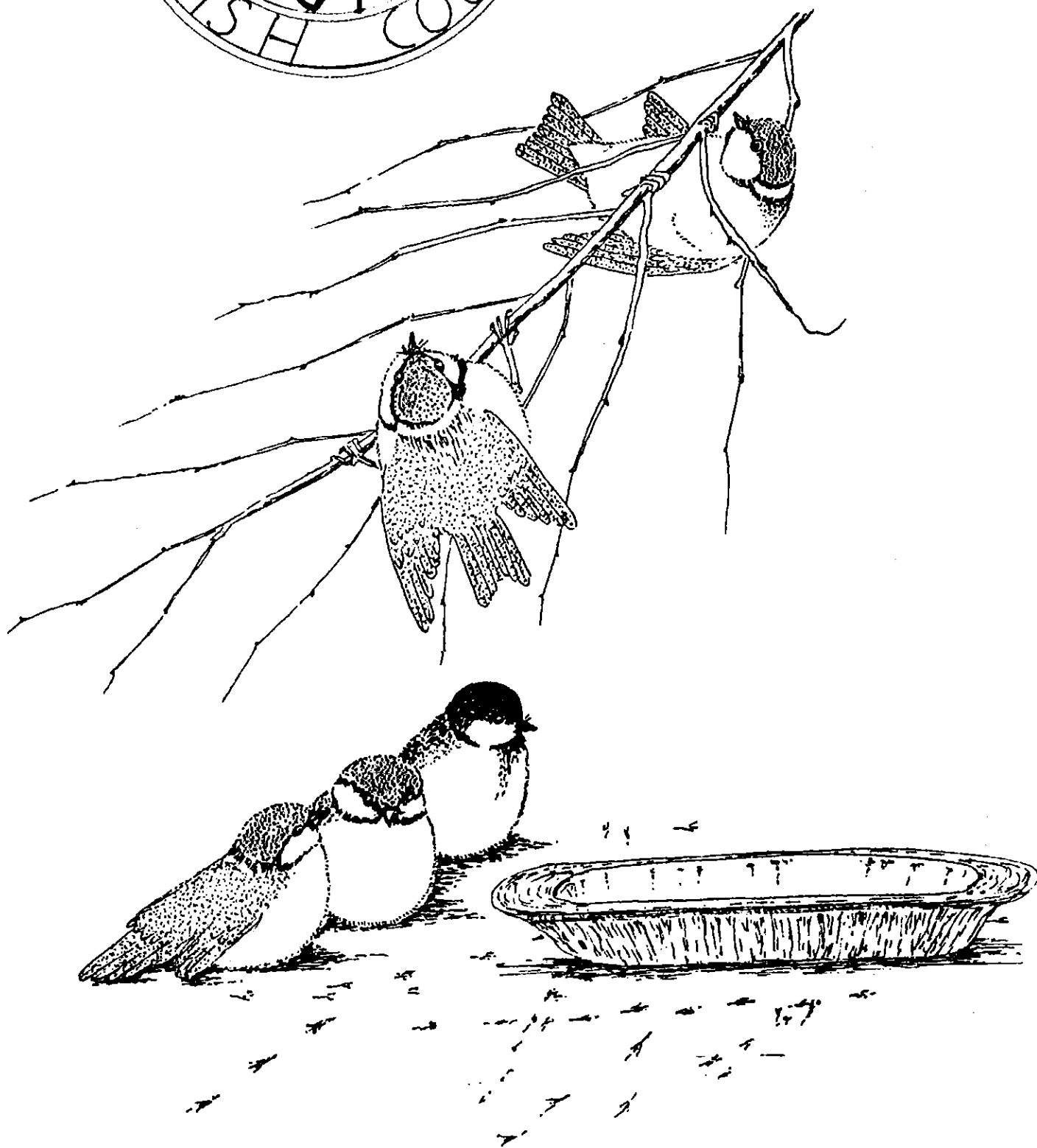
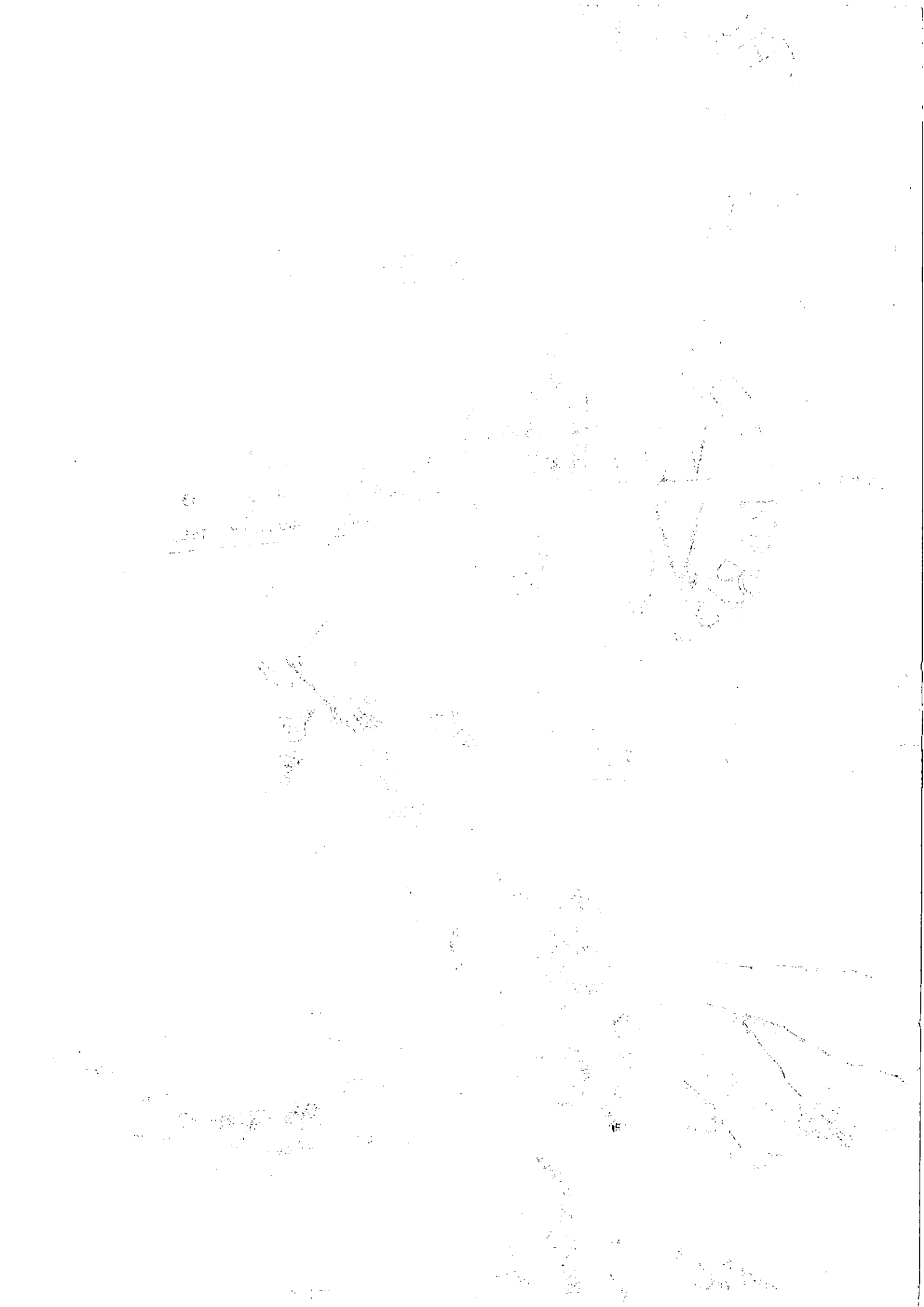


No. 9



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1983





Christmas Birds

The tits on the front cover have a deeper symbolic meaning for me at Christmas than do the usual birds. Waiting in the cold snow besides an empty bowl, yet somehow retaining their cheerfulness, they may be a fairer representation of mankind than the ubiquitous robin of the Christmas cards.

I always find it extremely difficult to decide which of the robin's characteristics are the ones which make it so popular as the personification of Christmas. Perhaps it is a combination of all of them.

Certainly we know that most people will react strongly towards any animal with an upright carriage, and with big eyes set in a rounded face, and the robin seems to possess these to a greater degree than most birds.

If we add to this its almost incredible fearlessness of man, and its very active and perky manner, then no wonder we think so highly of it. But why do we associate it with Christmas?

A little knowledge about its behaviour soon reveals that it does not reflect the ideals of peace and goodwill. In reality it is a noisy, aggressive and territorial little braggart. Woe betide any other robin which dares to encroach on its territory. Not even its own offspring are safe from its beak and buffeting wings once they don the bright red colouration so typical of the bird.

Even its song, so often heard at night, or in the autumn, when other birds are silent, is no more than a series of deadly warnings to other birds not to intrude on its territory.

Perhaps when we realise how little attention most people pay to the true spirit of Christmas, then it may be an appropriate choice after all - the other side to the hungry tits perhaps?

Certainly I shall go on welcoming them all to my garden and bird table, and more than likely I shall continue to delude myself that they come out of friendliness rather than for what they can get out of me.

PATRICK E. COLEMAN

In this issue of 'Village Voice' the Editor reviews the book 'Nature West' (which is just published) by Patrick Coleman.

KINDLY NOTE

With the sad death of Mr R.R.Penwell the TAXI SERVICE advertised in the Magazine will not be available.

Please do not make any use of the telephone number given.

IF YOU URGENTLY NEED A TAXI - there is JOHN KEMP on (9) Kingsbridge (9) 6120

or M.J.COX on Kingsbridge 3148 and also 3558 and 3039

Advertisements are over-printed on the pages some issues ahead of publication of the Magazine.

Be Happy Group

Mrs Freda M. Wells has written to say that - "Owing to ever increasing costs of Bingo prizes, advertisements, and the cost of the Parish Hall, and books, etc. the Group has had to close down their work for charity.

In the last four years almost £4,000 has been raised for various charities, which has been gratefully appreciated".

Mrs Wells says "We would very much like to thank our local supporters, who regularly came to all our efforts. On closing our bank account we sent £159.21 to Muscular Dystrophy, £85.39 to South Hams Hospital and £11.16 to Coombe Royal."

It would seem the Group are all very sorry to have to close down the Bingo Sessions, but the amount of profit they were making was not worth the effort and work put into it.

I am sure quite a lot of people will be sorry too, and maybe the Group might be persuaded to put on just an occasional Session.

Editor.

Believe it or Not!

Ursula Shipton of Knaresborough who is normally referred to as "Mother Shipton" was undoubtedly a Prophetess of uncanny accuracy. Born on July 6th. 1488 she predicted:

Carriages without horses would go

And accident fill the world with woe

Around the world thoughts shall fly

in the twinkling of an eye.

Under water men shall walk,

Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk.

In the air men shall be seen.

In white, in black, in green.

Iron in the water shall float

As easily as does a wooden boat.

A house of glass shall come to pass

In England, but alas!

War will follow with the work

In the land of the Pagan & Turk.

Walter Dee

o Says:- o

I see that Mr Anthony Steen M.P. is apparently against the imposition of any Byelaw restricting the speed of 'pleasure boats' on the Avon Estuary.

Can it be assumed he has consulted with all concerned?

* * * * *

I also see it reported that Mr Steen has suggested to the District Council that town and parish councils should have more say in planning decisions. Bravo, Mr Steen!

* * * * *

Someone asked me the other day if when a planning application concerns what is known as a 'listed building' the District Council should advertise the application in a local paper with a local circulation, and if they should place a public notice of the application on or adjacent to the property which is the subject of the application. Not being a Parish or a District Councillor I suppose I am justified in saying 'I don't know' - but would like to!

* * * * *

A glorious misprint!

Please don't forget the Garden Party

- it will be gin at 2.30 p.m. !!

The Last Minute Page

Editorial Note: In this and future issues it is hoped to give you up-to-the-minute PARISH COUNCIL NEWS and other items of interest that arrive at the 'Last Minute'. From the next issue look for this page at the back of the magazine.

LETTER FROM THE SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES
TO THE PARISH COUNCIL: (Will be considered by Parish Council on 25th Oct)

SEWERAGE - WEST BUCKLAND

...I can confirm that both crude sewage and septic tank effluents are discharged to the stream running through the village.

The South West Water Authority has been made aware of the situation and a scheme to provide treatment facilities for the village has been priority rated for inclusion in the Water Authority capital programme. The rating is not, however, particularly high in relation to other schemes and no works are included in the five year capital programme.

Additionally, a request has been made by this Authority to the South West Water Authority to have a water quality embargo imposed on the village which would preclude further development connecting to the systems which discharge to the stream. The Pollution Section of the Water Authority is considering this request and I am confident that an embargo will be implemented.

With regard to the possibility of a health hazard from the stream contamination the Environmental Health Officer is in contact with the South West Water Authority and will no doubt write you when a conclusion is reached.

Yours faithfully, M.F. Johnson
Director of Technical Services.

LETTER FROM THE AREA EDUCATION OFFICER - DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL TRANSPORT - CHILDREN LIVING IN BANTHAM AND BUCKLAND

I have not been able to reply to your letter of the 7th. September any earlier because it was necessary to refer the matter to the County Engineer. For your information, whilst the Education Committee retains full control over the educational aspects of School Transport, the operational arrangements including negotiating of contracts, falls to the County Engineer's Department.

Having studied a report from the Kingsbridge Area Education Welfare Officer who had talked it over with Mr. Mitchell of Tally Ho Coaches, the County Engineer has decided to leave things as they are. He has made this decision of 'non-alteration' on the facts that:-

- (i) it is better to inconvenience 9 children rather than 24 children and
- (ii) the 24 Loddiswell children would be even more later home than the Bantham/Buckland children now are if the bus went to Bantham and Buckland first in the Summer months.

The bus timing is in line with the Secretary of State's Manual of Guidance, i.e. the maximum door to door journey to be 45 minutes for pupils of Primary School age and 1½ hours for pupils of Secondary School age.

Yours sincerely, H. Coombes. Area Education Officer.
(Will be considered by Parish Council on 25th October)

The Last Minute Page Two.

PROBUS

Thank goodness that the weather experts were wrong in forecasting rain on 14th October P. Some 23 members turned out for the Golf Meeting armed with every kind of rain wear and had a marvellous sunny morning. Pip Wilson won the Stableford competition with Reg Mahoney second and Geoffrey Wilkinson third. The Chairman, Neville Oswald, not to be outdone, won the Nine Hole competition. Thirty sat down to a first class lunch at the Golf Club thanks to Mr and Mrs Gluyas and their staff, and everyone had a most enjoyable time.

The NEXT MEETING will be on NOVEMBER 11 and the speaker Mr J.W.Hobson.

A.H.Dudley Tyas
Hon. Secretary.

90th Anniversary

..on the 5th March 1984 of the creation of Parish Councils.

How have parishes changed? What were elections like in earlier years? What were the major matters of concern in those earlier days? The Editor would very greatly appreciate articles or even short notes for some of the bygone events. They will be published (if any !!) in the March/April issue. Please send in by the end of January 1984.

Conservation

The Nature Conservancy, it is stated in the Autumn issue of 'Village Green', has introduced a scheme of small grants (up to £500) available to farmers, landowners and voluntary conservation bodies, undertaking practical site or species conservation. The idea is to make funds available quickly for wildlife projects such as fencing to control grazing and access, electric fencing to protect nesting birds, scrub clearance, and grills to protect bat colonies.

PICTURE ON FRONT COVER BY Patrick E. Coleman. Colour by D.W.D.

Beach Nudism.

The kind of people who parade around naked on a public beach are basically selfish, greedy and anti-social, with no consideration for other people. They need the beach to themselves.

For instance, on Broadlands a family party had settled down when they noticed a naked man, they tried to ignore him but he had the bare faced cheek to stand and chat about the weather. One wonders what would have happened if this scene had taken place outside the Village Inn.

As for providing a private beach, why should they be so privileged? If these people want to indulge in their peculiar habits it is up to them to find a quiet place where they can't be seen, and so not offend anyone else.

Yrs sincerely,
DORIS TYLER

9, Parkfield
Thurlestone

The possibility of nude bathing on Thurlestone beaches must horrify many and be contrary to the interests of the people who live here - and surely that is what must come first. In the past year Thurlestone beaches have given much pleasure to both old and young alike. What advantage can there be in segregating them into "Nude" and "Covered"? It can only satisfy the few and reduce the usefulness of the area as a holiday venue for the many. That means a loss to the village and those who live here.

A.H.DUDLEY TYAS

1, Landpath,
Thurlestone.

A suggestion is made that a scheme for 'Garden Helps' should be established much in the manner of 'Home Helps', payment being based on means in the same way.

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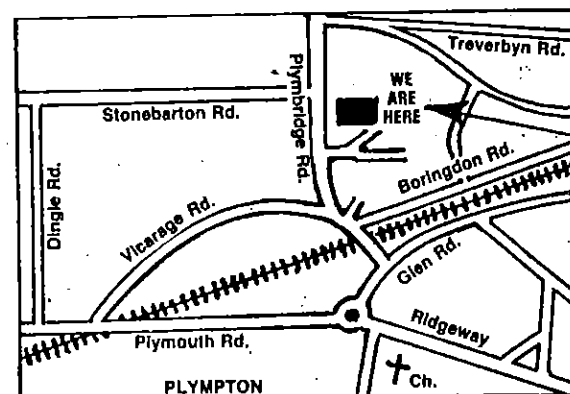
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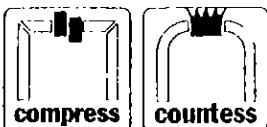


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VILLAGE VOICE

NUMBER NINE

- SECOND YEAR -

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

1983

EDITOR: D.W.DRABBLE, 10, Backshay Close, South Milton, Kingsbridge
to whom all letters, manuscripts and articles should be sent.

