

VILLAGE VOICE



OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2004



NUMBER 129
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A recent major study by Essex University for the Economic and Social Research Council identified voluntary work as the key element in the "virtuous circle" which makes and sustains happy and satisfied communities. "If people take part in volunteer activity, they feel better. It also works at a community level - happy communities lead to more voluntary work, which leads to happier communities" (Prof. Whiteley, in the Daily Telegraph, 21.9.04)

Sevenoaks came out top of the 101 local authorities covered. The town boasts a Round Table, Lions Club, Women's Institute, cricket and tennis clubs, camera club; a fine arts society, and active charities. It has its own philharmonic orchestra, concert band, wind band, women's *a cappella* group, and three choirs. Teignbridge, the most westerly of the local authorities included, was fourth highest on the list.

What percentage of **our** parish community do you suppose would claim they were "very satisfied with life"? Would Bantham, Buckland, and Thurlestone outscore the 37% rating of Sevenoaks?

What we do know is that there are many, many of our residents engaged in voluntary work of all kinds, and that our collective efforts are solidly behind the fund-raising drive for a new Parish Hall.

It's now official. This way happiness lies!

Front Cover : A new arrival in Stiddicombe Wood

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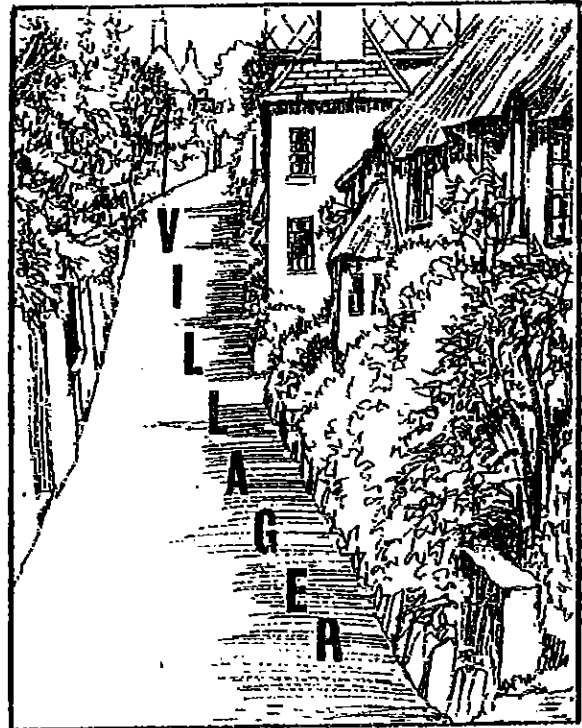
DANGER! MINERS AT WORK UNDER THE GOLF COURSE

Was it only the other day that I remarked that our Golf Club was sitting on a gold mine?

I was referring of course to the huge rises in the value of land and property in our parish. But now I have been reminded that there really is a mine under the first and second holes of the golf course.

Not many people know that. However, I remember, if somewhat hazily, when only just a small Villager, seeing a deep dip in the ground, a little to the seaward side of the small clubhouse, which was circled with wires and posts around wire netting over a dark hole. There was a warning notice too. It said something like "DANGER. KEEP OUT. OLD SHAFTS".

Little Villager took no notice. He was more interested in trying to persuade small eels from the stream in front of the club-house to enter his goldfish bowl after they were washed down on to Leas Foot beach. For the record, I succeeded only once, a poor return for months of endeavour. Shortly afterwards the eel climbed out of the bowl - which I had been ordered by my grand-mama to take out into the garden - and probably resumed his journey to the sea. Do not ask me if he (or she, an eel-sexer I am not) made it to an eel's idea of heaven



better known to all children then as the Sargasso Sea.

Though I searched through the flower beds, the asparagus bed, the long the short and the tall grass, I didn't find him or her. I had the vague feeling that my mother was not devoting all her energies to the hunt, while my grandma was obviously an eel-hunting saboteur. Women, I was not to learn until years later, are not very keen on eels unless they are smoked.

Where was I? Oh yes, the mine under Thurlestone golf course. I had forgotten all about the mine shaft and its warning notice until over seventy years later, when I answered my front

door knocker and met Andy Holcombe for the first time. With little ado he asked me to tell him all about the mine down at Leas Foot. My lack of knowledge must have been quite a disappointment to him, for he had just penetrated over nearly 100 metres into the mine and was trying to put some sort of date to the workings. Had I found any old references to the mine? What were they mining for - slate, stone, iron, copper, tin, silveror even gold? And who were they, and where had they come from? Was Thurlestone once a mining village?

Young Holcombe, who lives in Kingsbridge, was working for the National Trust at the time. To help him about the Leas Foot mine, I started digging for local mining facts in what records there are. I soon found that Andy was already an expert on the mines, tunnels, underground passage-ways, caves and smugglers' hidey-holes of the South Hams. There must be very few that he has not explored personally.

At this point, I will risk losing readers by revealing that there is very little chance that the mine under the golf course was a gold mine. Gold has been found in the South Hams - they say, for example, that specks of gold have been found in the stream which runs by the Old Lifeboat House at Hope, but like other strikes the gold there has never been in sufficient quantity to start a gold rush. Gold, iron, copper and silver have been sought since ancient times along the Bolt and the

cliffs of Bigbury Bay.

For example, Andy told me that he has explored an iron mine of the 1850s at Hope, or rather just around the corner at the great rock called the Grey Stone, to the east of Bolt Tail. He had scrambled down the cliffs with his partner, Bill Noyce, and had managed to enter the workings. But he was appalled at the dangerous condition inside - "huge boulders were hanging from the roof without any apparent support" - and they got out pretty smartish. That mine didn't pay enough to work and the whole mine was abandoned soon after the first vessel to be loaded with iron ore was wrecked on the rocks below the mine entrance.

Andy has also explored Easton's Mine near Bolberry Down. This one was started by John Easton of Dodbrooke, Kingsbridge, in 1770, and was intended to produce copper and gold in vast quantities. Unfortunately while the ore sparkled it didn't impress the assayer who announced it was merely iron pyrites, known even then as "fools' gold". No more miners were lowered down the cliff after that.

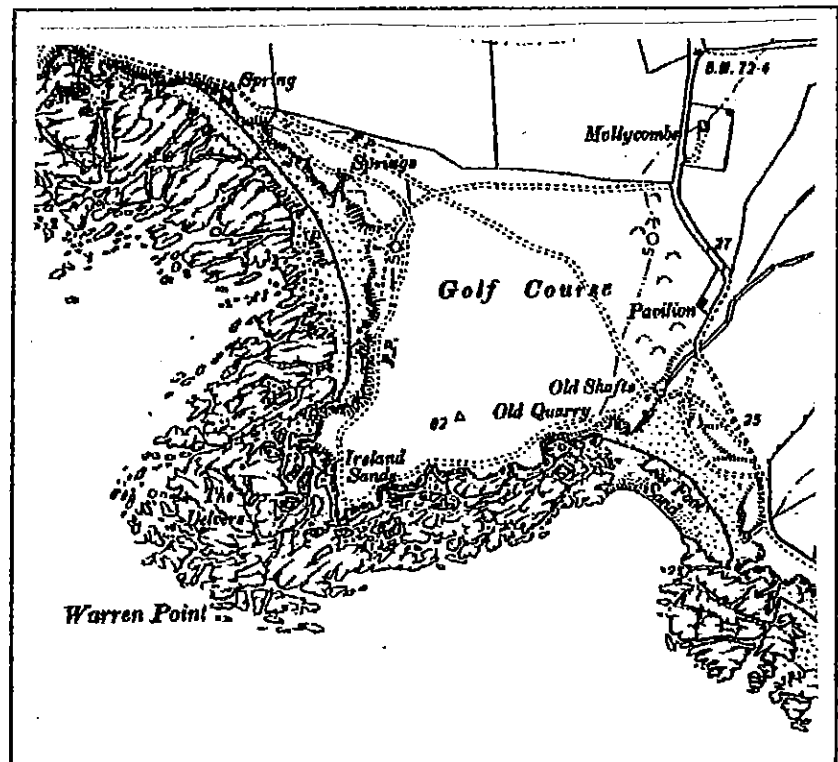
Search as hard as I could, I found nothing written about the Thurlestone Mine, not even in the days around 1897 when the golf club was formed. Nor is there any local mention of it, despite the warnings about old shafts, and despite the fact that "Old Shafts" and "Old Quarry" are clearly marked at Leas Foot on the big scale Ordnance

Survey of 1907 (shown here).

So what date is Thurlestone's own mine? And what were they digging out? To get a clue we have to consult Andy Holcombe's report of his penetration early this year. He entered where the sea has broken in and worked his way along tunnels of wider than shoulder-width and almost high enough to stand upright.

Soon he found himself confronted with elaborate stonework arches. Here there was a pool of fresh water through which he waded almost chest deep. From this stone-roofed area about 5 metres long, his torch showed him a shaft going up to the surface - probably the one near the clubhouse though high up it had clearly been capped. He then followed almost level tunnels on a zig-zag course, more or less under the first hole of the course. After about 70 metres of this he turned back, feeling that he was not properly kitted up for a long exploration.

Not as old as the clubhouse shaft, is another entrance to the mine which you can see well up in the cliffs above Warren Point. This is more of a formal doorway to the mine and at one time was barred by a stout iron-grid door sealed shut to great iron bars set in some sort of stonework. That



entrance or exit of what Andy Holcombe thinks was a ventilation shaft, has a Victorian feel about it and the door might well have been there to stop any early golfer or his family falling foul of the dangers and deep waters of the mine. That door is now gone, and the sea has again broken in to the mine further down the cliff closer to low tide level.

My tentative dating of the mine to the 18th or 19th century, despite any real evidence, did not meet with favour from young Holcombe. He drew my attention to the crumbling remains of obvious mining tunnels cut in the rock further round the point. The sea never did that sort of damage in a hundred years, he said, that sort of thing possibly took the sea thousands of years to erode away.

But in that case how did he explain

those carefully-worked stone archways, which made a ceiling to a room-like area, much closer to the clubhouse shaft? That stonework would have taken dozens of men working for days underground to complete, even if labour was so cheap that cost didn't come into it.

My guess is that the Leas Foot mine was for copper, with the zig-zagging tunnels following veins of ore. Then, suddenly, I remembered recent finds on Leas Foot beach - a bronze Age spearhead, obviously unused and straight from the mould, and then a bronze arrowhead. To make bronze you needed tin to mix with the copper. What about those finds, by divers in the mouth of the Erme, of very early Bronze Age tin ingots? That's not far away from Leas Foot.

Supposing there was a Bronze Age arms factory in that old quarry at Leas Foot, churning out spearheads and arrowheads and making bronze from tin ingots from Dartmoor and copper from the mine next door?

And supposing the mine really dates back to about 1500BC - or at least part of it does? Suppose Thurstone really started as a living place, not up the coombe where the village sprawls today, but down on Leas Foot beach? Makes you feel really, really old doesn't it?

And before you say it, what about those stone archways in the mine - surely those couldn't have been Bronze Age? No of course they weren't. Or at least they don't look it. But supposing smuggling was a much bigger Thurstone operation than we ever guessed - running more spirits a week than ever could be stored on the roof of the church porch? What better place to hide the brandy barrels than a stone-roofed room down in a mine near a good landing-place on the shore?

I know it's a lot of supposing, but it makes you think, doesn't it?

Villager

In aid of Arthritis Research (ARC)

BRIDGE AFTERNOON

**Tuesday 16th November
2.00 pm
Thurstone Parish Hall**

£6.00 including tea

Contact : Dorothy Abel 560559

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Parish Council Meeting

6th September 2004

News and Views by Citizen

A special item, concerning funding for the building a new Parish Hall, was discussed prior to adopting the new pattern for Parish Council meetings, in which the Open Forum takes place when the meeting opens.

NEW PARISH HALL

As all our readers will be aware, the first application to the Lottery Fund for assistance in building a new Parish Hall was not successful - despite all the hard work put into the application - but Martyn Grose and David Houghton, who between them prepared the original submission, have been following other potential opportunities for funding.

A 'Public Works Loan Board' borrowing was discussed in principle. This provides a fixed interest loan over a thirty year period which, if approved, could be undertaken by the Parish Council with the repayments being covered by an increased precept (i.e., the proportion of our Council Tax attributed to matters for which the Council is responsible to the parish).

This method of funding has been used by other Parish Halls in the South Hams for part-financing the rebuilding or refurbishment of their premises. As the total amount of the precept increase would be relatively small and spread across all Council Tax payers in the parish - including second home owners - the extra cost to each individual household would be minimal. The actual amount will not be known until details of the loan are available, but the cost per household would not be expected to exceed £1.50 per month.

When details are to hand, this idea will be fully discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.

OPEN FORUM

None of the members of the public present felt they could usefully comment on subjects which had not already been discussed, as it is only by listening to the Councillors discussing agenda items that the parishioners are later able to ask informed questions! It was hoped that the pattern in the future would allow questions from the floor - when it was considered sensible to allow it without interfering too much with the meeting. It was felt that if this wasn't allowed, then the attendance by the public other than the Councillors

would probably disappear. This would be a shame as it is understood our Parish Council meetings are at present one of the best for parishioner interest.

STREET CLEANING

It was generally accepted that the present system was very inferior to that enjoyed in the past, particularly in respect of leaves and other debris which block the flow of water into the drains and can eventually cause drains to become blocked. This then causes excessive water to flow down the road. It was felt the only answer to this problem was to invite our local Area Manager to a future meeting.

FOOTPATHS

The Dog Warden is to visit in November to see if a further dog poo bin would be advantageous. He might hopefully persuade thoughtless dog owners to bin it rather than hang the bag on the nearest hedge. A suggestion was made that the present bin should be more clearly defined in an effort to try and stop its being used as somewhere to put picnic waste. Devon County Council are also being asked to replace the **NO CYCLING** signs as there have been a number of cases of a cyclist going across the golf course and on to the Coastal Path and endangering walkers.

