



MALCOLM FREEMAN - AGE 14 -

Published by Thurlestone Parish Council

RARE RELIEF?

Entering into the realms of any form of illness is a subject I treat on the basis of 'where Angels may fear to tread' !

However, because it interests me I will give a few details of information given under a heading 'Science and Medicine' in the 'Sunday Express' of 13.2.83 by a Robert Chapman:

People with severe arthritis say they are getting relief from pain by swallowing tablets containing the world's rarest element - selenium. And following a special three-months trial organised by the Arthritics Association a campaign is to be launched to make the tablets widely known in Britain, which has one of the lowest levels of natural selenium (derived from soil and water) in Europe.

The Arthritics Association carried out a trial with 100 of its worst afflicted members and reports that seven out of ten gained "considerable relief" from taking the tablets regularly. Among them Mr Charles Ware, 74, the Association's president who developed arthritis of the hip after a fall during the war. He said "I thought I would never get rid of the pain. But now I have full movement of my hip and no pain whatever".

Mr Ware added that the Association was now recommending selenium to all its members.

Research shows that the rare element works at the body's cellular level and is more effective in conjunction with vitamins A, C and E which are included in the tablets now on sale.

Claims made for selenium include it improves vitality, helps prevent heart disease and may also slow down the ageing process.

I can only say 'watch this space', because I now know a lady with a quite severe arthritic knee problem who has felt encouraged to give a three months trial to these selenium tablets - and I will be able to give a report in the May/June issue and later, on whether they have done anything for her problem - which would be 'rare relief' indeed.

Selenium tablets with vitamins A, C & E are normally obtained through your Health Food Shop.

D.W.D.

The May/June issue of 'Village Voice' will be issued before the end of April as it is expected to contain various Election letters from prospective candidates for the Parish & District.

Tree Preservation Orders

THE PARISH COUNCIL have not been unaware of complaints with regard to the removal of trees at the 'Leaside & Merchant Field' site, despite the fact that the Council had ensured Preservation Orders had been established. The 'loophole' in such orders is the application of the criteria of the Second Schedule of any such order, which allows for development, when approved, to be implemented notwithstanding the otherwise constraining effect of such an order. The developer is therefore, enabled to remove any tree which in his, and the Planning Authorities opinion, obstructs the development. To the lay mind it does appear that such orders have their limitations when a developer is granted consent to develop. However, the Parish Council have expressed their very deep concern at the felling of a mature and beautiful beech tree before they been given the statutory period to state their recommendations and observations. This tree was classified as having a life expectancy 'in excess of 10 years', and in the opinion of the Parish Council it does seem that if this sort of thing is to be permitted without any kind of penalty - then there is surely established a certain contempt for any such order - and this is something the Parish Council would not accept.

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Prudence keeps life safe, but does not always make it happy !

HEALTH FOOD CENTRE

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Telephone : 3988.

FLOWERS FOR ALL
OCCASIONS

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SERVING THE



THURLESTONE

Number FIVE

MARCH - APRIL 1983

All communications should

D.W.Drabble, 10, Backshay Close

be sent to the Editor :

South Milton, Kingsbridge TQ7 3JU

Telephone: THURLESTONE 533

EDITORIAL NOTICE

I would like to advise anyone who is interested in seeking nomination as a candidate for the District or Parish Council at the Election to be held on THURSDAY 5th MAY 1983, that the next issue - for May/June - will be ready and distributed before the end of April - thus allowing for the publication of any Election Address by any prospective candidate. Naturally an Election for either organisation will be dependent on sufficient candidates coming forward.

I am proposing to allocate a full page for each such Election Address for the very nominal charge of £5. (I ask you to remember this publication is run on a totally self-supporting basis and has no labour costs whatsoever).

I would ask that you let me have matter for publication as soon as possible - certainly not later than April 15th at the latest !! Any of these Addresses or letters will be dispersed throughout the magazine and it is not intended that there should be any editorial comment on the event.

I would suggest that this magazine with an issue which will exceed 400 copies and circulated free throughout the parish, offers a really great opportunity of ensuring that what you have to say will be widely read with great interest.

Although 'Village Voice' is sponsored by the present Parish Council, there is total support from members for the above procedure.

Editor.

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FOR SALE

Modern 3 SEATER SETTEE with unmarked removable moquette covers in brown and gold and with nylon stretch covers over. Really in almost as new condition and of a quality and comfort which makes it a genuine bargain at £75.

2 PARKER KNOLL Quaden Anne style wing EASY CHAIRS complete with excellent Lynwood covers with cream ground. £30 each

For arrangements to inspect will you first telephone Thurlestone 533.

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IDEAL HOME

MORE THAN JUST-A-COTTAGE

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KENDALL McDONALD

Kendall tells the story of his renovation of Just-A-Cottage and delves into the history of Thurlestone. And, as he says, "Once the door of the cottage is opened to it, my story goes rushing out into the South Devon countryside."

From Thurlestone Village Stores,
Thurlestone Hotel, etc., £3.95

*"To anyone with South Hams and, in particular,
Thurlestone interests, this book is a must."*
DEVON FAMILY HISTORIAN

ASHGROVE PRESS LTD
26 Gay Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2PD

PARISH NEWS AND COMMENT

(The views and opinions expressed in the pages of 'Village Voice' are those of the contributors and should not in any way be taken as necessarily being the views and opinions of any member of Thurlestone Parish Council)

PLANS - BUT NOT YET AWHILE !

From what can be ascertained it now appears most unlikely that District Council Plans and proposals for the future of the parishes in the South Hams will be open for public discussion prior to the District Council Elections in May - possibly not before June or July. This actually accords with the original recommendations of the Parish Council as they did not consider the plans and proposals of either old District or Parish Councils should be arbitrarily imposed on the new !

It might seem that Devon County Council may also be having a measure of 'rethink' over their Landscape Area Plans.

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PLANS - BUT DO WE REALLY NEED THEM !

The view has already been expressed in these pages in recent issues that a considerable number of people are going to need convincing that all these proposed plans for the future are not just an expensive exercise on the rates - and one surely cannot help but wonder why at approximately the same time both County and District have such plans in the offing - when money for the Social Services, for Education, roads, house building and other essential needs, is in such short and restricted supply !

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THAT PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

Much has already been written on this subject to make it almost a 'saga' ! However, Mr Peter Whiteley, a Joint Secretary of the Devon Playing Fields Association has written to the Parish Council after reading the article in the Jan/Feb issue "To be or not to be". He says 'I consider it an awful imposition to increase the licence fee in fact the original fee should surely have been only nominal. If there is anything this Association can do to

help please let me know. I am sure the right line of approach is through your County Councillor'.

Well - the Parish Council couldn't agree more and, in fact our County Councillor has been kept in close touch with the situation, but has not, as yet, directly replied nor indicated that he is prepared to help, so Mr Whiteley is being asked to put forward any further suggestion that might help.

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FROM ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY POLICE.

On January 1st. there was a change in organisation of the Police in the South Hams area. Though there are not any changes with the local police or the areas they cover, the Kingsbridge Division which covers this area, is now administered from Paignton instead of Plympton. What in effect has happened is that the old Division which used to include Kingsbridge, Dartmouth, Salcombe, Totnes, Ashburton, Tavistock and Plymstock has now been disbanded. Plympton, Plymstock and Tavistock have joined the Plymouth Division, the rest the Torbay Division, to form the new South Devon Division. This has been created in order to cut administrative costs, and make the force more effective. The only personnel changes are that we now have a Detective Sergeant, and our CID Officers will only cover the Kingsbridge area and not include Dartmouth, as in the past, as they now have their own Officer. All 999 calls will go to Paignton Radio Room, which we monitor, for immediate action. You can be assured full Police cover will remain, and all urgent calls dealt with immediately as in the past.

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GOODBYE 'MR CHIPS' !!

The Parish Council are very sorry the County Footpath Warden - Mr A.G.H. Tenniswood has retired - but happy to know, as a keen golfer he is looking forward to enjoying himself. Every possible good wish - Mr T. - and thank you for the excellent service you have given the parish.

WELCOME Mr Stephen Maleo - we hope to meet you very soon.

Thurlestone Annual Parish Meeting

Will be held in the
PARISH HALL Thurlestone
-- ON --

TUESDAY 22nd MARCH 1983

at 7.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN: Mr P.W.J. HURRELL.

Speakers who have accepted invitations to attend:

Mr. W. A. GRIMES
(of the Countryside Commission)

MR. STEPHEN MALEC
(Our new County Council Footpath Warden)

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Mr JACK THOMAS

Mr. KEN HIBBS

(Coastguard Sector Officer - Hope Cove)

WHO WILL SHOW A FILM & SPEAK ON THE WORK OF THE COASTGUARD SERVICE
AROUND THE LOCAL COAST

POLICE CONSTABLE JOHN CASSON
(One of our village Community Policemen)

The Chairman will invite any Thurlestone Parishioner who may be
seeking nomination in the forthcoming District Council Election
to introduce him/herself to the meeting

TEA & BISCUITS WILL BE SERVED DURING
AN INTERVAL

A most interesting evening is in prospect - and there
will be the usual period for parishioners to question
any speaker or the Chairman on any matter relevant to
the well-being of the Parish

(This Notice does not necessarily indicate the order
in which speakers will address the meeting)

Formal Notice of this Meeting will be posted on the
various Parish Notice Boards in due time.

The Members of THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL:

CHAIRMAN: Mr P.W.J.Hurrell.....	Thurlestone	496
VICE CHAIRMAN: Mr D.J.Yeoman.....	" "	607
Mr E.T.Stidston.....	" "	242
Miss R.S. Stocken.....	" "	257
Mr R.Adams.....	" "	247
Mr J. Dayment.....	" "	295
Mr D.W.P.Grose.....	" "	375
CLERK: D.W.Drabble.....	" "	533
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR. Mr J.Thomas.....	" "	269
THURLESTONE PARISH OWN 'COMMUNITY CARE'		
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mrs Davenport	" "	297
1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mrs Collett	" "	543
and Mrs Moore	" "	548
5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mrs Eaton	" "	404
and Mrs Jeffery	" "	676
Also EVENING PERIOD ; Miss R.S.Stocken	" "	257

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Planning Department -- -- -- -- -- TOTNES 997-864499

Technical Services Department, Finance Department (rates)
are all on the same Totnes number. Simply ask for the
Department you require.

KINGSBRIDGE POLICE STATION.....KINGSBRIDGE 9-2326
(Our village Community Policemen - Constable Barrett
and Constable Casson.