VILLAGE VOICE MAGAZINE is sponsored by THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL and published for the Council on a 'freelance' basis, therefore it must be emphasised that the views and opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the contributors absolutely, and not in any way necessarily the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council.

The Reason

The leaves have gone, the rain has come,
Dark days are here once more;
The lamps are lit, and curtains drawn,
As Christmas comes once more.

There, round the fire the family sit,
As drawn by radiant glow,
In manner there brought by the warmth -
Like those of long ago.

When there, in stable gathered round
The manger, all were waiting;
The Ox, The Ass and Shepherds, all
Were at their Saviour gazing.

He came as Peace and Love that day,
To humble, lowly people.
Just as our gathering now should be,
When bells ring from the steeple,

Proclaiming that the Christ has come
At last, so long awaited;
To join all people, everywhere;
As they all were - United.

So now, because of Him, we pray
That everyone will gather
Around their own and, as God will'd,
Be accepted there, for ever.

E.B.S.

Origin of a Name ?

Dodbrooke can claim an earlier origin than Kingsbridge. The earliest allusion to the borough or vill of Kingsbridge is believed to occur in the Hundred rolls, which record the results of enquiries instituted by Edward 1, on his return from the Holy Land, for the purpose of correcting the territorial abuses which had crept in during the reign of his father, Henry III. During this turbulent period many proprietors had usurped rights of free chase, warren, and fishery, market tolls, &c. Jurors were appointed in each Hundred to assist in ascertaining these rights in the several manors. The Abbey of Buckfast then held the manor of Churchstow, and accordingly my Lord Abbot was summoned in 1276 to answer by what warrant he claimed the right of regulation of the measure and price of bread and ale, and the power of hanging his convict vassals on his manor gallows, the jurors of the Hundred of Stanburg found that within the manor of Churchstow was a new borough which answered for itself by six jurors, and had a market on Fridays, with a separate assize of bread and ale. Although the jurors assign no name to this new borough, there can be little doubt they referred to Kingsbridge; and about half a century later, by a deed in 1330, Roger Crokere of Kyngesbrigge, made a grant of all his lands, &c., there to be held of the head lord of the fee. The name Kyngesbrigge also occurs in 1347 as one of the ports that were called on to provide a naval subsidy.

Of the origin of this name there is no satisfactory account, and various opinions have been expressed as to whether it means the Burg of the King, or the Bridge of the King. There is much to be said on both sides, but whilst the Saxon word "byrig" means a burg or town, yet the name is generally supposed to be derived from one of the bridges over the brooks that join the Estuary at the town's foot. This very natural inference is strengthened by the invariable use in the earliest deeds of the Anglo-Saxon termination of "brigge", "brige", &c. and these words clearly mean bridge.

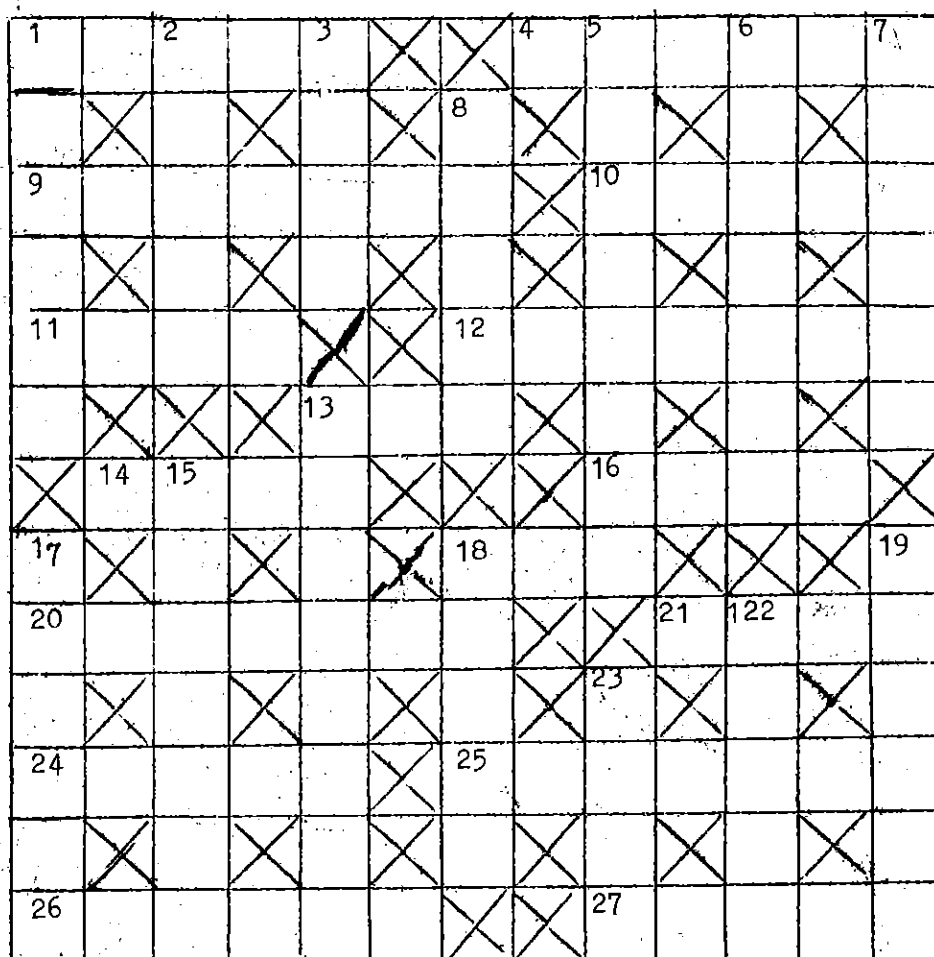
The Estuary extended much further up, and was much wider than at present. One of the principal places of the town would be what is now Mill Street. There were the

mills of the great Lord Abbot and Convent of Buckfast, and the Lord of the Manor; and at these mills all corn had to be ground. Across the arm of the Estuary near the junction of the Union Road with Mill Street there was probably a bridge, which, though conjectural, probably gave the name to the town. An important road led to West Alvington and the south country, and considering that the richest land lies to the south, and that this road would connect not only West Alvington, but Malborough, Salcombe, Hope, Milton and Thurlestone with Kingsbridge, there is little doubt but that it was the most important bridge on the King's highway.

Another conjecture must be that Kingsbridge has frequently been styled burgus or borough; and it could hardly have acquired a separate manorial existence after the Conquest without royal authority. Therefore, the original name may have been Kingsburg, or the King's Borough. However, this explanation does not harmonise with the device of a three-arched bridge under a crown on the ancient seal of the Peoffees, but that seal is only two or three hundred years old, whereas the old town seal is of a very different character; as shewn on a document dated 1475. There is also a legend that a Saxon monarch, coming with his retinue to the marshy swamp through which the brook Dod oozed its way, stopped short at the prospect of soiling, if not engulfing, the Royal sock and buskin. Hesitating as to how he could get to the opposite side dryshod, someone stepped into the middle of the stream, offering the king his back. The king accepted the offer, and was taken safely across: hence the name of Kingsbridge! Certainly records show that, whilst it may have had a separate or subsidiary manorial existence, it formed part of Churchstow for ecclesiastical purposes in 1291.

* * * * *

(With acknowledgement to the late Mr James Fairweather and the late Mr. Wm. Davies, solicitor of Kingsbridge). D.W.D.



VILLAGE VOICE CROSSWORD No.2

ACROSS

- 1 & 4. Where readers of Village Voice live (5 - 6)
9. A little fellow with fruit gets his just deserts (7)
10. Constituent parts of a complex (5)
11. What the unemployed wish to do (4)
12. Ordinary standard (7)
13. Insect (3)
14. We can still go by it from Totnes (4)
16. Tapering rods (4)
18. Waterway to chop down a tree (3)
20. Some live on the farm (7)
21. Pale (4)
24. We all like to have good ones (5)
25. Strawberry tree (7)
26. There is one in Leap Year (3 - 3)
27. The mare moves faster than walking (5)

DOWN

1. A novice behind the wheel. Don't talk it! (6)
2. Venomous snake (5)
3. Not far from 11 across (4)
5. Riches (8)
6. The Sultan forgot to write his decree?(2 - 5)
7. Day or year - anyway it is past (6)
8. An unfair player (5)
13. We live near it but not in this state (3 - 2 - 3)
15. Distinctive flavour (7)
17. Cotton cloth (6)
18. Perhaps from India or Pakistan (5)
19. By which shellfish are attached to rocks (6)
22. Apply yourself ! (3 - 2)
23. Path of a heavenly body without the eighteenth letter (5)

Compiled by Miss Anne E. Jenkins, West Buckland

The solution will be found on another page - but don't cheat !

If you care to take the trouble to compile a Crossword - Village Voice
would like to have it !



Villager and the Village Scene

AVON ESTUARY

At their September Meeting the Parish Council confirmed their support for the speed limiting Byelaw which the District Council have submitted to the Home Office.

+ + + + +

LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT

Council members felt that in present world conditions such procedures were a necessary (if unfortunate) part of pilot training.

(Remember the 'Few' in the Battle of Britain and more recently in the Falklands. Every form of training is vital).

SUCCESS ON HOUSE WALLS

The Island Terrace houses now look pretty smart but there is still a problem. The Parish Council await a report on what conclusion an inspection by the District Council arrived at with regard to the sewer pipeline serving the area there.

MESS IN A VILLAGE STREAM

Raw sewage has been reported feeding into the Buckland stream, and has been referred to the Environmental Health Officer.

FOOTPATH MAPS

There is undoubtedly a need for a decent readable map of the parish footpaths. Parish Councillor Mr David Grose has undertaken to see if it is possible to reproduce copies of the official parish map.

SCHOOL 'BUSSING' PROBLEM

The Parish Council have taken up with the County Transport Officer, the question of Bantham and Buckland children being picked up the first and brought back the last.

It does seem unfair that the School 'bus collects them at 8 a.m. in the morning and then takes them via Loddiswell to the school.

The return journey brings them home via Loddiswell - which means these youngsters have an extra half hour on the 'bus both ways. It is hoped that a fairer balance can be achieved.

OH, DEAR !

Yet five more dwellings have recently received building consent on Thurlstone Mead. It is, of course, history that outline planning for the whole development was obtained in the 1960's, and the Parish Council can do nothing to stem the flow of what they feel constantly adds to the village housing imbalance, and a consequent community imbalance. If you don't provide housing for the younger generation you drive them out - to the detriment of a 'living community'.

One thought that strikes me is that I believe all the District Council Planning Officers are young men - would it be unreasonable to expect them to ensure that every village has a balanced community?

'Tis food for thought, methinks !

+ + + + +

AND FINALLY...

I am not responsible for this! A.E.J. writes...."BY-THE-BYE, why do the majority of writers insert an "E" into BY-LAW?

Drive down the BY-PASS, walk down the BY-WAY, vote in a BY-ELECTION, watch BY-PLAY as a BYSTANDER, make use of a BY-PRODUCT that is a BYWORD, and at the auction be a BY-BIDDER. BY AND BY you may see the logic of this comment on an unnecessary letter."

BYE BYE . !!

Recipes of old

A few items from "200 Cookery Recipes" published in 1909 in aid of the Belfry Fund of West Alvington Church

KEDGEREE FOR BREAKFAST

Boil two tablespoonfuls of rice, add any fish previously cooked, (salmon or turbot is preferable) and nicely picked. Beat up an egg well, and stir in just before serving. The egg must not boil.

* * * * *

RESTORATIVE FOR INVALID

Bake two calves' feet with two pints of water and two of new milk in a closely covered jar for three and a half hours. When cold remove all fat, melt a little as required. Take a cupful last thing at night and one for lunch. Season to taste.

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

2lb. raisins, 2lb. currants, 2lb. brown sugar, 2lb. suet, 1lb. mixed peel, 1lb. almonds, 1lb. flour, 1lb. breadcrumbs, ten eggs, half pint milk, one wineglass brandy, a little salt. Boil eight hours.

* * * * *

SLOE GIN

To a gallon of gin in a two gallon jar put three quarts of ripe sloes (they are better for pricking) 1oz. bitter almonds (cut up) 3½ lbs. lump sugar, cork close and seal. Let it be shaken twice a week for three months, then strain and bottle, keeping it well corked.

* * * * *

BANANA PUDDING

(original West Indian Recipe)

Peel nine bananas, cut them lengthwise and arrange in a piedish, strew over them three-quarters of a cup of sugar, one tablespoonful butter, the juice of a lemon and a wineglass of sherry. Bake till the top is well browned. Serve with cream.

* * * * *

Thank you to Mrs Elsie Horn of South Milton for lending this book.

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After an Accident

A Village Voice Law Society Feature

Accidents can and do happen to anyone. The result at the best can be a slight inconvenience, at the worst tragedy not only for the victim but for his family as well.

Whether the accident happens on the road, or on public or private premises, the victim - if someone else is wholly, or even partly to blame for the accident - has legal rights.

He has the right to sue for damages, that is a cash award to put him back in the position he would have been in if it hadn't been for the accident.

If, as a result of an accident, the victim has had to pay for home nursing or has had something he owns, such as a vehicle or clothing, damaged or ruined beyond repair, then the person responsible for the accident will be ordered to make good that loss. The person responsible for the accident will also have to replace any wages or salary his victim may have lost by being unable to work. These are called special damages and the losses have to be proved. But the court also awards general damages. These damages are assessed by the judge and take into account the pain and suffering the victim has undergone. They will also compensate him for future loss of earning capacity and for any hobby or activity he can no longer undertake because of his injuries.

The same damages can be claimed on behalf of the estate of a person killed in an accident, and his dependants can also claim compensation for loss of his financial support.

An accident victim owes it to himself to consult a solicitor as soon as he can after the accident. Most claims for damages never reach court because the

victim's solicitor has been able to negotiate with the other side - in many cases an insurance company - and get a good settlement for his client.

A solicitor by his professional training, skill and expertise, knows what damages courts award for particular types of injuries. He will know whether an offer in settlement is a fair or derisory one. But more important for his client a solicitor knows when to settle a claim and when not to. In many cases delay in settling can be advantageous for the client. It may take a year or more for the full after-effects of an injury to be fully realised. If doctors are uncertain of the lasting effect of an injury it is better to wait than to settle before the full extent is known, for once a case has been settled it can never be reopened.

If you suffer loss or damage as a result of an accident, even if you think it may be your own fault, you should see a solicitor. You don't have to be completely blameless to recover damages. And a recent survey has shown that accident victims may wrongly assume they have been to blame, when the fault may have lain, at least partly, with someone else. The same survey showed that a high proportion of victims who took no action could have obtained damages if they had taken a solicitor's advice. Solicitors are not allowed to take a percentage of any money they recover for their clients. Their fees are based on each individual case and must be fair and reasonable taking into account the amount of work they do and the complexity of the case. If your income is moderate, you may be able to obtain a solicitor's help under the Legal Aid Scheme. This will almost certainly be the case if your accident results in your being off work, and in many cases where settlements are made out of court the settlement includes a provision for the negligent party or his insurers to pay the victim's solicitors' costs.

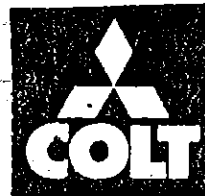
The moral is quite clear; accident victims should, in their own interest, see a solicitor as soon as possible.



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Parish Hall Hiring Charges

FROM; Mrs P. Macdonald,
25, Mead Lane,
Thurlestone.

Dear Sir,

Reference the letter about charges for borrowing tables and chairs from Thurlestone Parish Hall.

When the Horticultural Show is held at South Milton, tables have to be hired from Thurlestone Parish Hall. At first the Show committee was a trifle unhappy about having to pay for the loan of the tables, but we recognised an important point about the equipment at our Hall.

Every time these things are borrowed, they have to suffer two lots of loading and unloading and two bumpy journeys during which they inevitably suffer a few knocks however careful the lessees.

In this way chairs and tables can very soon get damaged through constant handling as above, and when this happens to whom does the Parish Hall Committee then turn for the cost of repairs and replacements? It has to dig into its own slender financial resources of course.

I understand there are no exemptions from these hiring charges, and rightly so. The Parish Hall has to pay its way just as we all must.

Yours, etc.
P. Macdonald.

P.S. Incidentally, because our village meeting place is called 'Parish Hall', a lot of people think it belongs to the Church, which of course is not the case - perhaps this correspondence will serve to dispel this misunderstanding!

+++++

Population Changes in South Hams

+++++

In 1901 the Census gave the population of Thurlestone as 354, in 1911 - 415. By 1971 the figure had grown to 696 and by 1981 - 827.

South Milton has had a more modest growth - in 1901 - 287. in 1911 - 332. 1971 - 388 and 1981 - 403.

Churchstow has also shown steady growth from 282 in 1901 to 421 by 1981.