A further problem has developed regarding householders allowing their boundary hedges to grow over the pavement. Letters will be sent to offenders requesting that they trim the hedges back in line with their boundaries or else the Council will do it for them and send a bill for the work.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Parish Council would like organisations who have arranged, or are arranging, special events for 2005 to let them know the details.

ISLAND VIEW GREEN AREA

South Hams Council's reply to the Parish Council's request for further information regarding ownership of the land in question was considered insufficient for the Parish Council to take further action at this time.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This will be held on Monday 4th October 2004, at 7.30 pm, in the Parish Hall.

PARISH HALL NEWS

By Rowland Cole



Having read the memorandum leaked to Villager and published in the previous issue of Village Voice, it would seem that his contacts in high places should be put to good use on the Hall's behalf. I shall be having a quiet word with him.

Following the rejection of our application for funds towards building our new Hall by the Community Fund of the National Lottery, it is very gratifying to witness the determined and enthusiastic approach to the situation we now face - that we are going to have to raise, through our own efforts and locally, a lot more money than we originally thought would be the case. Evidence of this determination and enthusiasm is shown in our Treasurer Bill Clarke's funds update statement overleaf.

The tennis tournament on the 6th August was an enormous success and greatly enjoyed by the many young, and not quite so young, contestants. Very many thanks to the **Thurlestone Golf Club** for allowing us the free use of the courts, and especially to **Lindsey Fletcher** for her involvement in making the arrangements with the club committee. Equally, the tournament was superbly organised and run by the club's tennis coach, **Janet Richardson**, and we are most grateful to her too.

In addition, the thirst and hunger worked up by contestants in the excellent weather were kept at bay by the combined efforts of the **Parish Hall committee** members and helpers **Judy Beacroft, Louise Boxhall, Dilly Finzi, Audrey Grose, Margaret Houghton, Judith Le Grice** and **Rosemary Stocken** who all earn our most warm thanks. Lastly, though certainly not least, a large 'thank you' to all the contestants who entered the tournament - without you we

would not have had a tournament nor such a handsome contribution to our funds.

Other fund-raising activities are also in hand. **On Saturday 23rd October, we are holding a Rumble Sale and Coffee Morning at the Hall.** If you want to create a little more space at home, please let us have anything you can spare which is surplus to your requirements. We would also be delighted to have produce from your garden or kitchen, unused presents, or other goods. Any member of the Hall committee would be happy to collect offerings. Please come along, enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat to your friends and, who knows, you might find a real bargain!

On Saturday 13th November bring your own picnic supper and drinks, and enjoy a real foot-tapping evening of 'Gentle Jazz' at the Parish Hall (see adverts).

Other examples of the determination we share to pursue our goal of a new Hall are evidenced by the generosity of **Bryan and Marian Rigby** in their offer of **bed and breakfast at Beaconsfield** with the payment donated to the hall, and the excellent sales of the **Second 20th Century Quiz**, kindly devised by **Sheila Sadler**. We are grateful to all three. You will find elsewhere in this issue the answers to the Quiz questions and the name of the prize-winner.

Our efforts to obtain a significant grant or contribution towards the building costs of our new Hall continue and both **Martyn Grose** and **David Houghton** are actively exploring new possibilities. But we must all continue raising as much as we can through our own efforts. I do hope therefore you will make a note of, and come to, the future events detailed in this issue.

PARISH HALL FUNDS

By Bill Clarke
Treasurer



TOTAL FUNDS UPDATE

The Funds now stand at

£111,327.69

The following contributions have been received in 2004:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Treasure Hunt (Gillian Marshall) | £ 50.00 |
| Beatle Drive (Roger & Carol Cole) | £ 279.00 |
| Barn Dance (Pat Crawford) | £ 560.50 |
| Smarties campaign | £1691.80 |
| Ladies Bridge (Joan Mackenzie) | £ 200.00 |
| Picture Sales (Thurlestone Rock - Peter Stafford) | £ 338.00 |
| W. Alvington Singers Concert | £ 615.00 |
| Cream Teas Warren House (Mr & Mrs Atkins) | £1209.41 |
| Sale of Coasters (Joan Mackenzie) | £ 100.00 |
| W.I. Lunch | £ 100.00 |
| Flanders & Swann (Williams & Durden) | £ 650.50 |
| Tennis Sweepstake (Pat Clarke) | £ 100.00 |
| Tennis Tournament (L Fletcher, J Richardson et al) | £ 891.73 |
| 20 th Century Quiz (Sheila Sadler & Village Store) | <u>£ 360.00</u> |
| | 7,145.94 |
| Donations (25 in number) | <u>15,154.95</u> |
| Total in 2004 to date (mid-September) | £22,300.89 |

Grand Total to date

£111,327.69

FORTHCOMING FUND-RAISING EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

23rd OCTOBER

**RUMBLE
SALE**

13th NOVEMBER

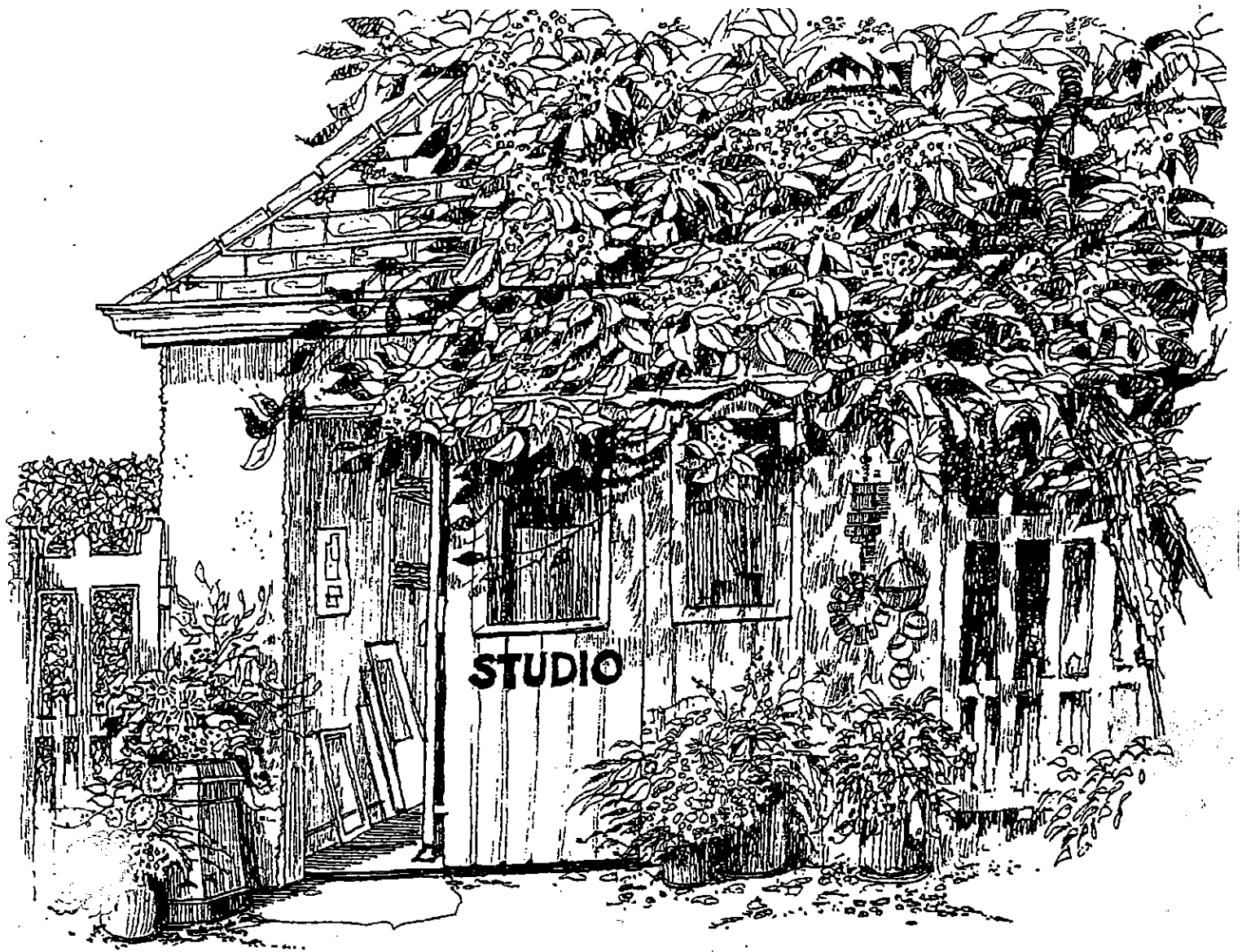
**GENTLE
JAZZ**

11th DECEMBER

**TAKE-NOTE
CONCERT**



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All Saints' Diary

Churchwardens: Graham Worrall 562016 & Liz Webb 560090

Church Services

All Services are at Thurlestone unless indicated otherwise

You would be welcome at any services

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| OCTOBER 3RD | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship for All |
| OCTOBER 10TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Matins (BCP) |
| OCTOBER 17TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW) |
| OCTOBER 24TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW) |
| OCTOBER 31ST | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW) |
| NOVEMBER 7TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 10.30 a.m. Benefice All Saints' Service at South Milton with <i>Operation Christmas Child Boxes</i> (see leaflets in shop) 6.00 p.m. Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving |
| NOVEMBER 14TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Remembrance Sunday Service and wreath laying |
| NOVEMBER 21ST | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) 11.10 a.m. Family Communion (CW) |
| NOVEMBER 28TH | 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) 11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW) 6.00 p.m. Benefice Advent Carol Service at Churchstow |

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

CW = Common Worship

Regular Weekday Services

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| THURSDAY OCT 7 & Nov 4 | 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) at Bantham |
| OTHER THURSDAYS | 8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) |
| THURSDAYS OCT 28 & Nov 25 | 8.00 a.m. Informal Prayer |

Everyone is welcome to the Church Meeting Room for:-

Coffee-Time

MONDAYS

10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

Coffee with Fun & Games (optional)

WEDNESDAYS

10.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Homemade Soup & Ploughman's Lunch

FRIDAY OCT 1 & Nov 5

Noon - 1.30 p.m.

Donations in aid of *Society of Mary & Martha* (Oct) & *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People* (Nov)
NOVEMBER 24TH 10.30 A.M. Joan Golding: Talk & slides about *Hearing Dogs*

Lunch Club for those living on their own or unable to cook for themselves

EVERY FRIDAY (except 1st in month) **12.30 p.m. £5** for a hot meal & glass of sherry/orange

Advance booking is essential with Liz Webb (560090) or Sybil Williams (560672)

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**All
Saints**

RECTOR:
Revd. Andrew Girling 562219



Andrew Girling writes:
CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

'It does not matter what you believe as long as you have something to live by.' I have been told that twice recently. It's an attitude which typifies the spirit of our age, where we have developed a sort of 'pick and mix' approach to faith and religion. So long as you have something to help and sustain you through life, we are told, who cares what it is. It reminds me of the old jibes about faith in general: 'Man created God in his own image' and 'If God did not exist man would have to have invented him'. In the face of the darkness and apparent meaninglessness of the human condition, we certainly need something to look to and hold on to, but surely not if we have to make it all up.

The fact is that faith, any faith, is worth absolutely nothing unless it is true. Only if what we believe and practise puts the believer in touch with reality, will it have any meaning or lasting significance. If what we believe is not true it is a dangerous snare and delusion.

The great claim at the heart of Christianity is that it tells us the truth about God and the truth about mankind. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that Jesus, an historical figure, practised totally what he taught: self-sacrificing, reconciling love, which, it claims, is the key which can unlock the human prison of guilt and the sense of life's futility. It tells us that without God, man remains spiritually incomplete and frustrated. It claims that Jesus embodied the ultimate truth about life.

Can I therefore invite you and your friends and indeed anyone who wishes to explore further the claims of the Bible about the truth of Jesus Christ, to come and join us for a course, **CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED**, which will look, with discussion and talks, at the message of St. Mark's gospel. It will be on Monday evenings at 7.30 p.m. beginning on October 18th in the Church Meeting Room. There will be no prayers and you won't be asked to sing hymns, but if you wish, you will be encouraged to ask questions and to discuss a video presentation made by Rico Tice of All Souls, Langham Place in London. It will, I hope be relaxed and informal and everyone will be most welcome.

Andrew

**CHRISTIANITY
EXPLORED**

MONDAYS FROM OCTOBER 18TH 7.30 P.M.
THURLESTONE CHURCH MEETING ROOM

Everyone is Welcome to ...

*... an informal course for people who'd like to investigate
Christianity, or just brush up on the basics, exploring who*

- ◆ You don't need to know anything about the Bible;
- ◆ You can ask any question you like;
- ◆ You're not asked to pray, sing, or read aloud;
- ◆ You can just come along and simply listen.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7TH 6.00 P.M.

A chance to remember departed loved ones and to give thanks for all they gave us and shared with us. During the service there will be a chance to light a candle of remembrance. We shall also read aloud the names of loved ones whose families would like us to do so. If you would like a loved one remembered by name, please fill in the proforma and return it to Andrew.

I should like the following name(s) read out at the service *(please print clearly)* :

.....

Signed:
Please return to: Revd. Andrew Girling, The Rectory, Homefield, Thurlestone TQ7 3LF

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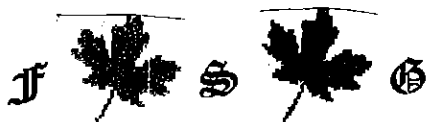
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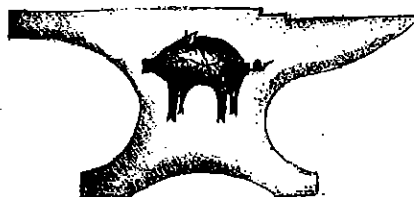
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Village News Round-Up

River Party Bonanza!

