

# Whatlington News

APRIL 2025

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**WELCOME**

Parish Clerk Tracy

**FAREWELL**

Tim passes away

**CONGRATS**

John's 100th

# FOR SALE

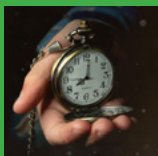
Brewery puts Oak on market for £425k

Landlord  
quits after  
a month  
Pub to stay  
closed until  
buyer found

See page 2

**80  
V  
VE DAY**

**SPECIAL  
CHURCH  
SERVICE**



**ANTIQUES AND  
COLLECTABLES  
MARKET**

**EVENTS  
DIARY  
Page 7**

The Royal Oak is on the market for offers in excess of £425,000 and has closed its doors until a new owner is found.

Business sales specialists Christie & Co state brewers Shepherd Neame, current owners of the 15th century building, "now feel that the pub would be best run by an independent operator to take full advantage of its location and make use of the accommodation above."

The sales blurb added: "The business is not being sold as a trading going concern and no staff will transfer with it."

The prospect of the sale saw new landlord Del Simms, who only took on the tenancy in March, hand in his notice. He had plans to bring in a chef to improve the pub's food reputation, extend opening hours, boost community involvement and ramp up marketing.

Already the landlord of three Shepherd Neame pubs in Herne Bay he said: "I couldn't progress my plans and take on a chef if the pub could be sold in a few months, or even weeks, down the road.

"It's a shame but I still believe the Oak could be a successful pub under the right owner, perhaps an independent or community collective. It has a lot going for it but food is the key together with increased marketing."

The pub, with living accommodation of three double bedrooms above, is being sold as a licensed premises that would allow it to be turned into a restaurant.

The process for turning a pub, particularly if the only one in a village, into a home is a lengthy and complicated one, says Del.

Christies describes the pub as 'well-placed to attract passing trade going to the revived coastal town of Hastings' and with 'a quirky, olde-worlde interior that includes a traditional inglenook fireplace, aged oak beams, exposed rafters – and an 80ft indoor well'.

# Pub future hangs in the balance



Del Simms

## WHAT THE BREWERY SAYS

Shepherd Neame's Head of Professional Property Services John Barnes said: "After careful consideration, we have decided to sell The Royal Oak as it no longer fits our business needs. The pub will be closed from Monday (April 14), and is currently being sold as a licensed premises through agents Christie & Co. The sale is part of an ongoing evaluation of our property portfolio to ensure that we target our resources effectively."

## Call for action on bodged pothole repairs

Parish councillors are fed up with pothole repairs that last only a few months.

County councillor for the village Kathryn Field said she had raised the matter with a senior engineer at the Lewes authority who said he was unaware of the problem.

Whatlington Road resident Jeffrey Bridges said there was a particularly dangerous cavity that had been 'repaired' several times and, on each occasion, the filling material deteriorated.

He says: "The latest bodge consists of tarmac at either end, leaving the middle breaking up, leaving the granite foundation visible between the repairs."

As it was on a bend it was difficult to avoid unless motorists veered into the centre of the road. Recently he came across a small car that was grounded and unable to get out of the hole.

Reporting the pothole directly to the county council had not been effective so he enlisted the support of the area's MP Dr Kieran Mullan, who forwarded Jeffrey's complaint to the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport at the county council.

He has asked that a highways officer visits Whatlington Road to inspect the work carried out by the contractor.

# New clerk Tracy: I have big shoes to fill

Whatlington has a new Parish Clerk.

Tracy Dixon took on the role at the beginning of April, replacing the late Valerie Bennett who held the title for 43 years.

Tracy is also clerk to Brede Parish Council, having been appointed in 2019, where she completed her Certificate in Local Council Administration – the clerking qualification.

She says: "I am aware I have a big pair of shoes to fill in following Valerie. I had the pleasure of speaking to her a few times early in my clerking career, when I needed some advice.

"I am looking forward to working with the councillors and getting to know villagers. It may take me a few weeks to familiarise myself with the current workload and needs, but I will ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

"Many of the roles and functions will be similar to those in my current parish of Brede, and I am up to date with what goes on at Rother and items such as devolution, roadworks and planning.

"A parish council, whatever its size, is the first tier in local government. With the upcoming devolution plans (see page 5), it will become an



**Front: Tracy with council chair Roger Fisher and, back from left, councillors Ben Clarkson and Sandie Sullivan, locum clerk Phil Burgess, councillors Amanda Davis and Simon White**

even more important local voice that needs to be heard.

