

RINGMORE

MARCH 2000

Editor: Geof Dykes 810123

Issue Number 175

PARISH NEWSLETTER

MARCH DIARY

MONDAYS: Short Mat Bowls Parish Room 7.30pm

WEDNESDAYS: Step Aerobics Parish Room 8.30pm

THURSDAY: Quiz Night Journey's End 9.00pm

FRIDAYS: 3rd, 17th & 31st Friday Club Parish Room 5.30pm

8th RHS Slideshow WI Hall 7.30pm

11th Blue Peter Bring & Buy Parish Room 3.00pm

14th Millennium Meeting WI Hall 7.30pm

16th - 18th Hopes & Dreams - the Modbury Musical

17th St Patrick's Day Extravaganza at JE

18th Millennium 'Thank you' Coffee Morning

WI Hall 10.30am - noon

21st Parish Council 7.00pm WI Hall

22nd Inter Parish Quiz 8.00pm Journey's End v Bigbury

23rd Prize Bingo Memorial Hall St Ann's Chapel 7.00pm

DEADLINE Fri 24th March

Mobile Library

April

Dates:- 14th & 28th

Ringmore Church

12.05 - 12.30

Challaborough

12.35 - 12.45

St Ann's Chapel

3.15 - 3.30

Kingston Fire Station

3.45 - 4.30



Ave Mar for last 10 years - 2 1/2"
High - Mar 1994 - 4 1/4"
Low - Mar 1998 - 1 1/4"

As many of you know, the Editor and the Proofreader will be away at the publication time of the next Newsletter. However you will not be deprived! Di Collinson of Bellevue has agreed to deputise as Guest Editor for the month of April. It takes time to prepare the Newsletter for the first time so please help Di (810286) by adhering to the deadline.

If you should see Anouska Bartlett around the village, beware! She is after your pennies! Anouska is one of the driving forces behind the Ringmore element of the Blue Peter Appeal. There is a Bring & Buy planned for this month in the Parish Room.

On the 'sporting front', Ringmore's Quiz Team is on the march again. Details of their match against Diptford appear elsewhere. The John Bracey Table Tennis Tournament has been won by the reigning champion and lost by the eponymous promoter.

Jazz and St Patrick will be celebrated at the JE; read of the Great Blizzard in 1891; Ringmore Historical Society will be showing a selection of slide from its archives and the Millennium Committee is holding a 'Thank you' Coffee Morning

Brian McCabe has sent a reminder that hedge trimming, Ivy cutting and other hard pruning should not be done after the end of February. Wild birds will have commenced nesting and the nest could be damaged or fledglings made easy prey to predators. The sad consequences can be imagined.

It is good to know that Nancy Grimshaw's health has allowed her to return to the comfort of her own home, with George.

Please send items for inclusion in the Newsletter to:

The Editor

Ringmore Parish Newsletter

Ringmore, Devon, Ringmore, TQ7 4HL

or put them in the letter box in the parish room

THANK YOU

Nancy and George Grimshaw have sent the following note with their best wishes to the 'very kind people of Ringmore': "Thank you for the most beautiful cards and caring messages which you sent in support when Nancy had to go into the Ivydene Nursing Home."

Nancy is recovering well and enjoys visitors but asks that visits be made during the periods 10.30am - Noon and 3.30pm - 6.30pm to accommodate 'carers' and essential rest periods.

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March 2000 at All Hallows, Ringmore

The Minister writes:

With the season of Lent beginning this month, we move one stage further into this Millennium Year, with our eyes now fixed on Easter ahead instead of looking back to that great year change. So we need to prepare ourselves.

For the Modbury Team as a whole, there will be an "Emmaus Course" starting this month, which will include at least one house group in this part of the Team. I haven't the full details to hand as I write this, but please watch the notice-boards. It is designed to help one move forward in the knowledge and practice of our Christian faith.