SOUTH WEST WATER - EMERGENCY - FREEPHONE 920

SOUTH WEST ELECTRICITY BOARD - EMERGENCY - TORQUAY 26200

LOCAL MILK DELIVERIES.....	Thurlestone	888
LOCAL FRESH FISH DELIVERIES.....	"	355
ELECTRICAL.....	"	348
NEWSPAPERS.....	"	211
WINDOW CLEANING.....	"	851
VILLAGE GARAGE SERVICE.....	"	220
POST OFFICE STORES.....	"	230
BUILDING REPAIRS.....	"	496
and also.....	"	525
RADIO & TELEVISION.....	Kingsbridge	9-3116

The Editor would like to apologise to the holder of
Telephone No. Thurlestone 296. By his kindly
co-operation Mr Dayment sold out his potatoes -
which should have been advertised under the number
295. He has already apologised to Mr Dayment !

Alls well - that ends well.

MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR -1.



by Daphne Julian



In my youth I was always made to take a summer job - Mother said so - and who was I to argue !

In 1937 I was told that I was to help "do teas" in the hut at South Milton sands -(the beach with the 'T' Rock in it).

At 2.0'clock every weekday I travelled with May to the Links Hotel in the privately owned 14 seater. It would be full of mothers and children from the village. Not many cars then, you either caught the bus or you walked ! At journeys end we had to carry a milk churn of fresh water across the wooden bridge and then gratefully put it down in the 'lean-to' at the back of the wooden hut.

The hut would be extremely hot as "Auntie" - the owner - had been driven down before lunch to light up the Valor Perfection stoves to get the water boiling, and there was a strong smell of paraffin fumes wafting around everywhere. On arrival I was immediately told to start preparing the trays. A round tin tray, two blue cups..and saucers, a tin teapot, very small jug of milk and half a bowl of sugar. My next job was to undo the boxes of Lyons cup-cakes - they were done up in threes in greaseproof paper, and sat resplendently in their strong silver corrugated cups - chocolate, very sticky, raspberry orange and butterscotch. These were then put in rows of colour for quick service.

The large slab cake - locally made and rather crumbly, had to be cut in slices - "don't cut too many, or too big - I don't want any wasted" I would hear, as I attempted to get the slices the same size, and many a crumbly piece I popped into my mouth to avoid a reprimand !

Then the mammoth job of cutting the bread and butter - and BUTTER it always was. A chunk was cut off

a large yellow slab put on a saucer, and then placed on the edge of the stove, and in no time it was a large pool of liquid. I held the large square loaf and sawed through the crunchy brown crusts, and managed then to cut through the rather doughy - but delicious - centre. These rather mis-shapen squares were then buttered with the instruction - "go right to the edge with the butter" - because crusts were never cut off.

Just before opening time at 3.0 clock I had to dig the jam out of a 7lb stone jar, and put a little into paste jars. This was always left until last, so as not to attract the wasps.

The shutters were thrown open, and the linen hatted public arraigned. Tea was made, the food requested was put on one plate with one knife and one spoon - the cost 1/6 (15p) for tea for two, and a shilling (5p) deposit on the tray. After the first surge, and having to empty the water into the harvest kettles to re-boil, the children would request ice creams - and then began my real fear....

First I had to open a lid of a grey ice-box, in which nestled home made ice cream from Moorland Minerals of Kingsbridge. Then with a spoon I had to dig some out, with the other hand I held a spring handled oblong container in which I had placed a wafer - on top of that I attempted to flatten the ice cream, and then place another wafer on top. The two problems being that if you didn't get the ice cream flat the top wafer always broke in half, and if you released the spring too quickly the whole ice-cream fell out - but if neither of those two disasters happened you slid it on to a small piece of paper and handed it to the lucky child ! There were two grooves on the contraption - half way down for a penny ice

The Hut on the Beach

- all the way down for two-pence, and for three-pence a blob of Devonshire cream on the ice cream, which made it even more difficult to manage, as the wafer then slid about! After all that the container was put into a bowl of rather milky water to wash, and dried to await the next sale.

The afternoon wore on, and the trays began to return - washing up the crocks in a small tin bowl on an orange box - with very little boiling water. I cannot remember a tray ever being stolen though sometimes there ^{were} breakages, but these were cheerfully paid for.

At 7.0'clock the shutters were closed, and we had tea. The bread and butter which was left over - or more cut, a tin of pink salmon opened which was divided between us, and a cup cake each - and tea, provided there was enough water left. Never had I tasted such a tea, the juice of the pink salmon on the plate was mopped up with the crusty bread, and the sweet sickly cup cake to finish with.... it was mouth watering!

At about 7.30 "Uncle" would arrive in a big car, bringing a tank of water for the morrow, we would pile in and drive through the lane to South Milton, and on Sunday I would get my weekly pay of 2/6 (12¹/₂p)!

My school holidays went far too quickly, the visitors left, the beach became quiet, and the Hut closed 'till the following season - but by then I had been found another summer job...by my Mother.

D.J.

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I KNOW HOW MUCH READER'S ENJOY THESE
'YESTERYEAR' YARNS - AND THERE MUST
BE MANY AN UNTOLD STORY THAT YOU
COULD TELL - AND NOW YOU HAVE YOUR
OWN VILLAGE MAGAZINE - WHY NOT HELP!

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COMMUNITY CARE from previous column:

plates ready for taking back. And remember, a ready smile will make the driver who delivers the meal, feel it has been so very worth while to give the time and effort fequired to help in this way.

R.S.S.

All drivers are 'volunteers'!

MEALS ON WHEELS

WHEN our local Community Care project was first launched it was not envisaged that, amongst the varied calls we could expect for assistance, we would be likely to receive more than just the occasional person requiring a cooked meal because he or she was temporarily incapacitated or left without help. It now seems that there is a need for a local Meals on Wheels Service in the Parish to supply nourishing balanced meals at least twice a week to those finding it increasingly difficult to cook adequately for themselves. It goes without saying that everyone should be encouraged to remain independent as long as they are physically and mentally able to ensure and maintain a good state of health, and one cannot but applaud those who push tired legs to the shops to buy food and cook meals even though they may have little interest in the end-product, but it "keeps them going".

The example of people trying not to become a burden on friends and family is evidenced everywhere, but at the same time it should perhaps be recognised that as we get older potential dangers creep into our lives due to deafness, bad sight, forgetfulness, and one of these is the danger of fire. Most of us use heat in some form for our cooking, cups of tea or a hot water bottle, so the benefit of arranging "Meals on Wheels" would at least lessen this risk fractionally on the two-days-a-week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) the service is planned. So if you are sick at home, have just returned from hospital or are incapacitated in any other way and feel that a appetising substantial meal at a cost of 55p, delivered by one of our Parish volunteer drivers, would help you, and you can obtain a prescription from your doctor, the Meals on Wheels Service will be happy to help.

June Jefferies will cook you a meal you can enjoy on your own, and for your part we ask that you have 55p ready for the driver, and

EN



Dad, why do we have Parish Councils



??

Well son, I suppose there are a few folk who might ask the same question, but I would tend to think it is because they don't really take a great deal of interest in what goes on in their parish.

Perhaps I should tell you, without going into the history of parish councils, that they were established as a freely elected body of people which could be drawn from every walk of life and who, hopefully, had the interests of their community at heart.

Unfortunately they did sometimes lack foresight, for example in this parish they let the Village Green become established as a golf course, so that 70 years or so later, when the Village Green Registration Act was passed, there was no village green to be registered through lack of established useage in that capacity over such a long period. A great pity hindsight cannot become foresight, my son !

Before the re-organisation of Local Government (which occurred in April 1974 - at least that was the actual date it came into being) a parish such as Thurlestone had two elected representatives on a Rural Council based at Kingsbridge. Now you see, son, they were more often than not locally born and bred, living within the parish boundary, and though I would suppose occasionally someone had a personal axe to grind, they were fundamentally good sound local people aware of local needs and with the well-being of the parish at heart.

However, Parish Councils at that time had little power - for example the developments at Glebefield and the Mead were all granted consent by the old planning authority - Devon County Council - and I would doubt the parish hadn't a clue of what was going on !

With re-organisation one of the main changes was to give a Statutory right to Parish Councils to receive notification of all planning applications within the parish.

The Parish Council were then in a position to advise the new Planning Authority - the South Hams District Council - their recommendations and opinions.

Regrettably, of course, the old Rural Council was disbanded and replaced by this new and grander organisation - but the parish could no longer be represented by two local people - and had now to share one representative with two adjoining parishes - South Milton and West Alvington, and what was more, the whole set up had now become a much more remote and detached form of local government and it seems obvious, my son, that because of a much greater number of representatives coming from a much greater and wider area, often I would think, had to rely on the advice and recommendations of the officers in their employ !

I can only speak as I see things, son ! Anyway, over the past few years I've noted this Parish Council successfully prevented the closure of the old roadway leading to Leasfoot Beach from the bottom of the new Link Road, and when the footpath leading to Broadsands - from the top of Eddystone Road - was closed they obtained such a mass of declarations claiming unfettered useage that in the end the path was re-opened. However, son, I would like to say that a footpath is a footpath, and walkers should keep to it and not go wandering about !

Of course, there was a somewhat memorable matter not so long ago regarding the development of blocks of flats down at Leasfoot and Merchants Field. I believe the Parish Council fought for two years to prevent any development on that site except for the conversion of the large houses. I believe they were supported in their efforts by the South Hams Society, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, the Nature Trust, their own



Continuing:

DAD, WHY DO WE HAVE
PARISH COUNCILS ?

Village Appraisal and a Society against sewage pollution of the sea. The Parish Council put in a great deal of work in getting the proposal turned down by the District Council Planning Committee, although it was understood to have the recommendation of their planning department. However, the development was given the 'go ahead' at a Public Appeal before an official appointed by the Ministry of the Environment - and one must draw one's own conclusion when you know that the Government had then adopted a procedure that development was to be promoted as a factor of economics and employment - rather than public opinion !

Some years ago I recall a Public Meeting called to consider a proposal for taking over (by compulsory purchase I assume) an area of 6 acres behind the Church and Parkfield - for a playing field and car park. That Meeting turned the proposal down - nem con - that means unanimously, my son. The same meeting proposed the Parish Council of the day to try and get authority to make use of the Primary School Playing area for use outside school hours. Eventually the County Council approved the issue of a licence for such use provided the Parish Council pay for protective fencing - which cost nearly £500. That project has not proved the success I am sure every one concerned hoped for, and I would think some pretty serious thought must be put in to establish a real parish playing field, suitable for football and any other game the youngsters want. Do you agree, my son ?