Kingsbridge has grown from 3,025 in 1901 to 4,142 by 1981 - which was an increase of almost 600 between 1971 and 1981.

However, despite all the house building one has witnessed at places like Modbury, the 1901 Census gave a population of 1,242, and yet the 1981 Census was 22 less at 1,220. Probably an indication of smaller families in this day and age?

West Alvington grew from 433 to 535 between 1901 and 1911 - and yet the 1981 Census figure is 471. !

In 80 years Sherford, for example has gone down from 342 to a mere 217. South Pool from 296 to 232, Woodleigh from 198 to 152, East Portlemouth from 264 to 185 and Chivelstone down from a peak 439 to just 208.

The whole South Hams area now has a Census population of 67,900 and a rateable value of £7,775,737. !

A One Penny rate produces just over £76,000.

ACROSS: 1 and 4. DEVON COUNTY. 9. IMPEACH. 10. UNITS. 11. EARN. 12. AVERAGE. 13. ANP. 14. RAIL. 16. GUES. 18. AXE. 20. ANIMALS. 21. ASHY. 24. IDEAS. 25. ARBUTUS. 26. ODD DAY. 27. TROTS. DOWN: 1. DRIVE. 2. VIBER. 3. NEAR. 5. OPULENCE. 6. NO TRADE. 7. YESTER. 8. CHEAT. 13. ALL AT SEA. 15. ANISSED. 17. CALICO. 18. ASIAN. 19. BYSSUS. 22. SET TO. 23. OBIL.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 2. - I hope you didn't look first!

You might like to know

My wife had been on to me about making my Will, even though I told her she would get everything anyway. However, I decided to have a word with a solicitor and was suprised to learn that under the intestacy rules, if my wife survives me and I leave no parents, issue, brothers or sisters, nephews or nieces she would get everything; otherwise she might get as little as £25,000, depending on just what other relatives survive me also. Of course, assets held jointly may pass to the wife automatically whether or not I made a Will.

* * * * *

Are you as fed up as I am at other folks dogs and cats messing up my garden? Well, whilst in general, the owner of animals is under a legal obligation to fence them in I fear you cannot successfully sue any of your neighbours because their dogs or cats trespass on your property.

Dogs and cats are an exception to the rule, unless a particular cat or dog has a 'mischievous propensity' to cause harm of a particular kind. Then the owner of such animals may be required to compensate those who suffer as a result of an animal (dog or cat) behaving in that particular, wicked way.

* * * * *

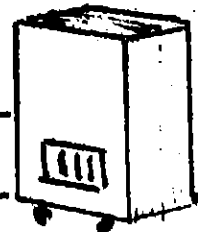
Do you have a problem parking outside your home? I have to tell you that you have no better right than anyone else. "Frontagers", like anyone else park on the highway by courtesy of the local police. You might try putting up a 'No Parking Please' sign - but it has no more legal effect than that which says 'Trespassers will be prosecuted! You could complaint to the police - and end up with double yellow lines preventing anyone from parking. If it is a 'neighbour problem' - have a word, asking that they leave space for your car. They might just do so!

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The Secret of the Third Eye

from our SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
on the spot

Considerable confusion surrounds our knowledge of that delightful creature, the Haggaria Scotus, or to use its common name, "the Haggis".

No one not a member of the Haggis-arians, the Haggis Breeders Guild, has ever seen a live Haggis. Membership of the Guild is hereditary, passing directly from father to son, but only to those sons who possess the essential qualification for membership, a third eye in the middle of the forehead, which enables the Guild member to see the little animals, who are invisible to normal eyesight.

Haggis Breeders are willing to talk about their ancient craft to native born Highlanders. I am one of those favoured people and I am therefore in a position to pass on to Sassenachs and other unfortunates, who were born outwith the Highlands, details of the life style of the Haggis in its historic habitat, and the methods used by the Haggis Breeders, to preserve these delightful creatures.

The Haggis is a small beast with a round body, bright eyes, a small mouth, and a slightly upturned, one might say almost retrousse nose, and four short but sturdy legs.

The male Haggis is brown in colour, with a black band from nose to tail, while the female is slightly lighter in colour and without the band. A trained observer can tell the age of a Haggis by counting the number of white rings appearing on the animal's tail. One ring for every two years of age. This distinguishing feature makes it easy to select animals of the correct age for breeding, between four and eight years.

Another peculiar feature of the Haggis is that the two left legs are only about half the length of the right legs. This strange formation is yet another example of the ability of

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members of the animal kingdom to adapt to its environment. The Haggis is found only on the steepest slopes of Scottish mountains and by having shorter legs on one side the Haggis is able to browse in comfort while standing on the steep slopes.

Although the Guild of Haggis Breeders are eager to talk about their "wee beasties" they are unwilling to disclose details of their breeding habits, but after considerable persuasion on my part, and considerable consumption of whisky on their part, I was able to extract the following information.

The mating season starts on Nov 30th St Andrew's night, reaches its climax at Hogmanay, and finishes on January 25th - Burns night. The young are born during May, June and July, and there are never more than two in each litter. It is only during the mating season that the cry of the Haggis is heard, a high pitched and continuous call "Hoch aye, Hoch aye."

The Haggis is not a protected species and can be hunted throughout the year, using the following methods:

The Haggis hunters, usually ten in number, move up behind the flock, or more correctly, the Huddle of Haggis, and by shouting start the animals running. Because of their short left legs the Haggis start running anti-clockwise round the mountain. Having started the stampede the hunters hide behind rocks and in holes. Then the Haggis reappear, having run right round the mountain, the hunters leap to their feet, and with shouts and yells frighten the animals into reversing their line of flight. Because of their short left legs the Haggis cannot run clockwise and so lose their balance and roll down the mountain side to be easily captured by waiting children.

Anyone wishing for further information on this subject should contact Mr James MacFuddle, Secretary, Haggis Appreciation Society, High Street, Balnabarefeet, or save the postage and contact Mr Ian Young, 11, Backshay Close, South Milton, Kingsbridge TQ7 3JU !

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The Old Sexton's Tale

In 1799 there resided in Malborough a sexagenarian of the name of William Narramore, who was sexton of the parish, and known at that period as the 'oracle of the cliffs'. Some of the details following were related by him when acting as guide to a party of investigators on October 27th of the above-mentioned year.



Of wrecks there have been a large number along this coast, and much loss of life. Near to Bolt Head is Off Cove, formed by a long fissure in the rocks, running some way into the land, whilst large rocks plentifully scattered about on the top afford shelter for many ferns and other delicate plants. A large rock lying off the coast here is named the Goat, then come Long and Steeple Coves (the latter named from a steeple like rock), Roberdean Point (probably derived from some shipwreck), Raven Rocks, (which are exceedingly romantic), Water Cove, and Stanning's Cove. Roden Point forms the eastern entrance to Sewer (Soar) Mill Cove, and here a foreign ship was wrecked in 1765, laden with marble statues, some of which were recovered and were supposed to have been taken to Powderham Castle. This spot has been the scene of many a sad shipwreck, the more recent being the screw steamer Ruperra, laden with cotton seed, and the Italian barque Volere, laden with walnut wood and marble, when five persons were drowned, including the captain and his wife; and the Hallowe'en, a fully rigged ship laden with tea from China, some remains of which are still at the Cove.

The Government a short time ago established a wireless telegraph station near to the Coastguard Station at Sewer Mill. The Coastguard buildings were erected thirty years ago, and consist of six cottages and a watchhouse. The tract of land about here is the highest and most prominent on the south coast, and at the station is 425 feet above sea level. Sewer Mill Cove is over half a mile distant, the land gradually sloping toward it, and the farmsteads of Middle and Lower Sewer are near by. Although the Station is so far from the coast, yet it has a commanding view of the English Channel, and is most conveniently situated for communicating with vessels as far away as the Mediterranean. The most prominent object connected with the station is the mast which is in three sections with a total height of 160 feet. The station was opened by the Postmaster General on December 12th 1909.

The open down stretching away inland to the west is called Bolberry Down, and here was established on May 29th. 1768, the Kingsbridge Races, then called in order to avoid the penalties, "The Kingsbridge Annual Diversions", where the prizes were under £50. They were held yearly in the month of June until 1771, when they were removed to Middle Sewer Farm, and in 1782 removed to East Allington parish and then the following year gave origin to the Totnes Races. Situated nearly on the top of Bolberry Downs, and near the golf links, is a cavern about 20 feet long 6 or 7 feet broad, and 8 feet high, known as Ralph's Hole.



It is directly facing the sea, which is about 400 feet below in almost a perpendicular direction.

A supposed pirate or malefactor named Ralph made it his abode for many years, so as to escape the bailiffs or constable. It is said Ralph kept his pursuers constantly at bay with a prong, so that no one could get to him. His wife brought provisions to him. The whole coast abounds in iron, and a few years ago gold was found near to Bolberry Downs, but not in sufficient quantities to pay for working.

W.D.

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FIFTY YEARS

TOLD BY

IAN YOUNG : :



Any innocent visitor from Outer Space travelling along Loch Ness during the summer of 1933 might, if he had joined the slowly moving procession of cars, have thought he was a participant in the funeral procession of a Highland Chief.

He would have been wrong. He would have been taking part, for the first time, in what was, during the ensuing fifty years, to be the most popular summer sport and the greatest money earner for the Scottish economy since the invention of Whisky. "Spotting the Monster," or as her millions of devoted fans refer to it, "Looking for Nessie".

The Monster in Loch Ness had been figuring in Highland legend and fantasy for hundreds of years, but the chance sighting of a disturbance in the Loch, and the subsequent report in the Inverness Courier, under a double column heading, clothed the fantasy with spurious fact, and the Loch Ness Monster Industry was born.

National newspapers, who were suffering at the time from a lack of 'news' welcomed the story with open arms, and within weeks 'Nessie' was christened, and given international standing alongside King George V and President Roosevelt, and far in advance of Marilyn Munro and Clark Gable. The effect of these events on Inverness was catastrophic. From being a quiet backwater, the town, and its inhabitants were forced to the front of world news, and statements from even the humblest of her citizens were quoted alongside those of world statesmen and criminals. At weekends, and on the local half-day closing, everyone who could arrange transport be it car, lorry, bicycle or even an occasional horse drawn cart, set out for any vantage point beside the Loch from which to scan the

surface without ceasing, for signs of 'Nessie', until the slow shadows of the summer night forced them to call off the search and return to their neglected homes and children !

Sightings were frequent and varied according to the enthusiasm, or sobriety of the 'Spotter'. Accordingly 'Nessie' had no humps, three humps, a long neck, a short neck and sometimes just a back. Once she was seen at opposite ends of the 20 mile long Loch within ten minutes of each other, and the most memorable of all spottings was when she was seen one night crossing the main road with a sheep in her mouth, but as the 'spotter' on this occasion was returning from a late and liquid party, this sighting was discounted !

The old social structure of Inverness was destroyed and 'class' distinctions disappeared. Upper and lower classes were ignored, and society was divided into those who had seen 'Nessie' or wanted to see her, and those who had not, and didn't want to anyway.

After a few months the amateurs gradually lost interest and began to leave the 'hunt' to the professionals who, during the past fifty years have carried on looking with increasingly complex and expensive equipment and with little evidence of success so far. However, the 'Monster Industry' has continued to flourish and a 'Nessie' portrait has appeared on T-shirts, scarves, handkerchiefs and so on. Her graceful outline

MORE:::::

Continuing IAN YOUNG'S ACCOUNT OF
FIFTY YEARS OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

has been modelled in wood, plastic, glass and even silver, while her life story has been told in films, books, T.V. and in thousands of newspaper and magazine columns.

'Nessie' herself, with a sure knowledge of the publicity value of a personal appearance disports herself before the delighted gaze of her fans at infrequent and totally unannounced intervals, but always when the professional experts have temporarily slackened their search, so ensuring that the aura of unsolved mystery will continue to surround her existence.

My own reactions to her existence are completely open. She may be there - she may not be there - but until we have definite proof one way or the other I can only hope that the present world wide interest continues, with its resultant benefit to the economy of my native country.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A Point of View -

Following the short piece in the last issue referring to the Avon Estuary and water skiing - and the possibility of high speed boats causing an accident which could need the attention of the Coroner, may I say this was the expression of one persons point of view, and there can be no apology for that, - for Village Voice is serving its purpose when it is used as a vehicle for expressing points of view.

If YOU have a point you would like to 'put over' - so long as it is not libellous it will be published - and you might find many agreeing with YOUR point of view !

Next issue will be for JAN/FEB 1984.

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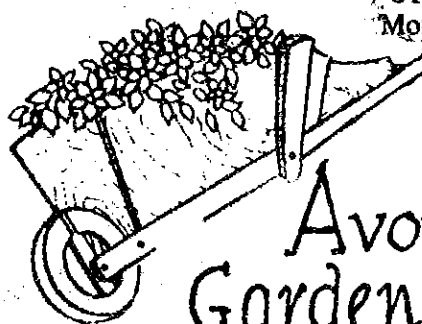
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VILLAGE VOICE COMMENT : : :

The "Millstone" has gone - but - - -

Until 1980 Thurlestone bore the 'millstone' of 'Key Village Development' - at one time the sacred cow of countryside planning - but although the millstone has gone the changed character of our village is with us forever - and it has hastened the drift of the young through lack of appropriate housing.

Nothing can reverse the housing imbalance that the village has suffered until we see the building of small, compact 'community clusters' carefully related to the existing settlements and with every care taken to conserve valuable productive land.

Only by the concerted effort of those truly concerned with the future well-being of the community shall we halt the drift of the young and re-establish a truly viable community.

Under present day planning regulations the future in such matters is very greatly in the hands of the planners. Can it be hoped that they will show some of the care and wisdom of our forefathers who were able - unqualified and unpaid - to establish so much of the beauty and charm which has encouraged more and yet more people to retire to such places to live and have unwittingly helped to encourage the changing character of our villages.

It is the drift away of the young through lack of housing of a suitable size and cost which creates the real problem. Ultimately a 'Costa Geriatrica'? I hope not. A Government Inter-Departmental Report on Rural Depopulation published way back in 1976 referred to 'THE VALUE OF RURAL LIFE'

"In an overwhelming urban society the existence of rural communities must have an effect out of all proportion to their numbers. It has a psychological value for townspeople, linking them to a life nearer nature and to their rural ancestry. It has a cultural value which cannot be measured."

Nor can the lack of the young in our midst .

VILLAGER.

VILLAGE VOICE HAPPILY PRESENTS ITS FIRST CHILDREN'S
STORY - for the fives to ninety-fives !



BLACK MAGIC

by Local Writer MARY FINLAY

* * * * *

Johnny lived with his mother and father in a pretty little stone house in the country. They had a cow who gave them lots of creamy milk, and hens which laid lovely big brown eggs. They had pigs and ducks and two cats. But they did not have the one thing that Johnny wanted more than anything else - a pony!

Ever since he was a very small boy, Johnny had wanted a pony of his own, but his father had no money to buy him one, so when Johnny grew big enough - about seven or so - he decided to earn some money himself and began to do odd jobs for old Farmer Applegate who lived down the lane from Johnny's house. He picked up the eggs, helped to milk the cows and feed the pigs, and on Saturdays the old man would give him a tenpenny piece - or sometimes more. Best of all, though, Farmer Applegate, who in his youth had been a very good horseman, had an old black mare, Bessie, whom he taught Johnny to ride, showing him how to sit properly in the saddle, use his legs and not pull too hard on the reins. On wet days, they sat in the stable and cleaned Bessie's saddle and bridle until they shone like new, while the old man told Johnny of the wonderful things that he and Bessie had done when they were young: the hunt meets and the shows they had attended, and how Bessie had always won first prize.

In the summer, Bessie always stood in the shade of an old oak tree in the meadow and Johnny sat on a low branch beside her and dreamed of the days when Bessie was young. But in the dreams it was Johnny, not Farmer Applegate, who was riding her and winning all the prizes! But one day the sad old farmer came to Johnny's house and told him sorrowfully, that he was too old to farm his land properly any more, so he had sold it, and was going away to live in the town with his daughter. Johnny was very unhappy. "What will happen to Bessie?" he cried "Will you take her with you?" The old farmer sighed heavily. "No, Bessie has lived here too long. She wouldn't settle anywhere else. I'm trusting you to help the new farmer to look after her. I've told him about Bessie and you, and he has promised to keep Bessie always and let you look after her. He told me that he has a son about your age and he has two ponies, so he will be glad of your help."

Johnny was very excited to hear this and he looked forward eagerly to meeting the new boy.

One day, four big green lorries came rumbling down the lane to the farm. The first one was full of cows, which Johnny drove into a field. The second was full of calves, and Johnny showed the driver where the calf-house was. The third lorry had ploughs and machinery on board, but out of the fourth lorry stepped two beautiful ponies. One was a lovely chestnut mare; the other a bay gelding. They were nervous and frisky after being shut up in the lorry a long time. The boy who was helping to lead them out of the lorry was not very patient. He pulled the chestnut's halter roughly and shouted at her, which only made matters worse, until Johnny ran forward to help, his gentle voice and hands soon quietening the ponies. When they were settled he showed the boy where the stables were, telling him "I'm Johnny. I work here and look after Bessie." "I'm Roger," the new boy replied. "My father told me about you and Bessie. I can't understand you loving an old horse like that. She's no use for anything, is she? I mean, you can't go to shows and gymkhanas and win prizes with her, can you?"

