

Kilmington Post-script

Issue 45
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A year ago the editorial included references to the North wind blowing the smell of burning carcasses in our direction and the announcement of the General Election, but as a counterbalance, rejoiced in the sunshine, lush greenery and riotous blossom. Well, the horror of Foot and Mouth may be receding into the past and the Election activity replaced by the organization of the Queen's Golden Jubilee, but the sunshine has been producing similar luxuriant blossom, with bluebells carpeting the woods and hedgerows in the most breathtaking, generous fashion. Everywhere rhododendrons and azaleas make it compulsory to wear sunglasses – so vivid and brilliant are their glorious colours. For sheer stunning exhibitionism, the display of Mrs Speller's Echium in the front garden of Westgate is hard to beat – worth a walk down the Street for!

Also in the issue of June 2001 was a renewed cri-de-coeur for help with the layout of Postscript and, as you already know, Roger Courtice had his arm twisted and nobly embarked on what was to be a very steep learning curve, since he started out with no experience beyond ordinary personal keyboard work, having had, as he said, secretaries to do all the technical stuff! He proved to be a joy to work with – good humoured, calm, unflappable and with the enviable ability to reduce major crises to mere hiccups! We all thank him wholeheartedly and are glad he is moving no further away than Shute. Our very best wishes to you and your family, Roger, and I know you are gritting your teeth as you include this – but it would be a very truncated editorial if you were to leave it out – so smile and accept the compliments gracefully. You've done a splendid job.

Just as last year's call for help was answered, so we have been very lucky to have Emma Collier come forward to take on Roger's workload. Emma is enthusiastic, not too horrified at the idea of the end of the month stress and, wonderfully, has experience of desktop publishing with her own computer. So welcome to the team, Emma, and our thanks for coming forward.

Change is an inevitable part of the natural cycle – and so it seems to be with Postscript. Sadly, Lorette is having to give up the diary dates and distribution. Lorette is probably the most public face of the magazine. She has been responsible for the efficient delivery service and has done it willingly and with a smile – she seems to manage more things in a day than seem possible, and yet she is the one who will always volunteer to take on another job if anyone is in need. The constraints of the printing schedule mean that we are often pushed to get the copies to the distributors in time and Lorette makes sure that people who can't get to the Post Office to collect their bundles on a certain day have them dropped off. So please, we need someone with part of a day free once a month [for ten months] to parcel up the copies into bundles, deliver some to the Post Office, drop a few off individually, but, above all, make sure that the system runs smoothly and absences or illness are covered. Lorette will be happy to talk about what is involved so please do get in touch – her phone number is 35330.

Finally to the current issue – this month's centre page spread is not a tabloid lovely, but about equally beautiful, if very different, trees. Devon is happily rich in trees and Kilmington is no exception. It would be lovely to hear about your favourite trees or ones seen on travels – like the ghostly forest of Eucalypts with straight silvery trunks we came across in Australia. Whether you're inspired to write in and share your experience with us all or not – enjoy the articles inside – and the rest of the issue!

Disclaimer: The items and articles in this publication are the work of individual people and do not necessarily reflect the thoughts or opinions of the Editor.

HOROSCOPE 2002



May 21st – June 20th

Holst's music of *The Planets* illustrates splendidly the characteristics we associate with Mars, Saturn and Pluto, all of which are involved with your sign at this time. The motif is one of struggle and decisions. Some require letting go of the past, others facing problems and accepting that, once a decision is made, it is important to look to the future and not question whether it was the right choice or not. Life has much to offer you, just as you have much to contribute to life. So by all means open up discussions and consult other opinions, but, in the end, grasp the nettles, not only firmly, but joyfully and with purpose. This time of change is the beginning of a new cycle in your life and you will find that renewed energy and fun will bubble up with a positive enjoyment of all the things on offer.

PRE-SCHOOL COFFEE MORNING

The pre-school coffee morning raised over £280. The proceeds are to be used for new equipment, toys and outings.

SUMMER DRINKING

In time for those long, hot days we all hope we are going to get, someone – very thoughtfully – has sent in a recipe for Elderflower Cordial:

- 10 Elderflower heads
- 1 lemon
- 2 oz. Citric acid
- 1 1/2 lbs sugar

Method

Peel lemon and squeeze juice. Put everything in bowl and cover with 1 pint of boiling water. Stir daily for several days. Strain off and bottle. Dilute to taste, using sparkling spring water.

Now all you need is to find a nearby elder tree just bursting with blossom – if it happens to be in someone else's garden, do make sure you smile winningly before making off with your 10 heads! Better still, make a date to share the proceeds of your harvest with them!

TELEPHONE SUPPORT LINE

WAND, a user led mental health charity based in North Devon, celebrated the third anniversary in April this year of its Telephone Support Line. Although it is run from Barnstaple, WAND stresses that this is a valuable service for people throughout the whole county. The line is staffed by a dedicated group of trained volunteers who give up some of their time to make a difference in the lives of others, by offering emotional support to anyone affected by mental health, including mental health service users, carers, relatives, friends and professionals. If you feel you would like to talk about what you are going through, the Support Line currently operates on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings from 8.0 pm until midnight on FREEPHONE 0800 800 0312

JOHN FLACK

Sadly John Flack was taken to Wonford Hospital, Exeter, after a severe stroke. He is recovering well, helped by excellent medical care and devoted visiting from Chris (and also Jessie his much loved dog). He is now regaining some movement in his left hand. By the time this is published we hope he will have improved even further and be well on the road to full health. We send him warm good wishes and hopes for a speedy and complete recovery.



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TEN TORS EVENT

On the weekend of May 11th and 12th two of Kilmington's young people took part in this event representing The Woodroffe School, Lyme Regis.

The Ten Tors annual event takes place in May and is organised by the officers and men of 43 [Wessex] Brigade who provide the essential safety-net. 2,400 young people take part, in teams of six, and walk 35, 45 or 55 miles over the two days, camping in between. The intention is that the teams be self-sufficient, carrying everything they need to survive two days on the Moor and that they walk between ten nominated Tors over the two days.



Rachel Cope completed 35 miles and James Cope 45 miles. [Sadly Sebastian was away in New Zealand otherwise it may have been possible to have three Copes in the event. Sebastian hopes to do the 55 miles event next year] James' team finished at 11.18 am, coming eighth overall out of the 45 mile teams. They were the fastest team the school has ever had.