When it came to such things as the celebration of 25 years of Her Majesty's reign - the Parish Council made sure every youngster had a commemorative mug - and again when Prince Charles and Lady Diana were married.

Helping out with a grant of £500 towards rewiring the Parish Hall, trying to ensure a fair measure of 'locals' get any vacant council house (whilst there are some remaining unsold !), minor things like a light for the Parkfield steps, a railing for the steps in the raised footpath bordering the main road, signposting of parish footpaths - work carried out by a councillor ! - pressing hard to see re-establishment of

the Coastal Footpath where erosion has caused an inland diversion for the moment - still plodding on with a slow moving District Council and Home Office over Avon Estuary Byelaws - constantly having to complain about what the Parish Council consider is a totally inadequate sewerage pipeline - especially when you give thought to the development still to take place at the Mead and at Leasfoot and Merchants Field - you cannot really call a pipeline to the sea a sewage system - can you son ? It really is horrific in this day and age to put raw untreated sewage into the sea - and charge the residents full price, too ! Well, son, I could go on and on. The Thurlestone Parish Council were one of the first in the South Hams to hold an 'Open Session' during every council meeting, enabling we parish-ioners to go along and raise any local problem dear to our heart - and sponsoring a magazine seems to me to have brought the operations of 'Parish Government' into every home in the parish, and I shouldn't forget to mention something pretty important - the Parish Council established an Emergency Officer who in turn established a Emergency Group and policy for the parish. You should know son, as a scout, 'being prepared' is better than being caught napping, whatever the emergency which we'll hope is never worse than a heavy snowstorm !

There is going to be an Election for both Parish and District on May 5th 1983 - and I hope you can now accept son, that a Parish (or District) Councillor has to be possessed of a certain amount of dedication to the well being of the community he serves - and in the case of a Parish Councillor - without any pay ! Of course, it is mighty important for the Parish who serves as their representative on the District Council - and I must say it is pretty important that people turn out and vote. Apathy, son, is one of democracy's worse enemies !

Graham Andrews, Chairman of the Devon Association of Parish Councils is recorded as saying "If a Parish Council is to feel that its community wants it to work well, then it needs to be voted in at an election. Before that can happen there must be sufficient candidates"



Table d'Hôte

LUNCHEON

Various Fruit Juices
or
Creme Du Barry

Deep Fried Fillet of Plaice with
Tartare Sauce, Lemon and French
Fried Potatoes

or

Roast Half of Spring Chicken with
Stuffing

or

Beef Salad

Buttered Savoy Cabbage
Turnip au Gratin
Roast Potatoes

Dutch Apple Cake & Custard Sauce
or
Various Ices

Three Courses £3.25
Two Courses £2.95
Main Course £2.50

All inclusive of VAT @ 15%

LUNCHEON

Various Fruit Juices
or
Cream of Vegetable

Deep Fried Cod in Batter, Tartare
Sauce, Lemon and French Fried
Potatoes

or

Vol-au-Vent of Chicken, Ham and
Mushroom

or

Melton Mowbray Pie Salad

Buttered Savoy Cabbage
Saute Potatoes
Parsnips Provinoale

Mandarin Cherry Gateau
or
Various Ices

Three Courses £3.25
Two Courses £2.95
Main Course £2.50

All inclusive of VAT @ 15%

Thurlestone Hotel



Tel. Thurlestone 382

Our Parish Church lives on

WHEN the villagers had successfully topped out their church tower, they might reasonably have anticipated a pause for reflection. It was not to be. Henry VIII was having differences of opinion with the Pope and the upheaval of the Reformation was on the way. Only after a century of bloodshed and contradictory orders from London did Devonians finally agree to abandon Roman Catholicism and become Protestants. They then faced the austerities of Cromwell's Puritanism for a few years, during which most of the pleasures of life were forbidden and the rector thrown out and reinstated. They must have wondered what was coming next. In the event, a period of religious laxity set in with weak bishops in Exeter and absentee or fox hunting parish priests. At the beginning of Victoria's reign, Bishop Phillpott greatly improved Church worship and the standing of the Church. His strict discipline drove some to the burgeoning non-conformist chapels but not, I think, in Thurlestone where the parishioners preferred to remain with their own rector. Since then the Church has had to face fresh problems, as indeed it always has, but it retains a nucleus of dedicated followers and casts a benevolent penumbra over many more.

IT SEEMS to me to be impossible to know a parish church without knowing at least something about the people who go there. Even those of us who do not attend services as regularly as we should are aware of a personal continuity from past to present which makes it what it is. For instance, one does not have to go further than the lych gate, which quite properly gives temporary accommodation to coffins before funeral services, to notice that latterly it has doubled as a shelter for the rector's bicycle in the rainy season. The cemetery is filled with names that are still heard in the village and nearby parishes. I was interested to see who had been buried in a privileged place nearest to the altar and found on the far or north side a precisely aligned row of Perratons with the better known family of Square in rather disorderly ranks at the rear.

THE PORCH will forever be associated with smuggling. We know that for generations spirits were temporarily hidden on the roof and that the first part of Kipling's line "brandy for the parson and 'baccy for the clerk" was true for Thurlestone. I am not too sure about the tobacco. On entering the church we soon see the little embellishments that have been added over the years, for example the carved pew ends here and there and the hassocks that were neatly woven by former villagers.

AN IMPRESSIVE golden Crucifix hangs at the entrance to the choir. It was carved in Exeter and marks the line of the former rood screen which stretched across the church until it fell into disrepair and was taken down. It was a relic of Catholicism when priests shut themselves off during services. I do not regret its removal because surely the congregation should be able to see what is going on and anyway we have many fine screens in Devon and need go no further than South Milton to see one. Maybe I am prejudiced because as a child I was taken regularly to Exeter Cathedral where we were seated on a shelf in a side passage. I never saw the clergy or the choir because they were on the other side of a high stone wall. Nor did I hear a sermon because we small boys were bundled out just before it started and made our several ways home.

ANOTHER CRUCIFIX, carved at Oberammergau by one of the actors in the Passion Play, graces the altar and a third hangs on the wall nearby. Some of us would prefer plain crosses, representing Christ risen and now the conventional token of the Protestant Church, but as the rector says "You take what you are given".

THE SPLENDID organ was installed in 1908 and carried a medieval inscription which, in translation, reads "Love and not shouting reaches the ears of God". A year or so back it was necessary to a minor incident. At the end of the sermon, the rector told us the way he wished us to render a rather elusive hymn. After the first verse, which we sang with some distinction I thought, the organ started on the second. At once, the rector shouted "Not yet, Ethel". Fortunately Mrs Snowdon heard him and, after further instructions from the pulpit we managed the remaining verses without further ado. May the rector and his wife continue to provide our pastoral needs for many more years. NEVILLE C. OSWALD.

Travelling Companions

another VILLAGE VOICE special article:



In many people's minds, a vet's work involves treating sick or injured animals. While this is true for the most part, it must not be forgotten that we are always happy to advise on aspects of their care whilst in good health. Travel is such a topic on which advice is frequently sought, and does cause anxiety to pet owners.

Just as the training of a dog should equip him to be a well behaved pedestrian, it should also make him a good passenger. Car training of dogs should be started as early as possible after pups can leave their mother, and initially journeys kept short. Where public transport must be used, the same principles of training can be applied, for example, if a dog has never travelled by train, it is wise to attempt one or two short journeys before a long one to get him used to the new experience of platforms and trains. This will bring to light any problems that might be troublesome on a long journey.

All dogs travelling should be taught to sit either on a seat or floor and not permitted to jump around. Young puppies may travel better in the arms of their owner, but do remember that they will grow and may have to be driven when there is no passenger to comfort them. It can help to bring a familiar blanket or dog basket to help dogs settle on a journey.

Dogs can be as prone to travel sickness as the human passenger and puppies are more often affected. They tend to grow out of this problem as do children and it helps to withhold food for several hours prior to travel as well as avoiding excitement. Some dogs never grow out of the travel sick stage and may always present problems - here, your veterinary surgeon may need to dispense tablets. On this point, I feel that it is vitally important to stress the need always to consult him if considering giving any proprietary travel sickness medicines intended for humans, since reactions to drugs may differ. This is even more important for cats, which are sensitive to side effects of many drugs.

If you know that you have a long journey and your pet may need tablets from a vet, either for travel sickness or because you think they may be excited or distressed, do see him as soon as possible. I always find it helpful to have a trial run, with a small dose of the tablet just to make sure, within easy reach of home, that the tablets have the desired effect. There is nothing worse than setting off on a long journey, only to find that untried tablets are not as effective as you hoped!

So much for driving along the open road - sooner or later it may be necessary to leave a dog in a parked car. While you may feel that he will do you the favour of protecting the vehicle from theft, in return do make sure that ventilation is adequate, and that on hot days the car is parked in the shade. Dogs are very sensitive to heat stroke. The symptoms are severe panting and later collapse. The effort of panting will raise the body temperature even more - this is a life threatening situation needing urgent veterinary treatment.

First aid should take the form of cooling by putting the dog into a cold bath or hold hosing: this drastic step can be a life saver.

The only other problem that may occur in an unattended car can be the tendency of some dogs to chew: such habits have been known to prove expensive, as witnessed by the lady whose dog chewed his way through the seating of her Volvo - such severe destructiveness is best referred to your vet who will be pleased to assist with advice on corrective training.

So much for dogs - less frequently cats need to travel, even if only to the vet's surgery or boarding kennels. Many problems are solved by the use of a secure cat basket, a must for even the shortest journeys.

JB

Travelling companions

Great care should be taken that a cat cannot escape from the car when taking a break on a long journey. Cats do not seem to suffer from motion sickness as much as dogs, but do often cry and may in some instances become very distressed. Your vet will be pleased to assist if this is troublesome and judicious use of tranquilliser may be necessary but please bear in mind that the reactions of cats to these drugs are less predictable than in dogs, and many vets tend to try to limit their use.

A little thought and preparation can go a long way to giving both pet and owner a happy, enjoyable journey. Just as the law now demands that we humans must all 'buckle up' a final thought can be given to what can happen to pets in the event of an accident. A very frightened dog may run away from the scene of a car crash, so make sure a collar, with name tag, is worn.

One interesting point to bear in mind is that modern cars are designed to crumple on impact, protecting seated human passengers: it is worth bearing in mind that a dog travelling in the rear of an estate or hatchback with dog bars could be trapped in a crash. As food for thought, I shall close with a cautionary tale of the little dog that leapt out of an open sports car in motion, was caught in the seat belt which then dragged the poor little fellow along the road. Luckily he made an uneventful recovery but it illustrates that traffic safety is as important for pets as it is for people. A.W.