So our Lent Course here will have more of a meditative nature, and will aim to explore the journey of faith in words and music. Beginning on March 16, it will take up five Thursday evenings with the themes of "Beginnings", "Following", "Challenging", "Believing" and "Dying". Those who take part will be invited to bring along a hymn or song or piece of music (not necessarily of a religious nature) that has meant much to them in one of such stages of their lives so far. But nobody will be coerced into doing so. Each evening will stand as an entity in itself (a help for those who cannot come every week), though there will, I hope, be a golden thread running through. Why not try this, perhaps new for you, short series of evenings together? They begin at 7.30 p.m. and end no later than 9.30 p.m. There will be light refreshments as well. **The place? Ringmore Parish Room.**

Please feel very welcome - because you are, believe me.

Yours in Christian love and affection.

Derek Matten, Minister

The Church House, Ringmore

Tel: 810565

DIARY FOR THIS MONTH:

Date:	9 a.m.	11 a.m.	6 p.m.
March 5	Kingston Holy Communion (ASB) & Children's Church	Ringmore Worship at Eleven	Bigbury Evening Prayer (BCP)
March 8	<i>(Ash Wednesday)</i>	19.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (BCP) in Ringmore
March 12	Ringmore Holy Communion (ASB)	Bigbury Worship at Eleven	Kingston Evening Prayer (BCP)
March 19	Bigbury Holy Communion (BCP)	Kingston Worship at Eleven	Ringmore Evening Prayer (BCP)
March 26	Ringmore Holy Communion (BCP)	Bigbury Communion at Eleven	Kingston Evening Prayer (ASB)
April 2	Kingston Holy Communion (ASB) & Children's Church	Ringmore Baptism at Eleven	Bigbury Evening Prayer (BCP)

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Journey's End Journal

Spring is sprung, the grass is ris
I wonder where the birdies is?

March is now upon us but without Easter this year. Nevertheless March is Music Madness with Bob Moffet on 4th, Dixieland Jazz on 10th and the return of The Park Bench Aristocrats for a St Patrick's Day Extravaganza on 17th. There will be a prize for the best Irish Fancy Dress and a Limerick competition, the saucier the better.

Appropriate food will be served on 10th and 17th. Menus will be available at a later date, bookings are advisable.

The highlight of February must surely have been the Chinese New Year when dragons were spotted at the JE and many a reveller grabbed a tiger by the tail. Congratulations to all of you who made it through the 19-dish banquet.

Sunday 20th saw the annual test of skill and nerve, the John Bracey Table Tennis Tournament. The excellent turnout this year provided a very enjoyable and exciting afternoon's entertainment. As the afternoon



WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

The February meeting took place on 10th of the month when the speaker was Tim Skegg who has recently come to live in Ringmore. He gave an extremely interesting account of his career as a commercial artist and cartoonist and how his love for art and his interest in all facets of it led to his making it his life's work. He brought along a representative collection of paintings in various mediums as well as cartoons and black and white drawings, all of which proved absorbing to members.

The President, Jackie Tagent, was able to state that planning permission had been granted for the proposed alterations to the WI Hall; she also outlined various fund-raising events planned for the coming season.

It is good to know that Nancy Grimshaw has returned home from hospital and is making good progress.

Naomi Warne

wore on, experience and alcohol took their toll of the field, resulting in semi-finals between John Bracey and Geof Dykes and Ginnie Cutler and her new husband Andrew. In the first match, John handled the conditions better running out the winner by 2 games to 1. In the 'family battle' Ginnie won 2-0. This was one of several 'domestics' thrown up by the draw; the Braceys, the Jollys and the Gilliams were pitted against each other but all matches concluded with a hug! In the final Ginnie coped with the fading light, winning 2-0 and retaining her title in a match which contained many exciting rallies. Well done, Ginnie!

A £1 entrance fee meant that £32 was shared between the RNLI and the Korniloff.

The Table Tennis table will remain in the conservatory for March so there will be plenty of opportunity for regulars to practice for next year's attempt to rob Ginnie of the prize.

Quiz Nights are still proving popular as new quizmasters are coming forward to upstage 'old hands'. Well done, Rob!

Despite a roll-over on the first week, the Bonus Ball has paid out £50 to two winners and managed to put some money into the Firework Fund.

