

THURLESTONE PARISH No 16 VILLAGE VOICE

January - February - 1985

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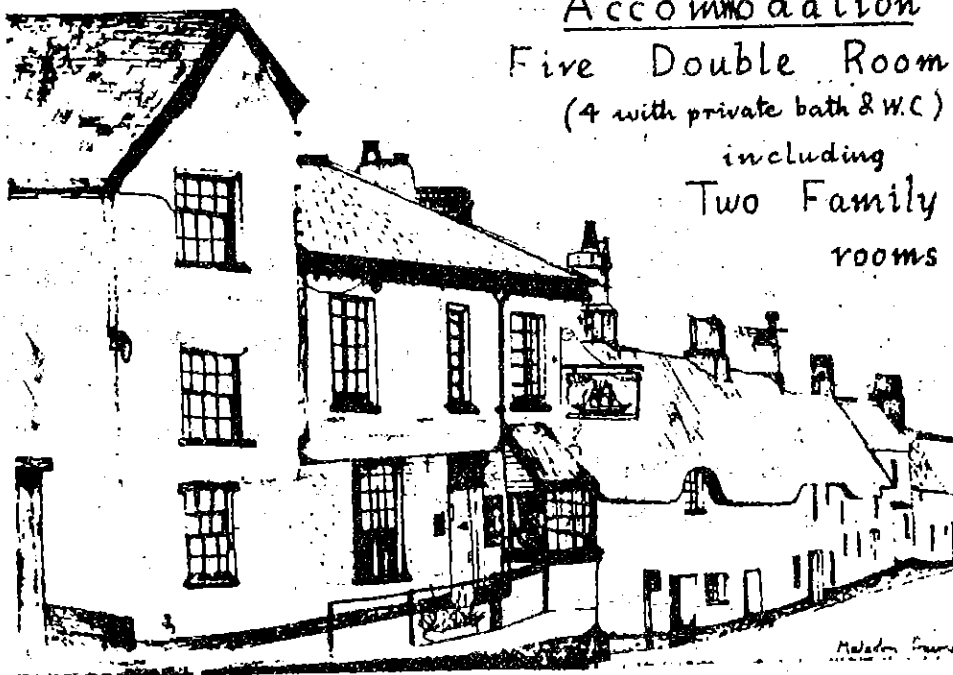
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Thurlestone Parish
V I L L A G E V O I C E

NUMBER SIXTEEN o FOURTH YEAR o JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1985

EDITED & PUBLISHED on behalf of THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL by DUDLEY DRABBLE, 10, Backshay Close, South Milton, Kingsbridge, South Devon TQ7 3JU. Telephone: Kingsbridge 560533 (STD 0548).

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The Magazine is circulated by PETER BROMFIELD free of charge to all residents of the Parish of Thurlestone. A limited number of copies of each issue are offered for sale at the Thurlestone Village Stores and the South Milton Stores. The subscription rate by post is 60p per copy which includes postage.

ADVERTISING space is limited and copy should be forwarded at least 28 days before issue date, i.e. by January 31st. for the March/April issue. All communications should be addressed to the Editor as above. All cheques should be made payable to 'Thurlestone Parish Council' and cross 'Village Voice A/c'.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTICLES, STORIES, POEMS, DRAWINGS, CROSS-WORDS AND ANY ITEM OF LOCAL OR GENERAL INTEREST ARE ALWAYS WELCOME - AND ARE AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT TO THE CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF A VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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1985

A YEAR OF PROMISE FOR YOU

??

Village Voice is proud to present a world exclusive - your future as told by the famous astrologer PATRIC WALKER.

Patric Walker, who writes for national newspapers and magazines in Britain and for more than 100 papers in the United States, is a regular broadcaster. He is consulted by many of today's top decision makers.

He is no stranger to Thurlestone and has often stayed in the village in recent years. He says that he finds the village "one of the most marvellous places in the world" and describes his last stay here as "pure magic." It is because of the great pleasure the village has given to him that he, in turn, has given Village Voice this world exclusive preview of what the stars hold for you in 1985.

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CAPRICORN (December 23 - January 20th)

It is Saturn, your ruler, in Scorpio, together with Pluto, in 1985, which stresses the need for you to be more tolerant, understanding, and sensitive about close, personal relationships. You should try harder to identify with others' difficulties and not be over-critical or demanding.

At work, this can be a magical, in fact an amazing year, but it is really time to burn a lot of bridges. Here again you must not have preconceived ideas but enjoy the changes and upheavals and even the challenges. Unless you break with your comforting and familiar routine, you will miss out on everything which is exciting and revolutionary in the workplace.

It would seem that your interests are turning in the direction of alternative forms of medicine and you are becoming more conscious of diet and lifestyle. As it is going to be a hectic and at times demanding year, there is a greater need for periods of relaxation which you might find in the therapeutic effects of new adventures and enterprises. Don't paint too sombre a picture. And apart from a predicament involving a former business associate, 1985 should be a secure year for you financially.

