

Mobile Library

Friday:- 6th & 20th

Ringmore Church
12.05 - 12.30

Challaborough
12.35 - 12.45

St Ann's Chapel
3.15 - 3.30

Kingston Fire Stn
3.45 - 4.30

December 2002

Issue Number 208

DEADLINE

← Saturday 28th →

Editor: Geof Dykes 810123



Last Month **6³/₄"**

Average - last 10 years - 4.5"
High - 1992 - 8.5"
Low - 2000/01 - 2"
Rainfall - Fiona Batten

RINGMORE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

'And finally', a bumper edition to end the year but there are things to be done before it is over.

First, please note that the AGM of the Royal British Legion will be at the Royal Oak, NOT the JE.

The JE will be closed on Monday 2nd until Wednesday 4th to allow Grahame to fill furniture vans which, from time to time, will block the road. Please be patient, everyone was when you moved!!

The JE will then open from Thursday until Monday (yes, it will be open). On the evening of 9th, Grahame will finally call time. The new owners will have a grand re-opening at lunchtime on Thursday 12th.

Last minute applications for Pirates & Seafarers will be considered! There are one

or two tickets left, so if you haven't already bought one, you will have to hurry.

Thanks are due to Mike Wynne Powell for providing the pictorial retrospection. Mike has also written a note on the subject of digital photography, which will help those not familiar with the black art.

Oscar Errett wrote a very nice letter regarding his winnings from the Town Quiz and kindly donated half to the Newsletter, having spent the other half on a ball. Thanks are due also, to a number of Thursday night Quiz Winners who have donated their winnings to the Newsletter.

After that it hardly seems right to draw attention to the fact that the January edition will be approximately a week late due to the 'Printer's New Year holiday'.

A
**HAPPY
CHRISTMAS**
AND A
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR
FROM THE
EDITOR
AND THE
PROOFREADER

Little Note On Leaving The Journeys End

Dear Sirs

With reference to my numbered account . . . No, No, No . . . wrong letter - this is the 'goodbye to The Journey's End' letter.

Well, I would just like to say that we were welcomed to the village when we first arrived and have had many good times at the JE over our three and half years here. When considering for a moment the one or two notable exceptions to this, I really wish to thank the village for its help and support, especially during the recent months.

Hmm, now - no time for long goodbyes - must find my packing list - let me see - suitcase of gold medallions, false passport, wig, moustache - ah, yes, tickets to South America. So it's au revoir - so, no, that's for the first part of the world tour.

Have a good Christmas, we may meet again one day. Grahame

*Please send items for inclusion in the Newsletter to:
The Editor
Ringmore Parish Newsletter,
Ringmore Veau, Ringmore, TQ7 4HL
or put them through the letter box in the garage door
email: news@ringmore.com*

Diary for the Month

MONDAYS: Short Mat Bowls 7.30pm Parish Room
TUESDAYS: Table Tennis Parish Room 7.30pm
THURSDAYS: Quiz Night 9.00pm Journey's End

2nd-4th Journey's End closed
4th Royal British Legion AGM 7.30pm Royal Oak
5th-9th Journey's End open
7th SMB Pirates & Seafarers 7.00pm Parish Room
9th Grahame will pull his last pint
10th - 11th Journey's End closed
12th Journey's End re-opens at lunch time.
17th Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm WI Hall

January
24th Ps & Qs 7.30pm Parish Room

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News From All Hallow's Church

DECEMBER SERVICES

Ringmore (Services other than Sundays marked *)

1st 11.00 a.m. Family Service

8th 9.00 p.m. Communion

15th 6.00 p.m. BCP E. Prayer

22nd 9.00 a.m. BCP Comm.

23rd* 5.00 p.m. Village Carols:

to Church for Carol Service at

6.00

25th 10.30 Family Christmas

Communion

29th 9.00a.m. BCP Communion



Bigbury Services

1st 6.00 p.m. Even. Prayer

8th 11.00 a.m. Family Comm.

15th 9.00a.m. BCP Comm.

