

Sponsored by Thurlestone Parish Council



SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER 1986

No. 4



MALCOLM
FREEMAN

• PARISH NEWSLETTER •

COULD IT EVER HAPPEN AGAIN?

In the 1850's the population of Britain was approximately 20 million, of whom 2,500,000 lived in London, and the drift from the country to the towns increased throughout the century despite Britain's lead in terms of agricultural expertise even at that time. Employment in agriculture along with fishing was the main form of employment in Thurlestone, of course, the average weekly wage for a farm labourer being just about 65p a week. Only if you were a brick-layer or plumber could you expect to top a pound a week.

Throughout Britain there were reckoned to be about 300 aristocratic families and a further 3,000 or so 'landed gentry' with incomes between £1,000 and £100,000 a year. Life was easy for them, indeed. Even on a £1,000 a year you would be ensured of a large pleasant country house and between eight and a dozen servants. At this time well over 1,750,000 were employed in agriculture and 1,000,000 or so in domestic service - earning in this latter case probably little more than £5 a year - though of course they had accommodation and food thrown in! There was little job security and any injury, at work or otherwise, would often result in loss of job - and income.

When you think of someone - a family man for example, living on what amounted to a few shillings a week you must appreciate that fresh herrings were about 5p a dozen, whiting 15p to 30p a doz. butter around 5p. a lb. bread 5p. for a 4lb loaf and prime beef 16p. per stone by the carcass at Newgate Market. One must really doubt they were the 'good old days' for the many, for a large proportion of Victorian society was really condemned to a life of abject poverty and were faced only with the Workhouse in their old age.

The son's of the wealthy could still buy themselves an army commission. A Major or Captain in the Life Guards cost £3 to £5 thousand !

Your doctor of the times might well earn £1000 a year and a clerk in the legal profession £250 p.a.

Perhaps a thought for today would be to consider what will happen to the great majority when the oil and other finite resources are exhausted. Would be interesting to have the observations of one of the younger generation who may well have to face this situation.

The following advertisement is not untypical of the times - in 1853 !

Nearly half the adult population of Great Britain could bear testimony to the agreeable influence and extraordinary curative powers of :

PARR'S LIFE PILLS.

He who has not tested the efficacy of these desirable pills has neglected an essential incentive to health and happiness; and has not tasted fully that charm of life which makes it a pleasure.

TO LADIES

PARR'S LIFE PILLS are especially efficacious in all the variety of ailments incidental to the Fair Sex. Ladies even of the most delicate constitution will find them particularly beneficial both before and after confinement; and for general use in Schools they cannot be too strongly recommended. They mildly and speedily remove all Skin Eruptions, Sallowness of Complexion, Nervous irritability, Sick Headache, Depression of Spirits, Irregularity, or General Derangement of the System.

Sheets of Testimonials, and "The Life and Times of Old Parr" - who lived to 152 years of age may be had gratis from all agents including 32 page book 'The Means of Prolonging Life'. 1/1½ (6p) per box.

Would you pass me the aspirins, my dear!

JOHN PARKER.

Footpaths - A new farm "crop" ?

"As another record harvest approaches with record cereal surpluses to follow, the need for farmland to be used more for public recreation and less intensive agriculture must be stressed", said Mr. Alan Mattingly, director of the Ramblers' Association.

"The growing public demand for access to the countryside for recreation is not being matched by the supply of land where walking and other informal recreations can be enjoyed," he told a Sports Council conference at Brighton.

"Suggestions that farmers should be paid for maintaining the "crop" of footpaths on their land should be examined. There is a case for paying farmers to carry out some footpath work and they may welcome this as quotas are tightened and cereal prices reduced. But any such payments need to be very carefully controlled."

We are very opposed to paying farmers for simply carrying out their legal obligations - such as keeping paths free from obstruction and from unlawful ploughing."

