

VILLAGE VOICE



**December
2011**

**January
2012**

The community magazine of Bantham, Buckland, and Thurstlestone



NUMBER 172
DECEMBER 2011 - JANUARY 2012

Jingle Bells

The pupils of All Saints Primary School have provided this issue's front cover by way of a creative Christmas art competition (the brainchild of **Betty Rhymes**) won by Eve Barry, aged seven, from Buckland. Her Father Christmas is bold and bountiful, against a blue skies background.

And he is just what the Eurozone needs at this time. Finally, the blue skies optimism of spendthrift governments is being called to account throughout Europe. The warning bells have been jingling for quite some time, but lavish lifestyles have lingered on either oblivious or in wilful disregard. Now the blue skies have darkened, and a bold and bountiful sack of gifts (rescue packages) is being desperately sought (by letters to Santa Angela in several languages) to lighten the gloom, with promises of New Year resolutions.

But who is going to play Santa to the naughty boys of Europe? Years of toy-throwing from prams have drained the Christmas spirit, and exhausted goodwill to some men. The elves of Europe seem singularly bereft of solutions. Their cousin gnomes of Zurich are keeping their counsel, and their purses, to themselves. Creative solutions are urgently needed.

Betty Rhymes has shown one way to promote the creative imagination. Now it's up to us. Eurozone solutions (on a postcard, please) to the Editor.

And a Happy Christmas to all our readers!

Front Cover : *Jingle Bells* by Eve Barry

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Parish Hall News

By Chris White



Well, the sun hasn't been shining very much, but our solar photo-voltaic panels have been doing their best and, at the time of going to press, had generated 641 kilowatt hours of electricity, and earned us £288 from the Feed-in tariff (plus whatever we've saved on the electricity bill). Thank goodness we made our decision, and the investment, before the Government decided to pull the rug from under one of the most successful schemes ever invented.

We haven't received our first cheque yet because, believe it or not, even though it's been there for nearly 70 Years, the Parish Hall has never had its postal address officially registered, so the Royal Mail and the Government don't think it exists! One of life's little hassles that has now been resolved – I have to say in double quick time – by our District Council. I'm sure the postman will be relieved to find that the building he has been delivering to all these years isn't just a figment of his imagination.

So what else has been going on? Firstly, the return of *Circus Berzerkus*, who played to a packed house, and fulfilled our expectations for a wonderfully entertaining evening. Their advertising promised a brand new illusion, and it wasn't wrong. We were all amazed to see one of the younger members of the audience apparently floating in space! I'm particularly pleased to report that a large number of families took advantage of the very reasonably priced family tickets to have an enjoyable night out together. The Hall exists to serve the whole community, and it's very rewarding when this happens.

Next, we were delighted to host a wealth of musical talent from *Kingsbridge Community College*. The only problem with this event was that the college kept asking for more tickets, as they were selling them faster

than we could produce them. It was, without doubt, the largest audience we've ever had in the Hall. Unfortunately, due to a prior engagement, I was unable to be there, but people I've spoken to have been unanimous in their praise of the entertainment. The musical future of the South Hams is clearly safe in the hands of **Sharon Mitchell**, and we thank her very much for organising and producing this event. Thanks are also due to **Wat Kirby** of KCC Art Department for the poster, **Neill Irwin**, my Vice Chairman for standing in for me, **Malcolm Le Grice** for masterminding the lights and sound, and all the willing helpers of our committee (plus some partners) for setting up the Hall, guarding the door, and running the bar.

The final event for 2011 will also have happened by the time you read this – the welcome return of *Armada Jazz* for a "bring your own food and drink" evening. I'll give you a report on it next time.

And yes, it is the final event of the year, as we will not be holding a New Year's Eve party this year – although you're welcome to book the Hall if you want to have your own party! This event has been held every year since the new Hall opened, and with increasing competition from similar events, the committee felt that it was time to have a break, so that our loyal supporters could do something different if they wished. I'm sure we'll be back at some point in the future.

Your committee has another full year's entertainment planned for 2012, with a couple of items aimed at celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, so I look forward to seeing you then.

All that remains is for me to thank you all for your support during 2011, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings held on 3rd October and 7th November 2011

News & Views by Citizen

ATTENDANCE

At the October meeting, seven Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our District Councillor, a police representative and five members of the public were present. In November, the meeting was rather more crowded - standing room only, in fact - with all the Parish Councillors, our District Councillor, a police representative, and no fewer than twenty-four members of the public present!

PARKING

Has any money been received yet by the Parish Council from the parking scheme in operation for the Church green? The answer was "No"!

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

This noxious weed is present on land by the "Mallards" and "Little Egrets" access lane. The Parish Council is not an interested party but Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** will speak to farmer **Geoff Stidston**, the owner of the land.

PARISH HALL

- # Councillor **Peter Hurrell** said the raffle contributed by the Parish Council to the Parish Hall's autumn fair raised £195 and overall the fair made £1089. Hall accounts are healthy.
- # The road cones are to be replaced and filled with concrete to keep them in place.
- # After the kitchen fire shutter maintenance inspection by the HPV company, they said its installation was incorrect. As this firm installed

it, they have been invited to "address" the problem.

- # The solar panels are now up and running (see also Parish Hall News page in this issue).

HIGHWAYS

Parking on Warren Hill has become prevalent due to the parking sign indicating that it is OK between certain dates and times. Prior to these unwanted signs being put up by Devon County Council the problem did not arise. Would double yellow lines be the solution? Pot holes are getting worse, but DCC say their repair team cannot find them, especially if they are filled with water.

SCHOOL

- # Chairman Councillor **Andrew Rhymes** said the building work was not yet complete.
- # The 'kissing gate' entrance is to be made secure during school time.
- # Numbers currently are 126. For 2013, 126; for 2014, 118. 124 pupils meet government minimum requirements.
- # Funds are being raised to upgrade the playing field.
- # Children have now been allowed to choose their own £2.00 lunch menu, including choice of two main dishes, and a survey will be carried out after three weeks to see how the scheme is working. Most of the children who used to bring a packed lunch are now eating the cooked lunch.
- # Forty children submitted a design for the Village Voice front cover competition (see also School Report elsewhere in this issue).

TREES

- # Councillor **Charles Mitchelmore** said the dead horse-chestnut tree on land at Valleyside in Buckland needs attention.
- # Approval has been given to trim trees touching the buildings in Merchants Garden.

PARISH PLAN

● Councillor **Dale Came** said leaders had now been identified for eleven 'actions' but four more willing leaders needed:

- # to encourage support for local shops and businesses,
- # for health and medical emergency,
- # for charitable activities to optimise response and avoid clashing dates,
- # to encourage second home owners to contribute and integrate into the community life and onward aims of the parish.

● Broadband is to be included (BDUK) and the Parish Council is to be the applicant with Councillor **Dale Came** to monitor.

● Two locations for a mobile telephone mast have been identified. Councillor **Peter Hurrell** will follow up the one on Rodney Stidston's land.

● Local bus timetables need to be sorted out as the latest arrangement gives a much reduced service.

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

- # Volunteer parishioner Mrs **Vivien Redding** has offered to keep the retained *red phone box* opposite the shop clean. A tree adjacent to this needs to be pruned - owner not yet identified.
- # The *sewer vent pipe* opposite Blight's garage is to be removed and capped off by SWW at some time in the future - date unknown.
- # South Hams District Council will not provide any more *salt bins* but the Parish Council will request that extra salt be stored at the school.
- # Councillor **Andrew Rhymes** is to be

our "Snow Warden" (we hope he realises that compulsory training takes place in Siberia!).

- # The saga of *Thurlestone Sands* continues. Ordnance Survey are looking at the matter as it is illegal to make a name change without the relevant permission.
- # Still no movement to knock down the old Telephone Exchange and build a pair of semi-detached houses.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor **Ian Bramble** said that SHDC sharing senior executives with West Devon Council was working well and being introduced at lower management levels. The merging of Devon & Cornwall Housing Association and Tor Homes should improve access to finance. He suggested the use of the mobile telephone network for broadband.

POLICE

PC **Steve Mullen** said two crimes had been reported in the parish.

- # Illegal netting on the Avon is still a problem and we are asked to report any suspicious activities to the police.
- # Burglaries from building sites in Salcombe are a worry and security of such sites here should be checked.
- # The 'hit-and-run' incident outside the Village Inn is still being investigated.
- # Cars parking illegally on the 'zig-zag' lines outside the school will attract police attention.

PLANNING

Many of the parishioners present at the November meeting were against the proposal to make the roof-line higher on the bungalow at 20 Meadcombe Road. A site visit is to be made by the Parish Council before they reach a decision.

NEXT MEETING

This will be on Monday 5th December 2011, 7.30 pm in the Yeo Room.

Village News Round-Up

90th Birthday Party

More than seventy guests joined **Rosemary Mackay** and members of her family for a dinner party at the Parish Hall on the evening of Saturday 12 November to celebrate her 90th birthday. A splendid buffet was served by **Joan Booth**, and music was provided at the piano by **Clive**

New arrival

Amba May Stanley was born on Monday 17th October to **Andrew and Pretti** and weighed 6lbs 2ozs. Congratulations to all concerned and particularly to the proud Thurlestone grandparents **Jane and Patrick!**

Don and Joy Hailey, Queens Croft

Don and Joy write to express their thanks to everyone for care and support during 2011. "Life changed in an instant and it has been a great boost to us both to have you popping in taking us out and entertaining us. Pleased to say we have had brilliant care from 'Our Teams' at Derriford. Ongoing treatment during 2012 hopefully will see us leading near normal lives again. We love the fanmail and thank everyone for their very kind messages, prayers, love and get well wishes. A more caring place to live we could not wish for. Our grateful thanks to all of you and very best wishes for the Festive Season".

Hike for Children

On 25th September Parish Councillor **Nigel Hurrell**, accompanied by his two children, **Sarah and Johnathan**, undertook a 22-mile sponsored hike through East Devon to raise money for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). This was one of a series of such UK-wide hikes. **Nigel's** daughter **Sarah** says "It was a very enjoyable but hard work walk and took us from Dawlish Warren, through the Exe estuary, up into Haldon Forest and back to the coast. It finished with a walk along the

railway line at Dawlish - where the railway meets the sea." Altogether the Hurrell family raised over £250 for the NSPCC. They plan to repeat the challenge again next year and say they hope to raise even more. Many congratulations and well done!

New Book

Bantham's Maya Plass, the marine biologist, has recently appeared on national television screens on the BBC's very popular Autumn-watch programme. Added to this she now has an exciting new book deal with publishers Bloomsbury to write about the seashore. Maya of course runs *Learn to Sea* which is concerned with marine education. We are eagerly awaiting the new book's publication. Maya may be contacted on www.mayaplass.com

South Efford Marsh Open Day

On Saturday 14th January there will be a chance to discover one of the Devon Wildlife Trust's newest nature reserves - almost on our own doorstep. Land on the River Avon below Aveton Gifford has been flooded to create new salt-marsh habitat. The last time the area was subject to the tide, in the 1940s, vast flocks of wintering wading birds could be seen - will the curlew, lapwing and redshank return this winter? There will be guided walks throughout the day (11am to 3pm) but booking is essential - call 01392-279244.

Stanborough's Christmas season

The Stanborough Chorus Christmas season kicks off at Thurlestone Parish Hall at 7.30 pm on the 3rd December with *Glad Tidings* under their director of music **Christopher Fletcher**. Our informant says "The parish hall will be a new venue for Christopher and a chance for him to meet the people of Thurlestone..." Further Christmas concerts will be at Buckfast Abbey on 16th December and at St Edmund's church in Kingsbridge on

the 24th December (see advert for details)

Second Homes

Figures recently published in the Gazette show that, within the South Hams, Thurlestone parish contains 209 properties which receive second home owner discounts totalling £43,000. Our parish would appear to have the third largest number of these homes, being exceeded only by Salcombe (692) and Dartmouth (628). The other large ones are Wembury (202), Kingswear (199), South Huish (195), Kingsbridge (186), Stokenham (171), Bigbury (129), Newton & Noss (118), and Totnes (101). The cash-strapped South Hams District Council would receive an additional £702,796 a year if all second homes were charged full rates!

Brixham Coastguard Station

Councillor **Hilary Bastone** received unanimous backing from SHDC members for the council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport saying that cost savings could not justify the increased risks to residents should Brixham station close. Brixham is the third busiest station in the UK.

Cllr Bastone urges everyone to sign the petition against closure on the web site: www.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/4403 as 100,000 names are needed.

Poached Salmon

Salmon poachers have been spotted in a bright blue boat (with outboard motor) on the River Avon near Milburn Orchard. All local residents are urged to be vigilant and to report any sightings to the Environment Agency on 0800 807060 (Freephone, 24 hour service) and the police on 08452 777 444.

Zumba!

After two taster sessions, which were very well attended, Zumba dancing will be up and running in New Year classes at Thurlestone Parish Hall. A regular weekly class will be held by **Gill Whitmore** on Friday afternoons starting at 2.15 pm from Friday 6th January. A wonderful opportunity to burn off all the Christmas excesses!

News of Libraries

It's been 'all go' on the Devon public libraries front which book-lovers may be interested to know about! **Totnes Library** will be moving into a new home at the Mansion on Fore Street and will be providing "a 20th century service". **Newton Abbot Library** is to be re-named in honour of John Passmore Edwards. The library forms part of the community building given to the town by the Victorian philanthropist and which is now undergoing an extensive and expensive redevelopment. **Barnstaple Library** has undergone extensive refurbishment and updating of facilities. **Exeter Library** is to have a £3m facelift and consideration is being given to relocating the suburban St Thomas library.

Magic!

If you are looking for a magical entertainer for your party, Rob Veale of Dartmouth comes well recommended as the man to contact. He can offer something for all party occasions from close-up magic to children's shows. Contact him on 01803-834104 (mobile 07773-649969 or e-mail: rob@p-veale.freemove.co.uk)

Friends of the Redfern Health Centre

At the recent AGM **Pat Brooks** retired after 14 years as chairman and she was succeeded by **Clive Parsons**. **Jan Carter** is the new secretary and **Richard Hann** will continue as treasurer. Over £4000 of equipment has been purchased, over the past year, by the Friends and their supporters.