Aquarius follows:::



A Q U A R I U S - (January 21 - February 19)

All the major planetary activity this year occurs in the top half of your solar horoscope, and it seems that you are now anxious to change your lifestyle in some way. Maybe partnership, emotional or professional problems over the past three years have forced you to become more selective and self-sufficient, but you are certainly about to experience a kind of revival or reawakening.

Certainly you will soon be at your most perceptive, inventive and creative and a new job will add to your material security.

Make a note that the end of May and the first three weeks of June will be decisive and therefore, if there is no immediate solution to current problems, don't become despondent. By the late summer most of the bits of your emotional jigsaw will fit into place.

But back to work. The combined influences of Saturn and Pluto in Scorpio during 1985 will ultimately transform the working pattern of your life. However, you should have already begun to eliminate anything which has ceased to be of value.

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P I S C E S (February 20 - March 20)

Many astrologers seem to make a meal of the Piscean peculiarities and hang-ups, and seldom credit you with your human attributes and qualities - the finest of which must surely be simplicity. You are not artificial, affected or prone to putting on airs and graces.

It doesn't matter to you if your partner or companion in life fails to make sense to anyone but you. For you happiness comes when someone recognises the subtle undertones of your sensitivity as well as your undoubted talents.

Finally, although no one should be allowed to influence your judgement over matrimonial and partnership affairs, it does seem to be true that you may need sound advice as well as practical assistance now.

For many Pisceans the coming year will be one in which a change of residence will prove to be not only beneficial but a must. However, one must always remember that astrology is not fatalistic. The stars incline, they do not compel. And you should never say 'I just wasn't born with the strength or ability.' You were born with more of both than you imagine.

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A R I E S (March 21 - April 20)



The ignition key to success has been turned on. All you have to do is set out on the greatest of all your journeys to self-realisation and real fulfilment.

For you the sign of Virgo represents general health matters, and except for a period between February 19th and March 20th and again between August 22nd and September 22nd when you may be slightly under par physically, 1985 should find you at your most robust and in what is laughingly called "rude health."

Now it really is within your power to make 1985 a year of emotional stability, harmony and security. However, you will have to prove that you can be unselfish and forgiving.

Much depends on how you cope with trying and testing situations which arise between October 27th and the end of the year when Mars makes

an unwelcome visit to your opposition sign of Libra, and whether or not you feel that someone currently in your life can provide the kind of joy, real contentment and fulfilment you seek. In any event the period around the time of the New Moon on March 21st will be decisive and many of your long-term plans may have to be reconsidered, if not abandoned.

+++++



T A U R U S (April 21 - May 21)

What is good for you in 1985 is that Neptune in Capricorn not only affords you an enormous amount of protection, but also an "out" - the perfect opportunity to face up to the real inner you, the person you were meant to be and not the person you were taught to be.

Take special note of events and developments which occur around April 23rd and again around May 15th when the Sun in Taurus opposes Pluto and Saturn in Scorpio, for they will mark the end of one chapter in your life and the beginning of another.

Be prepared to change your outlook and any methods, routines or plans which are no longer productive or viable. Saturn, in particular, is, without doubt, the greatest builder of character and if you are prepared to analyse the period of casting-out now being experienced, it must be true that all you are discarding is the stockpile of inessentials collected over many years.

With this thought in mind approach May and November with courage and determination and, above all do not lose your sense of humour, not to mention your sense of the ridiculous. Accept the fact that you were being tested refined and, in a peculiar way, reborn.

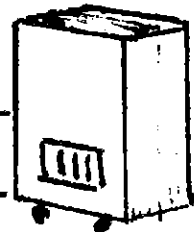
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VILLAGE VOTER

G. E M I N I (May 22 - June 21)



Although it may now seem certain that someone isn't going to keep their part of the bargain or honour a financial undertaking, you can well afford to write off your losses. What you don't need around you at this time are people who are blinkered or who persistently dwell in the past. New joint undertakings and projects should prosper because of the position of Neptune in your solar chart throughout 1985, and some kind of a windfall can be expected in early May and late August.

One word of warning however. Saturn and Pluto in Scorpio mean too much mental overdrive and worry can lead to minor health problems.

Finally a whole new cycle or chapter in your life is certain to commence soon after your own birthday this year. The New Moon in Gemini on June 18th signifies that although there may be a parting of the ways personally or professionally, new and exciting alliances and opportunities will keep your spirits aloft and alive.

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C A N C E R (June 22 - July 23)



The typical Cancerian is invariably industrious and constructive, as well as highly emotional and it is your intuition which enables you to appear poised, charming and self-sufficient. You have a passion for family history, old treasure, antiques and objets d'art and now, more than ever in 1985 your world will appear limited to what lies within your garden fence. 'My people, my things, my home' is your cry.

Even so you may not see eye to eye with offspring. However, Saturn in particular, cautions you to avoid emotional confrontations and try to understand why others need their own space, freedom and own lifestyle. The truth of this will become apparent during the middle of May

If you have been complaining that you are on the same old treadmill, you may well wish you had not. You are about to enter a fast-moving and exciting phase in all career and professional interests, and there is bound to be a major upheaval in the working pattern of your life around the time of your next birthday.