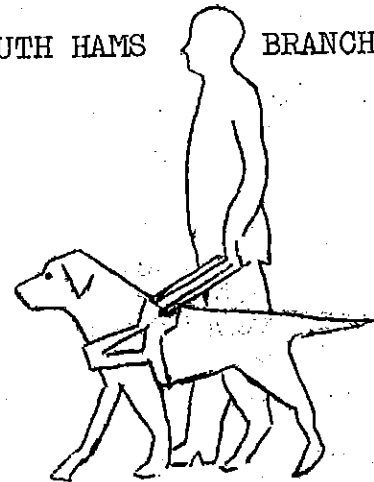
"Grants could be justified, however, to farmers creating footpaths and recreation areas like picnic sites, nature reserves and woodland walks."

Well, there are those who have said Thurlestone needs a Recreation or Leisure Area. Given the necessary financial return if other agricultural crops become less profitable - who knows what might happen?
L.M.D.

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The secret of remaining young in spite of old age and white hairs is to preserve our enthusiasm, and this we can do by means of meditation and goodwill - in short by maintaining harmony in ourselves. When everything has its proper place in our minds we are able to stand in equilibrium with the rest of the world.
A.S.

SOUTH HAMS BRANCH



GUIDE DOGS for the BLIND

THURSDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

Fashion Show

(Arranged by Mrs Penny Grose)

to be held at the THURLESTONE HOTEL

FIRST SHOWING: 3 - 4 p.m.

with CREAM TEAS

(Tickets £4 (inclusive))

SECOND SHOWING: 7.30 - 8.30 pm

with WINE & CHEESE

(Tickets £4 (inclusive))

TICKETS AVAILABLE from the

Thurlestone Hotel.

The Card Shop, Fore St, King'bg.
The Salon, Fore Street, King'bg.
and from Wendy, Hairdresser,
Knowle House Hotel, Salcombe.

THURLESTONE TOPICS & PARISH NEWSLETTER is published every two months - next issue November/December

PROBUS CLUB

The river trip on June 30th from Plymouth to Calstock was supported by some 24 members and wives. Despite an overnight thunderstorm the day was warm and sunny and thoroughly enjoyed by all attending.

At the July meeting Ben Horn gave a very interesting talk on gardening with particular reference to vegetables. It encouraged all we amateurs present to discover that even professionals suffer from those 'nasties' that often ruin our efforts.

The next meeting is to be held on September 12th at the Thurlestone Hotel, when Mr. Brooks will talk of his veterinary experiences.

The October meeting will take place on the 10th, the lunch being at the Golf Club. Any member interested in playing should contact Geoff. Wilkinson on 560512. Any non-playing member wishing to attend the lunch should notify me on 560300, as catering at the Club is not quite as flexible as the Thurlestone Hotel.

D.M.YEOMAN
Hon. Secretary

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THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

A

JUMBLE SALE

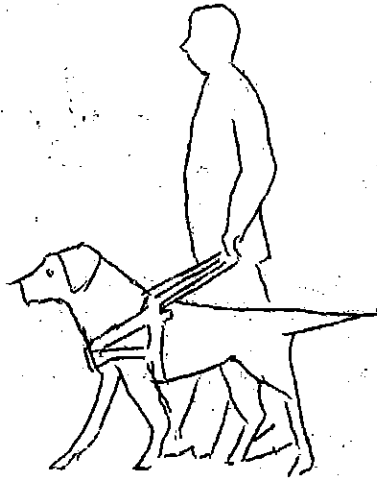
will be held in aid of Parish Hall funds on

SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER at 2 pm

Contributions either for the Jumble Sale or the Raffle may be deposited at the Hall or at 'Hilltop' opposite during the week prior to the sale.

D.M.YEOMAN

Chairman-Parish Hall Committee.