It was a very exciting and challenging experience for the young Copes and they were proud to represent their school in this way.

Update on Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are now well underway with our expedition training for our Bronze, Silver and Gold groups. The Gold group have already camped for one night on Dartmoor, at Vixen Tor, near Princetown. They have a four-day practice at the beginning of July, after all their exams are finished, on Dartmoor when they will walk about 35 miles. The purpose for their exploration is to study some of the myths and legends of Dartmoor and they have chosen to camp in some fairly remote sites where some of the legends originate from. They will be walking along the road where the 'Hairy Hands' have been known to cause cars to swerve off the road!

The bronze group, all fifteen of them, have been on several day walks. The first included going up Danes Hill and Horner Hill near Dalwood. The leaders were certainly puffing up the hills. We had to cross a ford, which was more like a river and most of us ended up with very wet socks. Full marks to Nick Hodges for taking off his boots and socks and wading through the freezing water!

We had an excellent First Aid session a few weeks ago thanks to Dr. Yvonne Hodges who was ably assisted by Susie Hodges. At one point there seemed to be hundreds of unconscious casualties all over the floor being put into the recovery position. Watching the different ways that a triangular bandage could be made into a sling was amusing.

Richard and I are very grateful for all the people that help us with the award in the village, a special thank you to Barbara Whiteley who has recently assessed cooking skills for one of the bronze group.

In the next few weeks we hope to have a presentation of awards for some who have completed their awards;

John Parry [Silver] Emma Parry [Silver] James Cope [Silver] Sebastian Cope [Gold] and Emily Parr [Bronze] Our congratulations to all of them.

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NEWS FROM DEVON

Tourism Signs: Department of Transport proposals to limit the number of 'brown signs' on roads on the grounds both of safety and environmental intrusion have been 'blasted' as 'bureaucracy gone mad' by D.C.C. Executive Committee. A detailed response is to be sent as part of the consultation process on the proposals, accompanied by a letter expressing the County's deep concern over their impact on the Devon tourist industry. It is an interesting exercise to spot signs which might be affected on the journey to Exeter for instance.

Summer Schools: Devon C.C. has won a grant of more than £150,000 to stage a series of summer schools across the county over the next three years. The schools will be organised by the county council and its local youth service along with the Northcott Theatre and the Phoenix Theatre in Exeter, the Wren Trust, North Devon Theatres and the Devon Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Details can be seen on <http://www.devon.gov.uk/media/summernof.html>

Guides to Bus Times: Devon C.C.'s FREE 'Mid Devon Bus Times' 2002 and 'East Devon Bus Times' 2002 are now available providing comprehensive information on different bus operators currently serving the area, many of whom are under contract to the County Council Services featured include those to Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth, Seaton, Axminster, Chard, Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Crediton, Tiverton, Cullompton and Taunton. Services to Wellington, Somerset are also listed. The guides can be found in a number of outlets including libraries, post offices and tourist information centres.

Call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 for all timetable enquiries in South West England.

Call Devonbus on [Exeter] 01392 382800 for Devonbus publications or use e-mail devonbus@devon.gov.uk



KILMINGTON VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the K.P.V.A. I wish to thank all the people who put so much work into the Plant Market, on Saturday 4th May – in particular those

ladies whose expertise in sorting and selling the plants was invaluable, as was their work organising refreshments, selling cakes and helping with the raffle – all the unseen effort so essential to these occasions but so easily taken for granted by those who come to enjoy them.

We are grateful to all those who gave plants, cakes, unwanted garden tools and prizes for the raffle, on whose generosity we depend for the success of the Plant Market. Most of all we depend on the people who support us as an organization by coming along to buy from the stalls, enjoy coffee and chat, find out who wins the raffle prizes and altogether make the party go with a swing! We rely on you most of all in what is a small but interdependent community, so thank you. Altogether the Plant Market raised £261.00 for the K.P.V.A. funds which, in view of the loss of our regular marquee [wrecked in high winds], will be sorely needed if the Annual Flower Show is to be a success!

Ron Foster

GOLDEN JUBILEE JUNE 2ND & 3RD

K.P.C. hope this will be a real village occasion with great support for the Teddy Bears procession and picnic & enthusiasm for the evening fun in the Village Hall.

KILMINGTON TENNIS CLUB

Anyone for tennis? For information on the use of the village tennis court and club/junior tennis skills sessions see the village notice boards for details or ring Pat Burton on 01297 35303.

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WEATHER NOTES

*'Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote
The droghte of Marche hath perced to the roote----*

Thus Geoffrey Chaucer sets the weather scene for the departure of himself and his fellow pilgrims from the Tabard Inn in Southwark on their way to Canterbury *'the holy blissful martir for to seke'*.

If they had set off in April this year they would have found very few seasonal showers, for after the 3rd, when there was a heavy thunderstorm at 9.30 pm, there were 15 days with no rain, and a further similar after the 20th. There were unseasonal cold nights – we remember those brave souls, huddled in blankets, waiting for the passing of the funeral procession of the Queen Mother. Chaucer's modern pilgrims would have needed some extra clothing this year. The Squire 'short was his goun', the Clerk with his 'threadbare top cape', the Shipman whose 'goun of folding' came only to his knee and some of the other pilgrims likewise were ill-clad for this year's April weather. The exception was the Wyf of Bath, whose coverchiefs, which she wore on Sundays, weighed ten pound and 'hir hosen weren of fyn scarlet reed'. Perhaps all this, and more, were the result of "Housbondes at chirche-dore she hadde fyve".



So, 2002 April, not many sweet showers. The first real April day arrived in Kilmington on the 18th with frequent showers and then, on the 23rd, some welcome sunshine. In the afternoon two House Martins alighted on the telephone wires in Well Mead. What a pleasant surprise to see that these attractive birds had not gone over to mobile phones! The month ended with a cool showery day, .60 inches of rain and a total for the month of 2.15 inches, a little over the average of 1.9 inches.

There were some very clear skies at night and these gave us a chance to see the grand alignment of the five planets with Jupiter, the largest, at the top, followed by Saturn, Mars, Venus and Mercury at the bottom – a spectacular arrangement which will not occur again for very many years. The best sighting was around 10.30 pm on the 14th.

