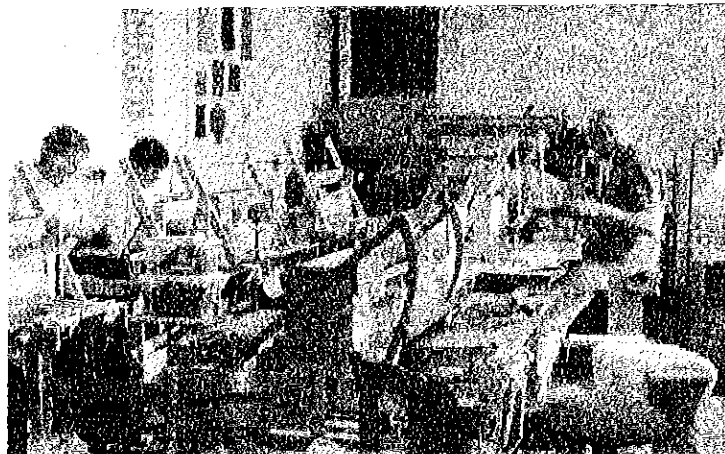
To indulge an interest in home constructed textiles is definitely a minority sport these days. This makes the likelihood of something as obscure as Devon Weavers Workshop to emerge, let alone flourish, seem ridiculously small.

The concept of a weavers' workshop was dreamt up by six people - all enthusiastic (once a week) amateur weavers, who met on a loom weaving course many years ago in the mid-80s. After the death of our teacher in 1991 we carried on regardless as a 'self-help' group until, after a long and protracted battle, we eventually lost our space in the Craft Education Centre at Dartington in 2001. Despite desperate attempts at finding alternative and affordable accommodation we finally ended up in a friend's small granny flat with hardly enough room to throw a shuttle. But we were as determined as ever to continue.

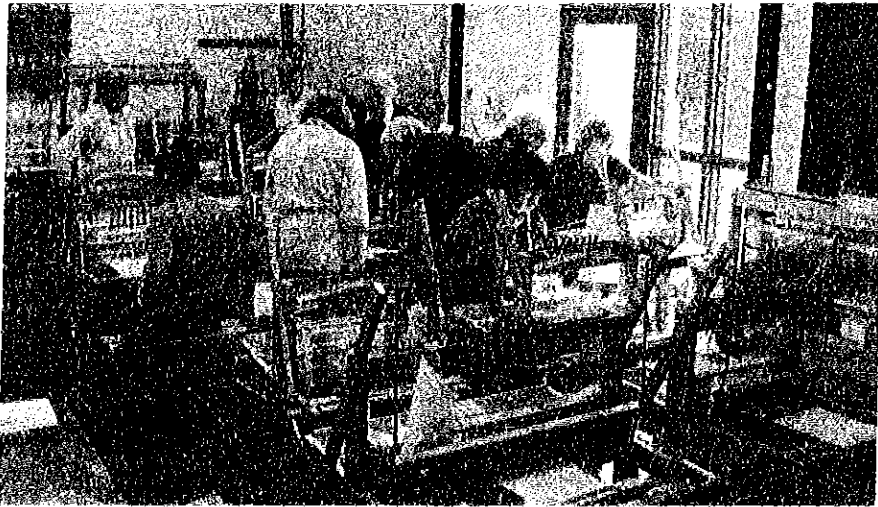
By now a certain solidarity had crept into the proceedings and by 2004 ideas were being batted around about taking a few risks and finding a way to rent a decent sized space. I knew most members of the group and it was this stage that they asked me to join them. At this time the seven of us became Trustees for the newly named "Devon Weavers Workshop". My role was to be that of a teacher of beginner and intermediate levels using the looms we had bought with money from the lottery. Local people also involved were Rosemary Durant and Colleen Pope. They were members during this time and have continued to act as Trustees. Rosemary was the treasurer who was responsible for overseeing the application and receiving the lottery grants. Colleen leads a very busy life yet until recently was our Membership Secretary before becoming School Secretary at Thurlestone School earlier this year. She still manages to weave large and impressive rugs.

At the end of the same year somebody spied some new workshops being built in the countryside near Ashprington, Totnes and (with nerves of steel) we signed a lease, agreeing between us to see it through its first year financially and walk away from it after that if it wasn't working. Looking back now it all sounds perfectly sensible, but then it was, to say the least, a wee bit crazy. We had little experience of starting up such a venture and we all had busy 'other' lives, plus families, jobs, not much money, little spare time etc...but we were never short on enthusiasm.

Several very good things happened for us in that first year. Our most senior member (then in her mid eighties) gave us £1000 with which we were able to carpet the large concrete floor. As well as helping cosmetically, it made the space both quieter and a lot warmer. Next we applied for and obtained charitable status and then a National Lottery Award for £5000. This bought us eight looms, to be used both for



teaching and for members' use. Filling in the application forms was a nightmare, but we persevered and acquired new skills, surprising ourselves along the way at how many 'boxes' we actually 'ticked'. Favours were called in, and friends and relations were fantastic, generously giving us their time, knowledge and sheer muscle to help get the Workshop fit



for purpose. Financial security was in sight....and we began to feel the warm glow of success. In 2007, with membership numbers steadily growing, we successfully applied for our second National Lottery Award, another £5000 with which we were able to buy a computer controlled, 16 shaft loom.

I have always organised and taught the Beginner classes which first started after we had been open for six months. Since the beginning there have been a steady stream of beginners. Some continue and others enjoy the course but decide weaving is not for them. Our membership now tops 48. The spirit of the place is indeed the thing. All trustees and members give their time freely to teach, promote, steward, demonstrate, organise, clean, photograph, sell, run exhibitions and courses, and source materials - the list is endless.