GUIDE DOGS for the BLIND

(SOUTH HAMS BRANCH)

Family FUN DAY

in the THURLESTONE HOTEL
GROUNDS

2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 1986

to be opened by

SUE KING
(of Spotlight)

MANY ATTRACTIONS

TOMBOLA

SIDE SHOWS

(IF WET - in the Hotel)

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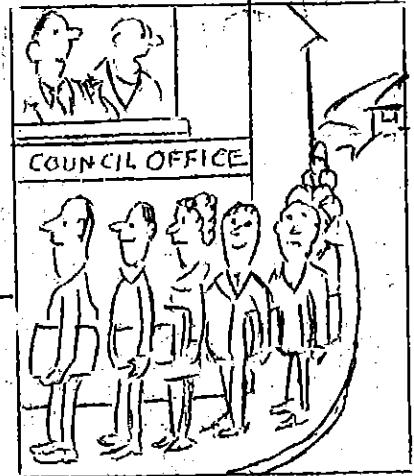
Tel: Kingsbridge 560533

Items for the November/December
issue must be received by ~~Oct~~ 30th

Opinions expressed in any article
are those of the contributor thereof
absolutely in this 'freelance'
publication.

As I see it

P. W. J. HURRELL



"It's the petition against closing a footpath...."

FOOTPATHS are an important sector of every parish. Paths which are on the "Definitive Foot-path Map" may be defined as part of the Highway and the ultimate responsibility of the Highway Authority - in our case Devon County Council. The South Coast Path - 'our' section of this being the Coastal Path round the cliffs, is just a little different in being the prime responsibility of the Countryside Commission. Now, of course, we also have the Heritage Coast Authority jointly funded and supported by the Countryside Commission, District and County Council and the National Trust, and that organisation is responsible for the general maintenance of the paths within the Heritage Coast boundary.

YOU MIGHT well ask "Where does a Parish Council come in?" A Parish Council has the primary responsibility for advising, usually the Highway Authority of all footpaths needing attention, be it overgrowth, vandalism of signs, broken stiles which should be repaired, or bridges and obstructions.

THIS LATTER - obstruction - is a very important matter, particularly if any path on the Definitive Map is affected. Where a path is not on the map it may well be a long established right of way or access, and I consider that the Parish Council has a responsibility to investigate. Oddly enough this is a matter which came under fairly heavy discussion at the July Meeting of the Council and I am very happy to say that on a proposal of Miss Rosemary Stocken, seconded by Mr. Geoffrey Stidston "That this Council should consider every footpath proposal individually on its merits" became an accepted Resolution with the further support of Mr. Roy Adams and myself. I think it interesting to note that Mr. Adams and Mr. Stidston gave their support to this motion despite both being farmers - the greatest of sufferers from "wandering walkers"!

WHERE obstruction of path or access occurs and the landowner is not willing to enter into worthwhile discussion, there is only one course open to a Parish Council - it has a duty to refer the matter to the Highway Authority who, after making their own inquiries may decide the situation is best resolved by the issue of Declaration Forms to aggrieved parishioners so that they may declare the period they have enjoyed undisputed and undisturbed useage of a right of way or access. In making and signing such a Declaration it is always possible to be asked to attend at a Magistrate's Court to swear to the truth of such a declaration, should the dispute reach the stage where the Highway Authority, through its solicitor, has issued a notice on the landowner to cease the obstruction, but will not do so. Happily, I can say, the Parish Council have never yet supported any case where such a situation has arisen, for the Council have to satisfy themselves that a sufficient number of parishioners do feel truly aggrieved and are willing to make the aforesaid Declarations if asked to do so. I hold to the opinion that a Parish Councillor is a trustee of parish rights and privileges and must act to support any situation which may deny parishioners such rights and privileges which they have enjoyed over many years - or justifiably be considered betraying that trust. Mind you, landowners who have public paths or rights of way crossing their lands can also be in need of protection from wilful people who do not accept that a footpath grants a right to be traversed but no right whatsoever to go wandering all over the place. At all costs prevent cattle and sheep straying by shutting gates, keep dogs strictly under control and keep out of crops of any kind. If you stray - you trespass! (Mr. Hurrell is Parish Council Chairman)

Topical Topics

REGISTER OF ELECTORS - 1987-88

You will soon be receiving the usual form for completion to ensure you are registered for the period February 16th. 1987 - 15th February 1988.