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Cambridge Buskers PACK KINGSBRIDGE THEATRE

One of the most successful shows ever staged by South Hams Theatre & Arts Trust, the Cambridge Buskers attracted so large an audience to Kingsbridge Theatre that the house was sold out and unfortunate optimists lacking a ticket had to be reluctantly turned away.

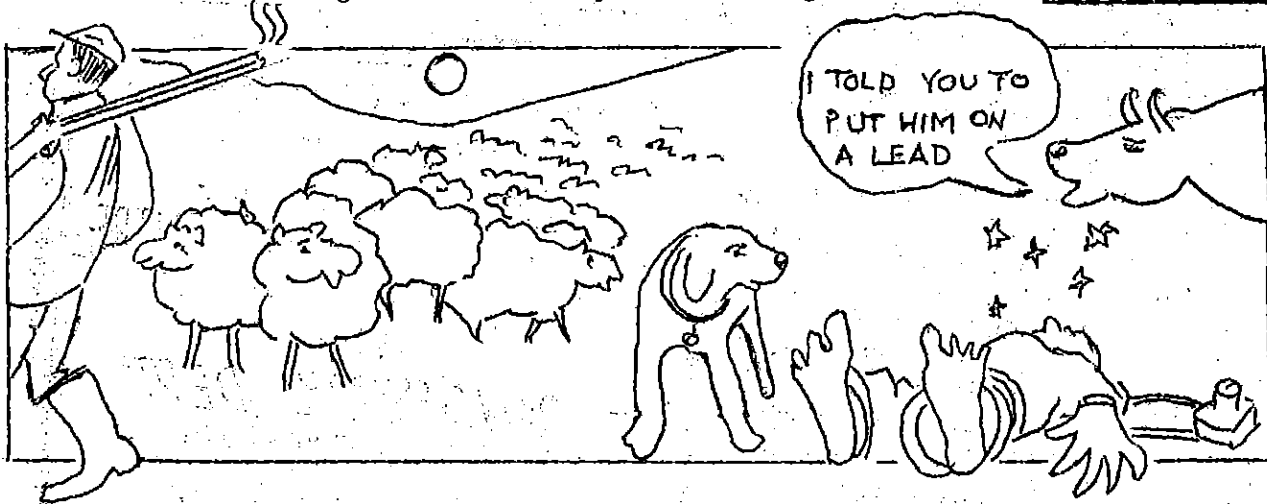
These two young performers, playing music to a packed house were, writes Brenda Steel, no ordinary street buskers with clacking spoons and bawdy song and dance.

Michael Copley's effortless playing of an astonishing range of instruments from flutes, piccolos, recorders and flageolets to a 4-inch ocarina, was pure joy, whilst Dag Ingram's wizardry on his accompanying accordion could, when he chose, conjure up a full-scale orchestra.

From Vivaldi's 'Seasons' (plus bird songs!), a spirited movement from a Mozart Horn concerto, haunting Rumanian folk dances, to a dramatic rendering of 'The Sinking of the Titanic' (discovered in a piano stool) and Beethoven's Choral Symphony, the audience was captive and enthralled.

With their humour and witty musician-ship, these two young men gave Kingsbridge an evening of rare musical enchantment.

Thank you, thank you, Cambridge Buskers!



IN ANY FIELD CONTAINING SHEEP OR ---

lambs, it is an offence for a dog to be 'at large'. Owners face a fine of up to £200 under a law which came into effect last year, if their dog is running loose in a field with sheep; it is no longer necessary to prove an actual attack by the dog. In extreme cases, the farmer has the right to shoot the dog - though the National Farmers Union says that farmers are keen to avoid extreme measures.

'Six thousand sheep or lambs are killed or maimed by dogs every year' said John Hooson, Welsh hill farmer on the N.F.U.'s Parliamentary Committee. 'We want a position where the countryside can be enjoyed by visitors, yet sheep may safely graze. This law should do much to improve relations'.

Guide dogs, police dogs, working sheep dogs and gun dogs and packs of hounds are specifically exempted. 'At large' is defined as 'on a lead or under close control'. How close is close? The NFU puts it this way: 'Watching "One Man and his dog" does not make you an instant Barbara Woodhouse. If there might be sheep about - put Fido on his lead'.

Report from Nanaimo, British Columbia.
Tuesday December 28 - 1982.....

POLAR BEAR SWIM b-b-best for years ---

About 150 people took the ice-cold plunge Sunday in the 42 degree Departure Bay waters, in the 24th annual Boxing Day 'polar bear swim'.

The swim was held in glorious sunshine with a chilly wind, and the Departure Bay was packed by a crowd estimated at over 3000. Traffic on the stretch of Departure Bay Road adjacent to the beach was reduced to a snail's pace during and immediately after the swim.

"It's great to see Nanaimo people turning out for a family outing like this" said Mayor Frank Ney.

The youngest and oldest 'polar bears' were Stephen Neilson 6, and Ed. Nelson Sr. 75 - both of Nanaimo.

F.W. 'Bud' Shillabeer of England travel-
-led the farthest to take the plunge,
while Maureen Shaughnessy of Hawaii was
a close second,

Reader's Letter:

The Editor.

Dear Sir,

I wonder if any of your many readers can help me with some local information:

Where was, or is, Oxenham Plantation?

I am told that in years gone by it was a nesting place for peregrine falcons, which I am sure have long gone, like the pair which bred near Bolt Tail, although there have been a few sightings of these fine birds around the Kingsbridge Estuary in recent years.

One ex-Thurlestonian, now South Miltonian, told me where Oxen Wood was. Is it the same place?

Kendall McDonald,
Just-a-Cottage,
Thurlestone.

The Editor will gladly pass on any information on this subject.

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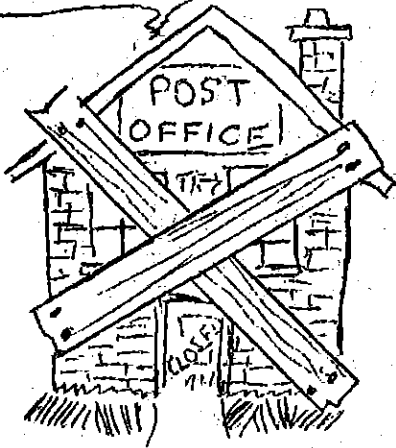
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THE POSTMASTER'S
INCOME DEPENDS ON
HOW MUCH BUSINESS HE DOES



Help your Post Office by cashing your benefits locally.

Over the next eighteen months, pensioners and other people who receive allowances from the state, including child benefit, will get a letter from the Department of Health and Social Security that offers them the chance of having their pensions or benefits credited directly into a bank, a building society account, or the National Girobank. This would be done every four weeks or every thirteen weeks in arrears.

Sub Postmasters in country districts are worried about this new arrangement, because it means less business for small post offices which need as much work for government

departments as they can get. The Devon and Exeter Branch of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters point out that it is not compulsory to have your pension paid into a bank. If pensioners or parents wish to carry on collecting their money from the village Post Office on a weekly basis, as and when they want it, they are free to do so. They can ignore that letter!

If they have their pensions or benefit credited to a bank account, payment in arrears means they will have to wait four or thirteen weeks until the first credit is made. Think of that, and remember that Post Offices are usually open six days a week and don't make bank charges. What's more industrial disputes at the computer centres are not unknown - there was one last year - and could result in credits being stopped. The government, to give them their due, have foreseen this eventuality. There are provisions for people to collect their pension or allowance at a Post Office in an emergency!

But suppose the local sub-post office has been forced to close by then through the loss of its social security work. The Federation are making it known that any further loss of work at sub-post offices caused by centralisation of accounting procedure at the DHSS and other government departments puts them under even greater risk of closure. That means losing a vital amenity to the community

USE IT OR LOSE IT COULD COME TRUE

THE NEXT ISSUE
OF VILLAGE VOICE
WILL COVER THE
MAY-JUNE PERIOD
- but because of
the Election on
May 5th. it will
be distributed
in late April.

The closing date
for that issue
will be APRIL 14th

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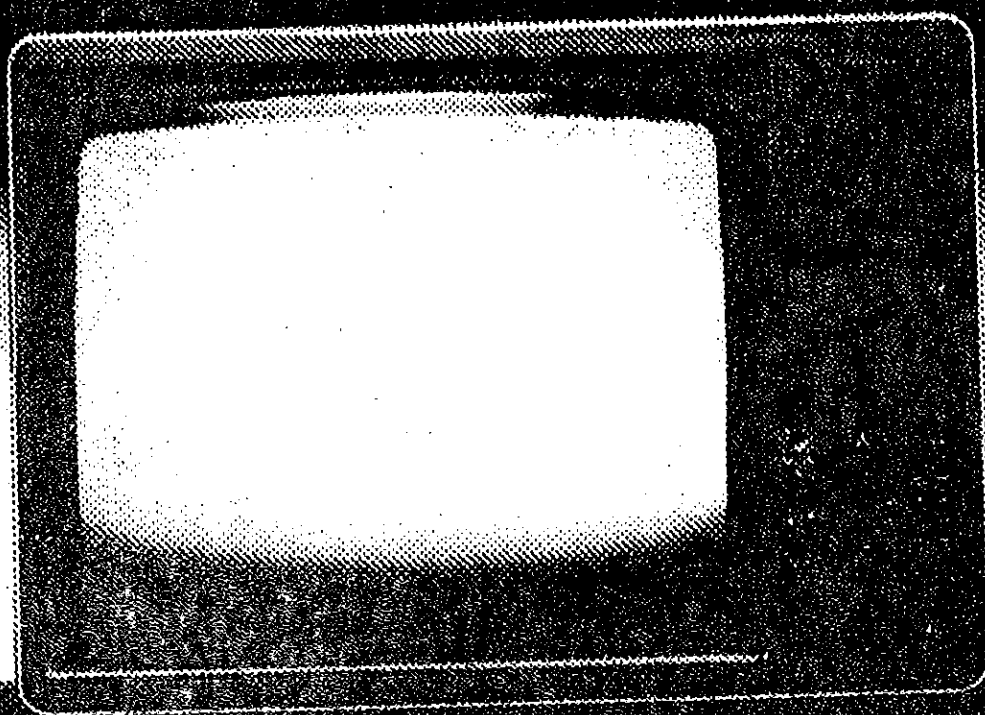


