



Ringmore Parish Newsletter

February 2007

Issue Number : 258

Deadline : 9am Friday 23rd February

A meal for two at the Oyster Shack?

The Oyster Shack have kindly donated a meal for two to the winner of our Valentine quiz. Answers to reach us by February 14th and the winner will be drawn from a hat (or something similar) and notified that day.

1. Who had a top ten hit in the U.K with "Cupid" in 1961?
2. Who wrote the poem "A Red, Red Rose"?
3. Which company manufactured Love Hearts - packets of sweets each of which had a short message on?
4. Which 1999 Oscar winning film has a title which refers to a breed of rose and features a red rose on it's poster?
5. Who played the title role in the film 'Shirley Valentine'?
6. Approximately what percentage of Valentine cards are bought by women? 50%, 70% or 85%?
7. In which TV sitcom is one of the characters said to have proposed to another on Valentine's Day by putting the message "Lee love Dawn, marriage?" in their local paper?
8. In which century were the War Of The Roses fought?
9. The word "love" as used in the scoring of tennis is thought to have originated from the French word for what type of food?
10. How many times does the word "love" appear in the Bible? 3, 73 or 733?



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New £15 Winter Warmer Menu available.

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DIARY FOR THE MONTH

Please see JE page for all their events

- Monday:
Short-mat bowls Parish Room -7.30pm
- Tuesday:
Table Tennis Parish Room 7.30pm
- Thursday:
Quiz Night—JE 9.00pm

- February
- 7/2 RBL meeting, Old Chapel Inn 7.30pm
- 8/2 W.I meeting 8pm
- 9/2 Ps&Qs Parish Room 7.30pm
- 13/2 Table Tennis AGM Parish Room 9.00pm
- 14/2 Ringmore Historical Society 7.30pm
- 20/2 Shrove Tuesday Parish Room 10.30am
- 20/2 Parish Council meeting 7.00pm

MOBILE LIBRARY

Friday 9th & 23rd	
Ringmore Church	2.55—3.15
Challaborough	3.25—3.35
St Ann's Chapel	2.30—2.45
Kingston Fire Station	4.00—4.30



Please send items for inclusion in the Newsletter to: Emily Bohnet or Debbie Chicken
The Editors, Ringmore Parish Newsletter
8 Crossways, Ringmore, TQ7 4HP
Or put them in the green post-box fixed on the wall by the front-door of Mayfield
Or email: news@ringmore.net
Tel 01548 811210 or 810575

Let's get into the garden and help wildlife



Typically a month that is wet and bitterly cold, but wildlife remains active. Look for tracks in the snow created by birds, foxes or even badgers. Birds are getting ready for Spring and the dawn chorus begins to "get in tune" as birds begin to defend their territory. The bird table will remain busy, and you can watch for birds in flight, such as geese heading north for summer feeding grounds.

Look in the pond, as frogs, toads and newts begin to emerge from hibernation and can be seen in the water. The first spell of sunshine may attract brimstone butterflies and the flowers start to show in the form of catkins on hazel or alder. Celandines, sweet violets and snow drops will light the woodland floor and hopefully inspire similar natural floral arrangements in the gardens.

Gardening tips for the month

- Plant seeds in pots on the kitchen window sill.
- Prune fruit trees, trees such as willow and roses. It's the last chance to trim ivy.
- Prune buddleia.
- Trim back full stems of border perennials and place in a sheltered area to protect any mini beasts inside them.
- Lift and divide herbaceous perennials to enable transplanting, for example lily of the valley.
- Trees: replace rotten stakes and re-tie, or remove stakes entirely.

Sweet Violet *Viola odorata*

A pretty native dark purple or white flower which is the only sweet smelling version of violet. They can be found on banks, in copses and occasionally under hedgerows, or prefer a grassy shaded spot in the garden. The plant is a valuable nectar source for flying insects and an attractive ground cover. There are a number of different pretty varieties to choose from, but it would be best to buy plants or seeds from one of the established wild flower nurseries to protect our dwindling wild populations.

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ALL HALLOWS CHURCH RINGMORE : CLOSURE IMMINENT?