20th* 7.00p.m. Mencap Carols

22nd 11.00a.m. Carol Service

24th* 6.30 Carols on the Green

29th 11.00a.m. Praise & Prayer

(modern: with prayer for healing)

Kingston Services

1st 9.00a.m. Communion

8th 6.00p.m. BCP Even Prayer

15th 11a.m. Crib & Baptism

22nd 6.00p.m. Carol Service

24th 11.30p.m. Midnight Comm.

31st Ring in New Year, Watchnight

"Feeding the Seagulls"



Time magazine recently had pictures of a man feeding prawns to seagulls from a small pier set in a very lonely beach. The silence broken by a mass of seagulls who come as if on pilgrimage to meet him. For half an hour he feeds them, but even when the food is gone they linger together in the beauty and silence of nature.

In our harbours the signs warn us not to feed the gulls, they can be dangerous marauding pests. This man sees it differently for he is Eddie Reinbacher survivor of a war time B17 USAF bomber that crash landed in the South Pacific. On the life raft 100 miles from land the crew fought heat, sharks, weather, hunger and thirst. After eight days with all human hope gone they prayed for a miracle in a short quiet devotional service. As they rested afterwards a gull landed on Reinbacher's head, incredibly he caught it and they ate. The inedible intestines became successful fish bait, they ate and survived until picked up.

Amazing: a rescuer who died to save them when all hope was gone. A rescuer who came out of the blue to men in trouble. So every day thereafter Reinbacher gave silent but real active thanks for his salvation. To me it is a small modern day parallel to that rescue mission some 2000 years ago. The time when the God who loves each one of us, whether we acknowledge him or not, came unexpectedly in the form of a baby. A baby who was fully human, and yet fully God: so Come All Ye Faithful, and even those whose faith is not yet full. Let's celebrate Christmas with grateful thanks. (John Elliott, Church House, Ringmore)

A very joyful Christmas To you all

*If anyone would like Communion at Home or in hospital please ring 801565 and ask.
Applies to Christmas season or other times*

RINGMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting: Tuesday 19th November 2002
Present: Seven councillors; the Clerk;
Mr Brian Carson, District Councillor
Mr Guy Eddy, Millennium Committee

Bull Horn Cross sign

The sign is to be replaced in a more durable material as soon as possible.

Footpaths

Cllr Muller has relinquished the post of Footpaths Warden and Mr Alan McCarthy has taken over. The Council offered its thanks to Mr Muller for all his hard work in renewing gates and stiles, for keeping the footpaths in such good condition and for his work with the strimmer, particularly concerning the area around the bus shelter and formerly, the Town Well.

Millennium Clock

Mr Eddy has received conditional approval from the Church authorities but further decisions remain to be made.

Digital Photography

There is a large number of myths about digital photography, and I hope this short article will dispel some of them.

Conventional photography is dead. No. Although both are forms of photography, they fulfil different ends. A good film camera will allow prints to be enlarged to poster size with very little loss of definition. A compact digital camera costing up to around £400 will not be any use for enlarging to much more than a 7" x 5" print. However, if you avoid the marketing hype for a compact camera, £400 will currently buy a good quality digital camera, easily able to produce prints larger than A4 size with no loss of definition.

Digital photography is expensive. Not necessarily. If you already have a computer less than three years old with a CD writer, then digital photography can be very cheap.

Digital cameras are expensive. Yes, if you compare a simple point and shoot camera, but even this difference is fast disappearing.

The cost of printing photographs is more, as you need a very expensive printer and the cartridges are expensive. Yes and No. If you print them yourselves then yes, but they can now be processed at most outlets just as films are. You also only need to print the ones you actually want to, You can also view them on computer and never print them.

Q. Do you have boxes of pictures you never look at? If the answer is yes, then maybe it is time to consider digital, and then not have them made into prints. You can easily send a picture to anyone, and

Parish Sweeper

Mr John Anderson has been appointed as the new sweeper. His predecessor, Colin Miller, has given up the job due to health reasons.