April weather is always uncertain day by day, but it is a lively month, making us glad that winter has receded, summer is soon to come, the gardens are bursting with new life, the sun has more time for us, when, as Shakespeare says in Sonnet 98 *'proud-pied April dress'd in all his trim, Hath put a spirit of youth in everything.'*

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Ron Percy

Donations in memory of the late Ron Percy totalled the magnificent sum of £390. It was his wish that any donations should be in aid of the Royal British Legion.

Spring Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning was held on the 27th April. Over 100 people attended and the receipts came to a record sum of £530.

We are very grateful to all those who worked so hard to make the morning a success. We are also grateful to the generosity of the people who gave donations to the various stalls.

Geoffrey Parkinson (Hon. Secretary)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 2002

This was a well attended occasion with about fifty residents, councillors and visitors gathered in the village hall on 24th April.

The first part of the evening was devoted to Care Direct of Devon, with a talk by Paul Searle, on the scope and aims of the project, which has only been in action for three to four months, followed by specific examples, given by Claire Bird, of the kind of questions most frequently asked.

Care Direct is one of six pilot schemes whose aim is to be a one stop shop for information and advice. By ringing 0800 444000 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday to Friday, or logging on to the web site www.care-direct.co.uk, assistance can be given with a whole range of queries involving Health, Housing, Security, Pensions and Care in the home. In this way it is hoped to eliminate duplicate calls and form filling for different agencies. With a staff of 14 and access to outside organizations the aim is to deliver a speedy service; for example help can be given with form filling in ones own home.

There was a great deal of interest from the audience and questions were asked about attendance and winter fuel allowances, security and the number of lines of the service [the last would expand with the increasing popularity and use of the service]. Leaflets were handed out at the meeting and are available at the Post Office.

After a sociable break for coffee the Chairman, Bill Kerslake, gave his report for the year, which sounded very much an Annus Horribilis, with rising costs, Foot and Mouth and vandalism in the village. However, in spite of unbudgeted items like a contribution to a new mower [£1500], new Kilmington booklet and notice boards, our budgeted accounts were largely on target, with praise from the auditor for the Clerk, Hilary Kirkcaldie.

Entry to the Best Kept Village Competition was in hand and we were all urged to play our part in sprucing up the village, removing litter and so on. Thanks were given to the W.I. who had volunteered to form a team to work before the arrival of the examiners.

The Jubilee Project, the Children's Play Area, was well under way and, with the surfacing of Quarry Lane and the start of Ring and Ride, [the latter thanks largely to the efforts of Sandra Ward], there were positive achievements to be proud of. The gloomy side of the picture was this year's rise in the precept, due to rising costs and falling interest rates, and the sad outbreak of vandalism in the village. Speeding was also a matter for concern, together with the failure to observe the existing limits.

The Chairman ended his report by accepting the new Code of Conduct on behalf of all the councillors, by declaring there would be greater discussion and openness in planning matters in future and by thanking all his colleagues and helpers, including the Clerk.

The Playing Field Report by Chris Bolton gave news of the progress of the new Pavilion's fund, which now stands at £20,000, in spite of set backs. It had been decided to go ahead in stages, depending on the result of the Lottery application. Damage to the present pavilion was £5 - £600. He thanked both Peter Huscroft and John Lavender for their hard work in maintaining the field.

The School Report by Dickie Dawe focused on the happy atmosphere in the school, the increasing number on roll [94 this year], larger number of special needs children and the coming, [theoretically in the summer holidays], of a new computer room. £10,000 towards new computers had been raised by the P.T.A. He congratulated both the Headmaster and his caring staff.

Both reports, sadly, included references to vandalism and questions from members of the public reflected their concern at the problem. Both Malcolm Bettison and Chris Bolton had talked to some of the young people and a meeting had been arranged to articulate some of their needs, and though, inevitably, expense would eliminate the provision of a room in the new pavilion, it was important that their views should be listened to and an attempt made to include them in the community by encouraging a positive attitude now that an outside element may no longer come in.

Other questions touched on the difficulty of contacting the police, traffic problems and the lengthy procedures involved in acquiring or altering traffic signs.

Such interaction between the Council and the public is both healthy and productive and, if increased attendance at Council meetings were to continue, the whole community would benefit. So often criticism is levelled at the local authorities, but, without interest and input, it is hardly surprising if performance does not always reflect the amount of hard work done by volunteers behind the scenes.

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Christine East opened the meeting and welcomed Mrs J. Soul, who, in turn, invited her audience to sit back, relax and enjoy her talk about her coach tour visiting the southern area of North America, which she and her husband had obviously thoroughly enjoyed, especially the warm welcome they received everywhere, starting with "How u All?"

The tour commenced in Dallas [after the flight from Heathrow], where the first [wooden] houses were built in 1843, and continued on to Texas, a word meaning friend, which today is a vigorous industrial development, thence to Waco, Austin and its university, followed by San Antonio and the Alamo. Here they had a trip in a flat bottomed boat on the Canal and visited the IMAX Theatre Rivercenter where 135 shops were opened in 1988. Next stop was Houston and the NASA Space Center with its rockets and Mission Control, then on to Louisiana, Baton Rouge and New Orleans - the birthplace of jazz - on the Mississippi. Here they saw many old houses in the French quarter and a Creole paddle steamer. It was here too that Tennessee Williams [1911 - 1982] wrote 'A Street Car Named Desire'.

Continuing east they moved on to Montgomery in Alabama and then Stone Mountain Park and Atlanta in Georgia; then north east into South Carolina, North Carolina, Williamsburg and Jamestown, and, finally, Washington and its tree lined avenues, the White House and the Capitol. They were particularly interested in Arlington Cemetery, where they saw the simple memorials to J.F. and Robert Kennedy, marked by a single candle burning, and were fascinated by an evening floodlit tour.

Christine East thanked Mrs Soul for giving us such an extended tour in so short a time which everyone had enjoyed.

The competition for a Holiday Snap was won by Barbara Harden, with Mary Nowell second and Pat Foster third. Flower of the Month was won by Mary Nowell. After coffee and biscuits, two new members were welcomed and other business discussed. Christine East reported on the Spring Council Meeting at Exeter when Helen Carey, the NFWI National Chairman attended and at which 248 institutes were represented, all of whom enjoyed an excellent talk by the BBC Royal Correspondent, Jennie Bond.