"The council must be active in both the large issues, such as planning and the A21, and also the smaller parish concerns, such as supporting the Village Hall, the local pub, potholes and all the other day-to-day items.

"I look forward to the work and supporting the councillors in being that 'voice'."

Parish Council Chair Roger Fisher said: "The role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer is an understated and generally unrecognised first tier executive role in local government. It requires expertise across legal, financial and diplomatic activities, supported by excellent administrative ability. I'm sure Tracy will make a positive impact and contribution to our activities."

## Valerie memorial plans unveiled

**A permanent memorial to Valerie Bennett is being planned by the parish council, to which she was clerk for 43 years.**

**The tribute will be centred on the village hall, where she was treasurer of the committee for 27 years.**

**Three ideas are under consideration:**

- A ceramic plaque inside the hall, created by a local artist
- A new bench outside the hall with a plaque commemorating her service to the community

**■ Refurbishing the village spring in the hall garden, perhaps with paving and other improvements, and a memorial notice dedicating the improvements to Valerie.**

The latter idea reflects moves to get the spring flowing again – a cause close to her heart, said parish councillor Simon White.

The project will be funded by the parish council once the view of the hall committee has been taken into account.

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Full versions go to [whatlingtonparishcouncil.com](http://whatlingtonparishcouncil.com) and click on 'assembly reports'

### WHATLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

#### Roger Fisher, Chair

This year the council was significantly engaged with the Highways Authority's A21 improvements team on establishing a footpath in the village. Several meetings were held and substantial agreement achieved but we continue to wait for physical progress. The precept was raised by 10 per cent, a decision not taken lightly but our reserves continued to diminish as the cost of maintenance of village assets continued to rise. During the year we purchased a new defibrillator and refurbished the bus shelter as well as updating elements of the website to meet current regulations. The issue of finance will continue to feature in the coming two years with the proposed local government reorganisation seeking to increase the workload and responsibilities of parishes with no clear indication of enhanced funding streams.

### ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

#### Jeffrey Bridges, Churchwarden

We are required to have a five-yearly inspection of the building and churchyard. In advance we must have an electrical inspection and a test of the lightning conductor. It is possible the architect may reveal other work to be necessary and although at a national level the Church of England may seem to have plenty of money, the powers that be do not let any of this filter down to help maintain the country's ancient church buildings.

### WHATLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

#### Linda Walker, Chair

Improvements and investments in the hall over the past year have included both external and internal repairs and painting, a new cooker, new fridge and vacuum cleaner. There are now regular and sometimes multiple bookings for the hall on every day of the week except Sunday. The ongoing running costs have increased in line with the cost of living and due to greater usage of the hall. Notably the cost of gas has increased by more than 50 per cent compared to 2024.

### WHATLINGTON SPEEDWATCH

#### Anne Smith, Co-ordinator

We have secured the loan of a new speed timing device that is a vast improvement on the last one. However, it is anticipated we will lose this device unless we are able to demonstrate to the police we are using it consistently. The group's

membership is small, preventing us from being a greater roadside presence. On a positive note, we believe excessive speeding through the village is less prevalent, perhaps due to the change in A21 speed limits in the area.

### WHATLINGTON COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

#### Steve Turner, Chair

In its first full year the Connectors held more than a dozen events, in addition to craft classes most weeks. These included a D-Day celebration, wine tasting evening, hugely successful Easter Market and Christmas Fair, pub quizzes and carol singing at the Royal Oak, and defibrillator training. Craft sessions hosted by local experts have covered skills such as watercolour, oil and pastel art, ceramics, flower arranging, embroidery, cake decoration, needlecraft and Christmas wreath making.

### FOOTPATHS

#### Bev Marks, Footpath Warden

All local highways authorities – in our case East Sussex County Council – have to produce a Rights of Way Access Plan and ESCC launched a public consultation on the subject. I have detailed some of the general responses:

- lack of fingerpost signs showing the start of public rights of way from the road
- paths overgrown by vegetation, surfaces in poor condition, eg muddy or slippery
- stiles in poor condition
- promoted paths' surfaces and signage (particularly where they cross roads) should be improved, to help access for all
- easily downloadable local route mapping (using QR code signs) should be available on high footfall routes, to encourage use.

### ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### Councillor Sue Burton

Rother faced a challenging economic environment and increased demand for services. The most significant being people who are homeless and in need of accommodation. Looking ahead, exciting milestones include adopting strategies for Housing and Economic Development, and Homelessness & Rough Sleeping, alongside projects such as the development at Blackfriars in Battle, with 200 new homes of which 130 will be affordable. The council continues to look for grant funding for improving services and Battle has benefitted with two community orchards and a micro-wood.



# 'Fear and uncertainty' over reboot of local government

The forthcoming reorganisation of local government will see the disappearance of Rother District Council along with all the other district and borough authorities.

East Sussex County Council will be replaced by a new-style 'unitary authority' taking on the running of day-to-day services like schools, waste, social care, planning applications and managing benefits and charges.

This new body, potentially covering the same geographic area as the current county council, will form part of a new strategic authority for the whole of Sussex headed by a mayor to be elected next year.

This will make 'big picture' decisions like housing, infrastructure and transport development, the economy and the environment, along with public health and safety including police and fire services.

Parish councils such as Whatlington will remain, although possibly with extra responsibilities.

The final decision on the number of new local unitary authorities has yet to be made. Some Rother councillors favour five but this was rejected by Rother in favour of three – East Sussex, West Sussex, and Brighton and Hove.

County and district councillor for the village Kathryn Field says: "I think a strategic approach to these issues makes sense.

"The government intends the mayors to be its main method of communication with local government.

"This means the makeup of the Cabinet is particularly important to ensure that the Government gets a fair and complete picture of matters in

the whole of the new strategic authority.

"Locally, county council elections have been cancelled. The deputy Prime Minister's rationale is that there is no point electing members to a body which is going to cease to exist in two years.

"Much is still unknown such as how planning will be dealt with and what happens to the debts owed by the existing councils.

"I am sure all will become clear over time. Currently there is a lot of supposition and second guessing leading to fear and uncertainty."



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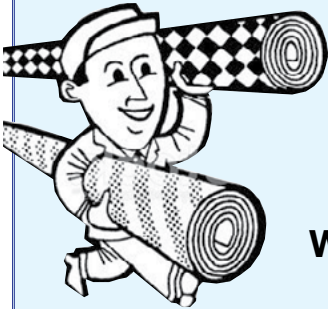
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## EVENTS DIARY

### VE DAY ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

On Sunday 11 May at 10.30am Whatlington Church will be holding a special commemorative service to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. This is to honour and pay tribute to the men and women who fought so bravely. Villagers are invited to join the service, recalling that the village church held just such a service in 1945 for the actual day of national thanksgiving. Don't forget to bring your flags to wave!

### CRAFT CLASSES

These popular sessions, with local experts sharing skills from painting to ceramics and Japanese paperwork, continue most Wednesdays from 10am to midday in the Village Hall. For more details go to [www.whatlington.com](http://www.whatlington.com)

### SERENADE AND FETE

The Twilight Serenade will be early evening on Saturday 19 July and the Village Summer Fete will be on the afternoon of Saturday 6 September.

### GARDEN SOCIETY SHOW

The Sedlescombe & District Garden Society's annual plant market takes place on Saturday 3 May from 10.30am-12.30pm.

Plants grown by society members, as well as from local nurseries, will be available to buy as well as other items including bird boxes.

Entry is free. More details at [www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk](http://www.sedlescombegardensociety.org.uk)

### HOSPICE OPEN GARDENS

From May to July, stunning gardens across Hastings and Rother will open their gates for St Michael's Hospice.

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**Whatlington Community Connectors**



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### WHATLINGTON GUIDED WALK

Battle Ramblers are planning a circular walk in Whatlington as part of the High Weald Walking Festival.

It will take place on either Sunday 14 or 21 of September, starting at 10am from the Village Hall car park. All walkers are welcome to join the festival trek, putting Whatlington's countryside on the map.

Keep an eye on [www.highwealdwalks.org](http://www.highwealdwalks.org) for more details.



## HOWARD EDMUND BRINKLEY 'TIM' EVERARD: 1934-2025



Tim Everard, who passed away in February aged 91, lived in Whatlington almost longer than anyone else, having moved to the village in 1959 after buying Eastlands Farm with his father Gerald. In the same year he married Cherry, whom he had known since childhood and who survives him, along with daughter Jacky and son Timothy. He also leaves a grandson Owen, and granddaughter Prairie. Here are some extracts from Timothy's funeral eulogy that give a flavour of the life of one of Whatlington's most well-known and colourful characters.