The final March date for your diary is Saturday 25th when we are holding our second Game Cuisine evening. Book early to avoid missing this culinary feast.

Grahame and Debbie



After many years as frequent residents, Len and Sally Howe have sold Folletts. They have sent the following message:

'We have finally decided to stay in Sussex. The warmth of the welcome we have received every time we have come down has made the decision very difficult and we are grateful for the kindness shown. We send our best wishes and look forward to seeing our friends again soon.'

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

Myra Eddy failed in her bid to enter the Guinness Book of Records as the longest serving temporary clerk. The Council appointed Mrs Margaret Wood as Clerk. *Congratulations Margaret on achieving 10 years!*

In the second leg of the inter-parish quiz Ermington maintained their superiority, winning 79-64. The match result was 145-115. Rosemary Tate made her debut in this heat.



Tel 01548 810205

Monday closed

Tues - Sat: Noon - 3.00pm

6.30pm - 11.00pm

Friday Early Doors Club open at 6.00pm

Sun: Noon - 10.30pm

Food Daily: 12.30pm - 2.30pm

6.30pm - 9.00pm

Inter-Parish Quiz

On the first of the month, Ringmore's Quiz team set out for the wilds of Diptford. A few faithful supporters came to cheer us on. We have had enjoyable but unsuccessful visits to Diptford in the past and we had no reason to assume that this would be different. Any confidence gained from reaching last year's semi-final dissipated immediately the Question Master, in this case David Laidler, asked a question to which the answer was a total mystery. There were a number of these!

Nevertheless both teams started well and after questions on the News, and 50th anniversaries of events, births and deaths, scores were level at 20 each. What happened in the next two rounds, one on the Highway Code, was not familiar to Ringmore. The score was Diptford 24, Ringmore 33! We now had a lead to defend and we thought we could hear our small band of supporters clamouring for the final whistle and we had not yet reached half-time. Round 8 on Music was evenly balanced, neither team scoring! The first half ended with questions about the planet and we finished 9 points ahead 43 - 34.

In the second half the size of our lead fluctuated but we were never less than 8 points in front. Subjects included Quotes, Alternative Medicines, Gestation Periods (a lady thought humans took 43 weeks to arrive!), Songs by Tim Rice and Proverbs. In the final two rounds we surprised ourselves again by sprinting further ahead finishing convincing winners 98 - 81.

Our opponents in Round 2, at the Journey's End, on Wednesday 22nd March will be Bigbury who had a close match with Holbeton, winning 94 - 93.

Come along and enjoy a rare evening.

Ed



Inter-Parish Quiz

RINGMORE
v
BIGBURY

Wednesday 22nd March

8.00pm

Journey's End

There is room for everyone!

RINGMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting: Tuesday 22nd February

Present: 5 councillors, the Clerk, Millennium Committee - Guy Eddy three other members of the public.

Matters Arising

Skip: It was decided to provide a skip for one day, provisionally set for 29th April, subject to availability and permission for siting. Council members agreed to man the skip themselves in order to keep the cost down. Confirmation will appear in the next newsletter. Cast Iron Pipe in Rectory Lane. No comments have been received from parishioners, the Clerk was asked to write to S.W. Water to ask them to carry out an inspection.

Matters Raised by Parishioners:

Neighbourhood Watch - The telephone box was raided on February 2nd.

District Council

Mr Carson gave an interesting account of the new structures being introduced at South Hams. The newly appointed Chief Executive, Ruth Bagley, has expressed a wish to visit all Parish Councils and we hope to see her in due course. Changes have been agreed to the minimum fee in some (but not all) of the District's car parks, being raised from 20p to 30p; make sure you check when purchasing your ticket. Following last month's meeting when the matter of disposal of substances such as asbestos was raised, Cllr Carson confirmed that South Hams has no facility for dealing with this kind of waste but Chelson Meadow does. The Leisure Centres are still looking for more customers!