Over 300 guests from villages around the River Avon enjoyed an evening with a South American flavour on 8th August, raising over £7000 for two worthy, but completely different, causes - the **Harare Children's Charities** in Zimbabwe and the **Aune Conservation Association** - in the process.

The venue was a sumptuous marquee that had been generously donated for the occasion in a field above Thurlestone. The evening went with a real swing, spurred on by the music of **Alka Salsa** and a fund-raising auction, although the spectacular views over the river and Burgh Island were marred somewhat by the murky weather.

Many local sponsors and supporters helped to make the evening such a tremendous success, either by their donations towards the food, raffle and auction, or by helping prepare and cook the superb buffet, while absent friends gave generous donations. The kindness of all concerned means both that the lives of many AIDS-infected orphans in Zimbabwe will be improved, and that the Aune Conservation Association will be able to fund special projects concerned with improving or maintaining the idyllic environment of the river for all its users

Monica and Joyce

The ladies of the local NSPCC committee and their husbands gave a lunch in the Parish Hall on 17th September in honour of **Monica Dickins** and **Joyce Wilson** on the occasion of the presentation to both of certificates from the NSPCC to mark their many years of work for the Society. **Alison Armer**, the area appeals manager, made the presentation and thanked them for all the fund-raising they had organised for the charity in their long association. Chairman **Pat Crawford** would in turn like to thank her committee for

the excellent luncheon they provided.

You will see elsewhere in this issue the advert for the NSPCC's **Bridge Evening** on **Saturday 9th October**. They are also putting on a **Christmas event** at the Parish Hall on **Saturday 4th December**, so look out for the posters around the parish.

Christmas Trees

Make a note that **Peggy Elliott** of South Milton would very pleased if you would save your old Christmas trees to give to her after Twelfth Night. She wants them for a panto production at Malborough village hall in the New Year! She can be contacted on 560440.

Bantham Store

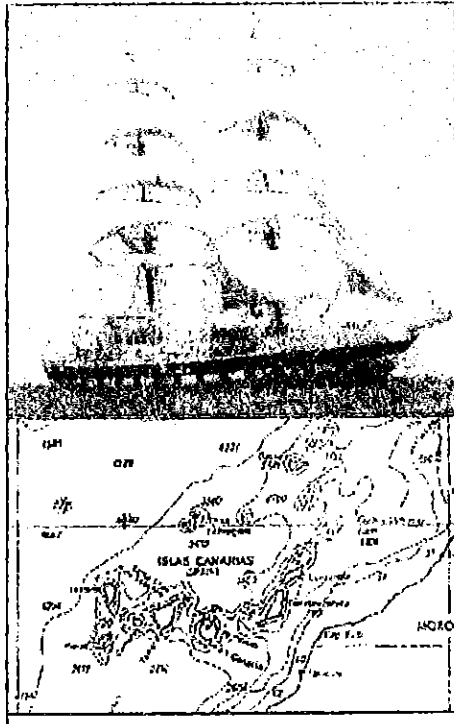
We extend a warm welcome to **Barbara** and **Kevin Tucker** who have re-opened the shop at Bantham, together with a small café which is at present serving tea, coffee and home-made cakes. Later, they will be doing breakfasts and lunches too. The family of four moved to the parish last April, from Eastbourne, with children **Karla** aged 5 and **Joel** almost 9, who are at school in Aveton Gifford.

The residents at Bantham and Buckland are naturally delighted to have their own handy shop again, selling bread, papers, milk, groceries, etc. The café has a door on to a tabled deck area which, during the warmer weather, has been much in use by visitors. It has the most wonderful views of the mouth of the river and is an excellent spot at which to have a nice cuppa when out walking - and, of course, later on, lunch....or even breakfast if you get up early enough!

It's great to have another new young family running an enterprising business in the parish, and we wish them well. Their phone number is 01548-560645.

Sail a Tall Ship

Kit Marshall is looking for anyone who may be interested in a wonderful opportunity to join the crew of a beautiful Tall Ship, the SS Niarchos, on a sailing cruise of the Canary Islands from 1st - 8th March 2005.



No previous experience necessary. The ship is owned and managed by the Tall Ships Youth Trust. Contact Kit Marshall for further details on 01548 - 560214. A really great opportunity - don't delay!

Floral Decorations

Many of us have admired the beautiful hanging flower basket that has been brightening up the Pump at Thurlestone over the summer. Have you ever wondered who planted it and tends it so lovingly?

The answer is **Derrick and Jean Yeoman**, so on behalf of all parishioners, Village Voice would like to thank them for helping to make this part of the parish so pleasant. Similarly with the flowers in the old trough at Rockhill Corner.

Front Cover

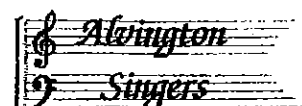
Len Hubbard's front cover picture shows one of the new commemorative trees planted in Stiddicombe Wood as part of the Aune Conservation Association's initiative.

Highgrove Visit

A number of the Friends of Thurlestone Church paid a visit to the garden at Highgrove on 9th September. We hope to include a report in our next issue.

The Electoral Register

Don't lose your right to vote! Have you remembered to check and return the Register of Electors 2005 form (that by now should have reached every household in the parish), or used the new painless system and phoned through to register? **Take action before the 8th October.** This information is required by law, so don't fail to make the return or you could be facing a hefty fine of up to £1000. There is a Helpline on 01803-861434 or an e-mail address : [<elections@southhams.gov.uk>](mailto:elections@southhams.gov.uk)



A Concert for Megan

At
The Baptist Church
Kingsbridge
On
Friday 15th October
7.30 pm

A light-hearted and humorous
collection of music and songs

£5.00 admission

Children under 16 FREE!

Proceeds in aid of
Megan Kenny's treatment at
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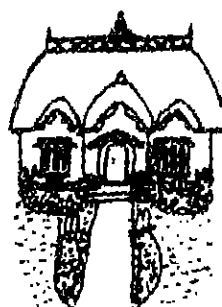
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Pat Macdonald 560436

All Proceeds to the Parish Hall building fund

THURLESTONE & SOUTH MILTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Yet another annual show has come and gone. This year it was South Milton's turn to be host on the 7th August, a day which dawned bright and clear. Unbelievably, and encouragingly, the show produced more entries, more cups and more first-time winners than ever before in its twenty-something years of existence!

New cups were donated to the Show by **Keith Millman** for the photographic classes, entries for which are increasing year on year, and by **Lynne Gunning** for the cookery classes. Both the donors had the pleasure of presenting their cups in person to the winners.

David Coward, the Show chairman, thanked his hard-working committee for their commitment to keeping the Show running smoothly and enjoyably for all concerned, including judges, stewards, exhibitors and the viewing public. He thanked the parishioners for the high standard of their entries and those who took the trouble to come and enjoy the colourful spectacle.

The occasion was taken to present cheques for £200 to Thurlestone's Parish Hall building fund

and £200 to South Milton Village Hall fund towards their proposed loop (hearing) system.

Cups were presented by **Pat Macdonald**, the Show President, to **David Coward**, **Tony Church**, **Joanna Melvin**, **Derek Brown**, **Yvette Date**, **Claire McKillop**, **Tilly Durant**, **Frances Pope**, **Kate Pope**, **Katie Harrison**, **Sue Durant**, **Joan Booth**, **Heather McKillop**, and **Tom Gilkes**. The two new cups were presented by **Keith Millman** to **Joan Sparrow** and **Lynne Gunning** to **Pat Macdonald**.

The Garden News 'Top Tray' collection of vegetables was won by **David Coward** and the 'Top Vase' by **Joanna Melvin**.

Tony Church received a plaque to mark his winning the open Fruit & Vegetable cup for three successive years.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to **David Coward**, **Joanna Melvin**, **Daphne Osmond**, **Tilly Durant**, **Frances Pope**, **Kate Pope**, **Lynne Gunning**, **Margaret Illingworth**, **Joan Sparrow** and **Claire McKillop**.

In aid of the NSPCC

BRIDGE EVENING

Thurlestone Parish Hall
Saturday 9th October

6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

*Tables of Four required
£7.00 per player, to include
Glass of Wine & Refreshments*

Contact Lisa White - 560505

Conservative Association

BRIDGE EVENING

Thurlestone Hotel
Thursday 25th November

Tables of Four required
£10 per player, to include

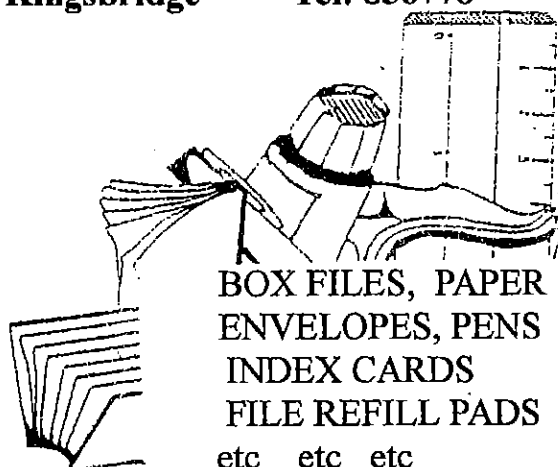
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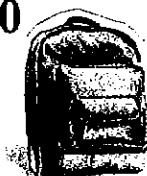
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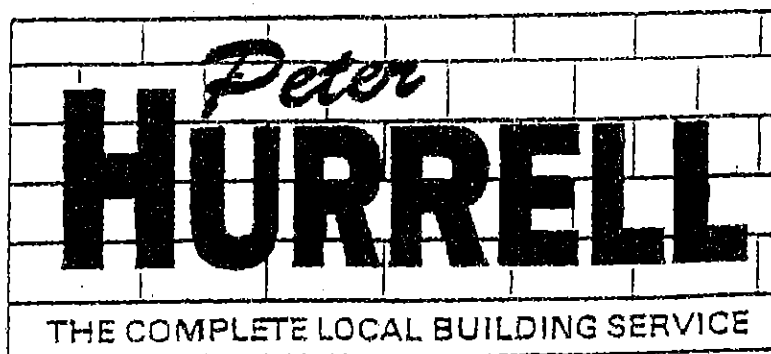


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At the Bridge Table



Recent articles have covered the availability of safety plays in a particular suit, and especially so where the opposition do not help you by leading that suit. Such plays are very useful, but it is important to remember that when your problem lies in one suit, a **count** of the opposition hands may be a better route to the answer you need.

If your memory (like mine) is not as good as it was, it is not easy to get such a count; but it is not too difficult where counting can be restricted to the hand of only one opponent. Here is an example of what I mean. The bidding was very short - just 2 No Trumps by South and 7 No Trumps by North - and the opening lead was the nine of Spades. There are nine tricks outside Clubs, so you need four tricks (not five) from that suit. The play is not to tackle Clubs until you can get a count on the deal. Simply cash **two** Spades (noting East shows out on the second round, thus placing West with six cards in that suit), retaining a master in hand, and then run off your six red suit tricks. This tells you that West started with six Spades, and at least three Hearts and three Diamonds. So at most he can have only one Club card. If West is void in Clubs, the contract cannot be made anyway, but if he has one club card you can get home by cashing dummy's King of Clubs and then leading a low Club to the Ten. Simple really!

Of course, it is not always possible to get a **full** count, but even a partial one can help - as shown in our second deal.

West opened 1 Heart and rebid the suit at the 3 level, but it was South who arrived in the final contract of 5 Clubs. West led the Queen, King, and Ace of Diamonds, and East played high - low (indicating that he held **four** cards in the suit). Having ruffed the Ace of Diamonds, and then drawn trumps, South needs to take four tricks in Spades to dispose of his two losing Hearts. **Question.** What does he know of West's hand? **Answer.** From the bidding he will have **six** Hearts, and from East's signal he should have **four** Diamonds. Add on his **one** Club, and it is clear that he can have at most only **two** Spades - leaving East with **five**. So East is odds on to hold the Jack of Spades**. South can therefore lead low from dummy to finesse the nine of Spades, and pick up all his four Spade tricks.

** The message is simply that when looking for a particular honour card, assume that the card is with the opponent known to have the **greater** length in the suit - unless the missing honour is marked the **bidding** to be in the short hand.

Keep counting! It is a jolly good habit to develop.

Victor

| All Vulnerable | | Dealer South | |
|---|--|--------------|--|
| <div><div><div>NORTH</div><div>S K J 2</div><div>H A J 3</div><div>D A 4</div><div>C K J 8 3 2</div></div><div><div>WEST</div><div>S 9 8 7 5 4 3</div><div>H 7 5 4</div><div>D 8 5 3</div><div>C 7</div></div><div><div>EAST</div><div>S 6</div><div>H 10 9 8 2</div><div>D 10 9 7 6 2</div><div>C Q 9 6</div></div><div><div>SOUTH</div><div>S A Q 10</div><div>H K Q 6</div><div>D K Q J</div><div>C A 10 5 4</div></div></div> | | | |

| All Vulnerable | | Dealer West | |
|---|--|-------------|--|
| <div><div><div>NORTH</div><div>S K Q 10 8</div><div>H Q 7</div><div>D 7 4 2</div><div>C A K 10 9</div></div><div><div>WEST</div><div>S 7 5</div><div>H K J 10 8 5 3</div><div>D A K Q 8</div><div>C 3</div></div><div><div>EAST</div><div>S J 6 4 3 2</div><div>H 9 4</div><div>D 9 6 5 3</div><div>C 7 5</div></div></div> | | | |
| <div><div>SOUTH</div><div>S A 9</div><div>H A 6 2</div><div>D J 10</div><div>C Q J 8 6 4 2</div></div> | | | |

Puzzle Page

by Keith Farrelly

NINE-LETTER WORD-SEARCH

The answers to the clues can be made up by combining three sets of three letters from the grid. When complete, three sets of three letters should remain. Combine these letters to find another 9 - letter word.