This would be the shock headline of this edition, if it were at all likely to be true. The accurate headline would be **Closure possible unless everyone locally wants a Parish Church and makes a regular contribution however small...** The Church in Ringmore is perhaps in a better place than other locally thanks to excellent village support for such a successful annual fete. However it may come as a surprise to most people that the local Churches only stay open and staffed thanks to 7% more coming back to them in salary and housing costs for Minister's than they contribute to the central Church Coffers through "The Parish Share". Over the last few years the local church has been asked to pay a greater share of the cost, and that is why the Church Councils at Bigbury and Kingston have made the plea that just for once I tell it how it is on the finance side. Most of the expense comes in providing Vicars, or as we say here, 'Resident Minister'. Although I am paid only a tenth of a full time Vicar's pay, the cost of the house provided is considerable. We are also part of the Modbury Team with two full time paid Minister's serving us and others.

This has nothing to do with the huge cost of keeping the building weatherproof, heated and lit and the churchyard maintained. Those costs falls locally even dare I suggest those who maybe don't ever, or rarely, attend. Your village Church needs the financial help of all villagers if it is to stay used and intact: available for the times when you, your parents, children or visitors might need it. Do you want a Church that is alive and well? It needs your help so that it does not become a neglected, collapsing and abandoned ruin: a monument to the past unfit to be used for your weddings, christenings, funerals, remembrance services and carol services.

To keep open costs us £233 per week, in very rough figures, £146 to the Diocese, and £85 to pay the for running expenses including heating and lighting. Obviously your excellent support for our fete and other fund raising helps a lot, so thank you. The 45 or so regular signed up members of our electoral roll find it hard to raise, and give the £5.20 needed from each of them each week to keep the Church open for themselves and you. So do you think you might be able to assist with a small regular donation by standing order or envelope dropped in at the Church or to our Treasurer or Churchwarden. Every small amount might only be a drop in the ocean; but the ocean is made up of many drops . If you can help with even a small annual donation please tear this page out of the magazine before you recycle the rest. Hand or send it with the next space completed to Phill Errett, Churchwarden at Fairways, to Yvonne Sheppard at Three Ways, or Rev. John Elliott at Church House. But in closing huge thanks to all those who do faithfully support and give in many ways to our local Church. John Elliott (810565)

Please let me have details of ways I might help keep the Church open

Name.....

Address..... Phone.....

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Date	Bigbury	Kingston	Ringmore
Feb 4th	11.00 a.m. Family Service	9.00 a.m. Communion	11.00 a.m. Family Service
Feb 11th	11.00 a.m. Family Service	6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer	9.00 a.m. BCP Communion
Feb 18th	9.00 a.m. BCP Communion	11.00 Family Service	4.00p.m. Spoken Communion
Feb 21st	2.30 p.m. Korniloff Communion	Ash Wednesday	4.00p.m. Spoken Communion
Feb 25th	11.00 a.m. Family Communion	6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer	6.30 p.m. BCP Communion

Resident Minister On Sick Leave: Feb 19th—March 6th

Nothing serious, a minor knee operation on February 19th. The surgeon has issued strict instructions that I must do nothing (church, shopping, golf or fishing [especially shopping]) for a fortnight from then to March 6th. If you need a Minister in that period please ring Neil the Rector at Modbury 830260 or Mike Jefferies the Team Vicar at Loddiswell 550841

Ringmore Parish Council

Meeting: Tuesday 23rd January 2007 at 7.00pm

Present: All the councillors, Mrs M Wood—clerk, Mr D Young—Neighbourhood Watch and Mr B Carson—Chairman of SHDC.

Neighbourhood Watch

At a presentation ceremony held at Follaton House Mr Young was presented with a plaque from Chief Inspector Steer, in recognition of his fifteen years service as Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

Mr Richard Baker has joined the Neighbourhood Watch team.

Footpaths

Cllr. McCarthy reported that the low fence along the cliff path at Challaborough had been taken down for safety reasons. It was thought that people could trip over it.

District Council

Cllr. Carson gave a brief report on licensing matters, the budget and the £100,000 shortfall in the transport department, due in part to the free bus passes for the elderly and the insufficient funding from the government.

Recycling has been very successful.

Planning

Application to remove two sycamore trees at the Old School House—the council voted in favour, 4 to 3, in the work being carried out.

Avgen Fell—a Tree Preservation Order was confirmed, with modifications, on the 15th December 2006.