District Council Matters

Mr Carson expressed concern about the policy of sustainability and wished to know from the Council of any suggestions that might be effective in furthering this line of thought. Community composting of garden rubbish was one idea put forward. He said that should such a project become reality, then a shredder would almost certainly be provided. Thicker, stronger, re-usable plastic bags may be another way of cutting down on the amount of plastic rubbish. The waste paper that is collected in the county is transported to Dorset for recycling.

Next meeting

Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm in the WI Hall

Thelma Mann

if they want a print they can have it printed.

Digital photographs take up a lot of room on a computer. No. When you have enough, you save them (burn them) onto a CD. The latter will probably store around 1700 pictures, and blank CD's cost from 17p to 25p each when bought in bulk. If you put each day's activities into a dated and labelled folder, as you take them, then they are easy to find. How many boxes of negatives do you have that you now cannot remember when and where you took them?

As mentioned above, if you want a good digital camera, don't buy one that is compact. The latter ensures that the lens is near to where the image is captured, which basically means that you get a wide angled lens. The resulting pictures make the subject you were photographing appear much smaller and further away than you remember. Remember, the bigger the piece of glass at the front of the camera the better. The bigger lens captures more light so can produce a good picture. The more the lens that "sticks out at the front", the closer you can zoom into the subject. (Those who know me, know this very well from my close-up shots of people!) The latter comment about the lens sticking out or being able to stick out applies equally well to ordinary film cameras.

You need lots of expensive software for digital photography. No. A good camera will come with a perfectly useable software package, enabling you to "play", or remove "red eye" from flash photographs.

Digital cameras "eat" batteries. Yes and No. If you choose a camera taking the newer kind of rechargeable AA batteries (NiMh), they are very reasonable, and four with a charger that goes straight into a

THE PARISH ROOM

As we all know, the Parish Room needs some TLC. The committee is reluctant to instigate a full refurbishment programme until the Lease has been signed and the future direction has been determined. However some essential work has been done. Some reparation has been made to those areas of the floor which hitherto have bounced when jumped upon, which does not mean we can have 'rave-ups' but should remove any unease which users might have felt. In addition, the lighting has been supplemented by more strip lights which will allow Table Tennis players and Bowlers alike to see what they are doing.

For this, thanks are due to Alan McCarthy who has arranged and implemented the repairs and additions.

More needs doing. Once the forms have been signed, discussions will take place, opinions weighed, grants sought and decisions made in the light of the evidence and resources available.

As always, we await the solicitors!

Geof Dykes
Parish Room Committee

socket (no lead), will cost around £12 with four batteries. Have two sets and you will never be caught out. It is possible to take 150 photographs in a day on one set, less if it involves a lot of flash photography.

If you are keen photographer, and currently have say three lenses for your camera, then you can now buy digital cameras that effectively cover the range of all of these lenses, and have the advantage of being able to take photographs in low light conditions without flash due to image stabilising built into the camera. For the technically minded, the camera I use has the equivalent lens range of 38mm to 380mm. You also do not have to change film to use a different film speed; this can be automatically or manually set on the camera between pictures.

If the photographs are set at good quality, the memory cards can still store large numbers of pictures, before you need to download them to your computer. I use a 128mb card, which will store around 300 pictures, or if I go to the better quality, around 145 pictures. However if you purchased a basic digital camera, then you would probably be able to store many more pictures, as the quality would not be as high.

I hope this has answered a few questions, and perhaps opens the door to this new opportunity.

Mike Wynne-Powell

Journey's End Journal

My name is Mark Genders, I am taking over the management of the Journey's End from Grahame. I'm sure that you will all join me in wishing him the very best in the future wherever it may lead him. At the time of going to press we are in the hands of our solicitors as to when we are able to complete and take over the reins officially. However, we have decided that the re-opening of the JE will take place at lunchtime on Thursday 12th.

We are introducing a five course Christmas Menu, available every day up to and including Christmas Day, as well as our seasonal A La Carte menu and snack menu. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope to see many of you on Christmas Day for a drink and

complimentary mince pies, if any one thinks that they could manage another, between 12.00 and 2.00pm.

On New Year's Eve we are having a Bavarian evening with traditional Tyrolean and Austrian food and we are hoping to book an Oompah Band for the occasion, so dig out your leather shorts and come and slap some thigh and have a schnapps or two.