We are living proof, if it were needed, that success does indeed breed success. Weaving tutors now come from all over the world to teach at the Workshop and course participants arrive from all over the UK and often Europe as well. With its international reputation growing there is rarely a spare space to be had on any of the courses we run. Along with membership fees, the profits from these courses underpin our finances. Inevitably, the standard and complexity of the work produced in the Workshop has blossomed along the way.

Creating Devon Weavers Workshop has been an immensely rewarding and heart lifting experience. It's been a privilege to be involved with such a venture and discover that demand does still exist. As interest and enthusiasm continues to grow in the field of textiles one can only believe there is potential for similar venues to be created elsewhere based on the same model. Of course it involves risk and also co-operation and hard work, but by leaving the 'exit-door' ajar in our first year we were able to limit any damage if things went wrong and to feel in control of any risk.

From the 8 - 13 June the group have an *Exhibition and Sales* at Harbour House in Kingsbridge. If any of you are in town come along and see and feel the fabrics we produce. It varies a lot because each article is the personal work of one person. For example, small hand woven cards, large rugs, some woven by Colleen, and tapestries and lovely silk scarves, all of original design. There will be a loom set up so you can "have a try" at weaving.

Sue Dwyer

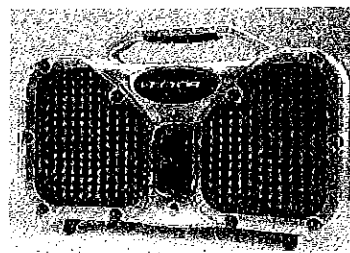
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[Our website at < www.devonweaversworkshop.org > has details and photographs of past courses, plus news of future ones.]

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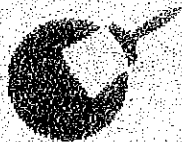


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HARRY HUGGINS' BOOK AT BEDTIME

There is just one advantage in getting ancient, as I have - if there is any other I cannot think of it. Namely, that you can read something, then pick it up a month or two later without any recollection that you have ever seen it before.

So, there is a handful of bedside books which I read and re-read. They are special - small and light (bird books almost without exception are too heavy to read in bed). They must be written, if possible, in bite-sized bits. You cannot always find something in penny numbers. But at least there must be nothing with long discourses which you don't get to the end of before you drop off to sleep, otherwise the next night you have to start again at the beginning with a similar result.

Inevitably, the books relate to birds. I say relate to birds because you can't just read about only birds - they change. On the shelf there is a handsome volume "*The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland*". It was magnificently turned out, weighs a ton. When it was published in 1976 it cost £10.00 (it would be £45.00 today) and is now out of date. It shows Red Kites as breeding in a very small (and secret) area of Wales. They are, if not all over, at least well-distributed now. It shows Red-Backed Shrikes as nesting over much of south-east England. They never breed in Britain now. It doesn't mention Little Egret at all but it nests now in several places in the British Isles.

So the books are about people and birds, mostly people.

The first, and much the most famous, is Gilbert White's "*The Natural History of Selborne*". My copy is dated 1906, one of many editions since the original publication in the late 1700s. White was born in Selborne in 1720 and died there in 1793. It is a village a bit to the east of Winchester. In those days the only access was through sunken lanes, almost impassable for wheeled traffic - you had to walk or ride a horse. Clergyman White was not the vicar; the living was in the gift of Magdalen College, Oxford, and he was an Oriel man. He wasn't even the curate until the last years of his life when the man appointed vicar decided Selborne was the last place he wanted to live.

People believed a lot of things which now to our eyes seem ludicrous: in winter Cuckoos turned

into Sparrowhawks; likewise for winter Swallows submerged in ponds; Nightjars sucked at the udders of goats; little birds migrated by clinging to the backs of eagles. It was like Russians marching through London with snow on their boots - no one had seen them himself but someone had a cousin who had a friend who had.



From the studio of Thomas Bewick

White investigated for himself. He found out about animals, birds and plants as they really were. Some things he never did sort out - he never quite satisfied himself that Swallows and House Martins did not hibernate for the winter. Dormice did, so why not Swallows and Martins? But for many other things he discovered the real facts. For example, Willow Wren (at that time "wren" meant any very small bird, just as "sparrow" meant ones a bit bigger). Whether anyone noticed it had three different songs, or cared if they didn't notice, I don't know. White realised there were three different species and in writing about them he called them Smallest Willow Wren, Middle Willow Wren and Largest Willow Wren. He wrote that Smallest chirped, Middle sang a sweet plaintive note, and the Largest made a sibilant grasshopper-like noise in the tops of high trees. They are known now as leaf warblers - difficult to observe and of course people had no binoculars then. But they had shotguns. He told of having three corpses on the table in front of him. Smallest had black legs, the other two had flesh-coloured ones. Now we call them Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Wood Warbler.

To our modern eyes his willingness to kill things or have them killed is disquieting. He had these little warblers killed. He preserved a poor little

Harvest Mouse and her babes in brandy. He was doubtless an honest God-fearing clergyman and was dead over sixty years before Charles Darwin put the cat among the pigeons with "*The Origin of Species*". In Genesis the King James Bible said "God said unto them have dominion overevery living thing...." In White's day there were plenty of birds and animals and the Bible, in which doubtless he believed implicitly, gave him authority to do what he liked with them. Our views tend to be different now, wild things are getting scarcer and scarcer, and many of us regard ourselves, *Homo sapiens*, as just another animal. Remember when you see a pretty girl in a bikini that she shares over 98% of her genes with a chimpanzee. So do I. So do you!