Our next meeting will be on the 11th July, when any visitors will be most welcome.

Mary Nowell

QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION SERVICE

Everyone is reminded about the Queen's Golden Jubilee Ecumenical Celebration Service to be held in St Giles's Church on Sunday, 2nd June, at 11.00am. The Service will be led by the Rev'd Nigel Freathy, and the Address given by the Rev'd Laurie Burn. The collection will be donated to the village's primary Golden Jubilee Project, a new Children's Playground. There will be refreshments in the Village Hall afterwards. Don't miss this historic and unique occasion!

St Giles's Church will be decorated appropriately for a "Golden" occasion, and will be open from 8.30am to 6.30pm over the long Jubilee weekend for Kilmington residents, families, friends and visitors to view the floral arrangements. Donations welcome for the Children's Playground.



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T TREES IN MY GARDEN

As this is the "Year of the Tree", I thought I would have a count, and found I had nearly 70 trees in my acre and a half garden. I have always loved trees, for their beauty and the structure they give to a garden. These are a few of my favourites that I grow, grouped for flowering, bark and autumn colour.

Prunus padus, (the Bird Cherry) is flowering now, and is a mass of tiny white flowers. The *Halesia* (Snowdrop tree) is also flowering, and has pendulous flowers, similar to a snowdrop. The various cherries in flower I guess everyone knows. *Magnolia soulangeana* and Leonard Messel flower in March and are very beautiful when there are no early frosts. *Eucryphia nymanensis* is a lovely evergreen tree that flowers in August/September with white flowers like a single rose, and beloved by bees. I don't know why it is not more widely grown. A fully grown tree produces hundreds of flowers.

Trees with interesting bark are *Acer griseum* with a fascinating peeling trunk that reveals a cinnamon coloured underbark. *Acer davidii* "Serpentine" has a striated green and white bark. The fruits are red and hang all along the branches in autumn. *Betula papyrifera*, the paper birch, also has a peeling bark. *Prunus serrula* is just like polished mahogany, and gleams in the sun.

Trees that give good autumn colour are the *Cercidiphyllum* with little heart shaped leaves that turn a smoky pink in autumn and smell of burnt sugar. *Liquidamber* and *Parrotia persica* have brilliant foliage in reds and oranges. *Acer Osakazuki* is the most brilliant of all - a fiery red. *Ginkgo biloba* is one of the oldest trees on earth and is grown in Buddhist Temple gardens. The leaves turn butter yellow in autumn. *Metasequoia* (Dawn Redwood) has to be my favourite. Its ancestry is even older than the Ginkgo. The ferny foliage becomes gold and tawny pink in autumn, with shaggy bark.

It is wonderful having all these trees, but then comes the winter and all the raking up of the leaves – an endless job but well worth it. Any offers?!!!

If anyone is interested, I would be very happy to show them around.

Betty Richards

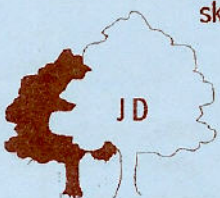
SPRING GREENS

As a child 'spring greens' meant the hated squishy mess that school cooks served up for compulsory – lunch, probably with mince and lumpy mashed potatoes. No burgers, chips or mouth-watering pasta for children for the forties or fifties – and woe betide any one brave or foolish enough to leave scraps on the plate. We were the product of the Second World War when the greatest crime was waste – of any kind especially food. Now, I fall with delight on the fresh, scrunchy leaves, full of flavour and vitamins, cooked in the minimum of time with the minimum of water and find it hard to remember that it's the same vegetable!

A more instinctive response to those two words would be a recall of that heart stopping moment when I see the beech trees have performed their annual miracle – it seems overnight – of painting the landscape with their glorious fresh, younger colour. Each season has its special appeal, but for me, the renewal of life bursting out everywhere in leaf and blossom after the stark, skeletal silhouettes of winter, bring such delight and hope that our world is a good place to be.

We have such splendid native trees and somehow they have their own characters: 'sturdy' seems a natural attachment to oak, 'elegant' to silver birches, 'majestic' the chestnut, 'graceful' the weeping willow and so on. The stately beech has something of a feminine image, a foil to the rugged masculinity of the 'rugged' (another natural adjective) oak. There are groves in the Cotswolds and Chilterns referred to as 'nature's cathedrals' and it is not difficult when walking alone through them to feel a sense of reverence. There are many paintings of Wittenham Clumps by Paul Nash who saw them as a symbol of the repossession of human works by nature, he wrote, "It was the look of them that told most. They were Pyramids of my small world".

Many of us can remember a particular tree that has been a particular importance in our lives - perhaps as children having a den or hidey hole by it, or later in life being grateful for a rest in its shade, maybe simply the relish of a shape or a whole skyline to illuminate the start to the day or give peace to its end.



Kilmington's Monterey Pine is a source of enormous pleasure to the community and we can count ourselves lucky that it is one of many village trees, most of which will continue to offer us 'spring greens' for years to come.



TREES

I have a fixation about toilet rolls. It's not so much their use, but their origin! When I see them stacked high in the supermarkets, my spirits sink as I envisage the acres of woodland felled to supply the paper pulp. I have recurring nightmares about a world papered with toilet rolls à la Andrex, rather than forested with trees. Could this possibly be a loo-narscape?

Trees breathe. In my imagination, they breathe like humans; they certainly breathe life into our environment. When I go dog-walking round the village, I could well be mistaken for a madwoman let loose for the afternoon. The wildflowers and the trees are all friends, and are greeted accordingly. I note the black buds on the ash; the petticoat froth of blossom on the blackthorn, and grieve for dismembered branches ripped off the oak and the pine in the last gales. The trees that grow in the Devon banks at regularly planted intervals are so much a feature of this part of the countryside, and their reassuring presence punctuates the landscape, provides geographical reference points, and sanctuary for the wildlife.

Living here has been an education; there are specimen trees planted in our garden whose names are as exotic as their foliage and bark: ginkgo, catalpa, liriodendron - and of whose existence I had previously been unaware, as my horticultural knowledge was minimal. There are even monkey-puzzle trees growing at the side of the road, so it's almost like living in a foreign country.