I, along with Tracey and the rest of the team are very much looking forward to welcoming you to the Journey's End and to becoming, and continuing to be an important and supportive part of the village. We are very interested to hear from you if you have any ideas for the pub to make it a better "local" for you.

Mark



WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

The Annual General Meeting took place on 14th November with a full house and also attended by Mrs Doreen Stitson, VCO. After the usual business of the meeting, the yearly financial report was given by Myra Eddy and the Committee Report by Sally Errett; then the President, Gill Tomlin, gave her Annual Report. It had been a good year, with many activities and much achieved. Fund-raising events had been successful and the newly refurbished Hall a triumph!

Mrs Stitson then presided over the

elections for President, the Committee and Press Officer. Gill Tomlin remains President; Pam Brunskill retires as Vice President and Myra Eddy retires as Treasurer, her place being taken by Jane Stevenson.

Pam and Myra were presented with bouquets in recognition of the many years both have worked tirelessly for our WI. Pam has held the post of President more than once and Myra's Balance Sheets have always been a joy to behold! Both have earned a rest.

The VCO then introduced a game which turned out to be hilarious although quite indescribable and after which a magnificent repast of cheeses and wine was devoured by members.

Altogether a lovely evening.

Naomi Warne

Ps and Qs

Friday 24th January is the day, or night to be precise and how you quizzers love to be precise! OK, so its evening.

Tickets are available from all good retailers or from Ringmore Vein, 810123. The cost of £6.50 will include hot soup, and a traditional Pasty. Everything for the evening will be provided except for alcohol. Please bring your own.

Some people are not happy about being in a team of eight. That is not a problem. If you cannot raise a team of 8 then come and amalgamate with another, build a powerful, omniscient alliance. If you cannot do that, just come and enjoy it. It will be fun and it will raise funds for the Parish Room.

Without labouring the point, let me explain why eight is a convenient number.

- 1 There is a limit to the number of tables.
- 2 The tables will take 8 people comfortably.
- 3 There has to be a limit to the numbers in order to know the maximum number of prizes to award.
- 4 I am thinking about this one!

Last month's advance question was 'Who was Prime Minister when the first prisoners arrived in Botany Bay?' This month's is 'Which country has a capital city called Yerevan?' There will be another question in the January Newsletter and a fourth will appear on the ticket.

GDD



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Closed on Monday & Tuesday

Wed - Sat Noon - 3.00pm

6.30pm - 11.00pm

Food: 12.30pm - 2.30pm & 6.30pm - 9.00pm

Sun Noon - 10.30pm

Food: 12.30pm - 2.30pm

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

The Royal British Legion reported a collection total of £1805 which was an increase of £300 on the previous year.

At the WI AGM, Pam Brunskill was elected president.

A poignant note was Barbara Drabble's all-embracing Christmas Greeting.

A bottle bank was to be installed in the JE car park before Christmas.

South West Water said that the higher-than-usual chlorination in the Ringmore water would return to normal after recent works on the village supply. *Did it taste any better?*

The editors of the Newsletter presented an annual report to the Parish Council!

Flete House
The Good Companion
in
The 40ies Christmas

An evening of revived memories
Saturday 14th December

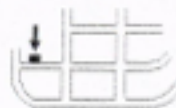
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Royal British Legion

Bigbury Kingston Ringmore

I am delighted to report that the 60th anniversary of El Alamein and the 20th anniversary of the Falkland conflict were remembered in the most practical way; by raising a new record sum for the Poppy Appeal, £4375:39. Considering that we had to contend with some atrocious weather this was a remarkable result and it came about in the following way.

On Friday 1st November the first event was an Auction at the Journey's End, Ringmore, by kind permission of Grahame Gilliam. Organised by Alan McCarthy, it was a great success and realised a record breaking £1620. He was assisted by his wife Robbie, Phil Errett, Colin Jackson and Chris Roberts, with Rob Batten wielding the gavel to great effect. A splendid evening ended with the whisky raffle raising a further £100.