But a friendship, love affair or longstanding association which isn't an established partnership, may go through a dreary and confusing phase in 1985 when you see people as they really are.

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L E O (July 24 - August 23)



Nineteen eighty-five will be a year of enormous changes in your very personal life. It may well be that some new tie or attachment has become too strong and serious for you not to make a complete break from the past.

In your own way you can be just as thoughtful, tender and certainly as tenacious as any Cancerian when dealing with things even more remotely connected with your home. However, now the moment seems to have arrived when you have to make a final choice or decision.

It cannot be denied that times have been hard and emotionally testing for you, but you must continue to pursue any paths you can find to resolve your domestic problems.

It is well known that Saturn in Scorpio means difficulties, but if you go along with Saturn's dictates and heed the warning signals, this can be a year of great achievement and fulfilment for you.

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V I R G O (Aug 24 - Sept 23)



Finances will be a problem, not because you have overspent or miscalculated, but mainly due to the demands, even the caprices of others. However, if you are a typical Virgo, you will remain careful and cautious, never lavish with your affections or spending money. You prefer to give your love quietly, discreetly but constantly, and as far as finances are concerned the word you would prefer to use is "conservative" with a small "c".

Important planetary factors in 1985 will bring about many changes, not only in your personal life, but also in your approach to day-to-day problems.

For reasons best known to yourself you appear to be on the point of making some major alterations in your home and domestic set-up and are quite prepared for the conflicts you are bound to encounter.

Professionally, the period around the time of the New Moon in Gemini on June 18th will be exciting and rewarding. All you have to do is to finally and honestly believe you are destined for bigger and better things.

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L I B R A (Sept 24 - Oct 23)



If you are to enjoy the coming year then you must become more self-protective and candid about your plans and transactions. Not an easy undertaking.

What you don't need are foul-weather friends. What you want are those who encourage without encroaching, who appreciate you for what you are and not what you have.

Over the past two years or so, you have probably become introverted and introspective - uncertain about important personal relationships. OVER:-

VILLAGE VOICE

LIBRA continued


Now is the time to emerge from your cocoon and step out into the arena of life.

It will become abundantly clear that the world is divided into those who kiss and those who proffer a cheek. Those with the poised cheeks will not stand a chance with you over the next 12 months. This year, you will love clear-eyed, instead of clouded by romance.

You will probably be at the end of a 1985 that you will finally realise that the greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually on your guard against making one, and that for intensely personal, and professional reasons you must move on now. Life, you know, is what happens to you while you are making other plans.

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SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)



Now you have Saturn and Pluto in Scorpio all year. Both these planets are associated with the more serious side of life, but in the final accounting the influences they exert are positive, constructive and beneficial.

So all you really have to do is to grasp the nettle, meet the challenge head on and accept the fact that it is your turn to prove just how resourceful, determined and unassailable you can be.

True, there will be moments when you will feel that not only is fate being unjust, but that perhaps you ought to relinquish your hold or even your rights.

However, you will prevail. You will one day look back on this seemingly grim period with affection and gratitude in recognition of its formative influences on your life.

No matter what your age and circumstances you are now being presented with a golden opportunity to carve out your destiny. Your approach to love, work, health and money will all change in 1985 and by getting your priorities right in the first two areas, you will minimise any problems you may encounter in the last two.

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SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 22)



Over the next 12 months timing is essential at home as well as at work. You cannot afford to overplay your hand, and yet the coming year in many respects will be a fortunate one. Much depends on the reactions of people in positions of power and authority and it will certainly be worth your while to be discreet about transactions going on.

A word about Saturn in Scorpio and the most sensitive part of your solar chart. You can no longer sit back and dream - the moment has come to paint on a broader canvas and create something permanent and worthwhile.

Use the influence of Saturn to your advantage. Listen to the still small voice and believe you are never deserted or alone. Saturn is associated with apprehension and even despair by many astrologers, and they are wrong.

Saturn, or Chronos, is the deity who is said by the classical writers to 'have reigned during the Golden Age, when men lived like gods, free from care.' And though you may have to toil a bit harder over the next 12 months, you will emerge more enlightened, contented and complete.

There is a good time coming.

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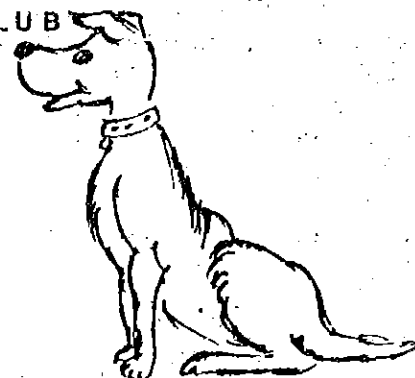
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MORE MEMORIES