As well as generous support from local residents, particular thanks was given for the regular support received from the Hope Cove Extravaganza, the Soar Air Show, Chandlers Heights retirement home and the Salcombe Ladies Bridge Club.

Chris Pierce the well-known wildlife photographer, gave an excellent slide show at Salcombe, and **Keith Steer** organised a sell-out luncheon at Malborough in July also in support of the centre.

School Report

By Betty Rhymes

Christmas is a magical time of year especially if you're a child. So with that in mind I suggested to Village Voice that the children from All Saints might like to produce the front cover for this edition. The Editor was delighted with this idea and agreed to the school running a competition to find a winning design.

The children were asked to design a cover to depict a Christmas song or carol and to include the title in their design. Nearly 1/3 of the pupils returned after half term having worked very hard on their individual creations that were fun, colourful and very festive. But which one of the forty-plus entries would become the front cover for Village Voice?

The decision lay in the hands of two of Thurlestone's best - Mrs Kate Hubbard, whose late husband Len produced many amazing covers for our parish magazine and Robin Macdonald, who co-produces the magazine with his wife Patricia. Having carefully looked at all the entries, narrowed them down, deliberated, cogitated and digested, they agreed on the winner.

Congratulations to 7 year old Eve Barry from West Buckland. Kate and Robin both agreed that her bright and bold picture of Father Christmas and his jingle bells would make a perfect cover for Village Voice. Eve will be delighted to see her hard work circulated around the parish and enjoyed by all that pick up this December/January edition.

As there were so many beautiful entries I thought I would include a few of those short-listed by the judges. Overleaf is a collage of some of the children's works of art for you to enjoy, including those of the two runners up. Oakley Callard produced a lovely, colourful Christmas wreath and Kate Rhymes' funny picture of Santa stuck up the chimney really appealed to the judges' sense of fun.

During the assembly when the winners were announced Eve, Oakley and Kate accepted, on behalf of the school, a beautiful watercolour of Bantham and Burgh Island painted by Len Hubbard. The picture was gifted to the school by Kate in memory of Len.

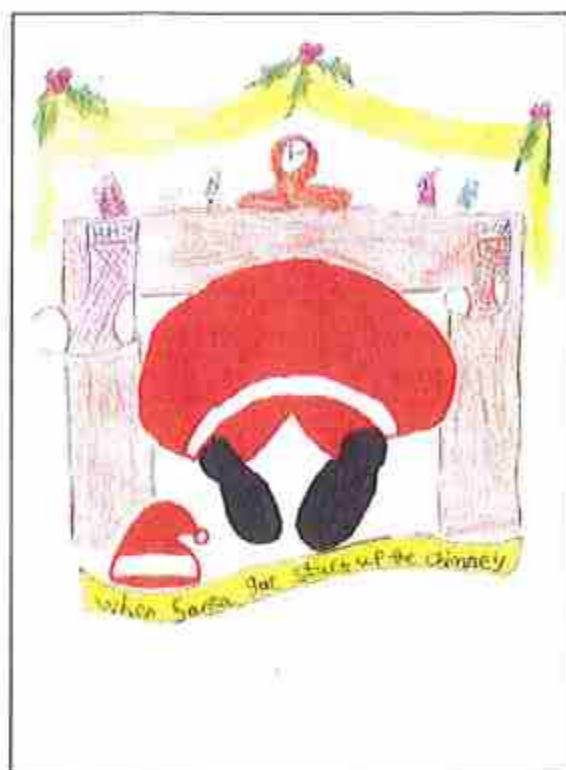
Over the years, Len shared his love and talent for art with many children from the parish and school and gave his time to teach them art. This picture will hang in the school to remind us what a kind, talented gentleman he was. A big Thank You to Kate from all at All Saints for this generous gift.

I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to Kate and Robin for giving their time to judge our competition, to all the children that worked so hard on their designs, and finally to Village Voice for allowing our school to produce the front cover.

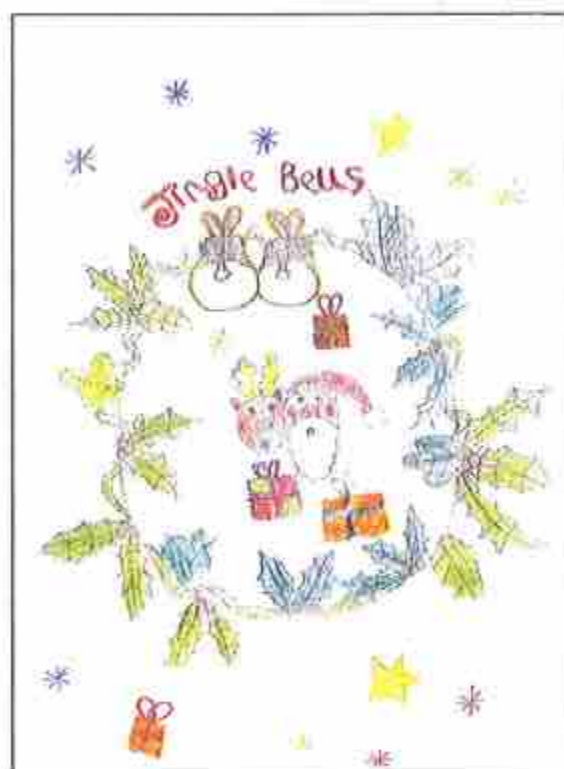
With Christmas now just around the corner I would like to wish you all a very merry festive season.

See you in 2012.

Selection of Entries



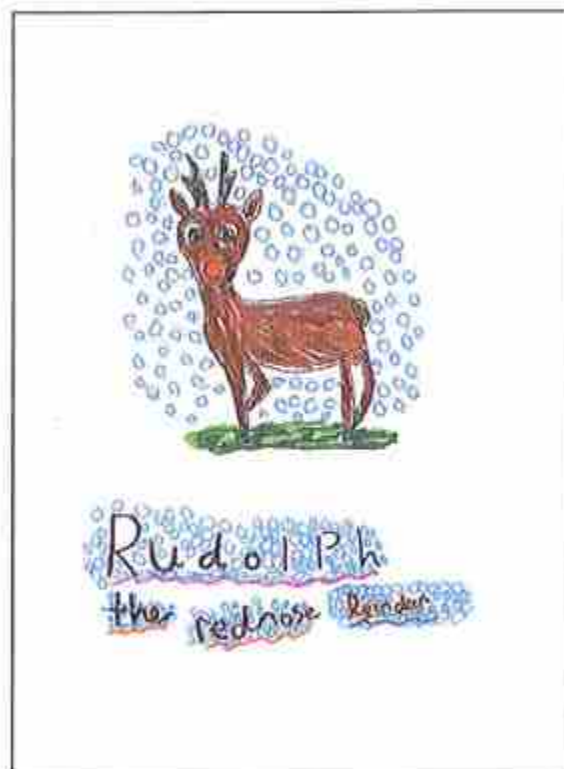
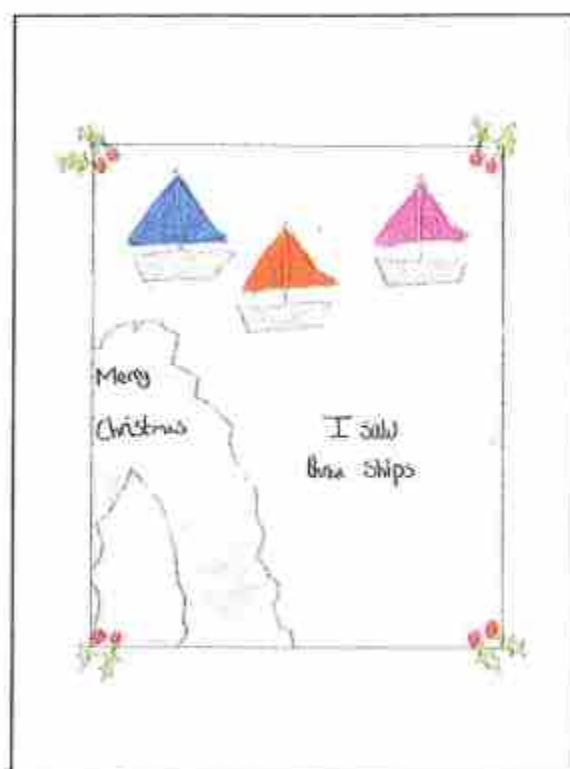
Kate Rhymes age 8



Oakley Callard age 8

Tom Newman age 10

Sophie Wood age 10



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LAY READER: Peter Gornall

Peter Gornall Writes:



For many folk, the wonder of our childhood Christmases is part of the fabric of who we are. Family gatherings, carollers, Father Christmas, candles, those paper chains and so many other sights, sounds and smells can be recollected in snatches; and they bring us back to a magic which is difficult to articulate. And was there really snow at Christmas sometimes?

Parents have a rather different angle. One Christmas we had no fewer than five nativity plays and/or carol concerts to timetable between getting so many cards into post (and quite a few delivered), plus the workplace parties, the preparatory shopping and cooking, potting the Christmas tree ("Where ever did you get that, Dad? The needles are dropping already"), and sorting the electrics out when the tree lights blew the fuses. But with a bit of luck, there are going to be instances when wonder-struck children give you a chance to appreciate the magic all over again through their shining eyes, through the clarity of a treble voice, through a truth shared guilelessly even though the reading was a bit stumbly.

Is there trouble though that we anticipate a let-down feeling that comes after Christmas, a let-down that is more than just shuddering at the clearing up needed? As W H Auden wrote: "Once again/ As in previous years we have seen the actual Vision and failed/ To do more than entertain it as an agreeable/ Possibility....." Have we let the wonder of a child's view stay back there in our childhood? Did we think that carrying this ability to marvel into adult life will compromise our maturity?

Grown-ups know plenty about the cost of having a baby and the many possible scary worries. Magnify these if there is a journey in the last days of pregnancy, delivery taking place in squalid conditions, with no familiar friends around and in the midst of serious political trouble. This all could have been the experience of a Syrian or Libyan or Yemeni family recently. We may think that such worries only adult maturity can face. But if we glimpse a greater picture through the marvelling child's eye which is in us somewhere, we can realise that a difficult birth like that is already understood at the highest level of all. In some mysterious way, He chose it.

Grown-ups know too the thrill of a new-born in a family, the firmness of that reflex grasp of a finger, the enthusiastic slurp at feeding time, the hilarity of a baby's first cackle. Take it on trust, just as a child would, that these marvels are understood at the highest level too!

Happy Christmas

Peter

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in the recent competition



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Black Swan**

**FEBRUARY 7TH
Tamara Drewe**

Donations: *Hearing Dogs & MR Expenses*
Refreshment Interval for tea & biscuits
Information leaflets in church, shop & MR



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

EVERY SUNDAY except Dec 25th & Jan 29th

EVERY WED, THURS, FRI & SAT

EVERY WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28TH

December 28th is the day when the church recalls the Holy Innocents and we would welcome to the service anyone who wishes to remember children or babies they have lost

THURSDAY DEC 1ST, JAN 5TH

DEC. 4TH & 18TH, JAN. 1ST & 15TH

DECEMBER 11TH, JANUARY 22ND

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21ST

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 22ND



CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS DAY

NEW YEAR'S EVE

FRIDAY JANUARY 6TH at W. Alvington

JANUARY 8TH

JANUARY 15TH at South Milton

JANUARY 29TH

8.00am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd BCP; 2nd, 4th CW)

8.30am Morning Prayer (said) (except Dec. 28th - 31st)

10.00am Holy Communion (alternating BCP & CW)

10.00am Holy Communion (CW)

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham

11.10am Parish Eucharist (CW) Fairtrade December 4th

11.10am Matins (BCP)

5.00pm Crib and Christingle Service

6.00pm Candlelit Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
followed by mulled wine and mincepies
Collection for Children in Distress

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas (CW)

11.10am Family Service followed by Holy Communion

6.00pm Informal New Year's Eve Service (½ hour)

6.00pm Benefice Eucharist (CW) (with incense!)

11.10am Epiphany Play & Service Fairtrade Stall

6.00pm Benefice Epiphany Praise Service

NOTE TIME 11.00am Benefice Eucharist (CW) with Renewal of Covenant

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

Everyone, especially children, would be welcome to join us
Carol Singing HOUSE TO HOUSE IN BUCKLAND

MONDAY DECEMBER 19TH MEET 5 P.M.

BY THE OLD CHAPEL

in aid of Children in Distress

Reserve date Tuesday Dec. 20th -

if weather is bad please check with Liz Webb 560090



You would be welcome to join us for **Activities in the Church Meeting Room**

MONS. & WEDS. 10.30am Coffee-Time in aid of charity **Christmas Goods on sale**

THURS (term time) 9.30am Under 5s Contact: 560375/562417

FRIDAYS 12.30pm Lunch Club for those living alone - Book on 560090

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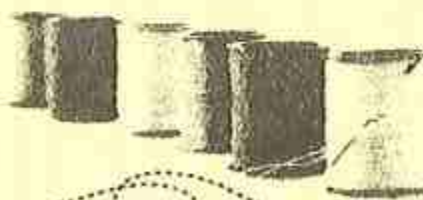
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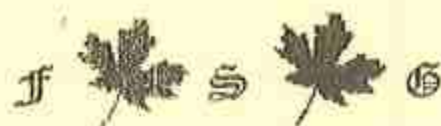
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Harry, June, and the dashing Irishman

For ten years, until my bank announced it would prefer my room to my company, we lived at Clacton-on-Sea. Some people must have lived there because they wanted to. It was not our choice of town: we were sent. But some men built us a very nice house and, once she had dug out all the rubble the builders left behind, June made a beautiful garden. The sailing and the bird-watching were excellent, and we had some very good friends.