In May 1987 there will be (if enough nominations go forward) an election to the District Council and the Parish Council. I have also seen it suggested that there could also be a General Election during the currency of that Register.

The qualifying date is, as usual, residence on the 10th. October 1986. Any queries should be addressed to the Electoral Registration Officer, (South Hams District Council), Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes TQ9 5NE. Tel (97) 864499.

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IT IS REPORTED.....

that rabbit numbers are increasing and the pest is once again threatening cereal crops in some parts of the U.K. Ministry surveys show that the national population is now about 20% of what it was before myxomatosis decimated rabbit numbers in the early 1950's. But numbers are rising as they learn to live with the disease. In the mid-1950's the disease killed 99.99% of all infected rabbits, but now it is proving lethal to only about 70%. This is not enough to keep the numbers in check. An average loss of around 16% can be expected in cereals where rabbits have managed to re-establish breeding warrens.

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'TOUCH WOOD' FOR LUCK !

Many of us 'touch wood' for luck if we say something that tempts fate. An old Somerset folklore tells that long ago during a severe winter, a farmer set out to procure wood for his fire. He came to an alder tree which overhung a holy well, and began to lop branches off it.

To his consternation, however, he then noticed flames leaping from this distant cottage and dashed home as quickly as possible. To his relief and surprise, he found neither fire or damage. He set about the tree once more, only to again be troubled by the sight of flames and another needless journey home. On the third attempt he decided to ignore the vision and to collect the firewood. Alas, on returning home, he found his cottage burnt to the ground. Perhaps those who wilfully fell trees in the interests of development and profit might come to consider the Tree Spirit's revenge !

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AVON ESTUARY BYE-LAWS

District Councillor Jack Thomas has advised the Parish Council that this Bye-law has at last been returned by the Home Office for two minor amendments, aimed to simplify administration and it should be promulgated before 1987 !

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WATCH IT - THERE MAY BE A POLICEMAN ABOUT

Fixed penalty tickets are soon to be issued for a much wider range of offences than the parking, lighting, tax and route offences for which they're currently issued. From October 1st this year, fixed penalty tickets will be issued in England and Wales for some 200 offences currently dealt with by the courts - including speeding, ignoring traffic signs, and not wearing a seat belt.

Dangerous parking £24
Defective brakes £24
Jumping traffic lights. £24
Not wearing seat belt £12
Speeding £24. and no MOT £12.

Dangerous parking, defective brakes, jumping traffic lights and speeding will be endorsable offences. Non payment within 28 days will see the fixed penalty increased by 50% and be registered as a fine. The fine goes on your police record and will be collected through the courts - and you could end up in prison if you don't pay!

So, paying the fixed penalty is likely to be cheaper than court fines. You can, of course, challenge a fixed penalty charge - you will be able to opt for a court hearing - provided you do so within 28 days. You will have to hand over your licence for endorsable offences too.

PURELY PERSONAL by

WALTER DEE

NOT YET AWHILE..

Thurlestone sub-Post-Office are not to obtain the right to issue Road Fund Licences, the Parish Council have been informed by the Torquay Head Postmaster until the area's quota is increased by the DVLC.

The Council have also received an explanation from the Plymouth Health Authority why South Hams Hospital cannot be provided with an X-ray Unit for the time being.

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VALUE FOR MONEY ?in 1985/6

From recently published figures it would seem fair comment to say that District Councillor's averaged £30 a week in attendance and travelling allowances. Just one or two gave their services for nothing, which I am sure is very generous if you can afford it. Most Councillors cover two or three Parishes and I would think, worked out on a hourly basis, pretty fair value for money. It can be a rather thankless task at times I'm sure.

Mind you, Parish Councillors have to do for love - love of their community, that is !