o f

A R T H U R
E D W A R D S

WEST BUCKLAND - 1911 - 1929

PART TWO

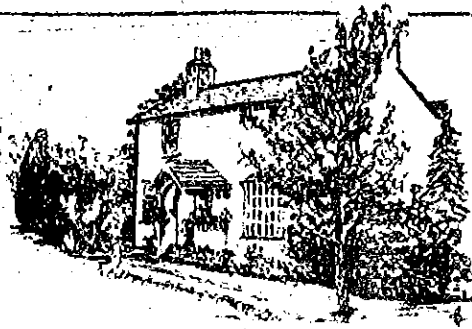
When you went on down the steep hill, past the village pump and over the little stream, turning left at the bottom you came to Butcher Moore's substantially built shop with house attached. Just before reaching the house one would pass various outbuildings, one of which was the Butcher's slaughterhouse. On many occasions I watched animals being driven into the slaughterhouse where they met their end and finished up as succulent Sunday joints. At times the animals seemed to sense danger and were most reluctant to pass through the open door. Escape was accomplished by leaping over obstacles which had been positioned to form a pathway to the slaughterhouse door. The escape was usually short-lived however, and the frightened animal would be recaptured and eventually persuaded that it had no future. So soon as the trapped animal entered the building and turned Mr. Moore, with rifle at his shoulder, would shoot the beast and dash in with knife raised to finish off the job. It was a terrifying sight to me, but, of course, a more humane method did not exist 60 years ago.

A steep climb led past some more cottages and back onto the 'main' road between Bantham and East Buckland. One would come to Burnt House. I have a somewhat unique piano which my Mum purchased for me from the then owners of Burnt House. It is unique because it is shorter by some half a dozen notes at each end of the keyboard than the normal piano, and the keyboard can be closed up into the solid oak frame giving the piano the semblance of a large cabinet. It was originally used on board liners which traversed the seas of the world.

I will come back now to our Post Office. Immediately in front a forked road leads towards Bantham and East Buckland. The left fork, down the hill, passes what was Hannaford's farm and, farther along, Rose Cottage. Next one comes to Snowdon's farm. The Snowdon family comprised Mr. and Mrs. Snowdon, their son and two daughters. In the 1920's one could go to the farm and see several large pans of simmering milk and, when these cooled off, the pans were crusted with thick cream. I think that "crusted" is the correct word, as when the cream was skimmed from the pans one had the impression of the cream being cut through like the crust on a loaf of bread. It really was delicious and large quantities were consumed by visitors who spent their holidays at the Post Office and elsewhere. Although much of the 'skimmed' milk which remained in the pans was used for feeding animals, it was possible to purchase this for cooking at a cost much less than the cost of the ordinary creamy pinta. Continuing along from the farm to the house where the Jackmans lived and, round the corner, some more houses. Farther along the lane, which petered out within a hundred yards or so, one would pass the house where the Bevills lived, and then a tiny cottage which used to house a Miss Hearsey. Up the steps at the side of this cottage was the 'Institute' where one could have a game of billiards, snooker, darts or cards in pleasant company.

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Education for children living in the Thurlestone area began at the Church School in Thurlestone village, and I often wonder how the modern children would react if they had to walk to school. Toddlers living in West and East Buckland and in Bantham had to contend with the steep hill. All must have been very sturdy infants! An even more strenuous journey was to follow, however, when on reaching the age to leave the Thurlestone School they had to journey to Kingsbridge. At the outset my Mum would not allow me to cycle the nine mile return journey each day, so Mr. Foot's pony was the order of the day. For me the journey entailed climbing the steep Clannacombe Hill each morning and, on the return journey, climbing the equally steep West Alwington hill after school. My education continued at Kingsbridge until 1929 when I left the Grammar School and prepared to emigrate to 'the smoke' - London. I disposed of the cycle I then had in an unusual way and to my financial benefit. Having reached Heddeswell Cross on my last journey home a car hit me and catapulted me over the hedge into a mound of straw. I was unhurt, but my cycle was a write-off. I claimed from the motorist, and the claim was settled on payment of a sum which was very much more than I could have hoped to obtain if I had sold the machine in the usual way.

At the end of 1928 there was a blizzard in the South Hams. This was the first heavy snowfall which I had seen. Roads to Kingsbridge were impassable for vehicles but it was possible to walk, slide or slither the entire journey to Kingsbridge almost in a straight line as the snow was hedge high. What fun we had on that journey!

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CONCLUDING PART 2

MORE MEMORIES of ARTHUR EDWARDS

In "Village Voice" No.13 there was a story of the Hallsands disaster. I was a mere six year old in 1917 but I can well remember a journey which I made with my Mum when the storm was still raging. We had heard of the tremendous seas which were running in the English Channel and Mum decided to take me down to Bantham to see what a rough sea really looked like. We battled our way down past the Sloop and the village clock on the other side of the road and eventually reached the gates leading to the Ham. By then, however, I was terrified and refused to go any farther. The Ham gave the appearance of an enormous bubble bath. Foam from the raging sea was blanketing the Ham and it was impossible, at times, even to see the Avon, particularly that part near to the boathouse alongside the salmon pool.