1. Nixon's downfall
2. Local hospital
3. Style of architecture
4. They hang in a gallery
5. Before today
6. Faith moves them
7. An insurance policy?
8. Irregular fighter
9. A bird on the beach
10. Playwright
11. Next to one another
12. Paxinan/Wark show?
13. Fonteyn's occupation
14. Christmas theatre
15. Original model
16. Lake in Cumbria
17. Storyteller
18. "A --- Night's Dream"
19. An Old Master
20. Nelson's last battle
21. ???

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| MOU | GHT | LAD | KIL | DPI | MER | IAN |
| PAI | RAC | ING | ENT | NDT | DAY | LLA |
| BRA | WAT | SUM | SAN | TER | PAN | NEW |
| BAL | NTA | TOM | DER | SNI | REM | ATE |
| GUE | NTI | OIN | GAR | YPE | RRI | LER |
| IME | PER | ONT | ERG | OME | DRA | OWM |
| RIF | MAT | TRE | TOT | TER | FAL | PAL |
| INA | MID | NGS | TRA | ULL | PRO | EUR |
| YES | ADJ | END | INS | SWA | IST | ORD |

TEN TEASERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Which sea surrounds the Isle of Man? | 6. Which is the world's largest democracy? |
| 2. Who was the founder of the Royal Mail? | 7. What is the highest mountain in Europe? |
| 3. Which English county is the size of Israel? | 8. Which river runs through the city of Budapest? |
| 4. Which flower does vanilla come from? | 9. Which ship did Captain Cook command on his last voyage? |
| 5. What would you expect an arkwright to make? | 10. What was Sir Gordon Richards first Derby winner? |

POSTBAG

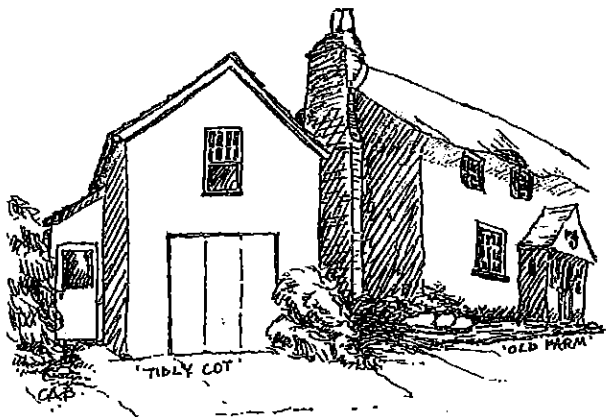
Dear Editor

The Tidly Cot

There have been a couple of pieces on the Tidly Cot in the Voice (February and August) and it is delightful that the smallest house in Devon should receive such great coverage!

We call the house Tidly Cot, not Tiddly Cot or Tiny Cot, since that is the name it has on a 1904 photograph.

It is reported to have burnt down. This is not so. The fire in Buckland in 1959 which destroyed the farmhouse, only burnt the thatch on Tidly Cot. A temporary felt roof was put on, it was opened to serve as a garage, and the kitchen sink and w.c. remained working throughout!



Last year the upper floor and roof were re-made, and it is now much the same size as it originally was.

Visitors welcome!

**Martin & Carol Bloomfield
Old Farm West Buckland**

[Carol kindly supplied the lovely little line drawing of today's Tidly Cot shown above]

Dear Editor

Comments on Quiz

I received many letters from contestants returning their completed Quiz answers to say how much they had enjoyed the Quiz, and I append a selection which you may like to include in your Postbag column.

I would also like to thank Village Voice for their help with the production and printing of the Quiz, and the Village Store for their sterling selling efforts, which all contributed to a rewarding and successful result.

**Sheila Sadler
Court Park**

What the contestants said

"....I have spent many an exasperating hour trying to solve the clues at our local reference library (without the aid of a computer). Many thanks for such a mind-boggling and enjoyable quiz..."

(J L of Lancashire)

"...We've had great fun trying to do it...if you ever do any similar quizzes we would love to take part...."

(E A A of Nottingham)

"All members of my family contributed to the answers to your excellent quiz".

(R M of Devon)

"Really enjoyed the quiz. If you do have another next year can you please let me have five copies?"

(S P of Northants)

"We have thoroughly enjoyed racking our brains....."

(H R of Renfrewshire)

KATE'S KITCHEN



It is a bounteous year for apples and here is an idea for a lovely pudding which is easy to make and freezes well. Some of you will be able to make use of the apples from your garden or will have been given apples by friends. I use Bramleys, but any good-tasting cooking apples will work well!

APPLE & GINGER CREAM

(Serves 4 - 6)

Ingredients

2 large cooking apples, peeled, cored, quartered, then cut into half again.
2 to 3 pieces of stem ginger
Caster sugar to taste
Half-pint double cream or, for a slightly healthier option, thick Greek yoghurt
1 eating apple, unpeeled

Method

- * Place cooking apples in a pan with a little water.
- * Bring pan to boil and simmer until apple is soft
- * Whilst still hot add sugar to taste, stir it in well with a wooden spoon.
Allow mixture to cool and then chill.
- * Chop the ginger into small pieces and add to the chilled puree.
- * Whip the cream to a soft consistency which just holds its shape.
- * Fold the cream (or yoghurt) into the puree and spoon into wine glasses
- * Just before serving decorate with very thin slices of the eating apple
(If freezing, omit the decoration until you are ready to serve it later)

Freezing hint

If you have had a glut of tomatoes and still have some to use, remember they can be bagged up whole and frozen. They are ideal for cooking. If you want to grill or fry them, semi-defrost them then cut in half with a serrated knife - if they are completely defrosted they tend to lose their shape and texture. To remove the skin from a frozen tomato, hold it under a running cold water tap and the skin will slip off easily.

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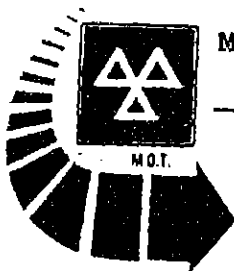
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TENNIS SECTION

2004 Cup Competitions

Over forty juniors competed for the Egan and Leonard Cups on Thurlestone's ten grass courts. The tournaments have been played for over sixty years, and **Denis Egan**, who for many years ran the summer junior tournaments, presented his cup. Local players and holiday-makers played in round-robin rounds, producing very competitive semi-finals and finals. Enthusiastic spectators enjoyed some excellent tennis, played in a good spirit. **Janet Richardson** and **Declan Dwyer**, with a team of parents, ran the morning's play.

EGAN CUP (10-13 years)

LEONARD CUP (14-16 years)

Winners
Runners-up

Peter Barnard, Imogen Lepere
George Elek, Lydia Lepere

James Fletcher, Archie Clark
Laura Wasilewska, Tom Hussey

Thirty mixed-doubles pairs competed for the Bryan Brown Cup, which was presented by Armitage and Teresa Bryan Brown in the early 1970s. Round-robin rounds were played, followed by quarter, semi and final rounds. Tennis supporters served cream teas and everyone enjoyed a wonderful afternoon's tennis. **Richard Handover** presented the cup to **Ian Samuel** and **Caroline Newton** who beat **Sally Murray** and **Julian Hill** in the final. **Roddy Hill** and **Richard**, whose families have been holidaying in Thurlestone for many years, ran the tournament in an efficient but relaxed manner.

Charity Tennis Tournament, 6th August

| | <u>Group</u> | <u>Winners</u> |
|---------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| JUNIORS | Federer | James Fletcher & Ashley Watson |
| | Roddick | Ollie Hornsby-Sayer & Emma Howey |
| | Maria | Harry Shepherd & Imogen Lepere |
| | Serena | Jake Horton & Ben Ward |
| SENIORS | Lob Drop | Zoe Lepere & Isobel Emery |
| | Serve | Sasha Handover & Rob Hill |
| | Fastest Serve | Christopher Dodds @ 104 mph |

Thurlestone's tennis committee, with the parents and grandparents of players, will have run twenty-six tournaments over the summer holiday, involving hundreds of local and holiday players of all ages. The courts are set in a glorious location and families return year after year to enjoy tennis and golf with friends.

Courts can be hired by contacting the **Golf Professional's office** on 01548-560715. Group and individual coaching can be taken - contact **Janet Richardson** on 07950-002265 or **Jonathan Howey** on 07812-469972. Tennis full and temporary membership is available - contact **Lindsey Fletcher** on 01548-560157. (See separate page for programme details)

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

TENNIS SECTION

Autumn Tennis Programme

Tuesday Social Tennis Afternoon from 1.30 pm.
Friday Club Evening/Afternoon from 5.30 pm (4 pm from 1st October)
Ladies Coaching Morning from Thursday 9th September for 6 weeks
Contact Janet Richardson - telephone 01548-856007

Junior Sunday morning coaching from 19th September for six weeks
Contact Jonathan Howey - telephone 07812-469972

HALF-TERM JUNIOR COACHING / TOURNAMENTS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Monday 25 th October | 10 - 11.30 am | Mini tennis coaching |
| Tuesday 26 th October | From 9.30 am | Tournament/coaching |
| Wednesday 27 th October | 10 - 11.30 am | Mini tennis coaching |
| Thursday 28 th October | From 9.30 am | Tournament/coaching |
| Friday 29 th October | 10 - 11.30 am | Mini tennis/coaching |

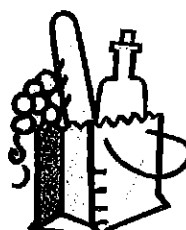
Coaching - Jonathan Howey 07812-469972
Tournaments - Lindsey Fletcher 01548-560157

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HARRY HUGGINS REVEALS HIS FAVOURITE BIRD

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has announced its arrangements for Avocet viewing on the Exe estuary. They call it Avocet viewing because they are spectacular birds which catch everyone's imagination.



Avocet

In fact for birders there are a lot of things on the estuary which are more interesting than Avocets.

The viewing starts at the end of October and will go on to the middle of March 2005. From Topsham you can have an hour-and-a-half or, from Exmouth and Starcross, three to four hours. Ring the RSPB Regional Office on 01395-432691. They suggest applying early because it is popular. We reckon to go in February because the days are longer then and you are not likely to be overtaken by darkness.

Can't speak for the RSPB cruises, not having done one of them, but we have been several times with Stuart Line out of Exmouth -

01395-222144. They have a nice warm boat, a double-decker completely decked over. We still recall with horror going up the Tamar with Tony Soper when we thought the cold would make our toes drop off! On board there is a bar (the young lady dishes up welcome hot chocolate), food, and loos. We have always been with Rod Lawrence who has named the birds so often that he must be able to do it in his sleep.

It is not the birds are so unusual, any reasonably capable birder could identify them, but you look at the Exe estuary and it is all just mud (you start soon after low water when the banks are not yet covered). It is not all the same - different species like different places, and Rod knows where to find them. Most people head for the upper deck because they reckon they will see more, but we go below - more room, you can see just as well, and its nearer the bar.

Book early. I rang once, about a month before we wanted to go, said I would call again nearer the date and was told that if I didn't book that day we wouldn't get in. So you take a chance on weather - fog would defeat bird viewing - otherwise it doesn't matter. We went once in a full gale, but the estuary was so sheltered it was calm.

Just occasionally it is good to see birds closer. Many bird artists do that - go to somewhere like Slimbridge to sketch them in close-up. What is more, they usually sit still in such places. During the summer we went to the Living Coasts thing in Torquay - a limb of Paignton Zoo and, I suspect, rather disappointing for them. I read somewhere they expected 300,000 punters and only got 100,000. Not surprising, for one thing car parking looks difficult. Their blurb says "ample parking nearby". As far as we could

see not very nearby and to get to it you have to drive into the middle of Torquay, which means no way for a wimp like me. In fact it didn't matter to us as we took the car for its annual do, near the Willows, and the young gentleman drove us to Living Coasts. He seemed to go all round Babbacombe to get there, but it was not his fuel being used and if he was not doing that he might have been set on some more disagreeable task.

Anyway, I crossed his palm with silver, or cupro-nickel which I suppose it is now.

Living Coasts is an aviary, covered with an enormous net, which keeps the inhabitants in and predators, like greedy gulls, out. There are penguins, a few fur seals, tatty-looking ducks - all ducks are going to look tatty in summer when they are in heavy moult. There are guillemots - Black Guillemots I thought (Tysties if you are a Scot) - but they weren't quite right and turned out to be Pigeon Guillemots from the northern Pacific, and a dozen or so jolly little terns - Ince Terns, very dark grey with vivid red beaks and white plumes on their faces like crazy moustaches. They come from the Pacific coast of South America. There are puffins also from the north Pacific. What all these American birds were doing there was not explained, and there was no one to ask.

What I liked were the Avocets, about a dozen. They looked smart and must have been happy because some had bred and had tiny chicks. With them were a handful of relatives - Black-winged Stilts, a few Redshanks and a Ruff or two. No immediate plans to go again, but we reckoned our visit was worthwhile.

That was one new place for us. Another was much closer to home. They have built a bird hide on West Charleton marsh. We have been there many times in the past, to look at things on the marsh, or to walk round the Kingsbridge estuary to Wareham Point, whence, in winter, you can see Great Northern Divers, Goldeneye ducks and sometimes a Grebe or two. Way back, the

marsh was a creek which ran almost to West Charleton. In the very early 1800s the then Lord of the Manor reckoned there was no point in all those French prisoners-of-war doing nothing and he had them build a dam across the creek where the estuary narrowed; that produced the large area of grazing marsh which is there today.