Application from Bigbury Bay Holiday Park to demolish the Top Shop and place two additional caravans on the site. After discussion it was agreed that effective screening should be in place before any additional caravans be in situ and a letter be sent to Malcolm Elliott regarding the current licences concerning the number of caravans permitted.

Finance

Cllr. McCarthy proposed to allocate £800 from the P3 footpath allowance to the National Trust for work on the footpath from the NT car park to Toby's Point. The council agreed.

Upkeep of churchyard—donation of £400 to cover the last two years.

Ringmore Parish Newsletter—annual payment of £30.

NOTE: Annual Parish Meeting—Tuesday 24th April 2007

Date of next council meeting—Tuesday 20th February 2007 at 7pm

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Monthly report from your local! Support your pub!

Rugby Six Nations

Rugby Six Nations at The JE. We will be showing all the England fixtures on the Television in the Dining Room with a Snacking Menu available all afternoon. See below for fixture dates

Theme Nights

We are continuing our theme nights throughout the month with the exception of February 14th. Please see below for more details

Table Tennis Rules!

It will be our first but on 29th we are holding our first Table Tennis Championships! Please sign up in the hall to take part or come and spectate!

Oscar's Night!

After the Table Tennis Championships on Sunday 29th we are holding an Oscar's Night. Come and fill out your guess the winner sheet & enjoy an Americana Dinner

Valentine's Day

Book now for a romantic three course dinner with bubbly at the JE. Menu will be available from Paul & Jules please come in and ask

Quiz Night Changes

We are planning to change the entry fee for Quiz Night, now it will be £1 per person rather than £1 per team. The Charities that will benefit will be very grateful and are in need of our support.

Rugby Six Nations

Swing Low ... All rugby matches will be shown on the Television in the Dining Room with a Snacking Menu available throughout the game. We are planning to stay open all day on the Saturday's that the matches are on, so here is a run down of events:

- 3 Feb Italy v France 1.30 p.m.
England v Scotland 4 p.m.
- 4 Feb Wales v Ireland 3 p.m.
- 10 Feb England v Italy 1.30 p.m.
Scotland v Wales 3.30 p.m.
- 11 Feb Ireland v France 3.00 p.m.
- 24 Feb Scotland v Italy 3.00 p.m.
England v Ireland 5.30 p.m.
France v Wales 8.00 p.m.

See Next Month's Newsletter for March's fixture dates or pop in and pick up a Guinness Match Listing.

Theme Nights at The JE

We are pleased at the success of the Theme Nights that we have held so far, we have decided to publish this months theme's to keep you all in the know, and so you can book a table if required.

- ✱ 7 Feb Moroccan - Tagines & Cous Cous
- ✱ 14 Feb - no theme due to Valentine's Night
- ✱ 21 Feb - Chinese to Celebrate Chinese New Year
- ✱ 28 Feb - Indian - Mild & hot, hot, hot!

Table Tennis

Championships!

Our first Table Tennis Championship, is set to be a good one, make sure you sign up, the sheet is on the notice board at the JE. With a new table to set the standard we are ready for an afternoon of fun & games.

Oscar's Night

With all the British Dames up for an award here at The JE we invite you to "GUESS THE WINNER" and join us for an "Americana" Dinner. All you need to do is fill out your answer sheet - £1 per entry and once the winners are announced the person who is right or the closest gets the pot!

With the American Landlord here you can guarantee a true American Night!

Valentine's Dinner

A night of romance and spoiling is set for Valentine's night at The JE. Book now to secure your table, to enjoy a delicious menu accompanied by bubbles and chocolate fondue.

Quiz Night Amendments

After much feedback from our regular quizzers we have decided to ask the question: should we charge a £1 per person rather than per team? It seems that some of you think it would further benefit the charities that regularly get the winnings donated. Let us know what you think, we do not want to make it too expensive, but we think that for the causes we support would be so very grateful.

A Big Thank You ...

Finally ... six months have passed since we took over here at the Journey's End, so a big thank you as always to you our locals. We love living in Ringmore and have been made to feel so welcome and now feel like part of a wonderful community. Here's to the next six year's let alone the next six months!

What's special about the South Hams? - Unfortunately despite proving popular, you seem reluctant to submit items so for the time being unless we hear otherwise, this will be the last one. (This month's submission from Debbie Chicken)

Sunsets at Ayrmer Cove—need I say more.



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Enigma

Well.....the Premiership seems to have been embraced but where are all the new entrants for the normal Enigma????