During the long School summer holidays many of us lads used to caddy on Thurlestone Golf Course. It gave me a great thrill to be able to earn some money and, at the same time, enjoy myself. One incident resulted in my becoming rich. I found a wallet on the course and handed it in to the Club Secretary. It contained over £40 - a fortune, to me ! Various papers in the wallet revealed the owners' identity with a London address. A few days later I was called to the Secretary's office and introduced to the owner of the wallet. After thanking me the owner handed me two bob! The Secretary noting this, pointed out that it was Club policy to train young lads to be honest and, taking the wallet, he extracted a pound note which he passed to me, explaining to the owner that this sum was a more reasonable reward. The happy memories of caddying also reminds me of an amazing coincidence connected with golf at Thurlestone - which you may read about in the next issue of 'Village Voice'. !

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A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY.....

A 100 OR SO YEARS AGO

AN INLET of the Kingsbridge Estuary called Bowcombe Creek separates the parish of Charleton from that of Kingsbridge. The bridge of five arches was constructed in 1845 to carry the main road through to Dartmouth. Speaking of Charleton it appears that 'Churlestone' was the ancient and probably the more correct way of spelling Charleton if it may be assumed that the name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon 'ceorl' or 'churl, meaning husband-man or peasant, and the addition of 'ton' would simply mean the habitation or 'ton' of the peasantry or villagers. The parish undoubtedly bore the name of Churlestone in 1344.

But, let me proceed with the main theme of this little article. If we leave Bowcombe bridge the next point of interest is Highhouse Point, a place where boats could land passengers at almost any time of tide. Here it was that the steamers "Salcombe Castle" and "Iltan Castle", plied three and four times daily between Salcombe and Kingsbridge, landing and embarking passengers when there was not sufficient tidal water for the steamboats to proceed up to the Kingsbridge Quays. A landing quay was constructed at Highhouse Point by the Harbour Commissioners for the convenience of passengers.

Continuing the journey up the Estuary there was Date's shipbuilding yard on the right. From this yard many a smart and trim vessel had been turned out for the foreign and coasting trade, but around the turn of the century the yard was then being chiefly used for the building of trawlers for up Channel ports. Before the days of steamers, this was a very busy place, and even at this time Kingsbridge was doing a good bit of shipping with the craft that could get up to the quay. Of course, then the Estuary flowed to the foot of the town, with ample quay room -- -- afforded for the import and export of merchandise of all descriptions. The export trade included corn, cider, flour, beer and other produce, whilst the imports were chiefly coals, timber and suprisingly, manure. There was a small cargo steamer regularly running two trips weekly to and from Plymouth, calling at Salcombe, carrying passengers as well as merchandise. The landing quays were called 'New Quays'.

Just opposite the quays is a small creek called 'Tacket' or 'Ticket Wood', and it is believed the name derived from the fact that it was one of the meeting places of the Nonconformists in the days of their persecution, when as a safe-guard admission was by ticket. A bridge was constructed there in 1768, over which is the old road leading to Salcombe. There was also an old established rope-walk adjoining the main road, which employed several workmen, but the failure of shipping compelled the ropery to cease operations.

Returning to the eastern side of the Estuary, it is quite interesting to learn that at the time of the Continental Wars temporary barracks and a hospital were erected on the high ground above New Quay, and 600 militiamen were housed there in 1804.

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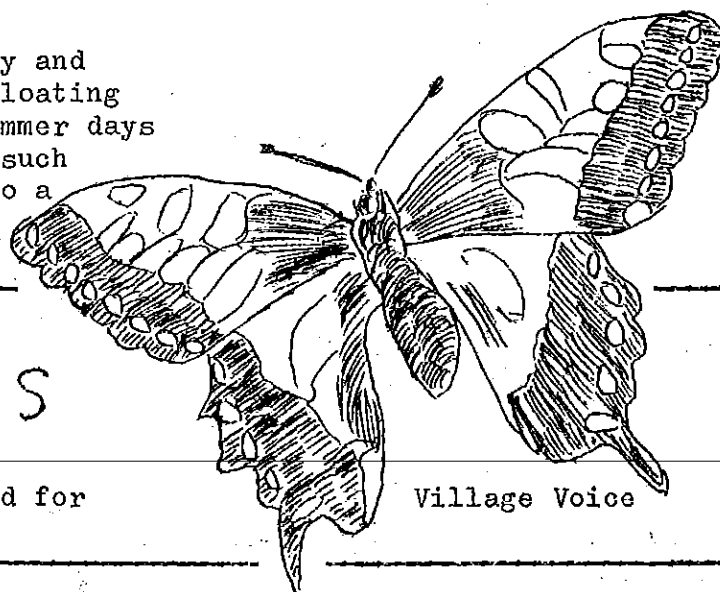
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No princess is more beautifully and colourfully garbed than the "floating flowers" which brighten our summer days - yet before they can achieve such brilliance they have to undergo a period of struggle

Butterflies

An Article specially researched for

Village Voice



AS SOON as days of warmth and sunlight arrive, all those insects which during the winter months have been dormant and hidden away out of sight, appear again in swarms of new life. The first Butterflies to appear - the Brimstones and Tortoiseshells - are old stagers who, since their autumnal diversions, have lodged in the chinks and crannies of decaying tree trunks, or among the rafters of barns and outhouses. And though some of them may show signs of wear and tear, they hurry to the nuptial revels which are already in progress where the Buckthorn bushes are bursting into leaf and beds of stinging nettles shooting. But the black and white Butterflies - those miscreants of the cabbage plant - are the truer portents of the resurrection which takes place in every corner of the countryside.