Millennium

Guy Eddy reported that the planting of the Devon Bank is now complete. A further substantial area of tree planting is to follow on an area of land provided by Mr John Tucker. The wood for the seats (two logs, each 8 ft long and weighing half a ton) is awaiting transfer from Scobbiscombe, but it is still hoped that they will be ready for Easter. The Parish Maps are with S Hams for completion. There is to be a Millennium Committee Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th March 10.30 to 12 noon in the W. I. Hall. Next meeting of the Millennium Committee Tuesday 14th March W.I. Hall 7.30p.m.

Cllr. Tagent reported that the Ringmore Millennium Mugs have been ordered as sufficient applications had been received.

Town Well

The Historical Society has written expressing concern at the state of the well. The council agreed to approach SHDC regarding possible restoration grants.

The Churchyard

The churchyard is almost full and to make way for further burials the PCC has obtained permission to remove some of

the older gravestones to other parts of the graveyard. The PCC has written to the Council requesting financial support in carrying out the work. £300 has been spent on the formalities which have had to be undertaken. A figure of £800 - £1100 has now been quoted for the actual work involved in the removal of the stones etc. The PCC is requesting the Council to meet half the cost of the work. The Clerk was asked to write to the PCC asking for clarification of the work involved.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 26th April. Simon Gamer of the National Trust has agreed to attend. Inspector Sumner is on leave but will send a Sergeant and a reply is awaited from Sir Simon Day.

A.O.B.

Complaints had been received from two parishioners concerning the unscheduled planting of trees in the area of Crossways. The land concerned is believed to be owned by the District Council and the Clerk is to write for their views.

Next Meeting 21st March 7.00p.m. W.I. Hall

THE MILLENNIUM CONTINUED

At the February Millennium Open meeting held in the W.I. Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th February 2000, a progress report was given.

The tree planting on the Devon bank at Lower Manor Farm is now complete, and in years to come we hope that its appearance will justify the effort that has been put into the planting.

A meeting with Mr. Tucker will be held on site this coming Saturday, when the fixing of the fence will be arranged. Then the planting of the small copse alongside the Ringmore - Bigbury path will be quickly accomplished.

The two seats are in production at Scobbiscombe Farm, Kingston.

The parish map format has been agreed and sent to Totnes for production. Four maps have been sent, two for Ringmore and two for Challaborough. The Ringmore map will be hung on the end of the bus shelter facing the church gate. The Challaborough notice board will hang on the side of the boatshed alongside the cliff path. The approximate cost of each notice board is £325 if they are produced by Totnes, but other sources are being considered.

No progress to report on the church clock but sources of funding are still being researched.

The possibilities of holding a coffeemorning to celebrate the completion of the tree-



Ringmore Co-ordinators

Earlier this year James Parkin became a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. He replaced Tony Chell when the latter moved from Ringmore in December. The following is the full list of current co-ordinators with their telephone numbers.

Stan Brunskill	654
Rob Batten	680
Ken Dann	
c/o Jim Freeman	638
Anne Lambell	530
Peter Major	729
Thelma Mann	673
Brian McCabe	538
Pat & Barry Old	359
James Parkin	303
Mike Pitt	633
Tracey Rimmer	658
Barbara Taylor	366
Frank Williams	621
David Young	389

planting was discussed and approved. The most suitable date was thought to be Saturday 18th March from 10:30am to Noon in the W.I. Hall. The W.I. Ladies have agreed to take on the main organisation of the event, and would be the main beneficiaries. Those outside agencies who have helped us will be invited to attend. A Cake Stall, a Bring and Buy, and local Produce Stall will all be there, together with a worthwhile raffle. Please watch for posters nearer the date.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm, and the next one will be held on Tuesday 14th March 2000 at 7:30pm in the W.I. Hall.
Guy Eddy

HOPES AND DREAMS 2000 Modbury Memorial Hall

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18th March 7.30pm £4
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the Millennium
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RINGMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE BLIZZARD IN THE WEST
9th MARCH 1891

The West Country weather forecast for Monday 9th March, 1891 was a typical one for the time of year: a fine morning with the possibility of some sleet or snow showers later. It isn't difficult to imagine the rather bleak sort of day that was promised. What actually ensued was rather different. The predicted sleet began falling at about 11.00am. During the afternoon the wind grew to menacing proportions and snow began to settle. By 6.00pm four or five inches lay over southern England. What followed is succinctly described in Doidge's Annual of 1892:

At night, about eight o'clock, the wind had increased to a hurricane, and the snow fell in blinding sheets; not light, flakey snow such as poets like to sing about, but fine, powdery snow that penetrated eyes and ears, made walking in the face of it next to an impossibility, and gradually piled up its tiny pellets into huge masses of a solid character many feet deep. Such snow has rarely been seen in this locality.