### How Howard became Tim

Tim was born in Horsham on 25 January 1934 and was Christened Howard Edmund Brinkley Everard. However his mum Phillis preferred that he was called Tim so told everyone . . . and it stuck.

### Young entrepreneur

Tim's father was part of the Horsham home guard during the war and there was a POW camp nearby.

*Continues opposite*

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**From opposite page**

The young and entrepreneurial Tim used to relieve his parents of cigarettes, which he would then exchange with the POWs for toys that they would make, such as monkeys on sticks. I think that this speaks something of his character as he would mix with anyone, that's not to say that he liked everyone, but generally he would reserve judgement and take people as he found them,

**Spitfire 'pilot'**

Between 1957 and 1959 Tim did National Service, which he served with the RAF. He was thrilled to be able to fly in Spitfires and Lancasters and, despite not being a pilot, was occasionally allowed by comrades to take control of these incredible machines.

**Parking prankster**

There was a generational interest in farming; several of our ancestors had been farmers of different kinds including Tim's grandfather who was, for a time at least, a peach farmer in America. This interest was obviously present in Tim as he elected to go to Cirencester Agricultural College. On one occasion he and a group of his friends, after an evening spent at one of the local taverns, physically picked up a car belonging to one of their teachers and deposited it in an alleyway perpendicular to the walls on either side, leaving it stranded and immovable until they had to come and remove it the following day.

**Bombs away**

As with any farm, there really was a lot of work to do for Cherry and Tim, with both a productive milking herd and several hundred pigs. On top of this they built many of the farm buildings and Dad did contract work for other farmers too. While ploughing for someone he came up against something solid in the ground. He got off the tractor to investigate, assuming that it would be a rock, only to discover that it was an unexploded WWII bomb that had been jettisoned. Not wanting this to hamper his day's work, he removed it from the ground, carried it to the edge

# Dad's life of fantastic stories

of the field and laid it down to be dealt with later. He hadn't gone far before there was another knock at the plough and, sure enough, more unexploded ordnance.

This one joined its comrade at the edge of the field. I don't think it was until this had happened four or five times that Dad thought perhaps this was a little risky and maybe he ought to give up and contact the authorities.

**Plant smuggler**

Tim had a great love for animals, trees and nature in general. He even smuggled back from America giant Sequoia seeds, or maybe it was actually saplings, sewed to the inside of his trouser leg. One of these, while still being a baby in Giant Redwood terms,

is now a huge tree in the garden at Jacky's home Overdale. I'll just never understand why he planted them so close to the buildings and not down the farm!

**Fire starter**

Once dad left a can of Easy Start spray (used in an emergency if an engine wouldn't start) in the warming oven in the bungalow while my mother and I were in the house, forgetting about it for the rest of the day until it exploded with an almighty bang and huge flame ball, which set fire to the kitchen and blew all the hatches out of the ceiling.

**A life in stories**

For years I have been thinking that we must sit down with him and record as many of these stories as possible, whilst knowing that, sadly, we probably never would and, regretfully, never did. A shame perhaps but Tim lived a life of fantastic stories and what a way to live. I hope he has inspired in many of us a desire to do the same. What a legacy that would be.



Cherry and Tim



**Whatlington's oldest resident John Tunstall (centre) celebrated his 100th birthday last month with a message from King Charles and visits from his family and friends. John moved to the village 50 years ago with his wife Margaret, who passed way in 2015, but has spent long periods of his life working overseas. His daughter Mary lives in Australia and his younger daughter Lizzie died from the lasting effects of Covid. He has five granddaughters, one great granddaughter and another on the way.**

# John Tunstall: hundred years and still growing

Cotton is, literally, part of the fabric of most of our lives.

But for John the natural fibre means a lot more than what his shirts are made from. It has been the focus of a long career that has seen him working all over the world.

It's part of a passion for the science of plants that continues to this day, with his home filled with unusual fruit and edibles from across the globe.

Born and educated in Gravesend, his parents moved him to a boarding school near Goudhurst to escape German bombs during World War Two.

Although, he says, he then found himself living beneath the Battle of Britain and taking part in all-night fire-watching shifts.