About ten miles away, inland from Walton-on-the-Naze, is an area of about 25 square miles of muddy creeks, salt-marsh and low-lying islands. The sailing books call it the Walton backwaters. The Wetland Bird Survey, run by the British Trust for Ornithology, knows it as Hamford Water. This is in fact the main channel, a broad tidal creek running south-west from close to Harwich harbour. It ends in what locals call the cut, a canal dug to bring vessels carrying coal to a yard whence it was distributed, no doubt by horse and cart, to much of north Essex. To the south off Hamford Water is a narrow creek running to behind Walton-on-the-Naze called, of course, the Walton channel (the local boatyard people termed it 'the river'). Leading westward from near the southern end of this channel was a twisty creek called the Twizzle and there, on a swinging mooring, we kept our sailing boat.

This was a cruiser/racer of 1960s vintage called a Holman 26 - Holman because Kim Holman designed it and 26 because it was 26 feet long. It sailed like a dream. There were four berths, although we never used the two in the bow. On the cabin sole, between our two bunks, was a cardboard box. That was the dog's bunk, although she seldom used it preferring the warmth of my sleeping bag.

On the south side of the Twizzle was a seawall. Landward of that was farmland. This was all over 30 years ago - I do not know what is there now. There was also a big yacht harbour. On the seawall June found the bird of our lifetime, an adult male Citrine Wagtail, the first male ever seen in Britain (most birders go a lifetime without ever finding a first for anywhere). There had been immature Citrine Wagtails, but never an adult male before. We told our local birding leader, a knowledgeable gentleman, author of a book on the

birds of Essex. We had almost to go on bended knees to get him to go and look at it. He just said it was impossible - it should have been in Iraq or Iran. But he went - and found it feeding young! He told a select group of experts. Otherwise the news of the bird was "suppressed". If I find a bird and don't tell you, then I have one more on my list than you have on yours. It doesn't matter to us, but if you are a competitive twitcher it does. We did not want thousands of twitchers infesting the yacht harbour, so they weren't told!

To the north of the Twizzle is a large area of saltings where the tide flows in and out of gullies. At very high spring tides it is all covered, making a vast expanse of water. One unfortunate gentleman, new to this yachting game, anchored his fine new vessel out of the yacht harbour. He didn't realise that all those yachts moored close together in the Twizzle and the Walton channel were there because that was where the deep water was. He set off straight out. Slowly his yacht ground to a stop and there it remained for some weeks until a team of men came and dug a channel to float it free.

Behind these saltings is what had been an island, Hedge End. At some time in the past they had made a sea wall, all done no doubt with shovels and wheelbarrows. Machinery would not have been invented then. They made an enclosed area about three-quarters of a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. Later the sea wall had been breached. Whether this was in the dreadful 1953 flood or before, I do not know. But now the tide flowed in and out. The sea level was, and still is, rising. No talk then, 30/40 years ago, of global warming. We thought we were heading for an ice age. (The year 2011 has felt like this!) The land was sinking. It still is. They say Britain is like a huge see-saw. Scotland, freed of the weight of ice miles thick, is rising. Southern England is going down.

Within the area surrounded by the sea wall were now creeks and gullies. What must have once been grassy pasture had reverted to saltings like outside the wall. We think there must have been rabbits at one time, because there were holes and I cannot think what else might have made them. Shelducks - the big black-and-white ducks which breed in holes nest in them. A pair bred at Thurlstone in the spring of 2011. We saw eight

ducklings, which were taken by predators almost instantly.

Hedge End island belonged to the local group of wildfowlers. We understood they paid £400 for it. They didn't mind our going on the island in summer. They didn't shoot then and no way did we want to go to such a cold and miserable place in winter. Anyway, they liked June, not least because she gathered up a clutch of Mallard's eggs which had been washed out by a high tide - when that happens a duck can never put them back. She took them to the skipper of the lifeboat, who was one of the wildfowlers, and he put them in an incubator. Presumably the ducklings were reared and released, after which they hoped to shoot them. The brother of the lifeboat man - he did dolphins on piers - wanted to give her an Eagle Owl because he was going abroad. She had to refuse it. You can take a dog on holiday with you, or put it in kennels. Usually a neighbour will feed a cat. But a jolly great owl - no way!

To get really close to birds you have to go to a place where people picnic. Many years ago we went to Kew Gardens. We sat on a bench to eat our lunch. I had a cold lamb chop in one hand and a roll in the other. A Chaffinch clung to the lamb chop. When I took a bite out of that it flew to the roll, and vice-versa. Meanwhile a duck tried to clamber into my lap.

In November 1992 we went to Israel with an outfit called Sunbird. We were lucky with our leader, Killian Mullarney, a tall dashing young Irishman. (He must be a dashing middle-aged Irishman now). For ten years he had been working on illustrations for a new field guide - he is a brilliant artist - but was only half way through. The man who was doing the words had died and so had the proposed publisher. The project seemed doomed but then someone in Sweden stepped in, found a new words man and another artist to help with the remaining illustrations. Eventually it appeared, the new *Collins Bird Guide* and by far the best there has ever been.

Each morning Killian took us and the other party members in a mini-bus. What was supposed to be a morning turned out to most of the day. We were based at Eilat, at the top of the eastern arm of the Red Sea, an ideal place to see the migrant birds streaming out of Europe and Asia down the Rift Valley into Africa. Just outside Eilat was a kibbutz which was producing melons when we

were there. If I told you what they irrigated them with, you would never eat another melon!

We spent a morning in the mountains near the border with Egypt looking for Sinai Rosefinches, which are rare, but didn't find any. For our second week we had our own transport, a little Japanese thing with a cooling system that gave an icy blast, very necessary in what, to us, was blazing heat. We bought a book *Birdwatching in Ellat*. That described a picnic place in the desert called Amram's Pillars as good for the Sinai Rosefinch which we had been hitherto unable to find.

We took the road north then, about twenty kilometres on, took a desert track towards the mountains. We came to a level space, shaded by a steep cliff - the picnic place. A few yards further on were Amram's Pillars; I do not know who Amram was, nor whether his pillars were man made. I think they were a natural formation. They were uprights of differing widths on the face of a cliff, maybe fifty feet high. Here, on a shelf in deep shade next to the picnic area, were little grey birds - Sinai Rosefinches! June scattered crumbs and down they came. The males are pink, although we didn't see one. Killian said that in twelve years of coming to Israel he had only once seen a pink male. Anyway, we were satisfied.

A further ten kilometres up the road to the north we took the turning to Timna Park - partly playground with an artificial lake, some buildings and car parks. It was also partly an ancient site with an Egyptian temple and the remains of copper mining dating back six thousand years. On a bench besides a ladies' loo we found a Blackstart. This is not on the British list - we have Redstart and Black Redstart but no Blackstart. What mattered most for me was spotting, running around amongst the cars in the car park, a Sand Partridge - like a smaller version of our English Grey Partridge, of beloved and distant memory - modern farming has done for most of them. So I could photograph Sand Partridge which before we had seen only in the far distance. By the car park was another bird, a Desert Lark, a small sandy thing with a brown band at the end of its tail. That was much harder to photograph because it would insist on standing on my feet!

All in all, our trip to Israel had proved a pretty interesting and rewarding one - luck of the Irish, I suppose.

Harry Huggins

Return of the Maestro!

Saturday 11th February

Another Stunning Tim Kliphuis Concert



Following the release of his new DVD "Live at Iford Manor" Tim Kliphuis and friends return to Thurstone for a third concert.

This is certain to be a sell-out event, so you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

Look out for further details of the event and the programme early in the New Year, but meantime make sure of your reservations by phoning

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The Perils of Parking

(This is supposedly a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida)

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!"

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason that she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces further down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing.

He pointed to the end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car-jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed.

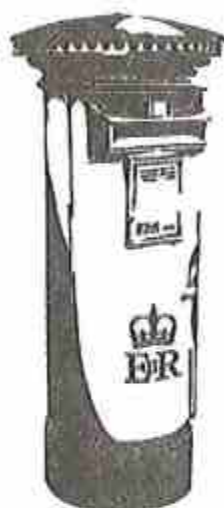
Well, if you're going to have a senior moment.....make it a memorable one!

Christmas Greetings From Sarah & Staff at your Local Post Office & Store

Over the festive period, the Shop and Post Office will change its usual times of operation. The times listed below are a "minimum" guide for the Shop, and may be extended to meet demand. The Post Office will keep its opening hours strictly as per the list:

DATE	SHOP	POST OFFICE
Saturday 24th Dec	08.00 - 16.00	09.00 - 12.30
Sunday 25th Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 26th Dec	09.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Tuesday 27th Dec	08.00 - 13.00	CLOSED
Wednesday 28th Dec	08.00 - 13.00	09.00 - 13.00
Thursday 29th Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Friday 30th Dec	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30
Saturday 31st Dec	08.00 - 16.00	09.00 - 13.00
<u>2012</u>		
Sunday 1st Jan	09.00 - 12.00	CLOSED
Monday 2nd Jan	08.00 - 13.00	CLOSED
Tuesday 3rd Jan	08.00 - 17.30	09.00 - 17.30

Normal opening hours resume on Tuesday 3rd January



CHRISTMAS POSTINGS

Just a reminder that the last posting dates for Christmas are the **17th December** (2nd class), and the **20th December** (1st class). Overseas airmail last posting dates vary, starting 5th December. There will be no collections or deliveries from Christmas Day to 28th December

Our **Christmas Draw** will take place on Saturday 24th December at 11am, with drinks and nibbles for everyone. Tickets are available in the shop. All proceeds will be put towards the prizes. Orders for vegetables, bread, mince pies etc, should be placed well in advance, to ensure availability for collection during Christmas week.

From us all at Thurlestone Post Office and Stores,
may we Thank You for all your support over the past year
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South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau

"Behind the Beauty"

We are privileged to live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, with easy access to the coast and to the open moors, so it is easy to forget that behind this beauty there are individuals and families for whom the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is an essential source of independent information and advice when they are in need of help.

We thought you might like to know a bit more about the service. You may never need it yourself, but you might know someone who does - or you might like to get involved as a volunteer! The advice provided covers the whole range of problems and issues and includes queries on benefits, debt, housing, employment, relationships and legal cases. In fact, it would probably be very difficult to find a topic that has not been raised with the CAB. And even within these broad topic areas, it breaks down into even more specialist areas. For example, benefit issues include council tax, working and child tax credits, employment support allowances, housing benefit, and community care grants. All of these can be a bewildering forest of forms, bureaucracy and specialist knowledge, so it is no wonder that many people turn to us to help them through the foliage.

The CAB also collects information on the social issues affecting our community and this information is analysed nationally to identify statistics and trends. This in turn enables Citizens Advice nationally to submit policy recommendations, reports, and to influence government policy. We are currently collecting evidence to submit to a review of the Work Capability Assessment review. In addition, a social policy briefing was provided to Sarah Wollaston MP on transport problems in rural South Devon. We have also been involved in the campaign to highlight the loss to CAB clients should the cuts to legal aid funding be implemented. This would mean there would be no legal aid for welfare benefits cases, and aid on debt and housing issues will be severely restricted.

None of the work carried out by the CAB would be possible without the loyalty dedication and of our volunteers and paid staff who are fully trained to deal with a

whole range of problems, and provide guidance to specialists when appropriate. We have every reason to thank them.

Did you know that The South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau is a local and independent charity, set up to provide impartial and nonjudgmental advice to anyone who needs it?

Of course, we are very grateful to receive some grant funding from South Hams District Council and Devon County Council, but we always need more funding - and additional monies have to be found. We are keen to take up any ideas for fundraising!

If you need advice then you can call our Advice line on 08 444 111 444

If you need specialist legal advice you can call 01803 863129 or, email:

advice@southhamscab.org.uk
or visit our website at
www.southhamscab.org.uk for further details of location and opening hours, and for more information on the charity and volunteering.

Graham Meaden, Chair,
South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau.

Registered Office: The Cottage, Follan House, Torquay, TQ9 6NE.
Charity Number 1091133

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South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau

FUEL POVERTY PROJECT

One in five households in the South Hams has been identified as being in fuel poverty ... and this was before the price hikes this autumn when most electricity companies raised prices by 11% and gas companies by 18%. South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau has received funding from Scottish Power for a 2 year project to do home visits for clients at risk of "fuel poverty". This project will provide:-

Benefits checks + applications, including disability benefits

Debt referrals to free money advice providers within the CAB network

Energy (including water) efficiency advice + access to social tariffs + trust fund applications

Eligibility

The client must live in the South Hams and be at risk of fuel poverty. **Fuel Poverty is defined as someone who is spending 10% of their NET income on fuel bills or who would do so if they lived in reasonable comfort.** From our point of view, if someone is struggling to pay their bills for whatever reason, they will be eligible for this service. However, preference will be given to vulnerable clients on low incomes.

The home visitor will try to determine if any energy efficiency measures can be adopted and to ensure that clients are accessing all available benefits including disability benefits. We can assist with Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance applications and we can help clients to deal with any debt problems in a systematic and sustainable way. Some debts can be written off in certain circumstances.

The general public are welcome to request an assessment from this project by emailing the bureau on advice@southhamscab.org.uk or phoning our Advice Line on 08 444 111 444 and requesting a home visit from the Fuel Poverty Project. In some instances a home visit will not be required, but even in these cases in-depth and comprehensive advice is offered.

If you know of any vulnerable people who you think might benefit from this service then please ask their consent and then e-mail their contact details to:

outreach@southhamscab.org.uk
or phone me on 01803 867 876. I will contact them to see if a home visit is appropriate.