"*Selborne*" takes the form of a series of letters. Many are no more than one page long, but a few are much longer - perfect for bedtime reading. There were two recipients - Thomas Pennant and the Hon. Daines Barrington. Pennant wrote "*British Zoology*", first published in 1766. I do not know how much fieldwork he did himself but he got correspondents, including White, to supply information. White's brother, who was a publisher and bookseller, introduced White to Barrington and the latter gave the impetus for "*Selborne*".

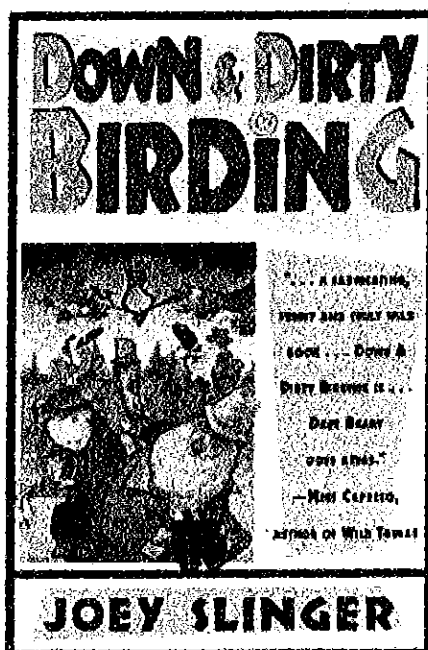
Now for a new book (well, fairly new) published in 1992. "*Down and Dirty Birding*" by Joey Slinger. The blurb says he is, or maybe was, an award-winning humorist, writing a regular column for *The Toronto Star*. So the book is about New World birds. No matter, wherever

they are, birds are birds. Some of the book is a bit rude. Not your Gordon Ramsey rude. But birds *are* rude. People who have studied them write that the gentle little brown Dunnocks which live in our gardens have a love life which would shock the editor of the *News of the World*. I don't know. If they do it in our garden they do it in the hedge where we can't see.

He writes in short chapters, many of them only half a page long and in a style which is mostly frivolous. He starts by setting out what he is going to tell us: how to become a bird-watching expert without ever leaving the house; how to look like an expert; how to talk like an expert; how to recognise real experts and avoid them. He gives a useful piece of advice for when someone turns up at your door clutching a baby bird - say you don't speak English. If they know you well, grab your chest and slide to the floor gasping "Call 999". But he knows an awful lot about birds.

"*Birders, Tales of a Tribe*" by Mark Cocker, writer of several books, most noticeably "*Birds Britannica*", is a survey of about 350 species of British birds, based largely on information sent in by various correspondents - he terms it an attempt to describe the points of intersection between the lives of humans and birds. Over 500 pages and very useful as a door stop.

The birders are the tribe. The book is not divided into short pieces like the previous two, but no chapter is very long. He talks about what he and his friends got up to, from when they were teenagers in the 1970s and 1980s scampering about looking for rare birds. He tells of sleeping in the Beach Hotel at Cley (say "Clie") on the north Norfolk coast. This was a square pitched roof over four benches which faced different ways, a concrete floor, no walls. This was a much sought-after place to sleep even in dead of winter (and at Cley it knows how to get cold). I don't remember it, we must have sat in the car near it watching Snow Buntings and Shore Larks among the falling snowflakes. But then we retreated to the comfort of *The Maltings* at Weybourne, just along the coast. Mark Cocker talks about those people who are interested in birds. "Ornithologist" and "scientist" pretty well overlap. They are folks who have a degree in biology or zoology. Even so, they would hardly classify themselves as ornithologists. At the other end of the scale there are dudes and robin-strokers. The latter are the easier to deal with. They heap food on the bird table. They watch



from the living room window. They join the RSPB and are the vast body of decent folk without whom conservationists would have no teeth.

A dude is a bit different - someone with little real knowledge who makes out that he knows more than he does. Cocker has little time for dudes. In his *Little Black Bird Book* Bill Oddie is a bit more sympathetic - but not much. He supplies drawings. The male wears a shiny green jacket. Peeping out of a pocket is a book, a field guide. No proper birder ever carries a field guide. The female wears a bright orange, blue or yellow jacket, with a tartan skirt. She carries binoculars in a case. No proper birder ever has a binocular case - abandoned long ago, if there ever was one. Dudes stay in rather nice hotels and go out after breakfast. I don't see much wrong with that. We are told that when on a birding holiday we should self-cater, so that we can start before dawn. Blow that. June self-caters for the rest of the year and when on holiday we want to have a nice breakfast, and be waited on!

Between the professionals, robin-strokers and dudes, are the vast bulk of us - bird-watchers or birders. The latter term seems to infer a more active participation than bird-watching. The afore-mentioned Joey Slinger writes that "bird-watcher" brings to mind the image of spinster ladies in tweed underwear bounding through the woods shouting "Halloo!, halloo!". Not wishing to be thought sexist, he adds that spinster ladies can be of any gender you care to name. Among the birders are the twitchers, who go to see rarities. I don't know how many of the fanatical kind, who do little else, there are. Maybe not very many. But most of us like a rarity and how far you are prepared to go to see it depends on how keen you are. Mostly twitchers are seeing birds found by other people, simply because it is seldom that you find a real rarity for yourself. I can think of about eight that we have found.