The marvellous birth of the Butterfly is truly fascinating. The fully evolved Peacock Butterfly, for example, is richly coloured, with decorations on all four wings, resembling the display of a Peacock, while the undersides are dully coloured, so that the effect of the closing and opening of the wings is striking. The Peacock Butterfly seeks a nettle-bed when egg-laying time comes. Its inborn instinct guides it to the plant that offers suitable food for the future larvae. Large numbers of minute eggs, delicately ribbed and fluted, are laid. They are olive green, making them inconspicuous against the green background of nettle leaf. To escape from the egg the larvae bite their way through the shells. Very tiny beings, they nevertheless clearly show the rings of their bodies and the feathery hairs adorning them. In colour they are black and the surface of their firm skin is glossy. From now on their life is one long meal, interrupted only by the periodical moults. The outermost covering of the larva's body does not expand and so when it becomes too tight it is cast off, a looser and larger covering having already been formed beneath it. The Caterpillar then proceeds to eat and grow again, to fit its new cuticle. This occurs several times before the larva reaches its full size.

The head of the Caterpillar bears groups of simple eye-spots on each side, a pair of short feelers, and several mouth-parts, including a pair of strong jaws suitable for biting plants. Behind the mouth there is a tiny opening from which comes liquid silk from the silk-glands. This fluid immediately solidifies in the air, forming a silken thread that can be manipulated by movements of the larva's head. The three rings behind the head each bear a pair of jointed and clawed legs, which correspond to the three pairs of legs of the adult insect, while farther along the body other appendages are seen, four pairs of stumpy 'pro-legs' on successive rings and a fifth pair, the 'claspers', especially placed for gripping on the last segment.

The Caterpillar uses its silk to make a lifeline, and also its cocoon for the pupa stage of its development. If its food plant is shaken, or if a questing

OVER:::

BUTTERFLIES ...

bird comes too close, it drops from the leaf it has been nibbling. Before it falls it attaches a thread of silk, from which it can dangle until it is safe to climb up again.

At the last moult its skin cracks open and is worked down off the tail, gradually displaying the pupa. Attached to the plant by its own silk it hangs head downwards.

The pupa is at first quite soft, but it soon hardens. Its skin is semi-transparent and through it can be seen long feelers, small wings and other structures that suggest the form of the adult insect that will appear later. The pupa of the Peacock Butterfly varies in colour and is usually well hidden on the under sides of leaves in the nettle bed. Within it, a great change, (metamorphosis) takes place. The larval organs are transferred into new ones suitable for the life of the adult insect. A biting and crawling caterpillar becomes, after pupation, a sucking and flying butterfly.

When the Butterfly is ready to emerge, the pupa-skin breaks open and the winged insect draws itself carefully out of the hull.

If you could watch the transformations of the Butterfly you could realise more fully the wonder of its life story. As it creeps out with some effort from the hull in which so much change has taken place, dragging its soft damp body with wings all crumpled and as yet helpless, in a few moments it is the brilliant dilettante of the flower world. In the warmth of sunlight the soft wings quickly fill out with the life fluid, straighten and expand, and then with a final flutter it is in the air and soon it flies away to mate.

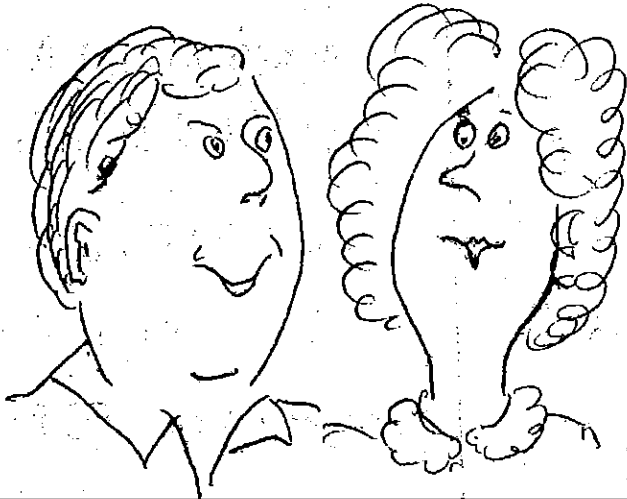
These are days of joyous flitting and love-making. After mating the female's interest changes, the leaves of plants have now an attraction for her, for she must find a place to lay her eggs.

It is the sense organs which draw

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Una Atkins & Jessie Hewson

the butterfly to the right place. While the sense of smell, or smell sense is highly developed, the eyes are comparatively simple. Instead, for example of being formed of one adjustable lens, the eye has a large number of lenses, each lens fixed on the top of a crystal cone wider above than below. The picture seen is not one whole, but made up of all sections registered by the various lenses.