On Wednesday 6th November a draw was held at the Royal Oak, Bigbury by kind permission of Martin and Tina Uren, and this brought in £137.

On Friday 8th November Mrs. Sue Freeman of Loddiswell organised a Whist Drive for the Appeal. On a dreadful evening this realised a splendid profit of £130:10.

Saturday 9th November saw us gathering at the Kingston Reading Room for a Coffee Morning organised by the Men and Womens' branch. A bring and buy stall, a cake stall, a bric a brac stall and three raffles raised £290 for the Appeal.

On Sunday 10th November a Remembrance Service was held at Bigbury Church conducted by Rev John

Elliott. A big turn-out of both men and women RBL members was augmented by a contingent from the Modbury Scouts, with four standards on parade. A large congregation was treated to a thought provoking sermon in a splendid service, and attended the wreath laying at the memorial in the misty rain later. A further £205.25p was contributed to the Poppy Appeal.

The last event of the Appeal fortnight was a Whist Drive held at the W.I. Hall, Ringmore. Organised by the womens' branch, this added a further £76 to the total.

All this time from Saturday 26th October to Saturday 9th November, our dedicated band of collectors had been out in some very unpleasant weather doing House to House calling. There were Chris Freeman and Eileen Randle in Kingston, Carol Walters in Bigbury and Pam Trundle in Bigbury on Sea. In Ringmore we had Pat King and Jayne Stevenson and finally in Challaborough Thelma Mann did the calling. These wonderfully persistent ladies gathered in a record breaking £1188.42 between them in their collecting boxes, whilst boxes in pubs, clubs and shops scooped in £396:16 to ensure that no opportunity should be overlooked.

Once again parishoners have shown that despite many other calls on their generosity, they remain loyal to the annual appeal of the Royal British Legion. On behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal thank you all for your wonderful support.

Guy Eddy
Poppy Appeal Organiser

100 CLUB

November
£20 Grahame Gilliam
£5 F Jarvis

Notice is hereby given of the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Bigbury Ringmore and Kingston
Branch
of the
Royal British Legion
at the
Royal Oak Inn, Bigbury
Wednesday 4th December
7.30pm

Anyone wishing to stand for office
should contact
the Hon. Secretary
Mrs R McCarthy
01548 810738
as soon as possible

Music
at the
Paddock

Frank & Marina

Monday at 7.30pm

Dec 9th
Jan 13th
Feb 17th Mar 17th

TABLE TENNIS

December already, how time flies. The Club is very well supported on Tuesday evenings but new members will be made most welcome.

The Club would like to thank the Parish Room Committee for the new lighting, recently installed - one less excuse now for missing the ball! Special thanks to Alan McCarthy who carried out the installation. His efforts have made a tremendous difference and are very much appreciated.

Our last Tuesday meeting in December will be on 17th and we will resume after

the Christmas break, on 7th January. If, however, anyone wants to get some exercise during the break, trim off a few pounds of Turkey or Christmas Pud, please contact me, I am sure something could be arranged.

Stuck for a Christmas present? If a member of your family plays or intends to play Table Tennis then how about a Table Tennis bat and a cover to put it in?

Finally, on behalf of the Table Tennis Club, we wish all the Village a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. We hope to see a few new members in January.

Phillip Errett 810547



Julie

Mobile Hairdresser
Wishes
all her customers a

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

and a

**HAPPY NEW
YEAR**

Ringmore Events 2002

Table Tennis Journey's End 24th February



Re-opening of WI Hall 20th March



Jubilee Party 3rd June



Noddon Mill during renovation 31st July



Church Fete 26th August



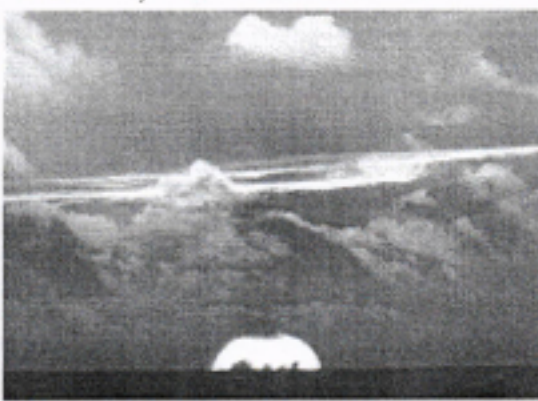
Historic Church's Walk 14th September



Harvest decoration 5th October



Sunset Ayrmer Cove 10th November





The Royal Oak Bigbury



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Pre Christmas Lunch & Dinner parties catered for
call for details and menu