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I REALLY WONDER....

how a responsible body such as South West Water could have performed such an incredible act as to pipe from the sewage overflow tank directly into the stream around the beach-head.

Did I say 'responsible body'. Change that to 'totally 'irresponsible' .

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AS WINTER APPROACHES

If you find yourself wondering what to do why not consider watching (and joining) THE SLOOP INN DARTS CLUB or maybe INDOOR BOWLS is more

in your line? Call in at The Sloop one Friday evening - or the Parish Hall on a Tuesday or Thursday evening about 7.30 pm. Perhaps a good idea to give John Dayment on 560295 a call first.

Did you know that the Parish has a Tug-O-War Club registered with the A.A.A? THE AUNE VALLEY TUG-O-WAR CLUB. Interested. Call Victor Adams on 560247

AND OF COURSE

The THURLESTONE & WEST BUCKLAND W.I. meet on the SECOND THURSDAY each month (bar August) at 2.30 pm. You're sure to be welcome.

There is an ALL SAINTS CHURCH at both Thurlestone (with Bantham and Buckland) and South Milton. The RECTOR is the Rev. Preb. P.S.Stephens, The Rectory, Thurlestone, Tel: 560232

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LIKE SAILING?

BANTHAM HAVE A SAILING CLUB and the Secretary is Mrs. Marilyn Cater at 'Yorick', West Buckland. Tel. 560593

Perhaps you are more of a Club man - Thurlestone have a PROBUS CLUB - and the Secretary is Mr. Derek H. Yeoman of 'Hillside' Thurlestone. Tel.560300

GOLF, PERHAPS?

THURLESTONE GOLF CLUB Secretary is Richard Marston, B.E.M. - 560405

THEN AGAIN

If you are a keen outdoor type why not look in on the BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB. The Head Lifeguard, Fred Shillabeer lives at Bantham. His telephone number is the Clubhouse 560447 or try the Secretary on 560767

AND

THE EDITOR of this NEWSLETTER will always welcome a contribution to the contents - what, for instance, are your thoughts about the Parish - about what goes on - or does'nt go on. Does the parish want to see a Leisure Area established however difficult it might be to do so, are you one of the younger generation hoping to live in the Parish in which you were brought up. The time to speak up is NOW before the Kingsbridge Local Plan is finalised.

Walter Dee

"SUMMER DIM" 77

"SUMMER DIM" is the Shetlander's term for the long northern twilight. The summer day remains half awake and darkness never really comes. Once, this pearly light reflected a similarly placid economy, but now oil sheds a new light on Shetland's 100 islands and 23,000 people.

Life can be tough where it rains an average of 248 days in the year and blows a full gale for seven weeks out of the 52. It breeds an island brand of self-sufficiency and thrift: an attitude that grabbed the twentieth century treasure of oil with both hands, forming a Council to collect and spend special taxes and rents from the new industry.

Within one decade, the Shetland Islands Council has stabilised the local economy and forged bigger schools and better social services. Shetland pensioners are now among the best cared for in the world and 'Summer Dim' has also ended for many of the 2,000 plus farmers tending stock and crop on scattered islands 120 miles north of the British mainland. Most have small holdings called crofts averaging just 10½ acres plus hill and rough grazing, and over 50 percent are 'spare-time' units contributing little or no cash.

Now, the Council's Ten Year Plan for agriculture has pumped almost a million pounds a year into an industry which was slowly sinking under the weight of rural depopulation and freight charges. Today, these add £200 to the price of a tractor from the mainland or mean a Shetland store lamb costs an English farmer £5 extra.

Deftly grasping the oil income lifeline, island farmers now import five times the former tonnage of lime to sweeten soil for the reseeded of between three and four thousand acres of former moorland annually. Since the Ten Year Plan was introduced in 1980 sheep numbers are up 29% to 311,000, beef cows up 55% to 2000 head and the islanders have become so proficient in milk production that quotas had to be introduced several years before the European controls.