MORE : : : :

BLACK MAGIC

The story continues :



"Bessie has won hundreds of prizes," Johnny replied hotly. "She was once the best show pony in the world" Roger shrugged. "Oh, well. That's old history. She's no use now. Look Johnny, I'm hungry. You finish feeding these ponies. I'm going in for tea. See you tomorrow."

Johnny eagerly agreed. He not only fed the ponies, he groomed them as well, then he went out to the meadow to tell Bessie all about the new arrivals. It didn't take Johnny long to find out that Roger didn't really love his ponies. He was a clever rider, and liked to dress up in his smart riding clothes and go to shows and win prizes, but he did not like the work of cleaning out the stables, and polishing the saddles and bridles, and brushing the ponies' coats until they gleamed like satin. He left all the hard work for Johnny to do, but Johnny didn't mind because he loved the ponies, and nothing was too much trouble.

In the middle of the summer holidays, there was going to be a big show near the village, and Roger was going to ride Melody the chestnut mare. To Johnny's surprise and delight, Roger told him that he could ride Flash, the bay gelding. For days the two boys worked hard practising jumping the ponies over fences, and polo bending - racing in and out of poles which were stuck in the ground. But always when they had finished practising, Roger would go away and leave Johnny to put everything away, and clean and feed the ponies.

On the day before the show, the boys were practising in the meadow and Bessie was watching. "That old horse gets on my nerves," Roger exclaimed angrily when he knocked down a pole with Melody's hind hooves. "I shall ask father to get rid of her." Johnny was horrified. "You can't do that. Your father promised to keep her for ever. She's not doing any harm." "Father will do whatever I ask him," boasted Roger. "She is eating grass that would feed my ponies. Besides I don't like her. She seems to be always watching me."

"Will you sell her to me if I win any money at the show tomorrow?" asked Johnny. Roger laughed. "I'll give her to you if you win a prize tomorrow, but I know you won't, because Melody can beat Flash any day."

Johnny knew this was true, but it didn't stop him dreaming of a miracle. Early next morning he arrived at the farm dressed in Roger's second best riding clothes. Johnny's mother had cleaned and pressed them until they were as good as new, and he looked nearly as smart as Roger, who was very smart indeed.

What a shock awaited them in the field! When they went to fetch the ponies they found Melody was lame. "Oh bother!" exclaimed Roger angrily. "Now I shall have to ride Flash." And he mounted the gelding and rode away without a word of apology, leaving Johnny speechless in the courtyard.

Slowly and sadly Johnny led Melody back to the field, and putting his arms around Bessie's neck he sobbed out his story. "I was going to buy you if I won any money today," he told her.

"Well, what are we waiting for? Get my saddle and bridle. I hope you've been keeping them clean."

Johnny jumped in surprise. Bessie had spoken to him! "Why...yes...Bessie." he spoke apologetically, "But I can't ride you. You're too old."

"Don't be cheeky!" Bessie snorted. "You get my saddle and hurry."

"Y..Yes Bessie." Johnny said and ran to the stable.

When he returned to the field he rubbed his eyes and stared. Old Bessie had gone. In her place stood the most wonderful black mare Johnny had ever seen. She held her head high, her muscles rippled under the smooth shiny black coat, her legs were strong though dainty, and she swished her long black tail impatiently.

"Hurry up!" she ordered. "We'll miss the first jumps at this rate. Oh, by the way, when you get to the show you'll find I'm already entered as Black Magic, so don't call me Bessie. In fact you musn't speak a word or you'll spoil everything."

MORE :::

Concluding BLACK MAGIC - - - - -

In a daze, Johnny saddled the mare and mounted. Almost before he knew what was happening they were at the show. Everyone crowded around him. "Where did you get that wonderful horse?" they asked, but Johnny said nothing.

Black Magic entered for all the races and came first every time. When she was jumping gasps of astonishment came from the crowd. She didn't just jump - she seemed to fly over the highest fence with ease. Roger was very angry when Flash didn't win and shouted and used his whip so much that he was disqualified from the remaining races. At the end of the day, Black Magic was given the silver cup for the best pony in the show, and all the people cheered.

Johnny was very tired as he rode home. In fact, he was so tired he must have fallen asleep in the saddle, because the next thing he remembered he was in the stable at the farm. At first he thought he had dreamed it all, until he saw the silver cup lying on the wooden bench beside him. He felt in his pocket and found the little packets of money, and knew it was true.

He rushed down to the meadow. There were the chestnut mare and Flash - so Roger was home - but where was Black Magic? Slowly he walked up to old Bessie, who stood under the tree as usual, and stroked her leathery old nose. "Thank you, Black Magic," he whispered. "You've given me a wonderful day. When Roger sees this silver cup he'll have to keep his promise and give you to me for keeps." The old mare said nothing, but she slowly winked one eye and nodded her head, then wandered off to graze beside Flash & Melody, and the three of them had their heads very close together.

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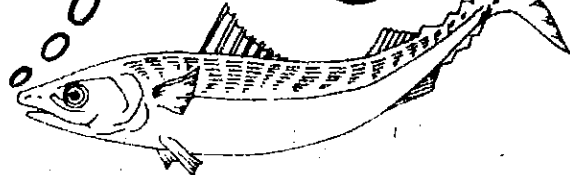
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Today, many of the mystical superstitions which once surrounded the home and the kitchen have largely disappeared, yet it is suprising how many people still pay heed to occurances during the course of the day at home which are said the presage omens of the future.

Such beliefs go back a long way indeed and the Romans, for instance, had their own household gods who were called 'lares' and 'penates' and took specail care of the home. Roman lore said, for example, that a housewife should never throw out a dish or pan or any other piece of kitchen equipment which had served her well: these were considered 'lucky' items in the home which would serve their users as well in the future as in the past. Special attention, therefore, had to be paid to anything new in the home to see if it was lucky or unlucky. A new pan which has just been bought and which burnt the first thing cooked in it should be immediately put aside - otherwise it would continue to cause ill-fortune to the home.

If a saucepan fell unexpectedly from a kitchen shelf then it meant that unexpected visitors would soon arrive and a lot of cooking would be necessary to feed them. The larger the pan that fell, incident - ally the larger the number of guests that would arrive! To cut a loaf upside down in the kitchen or slice off both ends at the same time were sure invitations for the devil to cast his evil eye on the house and everyone within. In fact, the devil could also influence the bread in the oven and it was always wise to put a cross on the top so that the dough would be certain to rise. Loaves of bread baked at Christmas time reputedly never grew stale, while if any housewife threw bread on the fire it was regarded as a terrible sin in that it was tantamount to 'feeding the devil'.

Spoons and knives had their own lore to

foretell the future. If a girl found two spoons in her saucer or two soup spoons laid by her plate, this was a sure sign that she would soon be courting or 'spooning' with the man she desired! Two spoons actually in her cup meant that she would soon have a marriage proposal, but any girl who added milk to her tea before sugar would be unlucky even if she had two spoons in front of her - her rash action would mean that any romance in her life was destined to fade and die quickly.

If a knife fell to the floor, then a male visitor would soon appear, whilst crossed knives meant an imminent quarrel. A fork falling to the floor, on the other hand, meant that a woman visitor could be expected and, if a knife and fork fell at the same time, then a married couple would visit soon.

In Somerset, any girl who ate a double-yolked egg was dettined to have a 'shotgun wedding', while Somerset farmers' wives never threw empty shells of eggs into the fire since this action would stop the hens laying!

A large moth entering the home at night was a good sign everywhere, since it meant that a solution to a problem in the home would soon be solved. The bigger the moth the bigger the problem that would be solved soon!

Similarly, plants and weeds which attached themselves to the walls of a house should nevdr be dis-lodged or uprooted. They had come there as sanctuary where they could flourish, and so everything in the home would flourish as long as they were not disturbed.

So you think you can drive - Part 2.

Fatigue brought about by continuous driving over long periods is first felt as eye strain and lack of concentration, and although special efforts may be made by the driver to maintain his normal standard of observation, he will find the task increasingly difficult, his speed will slacken, his recognition and assessment of danger situations become late and inaccurate.

One of the most important aids to successful town driving is local knowledge. To know the situation of main road junctions, one way streets and roundabout systems, and the type of conditions prevailing there, is undoubtedly of great assistance to the driver, because he then has some idea of what to look for

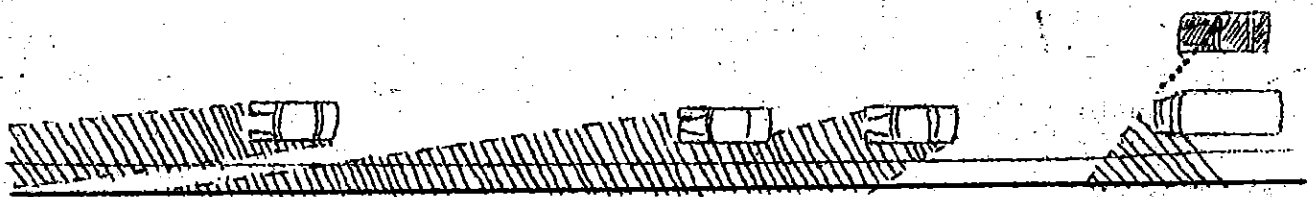
Town driving demands great power of concentration, road observation, the ability to react quickly to changing situations, and considerable driving skill. Views ahead are frequently restricted owing to density of traffic. It is not wise to focus all ones attention on the vehicle in front, and a sensible distance should be maintained behind it, so that a view of traffic movement two, three or more vehicles ahead may be obtained from time to time.

In places where traffic is really heavy and slow, driving is nothing more than a series of stops and starts. Length of view is short and passage along the road becomes a matter of 'follow my leader'. If, however there are two or three lines of traffic moving in the same direction, it is important to be in the correct line, especially if a turn to left or right is to be made at the next junction.

Correct positioning at the approach to a busy junction can only be achieved by seeing the junction from a distance, unless the driver has local knowledge. The good driver notes the type of control, i.e. traffic lights or traffic policeman, sees the formation of the lines of traffic and then gets into his correct line in good time.

Quick decisions must often be made when driving in traffic. An accurate forecast of traffic movement can sometimes be made by observing quite small details. A complete list of these cannot be given, but the driver will find the

TURN OVER.



Blind areas beyond parked cars - position to give maximum visibility



So you think you can Drive?

following examples of use:

- (a) Passengers congregating on the platform of a 'bus prior to alighting coupled with the view of a 'bus stopping place further ahead. From this it may be deduced that the 'bus is about to stop, so hold back and plan to over-take it on the offside.
- (b) A considerable amount of traffic, crossing and turning some distance ahead gives early information of approach to a road junction.
- (c) A pedestrian hails a cab from the rank you are passing. Watch for the first cab to move off, possibly across your path, or for the pedestrian to run out to meet it.
- (d) A lorry three or four vehicles ahead of the one you are following may be seen to pull up suddenly, a sudden stoppage of all traffic may result, so be prepared.
- (e) A row of stationary cars on the near-side. Watch those with drivers at the wheel; any may move off suddenly. Watch for front wheel movements, exhausts smoking, hand signals and direction indicators.
- (f) When passing a row of stationary vehicles, there is always the possibility of a pedestrian stepping out from between them. The view in between these vehicles is always very limited, but it can be improved if traffic conditions permit by giving them a 'wide berth' and so providing a safety margin as well as a better view. This is demonstrated in the sketch overpage.
- (g) When stationary behind another vehicle, particularly on a gradient, watch the behaviour of the driver, especially as he starts off, and be prepared for him to run back before moving forward. Make allowance for this by not drawing up too close.
- (h) Keep a good lookout for sudden movements of pedestrians and pedal cyclists; they can change course very quickly, but quite often some small action may be observed which will indicate their next move. The cyclist, before swerving right, takes a quick

glance over his right shoulder, but may neglect to give a hand signal. The 'bus pulling up at, or just moving away from, a stopping place can be the clue to the pedestrians intention, running on the opposite side to cross the road to board it.

Having read the above, it is my hope that you will give some thought to your manner of driving and wish to improve your driving skills: after all, only a small percentage of us use firearms, whereas the majority of us drive vehicles, which I feel sure you will agree can be equally lethal. I recommend that you read the booklet 'Roadcraft' which is based on the Police Driving Manual. You can obtain Roadcraft at any branch of W.H.SMITH, price £1.95. There are editions appropriate to both car drivers and motor cyclists.

P.C. JOHN BARRETT.

Do you want a "Hump"?

From August 25th a new-kind of road hump designed to slow down vehicles in built-up areas became legal. It is not the conventional kind of sharp hump - known as 'Sleeping Policemen' - which is installed on many private estates, National Trust driveways, etc, but is a relatively long-wave obstacle measuring 12ft wide by 4inches high. The good news for everyone is that the new 'long-wave' dimensions are rated to be non-damaging to vehicles and loads, the bad news for Thurstlestone and similar parishes is that the 'humps' can only be installed on highways subject to a 30 mph speed limit and must be sited on stretches of well lit roadway. Would you like to see the main village roads well lit and subject to a speed limit in order to get some humps to slow down vehicles? Possibly a subject for the next Annual Parish Meeting!

From September 1st. the M.O.T test will cost £9.00 for your car and £5.40 for your motor-cycle.

HAZEL

BY KEN HARDY



"Hello Hazel, Miranda here. Well at least I've managed to get hold of you. Everyone but everyone seems to be out this morning. And do you know I've spoken to at least five answering machines already? No don't interrupt...I'm pretty fed up with these answering machines, they're becoming an absolute pest. I mean people who put them in can have no idea of the expense they put other people to, can they? I mean if they were out and the phone went on ringing and ringing, well then you'd know wouldn't you and if it was urgent you'd keep on ringing until you got them. But now. Now the damned machines actually answers the phone and by the time you've found out they're out, then you've got to pay for the call, haven't you?

I think it's most unfair and it must be jolly hard on poor people. Mind you I'm told that most people don't actually leave a message at all. As soon as the voice says 'please speak after the tone' most people hang up. Well I do for one. Charlie says he always says a rude word when he's inviged to speak and then hangs up.

I mean all that expense of buying the thing and then all you get is some rude words for your trouble. Charlie says if you keep the rude words down to one, nobody can recognise your voice when they play it back. Mind you we know some people who should get a string of rude words when they play their tape back, don't we dear? No don't answer that!

I mean people, real people that is, don't have them do they? I mean I suppose it's all right for people who feel insecure about missing phone calls, but can you honestly imagine Maggie Thatcher having one of the things! Fancy dialing No.10 and her voice answering: 'This is Margaret Thatcher here. I'm sorry I've had to pop out for a moment to the Common Market, but if you just leave your name and phone number, I'll ring you the minute British Airways get me back home! No of course you can't. As I said real people don't have them. Not that it's all easy-peasy having one of the things. Charlie says that the people who sell them have attractive young ladies going round advising people who install them in the correct way to put a message on the beastly thing. No Charlie is not getting one!

I mean honestly Hazel some of the messages you hear when you ring up. It sounds like Amateur Night at the Old Vic! All those 'ums' and 'ers'. You can tell they've never faced a microphone before in their lives. Charlie says that long pause you sometimes get after the phone answers is because they've dried up with stage fright, butt then Charlie does tend to exaggerate. Well, just a little. Mind you I've often heard someone talking away in the background and though it's difficult to catch exactly what they're saying, it sounds like someone telling them not to forget this or that. Perhaps it's one of those attractive young ladies from the machine company that Charlie's always on about. Anyway it sounds female to me.

Muriel, yes she's back, says that she heard something once that quite changed her views about that Annie Armitage. Oh, yes she's got one of the machines. Would have, wouldn't she! You know we often asked each other where she got her money, well Muriel says...but no...I'd better not tell you over the phone. Why not? Well because that's another thing you've got to be beware of with these machines. They can record you at anytime. Oh yes, they can. They can record a normal conversation just like this one and with the person speaking quite naturally at the other end. I think that's too bad. Surely it's enough the way they send your phone bill soaring without taping you while they're doing it. Mind you the way some of them distort voices no one could tell who was talking anyway. So they couldnt sue!

CONCLUDING.....

HAZEL by Ken Hardy.

"I mean aren't those voices awful ! No wonder mimics are making a lot of money out of making tapes for answering machines. Muriel swears she spent hours talking to Humphrey Bogart the other day - yes I know dear and so do you, but Muriel doesn't! Which reminds me have you rung that Annie Armitage lately? Talk about Marilyn Monroe ! Charlie says it quite sends shivers up his spine. Funny isn't it when in real life she talks so common. And that's another thing Charlie's not getting, I can tell you!

"Talking of Americans, I'm right off them at the moment. They invented all these answering machines you know. Well I had to make a phone call to that nice American couple...remember the two who invited Charlie and I over to stay with them?...Maddison I think their name was... Well I only wanted to check details about where we should change planes and where they were going to meet us in their car... and calls to Americas aren't cheap are they?...all goes by one of those satellite things you know and I reckon they've recouped all the money it cost to put them up there on the first few phone calls..well anyway I rang the Maddisons and when the phone answered I said: 'Hello, Chuck' and he said ' Hi, this is Chuck..' and do you know I was talking to him for ten minutes before I realised that it was an answering machine!