I say "we" but I should write "she" because that is who usually finds them. And that eight was spread over forty-odd years of birding. Some were reported to the Rarities Committee. Some were accepted and some rejected. Much the rarest was a Citrine Wagtail, a relative of our British Yellow Wagtail. They summer in Russia and winter in India. How this one, the first adult male ever found in Britain, came to be feeding a family on a sea-wall in Essex we never knew. No, the twitchers were not told. It was on private land, the owners didn't mind our walking there

but if hundreds, maybe thousands, of twitchers had flooded in there would have been hell to pay. So it was "suppressed" and only a few national experts knew.

Bill Oddie's *Little Black Bird Book* now has, so I read somewhere, a white cover. My copy is dated 1980 and it cost £1.50. As far as birders' hardware is concerned, it is now completely out of date. When he wrote it people still telephoned one another to pass on information.

Mark Cocker tells us of a centre for news - a tiny establishment in Cley called Nancy's Café. Information about birds came from all over Britain. Usually there were birders there and they answered the phone. Latterly, if there were no birders, Nancy took the phone off the hook so she might get a bit of peace. In 1988 Nancy gave up and Birdline was invented by two first-rate birders who lived in Cley. You ring one of these very expensive numbers and get a recorded message about what might be seen. There is a national Birdline; and we have Birdline Southwest. The number is 09068-700241 if you happen to be interested. You might be told about a Red-flanked Bluetail in South Milton Ley. More likely they will talk to you about some semi-rarity which you don't particularly want to see and is somewhere you don't want to go, like the far side of Hampshire.

In his *Little Black Bird Book* Oddie describes bird-watcher thus - tense, competitive, selfish, shift, dishonest, distrusting, boorish, pedantic, unsentimental and, above all, envious. Mark Cocker says that in this description Oddie means only twitchers. I am not so sure. I read the *Little Black Bird Book* in bed; when I put it down and turn out the light I wonder how many of these words apply to me.....all of them or just some?

Harry Huggins

[Internet surfers may like to visit the website < www.naturalhistoryofselborne.com > from which the Thomas Bewick woodcut was taken, and which gives fascinating detail of both the Gilbert White journal and the period. The other books making up Harry's bedside library are all obtainable via Amazon, at advantageous prices, and surfers can browse readers' reviews and opinions there also. Yet another example of the benefits available on-line to "silver surfers" who now enjoy their own "day" on 21st May. If you know of anyone still "off-line", suggest that they talk to Teamakers. Ed.]

Grey Matter

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

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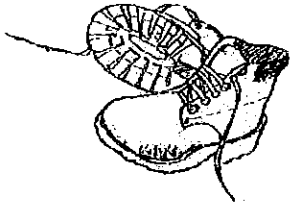
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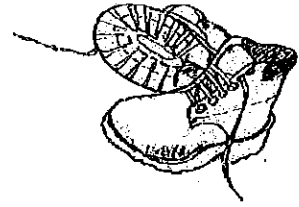
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TRAMP



1 Ten of us (2 Men, 8 Ladies, but this time no dogs) set off on a short walk at Modbury. Everyone agreed that we were very lucky to have probably the sunniest day of the year so far. We met at the car park at the bottom of the town and made our way up the main street and passed through the daffodil-lined Church and on down Runaway Lane. This was the scene of a Roundhead and Royalist battle. After a small wooden bridge and our first stile we walked across a delightful meadow with a stream running alongside. We then passed a Farm house and chatted to some old acquaintances before starting a long steady incline up an old Devon Holloway.

Reaching the top we enjoyed glorious views of Dartmoor, Ivybridge, and a complete layout of Modbury below us. We crossed several fields and stiles via Little Modbury, and were so ensconced in conversation we nearly added an extra field to the itinerary! Trish Wilson quickly brought us in line and we climbed yet another stile to bring us down another old Devon Holloway before passing through a further meadow and stream back to the Car Park. Five of us then went up to the Modbury Inn and had a very pleasant Soup and Sarnies.

Robin Hart

2 At last autumn's meeting, when planning the schedule for this year, with a view to introducing some different walks, we volunteered to lead one that had been published in the Sunday Telegraph, starting at Manaton, lunching at Lustleigh and returning via Lustleigh Cleave. After a March reconnoitre however, we decided to make alterations to the plan, because the afternoon walk was too long and too boring, although Lustleigh was delightful. Accordingly, we borrowed a walk from South Hams Ramblers, starting from Parke House, near Bovey Tracey, instead.

It was distinctly chilly at 10.30 am on Wednesday 14 April when twelve Tramps plus Rosie set off from Parke in a southerly direction, before turning northwest through farmland on to a section of the Templar Way. Climbing gradually all the time, via a short

section of the B3387 and an old orchard we arrived at lower Down to enjoy some lovely moorland views before descending to Reddaford Water, passing several studs on the way - obviously good riding country.

After another short section of road, we entered Pullabrook Wood and walked beside the River Bovey to Drakesford Bridge, thence via Rudge to Lustleigh. Here the party split, some enjoying a picnic lunch, the others taking refreshment at the charming Primrose Tearoom. Leaving the picturesque village the footpath meandered past the cricket pitch and between pretty thatched cottages before climbing steeply through Higher Knowle, on to a lane running down to Plumley Farm and Forder. Then it was into the woods again, following the riverside path for the last mile back to Parke, about 7½ miles in total.

Roger & Trisha Wilson

3 On Friday 23 April, a warm and sunny St. George's Day, ten walkers and two impeccably behaved dogs set off from outside the pub in Harberton and strolled west through the village. This gave us all an opportunity to admire the attractive range of tasteful, well-maintained residences that abound there. We climbed out of the village before descending to Leigh Bridge which crosses the River Harbourne that gave Harberton ("farm on the Harbourne") its name.