"Before, survival was the word for country living here", recalls farmer Jack Priest, "About the only happenings were farm displeasing sales and funerals."

Today, it's investment instead of emigration, with low interest (3%) on ten year loans; cash incentives for increasing beef cow numbers, feeding cattle, or for buying a bull. There's financial aid for liming and fertilising land; for Island AI services, farm training courses, or for modernising dairy equipment.

And island exports have kept pace with the new farm spirit. From only one of the eight slaughterhouses on the island, last year some 10,000 Shetland lamb carcasses were shipped to gourmet restaurants the world over - from Singapore's Raffles Hotel to the London Hilton. It is planned to double output during 1986, adding 28 to the staff and building a tannery in order to increase the income per lamb 100 percent by using hides for moccasins and jackets. The island's lamb trade has doubled in the past five years - but the Shetlander's are not resting on their laurels, with exhibits at national sales and shows and official trials for more carcass improvement with bigger Charolais and Texel terminal sires. Machinery syndicates have been founded, more fertiliser is being used and there's a change-over to silage instead of the labour-intensive and usually low quality hay. Sheep are now housed before lambing, and the cows are inside in new sheds the winter through. Another farm sideline, peat is cut with a new machine, dried and delivered to households throughout the islands. Self-sufficiency was always there among the Shetlanders and now oil has allowed them to expand into a life that may not be easier, but is certainly more productive.

With acknowledgement to 'The Furrow' - a publication of the John Deere Company

MORE ROOM NEEDED ?

Instead of all the hassle of moving to a larger house why not consider an extension to your present home?

It is the General Development Order (GDO) under the Town and Country Planning Act which lays down the rules concerning alterations that may be planned for a single family dwelling. Under the GDO's 'permitted development' rule the original size of a single family dwelling (but not a flat or maisonette) may be enlarged by 70 cubic metres or 15% of the cubic area up to a maximum of 115 cubic metres, provided:

(i) The addition does not exceed the original height of the building.

(ii) The addition does not go beyond the forward-most point of the building as it fronts on to a highway.

(iii) The extension is not higher than 4 metres if it comes within 2 metres of a boundary - except for a loft conversion or any other alteration being made to the original roof.

(iv) It is not terraced or end-of-terrace property (for which the allowance is reduced to 50 cubic metres or 10%.

(v) The area of ground covered by buildings does not exceed 50% of the total (excluding the ground area of the original house.

Under the 'permitted development' rule you may not create a new access to your property

If an old put building is taken down when building, say, a kitchen extension, then the amount of cubic footage which you 'save' can be taken into account when assessing the overall size of your proposed extension.

By being careful to plan any extension within 'permitted development' it is very probable you will not need planning

permission. But the onus is on you to prove that the proposed extension is a 'permitted development' and you should check with the local planning officer and get an agreement - in writing - that planning permission is not required.

Remember, though, you'll still need approval under the Building Regulations.

The Building Act 1984 came into force on the 11th November 1985, revoking and replacing the Building Regulations 1976, making life a little simpler, giving wider exemption.

A garage does not count as an enlargement of a property if it is sited more than 5 metres from the house and the original size of your house is as it was in 1948. A porch can be constructed provided that the floor area is not more than two square metres and not more than 3 metres above ground level, though it must be more than 2 metres from any boundary between your garden and the highway.

A shed, greenhouse - even a swimming pool may be built within the boundary of your house provided that you meet certain conditions. You may also build an aviary, summerhouse or even a sauna cabin, but you may not go beyond the building line and cannot use more than half your garden.

Do remember that the Planning Department of the South Hams District Council at Totnes is there to help and advise you. They can tell you if what you would like to do can be done without actual planning permission and you would be well advised - in fact treat it as an essential preliminary procedure to do so. After all enquiry will cost you nothing.