"Which reminds me I mustn't run on. I really rang to see if you and Fred could come over for supper on Tuesday. I'll tell you all about A.A. then. The A.A.? Annie Armitage, silly she'll take anyone in tow!

"Well can you? Yes or no. Hurry up Hazel, Charlie's waving an empty glass at me. Hazel!.. What the hell do you mean speak after the tone?"

THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE WILL BE CIRCULATING AT THE END OF DECEMBER Do remember to send in your early 1984 Events. Send in by December 15

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An election candidate was canvassing an old shepherd in a Scottish constituency.."We've the right sort of o' candidate in ye", he said "The last was an awfu' nice mon, but he was ower much of a gentleman - and he far ower honest."

+++++

You can now arrange for 'Village Voice' to be posted to friends and relatives. at 56p a copy including postage.

Bantham Surf Life Saving Club

What a busy season this turned out to be, the long range forecast of a fine hot summer proved to be even better than expected.

The beach at Bantham was packed with visitors day after day, with week-ends reaching saturation point as far as the car park was concerned, many late starters were unfortunately turned away because of lack of parking space.

The vast crowds on the beach provided members with many problems, all of which were dealt with successfully. With the many lost children on our hands, the club's public address system proved its worth by quickly re-uniting worried parents with their children.

The number of weaver fish stings treated was well up this year, due no doubt to the warm sea bringing more weaver fish into the shallows. The weaver fish sting gives excruciating pain to the affected limb and usually lasts from two to four hours. The treatment we give is to soak the affected limb in as hot water as the patient can bear, this relieves the pain, to some extent, after about ten minutes.

A number of cuts and bruises were also dealt with, most of them were only minor injuries which only required washing and dressing, but a few cases were sent to hospital with suspected broken limbs and cuts requiring stitches.

The incidents already mentioned were usually dealt with by the junior and lady members, which then left the senior patrol to look after the vast number of bathers. This is done by trying to keep the visitors away from the known danger areas.

With the strong off-shore winds we experienced on some days, there were numerous incidents with inflatables and windsurfers, also when the sea got up a bit we had

CONTINUED OVERPAGE

BUDGIES

After a successful breeding and Show Season I have surplus breeding and pet budgerigars from £6 each.

* * * *

WHY NOT GIVE A PET TO THAT LONELY RELATIVE - OR START YOUR OWN BUDGIE FAMILY?

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If its printable
I can print it !

Bantham Surf Life Saving Club

a few incidents in the rip current which were all dealt with successfully. Our very active juniors made several rescues using skis and rescue boards.

The rescue boat "Maitland Tribe" was also in action a number of times going to the aid of windsurfers, searching for overdue divers and missing persons.

The beach itself was continually changing shape with shifting sand forming sandbanks and inshore holes. These proved a source of danger to the unwary and many a non-swimmer had to be assisted ashore when caught on a sandbank with the incoming tide running in behind them.

Training also took place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with several members being successful in passing the Surf Competance Award and the Resuscitation Award.

Quite a number of the juniors spent most of their summer holidays on the beach, training for competition and assisting the lifeguards, as well as enjoying themselves in the surf.

The Competition for the Thurlestone Shield between the three local clubs turned out to be a very close finish with Challa-borough taking the honours for the second year running.

On Challaborough Beach Sunday August 7th the Devon S.L.S.A. Championships were held, the club was well represented and there was very keen competition. The juniors in particular put up a very good show.

Members have worked very hard fund raising, beach collections in particular did very well, visitors to the beach appreciate the assistance we give in advice and help when needed. What do we do with the money we raise? The expenditure each year comes to around £2,000. This covers the running of the Clubhouse, rent and rates, insurance (Personal, Third Party, Clubhouse, Boat and Equipment), clothing, new equipment, training manuals and examinations, Championships and competitions, winter training, etc.

Our Monday night trek to Totnes Swimming Pool - 8 to 9 pm - has commenced. New members are most welcome.

F.W.SHILLABEER

(Chairman)

Tel: Thurlestone 767.

Clubhouse - Thurlestone 447

BANTHAM SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

J U M B L E S A L E
29th OCTOBER 1983
in the TOWN HALL, KINGSBRIDGE
at 10 a.m.

Twentythird
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
at the SLOOP INN, Bantham
at 8 p.m.
25th NOVEMBER 1983

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

IN AID OF THE

N. S. P. C. C.

will be held
in the PARISH HALL, Thurlestone
on SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER
at 2.15 p.m.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS * PRODUCE
CAKES * TEAS * RAFFLE

THURLESTONE PROBUS

The September meeting was held at the Thurlestone Hotel on 2nd September. Mr Jim Woodrow, High Sheriff of Devon and resident in the village, gave a most interesting talk on the history of Plymouth. He said that before World War II the city had some of the worst slums in the country, many of which were flattened in air raids. Since then a vast building programme has reached a point at which very few people there are now without a home of their own.

At the next Meeting on November 11th. Mr John Hobson of Thurlestone is to speak upon Marketing.

NEVILLE C. OSWALD

Chairman.



South Hams Theatre & Arts Trust

Monthly Programme of Events at

KINGSBRIDGE THEATRE & CINEMA



Wednesday & Thursday, November 2nd & 3rd, at 8p.m.

FAYE DUNAWAY, ALAN BATES, JOHN GIELGUD

THE WICKED LADY (Certificate 18)

A lively, entertaining, swashbuckling film.



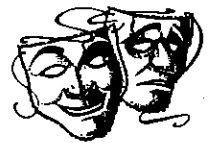
Tuesday, November 8th to Saturday, November 12th, at 7.45p.m.

Kingsbridge Dramatic Society presents:

TEN TIMES TABLE

The popular comedy by Alan Ayckbourne

Seats at £1.50 & £1 (OAPs & under 18s 75p), at Ashby and Rogers, Fore Street, Kingsbridge; or after 6p.m. 'phone Loddiswell 233; or at Box Office on evenings of performances.



Wednesday & Thursday, November 16th & 17th, at 8p.m.

MERYL STREEP, JEREMY IRONS, LEO MCKERN

THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN (Certificate 15)

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



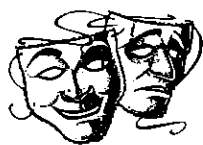
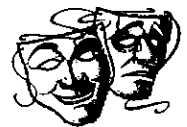
Friday, November 18th, at 8p.m.

South Hams Theatre & Arts Trust presents:

EXETER UNIVERSITY SINGERS

the International Rose Bowl winners of the BBC's "Let the People Sing"

in a programme of popular music. Seats at £2.50 (under-14s £2), at The Music Centre, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, or at Box Office on evening of November 18th.



Saturday, November, 19th & November, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 26th, at 8p.m.

Varn-Tor Printers are proud to sponsor the G.B. Production presentation of the famous musical play based on George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion", with book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe:

MY FAIR LADY

Seats at £1.25 & £2 (reductions Monday and Tuesday for OAPs, parties and children) at The Music Centre, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, or at the Theatre Box Office on the evenings of performance.

G.B. Productions are kindly donating all profits to the Theatre and Arts Trust for the maintenance of Kingsbridge Theatre.



Wednesday & Thursday, November, 23rd & 24th, at 7.30p.m.

A Double-Feature Programme:

MAD MAX and MAD MAX 2 (Certificate 18)

starring Mel Gibson as 'Max — a road warrior'.

Three hours of thrills and spills!



Wednesday & Thursday, November 30th & December 1st, 7.30 - 10.30p.m.

GANDHI (Certificate PG)

starring Ben Kingsley, Martin Sheen, Edward Fox, Roshan Seth.

The story of one man's belief in peace and religious tolerance, this film won 8 Oscars. If you make only a rare visit to the cinema, be sure not to miss 'Gandhi' (Special admission prices for this film: Adults £1.60; Children 80p).

N.B. The Cinema will be closed during December, re-opening on 4th January, 1984, with "The Dark Crystal"

JUNIOR JUDO

I am sure that many parents like myself are appalled at the increasing number of sex attacks on children, and are wondering how best we can protect them against such terrible ordeals. Obviously the time comes when they have to be allowed out without parental supervision.

I am very anxious that my own children should learn Judo. I feel that any form of self defence must be a help even if only to gain time, and give them a chance to get away.

I have been in touch with the new Community College head, Miss Georgina Weaver, who is being most helpful. She is hoping to start classes in Kingsbridge in January and would be glad to hear from anyone wishing to join. Please contact her on Kingsbridge 3298 or write to 'Tresillian', Fore Street, Kingsbridge..

It is not possible at present to say at what age the tutor will accept a child, but we feel that, if we all get our names down now, it will help the Community College to plan their courses.

Please help me to get this project off the ground (but not flat on it's back !)

LINDY ANDERTON

Marlin,
South Milton.

(Tel: Thurlestone 751)

.... LOOK!
YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT
PROBLEM SOLVED!

BUMPER CHRISTMAS BARGAIN SALE

10 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

on SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER 1983

in
ALL SAINTS SCHOOL HALL
THURLESTONE

Refreshments available

.....

Keep Well - Keep a Pet!

The family pet, whether a dog or cat, gerbil or goldfish, could save your life, claims an animal expert.

Cambridge animal behaviourist, Mr James Serpell says patting or talking to pets can bring down high blood pressure and ease nervous tension. "Pets are highly beneficial and it is well worthwhile to keep them" says Mr Serpell in New Scientist.

With a pet to make a fuss of, and who returns your affection, the world feels a nicer place. Loneliness is kept at bay, and you are suffused with a sense of wellbeing, he says.

Many Britons plainly agree. We have 5.7 million pet dogs, 5.2 million cats and a multitude of other furry, feathery or scaly creatures.

SOUTH MILTON PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup held its AGM on Monday 10th October. The Chairman is Mrs Ivy Yeabsley, Secretary Mrs Barbara Kucy and Treasurer Mrs Lindy Anderton.

We are very lucky that Mrs Anne Blythe, is willing to travel from her new home at Chillington until we find a new Supervisor.

At present we have thirty children on the books with an average attendance of fifteen per session (Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am to 12 noon)

We rely heavily on other villages as we only have 4 children from South Milton! However, more babies are growing up and should start coming along soon.

The Playgroup doubles as a Mother and Toddler group, with Tuesdays being for the younger set and Thursdays for the older ones (although we are not rigid about this segregation. We raised £40 with a Coffee Morning towards the Christmas Party at the end of term, when we plan to have a Puppet Show. Anyone interested in coming along to the Playgroup should telephone Anne Blyth on Chivelstone 208. L.A.

Thurlestone & South Milton Horticultural Show - Annual General Meeting

The Meeting was held on the 10th October, when Dr. Neville Oswald was elected President, Mr Ben. Horn, Chairman., Mrs. Pat Macdonald, Hon. Secretary, and Mr Eddie Milcoy, Hon. Treasurer, and the following will form the Committee for the coming year:

Mrs. B. Jackson, Mrs. J. Milcoy, Mr. D. Coward, Mr. R. Rogers, Mr. C. Thompson, Mr. R. White and Mr. D. Yeoman.

The date for the next show has been fixed for SATURDAY 4th AUGUST 1984 at South Milton. PLEASE, will other village organisations take note of the date as we hate to have anything clashing with our Show !

We are looking for greatly increased entry numbers in 1984, so start growing your things early and brushing up on your cookery and handicrafts in anticipation !

It was disappointing to see so few people at the A.G.M. - but it is a common complaint!

Readers might be suprised to know how much cash it actually takes to run a village Show such as ours - see figures below. Shows of this kind rarely make money --- its the raffle at the Show and the fund-raising events in the year leading up to it that cover the outlay.

1983 SHOW

Income

Donations	1.40
Fees for entries	17.85
Door money	16.10
Refreshments	8.30
Raffle	66.10

Expenses

Hire of Hall	25.00
Post, phone, etc.	5.29
Prize money	49.25
Judges	7.00
Adverts.	12.04
Hire of tables	5.00
Printing (Schedules	
Prize cards etc)	48.00

SELENIUM-A.C.E

I can only report that my wife seems to have benefited quite remarkably from continuing to take one tablet per day before any meal - more or less at the crack of dawn. One or two others have said they are taking the tablets and feel benefit against rheumatic pain.

One would not expect any kind of side effect - and there appears to be none whatsoever.

D.W.D.

USE IT OR LOSE IT!



- Apology -

The Editor apologises to Contributors and Readers for errors of spelling which regrettably do occur in the transcription of articles, stories and other items onto the waxed stencils from which the pages of the magazine are produced

Help Keep your
Post Office by
cashing your
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It was a dark prospect . . .

...which faced the working man - and many others - at the turn of the century when, as they grew too old to work they could become destitute.

A not uncommon story is that of one described as 'a very old man', who had worked for the same firm for over 57 years and had never been in receipt of a wage of more than £2 a week. His health was broken and he was unable to do anything at all. Married, as most men were in his community, he and his wife had to be 'taken in' by a married daughter. The result was not always all that could be desired; there was, not unnaturally, friction and other difficulties, but even though the relationship was not ideal, there was no attempt by the daughter to shirk what was looked upon by the necessity of the times in those days, as a 'duty' - and the younger people took for granted that their older kinfolk must be taken in and provided for.

The problem of old age, when the power to work is failing and resources perhaps somewhat diminished, can be faced today with a very much greater measure of confidence that we shall not be allowed to starve, be without a roof over our heads, or suffer unduly the hardship and rigours of winter.

Today there is, of course, an ever increasing tendency for all of us to look to the State in one form or another to help out, to accept the duty of caring for the elderly particularly. Sadly, with the aged population ever increasing, State funds - and therefore State help in all its forms - is being subjected to ever increasing limitations. Perhaps it would not be an exaggeration to say the State is staggering under the task, and it has become of great importance for every parish community to evolve some form of voluntary Community Care Service. Not something that can offer housing or nursing or medical attention, but a service to help out in sudden emergencies and give support wherever it can, not just to the elderly, but perhaps to nursing mothers with young children and others in real distress for want of a little immediate help.

Rosemary Stocken has worked hard at getting such a service 'off the ground' and with the help and support of others even succeeded in establishing a 'Meals on Wheels' service (where entitlement is established). Much support has been given by June Jefferys and a willing team of drivers and by Mrs Blythe, Mrs Bachelo Mrs Davenport and Mrs Eaton in answering calls under the Community Care service - or scheme which it should really be termed - but if there is to be a really good scheme there must be more willing volunteers.

When, for example, the School is 'on holiday' if ^{it} had not been for a volunteer team of 'supercooks' like June Stuart, Rosemary McKay, Helen Farnworth and Elaine Treleven the 'Meals on Wheels' service would have simply ground to a miserable halt.

It is not a project which offers anything but the simple satisfaction of helping out when someone - a mother, say, taken suddenly ill with no one to care for a young kiddie for a few hours. An elderly man rushed to hospital and a wife with no one to sustain her in that crisis hour. Someone suffers a broken leg and cannot get to the shops or change a library book. Someone has a slight stroke and is in the same sort of fix. A wife cannot leave a poorly child or a sick husband to go to the dentist, to have new spectacles or even see a Specialist herself. There must be many in our parish willing to join in - so that under this voluntary scheme there is always someone for someone in distress to turn to.

Do telephone Rosemary Stocken on Thurlestone 257 - if you cannot get a reply (for she is a 'working girl !') then try the Editor on Thurlestone 533 - who will ask Rosemary to contact you, if you feel able and willing to join the scheme.

COMMUNITY CARE CO-ORDINATORS: MORNING CALLS - 9 am - 1 pm. Mrs Mary Moore on 548 and Mrs Mary Elliott On 463

AFTERNOON CALLS: Mrs Lottie Jeffery on 676 and Mrs Mary Elliott on 463 - 1 to 5pm

EVENING CALLS: Mrs Pauline Eaton on 404 & Miss Rosemary Stocken on 257. - 5 to 9 pm

IF NO REPLY FROM ONE NUMBER Please try alternative number. All Thurlestone calls.

NATURE WEST

* * * * *

The collected articles and superb illustrations produced by: **PATRICK E. COLEMAN**

for the "Western Morning News" over the last year have now been published in book form:

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Most of the articles and illustrations in "NATURE WEST" have already been published, between September 1982 and August 1983, in the Thursday Plus Supplement issued with the 'Western Evening Herald' and some editions of 'The Western Morning News'.

Each article deals with subjects appropriate to the time of the year, but differs greatly from most usual nature diaries. The author brings his wide knowledge and deep understanding of Biology to reveal little known secrets about most of his subjects. His style is informative, chatty, and sometimes humorous, without ever being condescending.

The reader will be left with a greater understanding of many aspects of the Natural History of the Southwest.

- * How the Royal Navy has influenced the flowers of Plymouth.
- * Why avocets overwinter on the River Tamar.
- * Why the rabbit population affects the number of tits in your garden.
- * How salmon smell their way back to the rivers of their birth.
- * Why badgers and toads are so often road casualties.

These and many other fascinating facts are delightfully revealed in words and pictures - though not in colour for just £1.95. An ideal little gift at Christmas or anytime. D.W.D.

W.I Sea Coast GROUP MEETING

SOUTH MILTON WOMENS INSTITUTE were hosts for the Sea Coast Group Meeting on October 5th.

Christopher Slade of B.B.C. Spotlight & Breakfast T.V. gave an amusing talk on his career with B.B.C. Radio, and then as a Television presenter. This was followed by refreshments and the raffle.