Lin Etherden
Outreach Co-ordinator

NATIONAL TRUST SOUTH HAMS CENTRE

Programme for December 2011 and January 2012

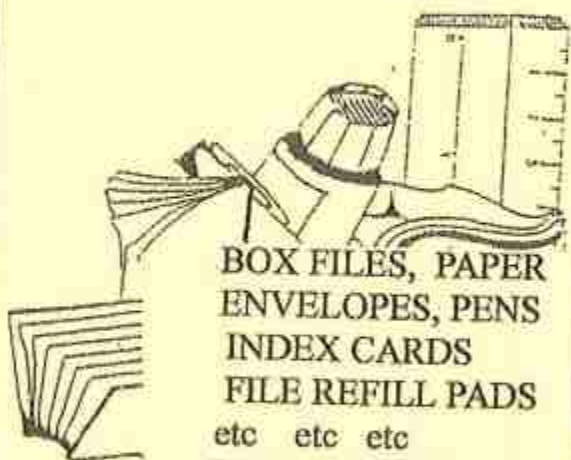
Wednesday 7th December	Exeter Cathedral Christmas Concert. Time to shop and have an early supper before a wonderful concert by Exeter School Orchestras and choirs performing in the Cathedral.
Monday 9th January	"National Coastwatch Prawle Point". Illustrated talk by Roger Barrett, Prawle Point Lookout Manager and local author. At Thurlestone Parish Hall, 2.30 pm. Entrance £3.00 includes tea and biscuits. All welcome.
Friday 20th January	Coffee Morning at the Thurlestone Hotel. Always a warm welcome for us at this lovely hotel. 10.30 am, entrance £3.00 to include coffee. All are welcome.

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

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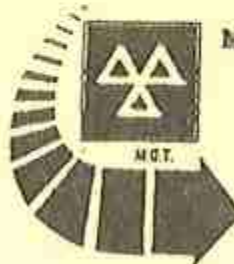
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CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

This will be my last newsletter as Captain this year, as in January I will hand over to **Norman Barrett** and his Vice-Captain **Meryvn Spencer**. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Captain and would like to thank all the members for supporting me in competitions and club matches. As a result of your support we have raised a lot of money for my chosen charity, Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Our Assistant professional **Anthony Buchanan** has done well this year and finished in 6th place in the Professionals Order of Merit after a series of 10 winter medals, and so qualified to play in the Devon PGA team against Cornwall. The match was held at Teignmouth Golf Club and Devon had won this match 6 years in a row but lost last year so the pressure was on to regain the cup! It was a Ryder Cup format with 5 foursomes matches being played in the morning followed by 10 singles matches in the afternoon. We were 4-1 down after the foursomes matches due to some excellent play from the Cornish Pros, but with it all to do in the singles matches in the afternoon, Devon came out firing by winning 5 of the first 7 matches. After the whole day's play it came down to the last match, where our captain Rob was all square with 3 to play. He birdied the 16th and 17th holes to win 2 and 1 and so Devon regained the trophy by 8 points to 7.

I would just like to say many thanks to all those members who helped out at the Open day in October. It was a great success and indications are that we have recruited 12 - 15 new members, but this number could well grow significantly when feedback from everyone comes into the club. The Men's Club championship combined with the Ladies' championship was a new innovation last year and proved to be a success. The winner of the championship was **Alan Winrow**, with gross 75 and 78, runner up was **Mark Knight**, who also won the handicap prize with nett 74 and 70. The Seniors Derrick Yeoman trophy had some 40 entries and the final was won by **Nigel Whalley**, who beat **Nick Revell** by 6 and 5.

The Canada Cup Open was won by a Yelverton team, with Teignmouth and Tiverton runners up. The Turton-Hart trophy was won by **Mark Chapman** with 40 points in Division one, with **Roy Hann** with 38 points winning Division two.

One of the big social competitions of the year is the Devonians v The Rest of the World matchplay competition. The match was not as popular this year as they have in the past. Only 9 fourballs competed, with Vice-Captain **Norman Barrett** and **Peter Laughter** leading the way and achieving a narrow victory on the last putt of the last hole over Captain **John Laphorn** and **Steve Pike**. Sadly for me the result went to Devon 6 ½ points to 2 ½ points as it has done every year except one, the inauguration year 2001. Well done to Devon!

Two big events in November were the Annual Club Prizegiving on Saturday 12th November, and the Junior Prizegiving on the following Saturday.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a good Christmas and a Happy New year and hope you will be supporting **Norman Barrett** at the Captain's drive in on New Year's day.

John Laphorn

LADY CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER

We approach the end of the year, with our competitions all played and trophies presented.

The Presentation Evening took place on Saturday 12th November, and the club house was packed. Over twenty ladies were presented with various trophies, once again our most successful player this season being **Jenny Roberts**. Following closely on her heels was **Laura Tregelles**. This year Laura beat Jenny on countback to win the EWGA Medal and will go on to represent Thurlestone next May at Royal North Devon. Laura also won the Ladies County Silver Medal and **Jane Edmunds** won the Bronze Medal. Laura and Jane will go to Holsworthy in April to represent Thurlestone in the County Medal Finals. The Order of Merit was won by **Jenny Roberts**.

The Ladies Annual General Meeting takes place on Friday 25th November, when I will present Pam St Leger with the Captain's Brooch. The majority of the competitions for the rest of the season are fun competitions, and of course often decided by the weather.

Our Ladies Christmas lunch this year is on Monday 5th December and the Christmas dinner on Monday 12th December.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my very supportive committee for all their help throughout the year. We have had some fun and laughter, and I wish Pam good luck next year. If she has as good a year as I have she will not go far wrong.

Just one final thing - on Sunday 11th December we are holding a mixed Texas Scramble. Some forty people have signed up already, but there is still room for more; so do come along for some Christmas fun. All are welcome.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year of good weather and great golf.

Lesley Saffin

JUNIORS' SECTION NEWSLETTER

The competitive season for golf against other clubs is now over and this is a summary of how our juniors have done this year;

Junior Captain this year has been Josh Walsh and Vice-Captain Oliver Walsh. Both have done an excellent job and we will be sorry to lose them to the adult section next year. Oliver qualified for the final of the Daily Telegraph competition in Abu Dhabi in November with his gross 65 score in the qualifying competition. We wish him every success and look forward to reporting about the event in the next issue.

West Devon Junior League. We entered a team of 12 juniors this year and had to play home and away matches against Tavistock, Staddon Heights, and Yelverton. We came first in our section, and so qualified for the Finals day at Yelverton where we beat Dartmouth 4 ½ - ½. We also qualified for Championship day at Stover but did not win.

Basil Steer Trophy. We entered a team in this Devon County competition but lost in the first round at Stover against Honiton.

Tamar Cup trophy. We entered a team and won the first round against Whitsand Bay, and the semi-final against St Austell, but lost the final against Carlyon Bay at Launceston.

Devon County Junior Golf Society meetings. We entered 7 juniors in the Spring meeting at The Warren golf club. Robert Came won the 2nd Handicap prize in the boys' section.

South West girls championship. We entered Laura Tregelles, Beth Yeoman and Lottie Holland for this event at Lyme Regis, and all played very well.

Devon County Girls championship. Laura Tregelles and Beth Yeoman both entered and had good scores.

Devon County Boys championship. Josh and Ollie Walsh and Rob Came all played in this event at Churston.

Junior Organisers and junior competition at Dartmouth. We came third in the competition against 6 other Devon clubs, with father and son combination of Stuart and Josh Walsh and Ollie Walsh and Phil Holland.

Juniors v Club match. Nine juniors played against the club team and won 3-2.

Henry Truscott Trophy. North, south, east, and west Devon league winners met at Wrangaton on 28th October in a stableford competition, with Thurlestone representing West Devon against RND, Torquay and Fingle Glen. Torquay won with 175 points. Thurlestone were third with 163.

Hole in One. Our juniors have been lucky this year, with Rob Came getting a hole-in-one at Yelverton in a junior match and another at Thurlestone in a men's competition. Beth Yeoman scored an ace in a ladies' competition.

Handicaps. A significant array of handicap reductions this year, including Laura Tregelles 13 to 8, Beth Yeoman 16 to 10, Robert Came 11 to 7, Jamie Johnson 8 to 5, Josh Walsh 5 to 2, Callum Tollins 22 to 19, and Tom Leach 15 to 13. The biggest reduction was Tom Orr who came down from 45 to 17.

Monday evening playing and coaching. We started in April, every Monday until October. We had about fifteen juniors each evening, run by Pete Mitchell, Steve Pepperrell, Phil Holland and Stuart Tollins. I would like to thank them for their devotion to the task of encouraging our younger juniors to take up golf.

Sponsors. We are again very grateful to the

Thurlestone Hotel who have sponsored our junior team by paying for kit and match teas this year. We also have a new sponsor, **Pacific Investments**, who have paid for new shirts and sweaters for 2012 for the juniors, and we are grateful to their support.

This has been a great junior year with the team winning the West Devon District final at Elfordleigh, coming runners up in the Tamar Cup, representing West Devon in the Henry Truscott District Trophy, and being awarded a Devon

Order of Merit event at our home course next June. Bringing on the younger juniors (and at the same time ensuring they have fun) will help to keep the Thurlestone name on the County junior golfing map, so please come along and support us next year with the Monday night coaching and lessons with Pete on Saturday mornings.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liz Line

THURLESTONE PROBUS CLUB

The Club, for retired professional and businessmen, usually meets on the second Friday of the month in the Thurlestone Hotel to hear a speaker and have lunch.

Eighteen members took part in the annual Probus Golf Tournament at the Thurlestone Golf Club, with the overall winner being **George Hubbard**, with 39 points. The longest drive was by **Bryan Lewis** and nearest the pin on the 6th was the Chairman, **Neill Irwin**. After the competition, the golfers and other members had an excellent lunch.

The Speaker for the Ladies' Lunch on the 11th November was **John Risdon** who gave an illustrated talk on "**Torbay's Heritage**", covering all aspects of Torbay's past, including its geology, ancient history, and its development up to the present day.

On 9th December the speaker in the Hotel will be **Ed Welch** who will speak on "**Music for the Screen**". As the Hotel is closed in early January, there is no meeting that month.

Any gentleman interested in joining the Thurlestone Probus Club, or coming to a meeting as a visitor, is invited to contact the Secretary, **Tom Trender**, on 560893.

CALLING ALL TRAMPERS

Our parish walking group, TRAMP, has a problem - numbers are falling. They are appealing for more folk to join their weekly walks around both the immediate local area and further



afield. Some walks are fairly short, some longer - to suit all ages and most abilities. Just read the TRAMP pages in this issue and you'll realise what a good time they have - the places visited, the good company, getting to know far-flung places, the fresh air, the excellent exercise and you can even take your dog! After each walk the leader writes up a report for *Village*

Voice. These are eagerly read by the 'not so nimble' for whom these write-ups bring back happy memories of their more active days. Come on, make a resolution to get fit in 2012 by putting on your walking boots.



Contact **Jill Munn** on 01548 - 560732 for further details.

Kate's Kitchen



CHOCOLATE & CHERRY BRANDY GATEAU WITH CHOCOLATE CURL TOPPING

An alternative to Christmas pudding, this delicious dessert seems to please the most finicky of eaters. It is straight forward to make and can be made well in advance and frozen. I use two 9in/23cm sandwich tins. You could scale down the recipe to suit smaller tins if necessary. The chocolate curls may be made in advance and kept refrigerated in a plastic container until needed.

Ingredients:

- 8oz/200g McDougall's Supreme Sponge SR flour – this works beautifully.
- 2oz/50g cocoa powder.
- 8oz/200g caster sugar.
- 8oz/200g room temperature Stork margarine for baking.
- 5 medium eggs at room temperature.
- 1 jar black or red cherry jam. (Lidl's black cherry is very good).
- Liberal doses of cherry brandy.
- ½ pt double cream – whipped ready for spreading.
- 4oz/100g Bourneville chocolate
- Small amount of icing sugar and small spray of holly or mistletoe.

Preparation:

- Grease and line sandwich tins.
- Preheat the oven. My fan oven cooks the cakes perfectly at 150°C but oven temperatures vary considerably. 180°C (gas mk4) for non-fan ovens should work.
- Place flour and sieved cocoa powder in a large mixing bowl and add the sugar, margarine and eggs.
- Using a hand held electric beater (or your own strength with a wooden spoon) mix the ingredients together gently at first working up gradually to a moderate speed until all the ingredients are mixed together.
- Divide the mixture between the 2 sandwich tins.
- Bake on shelves near the middle of the oven for 25-30 mins – until they begin to shrink slightly from the edge and feel firm and spongy in the middle.
- Whilst the cake is in the oven start the chocolate curls.
- Melt the cut up chocolate in a bowl over a pan of boiling water just removed from the heat. The bowl must not touch the water but be just above it.
- When melted pour the chocolate over a chopping board or flat plate. You may need to spread it out with a palette knife.
- Place in the fridge for 45 mins until set. It will not make into curls if it is not firm. Use a cheese slicer and starting at one end pull the slicer along the chocolate until curls form. They do not have to look the same. You could use a sharp knife held in two hands to pull across the chocolate.
- Place the curls on a plate or in a plastic container and keep refrigerated.
- Remove the cakes from the oven and place on cooling trays.
- When cool place the first cake on the serving plate. Fork all over, and dribble in some cherry brandy – the amount is up to you!
- Spread the jam over the cake and place the second cake on top. Fork over, and add some more cherry brandy.
- Spread the whipped cream over the top.
- Decorate with a haphazard placing of curls - don't worry if they are not perfect.
- Lightly sift a little icing sugar on top and decorate with some holly or mistletoe.

Have a really lovely, happy Christmas

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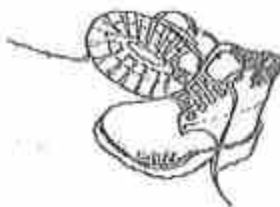
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TRAMP



1 Eight Tramps parked at Parke, near Bovey Tracey, on the morning of 16th September. For a change, boys outnumbered girls by five to three!

But, no dogs on this occasion. The weather was fine, with part sun/part cloud and an afternoon maximum of 19/20 deg C forecast - ideal walking conditions. On leaving the Parke Estate we were obliged to run the gauntlet of the A382 traffic briefly, before taking the footpath west to Challabrook Farm, thence to Stentiford Lane. We were now heading northwest on the track of the Templer Way, where the old granite rails were clearly visible for a mile or so.