A force 10 wind had swept in the blizzard. Plymouth took the main brunt. The iron seats on the Hoe were wrenched from their fixings and twisted into grotesque shapes by the elements. Chimney stacks crashed down and the air was full of flying slates and splintered wood. Just a few intrepid householders dashed out to collect the splintered timber for firewood. On Dartmoor the blizzard raged furiously. Great trees began to fall and smaller trees everywhere were torn up by the roots. Few people slept throughout the deafening mar of the gale. Tuesday's dawn revealed the extent of the disaster. Telegraph lines were severed and transport was at a standstill. The mailcarts were unable to move and every

town, village and hamlet, isolated farm and mansion, was thrown back on its own resources. On the railways, drifts of over ten feet had piled up, almost covering the stranded trains. Some passengers were snowed up for over 36 hours, suffering cold, hunger and exhaustion. At St Germans about 70 people were confined to the Liskeard to Plymouth train. This little community included a Cadbury's representative who managed to brew hot cocoa for everyone from his case of samples.

The express from London had seized up at South Brent. Its passengers poured out into the little town only to find it already full of contractors men unable to continue work on a new railway line. A search for provisions resulted in exploitation and overcharging (six shillings for a bottle of brandy), indignantly publicised afterwards in letters to the Western Morning News.

The hardships on land were nothing to the tragedies at sea. Wrecks were strewn along the coast from Start Point to Falmouth. It was impossible to launch a boat or fire a rocket. Many lives were lost, some in full view of the cliffs as boats were driven on to the rocky fringes below, and whole crews died trying to struggle from disintegrating vessels to the shore. The morning of Wednesday, 11th March, brought brilliant sunshine that transformed the landscape into a radiant vista. Hopes of a quick thaw ran high, but the bitter wind persisted and by Thursday it was snowing again. But the worst was over and the work of recovery was beginning, along with the circulation of amazing stories of heroism, endurance, suffering, and the sheer freakishness of many incidents. The loss of stock was tremendous. Thousands of sheep, poultry and cattle had been buried in drifts and there were stories of lambs being born under blankets of snow. At Maristow, Bickleigh and Roborough, more than 50000 trees had been destroyed. In some villages the snow was so deep that neighbours could speak to each other only from bedroom windows. Many houses were buried entirely so that their inhabitants had to be dug out.

In Ringmore, the Reverend Francis Hingeston-Randolph, then rector of All Hallows, wrote: '1891 9 March. The memorable blizzard began, roads and railways completely blocked, no letters or newspapers reached the parish for more than a week. Whole flocks of sheep lost in snow on every farm.'

A complete snowing-up of the leat in Plymouth resulted in the loss of the water

MUSIC AT THE PADDOCK
WITH FRANK & DRINA
Tuesday: 14th Mar

supply to the city for the second time in ten years. A profoundly irate citizen wrote to the Western Morning News:

'Ten years since our leat was blocked with snow; since then the Council have talked and talked until they must be tired of talking. During the discussion it was stated such a thing had never occurred before, and probably would not occur again in this generation; but in this comparatively brief period here we are again, supply stopped. Nothing but piping the supply to the intake will give us that security we need. We ought to have insisted on having this before the blocking was commenced, but now we must patiently wait until this is completed, and then, no doubt, the piping will be commenced. Yours truly, Robert G. Bird. We know the feeling, Mr Bird.'