Stars from the world of entertainment were then introduced by BARBARA CARTLAND (Joan Milcoy) which included CILLA BLACK (Jean Lidstone) DAME ANNA NEAGLE (Daphne Julian) A TAHITIAN BEAUTY from South Pacific singing 'Happy Talk' (Fay Garret, PAM AYRES (Rosemary Jay) NANA MOUSKOURI (Marie Brooks) SHIRLEY BASSEY (Barbara Chapman) a young horsey girl called AMANDA JANE (Sandra Chapman) and a lady who benefitted from all Barbara Cartland's Vitamin pills and honey (Lilian Drabble).

The finale was Les Dawson's 'LES GIRLS' doing a dance routine!

Richard Brooks was responsible for all the recorded music.

* * * * *

South Milton won the cup for the competition '3 Articles for a Kitchen Table' - which were a Toaster Cover, Oven Gloves and an Apron - all presented in a well staged miniature kitchen.

D. Julian.

PLEASE NOTE

Owing to pressure of work Mr A.J.Webb, M.R.C.V.S. was not able to complete his promised article on 'the great advantages of cats over dogs as pets'. This will be in the JANUARY/FEBRUARY issue due out at the end of Dec.

Kendall McDonald with a Real Life Story



Silly me! There I was asking where have all the Kendalls gone...and I was nearly a goner myself! Yes you're right, it's the Great Fire of Thurlestone I'm on about. Anyway I thought you might be interested to know what it's like from the inside looking out. Of course a lot of you don't need telling because you were there and so you don't need to read any further except to know that you all have our undying thanks.

Those of you who were not able to get to the greatest social event of the year please read on....

The first notion I had of the fire was when I woke in Just-a-Cottage to the sound of small explosions, like fireworks, and I looked across at Penny and she was awake too. I could see her quite clearly which was odd as it was about 2 a.m. and there was no moon. There was a sort of red glow outside and I thought some fool had been playing about with flares and I thought how stupid because it could set light to the thatch.

It was then that Penny got a good view out of our tiny window and could see the fire reflected in the window of Snowdens opposite. She said: "We're on fire!"

It was an even more chilling statement than the words imply because she said it in such a matter-of-fact way. I was out of bed into my trousers and sweater and into shoes and downstairs all in one movement. When I opened the front door there was no doubt left. The whole street was beginning to glow. I ran out and looked back and it was only a minor relief to see that it was Home Cottage which was on fire and we had time to ring the fire brigade.

Now here I must tell you is a lesson to be learned. And this is it: It is not easy to dial 999 when you are frightened and in a hurry. I know they say that you should use two fingers in the dial holes and so make sure that you have got nine. But I forgot all about that. I just stuck my index finger in an dialled. And nothing happened. So I thought Silly Me - you have to dial 9 to get Kingsbridge first. And I did that and nothing happened. It



FIRE!

It was only when I forced myself to think that I realised I was dialing 0..0..0. So I started again and got it right.

"Three appliances are on the way," said the cool calm voice of the Fire Brigade girl. By golly, I thought, that's quick. And it was only much later I found out I hadn't been the first to raise the alarm. That honour goes to a dear lady in the village who saw a glow around the rooftops and sniffed a smaell like paraffin in the street.

Anyway, they were quick. It seemed that Penny and I had only time to grab a few valuables and get ourselves out in the street when the first of the appliances with its blue lights flashing on the white walls of the cottages came hurtling down the hill. It has scarcely stopped before firemen were running ladders up and hoses were playing a comforting stream of water on to the thatch. We knew at once that we were in the hands of experts.

And another expert on the scene very quickly was P.C. 13 John Casson, our friendly neighbourhood policeman. I must say he handled me very well.... "Enjoyed the book Mr. McDonald, now if you'd kindly move over here..." As I always feel a little guilty in the presence of policemen - for no reason I hasten to add - I quickly told him that I'd given up smoking nearly two years ago and so the fire had nothing to do with me and I was glad he liked the book.

As John Casson led me gently from the heat of the flames, he added: "Make another chapter this will I expect?"

"More like a whole new book," said another voice from the dark. It sounded slightly sarcastic to me!

Perhaps this is the moment while we were away from the direct heat to point out another truth. I wrote that Penny and I grabbed a few valuables. What is valuable at a time like that? Do you know that at that sort of instant you haven't really got any valuables - just being out of the fire is the most valuable thing of all and it is quite difficult to concentrate your mind on the problem of assessing what is valuable and what isn't.

Of course we took the obvious things like cash and cheque book and credit cards. And I did grab a bag containing cameras which I needed for my work.

By now the firemen had hacked away a path in my thatch to form a break between our two roofs which are normally closely inter-twined. Two firemen sat on my ridge playing hoses on to Home Cottage and two more stood on the kitchen roof at the back making sure the flames did not sneak in by the back door. We now seemed to have all the fire engines in Devon parked and pumping hard and it was a great pleasure to see them all I can tell you.

I thought Just-a-Cottage was safe, but my hopes were dashed when the fire chief suggested I got out any pieces of furniture which I valued. "If the wind changes," he said and left it at that.

We were into the valuables problem again. What had we got that was valuable? Sentimental value, yes, but real value no. "Leave it," I said.

"Not likely," said Bob Morley and promptly led what seemed like the entire village - thank you all again - into the fastest furniture removal job in the world. If they went into the furniture removal business commercially they'd make a fortune! Within minutes the whole cottage was stripped bare and the contents were stored in the village pump house and anywhere else out of the torrents of water now running down the street.

Water wasn't only running down the street. Inside the cottage, waterfalls cascaded through the ceilings, but do you know not a single ceiling collapsed!

Our possessions disappeared into houses to be dried before Rayburns. Some of the things we call our own are not exactly meant to be exposed to the cruel light of day and when the dawn broke some of our furniture did look rather tired to say the least.

MORE...

CONCLUDING:

KENDALL McDONALD WITH A REAL LIFE
STORY ! ! F I R E !

Everyone was wonderful.
And Kind. And sympathetic. And
nothing was too much trouble.
Coffee and tea and sandwiches and
cakes appeared everywhere as though
it was the most natural thing in
the world to serve a pre-dawn feast.

And all the time those firemen
toiled on, pulling the blackened
thatch off Home Cottage and killing
each fresh outbreak as it spurted
up.

During those long hours you
get a chance to talk to people
you've only ever nodded to before
and you discover all sorts of new
things about them. Most of the
things I learned about my neighbours
I would not dream of passing on.
Things said in the heat of a fire
should be confidential, don't you
think?

Mind you, talking to one fire-
man during his short break, I was
surprised to learn that most of our
firemen are part-timers, and only
the chief's are full-time. Well
if the men who dealt with our blaze
are part-timers then I take off my
hat to them even more.

Those are the most expert
part-timers I have ever seen. And
I think it is disgusting that they
get taxed on their pay for helping
out the likes of you and me.
T'aint right and something should
be done about it. Let's all tackle
our M.P. about it. Well, why not?

Finally that long night came
to an end and the sight of poor
Home Cottage steaming, scorched
and roofless, is one that few of
us who were there will forget.
A mountain of sooty blackened
thatch from her blocked the whole
street, until Derrick Yeoman got
the work organised and brought in
a JCB tractor machine to take the
place of pitchforks.

As we waited we chatted and
Derrick told me that he'd dug a
hole for a Kendall over Salcombe
way only the other day. I must
say I didn't like the way he
started measuring me with his eye,

but we'd escaped the fire, no one was
hurt, and Home Cottage will be rebuilt.

We know that because Ron and Derrick
Frost arrived from Guildford - they
would have come in the night but the
police insisted that they would rather
they didn't as there was nothing they
could do - and they said Home Cottage
will be put back together again.

After that it was really a matter
of mopping up, at least it was for us
and Terry Gavourin, whose 'Woodbine'
had been flooded not once but twice.

In the middle of it the postman
called. He had a letter for Just-a-
-Cottage. A letter of the leaflet kind.
It was headed "This is Your Chance to
be a Millionaire." We did the only
thing possible - we laughed.

By the way, you know I said all
our possessions disappeared into various
houses in the village...well they all
came back and not even a glass broken.

Well that isn't exactly true...
Would the kind gentleman who took
Penny into his house to dry her, please
give her back. Surely she must be dry
by now.!

"a wonderful voyage of discovery"
IDEAL HOME

MORE THAN JUST-A-COTTAGE

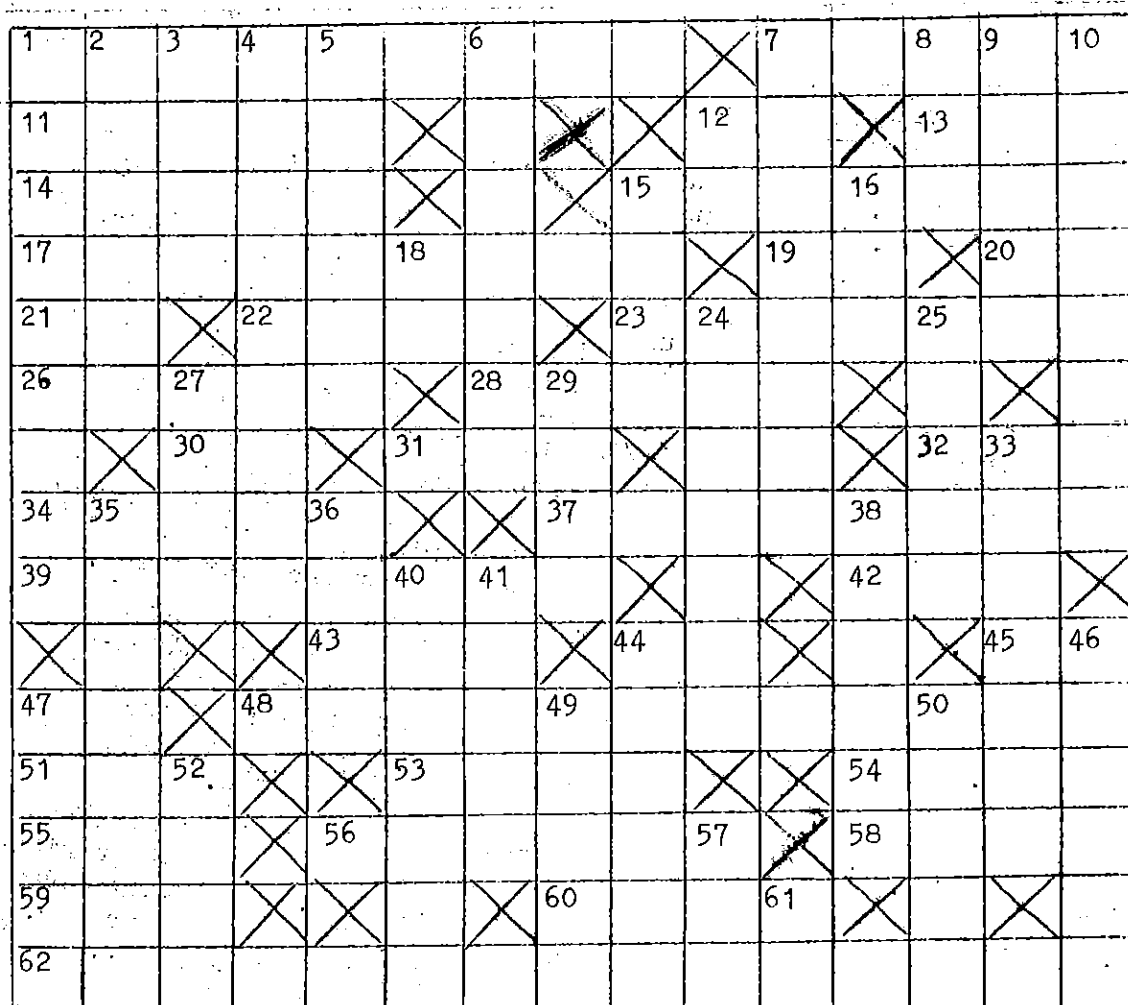
A Village in the South Hams
KENDALL McDONALD

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



CROSSWORD no 3. Compiled by Miss Rosemary Stocken

CLUES ACROSS

1. Family name of ancient Earls of Devon (9)
7. Reef opposite Thurlestone Sands (5)
11. "The oldchangeth, yielding place to new" (Tennyson) (5)
- 12, 19, 20. Paleness (6). 13. House for travellers in India (3)
14. It enmeshes the tropical forest (5). 15. Writer of "Le Misanthrope" (7)
17. Titania slept lull'd in these flowers (9)
21. Egyptian sungod (2). 22. Trade Unionists might describe a blackleg thus (4)
23. It joins the Admiral in the group Nymphalidae (7)
26. Place thus to cool the wine (2.3.)
28. The Queen was proclaimed Empress of this country in 1857 (5)
30. TO - or not to - (2)
31. Chinese statesman who gave his name to a new movement in the Communist Party (3)
32. How doth the little busy...improve each shining hour?(3) Party (3)
34. "The mills of God...slowly yet they...exceeding small" (5)
37. Old bass trumpets (8) 39. Slay the tree for a breath of the Orient (7)
42. Greek goddess of mischief banished by Zeus (3)
43. "His ... was folly and his weapon wit" (ascribed to W.S.Gilbert) (3)
45. See 18 down. 48. It supported the stocks (12)
51. Such an affected look without severity makes the ultra professional (3)
53. Conspicuous act (4) 54. By word of mouth (4)
55. Represented in the first sign of the Zodiac (3) 56. Flourish (6)
58. He who throws gloom over enjoyment lacks happiness (4)
59. Enjoying the sun without a sound on a high level run (3)
60. Encircle with belt (4).
62. Finnish barque wrecked in 1939 near Bolt Head (8.7)

The Clues for DOWN across the page-----

VILLAGE VOICE

CROSSWORD NUMBER THREE

CLUES DOWN

1. Is the local bus service connected with the poet ? (9)
2. Wild Majoram (6)
3. Land tenure in feudal system (4)
4. Ten cranes (anag) (9)
5. Hypnotic state (6)
6. S.W. African desert region (7)
7. Field used in the past for games (4.4.)
8. Keats wrote one on a Grecian Urn (3)
9. Semi-desert in South Africa (5)
10. Good fishing off these rocks (8)
12. Flows from the Alps to the Adriatic (2)
15. Poetic reward from crime editor (4)
16. French Isle (3)
- 18 & 45 across. Small mountain lake (4)
24. Division of the Tertiary period (7)
25. Part of the dahlia turned to force back (5)
27. Bird venerated by ancient Egyptians (4)
29. Sensitive to bad smells but more often interfering (4)
33. "Hope spring in the human breast (Alexander Pope) (7).
35. Agricultural feed (8)
36. The potters of this town are skilful when reduced by fifty (4)
38. He wrote the pantomime/ballet "The Wooden Prince" (6)
40. A menace in your lane when you want to pass (4-3)
41. German leather. 44. Famed for its staging of Shakespeare Plays (3.3.)
46. Dame Melba to her friends (6) 47. Romney was famed for this (5)
49. Condescend (5). 50. University College (5).
52. Arab Prince (4). 57. Before (3)
61. District Commissioner (abbreviated) (2)

The answers will be found on the last page -

SOUTH MILTON

FRIDAY

2nd DECEMBER

Christmas Dance

at the VILLAGE HALL

from 9 p.m. to 1.0'clock

BAR : RAFFLE : : BUFFET

DISCO: Mr. MUSIC

Proceeds to Village Hall Funds

PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR
DIARY - NOW!

~~~~~

WANTED

SOMEONE TO TEACH ME HOW TO PLAY  
MAH-JONGG.

I HAVE THE GAME - BUT NO RULES

D. JULIAN, MANOR COTTAGE,  
SOUTH MILTON

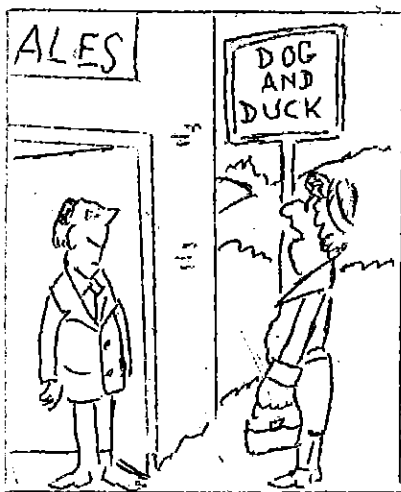
Tel: Thurlestone 745

GAME - SET - and MATCH

During Wimbledon a viewer telephoned Independent TV to complain about refereeing decisions. She was gently told they had nothing to do with the actual running of the tournament and in any case she must have been watching the BBC. "Yes, she agreed, but somehow, you're always so much more polite when I complain !

~~~~~

VILLAGE VOICE CIRCULATES THROUGHOUT THE PARISH OF THURLESTONE - WHICH INCLUDES BANTHAM & BUCKLAND. THERE IS ALSO INCREASING INTEREST IN SOUTH MILTON PARISH and over 450 copies were produced of the SEPT/OCT ISSUE - A READERSHIP WELL IN EXCESS OF 2,000. IT COSTS NOTHING TO ADVERTISE FORTHCOMING EVENTS !



"Local opinion isn't just views expressed on your premises."

Government at the lowest level!

A farmer friend of mine dropped in the other day and left me a copy of the September 'South West Farmer', wherein was an article on "Rural Institutions - ...The Parish Council" - which he thought I might find interesting.

I did !