Premiership Enigma January answers by Taurus

1. Sudden movement JERK
2. Baking device KILN
3. Bouquet NOSE
4. Per EACH
5. Heavy HARD
6. Take off DOFF
7. Sense FEEL
8. Plunder LOOT
9. Group TEAM
10. Chief MAIN
11. Boy's name NEIL
12. Skinny LEAN
13. Common sense NOUS
14. Catch SNAG
15. German tennis player GRAF
16. Confront FACE

Key word: LUCERNE

So no extra points for Taurus as 3 points are awarded each to Half Baked, Toudawgz, The Springers, Matchman and the Opals. Well done.

February Sudoku

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

How to Play Fill in the grid so that every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9, with no repetition!

That's all there is to it. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic - there's no maths involved and no adding up.

It's fun. It's challenging! It's addictive!

"Simple" Answer: The time and date may be written as: 12:34 5.6.78. So scoring for "simple" enigma is 2 points for a correct answer, 1 point for nearly correct. Well done to New Dawn, Romeo Drifter and Gemini, you get 2 points each. And no points but a well done to the Premiership members who also submitted a correct answer, Toudawgz, Half-baked, Matchman (though you didn't put the stops where they should be!) and Taurus.

February Premiership Enigma set by the Opals

KUO TOCXR
YUR BMRYX URY KR
GPIAU PK UNEXOGW
YNGG MOLOC ZOPXO
KR VO PEIXOF

Can you solve this cryptogram, which is a straight substitution cryptogram in which each letter of the alphabet has been substituted by another, in no particular pattern?

PHOTO from last month, answer: seen on the wall of "The Barn"

For this month's Simple Enigma— a riddle:

Five hundred begins it, five hundred ends it,
Five in the middle is seen;
The first of all letters, the first of all figures,
Take up their stations between.
Join all together, and then you will bring
Before you the name of an eminent King.

January solution

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

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Quote:

Clement Freud after some recent knee surgery was overheard to reply when asked by a lady if he wished to retire upstairs and make love, "my dear it has to be one or the other....."

Guy Asks...

Why is Easter a movable feast?

Answer next month



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Apologies to all of you who have attempted to knock on Debbie's door during the daytime hours to submit bits and pieces for the Newsletter. Unfortunately (for you) she runs an office from home and as such if she's on the phone when you ring (doorbell or phone for that matter) cannot interrupt the call to answer you. Please use the green postbox for any item you wish included and make use of her answerphone, rather than hang up!

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HILL COTTAGE, RINGMORE

Hill cottage stands above Rocky Path, on a platform carved out of the bedrock that lies beneath Ringmore village. As is the case with other thatched cottages in the village, its origins are wrapped in mystery, but they probably go back at least three hundred years. Over the centuries, published documents have given some information about the inhabitants of Hill Cottage. The Tithe Map of 1841 shows the building as two cottages with associated gardens and piggeries, and as occupied by a James Coker who farmed five fields at Mill Hill, on the other side of the Ringmore at Noddon Mill. A document of 1755 listing all twenty-five tenant farmers in Ringmore shows a John Coker leasing thirty acres at Mill Hill: two little dwellings; two lincays [farm outbuildings]; a herb garden, and a little orchard. The 'two little dwellings' have since been combined to form Hill Cottage. One of the lincays and the site of the orchard are still there, on the opposite side of Rocky Path. The other lincay is in the garden of Hill Cottage. In 1964 it was converted to Hill Cottage Studio and during the conversion work a Charles the Second coin was found in the cob walls. This suggests that the building dates from the late seventeenth century. Since for over a century a member of the Coker family was village carpenter it is likely that the building was used as a carpenter's workshop. Burial records reveal that the Coker family (also spelt Cocker, Couker, and Coaker) lived in Ringmore as far back as 1614, and the Devon Musket Roll of 1596 shows Robert and Roger Cawker being required to provide two bows. It is not certain that the Coker family lived at Hill Cottage at that time, but it is very likely that they did. What is known is that the last surviving member of the Ringmore branch of that family, Mrs Katterin Coker, was living in one of the two Hill Cottages in 1907, when the whole village was sold by the then Lord of the Manor. Some of the village children thought that Katterin Coker was a witch because she understood how to treat illnesses with herbal remedies. Numerous bunches of dried herbs always hung from the beams in her cottage. She used to say that her remedies would die with her.