CHRISTMAS DIARY



- Thu 28th Nov** Pam's Birthday
- Fri 29th Nov** Darts away to Cons Club
- Sun 1st Dec** Lunch meeting of The Devon Vintage Car Club - come along and see some of their vintage & classic cars in the car park

- Thu 5th Dec** Craig's Birthday
- Fri 6th Dec** Darts home to Cornwood
- Sat 7th Dec** Party night for Paula's 40th Birthday with music from Keiron

- Fri 13th Dec** Darts away to Union Inn
- Sun 15th Dec** CHRISTMAS DRAW starting at 8pm
- Fri 20th Dec** Tony's Birthday
- Mon 23rd Dec** CHRISTMAS EUCHRE DRIVE and Raffle
- Fri 27th Dec** DARTS TEAM SHIELD Christmas Knockout
- Tue 31st Dec** NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY with music from 'Karot oke' & Disney fancy dress theme

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

to everybody, from Martin, Tina and
all the staff at The Royal Oak

Enigma

November SOLUTION

Still they drop by the wayside! Five entries this month, one brilliant and four right! Correct solutions came from Gemini, New Dawn, The Opals and Champion Matchman - 3 points to all. The brilliant entry came from Taurus. It was brilliant in its naivety (to think the scrutineers would fall for it) and brilliant in its audacity (as if the said scrutineers) would agree that some letters could have similar values). For its brilliance I award a bonus point but as it is wrong I can award only one point, which makes two in total. Taurus has competed for long enough to recognize the generosity!

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135 | 2970 | 22
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December

An old favourite to end the year. Just find the longest word using the letters only once, moving vertically, horizontally or diagonally

F	L	A	X	J
B	U	Z	V	D
W	M	T	O	I
G	E	N	R	P
H	C	S	K	Y

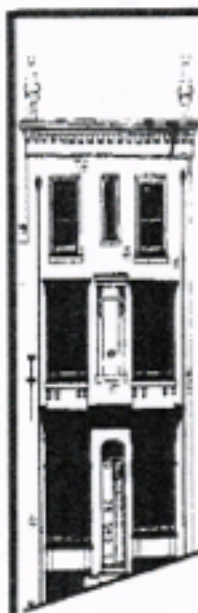
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Message In A Bottle

Christmas Greetings from the rain-lashed wind-swept jewel in the Bay!

November has been incredibly wet and windy. What a payback for that Indian summer, with masses of white-water rollers cascading into the bay, backed by high winds. All very dramatic stuff. It goes without saying, unfortunately, that tractor services have been suspended during the recent storms but it will resume as soon as possible. Getting on and off the island at the end of shift has proved quite tricky as the tides have not been conforming to the tide tables. Various members of staff, myself included, and some unsuspecting public have been spotted wading one way or the other after leaving it too close to tides-meet before making a move (must get a maiden to put round the fire). As well as the tide coming in quickly, the wind keeps blowing the sea across the beach, making the tide meet in different parts of the beach, causing detours for vehicles, soft-sand encounters, a 'moonscape' terrain and panic amongst the staff trying to get off the island!

Talking of tractors, we finally got around to completing the raffle for the stunning fantasy model of the Sea Tractor. On Halloween evening we got Mrs Pilchard (Jo Symes) to make the draw and yes, the winner was . . . Trev the Tractor! Yes, our very own tractor driver, Trevor Troop. We hope you'll look after it and find somewhere suitable to display it.

The hotel's Murder Mystery evening at Halloween was a fantastic success, dead bodies everywhere! Everybody got into their assigned roles, played their part and a great time was had by all. If you missed this one, watch out for another in the New Year.