In the last year or so the farmer, various members of the local natural history society and Nigel Mortimer, who looks after the estuary, got together to clear some of the scrub which grew on the dam and have a hide built on it. Windows on both sides, you can look up the marsh towards the village - there is a fine reed bed, some narrow waterways and shallow muddy areas which birds love. If you want to see a Kingfisher, that is the place - with birds nothing can be guaranteed, but we haven't been there yet without seeing one. On the other side, the windows look out over the estuary. In winter Brent Geese, Widgeons and waders appear. You need to get there a bit after high tide and watch as the mudflats begin to emerge. To reach the Marsh you turn down Marsh Lane, on the right coming from Kingsbridge, just before the Ashburton Arms. There is parking for about three cars. It is safer to park on the hill just above the pub.....which does a jolly nice lunch!

Kingfishers. Are they everyone's must-see bird? In the little book about blokes and birds, Firecrest ranked high as the birders' favourite. But Firecrest is rare and although not shy it is difficult to see, whereas Kingfisher can't be missed - a flash of blue



as it flies, or a red breast when it sits on a branch. Nor is it especially rare. Hard winters do for them, when water freezes over and they cannot dive for fish. But we haven't had a hard winter lately - I hope I do not speak too soon. We see or hear one most months when we do our wildfowl count on the Erme estuary. Sometimes we see one over the stream beside the sewerage works opposite the golf club here in Thurlestone. A good bird to have as a favourite.

Not really mine. Yes, I like them. But my long-time favourite has been Marsh Harrier.



Marsh Harrier

That goes back to visiting RSPB Minsmere, on the Suffolk coast, in the early seventies, when that reserve had the total population of British Marsh Harriers - one male and his two wives. About then we started going on foreign birding holidays, not by ourselves as we do now; we could keep up with a group then which we no longer want to do - even if we could! We never went far afield - somewhere in southern Europe was quite good enough. Then nearly every patch of reeds held a breeding pair of harriers, the reed beds often not as big as South Milton Ley, or even the one at West Charleton marsh. I enjoyed seeing these big birds of prey - we lived then in Essex where there weren't even Buzzards like we see here. So Terry Bond, Terence James Bond he calls himself officially, painted a big male Marsh Harrier for me and it hangs on the wall of my den to oversee what I am writing. Rare they might have been then, but the picture has changed a little bit since. They are not

common, but are getting more so. You hear of their breeding on the extensive marshes of the Somerset levels. Maybe South Milton Ley soon? I wonder.

During the last winter we had many ducks in the valley at Thurlestone, notably Teals, maybe forty or more. One day in the middle of April every duck in the valley flew up and the flock of Teals raced back and forth obviously terrified of something. When that happens you watch carefully, because almost certainly there is a bird of prey. We looked, expecting to see Peregrine. But usually not even a Peregrine causes a panic like that. Instead, a Marsh Harrier appeared. Much the same size as a Buzzard. The other birds take little notice of Buzzards, which are lazy things, quite capable of taking birds, but rabbits and earthworms are more in their line. Its wings looked squarer than a Buzzard's. It flew low, its wings often above the horizontal, and it twisted about. We were delighted. We were even more delighted when at the beginning of May another appeared. We knew it was a different bird, the plumage of the first one was all more or less brown. This fresh one was brown but had the yellow head and inner wings of an older female. We saw her again towards the end of May. So did four Shelducks which were living in the valley then - big black-and-white ducks with chestnut breast bands. A pair at South Huish marsh produced nine ducklings - no such luck with ours here. Like a formation of jet fighter planes they drove off the harrier which departed swiftly and we haven't seen her again.

Exciting as they were, these harriers didn't give us our greatest thrill. One day towards the end of May we were in the garden when an enormous bird flew from the direction of Malborough and departed towards Plymouth. It looked black, really I suppose very dark brown, had square-ended wings showing six fingers (the separate flight feathers of a big bird of prey). It had a bird of prey's head and neck, and a very small tail. We were

and neck, and a very small tail. We were completely baffled as to what it could be - obviously a vulture or a big eagle, but which? It flew very fast with very shallow wing beats. I nipped in for my binoculars through the open door - too late, it was gone. Victor Tucker lives in Plymouth. I phoned him to say it was coming....and of course got his Ansaphone.

There are those among us, over 21, who will recall Victor when he worked as a gardener at the Thurlestone Hotel. I am told he took this employment because it gave him ready access to the bird watching delights of Thurlestone and around. He is one of the co-authors of *"Where to watch birds in Devon and Cornwall"*, has an unrivalled knowledge of birds and keeps up an enormous number of birding contacts.

I told his Ansaphone what we had seen. Some days later he rang to say that in Cornwall they had seen a White-tailed Eagle (otherwise known as Sea Eagle), the species which people are trying to reintroduced into the Western Isles of Scotland. That was the clue we needed. Our bird didn't have a white tail, but immatures don't. In his book Lars Jonnson refers to its shallow wing beats. Hundreds of years ago they probably nested all round the coasts of Britain. They were persecuted cause people thought they took lambs, which no doubt they did, and babies, which probably they didn't.

In his little book about the wildlife of Salcombe, Gordon Waterhouse remarks that the great naturalist George Montagu kept two

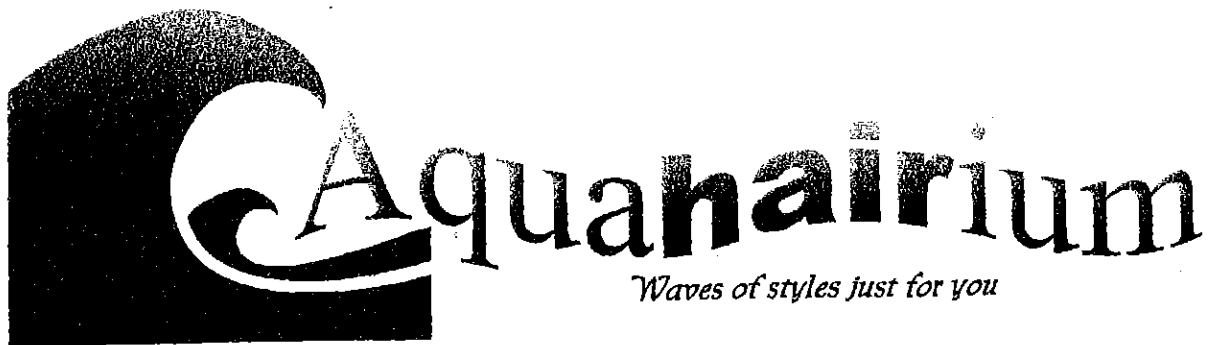
White-tailed Eagles in his aviary. For about fifteen years, until he died in 1815, Montagu lived in Kingsbridge (at Knowle Cottage, at the top of Fore Street). Where did he get his eagles? He did many things - identified Cirl Bunting as a British bird. He proved that brown Montagu's Harrier and grey ones were the same species - people thought they were different. Not that he called them Montagu's Harriers. It is bad form to name something after yourself and they weren't called that until after his death. His name was the Ashy-coloured Falcon. In those days they nested in the Kingsbridge area, whence doubtless he got the chicks to rear for his studies. He found all the young ones were brown, the ladies stayed brown and the gents turned ashy-grey after three or four years.

If he got his harriers locally, it is a fair bet he did the same with his eagles. Where did they nest? The most likely placed has to be Loam Castle, at the end of Yarmer Beach. The old Scottish name of White-tailed or Sea Eagle is "Earn" (cf. Loch Earn). Alfred Newton's *"Dictionary of Birds"* (my copy is dated 1896) spells it Erne. Translated into Devon dialect that must become "Yarm", Hence Yarmer Beach, the place of the Sea Eagles! Maybe one day they will nest at Loam Castle again.

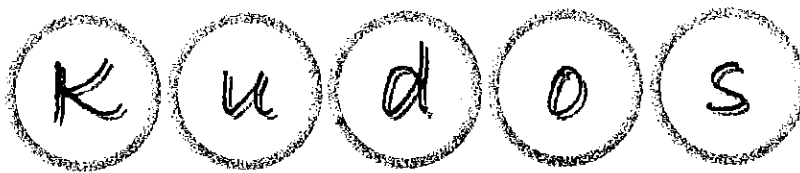
But our eagles showed that if you spend enough time in the garden you are sure to see something rare and interesting. Don't bother with the plants, just keep looking at the sky!

Harry Huggins





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BOOKSHELF

The Bounty

(The true story of the Mutiny on the Bounty)

By Caroline Alexander

(Harper Collins £20.00)

There must have been many accounts of the Bounty episode but this book claims to be the true story and I would accept it as such.

It not only gives a most detailed account of all the voyages and the various incidents which took place, but in addition gives a pen picture of every member of the crew, with information about their families, background, and even where they went to school. I found this most interesting, as I knew the school to which Fletcher Christian went. It also gives a wonderful account of Bligh's incredible voyage and of the subsequent courts martial.

It makes fascinating and engrossing reading and shatters the centuries-old myths surrounding these events, revealing the true story of the mutiny to be an epic of duty and heroism. Well worth ordering from the library.

G.W.

A Thing In Disguise

The Visionary Life of Joseph Paxton

By Kate Colquhoun

(Harper Perennial £8.99)

Referred to by Charles Dickens as "the busiest man in England" this is the biography of an extraordinary gardener and self-taught engineer, Joseph Paxton (1803-1865)

Paxton had the great good fortune to have his talents recognised by a very wealthy patron, the sixth Duke of Devonshire, a plant collector and keen horticulturalist, for whom he was working as head gardener at Chatsworth at the tender age of just 23. He was a Bedfordshire man of modest background and no formal education. Despite this, he was responsible for making the magnificent gardens at Chatsworth and became an eminent and sought after garden expert, designed and built enormous glass-houses, parks, gardens, ambitious waterworks and gathered

plants from all over the world including the largest collection of orchids in England.

The Duke, recognising Paxton's unique gifts, often took him travelling abroad to widen his knowledge, and generously allowed him to undertake commissions other than those related to Chatsworth. Joseph had a very happy family life with Sarah and his six children on the estate at Chatsworth, but it was she who 'kept the show on the road' during his frequent absences on the Duke's business or when undertaking his many commissions all over the country.

Paxton's crowning achievement was the design and building of the Crystal Palace, home of the Great Exhibition, in 1851- the year he received his knighthood.

P.M.

Glendurgan, a Personal Memoir

by Charles Fox

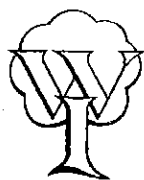
(Alison Hodge £12.95)

The author is one of the many great-great-grandchildren of Alfred Fox who, in the 1820s, made Glendurgan, that wonderful sheltered valley garden on the Helford River in Cornwall. The author lives at the house today, although it is now owned by the National Trust, so he is well placed to give a personal insight into the history and character of this great Cornish garden.

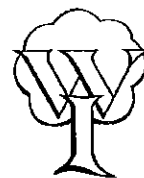
The Foxes were a well-to-do Quaker merchant family, trading in Falmouth, whose beliefs had a considerable influence on their lifestyle and outlook. Alfred's two brothers also created famous Cornish valley gardens - Robert made Penjerrick and Charles Trebah. The three were partners in a timber, fishing, mining and shipping business and this presented them also with opportunities to introduce rare and exotic plants to their gardens.

This interesting story tells of Alfred Fox and his descendants and their influence on this garden in particular and on Cornish horticulture in general. It's a lovely peaceful book!

P.M.



NEWS FROM THE WI



August

The beach BBQ on the 28th August raised £161 for St Luke's Hospice (Triangle Centre) and was enjoyed not only by the members but by the families on the beach who, on this coolish but occasionally sunny day, were able to enjoy some hot food. Thanks must go first to the gentlemen - the several husbands-turned-cooks, to Vic our pet trumpeter who entertained with his music, and to those who fetched and carried - to the side-show hostesses, ticket-sellers, and anyone, members and non-members who helped in any way.

September

On 4th September Kingsbridge Show was the venue, with several members taking part in the WI co-operative class. We had to take the colours of a season as a theme for displaying two craft and two cookery items, plus a flower arrangement. **Joan Booth, Pat Crawford, Pat Clarke, Janet Fraser and Mary Tregelles** kindly 'did their stuff' for our 'Winter' arrangement. We did not win the coveted silver cup, but our display was admired and individually some excellent points were scored. We all felt good, too, that we had helped to support this great little agricultural show once more - the object of the exercise!

Martin Catt, the well-known local naturalist was our speaker at the September meeting, and encouraged us to keep our eyes open to look for the wildlife in our own gardens and localities. This made a very interesting talk as he had a great wealth of knowledge of flora and fauna, and had some wonderful pictures to show, as well as telling us of herbal remedies.

On Sunday 12th September, a party of members, and some husbands, went by coach to Forde House, the Jacobean mansion at Newton Abbot. Here we were taken round by **Michael Martyn** who brought to life the interesting history of the occupants of the

house from after the Dissolution to the present day owners, Teignbridge Council. Largely as a result of its being Council-owned, the wealth of wonderful original plaster ceilings remain in good condition. During its time the house has been visited by Charles I, Oliver Cromwell, William of Orange and in the 1980s our present monarch. Lunch at the Pen Inn was followed by a visit to Coleton Fishacre where the garden was looking particularly good. Thanks were expressed to our President, **Judith Le Grice**, who organised this most enjoyable day superbly.

October Meeting

On 14th October the speaker will be **Tony Porter**, former owner of the Burgh Island Hotel. Non-members would be most welcome if they would like to hear him.

Looking ahead

1. **18th October.** Val Brown is forging ahead with her plans for a Panto/Supper on 26th February, and has started auditioning and rehearsals at her home. Go there on the 18th October, at 10.30am if you would like to take part or help in any way.