Instead of a break for morning coffee, the leader took the opportunity to give a short, compulsory lecture on the history of the route to his captive audience, having boned up on the subject the previous evening. Briefly, three generations of Templers, in turn, had built Stover House on the run-down Stover Estate, constructed a canal between Teigngrace and the tidal river Teign at Newton Abbot, and lastly a granite tramway from Haytor to link with the canal. This took from 1765 until 1820, but facilitated the shipment of the granite from Templer's Dartmoor quarries. In their heyday, they supplied the stone for London Bridge, the National Gallery and the British Museum, but, sadly, competition closed the quarries and the tramway was no longer used after the 1850s.

We continued our ramble through a seemingly abandoned orchard, whose trees sported an abundance of bright red apples. The opportunity was taken to sample a few windfalls! Thence we climbed up to Lower Down via very pleasant terrain and on to Reddaford Water, Pullbrook Wood and Drakeford Bridge. After crossing the river here we trudged to Rudge and on to Lustleigh, where a beeline was promptly made for the Cleave Inn. The sun shone as we partook refreshments in the delightful garden, and it took the promise of a gentle stroll through the centre of this lovely village to get us on our feet again.

We walked through the winding, narrow lanes passing very attractive thatched cottages and the cricket green before climbing to the outskirts where the leader immediately lost his way! After much discussion, solicitous advice, and taking

bearings of the sun, etc., the correct footpath was eventually found, but there was much mumbling about the steepness of the track up to Higher Knowle Wood, so soon after lunch. Thereafter, things improved as we commenced the downhill trek along the lane to Forder, although two very large and wide farm machines forced us to backtrack at one stage. We entered Parke Wood, with welcome shade from the sun, and diverted to the river bank after half a mile. Following the river we eventually crossed Parke Bridge and back to our cars.

Agreement was unanimous that it had been well worth the 45 minute drive from Thurlestone, especially as the weather had been so kind during such an unsettled late summer spell.

Roger Wilson

2 On Friday 23rd September nine 'Trampers' set off from the Globe Inn car park at Frogmore for a 4.5 mile walk along the old Frogmore Road, down to West Charleton and finally along the Frogmore Creek back to the pub for lunch.

The walk began with a short stretch along the A379 before we turned north up the old Frogmore Road. This used to be the main thoroughfare to Kingsbridge via Bowcombe before the bridge was built at Southwell to cross the Bowcombe estuary. The old track is between hedges with occasional views south across to Salcombe and beyond. After about a mile we climbed over an old stone stile - the contortions of the party were varied - and we headed south across the fields to West Charleton. We crossed the A379 and took the footpath towards the "look out", though unfortunately, due to the level of the tide the number of birds was minimal.

We then set off along the beach as we were two hours before high tide - this enabled us to look down the estuary to Salcombe and to see all the yachts anchored which are not normally visible from the Salcombe side. At the point we turned east up the Frogmore Creek with the tranquillity and beautiful views of the creek to the South. After about a mile we joined the formal footpath, we enjoyed the beauty of the countryside to the north as well as the views south across the creek.

After about another mile we reached Frogmore and a good lunch was had at the Globe sitting outside in lovely sunshine.

Liz & Peter Coates

3 When I have led this walk around Whiddon Scrubs in the past, we have been able to park in the car park of the Victoria Inn in Ashburton by kind permission of the landlady. However, on this occasion, I was not able to contact the landlady and with trepidation, and on 6th October 2011, we left Thurlestone and headed for the Victoria Inn. I attempted to speak to someone in the pub but found a notice on the door to say that the pub had closed – maybe a sign of the times. Despite a notice in the car park threatening to clamp us for unauthorised use, we decided to risk leaving our cars there and I left a note on my car window pleading with them not to clamp this lovely walking group from Thurlestone.

11 walkers and a dog set off in reasonable weather. We were particularly pleased to welcome a visitor from Canada on the walk. She was staying at Court Barton and had once owned the house in Thurlestone that Derek and Lynn Mansell (fellow Trampers who have now sadly moved back to Kent) bought. The walk initially took us away from Ashburton and up some steps marked in the direction of the Terrace Walk. We kept to the base of the field and walked by the little River Ashburn to the edge of the woods. Our route then climbed steadily through the delightful woodland of Whiddon Scrubs to Owlcombe Cross.

The descent, via a lane and farm tracks, led us back to Ashburton, past the South Dartmoor Community College, for the grand finale, the high level Terrace Walk from which there were splendid views over the southern fringes of Dartmoor. By this time, the sky was beginning to look very threatening and we hurried the last few yards back to the cars.

We had completed 5.5 miles. However, we were all hungry and with the Victoria Inn closed, we wandered down the road to the Bay Horse Inn where we were looked after splendidly by the landlord and landlady with a very reasonably priced lunch.

Lisa White

4 Six of us (2 men, 4 ladies, no dogs) did the historic short walk at Modbury on Thursday 20th October. The weather was very pleasant as we set off from the bottom car park up the main street and turning

past the 14th century church we headed down a cobbled path built in the 19th century to save the vicar from using the muddy track (now a tarmac road). After a stile and two fields we crossed an old wooden bridge into Runaway Lane. This was the scene in 1643 of a Roundhead and Royalist battle when the Royalists took flight after the Battle of Modbury. We then crossed a very pleasant meadow with a stream running alongside and turning passed a farmhouse we started the long but steady incline up an old holloway.

We caught stunning glimpses of the coastline on our way up, and at the top glorious views of Dartmoor and Ivybridge with Modbury laid out below. After passing Little Modbury Farm we made our way via another stile down a second old Devon holloway over a meadow and stream back to the car park. Four of us went on for lunch and although the White Hart had previously been happy to accommodate us there was a notice saying closed for the day! Trish Wilson came to the rescue, suggesting the quirky *Up The Steps* for our refreshment.

Robin Hart

5 On Friday 28th October with the weather unsettled a select group of six set out for a seven mile walk. We parked in Kingsbridge, made our way through the town and headed towards *The Hen House* passing the property that chef John Burton-Race once owned. After a steep climb we made our way down Coombe Lane on to Ledstone Cross, Wrinkley, passing Courtland's Field Study Centre. With Avon Mill Garden Centre on the horizon the pace quickened, we were soon enjoying lunch sitting on the terrace in warm sunshine. The walk now follows the river bank, with all the rain that had fallen in the past few days the ground was surprisingly dry. Back onto lanes we walk Leigh Cross, Norton Farm, the allotments and into Kingsbridge. This is an ideal winter walk with a mixture of river bank, fields, quiet paths, and green lanes. A good day's walking with great company.

Jill & Brian Munn

6 For the *Tramp* walk on 3rd November to Dittisham, Bozomzeal and Old Mill Creek the forecast had changed from "white cloud" to "thunder", which didn't stop five from driving through light rain (!) to Dittisham, the last drops falling as we parked. The sun climbed visibly as we passed the converted monastery at Bozomzeal. The wooded path to Old Mill Creek, often a stream

bed, was nearly dry. The creek glistened under a blue sky, and there were beeches still with green leaf predominating over yellow.

As we returned the views over the Dart and to Torbay were magnificent; and we were upwind from the piggery. Just as we neared Dittisham, a Fairey Swordfish with torpedoes mounted did a fly-past over the Dart. Was that in our honour, we wondered, or something to do with the Naval College? Even the Ferry Boat Inn folk, with their marvellous chowder, couldn't be sure.

Peter Gornall

7 Despite a poor forecast (rain by lunch-time) on Wednesday 16th November, no fewer than thirteen walkers reported at Court Park for a shortish walk in the Harberton area. The little convoy travelled uneventfully until, down a lane, we met a lady motorist driving a car which seemed not to have a reverse gear. Her stubbornness prevailed and our convoy assumed reverse mode! We parked in the car-park at the Church House Inn, which is next to the 14th/15th century church of St Andrew.

The walk was very typical of our part of Devon but with the added bonus that all around you is so old and steeped in history - you are walking in the past. It was very pleasant to walk on a mixture of roads, lanes and paths. The first point of significance was Leigh Bridge which crosses the River Harbourne from which Harberton gets its name. Roughly half way round, we came to another bridge - Rolster. It is recorded that this stone bridge was here as early as 1550.

It was a short distance from here that we started our ascent back towards the village, this time between typical Devon hedge-banks. We then followed a tared lane towards Bennett's Cross before taking a left towards the Church House Inn. There appeared to be much more of a spring in the step of two male members of the group - perhaps the thought of a pint had revived them. We had walked about five miles but one of the dogs seemed to have leapt his way about twenty.

Everybody had lunch at the Inn - a marvellous example of a medieval monastic building, well worth a visit in its own right, but also a good place to enjoy a meal. Sadly we did not visit the church, which has many fine features - rightly earning it a place in 'England's Thousand Best Churches' by Simon Jenkins. Perhaps we will visit it next time we take this walk. Oh! It was pouring with rain by the time we left the Inn.

Rachel Wayth

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Grey Matter

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Christmas Trivia Quiz

1. What Christmas plant is "Viscum" used to label ?
2. What is the name of Scrooge's dead Business partner ?
3. Which author made the remark "I gave them for Dinner a piece of roast Beef and plumb puddings – and after dinner a pint of strong beer apiece" ?
4. Who tried to steal Christmas from the "Whos of Whoville" in the 1966 cartoon based on the Dr. Seuss story ?
5. What was the film called in which Peter Auty sang "Walking in the Air" ?
6. What Christmas food is made from "Marsh-worts" ?
7. Which Ocean is Christmas Island in ?
8. Who wrote the poem "The Cultivation of Christmas Trees" ?
9. Which continent is the turkey from ?
10. In which author's novel is it "always winter, but never Christmas" ?
11. Which department store created "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" ?
12. What is the capital of Christmas Island ?
13. The Christmas cracker was invented by ?
14. What year was the first commercial Christmas card made ?
15. What is the best selling Christmas song ever ?
16. Brenda Lee was doing what around the Christmas tree ?
17. Which reindeer is left out of the "Night before Christmas" song ?
18. Who decided the date for Christmas would be 25th December ?
19. What do traditional Ukrainians put on their Christmas tree for good luck ?
20. Which Christmas cartoon was based on a New York Sun editorial ?

Solutions to the previous Grey Matter Quiz:

1. More haste less speed 2. Red in the face 3. Doubled up in pain 4. Horsing about 5. Another fine mess 6. A foot in the door 7. Divided loyalties 8. No U turn 9. Pieces of eight 10. All in a day's work 11. Not in use 12. A stitch in time 13. Walk in vain 14. Backhander 15. Just between you and me 16. Emergency stop 17. Painless operation 18. Book ends 19. Back in a minute 20. One fine day

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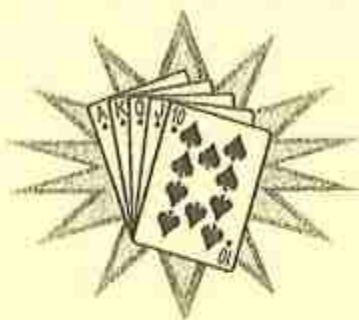
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FULL VALET	Pre-wash with traffic film remover & rinsed Shine enhancing wash & wax then rinsed Traffic film remover applied to tyres & rinsed Door shuts, hinges & surrounds cleaned & conditioned Super resin polish applied then hand polished Wheel end applied & rinsed Exterior trim dressed All litter removed Seat & carpets vacuumed Footwell mats cleaned Dashboard, centre console & vents cleaned and polished Ashtray emptied & cleaned Interior & exterior glass cleaned Interior fragrance Air freshener	from £65.00
INTERIOR	Seats & carpets vacuumed Footwell & boot vacuumed Glass and mirrors cleaned & polished Dashboard, centre console and vents cleaned and polished Litter removed Ashtray emptied & cleaned Seats wet cleaned or leather conditioned (optional fee for carpets) Air freshener	from £47.00



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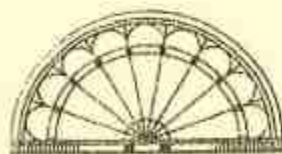


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HORSWELL DIARY

From a height of twenty-one thousand feet the rivers and streams that twist and turn through the green landscape beneath our wings glisten in the sunlight, like snail trails meandering across a cabbage leaf. But as we begin our descent the flat green map below crumples up to greet us, folding itself into fertile valleys and rolling hills. Dark shadows identify themselves as sprawling forests while the rivers, larger now, stretch to the horizon, mirroring the sun, like silken ribbons shot with gold.

As we drop lower, turning to line up for our final approach, we can see the mighty Rhone flowing silently beside us. Flaps and wheels drop down as sun-kissed vineyards give way to biscuit coloured houses with terracotta tiles. An extra boost of power just to lift us over the rooftops and then wheels touch tarmac and we're slowing to a halt in front of Avignon International Airport, a flock of migrating birds pleased to have rediscovered warmer climes.

Roads that in summer are laden with tourist traffic are pleasingly empty, leading me gently away from the city and up into the hills towards Venasque. The few remaining autumn leaves left clinging to cherry trees and vines colour the sun-parched landscape. Ahead, the massive white capped mountain of Mont Ventoux fills a cloudless blue horizon, guiding my route as I wind my way between olive groves where pickers, balanced on the top of their steeply angled ladders, are filling their baskets with small dark fruit.

So now, here I am in Venasque. The whole village is eerily quiet with many shops and cafes closed for the winter. Houses the colour of honey, caramel and molasses slumber behind closed shutters, while alley cats doze in sheltered sunny corners.

I am the only guest in my small hotel. My host, a shy but congenial genie, appears as if by magic whenever I approach.

"At what time would Madame like breakfast? You want to look at the house up the road? Come, I will drive you. Dinner? Would you like a little 'magret de canard' or do you prefer 'poisson'? 'Un ravioli a sauce de poireaux' to begin perhaps? A glass of the local wine to go with it?" The hotel seems to revolve around my every wish.