The walk took us along quiet lanes, footpaths and tracks with the gentle nature of the terrain ensuring that all could enjoy the long-awaited sight of the hedgerows beginning to colour with an abundance of spring flowers. After about 4 miles there was a decision to be made as to whether to risk returning whence we came via a rough track, which can be waterlogged even in the height of summer, or to take the safer but less interesting tarred lane. Luckily, a local farmer was on hand to offer advice and he assured us that the track was passable after the long spell of dry April weather. He was proved to be right and we arrived back at Harberton ready to enjoy refreshment and comfort in the local hostelry. Perhaps mention should be made here of the

progress being made by Rosie, the youngest Tramp canine member who, under the tutelage of the now very experienced and sensible Bess, is quickly learning to conform to the behavioural expectations of the group!

Val & Graham Palmer

4 The weather was ordered for 28th April, the walk sorted, and twelve happy walkers plus one enthusiastic Jack Russell set out to walk 7 miles of the Plym Valley Trail. The walk started at The National Trust car park Plym Bridge, and the path we took runs alongside the river all the way to Bickleigh Bridge. Spring flowers were in abundance with wild anemones, primroses, and the first bluebells making an appearance. The imagination of one of our male walkers ran away with him when an object was seen floating in the river. Was it was a body? No, just the remnants of an old inflatable.

We had to leave the river as the path has been closed and continue our walk across fields back to the river, where we stopped for a picnic. We then made our way back taking the cycle path. The Peregrine Falcon Trust had set up telescopes focussed on the nest. We had a good view of the male sitting on the eggs and the female a short distance away. The perfect end to a wonderful day.

Jill & Brian Munn

5 This was intended to be the annual stroll to West Alvington Woods to see the bluebells in their prime, but 15 walkers, Bess and Rosie (now a regular Tramp) could have been forgiven for wondering whether they stood a chance of achieving this aim!

On the morning of Wednesday 5 May we had covered barely quarter of a mile when the back-marker enquired of the leader whether he knew where he was going? Apparently he did not. Without map or chart and only the sun with which to navigate, there was much to-ing and fro-ing before realisation dawned that Woodhouse Farm was a dead-end and that a sharp right turn should have been taken immediately after the last house in the lane south of West Alvington. The expression "schooner-rigged" comes immediately to mind (no rucksack, no map, no compass, no first-aid box, no mobile phone!) For those without a nautical background, the writer will be pleased to explain on a future walk.

Thereafter proceedings progressed as planned via Easton Cross to the Old Salcombe Road, where the route to Kingsbridge was followed along this quiet lane. After running the gauntlet of the midday traffic the party turned left at Quay Garage, passing A.T.S. and emerging into open countryside again via the housing estate and allotments on the western boundary of the town. The path then climbed steeply to Norton, with far reaching views over Kingsbridge and the Estuary towards Salcombe. At Redford Cross a sharp turn was made into the lane leading due south for one mile to West Alvington Woods where we were greeted by carpets of bluebells.

Roger & Trisha Wilson

6 The Tramp Walk scheduled for Wednesday 12 May was to be a Dartmoor exploration around Sheeps Tor and Combshead Tor, and nine of us met up on a lovely morning to drive to the village of Sheepstor. This is very near Burrator Reservoir, and our ascent of Sheeps Tor itself - 450 feet of gentle climbing - gave us lovely views over the reservoir and the surrounding countryside. We were able to watch some rock climbers practising on a rock face here. We descended Sheeps Tor to visit a Bronze Age stone circle: actually four concentric circles surrounding what would have been a burial chamber. We then followed a leat (one of the many hundreds on Dartmoor) for a short distance before heading towards Burrator Plantation and across some rather boggy ground where one member of the group nearly lost her walking poles!

We climbed on to the slopes of Combshead Tor where we found Cuckoo Rock, an enormous granite pillar, where we stopped for a picnic lunch. (This is mentioned in a guide book as having a visitors' book hidden at the top. Unfortunately no one in the group felt brave enough to climb up the pillar of rock to find it!).

Our descent took us through some ancient enclosures with broken-down walls, back to Burrator Plantation, where we were able to walk through the trees, along a board-walk next to the stream, and eventually back to the start. Almost as soon as we arrived back at the cars, it started raining, so we felt very fortunate to have had sunshine most of the way on an enjoyable and varied exploration!

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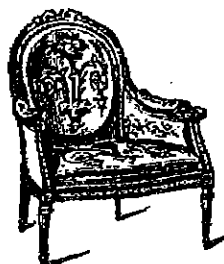
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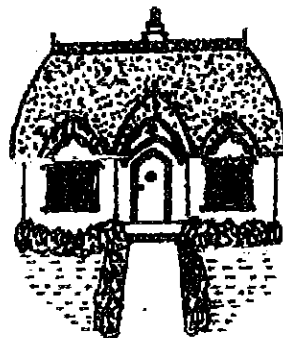
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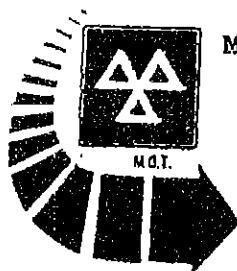
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School Report

By Betty Rhymes

Once Upon A Time

Once upon a time, in the small Devon village of Thurlestone, sat a frustrated headmaster at his desk in the corner of his staff room.

"Oh, it seems so unfair", he thought. "All Saints is one of the highest achieving schools in Devon – placed 6th out of some 400 last year, and yet we still find ourselves cramped in this tired old building. Some of my pupils are being taught in a temporary classroom, the hall is bursting at the seams when we are all in it, the boiler has just about boiled over, the computer suite is in a corridor, and I have no room of my own. My staff and pupils so deserve to work in better conditions. What can I do?"