A long time ago in my childhood, I remember a majestic weeping elm tree about a century old, whose branches swept the ground and provided bouncing "horses" on which we children could ride up and down, pretending to be knights and crusaders. Although the tree came down in a storm a few years ago, the present owners have planted an identical tree on the site, and hopefully in about 40 years' time, other generations of children will play "horsy" on its branches.

There is a chillingly beautiful double line of trees approaching Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany, just north of Berlin. This avenue leads directly through the charming village to the gates of the camp, now a War Museum. The inhabitants denied all knowledge of the fate of the Jewish prisoners regularly trundling past in trucks, never to emerge. Such an innocent road; such a hideous history.

We have travelled to far-flung places and seen "the largest tree in the world" with a girth Falstaff would have been proud of; we have walked through the trunks of the giant sequoias in North America, and marvelled at the huge and slightly sinister baobabs in Africa. All of these trees are incredible - but my heart responds only when I come across a horizon crowned with a marching line of English oaks, trees that epitomise our straightforward and stalwart way of life; something truly to be proud of.

HS

TO A BUTTERFLY

Stay near me – do not take thy flight
A little longer stay in sight!
Much converse do I find in thee
Historian of my infancy!
Float near me; do not depart!
Dead times revive in thee;
Thou bring'st gay creature as thou art!
A solemn image to my heart,
My father's family!

Oh! Pleasant, pleasant were the days,
The time, when in our childish plays,
My sister Emmeline and I
Together chased the Butterfly!
A very hunter I did rush
Upon the prey:- with leaps and springs
I followed on from brake to bush
But she, God love her! feared to brush
The dust from off its wings.

William Wordsworth 1770 – 1850

THE GARDEN IN APRIL/MAY

Pat and I have started on a Butterfly count. During the bright sunny days in April we were pleased to note many were already here in the garden.

'The Butterfly Conservation reports that over the last fifty years many species of Butterfly have declined dramatically in both abundance and range'.



The Butterfly Count could be an interesting project for children in the coming summer.

On the 8th April we saw a territorial display by three pairs of Buzzards. I imagine that this takes place during the breeding season.

A pair of Goldfinches have made a display and now we see them on the bird table two or three times each day. The

rest of our garden birds are all pairing and nest building.

I have been trying to think of the names of shrubs and plants that we have already put in. My memory seems to have left me stranded – I wish some clever medical man or woman would come up with a solution for this memory loss!

Pat is having the same problem! – but, if I should ask her for her wartime service number, she would come up with it like a shot! We have found the solution to 'What day is it?' we just tick the days off on the calendar.

I must stop now – I have just remembered that we have a 'dram' before lunch!

The Rhododendrons and Azaleas are now coming into bloom. The four Azaleas in the back garden overlooking the stream are a mass of colour: the names – I think – are Gibraltar, Persil, Purple Triumph.

Be happy in your garden

Pat and George

FISHING TALES 3

This is the last [definitely!] fishing tale. How tall this time? On the surface it would seem exceptionally tall and difficult to digest.

The gist of the story is that Len caught a brown trout and was seen – by me – extricating it from a hedge. Beyond the limits of credulity? No, the explanation is boringly simple. To understand the circumstances, it is necessary to visualise Len Crotow's casting technique. We were fishing on the Axe at Waggs Plott in, I think, 1960. He was fishing a large pool which was several yards upstream from a point where a hedge came down, at right angles, to the river: i.e. the hedge was behind him as he fished. Facing upstream he would cast the dry fly to land in the slow current where a fish had been feeding. He would allow the fly to float for about two yards towards him. Then, if no trout had come up for the 'bait', he would lift the fly off the water, very rapidly, with fierce strength, so that both line and fly whistled past his right shoulder and the rod would bend backwards accordingly. A moment's pause, then he would flick the rod gently forwards – and the fly would land, lightly, at approximately the same place on the water.

On this occasion, at the very split second that the fly was lifted from the water, a poor little brown trout, only three inches long, hardly out of play school, swallowed the fly – and it hurtled back on the hook, past Len's right shoulder and landed in the hedge before our astonished eyes!

The story had a happy ending: the hook was easily removed, Len lowered the little fellow gently into the water, and off he swam, not surprisingly, in great haste, to become the subject of another Fishy Tale!



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007's BEAUTIES Continued



Fashion this year dictates that spots are the "in" thing. As Bond's Babes sashay past our gate, for all the world like models on a catwalk, I notice that their markings reflect the fashionable trend – polka dots, giraffe-sized dots and contemporary interpretations, and all in ultra-chic black and white. Cecil Beaton, whose stunning costumes for the Ascot scene in the film "My Fair Lady" would eat his heart out to have had such inspiration! I am told that each cow has a pedigree "family" name that continues throughout the generations, and by some strange coincidence, one of the families is known as the "Polka" family ...

If you look at the dairy herd closely, you will see that all of them sport "necklaces", (neck collars with a responder) and some of them have matching "earrings" (yellow ear tags for identification on official documents)! Cows wearing jewellery is quite revolutionary! The responder represents modern technology in that while being milked, the micro-chip in it automatically gauges and dispenses the required amount of food to the animal, based on the quality and production level of the yield.

Milk represents a staple part of our diet. Not only is it important to humans, it is equally important to calves! I vividly remember holding buckets of watered-down cows' milk to feed hungry calves, and the way they butted their heads playfully against the pails. A calf is born completely enclosed in the amniotic sac, sometimes called a "caul", and occasionally the placenta is retained inside the cow for 4 to 5 days after the birth if there is a nutritional imbalance in the mother, and then either naturally ejected, or induced by a veterinary surgeon.

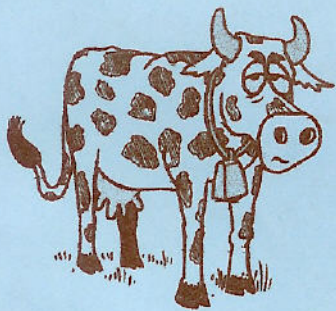
Cows are amazing creatures. When I was a child and was told that they possessed four stomachs, EACH (!), I assumed that logically, one stomach served each of the cow's four udders independently. Older and a little wiser, I now know that this is not the case, but that they form part of the animal's fodder-efficient digestive system.