On being a Grockle!

As a Grockle, Second Home Owner, Visitor, Outsider, or whatever else we are called, I would like to write a few words in our defense.

My family and I have been coming to the beautiful village of Bantham for 50 years now, and our grand-children are following in our footsteps. In fact there have been four generations of us here.

When we first came we stayed in lodgings - a guest house, where we were fed and looked after. We had delicious home made food and our own sitting room. The accommodation was extremely simple, with one bathroom for about eight of us. Every holiday was sheer bliss and we came back year after year, making new friends and renewing old friendships, and generally getting to know everyone who lived in the village.

I like to feel that we have always contributed something to the village. We certainly helped to keep the guest house going - although I don't really know how, because we all ate so heavily!

After many years both branches of the family were able to acquire their own homes. Ours was a tiny cottage in the village which we rented on a long lease. It was very derelict, and had been empty for a number of years. It had no electricity or water, and needed re-thatching. We scraped everything possible together to make it habitable. During that time we employed the following local people - the Thatcher, a most sensitive local builder, a plumber and

electrician; and many others.

We bought our first boat from Bantham, and later were able to buy a Yawl from Salcombe. The Harbourmaster has always looked after them. We use the local shop for everything possible. We go to the pub - we go to Church for christenings, weddings and funerals of our local friends. We attend meetings - both parochial and for conservation - we have even saved three people from drowning! - and often administered first aid - and advice!

Above all we and our children and grandchildren are entirely happy here and would fight any good cause for this village. So please, dear locals, don't think of us as just 'grockles' - we are all deeply grateful for being privileged to come to this beautiful part of the world. To convince you - I've arranged to have my ashes thrown from Jenkin's Quay - and you can't be more devoted than that!

" A Grateful Grockle"

Full name & address supplied
(Guess who !)

=====

Better to be wise ..

Constantly we have to remind people about protection of their property. I know that this is a repetitive issue, which some people must be fed up with hearing about, but nonetheless, it is vital if we are to prevent crime. Please inform the police if you are going away on holiday - even if it is only for a few days. This can easily be done, by either contacting Kingsbridge Police Station (2326), or informing myself or P.c. John Barrett, directly when we are on patrol. I can assure you that we do check property, particularly at night.

P.c. John Casson.

=====



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p.m**

Do we want this growth "Industry"?

The Annual Report of H.M. Customs & Excise reveals the number of licences for 'fruit' machines in 1970 was 77,300 - but in 1982 it was 119,400...and now?

The electronic machines of today are seemingly designed to outwit the player - yet there appears to be almost a compulsion to meet the challenge they present which is totally absorbing to the individual - and his or her money. Many, it would seem, seek more cash to continue gambling on the machines - often, it is said, with the tragic result of youngsters stealing from their home and elsewhere. Gamblers Anonymous have 12 year old clients and have actually had to set up a children's branch. There have even been cases of children being led into prostitution.

The freedom of adults to gamble is not in question, but we must surely have the protection of the young and the environment in which they are to grow up at heart. The objects of the 'Environmental Protection Association' is to try to deal with the potential evils resulting from the form of gambling offered by 'Amusement Centres' and to seek your support to prevent the growth of these centres and fight to get the planning regulations and the law relating to such establishments amended. If you also feel concerned will you please write your name and address on the pad headed 'Environmental Protection Association' in your local post office at Thurlestone, Bantham and South Milton - so that the Association may look to you for some support.

RICHARD KEMP
South Milton.

=====

CROSSWORD No. 12 SOLUTIONS: EASY PUZZLE: ACROSS. 4 Mother. 7 Beribent
8 Scrape 10 Dread 15 Team 14 East 15 Tarn 16 Fry 17 Tail 19 Diet 21 Sin-
-certy 23 Sect 24 Nude 26 Hew 27 Late 29 Mars 32 Ness 33 Asset 34 Refers
35 Extended 36 Steeps. DOWN 1 Abode 2 Cries 3 Abed 4 Miser 5 Term
6 Expert 9 Candid 11 Rag 12 Attic 13 Talents 15 Pic 16 Key 18 Antler
20 Items 21 Sew 22 Rue 23 Select 25 Are 28 Asses 30 Aside 31 Study 32 Mere
33 Apex.

CRYPTIC PUZZLE. ACROSS: 4 Kicked 7 Scenario 8 Amazon 10 Omits 13 G-11b
14 Ta-ta 15 Bear 16 Key 17 Cain 19 Aird 21 Gilt-edged 23 Putt 24 Reef
26 S-O-N 27 Evan 29 Eras 32 Oral 33 Bra-sh 34 Re-miss 35 Exercise
36 Athens (Thanes). DOWN 1 Ascot 2 Merit (Re-mit) 3 Jaws 4 Kaola 5 Grab
6 Eroded (or deed) 9 Mirage 11 Ma-X 12 Tacit 13 General 15 Bit 16 Kid
18 Alters (Psalter) 20 Refer 21 Gun 22 Den (end) 23 Potent 25 Was 28 Vases
30 Radio (dior) 31 Bird.