2. **26th October.** Several members are off to the county's Autumn Council Meeting at Plymouth Guildhall where, amongst the speakers is Colonel **John Blashford-Snell** the explorer.

3. **18th November.** The county chairman, **Stella Fernyhough**, is throwing a tea party for members at West Charleton, donating the profit to the county's fund-raising, already over £2500, in support of the Peninsula Medical Centre.

4. **23rd November.** Coach to IKEA and Cribbs Causeway, cost £10. Leaving Thurlestone 8 am. Contact Judith Le Grice.

5. **10th December.** Sea Coast Group Carol Service at South Milton.

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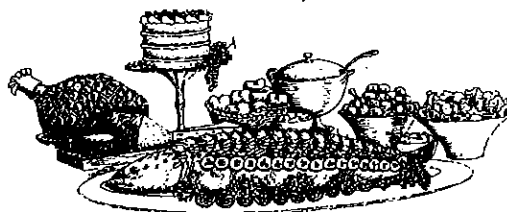


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A REQUIEM FOR THE DARFUR

By John Crawford

For a few years before WW2 my father was the District Commissioner at Nyala, in the centre of the Darfur, and now the epicentre for the atrocities sanctioned by the Sudanese Government. It was, for my parents, an idyllic posting. My father once told me that his main responsibility was to ride from village to village, ask the head-man if they had any problems with lions and then hide in wait for them at a salt lick. He was an excellent shot and this earned him great respect, but on one occasion he mistook a cheetah (a protected species) for a leopard and the skin was relegated to my mother's dressing-room as, he said, the ladies couldn't tell the difference.

The Darfur was a late-comer to the Sudan, the rest of which was conquered with the defeat of the Khalifa at Omdurman in 1898. The Darfur was annexed in 1916 probably for the same reason that Gordon, tragically, was sent to Khartoum in the first place - the slave trade. The Sudan in the early 19th century offered a flourishing but gruesome economy. Mehemet Ali, the Albanian adventurer who seized Egypt after the departure of Napoleon, annexed the Sudan to secure the 'black gold' which in the Sudan was particularly lucrative.

Gordon was sent to stop this and, of course, failed but after 1898 the main trade was brought to a halt by the British-manned administration. The Darfur was the exception, because there is a camel trail from the capital, el Fasher, direct to Assiut on the Nile, across one of the world's most inhospitable deserts - the "darb el arbai'n", the route of the forty days. These slave-traders were of course the Sudani Arabs now known as the 'janjaweed' (the Devils on Horseback), who preyed on the black African tribes of the savannah.

By the time my father was posted to Nyala, the slave trade was a distant memory and the British had won the admiration of the tribesmen by introducing a superior strain of race-horse. At the outbreak of the Abyssinian campaign, Italian commissioners visited the Darfur to buy up re-mounts and father organised a festival of horse-racing which he dubbed 'the Nyala Goodwood'. Apart from trekking round his vast district, parts of which were still un-mapped, life was enlivened by occasional polo matches in which officials - doctors, judges, Arab notables and the like - all participated.

And then there was copious leave (three months a year to avoid the danger of contracting elephantiasis). By 1932 European women were allowed in the Darfur, but not children because of the almost total absence of communications with the rest of the country, which explains the present problem of delivering humanitarian aid. It was not till my parents were posted to Atbara on the Nile in 1937 that my sister was able to join them.

The British administration came to a rather cataclysmic end in 1955 (by which time my father had retired). British presence in the Sudan was justified as a condominium with Egypt (we governed and the Egyptians paid!) but once the British Government had decided that, following the end of the Raj, we had no national interests "East of Suez", this fiction became untenable and the Sudan, or at least the northern half of it, fell into the hands of two powerful Arab clans based on Khartoum. The largely Christian south rebelled and, after fifty years of civil war, fuelled by Russian and American rivalries and the discovery of oil along the north/south fracture line, there is at last some hope of peace returning. Millions meanwhile have died of famine and warfare, and most of the infrastructure has been destroyed.

The Darfur has long been neglected (the entire population, both Arab and black African, are Muslims and therefore not directly involved in the issues which fuelled the civil war), and for the last ten years the Sudanese Government has not had the resources (even if it had the inclination) to maintain law and order. The tough Arab tribesmen in the north, egged on by Colonel Gaddafi - who has his own agenda for the Sahel - have been looking hungrily at the defenceless village folk in the savannah in the south. They in turn have tried to arm and rebel against a government that no longer offers them protection. At last the international community has at least offered humanitarian aid to those fortunate enough to escape across the border to the Chad.

It used to be said that the Sudan was a

country of blacks ruled by blues (recruitment to the political service usually required a First-Class Honours degree from Oxford or Cambridge, and a 'blue' for sporting excellence), and the administration was patrician in the extreme. In this respect my father was something of an exception, being a 'colonial', and having left Oxford without a degree when the 'Boojum' drinking society of which he was president, was closed down, and with only an 'authentic' blazer for his sporting credentials.

It is therefore ironic that the French-trained levies in the Chad, which my father's colleagues despised as ill-disciplined and scruffy, should now be offering aid and comfort to the defenceless village folk whom we, in a sense, deserted.

John Crawford

Upbeat **Broadband Update**

by Chris White



Avid readers of this slot (I'm sure at least one person reads it occasionally !) will know that I've been wittering on for ages about the test that BT were carrying out in Milton Keynes this summer to see how they could make Broadband available to more people.

Well - **IT WORKED !** I'm not entirely sure what they found out, but they can clearly make their Broadband signals go a lot further down their rotten old cables than they were letting on, so they changed all the rules as from 6th September.

Your previously downhearted campaigner is now jubilant. My Broadband connection is up and flying - **it's a revelation!** Really high speed surfing - while the rest of the family can make telephone calls at the same time - and all with one telephone line. There's a

very strong possibility that **anyone** connected to Sutton Cross exchange will be able to get Broadband now, so go on, give it a try! It's not nearly as expensive as it was six months ago.

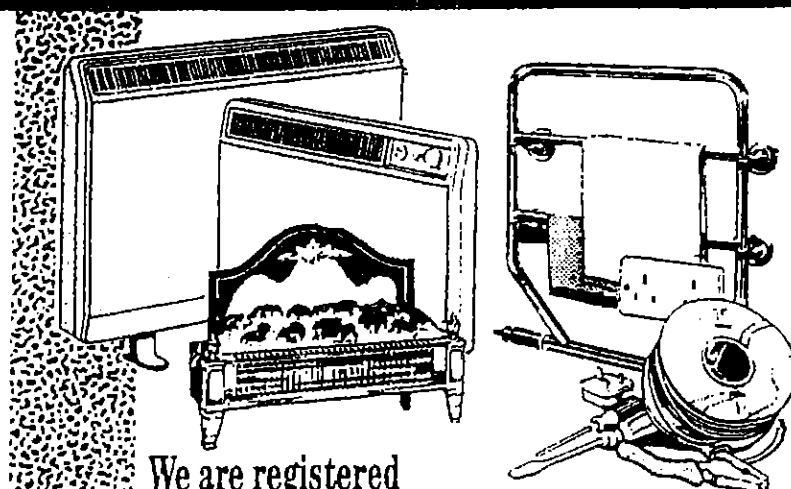
There is the possibility of a further bonus. If you want to use one of BT's offerings (as opposed to one of the hundreds of other ISP's available), then if I put your name forward, BT will **donate £20 to the Parish Hall fund**, and give you a further £20 which you can keep or donate, as you wish.

It's up to you. I'm NOT recommending BT as any better or cheaper than any other ISP.

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Chris White

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HORSWELL DIARY

It was love at first sight. I who had thought I could never feel that way again and he, so sure that he wanted to be mine that he left his family and the only home he had ever known without a backward glance. Briefly I had held his chin in the palm of my hand, tilting his face towards mine. "If I take you home with me, will you..." I asked, "Will you always be my very special friend?"

"Yesssss!" he seemed to reply, returning my gaze with unwavering certainty. And since that moment I have only to whisper his name and he is beside me, his warmth comforting and secure as he presses his body against mine.

His name is Jack and he is our new 4 month old black Labrador puppy. As I write he is stretched out at my feet, his coat gleaming like molten tar in the sunshine. Such is the intensity of our relationship that my husband no longer answers to the call of "Darling?" lest he should be offered a Bonio, and Bertie the Briard prowls around us; an archetype of brooding menace. Stiff-legged and resentful he ignores my offers of love and friendship, preferring to regard our new arrival with wolfish yellow eyes while plotting his revenge.

Hoping to redress the balance, two weeks later we collected a small female bundle of black and white fur, as soft and weightless as a powder puff. We called her Milly and watched with pleasure as Bertie's body language softened into happy acceptance. At last he understood that he was not being replaced but was again going to have a Labrador and a Border Collie to play with: friends to bolster his courage and comfort him when loud bangs or exploding fireworks turn him into a terrified quivering jelly.

Four weeks into our affair and Jack and I still steal glances like covert lovers behind the others backs, but with Milly to play with, Bertie to pacify and Horswell to explore our quiet moments together are few and far between. His days are filled with eating, sleeping, playing tag across the lawn and hide and seek through the bushes, up-

ending all my plant pots, stealing tools and timber from the builders and CHEWING !!! Aided and abetted by Milly he has turned our Kitchen and Breakfast Room into a war zone. Upholstered chairs have been gutted, their stuffing strewn around the room like feathers after a fox's rampage through a chicken house. Wallpaper and plaster have been ripped from the walls and every corner of skirting board and kitchen unit has been chewed to a soggy pulp. I had quite forgotten what damage two puppies in 'destruct mode' can inflict - and soooo quickly!



Discipline must of necessity be enforced, but the sight of two tiny heads and two pairs of eyes peering anxiously around a corner, is maddeningly disarming. Of course I still thunder and growl but my admiration for Jack (who allows Milly to run and hide while he comes forward to take the blame) is such that, after we have agreed that it was a 'Very Bad Thing 'To Do', I end up heaping praise on his courage and allowing him to creep onto my lap in meek submission. They say love is blind. It's also jolly expensive!

Other 'Very Bad 'Things 'To Do' have included stealing the builder's mobile phone and burying it in the rose garden, chewing our phone and in the process dialling 999 (well, actually, 9999990000000,

but luckily not 'Go') and digging a 'Very Big Hole' in the middle of the croquet lawn. So large and so deep was the offending hole that for a moment we wondered if my father - who is due to arrive by Qantas from Australia - had discovered an alternative way of travel.

Whilst Milly's little earth covered snout peered out from under a nearby bush, Jack listened politely to my anti-digging monologue. He cocked his head on one side intelligently, weighed my argument carefully and waited (for some time) for me to finish. By way of reply he dived head first into the crater and re-appeared with a recently dispatched mole clenched firmly by the tail between his teeth - thus succeeding in simultaneously nailing the pest who had been wrecking our lawns for some time, and demolishing all my theories on suitable canine behaviour.

Aware of a relaxation in the tension in dog/human relationships Milly then re-appeared onto the scene, sniffing the grass with her pointy little nose to tell me that it was she who had actually scented the mole and marked the exact spot for Jack to dig, and that contrary to my initial assumption she was in fact 'A Very Good Girl Indeed.'

Certainly Milly does have a very good 'nose' and has already proved herself to be a fearless huntress. Rather like our guinea fowl who were spotted by a reader of the Village Voice pursuing a fox across the ley apparently regardless of their own danger, Milly flushed a young fox from his lair in the Rhododendron bush by the house, sending it at full stretch past our tea-party on the lawn, startling us all. By the size of him, Milly would have made no more than a tasty morsel if the roles had been reversed! Anyone who condemns the hunting of foxes with dogs is ignoring this very simple fact of nature. A fox has far more chance of escape or a speedy end from a dog than from a misplaced bullet fired on an alcohol fuelled 'lamping' expedition.

With regard to fox-hunting, what disgraceful scenes of violence were witnessed outside Westminster recently. Which other minority group would be dealt with using such brute force and icy contempt? Had it been the face



of an ethnic minority shown beaten and bleeding from a policeman's truncheon rather than that of a country woman hoping to defend her traditional English way of life, the country would have been in uproar. And did you see the mere handful of MPs taking part in the debate in the Commons? An historic debate that threatens to change a way of life pursued for centuries in this country? I say let country men and women decide the ways of the countryside not urban politicians who hide behind their barricades and baton wielding police force.

Sadly the skirmishes within the House will be used to 'distance' the Government even further from the people it should be representing. Tightened security will mean less Public access to the Commons and probably the end of the right to demonstrate within a bomb's throw of Parliament Square. It is the tightening of the screw. Unless we are vigilant the political agenda of our rulers will destroy the liberty and freedom of speech we have until now believed to be the basis of our democracy.

Thank God for the sanctuary of Horswell! For the dogs and the ducks and the birds, for the storm tossed woods and the golden autumnal days. For air so crisp and clean it revives one's spirits like champagne sipped from a crystal flute. For sunshine dappling through pale green discs of beech and lime, and the scent of roses mixed with musky, leaf-strewn earth. For our new gazebo with its views through trees to the fountain beyond. Thank God for all the lovely visitors who have filled our home all summer. But above all, thank You now for the time to be here alone with our little family to savour its beauty and its peace.

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IN YOUR GARDEN

If you have a favourite rose, try taking some hardwood cuttings now. Use a stem of this year's growth and remove the sappy tips. Cut the stem into 7 to 9 inch lengths, trimmed close to a node (growing point/bud) at each end, which should both be included on your cutting. (Remember which way is 'up' and which 'down'!) Remove the leaves from the lower half. In a shady, but not completely dark, part of the garden, open a slit trench, about a spade's depth and incorporate plenty of grit in it to make sure that it is well drained. Insert the cuttings, the right way up, to half their depth and firm them in. Water thoroughly. If any die, pull them out, but you'll get a few good 'takers' within 12 months. It is worth having a go.