He studied agriculture at Reading University and was soon on a former troop carrier for the

two-week journey to South Africa, researching crop pest control in the Western Province.

On returning to the UK he gained a degree at Imperial College where he studied biology and met his future wife Margaret at a dance near Cambridge.

In the early 1950s John and Margaret flew to Africa on a four-year contract researching sprays to protect cotton crops on the border of Sudan and Eritrea.

Back in the UK he was diagnosed with TB and confined to bed for a frustrating few months.

Next stop was the Federation of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Nyasaland (Malawi) after landing a job as part of the British Government's overseas aid programme. It was the beginning of a 20-year spell of overseas research in cotton pest control. It included

***Continues next page***

## From previous page

compiling many research journals, written with a colleague, that are still used as reference sources to this day.

His time in Africa also sparked an interest in butterflies and the start of a comprehensive collection he still maintains.

His expertise, which saw him conducting research in Malawi, Thailand and Sri Lanka, also led to him being made an OBE for cotton research in Africa, with a trip to Buckingham Palace in 1969.

The couple moved to Whatlington with their daughters Mary and Lizzie in 1975 in a house on the site of the former village post office.

He recalls: "When we first looked at the house I pointed out to Margaret one of its advantages – a village shop next door.

"Unfortunately by the time we bought the property the shop had disappeared!

"When we came back from Thailand I brought with me some clay outdoor cooking pots and for a few summers we used them to put on barbecues, which became quite popular, along with our home-made wine."

John bought extra land to extend his garden and soon began growing an extensive array of fruit and vegetables which, by the end of the growing season, were sufficient to fill two chest freezers and provide healthy meals and drinks for the family through the winter.

He became interested in growing unusual fruit and vegetables such as skirret, yacon and pepinos and, with a friend, put on popular displays of them at Great Dixter.

As the years went by and outdoor work became more difficult the garden was brought into the house, with a veranda converted into a glass growing room where, among other plants,



**John was the second person in the family to be made an OBE: his research scientist father Harold, who lived in Ninfield, achieved the honour in recognition of his work on the PLUTO (Pipeline Under The Ocean) operation that supplied fuel from the UK to Allied Forces in France after D-Day.**

he is currently cultivating Chinese artichokes . . . and cotton, of course.

He has a passion for sharing his plants, grown from seeds or cuttings, and has been a member of the Sedlescombe and District Gardening Society for more than 30 years, regularly winning prizes for his fruit and vegetables.

He taught himself how to use computers and still does all his shopping and household admin online, as well as creating posters explaining the history, cultivation and uses for lesser-known plants.

Asked what he thought was the secret of living to such a ripe age he says: "I don't know if there is a secret. I used to smoke, first cigarettes and then a pipe, but I suppose I've had a healthy diet with my home-grown fruit and vegetables, from which I've also made tomato and other fruit juices. I also bake my own bread.

"I think keeping my brain active, still being involved in research programmes and keeping busy growing different plants, helps a lot too."

### Those unusual plants explained

**Skirret:** a root vegetable popular before potatoes were introduced into Britain, tasting like a mixture of sweet carrots and parsnips.

**Yacon:** a South American root

vegetable with a lemony taste and texture like an apple, sometimes known as Peruvian ground apple.

**Pepino:** a South American rugby-ball shaped and purple-striped fruit that tastes like melon.



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**Joe Rawles of Feathers Wild Bird Care at Parsonage Farm in Salehurst offers tips on feeding the birds in your garden**

## Where have all the birds gone?

Those of you who feed the birds in your garden may have noticed a reduction in the number visiting recently, as with the arrival of warmer weather comes a significant increase in the availability of natural food.

I've always advocated for feeding the birds all year round, as do both the RSPB and BTO, but I also strongly believe the birds will only take advantage of the feeders when natural food is scarce.

The rate of consumption on our bird feeders here at Feathers has dropped drastically in the last week or two, and I have been watching Blue Tits, Chaffinches and House Sparrows all catching flying insects, as opposed to utilising the 'easy food' we provide for them.



Birds also expend more energy keeping warm in winter, so naturally they don't need to eat as much in the spring and summer, but providing food all year round will benefit them during unexpected cold or wet spells, when it's more difficult to find insects.

It's good practice to clean your feeders and bird baths regularly, and even move where you site the feeders, as these steps will limit the spread of disease.