I eat alone, aware of my personal chef working in his kitchen. The resident cat is my sole companion. He is called, I am told, Van Gogh because one ear has been torn off almost completely. Exceedingly well fed, he barely bats a limpid green eye at the arrival of my 'Poisson a la Provençale' as he curls beside me on a rush-seated chair. He purrs as I stroke him. The French word for 'purr' is 'ronron', which, if you roll your 'r's gallic-style, gives some idea of the loud rattling noise emitted by this friendly bundle of black fur.

Although friendly enough towards me, I gather Van Gogh has a fierce hatred of all dogs. Apparently, without the slightest provocation, he hurls himself at them in full attack mode, claws extended and hissing furiously. One can only imagine it must have been a dog (called Gaugin?) who had been responsible originally for ripping off his ear.

Classical music, *Tosca* to be exact, seeps through the speakers, a bittersweet accompaniment to my solitary meal. My host seems depressed by the arrival of his wife. She reminds me of a horse I once knew; red-headed, high spirited, hard-mouthed and with a mean cast to her eye. He serves me the rest of my meal without a word, while Van Gogh snores beside me with a paw extended on to my lap.

News soon spreads that 'l'Anglaise' is looking for a house. People stop me in the street and eagerly share their knowledge of what is, and what might become, for sale. I am invited into hallways and sitting rooms whilst telephone calls are exchanged and

house keys summoned. Everyone, it would seem, is looking after someone else's house somewhere. A woman who hails me from the roadside clambers unbidden into my car. She barks directions from the back seat between apologising for still wearing her apron and her hair in curlers. She leads me to her friends who are keen to sell their house. *"It is beautiful, just what you are looking for,"* she assures me.

We arrive at an uninspiring collection of buildings and a detailed tour begins, including every cupboard, cellar and garden shed. I do my best to share the owner's enthusiasm for the energy efficient heat pump he has installed at great expense. Its calorific output versus the cost of installation, compared to the normal usage from the electric grid would be a daunting equation in any language, and I struggle to keep up. I feel my eyes glazing over and hope that I am still nodding in the right places. Escape proves impossible until the last light socket and the last tile of this five bedrooomed house has been inspected and verified as being 'of the highest quality'. At last, after much cheek kissing and hand-shaking I and my 'new best friend' climb back into the car. I shake my head. *"Absolutely",* she says, *"A very ugly house. Not right for you at all. I knew you wouldn't like it."*

Luckily, a pressing dental appointment prevents her from showing me somewhere else that 'might be more suitable'. I try to look disappointed and drop her back to her house. Before I can take my leave I must go with her to meet a neighbour who has the name of *'a marvellous stone mason who can renovate anything. A craftsman beyond comparison.'* We enter an ancient stone house, dark as a tomb, where we are offered a 'tisane' whilst the owner rummages through one drawer after another looking for the stonemason's business card. The two women maintain a continuous flow of conversation throughout the search, before deciding that it might be easier to telephone Celine who had a wall rebuilt during the

summer. *"Celine!"* she shouts down the phone, *"I have the English lady here. She needs a good stonemason. Have you got the number of Monsieur Duval? Yes, yes, the English woman who is looking for a house."* It is decided that it is easier for Celine to pop round with the number. Besides, she has the key to her neighbour's house which is also for sale. She could show me over, if I'd like?

And so my days are filled, passed like a parcel around the village, from one helpful pair of hands to another, each encounter peeling away another layer of my personal 'histoire' until soon I am being introduced with a full biography attached. By now, everyone is aware that *"Madame is, with great sadness, leaving her home of twenty one years and looking for a 'residence secondaire' for herself and her husband Michel, who has suffered a 'crise de coeur' and loves the idea of a house in Venasque."*

So far the houses have been disappointing. Sometimes dark and dank, sometimes brash and badly designed. Some with no outlook whatsoever, others with just a terrace or a balcony but no garden. Despite the assistance of my many self-appointed house hunters, I fear this may be a much harder task than I had imagined.

The house I like best has a pomegranate tree growing by the gate. Red, over-ripe fruit are suspended like Christmas tree baubles from its bare branches, reminding me that whereas here the glowing embers of late summer are still evident, at home, the festive season is only weeks away. I had hoped that a house in Venasque might have been our Christmas present to one another. Instead, I think it will be the promise of a second flight to Avignon and the pleasure of re-visiting new friends.

Meanwhile, along with Vincent, Serge, Denise, Antoine, Celine, Didier, Madame Baudelaire, Jaques, Genevieve and a purring Van Gogh, I send my very best wishes for *'Un joyeux Noël'* to everyone at home, from a small hilltop village in Provence.

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BOOKSHELF

Before I Go To Sleep

by S J Watson

(Black Swan £7.99)

Beware - once you start reading this, you will be unable to put it down. You will need to know the ending. The main character, Christine, had a bad accident and is now unable to remember things for more than a day, so that when she goes to bed at night she forgets the past twenty years. Each morning she wakes up thinking she is a young woman, only to be shocked when she looks in the mirror and sees a much older person.

She lives with her husband, Ben, and when he is at work she gets a call from a doctor - who says he's been treating her for some time, but that her husband disagreed with this treatment and stopped it. He then gives her a diary which apparently she has been writing in every day. He rings her each morning reminding her to get the diary out and read the previous day's entry, and in this way he hopes to help her regain some of her memory - or does he? Can she trust him? Can she trust her husband? There are plenty of twists and turns to ensure speedy turning of the pages.

Carolyn Taylor

Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness

by Alexandra Fuller

(Simon & Schuster £14.99)

Alexandra Fuller's first book *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* (which her mother now calls "that Awful Book") about her childhood in the former Rhodesia was a joy to read. Now she has written another which focuses on her adored and slightly eccentric mother (although her father plays a big part).

Her parents first settled in Rhodesia during UDI and then bought a farm in Romandi Valley, Mozambique, where Alexandra and

her sister were brought up. Mozambique was granted independence in 1974 and the new government supported guerillas fighting for majority rule in Rhodesia. The two girls were taught to use guns, their mother sleeping with her gun under the pillow. They lose the farm; they also suffer the loss of three babies; but this book is not gloom, doom and tragedy. It is beautifully written, and laughter is never far away as the family optimistically and obstinately stay and work in the country they love. Alexandra is now married with children and living in America. Her parents live in Zambia where they run a very successful fish and banana farm.

If you have read the first book you will love this one. If you read this one first, you will enjoy it just as much!

Carolyn Taylor

The Poisonwood Bible

by Barbara Kingsolver

(Faber and Faber £8.99)

In 1959, a fanatical Baptist minister from Georgia is appointed for a year's work in a small village in the jungle in what was then the Belgian Congo. He refuses to leave his mission when the struggle for Independence starts, and he and his wife and four daughters get caught up in the effects of the fighting. Their life becomes very difficult as his stipend is cut off and they are forced to rely on help from neighbours and what little they can grow.

As the minister becomes ever more crazy in the single-minded following of his mission, tragedy overtakes the family. The mother and daughters eventually leave the village, and independently each finds a way to survive. And yet, despite their experiences, all of them find that they are still drawn to Africa.

A beautifully written story that one just cannot put down.

Judith Le Grice



At the Bridge Table



This article continues the previous one about the importance of scoring overtricks when playing Duplicate Pairs: the normal format at both the Kingsbridge and Thurlestone Clubs. A basic knowledge of the scoring system is helpful in understanding why overtricks are so important. As a simple example, consider the following traveller for a board played at six tables where each declarer is in a vulnerable 3NT contract-

Pair No.	Tricks	Score	Matchpoints
1	9	600	0
2,3,4&5	10	630	5
6	11	660	10

A matchpoint score – usually arrived at by computer - is given to each pair by way of 2 points for every pair they beat and 1 point for any pair they equal. Pair 6 beat the other five pairs to get (5x2) 10 points, the maximum possible score, which we call “a top”. Pairs 2-5 beat one pair and drew with 3 others (1x2+3x1) = 5points. Poor old pair 1 did not beat anybody and so get 0. To put this in percentage terms, as we do when showing final results for a session, Pair 6 scored 100%, Pairs 2-5 scored 50%, and Pair 1 scored 0%. If you find the scoring system too complicated (or don't like arithmetic) simply remember the aim is not only to score points but also to outscore the other pairs. Thus the opponents of pair 1 scored minus 600, but that was the best result on their axis so they got 100% for losing by only 600 points...and conversely, although Pair 1 declarer bid and made game they scored 0. Pair 6, on the other hand, having squeezed out one more trick than Pairs 2-5, scored only an extra 30 points for it on the score card - but made a “top” on the traveller.

Previous examples have assumed that all players were in the same contract, but frequently that is not the case, especially when there is a choice between a major suit contract and no trumps. Generally it is right to play in the major if you have an 8-card fit, but when you declare the contract, you must make sure you try to beat all those pairs in 3NT. Almost always you should be looking for a ruff. On the hand shown aside, there are 10 top tricks in No Trumps so you need to aim for 11 in 4 Spades. Having avoided a club lead you can discard a club on the King of Hearts and then aim to ruff a diamond in dummy. Taking Ace of Hearts, Queen of Hearts, Ace of Diamonds, King of Diamonds, King of Hearts, then a third Diamond, you can eventually ruff the fourth diamond with the Queen of Spades and claim 11 tricks for a well-deserved top; losing just a Club and a Diamond.

Spades	AKJ98	Q106
Hearts	AQ	K42
Diamonds	A532	K64
Clubs	105	J964
4 Spades by W Lead = J Hearts		

Another time when tactics change is when you are in an unusual contract. On this hand surely most players will be in 4 Spades, but West opened 1NT (with 5 Spades) and East bid 3NT (omitting Stayman). You must work out the likely results from other tables, so you know what your aim is. 4 Spades will make 10 or 11 tricks, depending on whether the Diamond finesse works. In 3NT your Heart stop is knocked out at trick one, but you have worked out that 9 tricks in 3NT is not enough, so you must take the diamond finesse; if it loses you go off, but a bottom is a bottom! If it wins, you make 11 tricks and a lucky top, scoring 10 more points than those in 4 Spades. If you can turn all your bidding mistakes into tops like this, your scores will go ever upwards!

Spades	AK432	QJ86
Hearts	43	A65
Diamonds	AQJ	75
Clubs	865	AK32
3NT by W Lead = J Hearts		

Victor



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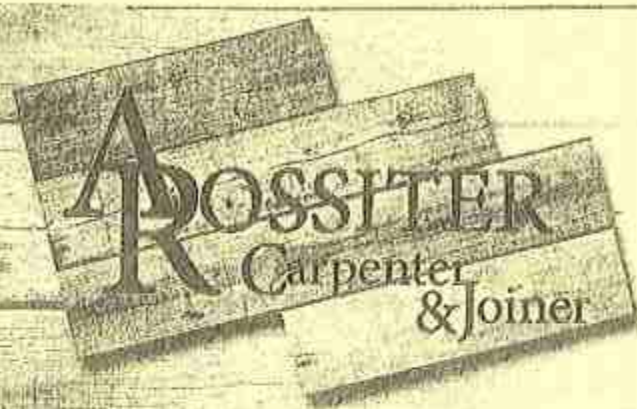
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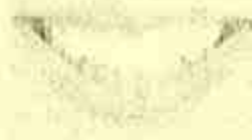
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A Spanish Christmas

By Traveller

It felt really odd on Christmas morning, when on drawing back the curtains we were greeted by the dark shapes from the crags of the mountain silhouetted against a dazzling blue sky. Somehow, it felt surreal. Back in cold mizzly Devon we would have been lighting the fire and opening presents in front of it, but here we flung open the windows to let in the warm sunshine - and it was still only eight o'clock.

The Spanish are notoriously late risers, and it was too early by far to wander up to the village panaderia to collect our bread. Besides, Christmas Eve is their Christmas day, when the celebrations and feasts are held, and the whole village was sleeping off the excesses of the previous night.

We too, had driven down the hazardous hill to join the hundreds of people thronging the main square outside the church of the small town on the coast. They had just finished midnight mass, and the single church bell was clanging its tuneless note, as everyone congregated outside, and we joined them.

The first firecracker was let off, to an enormous cheer, and the local band began to play as they marched round the square. Well, play was perhaps a slight misnomer; why do Spanish bands always play out of tune? As we watched, a rocket was set off, followed by more and more, until the sky was filled with coloured stars, lighting up the palm trees which were already lit with thousands of tiny bulbs.

The churros and chocolate stall was doing a roaring trade, and wide-eyed children, their faces smeared with the thick, sickly, gooey mess, were dunking their spiral shaped doughnuts into the cardboard cups, and dripping it everywhere.

The women were dressed to the nines, and many wore flounced flamenco dresses, and were dancing *Sevillanas* in the street, whilst the men, glasses in hand watched them twirl and swirl in a froth of colour.

Every bar and café was open, and people spilled out on to the pavement, glasses in hand, shouting greetings to everyone who passed. Later, they would return to their homes for the Christmas feast.

We fought our way into our favourite tapas bar, and Antonio greeted us with "Hombre! Where have you been? Feliz Navidad!" and thrust glasses of the local red wine into our hands, and piled a plate high with olives, bread and manchego cheese, which we accepted gratefully.

Antonio's bar had a nautical theme, and on every wall, were hung fishing nets and boating paraphernalia. We had restored and brought out from England an ancient boat rudder, as our Christmas gift to him, and this was accepted with great excitement, and immediately examined by all the old fishermen who were sitting around the bar.

"Not like ours, wouldn't work on our heavy boats" one of them said. He was wrong there, as this had originally come from a hefty fishing boat too! However, the thing had been well received, and we joined in with our poor Spanish to the joshing and good humor of the locals.

Large plates of Turon, the hard almond nougat traditionally eaten during the festivities, were passed round, accompanied by a sweet, green, evil-hangover-inducing liqueur, to be avoided at all costs, unless you wanted to spend the whole of Christmas in bed! No contest, as a Spanish Christmas lasts for six whole days and nights, culminating on January the sixth, *El Día de Reyes*, (Three Kings day), which is when the children receive their presents, and leave their shoes outside the door, to be filled with sweets the night before.