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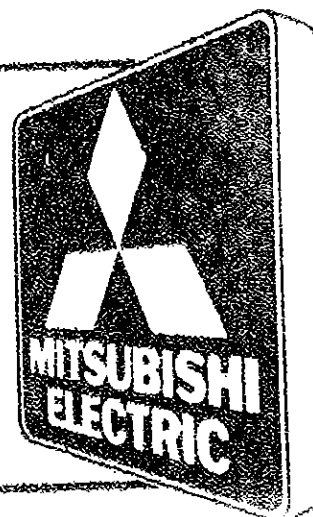
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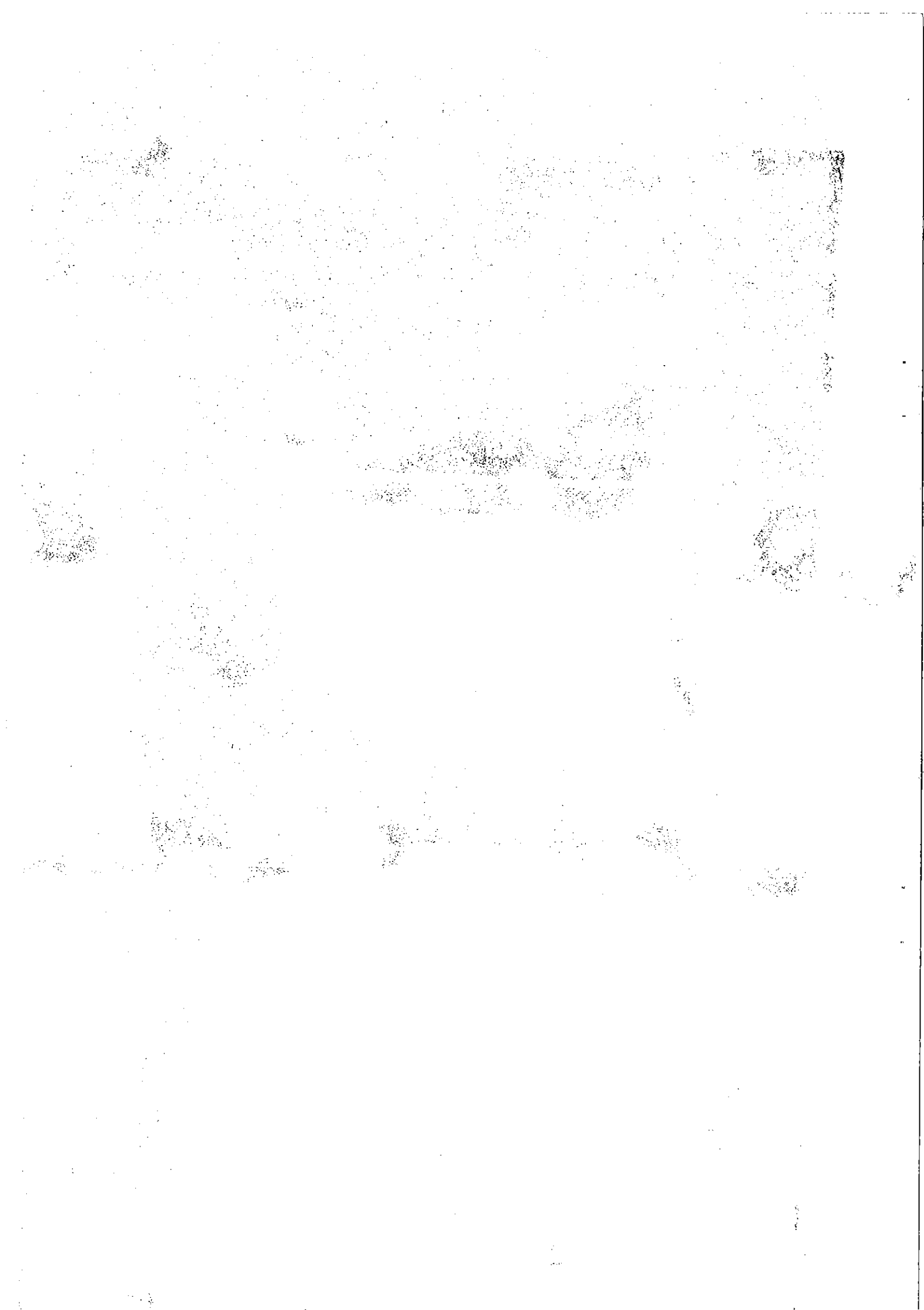
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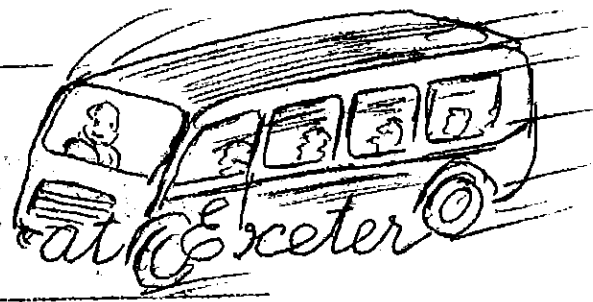


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Teenagers take a trip to Police Headquarters at Exeter

On Saturday the 8th January a group of fifty teenagers from the parishes of Thurlestone and South Milton, came with me for a look at Police Headquarters at Exeter. This is not only the administrative centre for the force, but also has a training establishment with a sports complex. The sports complex offering a swimming pool, games area with snooker, table tennis, etc. as well as squash and a sports hall catering for most team sports.

We left the area by coach at 8 a.m., and on arrival at Exeter spent the morning burning off energy in the sports complex. After lunch, the force helicopter, traffic division and radio room were visited. On return to the area at about 4.30 p.m. I think everybody including myself were very tired. Despite this, the day was a tremendous success and everybody enjoyed themselves.

It is possible from time to time to arrange trips from the area to places that everybody would find interesting. The next one, which will be in late February or early March, will be to a Military establishment for the day. I will make every effort to ensure all teenagers are invited. If I omitted to invite any youngsters over the age of 11 on the last trip, I can only apologise, and say that if you would like to forward your name and address to me at Kingsbridge Police Station, as soon as possible, I will ensure you will be invited to the next one. Thanks to 'Village Voice' for printing the leaflets for the Exeter trip.

Pc JOHN CASSON

A few points about School Transport

This article is based on a contribution from Mr George Barnes, the Senior Assistant Education Officer for the County published in the Autumn issue of 'Village Green' which is published by the Community Council of Devon. Here are a few extracts:

Children are entitled to free school transport if they are attending the nearest appropriate school, and if it is beyond walking distance. Walking distance is two miles for children under eight, three miles for children aged eight and over. The distance is measured by the nearest available walking route from home to school, and may include recognised tracks and footpaths.

Suppose the children have to walk along a busy main road, or a lane with dangerous blind corners? Then it is the parent's responsibility to see that their children reach school safely, not the Education Committee's.

Nor does school transport have to be from door to door. If children live beyond the walking distances, transport must be provided from a point reasonably near their home to a point

reasonably near their school. The Education Committee may be able to do this by providing a place on a public service bus which passes half a mile or so from the home and sets children down some distance from the school.

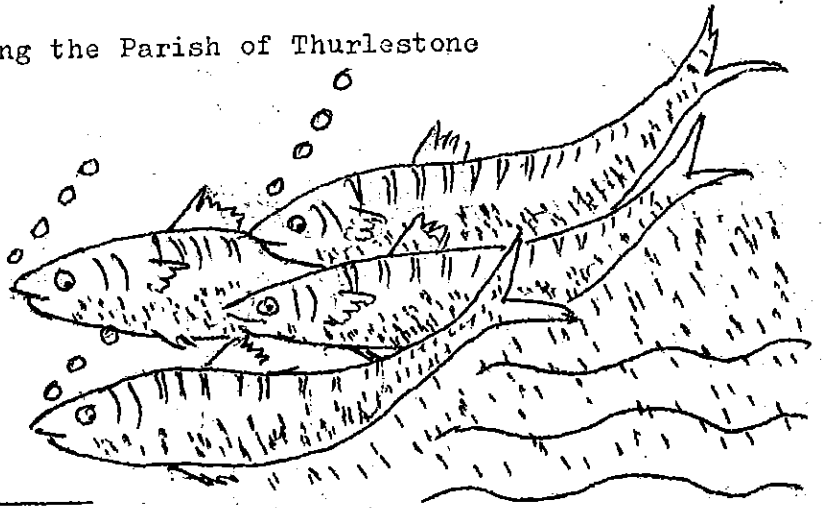
Often the substance of complaints, says Mr Barnes, is that parents feel the route which the children have to walk to school is dangerous. If the distance is within the two or three mile limit, the Panel will most likely remind parents that distance, not safety, is the reason for providing school transport, and that it is the parent's own responsibility to see that children reach school and come home safely.

If, as a parent, you feel that your child is being unfairly treated over school transport you should set out the facts in a letter to the Area Education Officer, who will then investigate. Sometimes coaches or taxis used to carry children to school have spare seats - and it is possible these may be offered to children as a privilege at £10 a term



MALCOLM FREEMAN

When the Pilchard was KING



THE STORY SO FAR :

Kendall McDonald

is making desperate attempts to clear his grandmamma's name. She is suspected of being the leader of a smuggling gang based in Thurlestone in the late 19th century. McDonald's investigations led him unwittingly into Totnes where he is told: "Of course they gave up smuggling in Thurlestone long ago, which is more than you can say for Bantham!" Shocked by this amazing revelation, McDonald broadens the scope of his inquiries.....

My first inclination was to drive straight over to Bantham and see what they'd got available...I mean in the way of evidence of smuggling of course ...but wiser counsel prevailed. So, posing as a simple gr...holidaymaker, I entered the hostelry known as the Sloop.

You couldn't have a better place than the Sloop to start inquiries into smuggling. Or so you'd think. After all it's been there since the 1400's and must have seen a smuggling run or two in its time. Course, the landlord, Neil Girling hasn't been there all that long, but he simply wouldn't discuss modern-day smuggling with me. I told him over a glass of lemonade that I was only trying to clear dear grandmamma's name, but he seemed to think I was selling something, poached salmon perhaps, and I found myself outside in the street much earlier than I had intended.

Not that the main street of Bantham is a bad place to be if you're researching into smuggling. It's a fact that Whiddon's blacksmith shop, which was where the house called Whiddons now stands, was a favourite hiding place for smuggled goods. There were two forges in the smithy and over each one was a trapdoor to the loft. You couldn't see the openings - the smoke from the forges had grimed over any gaps. Up through those trapdoors would go any goods that wanted keeping out of sight until the heat, apart from that of the

forges, was off.