If we want to save our pelargoniums and other tender things for next year, we have to take them into shelter soon before we run the risk of losing them to Jack Frost. Sometimes, though, if you can find a sheltered spot in your garden, it is possible to leave some of these less hardy plants outdoors. Last winter I left all my pelargoniums out and they survived well, but sometimes I am not so lucky!

As you tidy things up, don't be over-tidy! Remember all those beneficial wee creatures that have to stay outside all winter. Things such as ladybirds and lacewings will find a secure little nook in the spent seed cases or dead flower heads if you don't cut everything down to the ground. I purposely leave the dead stems carrying the whorls of empty seed cases on Jerusalem sage (phlomis) as they have perfect little hibernation compartments - insects' apartment blocks in fact! Then come the spring they are all on hand ready to fight the aphids.

By all means tidy vastly overgrown branches, but don't do the pruning, for instance, on your buddleia, ceratostigma, fuchsias, red-leaved berberis, or dog-wood (cornus) grown for its winter bark, until next spring. If you have been plagued by black-spot on your roses, remember to be very particular to pick up the

leaves as they drop off, and put them in the bin, not your compost heap.

Some hardy annuals can be sown now to overwinter, and will have a head start next spring - try love-in-a-mist, pot marigolds, poached egg plant, and poppies. Get your narcissus bulbs in now, if you haven't already done so. Tulips can wait until November. There are lots of attractive things to fill your tubs and containers for the winter - do not confine yourself to having only summer shows.

The display of autumn berries from trees and shrubs is phenomenal this year - cotoneaster, rowan, hawthorn, roses and holly are all heavy with fruit. It is not only the apples and plums that have done well. If you don't have anything in your garden that provides berries, try to put something in this autumn to enjoy for the future - not only for you to look at but also to share with the birds. It will add another dimension to your garden.

There has been a strikingly large metallic blue dragonfly hawking through our garden in the autumn sunshine, but surprisingly few butterflies compared with this time last year. Earlier there were a lot of the little brown one, Gatekeeper, about. As I write, the few other varieties that are around (mainly Red Admirals and a few Commas) are feasting upon sedums and the Michaelmas daisies, statuesque Harrington's Pink, which are looking wonderful this year, along with bees of all descriptions. It seems to be the time for pink in our garden with the sedums, daisies, dahlias, chrysanthemums, gauras, nerines and belladonna lilies, soon to be joined by pink kaffir lilies. All lovely - but almost entirely accidental.

Have you been mushrooming? A friend says it has been a great season and she gave us some beautiful field mushrooms (the only wild fungi I trust) which were the most delicious I have tasted for a long time. But it is a true sign that autumn is with us!

Ladybird

Weather Wag

By Jan Turner

As I write this article, the wind is doing its thing outside with a vengeance; coupled with the odd shower, it is a quite daunting experience to be caught in one of these shows of force. How much more vicious must Hurricane Ivan be for those in its path?

I have been looking at the book which accompanied the ITV series "Savage Seas". The chapter headed 'The Weather Machine' deals with the sea and the sky. In her written account Rosemary Kingsland says :

"The weather machine that is the sea and sky combined is a fearsome monster of mythological proportions and power. The energy stored in the oceans is phenomenal. The heat capacity of three cubic metres of sea-water is equivalent to that of the whole atmosphere above it. The North Atlantic alone transports heat northwards at a rate equivalent to 30,000 times the output of all UK power stations. If the weather were a machine, the oceans would be its flywheel....."

I have written about hurricanes before so I won't bore you with all the background information about them. The TV satellite pictures that we are seeing as I write this are stunning, but the power is totally beyond our comprehension. Those caught up in such a situation, and who live to tell the tale, are fascinating to talk to. Alistair, our eldest, was on the island of St Martins when Hurricane Andrew struck.

He and his fellow workers in the hotel sheltered under the door jambs to the restaurant. Most of it blew away but the doors held and they survived. He stayed afterwards to help out with rescue work and to help the local people. The restaurant has since been rebuilt but he has moved on. I am always amazed at the tenacity of people in that they will rebuild again and again in the same place - with the hope that it may not happen again.

Hurricane Andrew was one of the costliest in the history of the USA, both in terms of human lives (58 people died) and the cost (in excess of \$35 billion). There was so much damage to the

infrastructure of the area of Florida and Miami that local government ceased to function. For four days in the state there was a spiralling down of society into a kind of anarchy. The elements had revealed the fragility of the civilisation we take for granted.

One hurricane that we hope we will not see the like of again occurred in 1900. Galveston in the south of Texas, a vigorous and very wealthy port, lies on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Its highest point above sea level is nine feet. The hurricane that struck in September that year brought a twenty foot storm surge, killing 6,000. It was the greatest US weather disaster.

Unlike lightning or tornadoes, hurricanes can be watched and tracked and now, with computer models and predictions, warnings can be more accurate. Even so, the monster can turn nastier or nicer, either attacking or veering off in another direction. The more of its path that is over very warm seas the stronger it will get. It seems that Jamaica has been let off as the path of Ivan has tracked further south than expected. Will it hit Cuba and then Florida? We will have to wait and see. In the meantime, we sit out the tail end of Frances which is battering us now. Will we see the tail end of Ivan at the equinox - 21st-22nd September? By the time you read this you will know!

Back to the month of August. Hm....perhaps we should not mention it! Certainly it was a very wet one with 149 mm of rain. The next nearest was in 1997 with 144 mm. It was warmer than many Augusts but the temperature was below last year at 18.3° C. Sunshine was below last year as would be expected - 201 hours. The lowest since I have kept records (1996) was 161 hours in 1999. There have been some lovely days this year, I know, but not very consistent. Ten days without rain - but erratic, and very local, extremely heavy downpours (remember Boscastle?). Our worst was Saturday/Sunday 21st and 22nd August with 45.1 mm in the 24 hours, 9am to 9am. Between the 15th and 28th August there were 111.8 mm (4.5 ins) of rain, quite a lot for us.

It was the wettest August recorded countrywide!

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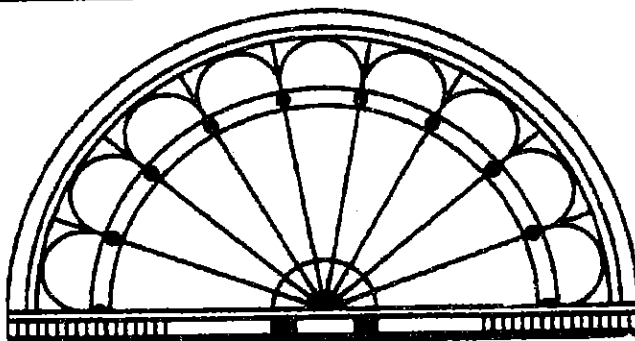
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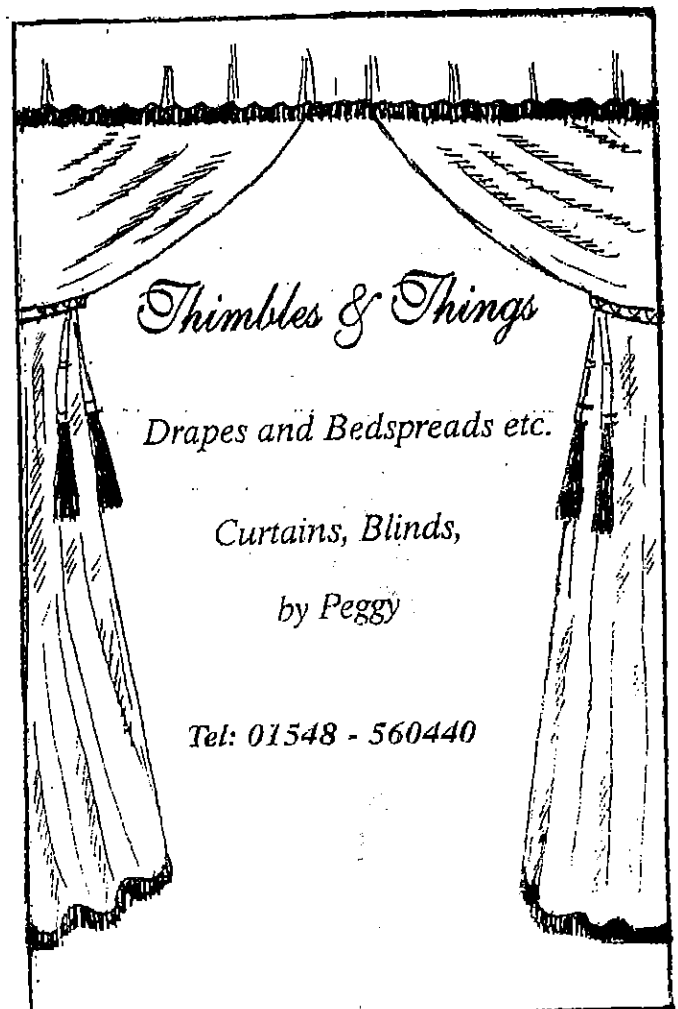
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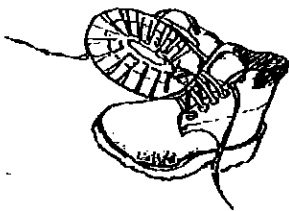


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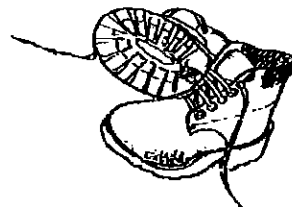
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TRAMP



1 On the beautiful morning of 19th July a record number of twenty-four walkers and five dogs assembled in the Parish Hall car park for a short walk in the Bigbury area. We were pleased to welcome visitors on holiday and some residents new to the group.

We started from the Royal Oak car park, slightly late as we had to warn the pub of the increased numbers for lunch at the end of the walk! Our route took us south along lanes and across Bigbury Golf Course to pick up the Avon Valley Trail up the estuary towards Aveton Gifford.

We enjoyed a short break on a viewpoint over the estuary just before descending to Milburn Orchard. At this point, at the tidal road, where the tide was half out, three of the labradors spotted the river and immediately ploughed through the deep, smelly mud to try to reach it. Subsequently they were not such popular walking companions. After a strenuous climb up the hill back to the pub we all enjoyed our cool drinks and (very reasonable) sandwiches or meals in the garden. The preceding exercise justified the extra calorie intake, of course!

TW

2 There was another short walk on 6th August, this time a purely local one, with no need to drive to a starting point. Eleven of us, plus one dog, duly set off from the Parish Hall on a fine morning.

We started with a pleasant walk down Kerse Lane before breaking off into fields, and getting our hearts pumping well with a good climb, before descending again to South Milton. After a leisurely stroll through the village, we continued along tracks and farm land, with the second steep climb of the day affording us splendid views over countryside and coast. There was some consternation as we reached one particular stile which was decidedly not dog-friendly. As we stood about discussing the problem, our canine companion made fools of us all by nimbly

negotiating it on her own!

We turned back on to a track leading down to the coast, coming out at Thurlestone Sands and then back to Thurlestone. It was very fortuitous that the Tennis Club were holding a Parish Hall fund-raising day as that made an ideal refreshment stop to round off our walk which had been about four-and-a-half miles. The Pimms and bacon rolls were much appreciated by all!

CH

3 The walk on 11th August started from Down Thomas and joined the coastal path nearby. Eleven of us (plus 3 dogs - guess the breed!) set off in quite fair weather.

We arrived at Wembury Bay, after wonderful coastal scenery, and watched the surfers. Then, when the leader's back was turned, a subversive group - that is nearly all - had whipped into the National Trust café and were sitting outside with coffee, tea, biscuits, etc. No-one seemed to be in a hurry to proceed but their punishment was a short picnic stop which was no great sacrifice as it was by now trying to rain - luckily we were completely sheltered under a giant pine tree.

We continued across the fields back to Down Thomas, past Langdon Court (of medieval foundation and belonging at one time to Catherine Parr). The leader thanks Derek Yeoman for his excellent help in the recce. and Rodney Horne for carrying the map and keeping us all correct.

RM

4 The previous day's weather had been wet and windy but Tramps luck held for the short walk on the 19th August. Fourteen walkers plus three black labradors gathered at the Avon Mill Garden Centre below Loddiswell.

The walk was ostensibly along the banks of

the Avon to Topsham Bridge and back, but some ingenuity on the walk leader's part led to some permissive paths being used, these actually being previously unwalked by the attending die-hard Tramp members.....some achievement! Using these paths meant a couple of stiff climbs, but also resulted in some lovely far-reaching views of the Devon countryside. All survived without complaint, and eventually we reached the river where the black labs really came into their element.

Topsham was soon reached, where we had a drinks pause and admired the lovely unspoilt rural idyll from the bridge. Walking back the other side of the river to Avon Mill, the only problem we had was to keep a certain dog out of the many mud pools we passed. Back at the Garden Centre we all agreed what a fine walk it had been, and retired to the café for a welcome lunch.

RH

5 Seventeen walkers and two dogs braved the indifferent weather forecast on 25th August to walk around Burrator Reservoir on Dartmoor.

In fact the weather stayed dry and clear to enable us to enjoy the magnificent views from the top of Sheeps Tor and lunch outside at the Royal Oak at Meavy. One of the group justified the taking of the first-aid kit this time by taking a tumble on a slippery rock - but luckily no more than antiseptic wipes, a plaster, and sympathy, were needed. Perhaps encouraged by this treatment a repeat tumble was tried on a stepping stone across a stream later. This time the result bruised dignity; was mollified by a pint at the pub, and the blame was put on the new walking shoes - which have 'tramped' their last!