It used to be said that if the children had been naughty, *El Draque* (Drake) would take them, though in these modern times, I believe they are now sometimes told it will be Father Christmas!

sudoku

www.sudoku.com

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

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

Tough

No. 65

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

Tough

No. 66

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

Tougher

No. 65

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

Tougher

No. 66

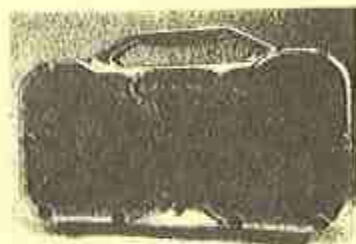
SUDOKU - Another four part tough challenge!

The October challenge produced seven all-correct solutions, from **Sue Dwyer, Neill Irwin, Sheila Killingsworth, Pat Leare, Pauline Lonsdale, Lisa White, and Polly Wyld**. Congratulations to our magnificent seven. An eighth entry had copied one of the original puzzles incorrectly, and so arrived at a different solution. Out of the hat came the name of **Pauline Lonsdale**, who therefore receives not only congratulations but also a splendid example of *Appellation Sudoku*. Entries for this issue's tough challenge (above) to 25 Mead Lane, as usual, by 5th January please. And a Happy puzzling Christmas!

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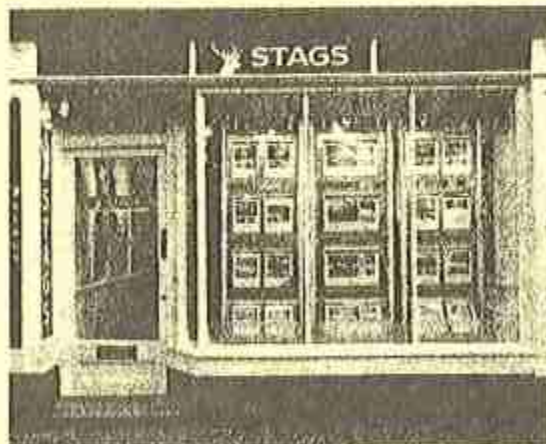


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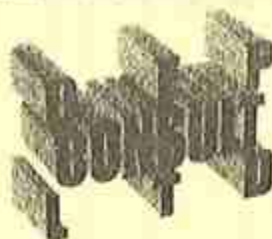
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Olé - All the Way!

By Gill Durden

On a bright sunny Sunday morning in May fourteen golfing friends assembled on the deck of the *Pont Aven* for what proved to be a trip to remember. Our destination? Sunny Spain... starting with a "mini-cruise" which consisted of 18 hours on board ship, with 8 of them spent asleep in a cosy cabin and the other 10 amusing ourselves on deck.

Having settled in and passed the time reading and eating French pastisseries we all went to the *Flora Restaurant* where our team leader Richard Sherrington had booked a table overlooking the sea. This set the standard for all our future meals, because it was superb: beautifully cooked steaks and fish washed down with delicious French wine. In a pleasantly relaxed mood we then filtered through to our cabins, saying "see you in the morning at breakfast"!

On our arrival the next morning at *Santander* in Northern Spain we set off in our cars to our first venue - *Salamanca* - which was a four-hour drive away. The Spanish roads are superb, with minimal traffic, so the drive was a pleasant one. We found our lovely *Hotel Parador* and again were bowled over by the fantastic view. Across the river we could see the ancient Cathedral which, set against the blue sky, was a hypnotically beautiful sight. After settling in we met in the bar for pre-dinner drinks of local beer and sangria - and by the time we were ready to eat we were all in a convivial mood! It took us a while to get used to the Spanish eating hours. Restaurants don't open until 9 pm. But it meant we were always in a good mood when we arrived - and I like to think the locals appreciated our singing led by Chris White and Brian Munn!!

After a gentle walk over the bridge and into the town the next day we enjoyed the beauty of the old town; all the buildings and the square where you could sit with a glass of foaming Cerveza and watch the world go by. Needless to say many of us succumbed to the lure of the *tapas bars* which were so tasty.

After strolling back over the bridge to our hotel we were ready for the evening routine of drinks on the terrace and a nice meal in a local restaurant.

Next day, Wednesday, was our first golfing day. Richard had drawn us into teams. The ladies' teams were (1) Gill Durden, Jill Munn, Jenny Sherrington and Lisa White, and (2) Linda Cant, Fiona Jacobs and Rita Collins. The men's teams were (1) Graham Cant, Richard Sherrington, Brian Munn and Tony Collins and (2) John Jacobs, Alastair Durden and Chris White. We drove to the *Club de Golf La Valmuza* - a drive of 20 minutes. We all found the Spanish golf courses extremely challenging. On top of the difficulty of converting the metre measurements on the score card into yards, we found them very long... but we loved every minute of it!!

For Thursday Richard had booked a tour round the town with an attractive young lady whose English was delightful, and we all enjoyed hearing about the history of this old Spanish town. The two cathedrals were amazing with beautifully carved stonework. Interestingly enough, they had built the second one to replace the first one side by side but by the time it was finished 250 years later they decided to keep the first one! The ancient University of Salamanca was also very interesting with its old student rooms still to be seen exactly as they were hundreds of years ago. After the tour we found a delightful bar with views over the square where we drowned our thirst with *cerveza* and sampled some of the *tapas*. Delicious!

Friday was to be another golfing day, which necessitated a drive of thirty minutes to the *Club de Golf Salamanca*, ably led by John Jacobs and his very efficient sat-nav. This time we played mixed golf, which we all really enjoyed, and many were the tales told later on that evening in the bar of various misfortunes and amazing shots round the course!

Saturday dawned bright and sunny for our trip to *Laguardia* which entailed a journey of three hours across beautiful mountains and to the *Rioja* vineyard region. Now was the time for some serious drinking! We walked up a hill to the old town which was invitingly full of wine-tasting bars ("and we all thought it would be rude not to try as many of them as we could") and the Rioja was so delicious it was easy to find time slipping away as we sat in little squares in the sunshine...

But Monday dawned bright and sunny and we set off for our next round of golf - this time on the most amazing course. We were again in teams of ladies and men and we ladies thought the course was definitely a man's course - it took us nearly six hours to play round it but it was a beautifully manicured course with amazing craters full of trees to go over and lakes....needless to say a few balls disappeared without trace!! The men also found the course a challenge - apart from Brian Munn who burned up the course with ease! That evening we had a wonderful meal of local venison and beef washed down with plenty of Rioja - it was a hard life!

Tuesday was our last golfing day and once more we drove across the vineyards to another beautiful tree-lined course surrounded by mountains in the distance - what a view! This was also a mixed match, and when the final scores were added up ably by Linda Cant (who had been keeping notes), prizes of Rioja wine were given to the lucky winners - Brian Munn, John Jacobs, Gill Durden and Lisa White.

Wednesday was our last day, and we had to have a tour round one the local wine houses in the town. It was absolutely fascinating to see the large sunken area where they still tread the grapes, and the centuries-old vaults where they store the barrels of wine. Then it was time to wend our way back to Santander for the homeward bound Ferry Crossing back to Plymouth. As we sat once again in the *Flora Restaurant* looking out to sea we all shared our thoughts "wonderful company, wonderful locations, great memories" and we looked forward to our reunion meal with sharing of photographs. We presented Richard with some brandy as a token of our appreciation for organising the trip, and we are all looking forward to the next one.



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October

The marine biologist **Nigel Mortimer**, from the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, centred his talk in October on what went on under the waters of our five local estuaries all of which contain amazing quantities of natural life forms. The Yealm holds a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) as well as being defined as a special area of conservation. The Erme remains much as it has always been as the most undeveloped of our estuaries, whilst the Dart contains the most seahorses!

Phosphates in detergents and other household and toiletry products cause damage when they go down plugholes from our homes, he warned us, and we were urged not to allow other waste products to go the same route. We only need to make small changes to our daily routines - like using our brown bins more and looking for phosphate-free products - for it to have an extremely valuable contribution to sustaining the fragile and highly-important eco-systems contained in our local estuaries.

Our cake stall at the parish hall's Autumn Fair in September had raised over £100 and their letter of thanks was read out. President **Pat Clarke** gave warm thanks to those members who had provided goods. The pub lunch on the 20th October at the Ashburton Arms was enjoyed by a small but select group - here's hoping for a better turn-out next time. The Beetle Drive and picnic supper on the 21st October proved to be a swift-moving, noisy, but highly-entertaining success and means almost £300 can be sent to the Kingsbridge outreach oncology clinic.

November

This meeting gave us the opportunity to help **Rosemary Mackay** celebrate her ninetieth birthday with a suitable popping of corks on the 'bubbly' used to toast this popular and very lively lady's health. The presentation of a basket of flowers was the occasion for **Pat Clarke** to thank her for all she had contributed to our WI - and for Rosemary to reciprocate by thanking all her fellow-

members for what she had gained from membership. Members were delighted to know that as a result of our charging more for tea at the September meeting, and with a small top-up from funds, £50 will be sent to the Denman College appeal. As attendance at meetings had grown, it had been agreed that, starting in the new year, three members (instead of two) would provide the teas.

On Saturday 28th January 2012, there will be a **Murder Mystery** evening with BYO supper.

On Saturday 25th February the first round of the **county quiz** competition will be held at Blackawton. Team members are required.

The committee's annual report was made by **Karen Livett** and the accounts presented by **Wendy Neukirchen**. Our annual meetings will now take place in May, with committee elections, and our new programme starting in June. An interim programme card was issued to each member covering the five months up to May 2012 as follows:

- # 12th January - **Jeremy Wilson** on Stretgate Camellias,
- # 9th February - **Joe Lovelady** on Plymouth Pilotage,
- # 8th March - **Robert Hesketh** on Devon Inns and their history,
- # 12th April - **Shirley Tull** on the importance of making a will and powers of attorney,
- # 10th May - **annual meeting**, elections, discussion of Resolutions.

Diary Dates

- # 25th November - Area Christmas Coffee Morning, Parish Hall, 10 am to 1.00 pm (Seasonal demos and bring & buy stall)
- # 9th December - Group carol service and tea, Thurlestone church, 2.30 pm
- # 15th December - Annual Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1.00 pm, Thurlestone Golf Club
- # 28th January - Murder Mystery evening, Parish Hall (BYO supper)
- # 25th February - Blackawton - county quiz first round.

VILLAGE VOICE QUIZ

At the Parish Hall Autumn Fair on Saturday 24th September, in a Quiz competition prepared by Village Voice, visitors were asked to find the UK place-names that most suitably fitted the 15 illustrations on the Quiz sheet. Solutions were to be submitted by 31 October to 25 Mead Lane, Thurlestone. The first correct answer out of the hat would win £10. Altogether, fifteen entries were received. Ingenious alternatives to the answers given below were also accepted. The lucky winner proved to be **Vivien Day** of Crosslands, Thurlestone.



ANSWERS

1. GORING
2. BARKING
3. MATLOCK
4. HAYLE
5. PAIGNTON
6. LAMPETER
7. WOOLWICH
8. BAKEWELL
9. NEWTON ABBOT
10. BURNHAM-ON-SEA
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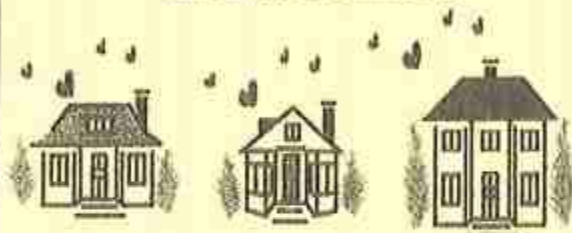
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Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

South Milton Ley

"I would like to offer a possible explanation about the Ley outlet on Thurlestone Sands which is puzzling David Richards of Worcestershire, (*Gazette*, May 20th 2011). He assumes it comes from the Sewage filter beds inland at the South Milton Sewage Works, whereas in fact it does not originate there at all. The stream (as I prefer to call it) has two sources, one at Heddeswell and one at Sutton, at least two miles inland. The two streams join together at the western end of the garden of Brook House in the centre of South Milton. From there it wanders down the valley past the water meadows and the (once) mill leat, through Mill Farm and on to the Bird Sanctuary, ending in the reed beds known as South Milton Ley. (NB These are the second largest reed beds in Devon, the largest being at Slapton across the other side of the South Hams peninsula).

It passes by the pipe delivering filtered water from the sewage works. This water is indeed filtered - through a reed bed planted specifically for this purpose, and not within the Natural reed bed. Once at the coast the stream battles its way through a sandbank which is ever-changing. The sea contours the beach on an ever-shifting system of levels and shapes of sand. Whenever the stream becomes blocked by a sand bank it will begin to back up the valley, and the level will very gradually rise. The water still filters slowly away through the sandbank, so a status quo will be reached but never retained.

Heavy rainfall accompanied by wind and high tides will conspire to (a) raise the level of water gathered from the *land* (surface water) and (b) cause the sea to invade the Ley over the top of the sandbank. In the end, after a day or a night or a week, the level will be too much for the sandbank "dam" and it will breach with spectacular effects. A channel will be gouged out of the beach with sides that can reach 20 feet or more.

The rushing water rages through, with huge standing waves as the millions of tons of water escapes, until equilibrium is reached, and all settles down until the next time. It is quite possible that the sandbank will return on the next high tide, and the process begin all over again, or it may not return for weeks or months.

The reed bed becomes like an inland sea when the sandbank is high, the rainfall is high, and the sea invades at every high tide. In December 2010 and January 2011 the Ley was blocked and the water high, and the whole surface was frozen with ice up to 2 inches thick around the edges. A large area of the reed bed was flattened and is now green and lush with new growth - all ready for the next vicious storm (which seems to be non-existent in the South UK right now!)