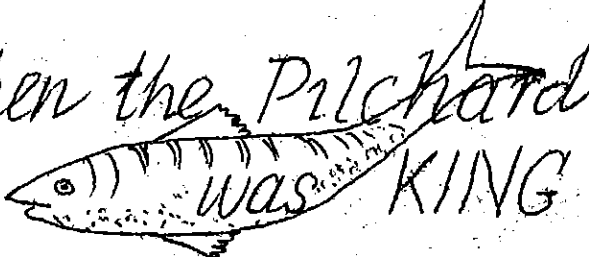
There's more obvious evidence of smuggling in the street though. Those tiny peepholes - you can hardly call them windows - in the bedrooms of the cottages were made so that the inmates could be given a quiet call at night - a handful of grit was enough - when there was smuggling work to be done.

Yes, smuggled spirits were often landed at Bantham from ships ostensibly engaged in pilchard fishing. Carts brought the kegs up from the quay concealed under loads of seaweed for manure or fish for pickling.

Fishing was one of the main reasons for Bantham being there at all. I suspect that the Sloop's existence too depended on the pilchard fishing. Don't think of this fishing as something small and local, confined to just a few boats. The men of Bantham, Bigbury and Challaborough would catch as many as 12 million fish in a single day! And they exported their catch to France, Italy and even Spain.

This export trade was in cured fish. They were cured at Bigbury in a building opposite Burgh Island and at Bantham in a stone "Pallace" (so the fishermen called it), now a ruin on the right of the little road half-way down to the modern boathouse and quay. They called it a "pallace" presumably

When the Pilchard was KING



Continued:

after a belief that the shoals of pilchards were led by one giant fish they called the Pilchard King, but in fact it must have been a stinking reeking place in direct contrast to the splendid building opposite, which towers up from the riverside and bears the name Pilchard Cellars and the date 1779.

Pilchard fishing was an ancient craft and lasted until the 19th century when catches grew so small that it was not economic anymore. The date when the pilchards stopped coming was somewhere around 1866, when one whole fleet of fishing boats could only catch some 200 hogsheads between them in a year. A tiny haul when you know that in 1847, for example, export alone was 40,883 hogsheads. A hogshead was a large cask of 52½ gallons capacity which on average took some 2,500 fish.

But none of the Bantham fishermen before that believed that the pilchards would ever stop coming; no matter how many they trapped each year in their nets. The pilchards wintered deep to the south of the Scilly Isles, but each year at the end of July or beginning of August they came to the Devon and Cornish coasts in their millions.

They came in such vast shoals that men said they could actually impede the passage of ships and it is true that they often discoloured the water as far as the eye could see. They came up Channel between the Scillies and Land's End, came on and on until they flooded into Bigbury Bay. They sometimes even reached Start Point, but they never went any further.

And in the middle of October another flood of pilchards headed this way. At first the Bantham men went out to beyond the Eddystone to catch them with drift nets, but soon the shoals were back in the Bay and the great slaughter could begin again. In the Bay the taking of the shoals was done with seine nets.

Can you imagine what it was like in Bantham when the pilchard fishing was at its height? Down by the riverside the yacht club boathouse was not there. In its place were a huddle of shacks crowded against the high bank. The river was a

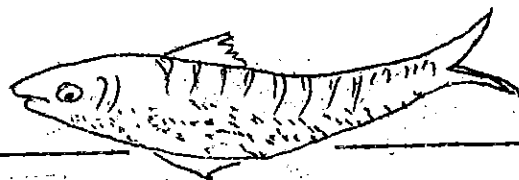
little deeper than today. Some say that all the rubble thrown into the river during the building of the yacht club boathouse has made it shallower, but I think that is doubtful. It must have been quite shallow then, for if you look at low tide you can see a wall which is all that is left of an arm of the old quay which jutted out into the river, providing not only wet moorings for boats, but also access to the deep channel at all times. Decent sized boats could then get out to sea at all states of the tide.

Certainly the river must have been deeper - all rivers tend to silt themselves up with time - particularly around the mouth. The Aune was once a major traffic artery. Cargoes from ships were off-loaded at Bantham into barges for transport up river - with the tide! - to Aveton Gifford and the main road. And there was, in later years, a regular steamship run from Bantham to Plymouth.

In the hey-day of pilchard fishing you would have seen quite an armada of boats in the river. There were the pilchard seiners carrying the great nets, the volyers or followers, in which the thwart or stop nets were stowed, and lots of smaller boats called lurkers. But I don't think you would have seen all that number of men about to crew them. Most of them were probably in the Sloop. But some men were there and their eyes never left the river entrance and the little headland of Bantham Ham. Because there were men on that headland, who in turn were watching other men - just little dark silhouettes on the top of Burgh Island (or Burrow Isle as they called it in the 18th century). The men on Burgh Island were called Huers. This name was taken from the French verb "huer", to shout. It is not to be confused with the name of the present Bantham harbourmaster - Hugh...er...Cater, though he has been known to shout at sailors like me!

Often the gathering of gulls and other seabirds, rather than the reddish tinge the fish shoals gave to the sea, was the first indication to the huer that the pilchards had arrived. As soon as he saw a shoal, the huer signalled to the shore with an up-rooted furze bush or big stick.

CONTINUING: When the Pilchard was KING !



The men on the Ham passed the signal on and shouts of "heva, heva, heva" called the men to action stations. Why they called "heva", which I am told is the Cornish for "found", is not clear to me and I'd welcome any explanation. At anyrate that is what they called and down the track to the boats came pounding the crews. The Sloop was empty in seconds !

Each seine boat had its own huer and now as the crews strained at the oars to get out of the river and to sea, using sail as soon as possible, the huer guided his boat to the shoal. Finally when the boat was very near the fish he raised his stick with something tied to it - a cloth or kerchief - straight above his head. Then it was up to the fishers.

Five crucial minutes would now decide whether those hundreds of thousands of pilchards would be trapped or whether the little fish would escape. I call them little fish because though the pilchard can grow to about 10 inches long, the ones caught by seining were usually under six inches long, and are better known to us by their alternative name of sardines.

Now the fishermen rowed round the shoal shooting the 1,000 foot-long seine net as they went. So skilled were they that the whole net was out and round the shoal in less than five minutes. The volyer boat had kept hold of one end of the net and now the two ends were gradually warped together. While this was going on the lurkers moved into the opening and by bashing and splashing with their oars stopped the fish from making a break for the open sea.

So the fish were trapped. But there were far too many to attempt lifting the whole net. At the next low tide the volyer moved inside the main seine and laid another net inside it. This inner net was then hauled up and the noise of all the fish inside thrashing the surface was so great that men on opposite sides of the trap could only signal to one another. Slowly the inside net was pulled close to one of the large boats and men in pairs on the gun-whales literally bailed the fish on board with corn scoops or buckets.

The skill of the master-seiner was in making sure that no more fish were taken from the main net than could be salted down each day in the "pallace". A good shoal could contain as many as five million fish and so taking them alive and fresh from the main net in manageable quantities could take over a week. Grapnels were used to hold the net in position during this time.

As each boat loaded with fish reached the quay at Bantham the pilchards were put into barrows or "cowls" (tubs or barrels carried on a pole between two men) and taken up the steep track to the pilchard cellar. There women and girls did the actual curing. They piled the fish edgeways in great tiers against the walls of the building. Each tier of fish was sprinkled with coarse salt before the next layer was stacked on. Then the great salt and fish sandwiches were left for about six weeks and oil and brine ran out of them on to the floor. This floor was sloped so that all this muck ran into a "well" or pit. It was not wasted - curriers bought it for dressing their leather after it had been tanned.

At the end of six weeks, the fish were taken from the heaps, sifted to save any dry salt for future use, and then washed. The liquid from the washing was not wasted either. When the coagulated oil rose to the surface it was taken to a soap-boiler.

The clean fish were now packed into hogsheads, but they were not ready yet. A system of weights and levers pressed the fish in the cask until oil ran out of special holes in the woodwork.

When you know that they reckoned to get three gallons of oil per hogshead from the summer pilchards and two gallons a cask from the winter fish, can you imagine the pong which hung over Bantham?! No wonder the cellars were down the bank!

That pressing for oil took another nine days and then the cask containing about 476 lbs of fish was sealed up for export. Many casks from Bantham headed for Naples and other Italian ports. No wonder a popular toast in the Sloop was: "Long life to the Pope and death to thousands!" The thousands, I hasten to add, meant pilchards.



CONCLUDING: When the Pilchard was KING

Other casks from Bantham went to Spain where the fish were known as "fumadoes", which roughly translates as "smokies". The Devon pronunciation of this was "furrmades", which left many with the impression that pilchards in Spain were called "Fair Maids". One recorder of the time wrote that "fair maids served with oyle and a lemon, they are meat for the mightiest Don"!

In 1859, which though they didn't of course know it was near the end of the business, a Bantham hogshead of pilchards sold for 50 shillings for summer fish and slightly less for those caught in the winter. At that time the fishermen taking part were paid something like this:

A huer, 21s. per week;

A master-seiner, 13s per week.

Seine shooters 12s per week;

Regular seiners, 10s. per week
and salters (girls and women) 3d per hour.

Pilchards, retail, sold for a penny a dozen.

Nothing was wasted. Broken fish, entrails, crushed fish, went for manure. The fish oil from the casks was used for lighting. The lamps were either earthenware or tin with a wick made from rushes collected further up the river. This primitive lighting was common prior to the early 1800's. Not only did it stink the house out, but it provided more of a dull yellow glow than a clear light and it gave off a great deal of smoke to add to the smell.

Superstitions grew up around the fish oil lights. If the wick burned with a greenish glow there were witches about. A blue glow meant that great winds were coming. If a spark flew from the lamp and touched you, news, good or bad, was heading your way. An old proverb of the time pays tribute to the importance of the pilchard fishing - "Meat, money and light, all in one night".

Oil that wasn't clean enough for the lamps was used for outdoor painting. The oil was put in an iron pot over the fire and skimmed to take the skin off it as it heated up. It stayed on the fire, according to an old recipe, "until it singes a feather put therein. For every gallon add a small spoon of red litharge or other pigment and let it cool. It is then ready for use, dries quickly and becomes solid in a short time on wood or iron".

Now you know where those thick crusts came from on old iron work in the parish!

In Bantham and district they rather liked their pilchards broiled. In earlier days they were smoked before keeping. Then in the second half of the 19th century, the shoals of pilchards moved Westward and never returned in quantity.

Now it was Spain and Portugal's turn to benefit from the pilchard fishery. And so they have ever since. The sardine fishing is a vitally important industry to them today, much as it was with us centuries ago. It is odd that just as Bantham used to export "fair maids" to Spain, now they export their tinned sardines to Bantham. Today when we see full-size fresh sardines in the fish-shop or restaurant they have probably come from the small fishery for pilchards which has survived in the English Channel on the Cornish and French coasts.