WALTER DEE

FOOTPATHS

The Golf Club is erecting a stile to replace the kissing gate which gave access from the golf course to the public footpath between the church and Bantham. Any person crossing the golf course should be fully aware of the risk they face is so doing.

W.G.LADD

Parish Clerk, W.G.Ladd writes:-

PARISH COUNCIL CONCERNS. ROAD OBSTRUCTIONS. Are additional YELLOW LINES in Thurlestone and Bantham desirable? Vehicles parked unwisely have again caused problems. At least one Ambulance has recently been delayed and the implications of emergency vehicles being obstructed cannot be ignored. Opinions and suggestions are sought before the end of August, to enable the Parish Council's recommendations to go before the next annual meeting of the County Highways Committee. Other traffic problems or serious road defects should also be reported.

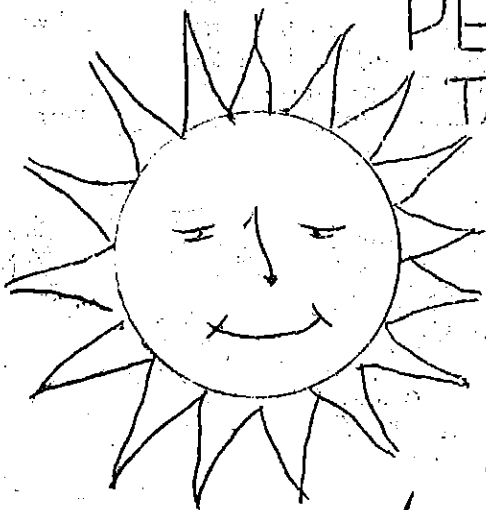
POLLUTION. Regrettably some anti-social person, indifferent to children & others being exposed to contamination by raw sewage has removed the two Notice Boards erected in June by the Parish Council and Mr. Anthony Steen M.P., to warn against bathing and playing near the stream on the western side of Leas Foot Beach. Nevertheless the publicity generated by the Notices contributed towards the attention increasingly being paid to the need to improve the cleanliness of all U.K. bathing waters. It is hoped that all concerned will recognise the wisdom of warning everyone of matters which possibly endanger the health and safety of our Parishioners and visitors, rather than concealing a potential danger which might so easily have a calamitous effect on the well being of our community and its tourist trade. We are fortunate that only the western side of one of the several excellent beaches in the Parish suffers from considerable sewage pollution. However, to obtain urgent remedial action necessary there, the Parish Council needs assistance from EVERYONE: PLEASE REPORT EVERY INSTANCE OF VISIBLE POLLUTION IMMEDIATELY to the Parish Clerk at Thorntons, South Milton. Tel: Kingsbridge 560686

TELEPHONE: KINGSBRIDGE 6494

PETER BROMFIELD

The LOCAL DAIRYMAN

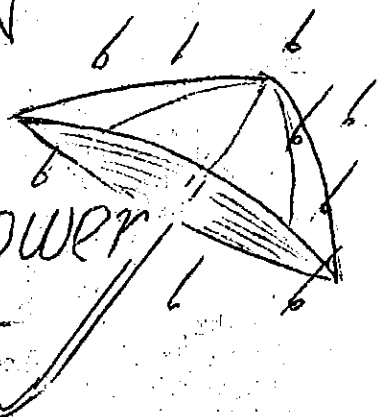
No. 1 EELSTON COTTAGES, CHURCHSTOW
near Kingsbridge



Sunshine or shower

bring a SMILE

to someone's face — send
a postal surprise — a carton



of FRESH DEVON CLOTTED CREAM

QUARTER POUND CARTON (including postage and packing).....£1. 09.

HALF POUND CARTON (including postage and packing).....£1. 81.

(Prices are based on present postal rates - August 1986)

JUST LET ME HAVE A NOTE OF WHOM YOU WISH TO RECEIVE YOUR GIFT FROM THE HEART OF

DEVON

.....
YOUR name and address.....

SEND _____ lb. Carton to: SEND _____ lb. Carton to:

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.....
.....