Christmas Lunches at the hotel will be available at the hotel on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout December at a cost of £45 per person. Please contact

reception for menus and booking. The Pilchard Inn will also be serving Christmas Fare throughout December. Please check on our Notice Boards for evening menus and lunchtime specials. If you would like to use the Pilchard Inn for a Christmas function, we can cater for parties of up to 20 people in the family room. Give Steve a ring for details for details.

Our Carol Singing will take place on Christmas Eve at the Pilchard with musical accompaniment from Jack Grace. A glass of mulled wine to loosen the vocal chords will be supplied along with some solid sustenance, ie. mince pies, etc.. Everyone is welcome to come along: the Absinthe Fairy will be there and we hope that you will stay on and enjoy the evening with us until late.

The hotel's sparkling New Year's Eve Ball is fully booked and even has a waiting list. However we hope everyone will enjoy our stupendous Firework Display at midnight.

The Pilchard will be open all evening and until the wee small hours of New Year's Day and we cordially extend a warm welcome, to one and all, to come and join in our festivities. Before then we have live music with the return of Nick the Fish on Friday 20th December.

Well, 2002 is nearly at a close and what an eventful year it has been. It hardly seems like yesterday when I was celebrating my first Christmas at the Pilchard with the paint still sticky from the painters' departure just a couple of days prior to Christmas. On behalf of everyone at the Pilchard, I would like to thank everybody for the friendliness, custom and support throughout the year and would like to wish all our friends and customers a very Happy Christmas, wherever you may spend it, and a great New Year.

Steve

Notes for January

The Pilchard will be holding a Burns Night Supper. Please contact Steve for more details. Also we will celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Deborah, Tony and everyone on Burgh Island would like to extend warm wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all who read the Ringmore Newsletter.

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KINGSTON Tel: 810776
I wish you all a
HAPPY and HEALTHY CHRISTMAS

Gleaned from the Internet

The Ringmore Computer Users Group met in November. There is some reassurance gained from these gatherings, if only from knowing that others are struggling in a similar way. The old adage of 'a problem shared is a problem halved' often applies. Anyone who has yet to attend but who would like to, should note the date of Monday 20th January which is the next meeting. Please ring 810123 or email contact@ringmore.com, if you wish to know something or more about it.

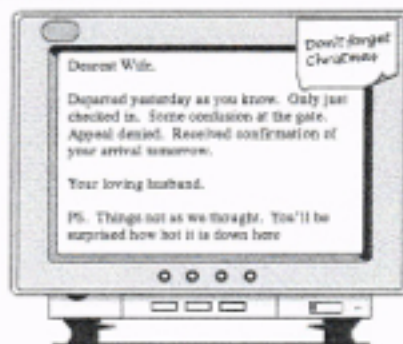
Of course, we all know that it is the computer which makes the mistakes and we have to try to fathom why it had an aberration but occasionally, just occasionally, it is our fault. Here is a salutary, if apocryphal, tale of the consequences of making a typo!

After being nearly snowbound for two weeks last winter, a Seattle man departed for Miami Beach, where he was to meet his wife the next day at the conclusion of her business trip to Minneapolis. They were looking forward to pleasant weather and a nice time together. Unfortunately there was some sort of mixup at the boarding gate, and the man was told that he would have to wait for a later flight.

He tried to appeal to a supervisor but was told the airline was not responsible for the problem and it would do no good to complain.

Upon arrival at the hotel the next day, he discovered that Miami Beach was having a heat wave, and its weather was almost as uncomfortably hot as Seattle was cold. The desk clerk gave him a message that his wife would arrive as planned. He could hardly wait to get to the pool area to cool off, and quickly sent his wife an e-mail, but due to his haste he made an error, omitting one character from the e-mail address.

His message arrived at the home of an elderly preacher's widow whose even older husband had died only the day before. When the grieving widow opened her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out an anguished scream and fell to the floor, dead. Her family rushed to her room where they saw this message on the screen:



NEIGHBOURHOOD
Beware of people 'collecting for charity' at this time of year. Ask for ID or some thing to convince you that they are genuine. Take the usual precautions if you intend to be absent over Christmas
WATCH