The birds have wondered where their habitat of former times has gone. It will be back next year if the winter is less cold and there is sufficient water to feed the reeds. Don't let the Ley out when it looks inviting to do so. The fragile eco-system of the South Milton Bird Sanctuary needs the reeds in order to thrive, and you might even get swept away if the stream is strong enough! I hope that all who read this will be interested to watch the antics of Mother Nature at work in her raw state".

This was an item I wrote to the *Gazette* last spring. Since then numerous folk have questioned why the lake/river/pond is there at all. Why doesn't it run out? Is the water contaminated? Why does it turn milky at times? Why is there a green algae on it at times?

My family and I have had a long time interest in it as we live so close. Our boys would be ever-vigilant, watching the level, listening, and sniffing! When the Ley breaches after a long stint of being blocked, the surge of water acts as a scour of the bed of the stream, and well rotted seaweed and sediment from previous storms is stirred into

action. The resultant whiff is strong but fortunately doesn't last long. Quite often in the warmer weather there is an area in the middle of the stream which looks milky and alarms some folk. It is only the reaction of sunlight on decaying seaweed at the bottom of the stream. Once the temperature drops it all disappears. The green algae is due to excessive sunshine and nutrients in the water. This too will disappear when the temperature goes down, or there are dull days. All this is an entirely natural process in the life of this particular stream.

At the moment - beginning of November 2011, the Ley is quite full, the dam of sand is wide-based and quite high. So no breach is likely yet. When the level reaches within a foot or so of the bridge, then a spectacular breach is in the offing. More often than not this happens at night, as the highest tides are often at night or early morning and so we miss seeing the action. But the resulting effects are just as stunning, with 20-30 foot high sides to the outlet - a wonderful playground for the young at heart! I have spent many a happy time with the other village children sliding down the slopes and clambering back up, wet, covered in sand, but *happy as 'sand-boys'*.

Throughout the summer this year the edge of the Ley has been engineered into canals, mini-dams, castles and moats, islands, and irrigation channels. It appears someone has planned and excavated the whole complex. I wonder how many Dads enjoyed it as much as or more than their children!

My weather observations over these last couple of months have been somewhat interrupted by a stay in Derriford, and then a period of recovery with a new hip. However, autumn is still with us until the end of November (officially), and by the look of the trees it will still have a whiff of that season until there is a good hard frost. By this time in normal years there have already been several ground and/or air frosts. But not this year, so the leaves are hanging on in there for a while yet. The colours have been quite impressive this year, and still are in sheltered spots. Beech trees in particular are well

decked in their autumn colours. Last year we were heading for a very cold and snowy spell. Doesn't look like there will be a repeat performance, but you never know!

My October figures tally with the findings of most observers country-wide. It proved to be a very average month overall.

OCTOBER WEATHER STATISTICS

WIND

General Direction : Westerlies = 20 days

Easterlies = 11 days

Speed: Top gust = 54mph on 25th

Lowest daily mean = 1mph on 1st

RAINFALL

Number of wet days = 12

Highest daily amount = 21mm on 24th

Monthly Total = 76.8mm

Monthly Average = 91.8mm over 15 years

TEMPERATURE

Highest daily = 23.6°C on 2nd

Lowest daily = 2.0°C on 20th

Highest Daily Mean = 17.9°C on 2nd

Lowest Daily Mean = 7.8°C on 20th

Monthly mean = 13.4°C

BAROMETER

Highest = 1033mb on 14th and 20th

Lowest = 999mb on 24th

SUNSHINE

Sunniest day = 16 hrs on 1st Oct.

Total for the month = 110 hrs.

No sun on 4 days

Nothing very exciting really, but some lovely days with people in swimming on 8th and 9th October as well as the school break about the 20th. St. Luke's little summer time! I took some photos for the record. It really was superb, with weak sunshine but calm and warm temperatures above 17°C.

Only five weeks to the shortest day, then roll on the spring! In between, I guess winter will show its face.

Have fun in the snow - if there is any - and drive carefully.

A Very Happy Christmas!

Jan Turner

EDDIE CAMERON

FORESTRY

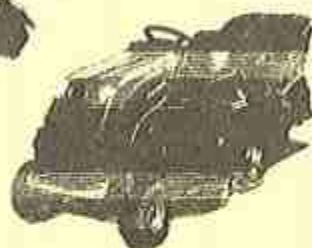
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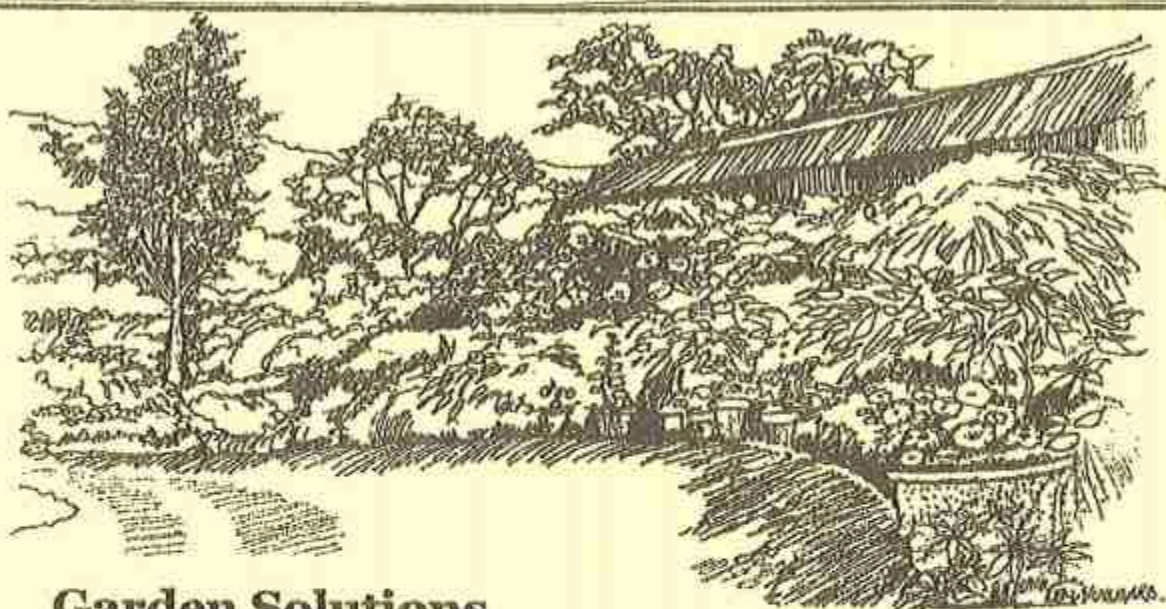
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Monday 5 th	KEDFAS Christmas Lunch, Thurstlestone Hotel
Monday 5 th	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Tuesday 6 th	TRAMP Christmas Lunch walk
Wednesday 7 th	National Trust - Christmas Concert, Exeter Cathedral
Friday 9 th	WI Carol Service, Thurstlestone church, 2.30 pm
Thursday 15 th	WI Christmas Lunch, TGC, 12.30 for 1.00 pm
Friday 16 th	Stanborough Chorus at Buckfast Abbey, 7.30 pm (see advert)
January	
Friday 6 th	Zumba starts at the Parish Hall, 2.15 pm
Friday 6 th	National Trust, Prawle Point Coastwatch talk, 2.30 pm
Monday 9 th	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Thursday 12 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Carnellias)
Friday 13 th	Zumba at the Parish Hall, 2.15 pm
Friday 20 th	National Trust coffee morning, Thurstlestone Hotel, 10.30 am
Friday 20 th	Zumba at the Parish Hall, 2.15 pm
Wednesday 25 th	KEDFAS Artists in WW2, King's Arms, 10.30 am
Thursday 26 th	KEDFAS " " " " 7.30 pm
Friday 27 th	Zumba at the Parish Hall, 2.15 pm
Saturday 28 th	WI Murder Mystery Evening, Parish Hall, byo supper
February	
Monday 6 th	Parish Council meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm
Thursday 9 th	WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Plymouth Pilots)
Saturday 11 th	Tim Kliphuis concert, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm, byo supper
Wednesday 22 nd	KEDFAS English Manor House, King's Arms 10.30 am
Thursday 23 rd	KEDFAS " " " " 7.30 pm

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT (Feb-Mar) ISSUE = 5th JANUARY 2012

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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SEARCHLIGHT (Tuesday's Fortnightly) FILMS FOR ALL (Tuesday's Monthly) Contact: Lt. Walsh 560090

Friends of Thurlestone Church Contact: KJ Marshall 560214

ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headmaster Philip Midway 560494

ACRE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Chairman Stuart Ward 810378

BANTAM SAILING CLUB

Coastal Marilyn Carr 560295

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Clubhouse 560447

BOWLS CLUB

Contact: Eileen Deynott 560051

BRIDGE CLUBS 7 pm Wednesdays and Fridays

Contact: Dorothy Stone 560738

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

Secretary / Manager Rosalind Thomas 560405

TENNIS SECTION

Chairman Harry Lewis 01875 - 531110

KEEP FIT

Contact: Karen Lovett 560131

TAI CHI

Contact: Viki Alexander 561182

BOATCULTURAL SHOW (annual)

Contact: John Lonsdale 560742

PROBES

Contact: Tom Tredder 560895

TRAMP (Thurlestone Runblers)

Contact: Jill Mann 560752

DIRECTORY

W. L. 230 pm Parish Hall

Contact: Pat Clarke 561982

Second Thursday monthly (except August)

TEAMMAKERS

INDIVIDUAL COMPUTER TUITION AND INTERNET CAFE

(Computer Club) Wednesdays 2 pm - 4 pm Yeo Room

Contact: Michael Searcy 562112 Robin Macdonald 560436 Chris White 560305

TABLE TENNIS

Wednesday 5.00 to 6.00 pm Yeo Room, Parish Hall Robin Macdonald 560436

HEALTH CENTRES

Kingsbridge 0844 477 8053 Salcombe 842344

MILK DELIVERY

R. Brooker & Son 01803 - 832801

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

Dave & Sandra Edmonds 01548 - 831332

VILLAGE SHOP

Thurlestone Village Shop M. T. Th. F. 8.00 am - 5.30 pm 561917

(Bank Holidays open from 8.00 am - 4.00 pm)

THURLESTONE POST OFFICE

Open: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9.00 am - 5.30 pm Wed, Sat 9.00 am - 1.00 pm 561917

Postal collection: 4.00pm Monday - Friday. Noon on Saturday. NO collection on Sunday

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Co-ordinator Charles Macdonald 560602

POLICE

Dave Gibson (Community Support Officer) 08456 - 565367

Emergency

999 Non-emergency calls 08452 - 779444

Minicom users

01392 - 452935 Confidential information 0800-555-111

RUBBISH COLLECTION

Monday (for Tuesday in Bank Holiday Monday weeks) Grey Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 5th December

Coloured (White, Blue) Sack collection (recyclable) and Brown Wheelies - alternate Mondays from 1st December

RECYCLING CENTRE (for Quarry Site, Tossur Road - Telephone 521609)

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Saturday & Sunday 10.00 am - 4.30 pm

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION LINE

For ALL bus, rail or National Express Coach timetable information call TRAVELINE 01779 6012 608

Open EVERY day (except Christmas Day) 7.00 am to 9.00 pm

Doverham publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to dverham@btopen.gov.uk

GARAGE (Night Employment)

Maurice Blight / Keith Poole 560250

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY

(Mobile Library from Ivybridge calls alternate Wednesdays from 7th December 2011) 852515

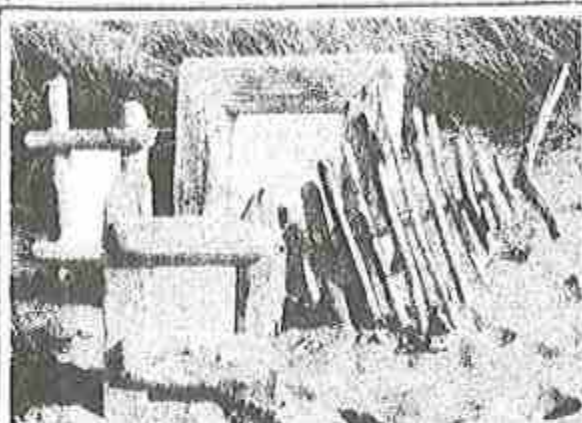
South Milton (Beckley Close)

14.45 - 15.30 pm

Thurlestone (Parish Hall Car Park)

15.40 - 16.40 pm

MOBILE FIRST & CRIP VAN Alternate Wednesdays from 7th December, from 5.00pm to 6.30 pm, outside school.



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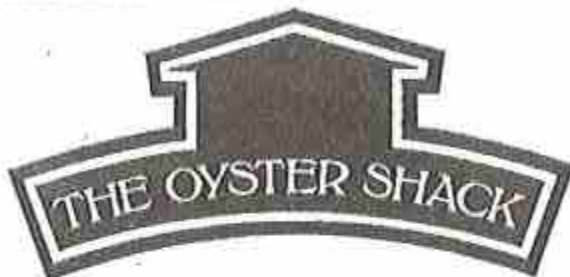
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Milburn Orchard Farm, Stakes Hill, Bigbury, TQ7 4BE

The Village Inn

Est. 1896



Situated at the heart of Thurlestone village, just minutes from the south-west coast path, The Village Inn has been family owned for over a century.



We pride ourselves on using the very best of local produce to create a superb selection of freshly prepared meals. We offer a selection of well-kept West Country ales, including our own "Village Inn Bitter"; and an extensive wine list.



We are always open for Lunch and Dinner, and throughout the summer months we open all day, with food served all day at weekends!

Why not come out and see us?

- *Tuesday – Quiz Night*
- *Thursday – Pie & Pint Night*
- *Friday – Fish and Chip Night*
- *Traditional Sunday Lunch*
- *Children Welcome*
- *Local Produce*
- *Real Cask Ales*
- *Just minutes from the coast path*

For reservations, or more information:
Telephone: 01548 563525
Email: thevillageinn@thurlestone.co.uk