But we should count our blessings. If the pilchards had kept coming, Bantham would probably today be a giant sardine cannery, just one of several along the South Hams coast.

Mind you, my grandmamma might have liked that. Did I ever tell you how much she was into tinned pilchards.....?

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THE PAGES OF 'VILLAGE VOICE' ARE
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LETTERS, SKETCHES AND CARTOONS -

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533.

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'agen' something - this is YOUR
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THURLESTONE 533-THURLESTONE 533 !!

Thurlestone Youth Club

FOR MANY YEARS Thurlestone Youth Club has run successfully and provided an outlet for our youth members on one night of the week during school term times. We have been fortunate in having a loyal band of adults who have formed the management committee - some of them since the inception of the Club. However, at our A.G.M. in November 1982 each of the officers wished to resign and unfortunately apart from the post of Treasurer no other post could be filled.

THIS was only part of the problem - the other was that our numbers had greatly reduced and with a very small average attendance, the continuation of the Club was threatened.

FOR the time being it was agreed to continue until a further meeting in January, and a Temporary Chairman agreed to carry on in office with Dick and Esme White remaining in their posts as Treasurer and Secretary.. At that meeting in January it was obvious that because of the fall in numbers of youth members going to the club each week, the continuation of the club was not a viable proposition.

WHILST the Club attendance has declined there was, within the club, two flourishing Table Tennis teams which it was agreed would continue as a Thurlestone Youth Club team. The final decision of the meeting was that the Youth Club would close for the time being with a 'silent' committee; that the Table Tennis teams would continue and the position again reviewed in the late summer when school re-commences. If there are any members of the community who would be willing to help in the event of the re-forming of the club, will they contact Mrs Wendy Dawes at 'Thatchways', Thurlestone. Wendy is our new Chairman, Vlod Kucyj our Treasurer, and for the moment Esme White remains our Secretary. Perhaps this is an opportune moment to thank Dick and Esme in particular for all their hard work over the years, and indeed to all the management Committee.

That was the bad news and now for the good news ! The Table Tennis teams are enjoying quite a good season and have won several matches. A full report of the season in the next 'Village Voice'. The Annual Party for our Senior Citizens was held on 22nd January and a gaily decorated Hall greeted our guests with tables loaded with a selection of party food and a glass of sherry. After food and party games a final 'Sing-Song' did the Village Hall a power of good! May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave donations of any kind.

PAT TOWNSEND.

LICENSED
GAME DEALER

BUTCHER
and POULTERER

P.W. Coleman

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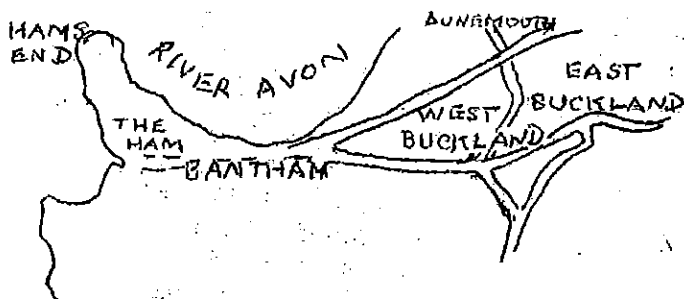
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BUCKLAND - - Wednesday and Saturday

AVETON GIFFORD - - Wednesday and Saturday

CHURCHSTOW - - Wednesday and Saturday

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Round and About with Elayne Norris

FOR MOST of the Bantham and Buckland youngsters, 1983 started in the Sloop Inn. The dining room floor trembled beneath the hopping feet of Prince Charming, a lifeguard, an army cadet, a gangster and a Japanese woman - if you haven't already guessed, some people came in fancy dress. But even the less inventive of us wore brightly coloured party hats or masks and aquired those noisy hooters to blow in our neighbours ear! (All items generously handed out by the Landlord.) Everyone was so occupied with enjoying themselves that midnight almost slipped by unnoticed, but luckily the D.J. stopped spinning the discs ten seconds before midnight and started a countdown, which we all joined in with...three...two...one... YAHOO ! Goodbye 1982; welcome 1983, and after a couple of rounds of "Auld Langs Syne", it was back to the dance floor with renewed energy, until one a.m - closing time - when we all left, vowing to return next New Year's Eve for another thoroughly enjoyable evening - thanks Neil !

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NOW A WORD about a village team - the Sloop Dart's Team, captained by John Dayment. Since September 17th, ten darts players and their supporters have met most Friday evenings to challenge another team to a darts match, either at the Sloop or at their opponents home venue, and at the last count our players had won twelve matches and only lost six - congratulations to the team and good luck in forthcoming matches.

+ + + + +

NOW ON to March and April - I wonder what these two months have to offer us. The beginning of Spring, Mothers Day, April Fools Day and, of course, Easter. Mothering Sunday is on the 13th March this year, so make sure you remember, and April Fools Day is on a Friday - what tricks will be played this year? All teachers must be breathing a sigh of relief because due to the early Easter, April Fools Day lands in the middle of a school holiday and so they won't have to face classes full of prank-playing children - last year a maths teacher was locked in a cupboard !

But remember, wherever you are, the fun must stop as the clock strikes midday.

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WELL, if you haven't already noticed, chocolate eggs and bunnies of all shapes and sizes, are gradually taking over the prominent shop-shelves, which can only mean one thing - Easter. And with Easter comes the school holiday, so watch out all mums - the rebels are home for three weeks! Also Bantham and Buckland seem to get a sudden influx of early holiday makers, seeking Sun and sand, (there's plenty of sand but sad to say often not much sun!) and so we must take even more care than usual when driving through the lanes, to compensate for the extra traffic.

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BUT APART from the special days and dates to remember, an important change takes place to the countryside during the months March and April. Spring, announced by abundant primroses, arrives. Sitting in front of a warm fire, with the wind and rain swirling around the valley on a cold February evening, I imagine venturing out, in early March, for a walk from Buckland through Bantham to the sea.

+ + + + +

DRESSED in woolies, scarf and gloves, I step out into the pale sun to be hit by a sharp wind. A lonely bird, sitting high on a telegraph wire, greets me as I struggle up the hill towards the main Bantham road. Stopping for a few minutes at the top to catch my breath, I am bewitched by the calm sea stretched out before me and the rolling green hills leading me down to the shore. My eyes fall on the primroses and purple periwinkles that litter the hedges, and the swaying lamb's tails; the bold yellow breast and bright blue wings of a Blue Tit attract my attention, whilst a faint smell of Spring drifts through the air, inspiring me to run down the hill to Bantham.

Elayne

Round & About with Elayne Norris

I am stopped dead in my tracks by a Wagtail, picking at the ground for food, and I noticed for the first time that Wagtails actually "bob" not "wag" their tails. Not far now to the Ham. I pass the creaking pines and push through the kissing-gate. Before me is the river, a mass of conflicting currents, which lifts and drops the boats, as if to the beat of a swinging pendulum. As I walk across the open Ham, I feel as if the wind is using my face as a punching bag, so I seek refuge down by the Salmon Pool. Here I can feel the gentle warmth of the sun, as it makes a shining path across the river towards me. I decide to follow the river downstream, accompanied by four swans. On the sand, leaves dance in the wind and in the azure sky, the gulls call to me loudly.

Weather beaten rocks act as gates to the deserted beach, across which I leave a trail of footprints, recording my presence. By the cliffs, I take a last look at the calm sea and empty beach before I lower my head to charge the offshore wind and retreat homewards, through the green fields.

Spring is most probably the best season of the year; I hope you enjoy it and that the wind won't be quite so cold as in my imaginary walk!

Here is a short poem about spring:

Hail the dancing daffodils
the very breath of Spring!
They come to keep you company,
both joy and hope they bring.
How dare you still be miserable,
note well their golden cheer,
you know they herald sunny days
to brighten up your year!

Happy Easter.

I never think of the future..
it comes soon enough!

Einstein.

PROBUS

Our Annual Ladies Evening was held on the 15th January and I quote from a letter I have received from one of the visiting Ladies :-

"I felt I must write and thank you and all the Probus members for the lovely evening we had at Thurlestone Hotel on Saturday. There were not as many people there as I expected, but those who came all appeared to enjoy themselves. The dinner was excellent and the choice of Grilled Salmon for the main course was welcome after all the meat and poultry we had eaten over the Christmas period. The magician, Mr Ken Savage, who entertained us, although not perhaps up to Paul Daniels' standard, was most amusing and everyone seemed to enjoy the show. I think it was an excellent evening and I am already looking forward to next year's event".

Isn't it nice to have a satisfied customer!

On the 11th February we held our fifth Annual General Meeting with Dick White, the retiring Chairman. Dr Neville Oswald was appointed Chairman for the coming year and Alec Morrison Vice-Chairman. Other officers were H. Huggins, Treasurer and Committee H. Stribley and H. Petrie. There are a number of excellent and interesting speakers lined up for the coming months and it is hoped to arrange a mid-year outing similar to last year as well as a Luncheon which the Ladies can attend.

Incidentally our numbers have been reduced by what must be called inevitable natural wastage and people moving out of the District. If there are any retired professional or business men who have moved into the area interested in meeting others in a similar position once a month over lunch perhaps they would get in touch with me or any other member.

A.H. DUDLEY TYAS

Hon. Secretary.

THURLESTONE 656.

The 'life-blood' of 'Village Voice' are contributions from local people about local events.

Observing the Village Scene with Villager

RATES !

The Parish Precept for the 1983-84 financial year will be just 1p - a point of a penny up on the last financial year - and only necessary to cover election costs in May. Even if there is no election because just 7 or less than 7 candidates are nominated the parish will have to pay all the preliminary costs - and should there be less than 7 nominations we could be faced with an election to fill the vacancy - and the cost ! If there is an election for a District Councillor some elements of the cost - such as hire of the two polling stations and the people who man them - will be shared - so perhaps we must hope there are ^{at} least two nominations for the District Council as well !

At the time of writing this column I see the County Council rate is to increase by 'only' 6% - and the Water Rate from the Water Authority by 8.3% for domestic users (£6.72 a year they say, and the Sewerage is to cost £4.52^a year more 'on average' because the standing charge goes up while the rate goes down !

'Village Voice' has expressed its opinion with regard to sewerage charges for putting untreated sewerage down a pipeline into the sea. Such charges for such a 'system' are subsidising those who have a proper disposal works !