A remarkable feature of this whole phenomenon was its unexpectedness. It became known as 'The Great Unforeseen'. Observatories in the USA had hinted at the possibility of a storm 'at the end of March' and a few of the local weather-wise had spoken of 'an atmospheric change of some sort'. But no official indications were given. Curiously, as a reporter in 1892 pointed out, the only accurate prediction of the Great Blizzard in the West was found in Old Moore's Almanack.

Ringmore WI
EASTER FAIR
ADVANCE NOTICE
Saturday April 15th
at 10.30am

Welcome

Welcome to Phil and Sally Errett who have moved into The Fairway, formerly La Fontaine. They have come to Ringmore from Hampshire via Loddiswell. We wish them a happy time in the village.

Prize Bingo

Thursday 23rd March
The Memorial Hall
St Ann's Chapel

Eyes Down at 7.00pm
All proceeds to Bigbury Youth Club

RINGMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A SLIDESHOW OF OLD RINGMORE

by

Stan Brunskill

WI Hall

7.30pm

Wednesday 8th March

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The Royal Oak Bigbury

Telephone: (01548) 810313



MARCH DIARY

Our usual weekly events continue apace:-

Monday = Euchre, Tuesday = 'Folk at The Oak' (fortnightly)
Wednesday = Pool (players required), Friday = League Darts,
Sunday = Quiz and crumpets by the fire

There is a busy month coming up - look out for our

SPECTACULAR MON-FRI MARCH MADNESS MENU AT ONLY £5 PER PERSON

These are the other dates to look out for

Tue 2nd March - Race Nite. Have a flutter, watch the films, buy
and name a horse! All in aid of 'Bigbury Fun Run Charities'

Fri 10th & Sat 11th March - SPECIAL CHINESE EYENINGS
Come and try Susie's delicious recipes

Fri 17th March - Watch out for St Patrick's Day menus

and finally

Sun 2nd April - is our Mother's Day special lunchtime menu.
Look out for further details

Enigma

FEBRUARY SOLUTION

First a word about last month. To my chagrin the Lovely Sue Brickay did submit an entry but it arrived as the Newsletter was en route to the printer. Because the editor is always banging on about the deadline, it would be 'jobsworth' to award 3 points even though the answer was correct. I cannot award two points because it was not nearly correct but I will award one point because it was the first leg of the year and, of course because it is LSB!

Last month it was revealed that Enigma is not numerate; apologies for that. The slip fooled no-one, at least no-one who entered. Correct entries were received from The Furry Boys (yes, I know there are 8 letters in Sterling), Matchman (yes, I can count but not always correctly), Taurus (no, it was not deliberate and therefore not sneaky) and The Beginners (who were too kind to mention it). Su Da Nim's correct answer came with a life history (more in later issues) and a charming comment on numeracy! He (?) wondered if the editor used 'devils on butterflies' for counting! Bless him.

Sue Brickay's entry has yet to arrive; Gemini seems to be taking a breather and Cleriwho's absence is conspicuous.

The results for last month are as follows:

<i>sterling/ringlets</i>	<i>lustres/results</i>
<i>premise/empires</i>	<i>knitter/trinket</i>
<i>observe/verbose</i>	<i>ignited/dieting</i>
<i>notices/section</i>	<i>chatter/ratchet</i>
<i>missile/similes</i>	<i>avenger/engrave</i>

MARCH

Another simple test this month. Just replace the letters with numbers. OK, it is not that simple. When you have made the substitution, the resulting sum must add up to the total!

W	E	A	R	Y	
L	A	W	Y	E	R
+R	E	A	L	L	Y
<hr/>					
Y	A	W	N	E	D

South West Devon Conservative Association

Bigbury Ringmore Kingston

The local branch of the Association will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Bigbury Golf Club on Friday 10th March at 7.30pm.

This will be followed by a two-course buffet and coffee.

Gary Streeter MP. will be our guest speaker.

Tickets £12 Tel 01548 810386 or 810210

Blue Peter

Bring and Buy Sale.

Raising money for premature and small babies.

In Ringmore parish rooms on Saturday 11th March from 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

PLEASE!!! If you have anything to give please drop it off in the parish room from 12:00 noon on March 11th.