Normally, the gentlest and most inquisitive of creatures, it has to be said that a herd of cows can pose a threat when harassed or on the defensive, and it is wise to be wary of them and observe them from a safe distance, especially if there is a dog in the vicinity. Cows seem to have deep reservations about canines, so one must always keep a dog on the lead and well away from the herd. Although placid animals, at close proximity cows can appear very large indeed, and somewhat intimidating, and it is not unknown for cars to be badly dented or even walls demolished if a herd decides to take a short cut with these impediments in the way!

Each herd has a leader, presumably democratically elected by the other cows (this season it's No.143), and it is her role to lead them to and from the milking parlours into the fields. Cows are not only individual in their markings, but are also usually named by the farmer.

For 007's beauties' sake, I hope that next season's fashion will not be... tartan!

Helen Shaw, with help from Nick and Jane Bond



KILMINGTON THANKS!

Bill and Barbara Woodsford would like to thank everyone for their kindness during Barbara's illness. We look forward to a long and happy retirement.

Special thanks to Mary and Ann, also neighbours at The Crescent for their kind consideration.

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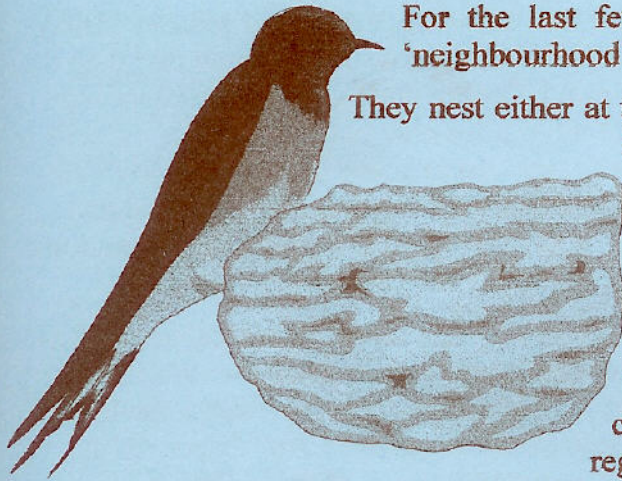
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LOCAL BIRDS : SWALLOWS

For the last few years we have been privileged to have a pair of 'neighbourhood' Swallows.



They nest either at the back of Lambley Brook, or in the barn just north of Springhead, or in our garage. Before we used to live here all the time we used to leave the garage open in the summer just for them. Only this year has the garage been cleared of 'valuables' so that the door is once more open. Lo and behold, they have already built their nest [May 13th].

The first one arrived in mid-April, waited until its partner came, then both went away for ten days or so. This is a regular occurrence, and I suspect that they go to a river with reed beds to feed fully to regain energy after the exhausting journey from South Africa. Their nests built of mud are always within a building of some sort, unlike House Martins, who build on the outside of houses usually. House Martins are smaller, have less deeply forked tails and more white on the rump. Swallows have red chins in the summer.

But sadly numbers have declined by almost half in the last twenty years, partly because of mortality in drought stricken parts of mid-Africa, and partly because barn conversions in Europe mean fewer entries into buildings. The birds who have nested in the Primary School garage for countless years will, after this year, be unable to because it is being converted into a new technology centre. The march of progress is all very well but it comes with sadnesses. Perhaps those of you who live near the school could create replacements in little used outbuildings?

Perhaps I am a sentimental old fool, but I have long been convinced that the birds do recognise me as, even if they have not nested there, they come and say hello and goodbye at the beginning and end of their stay. Ah well!

Next time:- Continuing on Coal Tits. *Dickie Dawe*

A REFLECTION ON A CROWNING MOMENT

My husband had just returned with his Regiment from a spell of duty in the Canal Zone in Egypt, when the Regiment were fortunate enough to be given some tickets for seats in a stand to watch the Coronation to take place in May 1953. A detachment from the Regiment was also to take part in the procession to the Abbey. We left our young daughter at Oxford, spent the night in Chelsea and on by tube the following morning to Westminster to take our seats just outside the Abbey.

We had a marvellous view, not only of the Queen and Prince Philip arriving, but of all the other distinguished guests, including Winston Churchill and the Queen of Tonga in their respective carriages. The entire route was lined with men from the Services only three feet apart, unlike a recent royal event where they were more like three yards! In front of us were the cadets from Sandhurst, all of whom today will be retired Field Marshals, Generals or Colonels in their seventies. The cadets were steadfast despite the fact that it rained heavily all day, we were thankful to be dry in a sheltered stand.

It was a marvellous day with, for us, an unusual ending: as we were walking along the street back to our friends' house, we saw a man climb out of an upper window of the two-storey building next door. With little difficulty we succeeded in detaining him until the police arrived - something which might be rather more hazardous now!

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*"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."
(John 13:14-15 - The Bible)*

Sometimes I think it would be nice to be rich and powerful. If I were a king, I'd never have to do the washing up again! Kings or queens delegate those menial tasks to their servants and aides whilst they live the high-life.

Not so King Jesus. Although he was a king (indeed, the *King of kings*), he had the humility to stoop and wash the dirty, smelly feet of his disciples. He came not to be served, but to serve, and told us his subjects to do likewise.

This month, we shall be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our Queen's accession to the throne. When we meet in church on the second of June, we shall recall that, throughout her reign she has faithfully served our nation, according to her coronation vows, following the example set by King Jesus. She has demonstrated, not just on Maundy Thursday, but throughout the year, that majesty means service. Long may she reign over us!

Laurie Burn

E-mail: laurieburn@freecall-uk.co.uk Church web-site: www.kbc.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE:

Sunday 7th July, 352nd Church Anniversary Services 10.45am, with Rev Mark Welch of Christian Surfers 4.00pm Service at Loughwood Meeting House, followed by bring & share tea.

Sunday 14th July, 3.30pm, Open Air Service on Kilmington Common

VILLAGE WALK & SAUSAGE SIZZLE

On a very pleasant evening on the 8th May a large crowd of people set out from the Village Hall car park armed with a set of questions to answer en route. The route took them round the village and over the fields to Gammons Hill Farm where they enjoyed a sausage sizzle in the lovely atmosphere of a farm barn. Many thanks to Brian Lavender who masterminded the route and the quiz and to John and Diana Church who provided the hospitality at Gammons Hill Farm. It was an evening enjoyed by all and due to the generous donations a profit of £149.43 was made for church funds.