At Sheepstor church we read about Rajah Brooke of Sarawak who is buried there. The next incident involved a bull loose on the lane from the historic Yeo Farm (1610), but after giving us a warning glare he returned to the moor. At Meavy primary school we saw the replica of Drake's Drum in a display alcove in the gable, and as it hadn't sounded to warn us of the bull it proved it was not the real thing!

Lunch was followed, after a walk through the woods, by ice creams at the dam and the gastronomic walking tour finished with an easy stroll along the road beside the reservoir to Norsworthy Bridge car park. Our two newcomers enjoyed an eventful walk which we will be hard put to live up to - we hope!

TW

6 On 8th September the weather did not let us down, for once. For this particular moors walk we require at least a week free of rain prior to the walk and this year we were lucky with all eight sets of stepping-stones being above water. Having said that, the water was still quite deep in places - but not too deep for wading as one of our members discovered.

There were twelve of us on this popular, if challenging, nine-mile plus walk and, together with three well-behaved dogs, we couldn't have wished for better weather. It was cooler than the previous few days mainly because the wind was a lot stronger particularly at the higher levels.

We set off at a fair pace and soon arrived at the first set of stones just outside Dartmeet. At this point we were able to test our balance as we leapt from stone to stone. The dogs, however, took the opportunity to swim or wade across, giving us all a shower on the other side! This followed at every crossing although, on one, a particularly excited dog decided to cross the stones just as one of our members was reaching the last stone but one. Not to be deterred, the dog shot between her legs - result, two boots full of water. After that the dogs were kept under control until we had all crossed. We lunched after crossing the largest set of stones on the West Dart river, and after a well-earned break we headed on to Laughter Tor - which we didn't climb - before turning south and following the river back to our cars and a much-deserved ice-cream.

It was nice to discover that we could all still do nine-mile plus walks, even if at the start we thought it was only eight miles. That is the problem with a leader who can't measure maps accurately!

D & SY

"JUST CHILDREN" CHARITIES

[Continuing on from our last issue, here is the second instalment of Angela Ford's account of a visit she made, earlier this year, to see the work of four charities in Harare. This time she writes about the Presentation Sisters]

My next visit was to Sister Anna Doyle of the Presentation Sisters, who has been joined by Sister Ena, now in charge. Midge and I enjoyed yet another tea in their bungalow, with the Jack Russell in his own armchair, and I passed on the wools, buttons, and sewing equipment that the people of Thurlestone had so kindly gathered together. She was thrilled. Sister Anna, who is a trained domestic science instructor, had been teaching the mothers to sew and knit, so that they can feed their families. She has lost her fellow teacher, and so asked if I would go out for six months to run the classes. When I said that I would love to but had a husband back at home she said, in her wonderful Irish accent "Oh, what do you want one of those for?"!

Sister Anna started the Feeding Programme at the Hatcliffe Primary Schools and used to make up the 'meal' herself. She explained that time had moved on and that now John Tasker collects 'Nutrimeal' in bulk every two weeks and delivers it to the schools. Her house did look a little less cluttered! So my next visit was to the Hatcliffe Schools with John Tasker.

It was wonderful to visit these schools (Hatcliffe 1 and Hatcliffe 2) again. I could see the visible difference in the young boys and girls, now better-nourished, full of energy, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed!

At Hatcliffe 1, the deputy head, Noma Kangira, (who bounced with energy and, John tells me, is the one who gets things done) showed me round, as she did eighteen months ago on my last visit. The 'kitchen' in the grounds was the same but a new kitchen is in the pipe-line and will be constructed by a large Harare building company. When I

was there last, 300 children were being fed three days a week. Now it is 600 children five days a week. Each school has about 1800 pupils. Each form teacher has her list of children and, on a weekly basis, ticks the boys and girls who appear hungry, listless and unable to concentrate.

The long queues of children, organised by the prefects, were let in by groups to the helpers who handed them their mug of 'Nutrimeal'. After finishing their 'meal' in the adjacent garden, prefects scooped up the mugs for washing. It was so quiet, so efficient, that I commented to Noma how impressive their discipline was. She said that from Year 1 - 7 all children were taught to obey the teachers and to respect each other. It works!

Back in the headmaster's office and being treated to cold drinks and biscuits by the same cook, they said that they had had to lay off the assistant through lack of funds. John said "Mrs Ford can help you with that right now, if you can reinstate the assistant". They could, so on behalf of the JCC I gave them Z\$60,000 to cover the first month and received a receipt.

An interesting thing happened on our initial arrival at this school. A well-dressed lady was waiting for John and she said she was interested to start such a scheme but how could she receive the food. John said that he was totally committed and could not take on anything else. Then, after further discussion, he sent me off with Noma and had a lengthy talk with this lady.

He later told me that this lady's husband was a very senior Government Minister who had been given a White farm. She wanted to find

out how to feed the children on her farm with free food. John obviously had not minced his words. He told her that she should get together with other new farm-owners in the same situation, arrange food, education and drugs, and that they should pay for it themselves. "After all", he told her "when the farms were confiscated they all had schools and clinics, paid for by the farmers, and the workers were given plots of land to grow their food".

Hatcliffe 2 now has a new head, who is very sympathetic to the Feeding Programme. When I visited her before, the head was actually looking for hand-outs from John! I remember that she asked if I had brought her some sandwiches! I also remember the excellent cook, Martha, who has since died of AIDS.

Here they have a different system of distribution. The children sit down in long lines on the playground, at the head of each line is a teacher with the pot of 'Nutrimeal' and the children shift up swiftly on their bottoms, hand their mugs in on reaching the head of the line, and scoot off. They join

the back of the line, still shifting forwards, scooping their 'Nutrimeal' with their hands! No, they do not get a second portion, but leave a gap so that all the mugs can be collected. Wonderful discipline here again. This school is cooking its own 'Nutrimeal' now, but they do not have their own wood, whereas Hatcliffe 1 does. Back in the office, knowing that they needed money for more firewood, I gave them Z\$120,000 in cash and was given a receipt.

Our donation to the Presentation Sisters was also the equivalent of £250, some as a cheque and some cash - both to the school and to Sister Anna. She can use this cash for further payments to the assistant at Hatcliffe 1, and for more firewood at Hatcliffe 2. This was handed over at the bungalow, enjoying yet another of Sister Anna's home-baked teas. Midge has seen her since as the Presentation Sisters live within walking distance of her office, and was greeted with a cheerful "How are those wonderful people in Devon? God bless them".

[In the next issue - Shingirirai Creche, Mabhuku, Harare]

??

Puzzle Page Answers

WORDSEARCH

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. WATERGATE | 2. DERRIFORD | 3. PALLADIAN | 4. PAINTINGS |
| 5. YESTERDAY | 6. MOUNTAINS | 7. ENDOWMENT | 8. GUERRILLA |
| 9. SANDPIPER | 10. DRAMATIST | 11. ADJOINING | 12. NEWSNIGHT |
| 13. BALLERINA | 14. PANTOMIME | 15. PROTOTYPE | 16. ULLSWATER |
| 17. RACONTEUR | 18. MIDSUMMER | 19. REMBRANDT | 20. TRAFALGAR |
| 21. KILOMETRE | | | |

TEN TEASERS

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Irish Sea | 3. Yorkshire | 5. Chests | 7. Mont Blanc | 9. Resolution |
| 2. Charles the First | 4. Orchid | 6. India | 8. Danube | 10. Pinza |

PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairman | Kit Marshall | 560214 |
| Vice - Chairman | Peter Hurrell | 560496 |
| Parish Clerk | Cathy Taverer | 853163 (day) - 852139 (evening) |
| District Councillor | Shonaugh Rankin | 561185 |
| County Councillor | Sir Simon Day | 01752 - 691212 |
| Members | Neil Girling | 560489 |
| | David Grose | 560375 |
| | Andrew Rhymes | 560564 |
| | Geoffrey Stidson | 560695 |
| | Charles Mitchellmore | 560602 |
| Tree Warden | | |

The Parish Council meetings take place on Mondays. See dates on Diary page overleaf.

PARISH HALL

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--------|
| Chairman | Rowland Cole | 561006 |
| Bookings | Pat Crawford | 560688 |

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

Chairman Chris White

RECTOR CHURCH MEETING ROOM CHURCHWARDENS

| | | |
|--|----------------------|--------|
| | Canon Andrew Girling | 562219 |
| | Office | 561246 |
| | Graham Worrall | 562016 |
| | Liz Webb | 560090 |

COFFEE TIME (See All Saints Diary for details)

Contact Liz Webb

FRIENDS OF THURLESTONE CHURCH

Contact Kit Marshall

AUNE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

John Crawford

BANTHAM SAILING CLUB

Contact Hugh Cater

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Clubhouse

BOWLS CLUB (indoor)

Contact Eileen Dayment

BRIDGE CLUBS 7 p.m. Parish Hall

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm

WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

Contact Dorothy Stone

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB

Secretary / Manager Terry Gibbons

TENNIS SECTION

Contact Lindsey Fletcher

KEEP FIT Tuesdays, 10.00 - 11.30 am Parish Hall

Contact Brenda Murch

HORTICULTURAL SHOW (annual)

Contact John Lonsdale

PROBUS

Contact Tom Trender

TRAMP (Thurlestone Ramblers)

Contact Rodney Horne

DIRECTORY

W. I.
Second Thursday monthly (except August)
2.30 pm Parish Hall
Contact Judith Le Grice 562135

SOUTH HAMS SPINNERS, WEAVERS, & DYERS

Contact Pat Crawford 560688

TEAMMAKERS (Computer Club)

Contacts: Robin Macdonald
Chris White
Graham Durant

Mondays & Wednesdays (beginners & improvers)

4.30 pm - 6.30 pm, All Saints School, during school terms

HEALTH CENTRES

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853551
842284

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Sunday, 8.30 am - 1.00 pm
561917

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DevonBus publications may be obtained by phoning 01392 382800 or by e-mail to devonbus@devon.gov.uk

GARAGE (Blight Engineering)

Maurice Blight 560220

KINGSBRIDGE LIBRARY (Mobile Library calls alternate Wednesdays from 6th October)

11.15 - 11.30am Bantam
11.35 - 11.45am Buckland Old Chapel 11.50 - 12.15pm Thurlestone Parish Hall
12.20 - 12.30pm Thurlestone Church 12.35 - 12.45pm Thurlestone Sands

MOBILE FISH & CHIP VAN Alternate Wednesdays from 6th October 2004, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, outside school

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

| | | |
|------|------------------|--|
| Mon | 4 th | Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Fri | 8 th | Electoral Register Form deadline! (see News Roundup) |
| Fri | 8 th | Probus Golf Tournament, Thurlestone Golf Club |
| Sat | 9 th | NSPCC Bridge, Parish Hall (see ad) |
| Wed | 13 th | TRAMP - to be arranged |
| Thur | 14 th | WI, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm (Tony Porter, Burgh Island Hotel) |
| Fri | 15 th | Alvington Singers, Kingsbridge, 7.30 pm (see ad) |
| Mon | 18 th | TRAMP (short walk - Mount Edgumbe) |
| Sat | 23 rd | Rumble Sale, Parish Hall, 10 am - 12 noon. (see ad) |
| Mon | 25 th | Half-Term Junior Tennis coaching starts 10 am |
| Wed | 27 th | TRAMP, Cornworthy |

NOVEMBER

| | | |
|------|------------------|---|
| Mon | 8 th | Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Wed | 10 th | TRAMP - to be arranged |
| Thur | 11 th | WI - Annual Meeting, Parish Hall, 2.30 pm |
| Fri | 12 th | Probus Ladies Luncheon (Speaker Mrs S. Nutt) |
| Sat | 13 th | GENTLE JAZZ, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm (see ad) |
| Tues | 16 th | ARC Bridge Afternoon, Parish Hall, 2.00 pm (see ad) |
| Thur | 25 th | Conservative Bridge, Thurlestone Hotel, (see ad) |

DECEMBER

| | | |
|-----|------------------|---|
| Sat | 4 th | NSPCC Event (TBA) |
| Mon | 6 th | Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Wed | 8 th | TRAMP, Christmas Walk |
| Fri | 10 th | Probus Lunch, Thurlestone Hotel (Speaker R. Robinson) |
| Fri | 10 th | WI Carol Service, South Milton |
| Sat | 11 th | TAKE-NOTE Concert, Parish Hall (TBA) |
| Fri | 17 th | WI - Christmas Lunch, 12.30 for 1.00 pm |

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

VILLAGE VOICE

Your "Cut out and Keep"

PARISH DIRECTORY & DIARY DATES

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 Telephone : 01548-560912

The magazine is entirely self-supporting and is not a charge on the parish rate.
 It was founded on behalf of Thurlestone Parish Council and is delighted to remain
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 Council, and they should only be ascribed to the authors concerned.

In Thurlestone, Village Voice is delivered by a team of volunteer helpers
 organised by Derek & Sally Yeoman.
 In Banham and Buckland it is delivered by Peter Hurrell and Linda Chilcott.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE : 5th NOVEMBER 2004

Please drop any contributions marked "Village Voice"
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Lisa Wootton

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FRI OCT 1st/SAT 2nd/MON 4th /
TUES 5th/WED 6th/THUR 7th
5.45pm**

**STAGE BEAUTY (15)
FRI OCT 1st/SAT 2nd/MON 4th /
TUES 5th/WED 6th/THUR 7th
8.00pm**

**THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES
(15)
FRI OCT 8th - THUR OCT 14th
TO BE CONFIRMED**

**SHARK TALE (t.b.c.)
FRI OCT 15th - THUR OCT 28th
TO BE CONFIRMED**

**MAN ON FIRE (t.b.c.)
FRI OCT 29th - THUR NOV 4th
TO BE CONFIRMED**

**FINDING NEVERLAND (PG)
FRI NOV 19th - THUR NOV 25th**

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