Successive owners have enlarged and adapted Hill Cottage to the needs of modern living. Little trace of the old farmhouse remains but, as you walk down Rocky Path, you can still see at the front the little donkey stable with its tiny hay-loft above. These must date from the old farming days.

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DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

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WINTER WARMERS MENU

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Breaded Plaice or Bangers and Mash.

All priced at only £5.00 - available until Thursday 8th Feb inc

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Sun 28th Jan OAK QUIZ NIGHT - 8.30pm start

Thu 22nd Feb PARISH QUIZ NIGHT - 7.30pm

Support would be welcome

Sun 25th Feb OAK QUIZ NIGHT - 8.30pm start

Thu 1st Mar TINA & ROY'S BIRTHDAY BASH

Mon 5th Mar 'MARCH MADNESS' promotions start



INTERPARISH QUIZ submitted by Geof Dykes

Ringmore's team of Colin Jackson (Capt), Felicity Godwin, Pat King and Geof Dykes showed no changes from last season. In the first round of this year's competition they met Shaugh Prior in the Journey's End.

The team ground out an eventually convincing victory but not before Shaugh Prior had raced into a ten point lead by the end of round four. A successful team round on Music, in which Pat King managed to identify seven of the eight composers featured, reduced the deficit to four points by half-time. Shaugh Prior clung to their lead through rounds on History and Sport but Ringmore reeled them in with success on People's names beginning with M and Television, to lead by two points. From then Ringmore built on their advantage and a comprehensive team effort on pictures of BBC Newsreaders ensured that they ran out winners by 113-96.

Thank you to everyone who braved a cold night to give their support. Sometime in March we shall visit Ermington in the next round.



In The Pub

What is Alpha? An opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith. Relaxed, friendly and fun: ask anything! Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

Where is Alpha? All over the place, schools, village halls, churches and Pubs. Here this time in the ...

Journey's End, Ringmore

Starts TUESDAY MARCH 6TH 7.30

We start with supper, a simple hot meal [cost £4], then with drink in hand we listen to a talk and then discuss. The organised part of the evening ends at 9.30, but the chat can go on as long as you wish!

A Modbury Team Church initiative

For details see Flyers in Church or phone

John Elliott 810565



PROGRAMME CHANGE!

For good reasons, our February speaker is unable to come as planned (her husband has to go into hospital). We have therefore done a swap between our February and March meetings; therefore, this month we welcome

John and Ann Bracey and "Adventures in Nepal"

John and Ann are speaking on behalf of Community Action in Nepal, which seeks to bring better living conditions to needy people in this part of the world. It will take the form of an illustrated talk with slides. Do join us on 8th February at 8 p.m. for what we can recommend will be an excellent evening.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

The January meeting was quite well attended, which seems to confirm that members are glad to see each other again after the Christmas recess!

The speaker for the evening was David Snelling, who described his pilgrimage (on foot) through France to Spain, and in particular to the Cathedral of Santiago di Compostela, by way of the centuries-old Pilgrim's Way, accompanied by his faithful mule Henry, who carried all the equipment needed for such an undertaking.

The object of this amazing achievement was of course charity, and the charity, Cancer Relief, and the powers of endurance of both Henry and David would take volumes to describe. It was a fascinating experience and we must not fail to do our part by supporting both of them in their efforts. (Henry has now been put out to grass, I believe – he deserves it!)

Naomi Warne

News from All Hallows

Sundial

Repair of the Slate Sundial above the front door of the Church is now under way. I wonder how many of you have noticed its disappearance following removal in early January but there again we haven't had much sunshine during the past month – have we? The Sundial which is in a very poor state of repair is now with McNeillage Conservation in Talaton, Exeter undergoing much needed restoration. The work had to be carried out as a matter of urgency to ensure no further deterioration occurs to the Sundial or, at the worst, parts fall off the wall causing injury. It has proved to be a very costly project to effect a satisfactory and adequate restoration but hopefully once it is re-installed will be an interest to villagers and visitors alike. I have received one kind donation, together with promises from a couple of other villagers, so any other contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Pancake Day

Proceeds for the Shrove Tuesday Coffee morning, to be held in the Parish Room on the 20th February, will go towards the Sundial repair fund so I hope you will be able to come along. See full page advert elsewhere in this newsletter. Donations to any of the Stalls, perhaps any of those unwanted Christmas gifts, or offers of help would be most welcomed.