ST. GILES' CHURCH

ST. GILES' CHURCH FETE

This year the Church Fete is to take place in the vicarage garden on Saturday, June 29th. There will be a crèche area for the children, cream teas and a variety of stalls including Plants, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac and a Golden stall to celebrate the Jubilee. I am sure this will be a very enjoyable social afternoon for all so please come to support this event.

DARTINGTON & TOUR OF BUCKFAST ABBEY

The Rev'd Nigel Freathy has organised an outing to the Dartington Cider Press Centre and Buckfast Abbey on Tuesday, 2nd July. The coach will leave the Village Hall at 9.15am calling for coffee at Dartington with a look at the shops, and on to Buckfast Abbey for lunch and a guided tour by one of the monks. The coach will leave after tea and return people to Kilmington by about 5.30pm. Cost of a coach place is £6, which can be booked by adding your name to the list at the back of the church, or by notifying the Vicar on 01297 33156. Everyone is welcome but book early to avoid disappointment.

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ANOTHER FINE PRODUCTION BY STAG

Audiences were once again thoroughly well entertained by the latest production from STAG [Shute theatre and Arts Guild]. This was "Private Lives" by Noel Coward, directed by Roderic Knight at Kilmington Village Hall. The play has a small cast of five, but involves many more in the supporting team, responsible for the excellent sets, superb costumes, programmes and all the other activities that one takes for granted 'backstage and beyond.

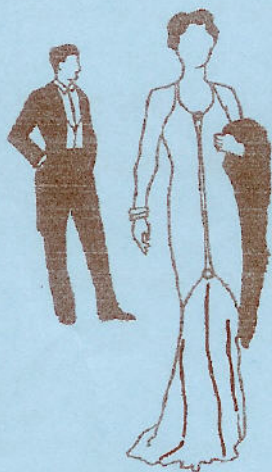
The play opened with a dialogue between Sibyl and Elyot Chase [Vicki Spence-Thomas and Davis Gunn- Johnson] which didn't really flow. However, the dialogue that followed between the second couple, Victor and Amanda Prynne [Timothy Love and Susan Gunn-Johnson], ran much better and, from here, the play gathered momentum and never looked back.

When the previously married Elyot and Amanda got together, the audience enjoyed the double irony of the lines played brilliantly by this husband and wife team. The alternating love and hate between the couples was relieved by the brief but impressive performance of the maid, Louise [Anna Cope], who was suitably frumpy and delivered her French lines with panache.

This was an unresolved tale of alternating passion and hate, full of wit and brilliantly presented. The audience clearly loved it and will be eagerly anticipating the next STAG production, 'The Seagull' by Anton Chekhov on 18th September.

'CRIB'

PUBLIC ACCLAIM FOR PRIVATE LIVES



The Village Hall rustled with anticipation as I took my seat to await the curtain-up on Noel Coward's *Private Lives*, presented by the Shute Theatre and Arts Guild from 1st to 4th May. The audience knew a thing or two about Coward and a great deal about the quality of STAG productions: the combination of these produced an evening of dramatic and visual delight.

Coward wrote "situation comedy", exposing the perennial foibles of men and women against a backdrop of contemporary society. *Private Lives*, explains Rodney Knight, the play's Director, 'is a play about the complex and contradictory nature of love and happiness.' And so it is: complex relationships, contradictory contentions and rather more love than happiness, conveyed by dialogue rich with wit and style.

The atmosphere of the 1930s was brilliantly evoked in this production by the sets, costumes, speech delivery and theatrical postures. Great attention had evidently been paid to detail: everything looked and sounded authentic, right down to the Sobranie cigarettes and the delicacy with which the appropriate colour was selected. The use of colour added an extra dimension to the presentation, particularly in the scenes in the Paris apartment where, for example, gold walls and black doors were matched in the stripes of Elyot's dressing gown.

Elyot, the anti-hero, is the archetypal cad, played superbly by David Gunn-Johnson who looked like a Russian aristocrat, moved with ease and, in spite of the magnitude of the role, maintained a remarkable consistency of character throughout. In this, he was matched by Susan Gunn-Johnson in the role of Amanda, dazzling the audience in gowns from shimmering black to sizzling cyclamen, expertly slipping into the skin of this maddeningly attractive heroine, exhibiting great skill in delivering wickedly funny lines without the hint of a smile and able to sing delightfully. As the climax to Act II, they were involved in a splendid fight - perhaps it is a good thing that, in real life, they are man and wife! Vicki Spence-Thomas was well directed as a contrast to the flamboyant Amanda and must be congratulated both on her mannerisms, especially with the hands and the hat, and her realistic weeping. A similar contrast was written into the role of Victor, as virtuous and stolid as Elyot is venal and wild. Timothy Love was totally convincing as the hapless Victor, winning the sympathy of the audience with his skilful portrayal of righteous indignation and final outburst. Praise, in addition, must go to Anna Cope whose role as the maid Louise called for her to deliver most of her lines in French while balancing trays of crockery.

A production as scintillating as this is more than the acting of a play; all the people whose names appear under the general heading of 'Production Team' also merit our applause. One hesitates to use the word 'professional', but professional standards were attained in all aspects of production - sets, lighting, wardrobe, music. Once again, STAG has reminded us that live theatre is one of the precious joys of being alive.

Sydie Bones

KILMINGTON REUNION



Preparations for the Kilmington Reunion are well under way. The Reunion, organised by Kilmington School P.T.F.A. (Parents, Teachers and Friends' Association), will take place on August 3rd 2002 in the marquee on the cricket pitch following the annual Flower and Produce Show.



The event is planned as a get-together for anyone with an interest in Kilmington, and particularly, an interest in the School whether it be as old pupil, past, current or future parent, or simply resident who wishes to celebrate the fact that we still have a village school.



The evening will offer a chance to visit or re-visit the school, chuckle over an exhibition of old photographs and memorabilia, fortify oneself at the bar, enjoy a slap-up buffet supper and talk the hind legs off each other. There will be English country music during the early part of the proceedings and after supper for those with energy (and hind legs), there will be dancing with a Caller to guide the inexpert.