Along he trotted to meet the school governors and the chairman of the building committee, his fairy godmother.

"Please help me", he begged. "We desperately need a bigger school."

"Agreed" replied the fairy godmother. "This school has twice the number of pupils today than it did when my four little darlings attended. We will put a plan together and take it to the diocese."

After much thought provoking, brainstorming and head scratching they sent their proposal to the diocese. The head of the diocese, Baron Hardup responded:

"Back in 1944 church schools, like yourselves, were offered the option of becoming either:

- 1. a "voluntary controlled" school – with increased funding and increased state control or*
- 2. a "voluntary aided" school – with lesser state support and greater independence.*

The crucial difference between these two types of school is that the local education authority funds the full cost of all building works at voluntary controlled schools. Your school is a voluntary aided school. We will therefore grant your wish, but can fund only 90% of the cost of building your new school. You must raise the remaining 10%."

Mr Medway's shoulders slumped. "That's £100,000! Our little parish school will never be able to raise that amount of money" he cried. "I know we can't."

"Oh yes we can" replied the FTS, the Friends of Thurlestone School.

"I don't think we can" Mr Medway responded.

"We can and we will" reiterated the parents, staff and governors, and off they

set on their fundraising mission.

Over the following 18 months, slowly but surely, the money started to grow. The FTS organised profitable events such as the Rodeo Rock, quiz nights, and auctions. Donations came via local organisations – Pearsons Pre-School, Friends of Thurlestone Church, and Bantham Sailing Club following their successful Bantham Bash. Many local businesses generously donated to the fund as did many parish residents and visitors alike.

The pot was filling well but time was running out to meet the deadline Baron Hardup had set.

"We're never going to do it in time" cried a weary Mr Medway.

"We will not be beaten" replied his fairy godmother. "We SHALL go to the ball."

Invites were sent to the Champagne, Dinner & Dance to be held at Thurlestone Hotel on Friday 30th April.

Could the final £10,000 be raised by midnight?

The clock was ticking as fast as the auctioneers gavel could hit the table to close the bids.

Tick, Tock, Tick, Tock, Tick, Tock.....

Ding, Dong, Midnight struck.

Mr Medway looked aghast – "Is it true Charlie will turn into a pumpkin? Is Paul Carpenter really my fairy godmother? Will we have raised the money for Baron Hardup?"

The pennies were counted and passed to the Baron. The FTS treasurer, King Martin of Kennedy announced;

"On behalf of Baron Hardup I have great pleasure in informing you that, tonight you have raised £11,500. You have therefore met your target and will be rewarded with the building of your new school. Congratulations!"

Cheers erupted as Mr Medway popped open the champagne and toasted the success of his little parish school.

Finis

Fairy tales may not come true, but with hard work and determination dreams can.

Mr Medway, his staff, parents, governors and most importantly, the pupils of All Saints would like to thank those within our community who have given their time, money and effort to make our dream become a reality.

Thank You All.

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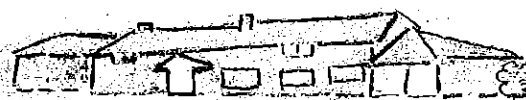
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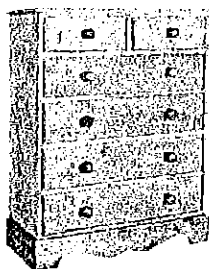
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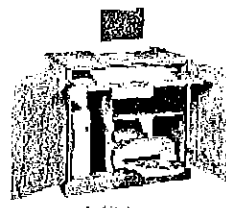
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

Today is 14th May and the weather is unspeakably cold for this time of the year. The temperature today at mid afternoon is just 11°C. In 2009 between 9th and 15th May the temperature wavered around 15°-19°C, although surprisingly there was not so much sunshine. There was more rain on the days when the wind was in the south east. This is not the pattern generally this year. The winds /air-stream emanate from the north east so the air temperature is colder and therefore not so moisture-laden. However, today it is raining after yesterday's wonderful weather (good for golf I hear from Graham Worrall's perspective) and so much cooler. I tell you, anyone who would be a Met Office forecaster - just look out! There's a gremlin behind every cloud that will put a spoke in your every forecast.

Having done some counting of days this is what has happened to the wind direction since the Vernal Equinox on 21st March. There have been 55 days to 14th May, and on 35 of these days the wind was in the east. I shall continue to count till the Autumnal Equinox in September and see what the result will be. Perhaps one or two of you could do the same (please) to give the result some credence.

I was talking to my postman this morning (15th May). We commented on the weather as is our wont, and what a lovely morning it was! He said, "I was at Chudleigh yesterday, what a hail storm! Stones as big as that...." forming a round shape in his hand. It looked quite big to me. I've written about hailstones before in these articles, but I was nevertheless tempted to look at my TWKOS book to see what 15th May had to offer. There, in black and white, was an account of the severest hailstorm ever to strike Britain (the Ottery incident excluded). The judgement was formed by the Tornado and Storm Research Organization (TORRO) when the storm hit Hitchin and Offley in Hertfordshire in 1697.

On the TORRO Hail Scale (a sort of Richter Scale for hailstorms) this storm is graded H8 out of a possible H10. Several British hailstorms have been graded H8, though how a storm can be confidently graded 3 centuries after the event is a little hard to understand. The hailstones are up to 4ins (110mm) in diameter - about the size of tennis balls.