The article in question was written by a James Robertson who opened up by saying: "The lowest level of government in this country - some say the lowest level of government in the world - is the Parish Council..."

One could not deny him the truth of that statement! The Parish Council set up in this country is the lowest level of local government, but surely it has not survived since 1895 without having some reason for its existence, and I would proclaim one very major factor, that such councils are the very final bastion to protect their communities against any act or thing being promoted which is completely against the wishes of that community. Sometimes it wins - sometimes it loses, but if it is doing its job properly it never fails to register its opinion in the right quarter.

Mr Robertson has a deal to say about the fighting between the 'old guard' the 'dumb country people', and the 'incomers' whom he claims profess bewilderment that "...improvements that went down well in Muswell Hill are not acceptable in a village community..." I wonder where he lives, for he could be dead right about Muswell Hill, though I suggest that the vast number of 'incomers' who have infiltrated the South West over the past many years, is so heavy that the vast majority of them are by now simply part of the village scene - just more 'dumb country people' !! (Sorry!) Many of them are increasingly conscious of the fact that the 'delightful rural' atmosphere which first attracted them to such places as Thurlestone or Bantham, or Buckland or South Milton, realise there is a limit to development if the original reason for settling in is to be retained.

Mr Robertson went on: "...Planning decisions are one of the mainstays of parish council business - but they have no power or force in law. The parish council may recommend, but the decision is taken by the District Council, who often care not a toss what the parish council may have thought - and sometimes never even find out. Being a Parish Councillor," goes on Mr Robertson, "is a fairly pointless activity, but throughout the land thousands of farmers play their part. (Remember he is writing in a farming paper!) It's insurance really," he says. "The urban hordes are creeping back into the countryside and the Parish Council is the frontline of the battlefield to prevent them turning the British landscape into one vast suburbia"

I find that a somewhat ambiguous paragraph, for I find it difficult to reconcile the expressions 'pointless activity' with being 'the frontline of the battlefield'. Quite apart from any unacceptable imperfections of present planning procedures, (and these may well change eventually - the EEC is working on it !) there are great many things with which this lowest form of government has to be concerned. It was Parish Council pressure that gave Thurlestone its additional Old People's Bungalows and a small number of Council housing. It was Parish Council pressure that recently saw the repainting of Island Terrace houses. It was Parish Council pressure on all the parties concerned that established the necessary co-operation to get the coastal footpath re-established following coastal erosion. That it took nearly three years was not their fault! It was the Parish Council which ensured that the footpath at the top of Ilbert Road was not subject to closure. It was Parish Council objection that

TURN OVER:

Government at the lowest level...

prevented the closure of the Leasfoot Beach access to vehicles - who battle constantly to see road and hedges are as reasonably maintained as possible, who in the interests of the children obtained a licence for the use of the school playing field outside school hours, (one of the few parishes that have obtained the right) - who were the first parish in the whole county of Devon to produce a Village Appraisal carried out by a group of quite selfless folk drawn from every walk of village life - 'dumb country people' and 'incomers' alike ! The Parish Council are told the forthcoming District Council 'Plan for the Future of Thurlestone' will incorporate some of the conclusions of that Appraisal,

More recently the Council have sponsored this village magazine - not merely issued free to every parishioner - but financially self supporting from advertising revenue - and now with some first class equipment obtained through generous donations from the villagers of Bantham and Buckland.

A pointless activity, Mr Robertson? You get out of something what you put into it. Parish Councillors working together as a team can do almost anything...well almost !

Personally I wonder what any parish would be like without its freely elected, democratically minded, non-political council. Over-run by the developer - totally at the mercy of 'Big Brother' ? No! Some body would arise which would take on the task of trying to look after the well-being of the community. All I would suggest, Mr Robertson is that if you live under a Parish Council who are full of 'pointless activity' - make sure you change it next time an election comes around!

D.W.DRABBLE.

DO YOU KNOW ?

A police officer going home from duty wearing a civilian overcoat on top of his uniform can stop and breathalyse a motorist - providing he removes his overcoat before actually requiring the breath test!

SOUTH MILTON STORES and POST OFFICE

Tel: Thurlestone 235

GROCERIES - FRUIT - VEGETABLES

LOCAL BREAD OFF-LICENCE

FULL RANGE OF CHRISTMAS

FOOD AND GIFTS AVAILABLE

CHRISTMAS RAFFLES

• Presentation •

The Committee of South Milton Village Hall presented Mr Brinkworth with a framed picture of the Village Hall, (painted by Mr Featherstone) and a cheque, in appreciation of his years of service as President of the Village Hall Committee.

Public Rights of Way.

The Parish Council have expressed concern that the only statutory Definitive Plan of parish footpaths is based on a 1930's O.S.Map.

The County Council advise:

"The solution to most of the problems was the draughting of a working map showing all public rights of way; which could be updated annually. There is no published series of O.S. Maps which covers Devon at a suitable scale. Ordnance Survey contracted to provide all published 1:10,000 scale maps with the rest of the County covered by 6" to one mile scaled up to 1:10,000, additionally unpublished recent survey data was added to the maps. This has provided the base map. The addition of the public rights of way onto the base will take at least 2 man/years of draughting time. This work is now under way."

A "working map" to enable the parish to review the public rights of way network for Thurlestone area should be available early in 1984.

In the last three issues of 'Village Voice', Dr. NEVILLE C. OSWALD has recounted on 'Smallpox hits Thurlestone' - 'Cholera reaches the South Hams' and the 'Plague' and its impact on our part of the world. Here now, in his usual informed and interesting way, he tells us about a subject - of which the great majority of us know little :

o o LEPROSY o o

When an ancient chronicler settled down to write the thirteenth or fourteenth chapter of Leviticus, he evidently had something pretty important on his mind. In the space of over a hundred verses he described a skin eruption, which could also effect leather or cloth or the damp walls of houses, that was called leprosy, from the Greek word Lepra. It sometimes responded to ritualistic cleansing, but but when it did not, the wretched sufferers were cast out from their families by priests and became lepers. The condition, whatever it may have been, was nothing like modern leprosy which almost certainly did not exist in Palestine when the Old Testament was written. Descriptions in the New Testament are valid as leprosy had by then reached the Holy Land, probably from India. Patients so diagnosed were not only social outcasts, they also scared the living daylights out of anybody who went anywhere near them. Indeed, this mystical fear of leprosy and those who suffered from it is unique among the diseases that affect mankind.

Leprosy was almost certainly brought to England by the Romans and we have proof, from skulls that have been unearthed, of its existence here in Saxon times. The infection, which spread by person to person contact usually in childhood, reached a peak between 1200 and 1400 and virtually disappeared in the following century. What about the South Hams ? With its medieval population of 1,000 to 1,500 it cannot have had more than four to six affected at most. Yet that seems to have been enough for arrangements to have been made for their isolation. There were, as far as is known, only two hospitals in the South Hams at that time, one at Chillington and the other at Modbury. Neither is likely to have been more than a house or small group of cottages yet they were both, apparently, reserved for patients with leprosy (the term leper with its sinister connotations is no longer used in medical contexts); no sign of either remains. This remarkable concern for one disease raises some questions. What was it like and why did it need segregation ?

The two main features of leprosy are gross thickening of the skin, particularly of the face, and withering of the fingers and toes which eventually drop off. Anyone considered by the priest to have leprosy was, following instructions in the Bible, pronounced dead to the world, dressed in a distinctive uniform and consigned to an isolation hospital. Some of them refused to be confined and roamed the countryside the men exercising their right, denied to common beggars, to seek alms and comforts from passers by and the women often turning to prostitution. In these circumstances, the chance appearance of one of them wandering down the village street in Thurlestone, possibly ringing a bell as he or she may well have done, would have stimulated parishioners to take evasive action pretty smartly. With increasing disability, these outcasts suffered severely. They were forbidden access to towns and risked imprisonment. Some were murdered by frightened jailers, who wished to be rid of their discomforting presence

Probably fewer than half the patients labelled leprosy were correctly diagnosed, the remainder for the most part having some other unpleasant skin rash or deformity or being otherwise undesirable. Paradoxically, the Church summarily condemned these people and then provided hostels for their care, a measure which more than any other was responsible for eradicating leprosy from England sooner than elsewhere in Europe.

NEVILLE C. OSWALD.

Dear Abigail,



ARE YOU IRRITATED ? WORRIED ?

PERPLEXED ? ANGRY ?

WRITE TO ABIGAIL.....HER VAST EXPERIENCE
OF LIFE AND ITS PROBLEMS MAY HELP TO SOLVE.
YOURS.

IN THE POSTBAG FOR THIS ISSUE.....

DEAR ABIGAIL,

I am still a comparatively young man - lively, intelligent and popular. I have worked my way up into a very high place in politics - so high, in fact, that I have recently been elected into the most awesome position of leader of the Labour Party. Only one thing mars my success. When I see myself pictured in the Press or on Television, I am appalled at my thinning hair. It spoils my macho image and makes me look years older. Please, Abigail, What can I do about it?

Neil, House of Commons.

DEAR NEIL,

An age-old plea this, but really should you let it depress you so much? Baldness is supposed to be a sign of virility, and, you know, many of us women find it very attractive. However, there is one remedy if you wish to pander to the conservative image of an attractive man....may I suggest you find yourself a good Thatcher ?

.....

DEAR ABIGAIL,

My family has lived and worked in the South Hams for generations. We have ploughed and scattered, sown and reaped, woofled and scuffled for more years than Pat Jennings has International Caps, so when one of the offspring wanted to set up on his own, we thought it would be a simple matter to let him have a bit of land to plough and scatter, sow and reap, etc., and let him do up his old barn as a home for him and his lass. Simple? Twas us that was simple. They saved the cash, got the plans in triplicate, filled in the forms....but what happens? They get turned down, and so has every application since - in spite of alterations to the wording, drawings, descriptions, etc. to meet the objections. The locals want to see a nice house there instead of a derelict place, the Parish Council approves, in fact everyone that lives round here supports them - but still no planning permission. Abigail, we're at our wits' end - what can we do?

IVOR GROUSE.

DEAR IVOR,

Come, come now, what makes you think you can succeed where even the mighty Romans didn't. Why do you think they never got further west than Exeter? Not, as the History books would have you believe, because they were beaten back by the wild and fearless Dumnonii. No, man! The proud and conquering heroes couldn't get the damn planning permission for their roads and villas !

.....

DEAR ABIGAIL,

Outside my little cottage, there is a piece of road that has never been dug up by the Electricity Board or British Telecom, or excavated by the Gas or Water Boards; its never had its manhole covers tarmac-ed over by the Council, or its
DO TURN OVER FOR THE 'OOOH'....

Dear Abigail,

verges churned and rutted by the weekly dustcart. This week, I have had to personally collect pounds of blackberries to save the birds from over-indulgence simply because the Highways Department didn't trim all the banks just before the bushes came to fruition. Why, on why, Abigail, have they left me out? I'm so depressed and ashamed at being the only person in the South Hams to have the road outside my home in its original condition - not even a wobbly yellow line along its edge. Where have I gone wrong?

Ina Tizzie.

DEAR INA,

Paid all your bills, I expect, you silly girl!

.....

DEAR ABIGAIL,

I have just come back to Stoke-on-Trent after a wonderful holiday in your lovely coastal village of Bantham. I can't praise enough the warmth of the people, the stunning beauty of the countryside, and the delights of eating and drinking in the quaint hostelrys. But...we had one particularly puzzling and rather frightening experience, and wonder if you can throw any light on it. We were crossing the Avon by ferry (to go cockling on Cockle Ridge) when the boat suddenly veered left, shot out of the river mouth like a cork from a bottle, and headed out to sea at a ferocious speed. When we got to the Eddystone Light, we rounded the rock in a great flurry of spray, and sped like a torpedo for the shore. We almost swamped a bewildered windsurfer, our splashing U-turn round him leaving him clinging in desperation to his flailing mast. Out to sea we rushed again, this time rounding the light so fast that the passengers screams were louder than the protesting gulls'. This went on several more times until at last the boat pulled into Cockleridge to disgorge a heap of soaked and hysterical passengers on to the shore. It took my family ages to recover - in fact, my grandfather's wooden leg is warped beyond repair. What on earth was it all about, Abigail?

Maldee Mer.

DEAR MALDEE,

I am going to be absolutely frank. There are very obviously three things wrong with you...you are a 'townie', a woman and a landlubber. So I suppose we cannot expect you to understand just how much the sailing fraternity have gone over the tops'l at the Australians winning the Americas Cup. Your Ferry boatman was simply trying out his new secret winged kdel, and, in fact, I've heard since that he was so impressed with it that he is going to challenge Torpoint Ferry to the best of seven crossings of the Tamar - the winner to claim the superb and unique Evans Estates Cup, which has been bolted to the bar in the Sloop for at least 137 years. How can you complain about a few wet clothes and list-ing grandads when sporting history is in the making?

.....

Readers - DO write to Abigail
C/O The Editor, 10, Backshay Close,
South Milton, Kingsbridge.

Beach Nudism

Thank you to Pat Scott of 4, The Downs, Thurlestone for her letter 'Nudists on our beaches' - who doesn't approve of nudists walking about on the beach.

However, as this was the only letter received on the subject, it must be assumed that folk in general do not raise any serious objection?

SEWERAGE - SEAVIEW TERRACE

This subject is mentioned by 'Villager' in early part of the magazine. The District Council now reveal that they have removed some debris from the sewer - including empty food cans! They consider no problem should arise because of lack of capacity of the 100 m/m diameter pipe, but they would like to be informed immediately of any malfunctioning. Totnes 864499 Extension 245. Ask for Mr Robinson.

Let's Shake-up our Schools!

by Mary Finlay

I've often wished that I were Minister for Education.

There wouldn't half be a shake-up in schools: all the modern trendy teachers would join the dole queue and their places would be filled with teachers with moral values and the will to impose them at least while the pupils were still at school.

Somebody did have the sense once to suggest that a prospective teacher's moral background should be investigated before offering him/her a teaching post, but the idea seems to have been buried under a mountain of protests about "invasion of privacy" etc.

But what greater invasion of privacy can there be than the invasion of a young child's mind with the erotic fancies of a so-called teacher!

Nowadays, little Johnny and Mary in the Junior School know that their pretty teacher lives with her boy friend - maybe another teacher. After Johnny and Mary progress to Senior School they will get implicit sex lectures from teachers and family planning associations, and girls will feel they ought to be on the pill regardless of their parents' wishes. A distressing number of those who proceed to Higher Education and Universities will suffer nervous breakdowns, and some unfortunates will commit suicide. This of course will be blamed on stress of examinations, not on the fact that we have sent these young people out into the stormy sea of life without any moral support or guidance to keep them afloat.

Recently, I saw a picture in a daily paper of two well-dressed little girls sharing a book. This was meant to show that schools are being so starved of money that they can no longer provide each child with its own text-book.

Well, why should schools have to provide free books at all? And why should they provide cheap dinners? They are educational institutions - not welfare societies. Since it is compulsory to send children to school, free transport should be provided to get them there. (This applies particularly when schools are closed and children transferred to other schools: e.g., South Milton children to Thurlestone.) But once they are in school they are students and should come prepared with books and pencils, which parents would have to buy or hire.

Only really needy children should be entitled to free books. Of course, if children are to buy their children's books, the authorities will have to see that they don't bring in "new" ways of learning to read or "new" methods of arithmetic every few years. If there is continuity of syllabus, parents can sell the text-books back to the school for hiring or selling to the next year's pupils. Books would have to be kept in good condition, as they wouldn't be accepted back dirty or torn. This would encourage a pride in looking after books which is sadly lacking in the modern child.

It would also eliminate waste. Our youngest child left Kingsbridge School seven years ago, and I'm still using up empty pages which I tore from their jotters before I threw them away. Obviously these jotters were issued too frequently.

I like the buffet idea for modern school meals, but think it would be even better if the girls taking "Domestic Science" had to prepare the food. This would give more realism to the subject and save employing so much kitchen staff. This is not a new idea. It was the custom in Scotland for more than seventy years. Working mothers were then almost unknown, so most children went home to

DO TURN OVER.....

Continuing.....

Let's Shake-up our Schools!

dinner, but those who couldn't get home or came from poor homes could always get a bowl of soup with scones or bannocks for a penny if they went to the large cookery classrooms.

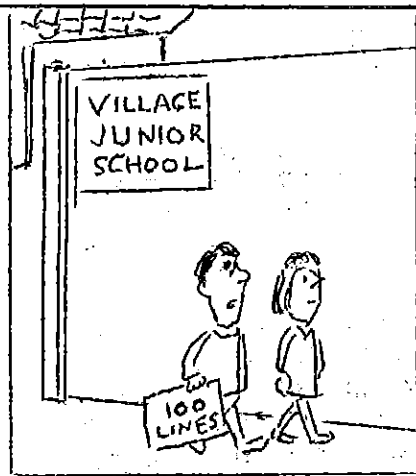
If I were Minister for Education, I should order that all frills were to be cut from schools. All available money would be spent in obtaining the very best dedicated teachers; not on building carpeted Fifth Form cnetres for students to sit in comfort in their too frequent free periods.

I don't think it matters at all if the building is old, provided the standard of teaching is high. The fact that thousands of working-class parents are willing to deny themselves the necessities of life in order to send their children to private schools shows that there is something wrong with our present school system. Many of these private schools are in old-fashioned inconvenient buildings, but they get results because the teachers know that they must get good results in order to keep their jobs.