Hymn Music

Due to a great shortage of organists anyone passing the Church recently while Services were being conducted would have noticed various musical accompaniment to our hymns. During January we have had the church organ, mouth organ & CD's providing music to assist the singing. Comments on the various accompaniments would be most welcome, as also would be anyone wishing to assist with the music.

Handrail

A short handrail will be fitted this month alongside the couple of steps in the Side Chapel. This will provide assistance to the congregation when using these steps especially when returning from the Altar Rail after taking Communion.

Nigel & Judy

We wish Nigel & Judy all the very best as they leave the village for pastures new, hopefully not too far away. They have always kept a keen & watchful eye on the church whilst living at Barnford over the past years. Nigel's Brass cleaning in the church has also been a great credit to him with many visitors commenting on the lovely shine he managed to achieve – which was only equalled by the shine of his shoes!! A hard act to follow – any volunteers?

Phill Errett
Church Warden

P's and Q's

A reminder of those clues given in previous issues and on your tickets

1. Who is missing from this list: John Wilkes Booth, Charles Julius Giteau, Lee Harvey Oswald
2. From where in the U.K do Stopfordians come?
3. Who is the first actress to be nominated for an Oscar four times before the age of 30?
4. Who or what would you find on the Island of Sodor?

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David Young—On Monday 22nd January, during a Neighbourhood Watch meeting at Follaton House, presentation were made to long-serving members of this voluntary organization. David Young was one of those who received a certificate marking more than ten years of service.



David responded to a suggestion from Guy Eddy, then Chairman of the Parish Council and took on the role of Village Co-ordinator in 1992. The present Council, which has a nominal responsibility for organizing Neighbourhood Watch in the parish, offers thanks, on behalf of all residents, to David for his fifteen years of dedication and congratulates him on this well-deserved recognition.

Geof Dykes
Chairman, Ringmore PC

David Young has completed some 15 years as chief co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch and is looking for a successor.

The position is open to any Ringmore resident, preferably with access to E-mail and he assures anyone interested that the position is not onerous!

Please contact David on 810389.

Royal British Legion

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 February at the Old Chapel Inn starting at 7.30pm.

RAINFALL: Robbie McCarthy

Last month:	3.25
Ten year average:	4.38
Ten year high:	7.5
Ten year low:	1.0



Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

David Young	810389	Thelma Mann	810673
Richard Baker	811115	Robbie McCarthy	810738
Stan Brunskill	810654	Barry Old	810739
Dennis Collinson	810286	James Parkin	810303
Ken Dan	-----	Mike Pitt	810633
Pat King	810359	Chris Roberts	810730
Ann Lambell	810530	Frank Williams	810405

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TABLE TENNIS

AGM

13th February

Parish Room

9.00pm

Any one wishing to join the club which plays every Tuesday evening throughout the year will be made most welcome. Perhaps some of you may wish to fine tune your skills prior to the John Bracey Tournament which will be held in the Journey's End shortly. If so please do come along any Tuesday evening for an enjoyable and sometimes energetic couple of hours.

RINGMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14TH
7.30

FROM CHINA TO WIDECOMBE

THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY
OF THE THREE HARES



AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY DR TOM GREEVES

THE SYMBOL OF THE THREE HARES IS FOUND IN ANCIENT CHINA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND AS ROOF BOSSES IN MANY DEVON CHURCHES. WHAT DO THE HARES REPRESENT AND WHY ARE THERE SO MANY IN OUR COUNTY? COME AND LISTEN TO DR GREEVES AS HE ATTEMPTS TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY

100 CLUB

RBL club payments/new members need to subscribe £12 per person before first draw on 7th February. Please contact Martyn Lewis (811261) or leave cheque payable to Royal British Legion Account at the JE.



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St Valentines Day

St Valentine is the patron saint of lovers.

In Roman times, a festival of fertility rites was held in February in February, in honour of the Goddess Februata Juno (or, according to some, the god Pan).

It is said that the Bishop Valentine, who was thrown into prison for his beliefs by the Roman Emperor Claudius II, was known as the apostle of true love. He had secretly performed marriage ceremonies for Roman soldiers who were forbidden to marry by Claudius.

Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter and on the day of his death, he left a note for her signed "Your Valentine".

In the Middle Ages, boys and girls drew slips of paper out of a hat on Valentine's Day, and accepted the one whose name was on the slip as their sweetheart, or Valentine for the year.

In Elizabethan times, Valentines were chosen by drawing lots. The gentlemen then had to buy his Valentine an expensive present. This custom died out in the eighteenth century and hand made cards replaced the presents.

Valentine's day went out of fashion until 1926 when the cards were revived.

As well as sending cards on St Valentine's Day, young lovers also played games. They would for instance write the names of their favourite people on slips of paper, seal these in moist clay, and drop the clay balls into a bowl of water. The name on the paper slip that floated on the surface first would be their future sweetheart.

Peter Stanesby & Nina will have a new telephone number from 12th Feb 811272 but until then are not contactable on a landline, only mobiles!

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Valentines Day Chocolate Cake

The beauty of this recipe is its simplicity. Valentine's Day is a day for lovers and lovers have better things to do than cook! Chocolate is an ideal food for lovers as not only does it help replenish your strength but it is also a natural aphrodisiac.

I prefer French chocolate. The French have the reputation for being the best lovers in the world and you can taste this quality in their chocolate. It is truly orgasmic.

We'll begin with our chocolate fudge filling and topping.



75g unrefined, granulated sugar
40g organic butter
75g dark, smooth, French chocolate
100ml evaporated milk, I know it's common but you can throw rest of can away.
2 drops of Madagascar vanilla essence.

Pour sugar and evaporated milk into a heavy saucepan and, over a low heat, continually entice them together. The sugar will gradually be seduced into the milk. At this point leave them alone for 6 minutes to gently mummer together.

Break the chocolate into tiny pieces using your fingertips. Introduce gradually into pan, enticing, until the chocolate is seduced. Introduce butter and entice. Continue to entice as you sprinkle vanilla essence into pan.

At this stage it is too liquid to be of use and it must be chilled into a malleable, spreadable consistence. In a normal fridge this will take about two hours.

Now for the actual cake part.

175g self-raising flour, sifted to add extra air, we want light in our cake.
1 teaspoon baking powder, to ensure raising ability.
175g organic butter, should be soft and oozing onto plate.
175g unrefined caster sugar.
3 large, free-range organic eggs.
1 tablespoon cocoa powder, I prefer Fairtrade organic then I can eat my cake guilt-free.

Forewarn your oven to gas mark 3 (170 C).

Waltz a bit of butter around two sponge tins. I find seven-inch diameter sufficient for our love cake. I also layer a piece of baking parchment onto the base of the tin to ensure ease of exit.

Simply introduce all the ingredients into your food processor. Then mingle until waved into a uniform dark brown. At this stage the mixture should be moist. If it lacks moisture one, or two, teaspoonfuls of tepid water should be added and mingled.

Divide equally between your awaiting tins. Place in centre of oven for about 30 minutes.

Remove from oven and allow to cool slightly before, gently, encircling inner rim with palette knife. Tip onto cooling rack. Carefully peel back paper bases. Allow to relax.

To assemble your cake. Caress chocolate fudge onto one half of cake. Take a handful of fresh, Scottish raspberries and scatter onto surface. Place second cake-half firmly on top. Caress rest of chocolate fudge on top. Topping should dribble down sides sluttishly.

Decorate with a pair of raspberries in centre.

Feed a generous slice to your Valentine. If your tastes are very rich, add cream.

We'd like to thank all our advertisers and contributors for their financial support for 2007. Without you we'd have no newsletter and your prompt payments have been appreciated. And to those organisations who submit a donation rather than respond to a bill—thank you too!

Some of our advertisers have decided to branch out with colour and we'd bring your attention to some of our new advertisers, such as Markland Farm. Bigbury Stores have an advert with us now and you'll notice that they offer Fish and Chips. This has been sampled on a Friday night, phone first and book your slot, and they can certainly be recommended. They operate throughout the winter.

Many thanks to Mr Jones who has kindly offered to deliver the newsletter to Challaborough when Linda is not available.

Have a look at the Enigma page, We'd like people of all ages to give it a go, not just the old familiar faces.

We say goodbye to Nigel & Judy this month, don't go far! But extend a warm welcome to Christopher & Rosemary in Follets and Adrian and Judy in Barnford.

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