However, right now it really is cold for the time of year. Temperatures should be 15°+C by day and 8°C or so at night, and although the sun is shining there is a fair amount of cloud and the air is *cold*. Referring again to TWKOS, the min and max temperature figures country-wide are something like this for days around the 15th May:-

-6°C to 30°C on 14th May

-9°C to 28°C on 15th May

-6°C to 27°C on 16th May

It was also on the 16th May 2005 that the country was shocked by the weather forecast. Well, not so much what it was but how it was presented. Gone were the little symbols that we had grown fond of - the weather forecast had been given a makeover. The British Isles appeared a dull brown, divided into sections of different shades, and the camera roamed around the country so that motion sickness was common! Scotland appeared smaller than it is. The *digital age* had arrived, and the isobars, weather fronts, and pressure charts had all gone! They have come back to a certain extent and we now have satellite pictures of cloud cover and also digitally enhanced areas where rain is expected and even where the heaviest is due to fall (give or take a few hours or so, or it may not happen at all). The forecaster really can never win all of the time - or even much of the time - but just occasionally they are almost correct with conditions and timing.

It is certainly a far cry from the first efforts from Lime Grove in 1954. George Cowling

got a ticking off for saying that the wind will make it a good day for drying the washing. However a new popular era was about to begin and now the programme is a favourite with most of the population. *"The BBC forecast remains the shortest, most watched programme on television. Eight million tune in nightly, even though, according to a recent psychologist's study, 70% of viewers can't remember a thing that is said."*

Last weekend was the time of the Devon annual Ten Tors Expedition, when over two thousand youngsters battled the elements, and their own fragility, to complete their chosen distance (age-determined). The event has had a varied history of weather conditions, both for trial runs and on the day. Dartmoor can be a very fickle place weather-wise, ranging from sun to rain and gales, to mist and snow, and even hail - so the youngsters have to be ready for anything. Things have gone wrong in the past as a result of the tricky weather conditions, most notably heavy snow in 1996, when a training weekend was abandoned. In 1998 the temperatures reached 26°C; in 2005 rain and winds lead to mass retirements; and tragically in 2007 a 14 year old drowned in a very fast-flowing and swollen stream. This year it was almost ideal, if a little cool, and most of the teams successfully completed the trek over their given distances.

I suppose I cannot let this issue drift by without mentioning the "Ash Cloud". We do not usually experience such a phenomenon,

but there are areas of the world that are regularly subjected to the fury of an ash-emitting volcano. After the first cancellation of all aircraft flights over the UK, did you notice the lack of vapour trails for those few days? The sky was quite unspoiled with only the naturally forming clouds to look at. As soon as the ban was lifted, over a period of just a few hours the sky was covered in vapour trails again and soon there was a complete cover of thin cloud, reducing the concentration of the sun's rays. There must be some effect on the level of the rays reaching the ground on normal days where there is a plethora of such trails. It was documented in Central USA by an observer interested in the effect of these vapour trails, and he noticed a marked difference in the level of sunshine reaching the earth's surface after 9/11 when all flights across the USA were grounded for a few days. Not only is it wise to suspend some flights from entering the ash cloud but reducing the vapour trails helps with the level of sunshine able to penetrate the ash cloud, so we benefit both ways. That's if you are not booked on a flight that's been cancelled!

The pattern of our weather can be summed up almost always as - one day wet, one day dry. Just test it and see how many times it can happen that way. Get the garden going on the fine days and it will be watered well the next day!

Jan Turner

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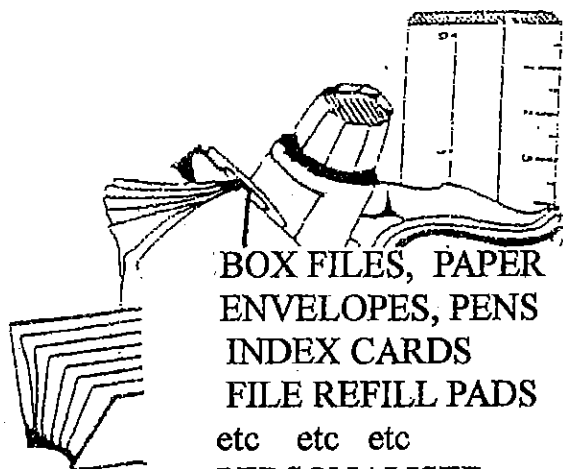
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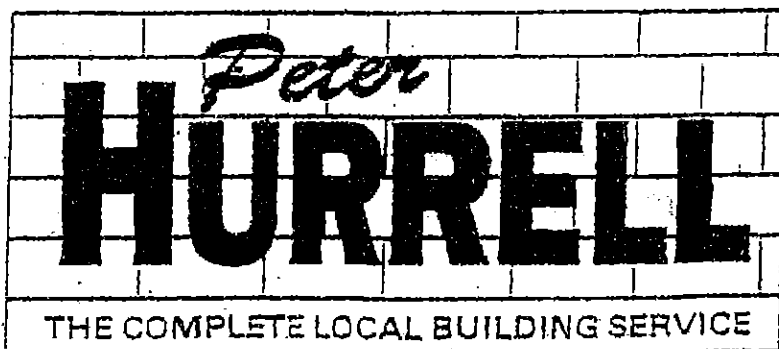
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Thursday	10 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30pm (Shipwrecks & Lighthouses)
Monday	14 th	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, 7.30pm
Tuesday	15 th	TRAMP evening walk, Hope Cove (short walk)
Saturday	19 th	Sax & Keys Concert, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Tuesday	22 nd	Parkfield Housing Consultation, Yeo Room, 5-7 pm
Friday	25 th	TRAMP, Brent Hill (long walk)
Tuesday	29 th	TRAMP, Grimspond (short walk)