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POSTSCRIPT - COASTAL EROSION and the COASTAL FOOTPATH (South Coast Path)

The Parish Council Chairman, Mr Peter Hurrell, and Vice Chairman Mr Derrick Yeoman have now had a further meeting at the Thurlestone Golf Club, with all the parties concerned, and I believe I can report co-operation on all sides to ensure that the footpath is restored as a coastal path. Come to the Annual Parish Meeting on March 22nd. and hear what Mr W.A. Grimes of the Countryside Commission has to report.

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POSTSCRIPT - PLAYINGFIELD RENTAL INCREASE

The Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman have now had a meeting at the Primary School with County Councillor Mr Simon Day and the County Area Estates Surveyor - and there could be a little better news for the Chairman to report at the Meeting on March 22nd.

GREAT WORK BY LOCAL GROUP

I really do think that the organisers and members of the 'Be Happy Group' have been so wonderfully successful in raising money for various local charities because of the energy and time they devote to the work.

Their Christmas Bingo was very well supported and resulted in a further £134.37 being raised for Muscular Dystrophy, and on February 23rd. at the Thurlestone Bingo evening a further £277 will be presented to Mr. Walters-Symons, Chairman of the Kingsbridge branch of Muscular Dystrophy.

Long may the Group prosper to continue the good work.

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TEENAGER'S CHAMPION !!

Members of the Police force do not always receive the help and respect due to them from a few of the younger generation, but I think our Community Policemen must soon receive a top award.

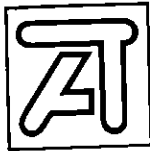
In this issue is a short account of one of their number - Constable John Casson - taking a group of teenagers on a trip to Police Headquarters at Exeter, and I believe he is now hoping to take up to 100 youngsters (aged eleven and over) to the Royal Marines Training Establishment at Lympstone, near Exmouth, for a day out at the Royal Marines Training Centre with its fully equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, Regimental Museum (which I gather now has various exhibits from the Falklands Islands ~~Pracas~~) and - wait for it - a chance over the assault course which recently featured in the television programme 'Game for a Laugh'.

The all in cost will only be £3 each - covering transport and 'grub'. Not bad, I'd say - I could wish I was a teenager again - there was nothing like this on offer in my young days.

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THANK YOU

Very many thanks to Peter Bromfield - and to his mother - for taking on the delivery of this 'mag' every issue.



South Hams Theatre & Arts Trust

Monthly Programme of Events at

KINGSBRIDGE THEATRE & CINEMA

Wednesday & Thursday, March 2nd & 3rd, at 8p.m.: Film.

PAUL NEWMAN, EDWARD ASNER

FORT APACHE, THE BRONX (Certificate 15)

Street violence in that area of New York where no cop goes alone.

★
Saturday, March 5th, 8.15 to 11.45p.m.: Country & Western.

By special request of enthusiasts at our last such event, the Trust has arranged for a return visit by:

THE WILD COUNTRY

Tickets (limited to 100) at £2.50, including free pasty & drink, bookable at The Music Centre, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, or at the Theatre Box Office on the evening of March 5th.

★
Wednesday to Saturday, March 16th to 19th inclusive: Stage Comedy.

Kingsbridge Dramatic Society presents a double bill.

BLACK COMEDY by PETER SHAFFER

An uproarious farce in which the author reverses dark and light.

THE WOMAN IN THE BACK PEW by BRENDA STEEL

A comedy of manners by a member of Kingsbridge Writers' Circle.

Seats £1.50 (OAPs & children 75p) bookable at The Camera Shop, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, or at the Theatre Box Office on evenings of performances.

★
Wednesday & Thursday, March 23rd & 24th, at 8p.m.: Film.

BURT REYNOLDS, BEVERLY d'ANGELO

PATERNITY (Certificate 15)

A comedy about a middle-aged man who wants to be a father but not a husband!

★
Wednesday & Thursday, March 30th & 31st, at 8p.m.: Film.

MERYL STREEP, JEREMY IRONS, LEO MCKERN

THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN (Certificate 15)

The fascinating Oscar-winning study of love and morality in the Victorian age.

★
Wednesday & Thursday, April 6th & 7th, at 8p.m.: Film.

ROGER MOORE as James Bond 007 in Ian Fleming's

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY (Certificate PG)

with CAROLE BOUQUET and TOPOL

Bond is back in an adventure set in the beautiful Greek Islands.

★
Five Performances: April 16, 18, 19, 22, 23 at 7.30p.m.: Revue.

Kingsbridge Amateur Theatre Society (KATS) presents

LET THE PEOPLE SING

A light-hearted look at the years 1939-45.

Seats bookable at The Music Centre, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, or at the Theatre Box Office on the evenings of performances.

★
N.B. The film for April 27th & 28th was not confirmed at the time of printing. Please consult the *Kingsbridge Gazette* of April 22nd.

CINEMA TICKETS £1 (OAP's & CHILDREN 50p) AT BOX OFFICE ONLY

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TOWN HALL TRAFFIC SNARL UP

by Georgina Farr

another local writer....



We regret to have to report that this week's meeting of the Town Council ended in unseemly disorder. It had been proposed by Councillor Ken Stirwell that the town's traffic problem, particularly in the holiday season, could be eased considerably by reversing the present one-way system, which has been in operation for some years.

Mr Stirwell said he had given much time and thought to the present system - the slow crawl up Market Street and down Westgate Street - and as a result of his personal feasibility study was able to put before the meeting a detail-statistical analysis of traffic flow from all four main roads leading into the town, from which he felt sure the other councillors would draw the same conclusions.

After a brief perusal of Mr Stirwell's figures, a number of councillors expressed their agreement.

Councillor Bob Fleecer, on the other hand, speaking as owner of the Buccaneer Gift Shop half way up Market Street, felt it was quite an advantage to the town's traders that holiday traffic in particular should have the opportunity of half an hour or so's window-shopping from the comfort of their own cars. The main car park being situated so conveniently at the top of Market Street then enabled them to stop and come back for a closer inspection of the goods on offer.

Councillor Molly Coddle, who has lived for many years in Westgate Street, felt that if the proposal were accepted a number of elderly people now living there would find it confusing and difficult to remember that they would then run the risk of being knocked down from a different direction. Even her own cat, having grown older and wiser in the process of losing six of its nine lives, would be perplexed.

Councillor Tom Foilham (known to friends and foes alike as "H.M. Opposition") felt bound to say, as

he had said many times before, that the town had never been the same since the last horse and cart had disappeared off the streets. As far as he was concerned, he couldn't see what possible difference it made which way the traffic flowed and it was a pity it couldn't be banned altogether.

Councillor Reg Motless pointed out that to reverse the flow (thus, need we say, putting his service station on the wrong side of the road) would deprive many drivers of the opportunity to fill their depleted petrol tanks after-hours of motorway driving.

Councillor Nigel Pullem (Mine Host of the "Three Tumbrells") suggested that it was petrol-hungry drivers who caused the bottle-neck and expressed his whole-hearted support for the proposal, whereupon Mr Motless, with ill-disguised temper, asked somewhat pointedly whether Mr Pullem's enthusiasm had anything to do with the fact that the proposed plan would greatly facilitate entry to the "Three Tumbrells" car park.

Things then began to hot up, and it took some effort on the part of the Mayor, ably assisted by Mr Penworthy, the Town Clerk, to impose restraint on the meeting.

Unhappily, during an attempt to quell Mr Pullem, The Mayor managed to entangle his official Chain in Mrs Coddle's pink woolly cardigan, a side effect of which was to inflict some physical damage on Mr Motless, despite the best endeavours of Mr Penworthy. (We should like to reassure our readers that there is every hope Mr Penworthy will be back in harness before too long. He is at present recuperating in a seaside home for the mentally disordered).

NEXT PAGE-

Legal Perils of the Home

(LAW SOCIETY FEATURE)

Nearly all of us, at some time or other, invite a relative, friend, or neighbour into our homes, perhaps for a meal, or an informal chat over a cup of tea.

Surely there can be nothing in that likely to involve a person in litigation? Normally, no; but what if the invited guest meets with an accident while on the premises?

Then the host might find himself face to face with the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. This Act lays down the duties of occupiers, not only of premises but also of some fixed or movable structures such as vehicles, lifts or scaffolding.

The duties are owed to all visitors lawfully on the premises are defined by the Act as:

"To take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that the visitor will be reasonably safe in using the premises for the purpose for which he is permitted by the occupier to be there".

And this applies not only to things an occupier might do on the premises which could prove a danger to a visitor, but also things he has not done, such as failing to repair a ragged carpet which could cause a trip or a fall.

But, as in many aspects of the law, the circumstances of each individual case must be looked at in deciding whether or not an occupier is responsible for any injury to a visitor, and the word 'visitor' is taken to include those who enter in the exercise of a right conferred by law such as gas and electricity meter readers.

The Act says that, in assessing whether or not an occupier is liable, the type of visitor must be taken into account. Therefore, an occupier must be prepared for a child to be less careful than an adult, and, as far as children are concerned, the law imposes a higher degree of responsibility on the occupier. He has to take steps to guard children from things - such as poisonous berries on shrubs or trees in parks and gardens - which, though an obvious danger to an adult would be "fascinating and fatal" to a child.

Concluding :

TOWN HALL TRAFFIC SNARL-UP

In an attempt to restore a sense of proportion, the Mayor, having at last disentangled himself from Mrs Coddle's cardigan, managed to bring the meeting to some sort of order reminding members that the proposal had been put forward for discussion only, and ruled that the matter be shelved and the meeting adjourned until tempers had had a chance to cool down.

* * * *

As a curious footnote to the above, your corespondent feels bound to report that Councillor Stirwell, on leaving the Chamber, seemed to be hugging himself with delight

Georgina Farr

Furthermore an occupier is entitled to expect that a person such as a sweep or a window cleaner will understand and guard against any special risks ordinarily connected with his job so far as the occupier leaves him free to do so.

Every day thousands of firms of builders, plumbers or electricians work in premises doing repairs, decorations or installations. Where a visitor is injured as a result of faulty work by a contractor, the occupier is not liable in law provided he acted reasonably in engaging an independent contractor and took steps, if there were any that could be taken, to make sure the contractor was competent and the work was carried out properly.

Normally no duty of care is owed to a trespasser but an occupier must not cause intentional injury to a trespasser nor must he act with reckless disregard for the safety of a trespasser if he knows one is on the premises or is extremely likely to be.

A landlord owes no duty of care to his tenants' visitors unless he is under a duty, either by agreement with the tenant or by law, to carry out repairs, or has the right to enter the tenant's flat to do repairs

But a landlord will be responsible to people visiting his tenant if an accident occurs through his negligence - such as lifts and staircases.

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Tel: Thurlestone 405

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