Perhaps it is time that all teachers were treated like football managers and could only keep their jobs by getting good results. Corporal punishment would be allowed, especially for anti-social behaviour. Not every child can have brains, but they can all learn to behave well.

And no child other than the truly dyslexic would leave any of my schools unable to read and write, even if it meant staying in the Junior Classes for ten years!

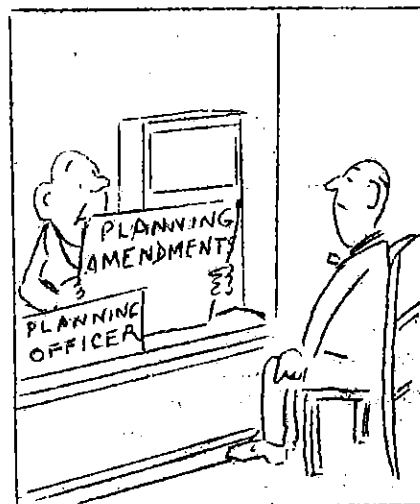
I think I'd be the most hated Minister for Education in history!



"One day I'll be a school manager and then I'll right some wrongs!"

LETTER from:

Ian C. Young, 11, Backshay Closem
South Milton.



"For bungalow read high-rise; for quiet room read discotheque."

To the Editor 'Village Voice'.

Sir,

The report which appeared in the 'Kingsbridge Gazette' on September 16th. announcing the suggestion that the South Hams District Council were going to take an active part in promoting tourism in the district, must have sent a shudder of fear through every individual with any interest in the tourist industry, and the three reports appearing in the issue of the 23rd. must have confirmed those fears.

The two decisions granting permission to demolish the Crabshell Inn, and the Salcombe Marine, are, on the face of it unfortunate, but the decision which wins the prize for utter stupidity is the announcement that shop, and other signs, in Salcombe, have to be removed.

If planners in all councils throughout the country took their heads out of the sand for a few minutes and studied the actions of councils throughout Europe they might learn that it pays to preserve traditional landmarks in towns and cities.

The South Hams Council should come out into the open and admit that they are out to destroy the individuality of the towns and villages in the area so that in the future any misguided individual who plans to have a holiday in the South Hams won't know if he is in Totnes or Torcross.

The sounds and smells of bygone days

MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR No.4

From: DAPHNE JULIAN

I can recall many forgotten sounds and smells during my youth in South Milton, and wish to bring them to the readers mind.....

In the late summer, the sound of the brasses jingling on the harness of the cart horses as they plodded around a field in ever decreasing circles, drawing a reaper binder behind them. Near the hedges stood the whining dogs waiting in anticipation for a rabbit to scamper from the last cut of the corn, and then on seeing one barking and chasing it, till it was finally caught.

The sweet smell of the breath of a working horse as it stood waiting and resting with a nose bag over its ears, munching fresh oats.

The clicking of the hand shears as the Devon sheep were shorn, and smelling the lanoline from the fleece as it was deftly clipped, every now and again nicking the pink skin, where immediately a dab of tar was put on it to stop infection. The docile ewe would grunt as she gazed with frightened eyes from between the legs of the farmer.

There was the old fat sow, forwging the dark brown earth in many a cottage back garden, surrounded by piglets who squealed with delight when swill (boiled in a copper) was thrown in from an old bucket. Hens clucked lazily as they wandered around the quiet roads, hopping up into hedges to lay their eggs, and after fulfilling their mission squawking as they looked for food in the field, scratching and pecking happily. At dusk the 'gleanies' would be heard screeching in the trees, and were as good as any watchdog.

I well remember the smell of apples being crushed in the Pound House, and the pure apple juice being poured into barrels, and then taken by cart to the farmhouse cellar - filling the house with the strong smell of fermenting wine.

Around the cottages there would be the sounds of people polishing the black-leaded Lidstone stoves, the cane carpet beaters being used on rugs thrown over clotheslines... and then the wonderful smell of baking from spotless little kitchens....Teddy cake, full of fruit and good dripping, real saffron dough cakes, leek and potato pudding, and from the larger kitchens of the farmhouses, home produced roasting beef, and goose fat buns. It was these farms that you could smell the sweetness of the old fashioned dairies. . Standing on large stone slabs, big round enamel pans full of rich milk left to rise, and then the yellow crusty cream scraped off with a special flat ladle. Beside the pans a wooden safe where bread, and apple tarts would be cooling. Buying a pasty then for 6 old pence meant that at the first bite, the contents of warm meat and potato would fill the air with a delicious aroma.



MORE..OVERPAGE

Electoral Register

Did you complete your form for inclusion on the 1984-1985 Register. If you were resident in the Parish on the 10th. October 1983 - it may still be possible for you to be included on the new Register when it comes forward in Draft form early in December. (..

If you have any doubt at all in the matter get in touch with the Electoral Registration Officer at South Hams District Council, Follaton House, Totnes.

Next Council Meeting

THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL
will hold their next
Meeting on TUESDAY 6th
DECEMBER 1983. and there
will be the usual OPEN FORUM.

THE SOUNDS AND SMELLS OF BYGONE DAYS

Mangle clamps, or caves, as they were called, would be opened in the winter and the faintly musty smell would drift out, the orange mangles would be deftly thrown into the waiting cart one mangle on each prong of the pitchfork. The clamp would have the damp straw replaced, and on the way to feeding the stock one would fall out with a thud, roll to the side of the road, to be run over by the wheel of a following cart.

Those lovely rich voices of the Devon men as they threw sheaves of straw to more men on top of a rick, whilst the traction engine rattled and shook beside them.. ..and then later in the evening listening to them in their allotments passing the time of day with each other as they sliced the earth with their long handled Devon shovels, and as they gathered the fruits of their toils their leather gaiters squaking as they rubbed against their heavy boots.

On Sundays the village would vibrate with the peal of Church bells both morning and evening, and in the afternoons everyone seemed to walking either to the beach or around the lanes, acknowledging each other as they met. The centre of the village was often filled with the sound of the farmer, on horseback, driving his herd of Red Devon cows, and shouting..Help!..Help!!...that being the name of his working dog!

The hedges were scented with the fragrance of wild roses and honeysuckle, the fields were full of meadowsweet, wild orchids, and heartsease pansies, and in Sprys meadow the tuneful song of the nightingale.

CASUAL VACANCIES - PARISH COUNCILS. In the past "two or more electors could request an election by writing to the Returning Officer". This requirement has now been amended and TEN electors are now required to request an election before one can be organised by the Returning Officer.

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SKETCH DESIGNS
FOR
NEW BUILDINGS
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TO HOUSES AND COTTAGES
A SPECIALITY

Concluding Daphne Julian's delightful
----- reminiscence -----

From JACK THOMAS - District Councillor for the Thurlestone Ward

PLANNING

I know that a number of planning decisions in this area do not accord with Parish Council recommendations and are not understood by many parishioners.

At the present time decisions can only be based on present planning policy, and personal and financial aspects cannot (some many think unfortunately) be taken into consideration. I thought, therefore, I would try and explain briefly the basis of South Hams District Council Planning Policy.

The STRUCTURE PLAN on which planning decisions are based was adopted by Devon County Council on the 22nd. February 1979. These policies and proposals were approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment on the 7th. April 1981 and covers the period to 1991. This publication explains the strategy and reasons for the various policies.

The plan is to be updated every 5 years, and the first review is now under consideration by Devon C.C. and the South Hams D.C. The latter have published a document in preparation for the review - "The Future of the South Hams" - available for inspection at Totnes - or from me - and copies may be purchased for £2.50 (from the Council offices at Follaton House, Totnes) and based on this local plans for each area are being produced. Our area comes under Kingabridge Area. The others are Dartmouth, Totnes, Modbury, and Ivybridge.

Thurlestone is classed as a village and local plans have taken account of the Village Appraisal, and will be presented to the parish Council and the public by the end of March 1984.

The Parish Council and public will be given the opportunity and the time to make comments and suggested amendments,

If local opinions do not accord with the District Councils then the proposals will be reconsidered and if necessary they will hold a Public Enquiry.

It is important that all parishioners attend any meetings on the subject which will be well publicised.

In future issues of this excellent 'Voice' - if the Editor permits me - I will endeavour to go into greater detail on planning policies covering such things as Coastal Preservation Areas, Areas of Great Landscape Value, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the meaning of such things as General Development Orders. (G.D.O's)

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

This Autumn term, the Friends of Thurlestone School are organising two events of interest.

on NOVEMBER 3rd at 7.30 p.m.

a "LOCAL HISTORY EVENING OF REMINISCENCES"

is arranged, and EVERYONE, both young and not so young are invited to come along and listen - or participate !

Admission 25p - Refreshments will be provided.

Our ANNUAL BINGO AND PRIZE DRAW

to be held at the Thurlestone Hotel is arranged for

TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER 1983
at 7.30 p.m.

Admission tickets are on sale at the School, or from Mrs Ivy Yealley.

ALL DONATIONS OF PRIZES FOR THE OCCASION WILL BE VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

The Jumble sale held on 24th September raised £103. towards providing additional heating in the Hall.

Thank you for your support.

DEVON CREAM

*Naughty
but NICE!*

CLOTTED

DOUBLE

Single

Whipping

CHRISTMAS

IS COMING

ORDER EARLY

CREAM BY POST

Give someone

a LOVELY SUPRISE

Peter Bromfield

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YOUR PARISH COUNCILLOR WILL BE GLAD TO
HELP & ADVISE YOU ON ANY LOCAL PROBLEM:

P.W.J.Hurrell (Chairman)- Thurlestone 496

D.J.Yeoman (Vice Chairman & Parish

Emergency Officer - Thurlestone 607

Miss R.S.Stocken - Thurlestone 257.

D.W.P.Grose - Thurlestone 375.

Roy Adams - Thurlestone 247

John Dayment - Thurlestone 295

Geoffrey Stidston - Thurlestone 695

Parish Clerk: D.W.Drabble - Th'stone 533

District Councillor: J. Thomas. " 269

Handy Reference - Column -

POWER CUTS. SWEB - Torquay (993)
26200

WATER. S.W.W.A. FREEPHONE 920

POLICE. Kingsbridge (9)-2326

S.H.DISTRICT COUNCIL.

All Departments: TOTNES (997)
864499

ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

David Frost - Thurlestone 348

NEWSPAPERS:

Bob Morley - Thurlestone 211

CAR WON'T START, &ct

BANTHAM GARAGE - Thurlestone 220

S.MILTON GARAGE -Thurlestone 233

CAR WITH A 3 YEAR GUARANTEE

Salcombe Rd. Garage. for COLT
Galmpton 9-561333

ROOF LEAKING? SLATES LOOSE?

Hurrell & Weeks - Thurflestone
496

Jefferyb& Penwell-Thurlestone
525 or 666.

WINDOWS DIRTY ?

G.Jeffery - Thurlestone 851

CARPETS DIRTY ?

Moyseys of Kingsbridge (9)2168

CALOR GAS RUN OUT?

R.McCarthy - Thurlestone 321

THATCHING GONE?

C.R.Broomhead - Thurlestone 584

HEALTH FOODS

Health Food Centre - Kingsbridge
(9) 3988

INTERFLORA SERVICE

Garden Shop - Kingsbridge -
(9) 2541 and 3888

MILK - EGGS - BUTTER - POTATOES

P. Bromfield - Thurlestone 888

GROCERIES etc.

G.BROMFIELD at BROADS DAIRY

is your local A.P.T. STORE
on Thurlestone 230

Mr and Mrs Morley at

THE VILLAGE STORES on
Thurlestone 211

and in SOUTH MILTON there is the
STORE & POST OFFICE on
Thurlestone 235

TAXI

Local Personal Service from

R.R.PENWELL on Thurlestone 398

LOCAL FRESH FISH DELIVERIES

J.Connington on Thurlestone 355

COAL ?

Try G.BROMFIELD - Thurlestone 230

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P.W.Coleman - Salcombe 984-2809

Devon Cream

* * * * *

Sweeter than the odours borne on southern gales
Comes the clotted nectar of my native vales -
Crimp'd and golden crusted, rich beyond compare,
Food on which a goddess evermore would fare.
Burns may praise his haggis, Horace sing of wine,
Hunt his Hybla-honey, which he deemed divine,
But in the Elysiums of the poet's dream
Where is the delicious without Devon's cream?

Talk of peach or melon, quince or jargonel,
White-water, black Hamburg, or the Muscatel,
Pippin or pomegranate, apricot, or pine,
Green-gages, or strawberries, or your elder wine!
Take them all, and welcome, yes the whole, say I,
Ay! and even junket, squab, and mazzard pie,
Only let our lasses, like the morning gleam,
Joyous with their skimmers full of clouted cream.

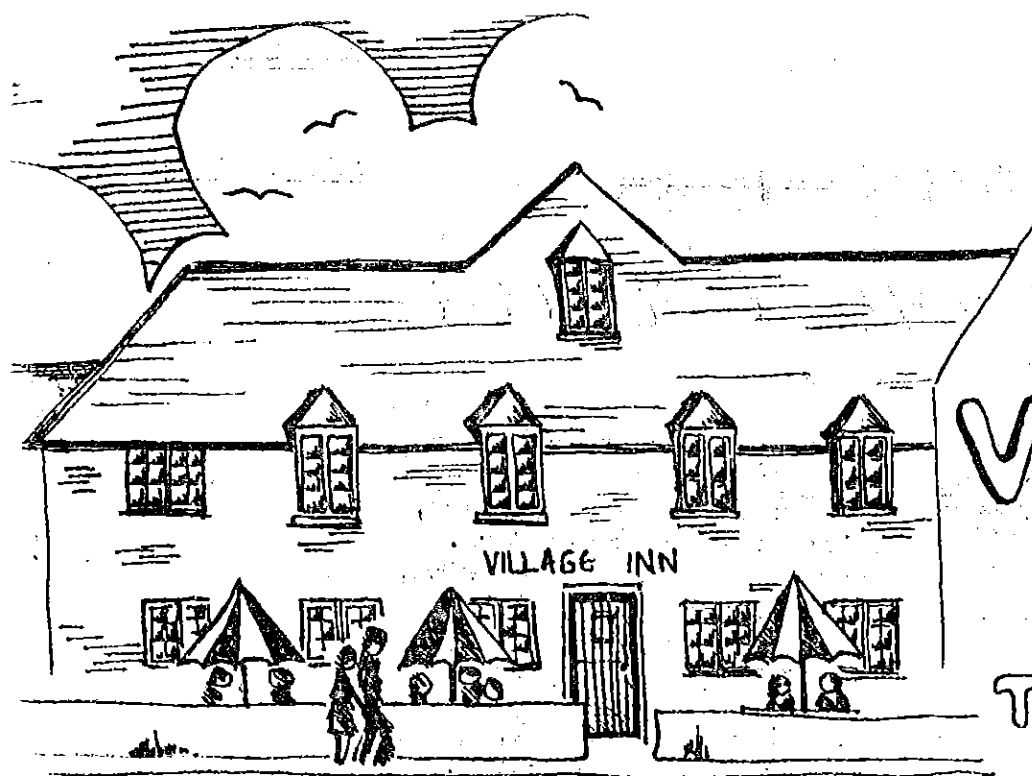
What a host of pictures crowd upon my sight,
As I view the luscious feast of my delight!
Meadows fram'd in hawthorn, coppices in green,
Village fanes on hilltops, crowning every scene;
Buttercups, and cattle clad in coats of red,
Flocks in daisy pastures, couples newly wed,
Happy in their homesteads, by a flashing stream:
But what is this golden, crimp'd, and bonny cream?

Quintessence of sunshine, gorse, and broomy lea,
Privet and carnation, violet, and pea,
Meadowsweet and primrose, honeysuckle, briar,
Lily, mint, jasmine, stock, and gilly spire.
Woodruff, rose, and clover, clematis, and lime,
Myrtle and magnolia, daffodil and thyme,
Is our pearl of dainties - and, to end my theme,
Nature's choice confection is old Devon's cream.

These lines were written by one - Edward Capern, the postman poet of North Devon.

In the month of November, we are told, that "At every gust the dead leaves fall, And the day is dark and dreary." That is just not so for some halcyon days are often enjoyed in the month of November. There is no more delightful time for a country ramble. The landscape is never more intensely lovely. Trees and bushes are robed in glorious colours, from faint yellow to deep red and shades of brown. The contrasts are very beautiful, especially if we are then favoured with what is termed the Indian summer. There are several versions of the origin of the term. One story has it that it was so called from the fact that the aboriginals of the forest took advantage of that season to gather and store their maize, and to prepare generally for the long and perhaps hard winter. Others have said that this apparent resurrection of the summer was predicted by the Indians in conversation with European settlers. The term has been universal throughout the United States since as early as 1724.

J.F.



THE VILLAGE INN

THURLESTONE

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF GRAEME WINGROVE-HARRIS

OUR EXCELLENT FOOD
INCLUDES

Hot Soup
Farm House Pate
Smoked Salmon Pate
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Ham Baps

Pasties
Ploughmans
Pizza

Home Made :-

Cottage Pies
Moussaka
Lasagne
Chilli Con Carne
Salads various
and to finish
Apple pie and Cream

REAL ALES
FINE WINES
AND
SPIRITS