School records going back to 1871 show that some current pupils are third, fourth or even the fifth generation of their family to attend. These include the Bonds, Colliers, Hutchings and Lockwoods. Others currently at the school for more than one generation include the Bengers, Clarks, Crosses, Englands, Goulds, Millers, Penhaligans. There are many other names which are well known in the village which appear more than once in the records: Anning, Dare, Church, Coombes, Down, Fryer, Gill, Harding, Heighway, Hopson, Hurford, Huscroft, Lavender, Livingstone, Marsh, Martell, Mogford, Newbery, Parsons, Perkins, Pulman, Rockett, Snell, Thorne, Ward, Webb. There are doubtless errors and omissions for which apologies are given.

Some names appear only once as some pupils came only briefly, and purely by chance, to Kilmington, as evacuees from London in the Second World War. We know that they came from Salisbury Road School, somewhere in the East End, and from Faunce Street School, which we think may have been South East London - there is a Faunce Street near the Oval Cricket Ground in which the A-Z shows a school. There were also twelve other pupils who arrived independently as evacuees from other parts of the country. We would be delighted to hear from them and, better still, see them at the Reunion.

The P.T.F.A. are still looking for more material for the exhibition - photos, badges, certificates, prizes etc. All items would be carefully looked after and promptly returned afterwards. For those unable to attend but wishing to be reunited at a distance photos or recollections would be gratefully received and returned with due care. A few words about where you are, what you've been doing and your memories of Kilmington would be of enormous interest.

All welcome who wish Kilmington to continue as a community for all ages.

Tickets are still available
at £10 per head

(£12.50 after end of term on 24th July)

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KILMINGTON CRICKET CLUB: SEASON 2002 FIXTURES - JUNE

Sat	1	Whimble	DL	2.00 A
Sun	2	Sidmouth	PL	2.30 A
Thu	6	Southgate Compton		2.30 H
Sat	8	Yarcombe & Stockland	DL	2.00 H
Sun	9	TBA		
Sat	15	Kentisbeare	DL	2.00 A
Sun	16	Taunton St Andrews	PL	2.30 H
Sat	22	Ottery St Mary	DL	2.00 H
Sun	23	Winchmore Hill		2.30 H
Sat	29	Woodbury	DL	2.00 A
Sun	30	Feniton	PL	2.30 H

2ND XI FIXTURES

Sat	1	Upottery II	DL	2.00 H
Sat	8	Stockland & Yarcombe II	DL	2.00 A
Sat	15	Axminster IV	DL	2.00 H
Sat	22	Ottery St Mary II	DL	2.00 A
Sat	29	Culmstock II	DL	2.00 H

BRADLEY'S EAST DEVON LEAGUE UNDER 15's

Wed	5	Culmstock		6.00 H
Fri	14	Exeter		6.00 A
Wed	19	Exmouth A		6.00 A
Mon	24	Tiverton Heathcoat		6.00 A
Tue	25	Bradinch K.O. Cup		6.00 H

WEEK TO VIEW

(EVENTS THAT HAPPEN SAME TIME EVERY WEEK)

SUNDAY	10.45 am	Baptist Church	Morning service with Sunday school & crèche
	6.30 pm	Baptist Church	Evening service
MONDAY	9.15 am	Village Hall	Pre-school playgroup for 3+
	2 - 4 pm	Village Hall	Country dancing (for all ages)
TUESDAY	9.30 am	St. Giles Church	Holy Communion
	10 - noon	Village Hall	Table Tennis
	7.30 pm	Village Hall	Badminton
WEDNESDAY	9.15 am	Village Hall	Pre-school playgroup for 3+
	10.00 am	Baptist Church	Parents & tots
	2 - 4 pm	Village Hall	Short mat bowls
THURSDAY	Lunchtime	The New Inn	'Young at Heart' lunches (60+)
	2 - 4 pm	Village Hall	Badminton
	5.45 pm	Baptist Church	Bright spot 7+
	7 - 9 pm	Baptist Church	Youth club 10+
FRIDAY	7 - 9 pm	Baptist Church	Youth club 13+

JUNE DIARY DATES

Sunday	2nd	11.00 am	St Giles' Church	Joint Service for Golden Jubilee Celebration
Friday	7th	10.00 am	New Inn	British Legion Committee Meeting
Saturday	8th	6.30 pm	Axminster Guildhall	CHALK Baptist Celebration - speaker Rev Dr Rob Frost
Sunday	9th	10.00 am	St Giles' Church	Family Service
Monday	10th			KVPA visit to Sand House & Gardens, Sidbury
Tuesday	11th	8.00 am	Village Car Park	British Legion Outing
Sunday	16th	9.30 am	St Giles' Church	Holy Communion + Sunday School & Crèche
		8.00 pm	New Inn	Quiz night - in aid of Leukaemia Research
Monday	17th	7.00 pm	Village Hall	KPCC Meeting
Wednesday	19th	10.30 am	Dalwood	Benefice Quiet Day
Friday	21st	7.30 pm	Village Hall	"Gardening in Small Gardens"
Sunday	23rd	8.00 pm	St Giles' Church	Holy Communion
		11.00 am		Morning Prayer Sunday School & Crèche
Saturday	29th	2.30 pm	Vicarage	Vicarage Garden Fete
Sunday	30th	8.00 am	Stockland Church	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Village Hall	Seeker Service. Special Guest - Inspector Norman Amey
		3.30 pm	Whitford Chapel	Benefice Open Air Service

Mobile Library - Friday: 7th, 21st June

The Hill: 11.05 - 11.20 The Post Office: 11.25 - 11.40

JULY DIARY DATES

Thursday 11th 7.30 pm Village Hall W.I Meeting

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Miller's Farm Shop	35290
Kilminster Post Office	33256
Kilminster Primary School	32762
Kilminster Garage	32141

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Revd Nigel Freathy (St Giles Church)	33156
Dom. Peter Morgan (Catholic Church)	32135
Village Hall Bookings	631001
Clerk to Parish Council	33462
Editor of Postscript (Jay Dawe)	32004
Advertising (Brian Nicholls)	32335

Contact Lorette on 35330 with all dates for Village events.

All items to us for next issue by 15th June. Please leave at Post Office or Hurfords Stores. Thank you.

If possible, items would be appreciated on disk (call Ed. for help - all disks will be returned), or by email: e.collier@virgin.net