You should also consider feeding little and often, which will ensure the food you provide is always fresh.



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# Talk to reveal care of war graves

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for 23,000 memorials and cemeteries around the world commemorating 1.7 million Commonwealth casualties who died in the First and Second World Wars.

You can find out how they go about this enormous task at a free talk by the Commission at Whatlington Church – where there are two war graves of local men – **on Friday 2 May at 7.30pm.**

Entry is free, with donations encouraged for the work of the CWGC, and there will be refreshments afterwards, with car parking at the Village Hall.



# Never mind the maths – Lent is all about attitude



By Rev John Hawkins, Rector, Whatlington Church

**F** Mothering Sunday will have gone by the time you read this as we continue to prepare for the Great Festival of Easter.

Times of rejoicing for the Christian community; but first we have to finish Lent. So a word first about Lent.

Originally this was a period of 40 days before Easter in which new converts fasted and prepared for their baptism. It soon became a time for the whole congregation to support the 'catechumens' as they were known, and to fast and prepare for the festival.

You'll have noticed that the arithmetic that counts 40 days is a bit odd (quite apart from the date of Easter moving around all the time.) This is because Sundays are never days of penance.

Lent is counted as forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday – four days from Ash Wednesday plus six weeks not including Sundays.

I am sure that will be a great relief to those of you who are struggling with complete abstinence

– you can take Sundays off (so long as you come to church!).

But we don't have to get our calculators out – it's our attitude to a time of abstinence that matters. Gregory the Great looked on the six weeks of Lenten weekdays as a tithe (10 per cent) of the year, offering back to God the time God has given us, which is a positive way to look at it.

In the Scriptures, God uses 40 days to change people, or to prepare them for significant change:

- there were 40 days of Noah's flood
- Moses was 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving the Law
- Elijah walked through the desert for 40 days before his encounter with God
- the people of Nineveh had 40 days to repent.

After his baptism, Jesus was 40 days in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry; and the disciples spent 40 days with Jesus after the resurrection before their public ministry began. **God bless you all.**

## EASTER AND OTHER SERVICES

**18 April 6pm:** Friday Reflections, hymns and readings for Good Friday

**20 April 10.30:** Easter Day Holy Communion

**27 April:** the monthly service of Evening Prayer reverts to 6pm for the lighter evenings

■ For May onwards, services resume the usual pattern of:

9.15am Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays;  
10.30am Family Service on the 2nd Sunday; 6pm Evening Prayer on the 4th Sunday

# Ticket machines put the **aarrghh** into parking the car

**I** don't know if you've been to Mount Street car park recently but I would recommend the ticket machines as the epitome of bad design, and if you don't feel stressed at the moment, give them a go, you will afterwards.

We have all seen the awards given to the best British designs with the K Series red telephone box usually in first place.

But most of the things in the top ten (Routemaster bus, Spitfire, Rolls-Royce) are cultural icons and complex and I think it's the simpler things that deserve that recognition such as cats eyes, the seed drill (thank you Jethro) and postage stamps.

But what about awards for bad design? After all, we have the Razzies for films (I'm looking at you Sly Stallone who has won 12).

Well, the ticket machines at Mount Street take bad design to a new dimension. There are written instructions but it looks like they were translated from Finnish into English by someone whose first language was Welsh.

The info screens are small, dull and, cleverly, the machines are south facing so if the sun is shining, they are illegible.

But the piece-de-resistance is that clearly these machines were intended for Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory because those screens are at the perfect height for Oompa-Loompas.



**MARTYN HOLE finds Mount Street's parking machines better-suited to Wonka's Oompa-Loompas**



There appear to be numerous buttons that have no obvious use, which gives it a sort of reverse-Louis Sullivan 'Form does not follow function' vibe or perhaps an anti-Mies van der Rohe 'more is more' shtick.

We had several attempts at getting a ticket, of which only one was successful although we paid twice, and despite the machine saying one could use coins, we couldn't see anywhere to insert them. Is this part of the government's policy to outlaw cash so we can be tracked at all times?

And don't proffer an Amex card as that will NOT do nicely, sir.

So bad design causes me angst and if you would like to hear a piece of music that perfectly captures this feeling, try the video of Solid Gold Cadillac playing 'Technology' with Phil Minton on vocals. That WILL do nicely, Sir.



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