July		
Monday	5 th	Parish Council Meeting, Yeo Room, 7.30pm
Tuesday	6 th	TRAMP Kingston/Ringmore (long walk)
Thursday	8 th	WI Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Haytor Granite Railway)
Monday	12 th	Parish Plan Consultation, Parish Hall, 6.00 pm
Wednesday	14 th	TRAMP Malborough (short walk)
Wednesday	21 st	TRAMP Wembury (long walk)
Saturday	24 th	Church Fete, Toyes Orchard, 2pm
Wednesday	26 th	TRAMP South Brent/Ball Gate (short walk)
Tuesday	27 th	Boules, Bowls & Barbecue, Parish Hall, 6 pm (see advert)

August		
Friday	6 th	TRAMP East Allington (long walk)
Monday	9 th	TRAMP Stoke Fleming/Beesands (short walk)
Friday	13 th	Church BBQ on the Green, 6 pm
Sunday	15 th	Outdoor 'Songs of Praise', Buckland, 6pm
Wednesday	18 th	TRAMP Burrator (long walk)
Saturday	21 st	Garden Cream Tea, No 1 The Old Rectory, 3-5pm

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT (AUG-SEPT) ISSUE = 5th JULY 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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 Searchlight (Tuesdays fortnightly) FILMS FOR ALL (Tuesdays Monthly) Contact Liz Webb 560090

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Contact Dorothy Stone 560708

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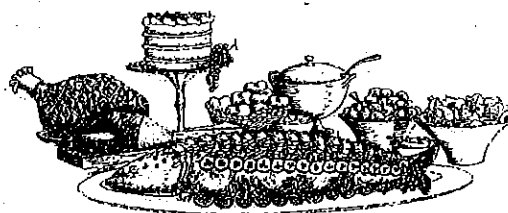
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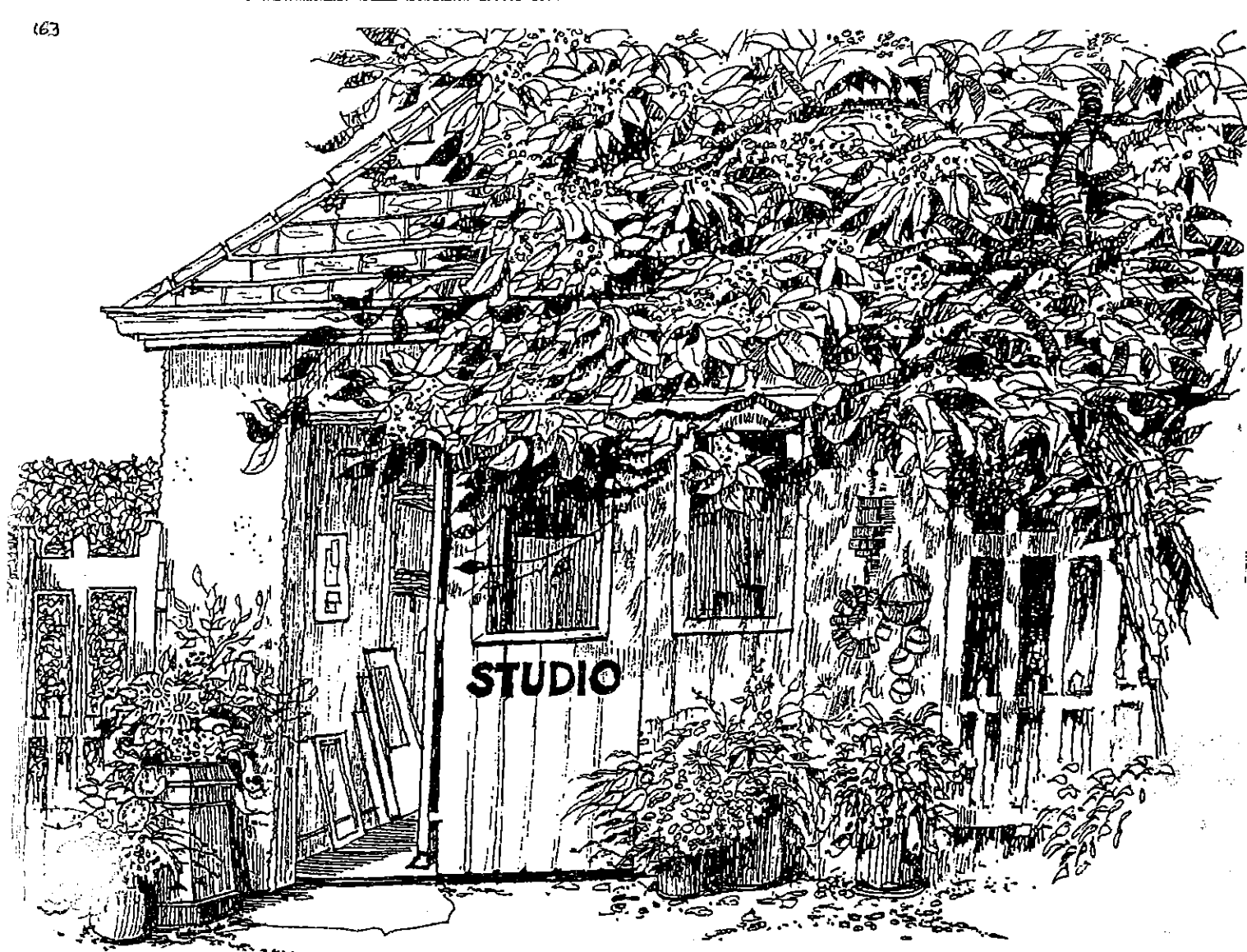


Open Daily from 11.30am—3pm
6.00pm—11.00pm

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