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"VILLAGE VOICE" has, I believe, over the past three years become a well established parish magazine, and many people tell me they look forward to each issue. A great deal of credit for that must go to those who contribute to the content for, as I have said before, without them there could be no magazine worthy of the name. The demand for advertising space has grown each year which has not only prevented any call upon Parish Funds but permitted regular issues of 40 to 50 pages! There is, however, a "but".....

As the 'founding Editor' (with the support and sponsorship of the Thurlestone Parish Council, I have produced the magazine without asking for help from anyone. The 'but' is advancing years - I have now turned 75 and I feel the time has arrived when it is sensible to ask for help in establishing a small group of interested persons - of any age group, to undertake to assist with production from typing a few of the 40 to 50 stencils required for every issue to the final assembly and stapling of the completed magazine.

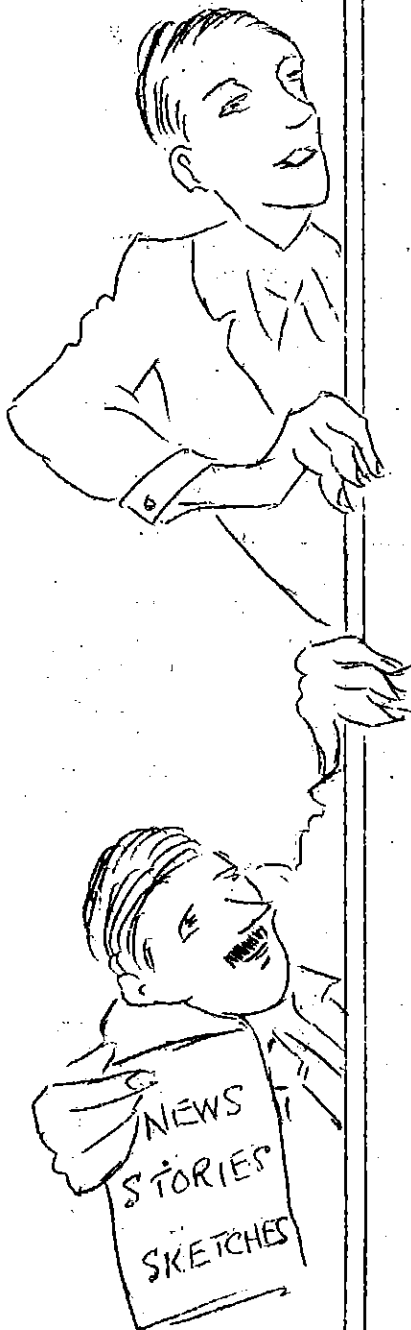
When I started out on this venture I knew nothing at all about wax stencils - and even less about working a duplicator !! I do now know something of the state one can get into sometimes when things go awry - but at least I can assure anyone interested that there is no need whatsoever to consider inexperience should prevent their coming forward.

It is truly the most interesting but demanding 'hobby' I have ever been involved in.

Don't let me mislead you, but both the Parish Council and I want to ensure 'Village Voice' will continue through the years ahead. Sometime there has to be a 'new' Editor - or at the very least a group of like minded people who will carry on for the benefit of the community - certainly not for the benefit of the pocket !

I should be most happy to discuss the matter further with anyone interested - call me on 560533 - or write or call personally.

Editor



PARISH NEWS AND VIEWS . . .

RIVER AVON ESTUARY BYELAWS

The Parish Council have been advised that the District Council do intend to make byelaws imposing a speed limit of 8 knots on the stretch of river between Aveton Gifford and the mouth of the river, to operate between the months of May and September (inclusive) in each year, save that persons who have obtained the prior consent of the Water Safety Officer, Captain Jame J. Blazeby, (prior written consent), may exceed the speed limit solely for the purpose of water skiing on the stretch of river between Lime Kiln and the Rock Face at Doctor's Wood. A first draft of terms, rules and safety regulations has been produced by Captain Blazeby, the main clauses of which are:

Each consent is personal to the applicant and will apply for that person to use the specified area with a particular "named and numbered boat".

Each person engaging in water skiing must recognise that they are primarily responsible for their own safety and for ensuring that their activities do not harm others.

Each boat mentioned in any consent shall be clearly identifiable in the manner to be prescribed.

Nothing in the rules and terms of the consent shall interfere with the International Rules for the Prevention of Collision at Sea, which apply upon this river.

Each boat shall be fully insured for third party liability up to £500,000 - and evidence of this will be required.

Each boat towing water skiers shall be occupied by two competent persons.

Each boat towing water skiers shall be operated in a careful and prudent manner and at a reasonable distance from persons and property, so as not to endanger the life or limb or the property.

No boat shall tow a skier from the period of one hour after sunset to one hour prior to sunrise.

If swimmers or other water users enter the specified area then all skiing must stop until the holder of the consent is absolutely sure his way is clear

Consent Holders shall agree that they will proceed from their launching or mooring places to the water ski area at low speed.

KINGSBRIDGE THEATRE

We shall return to including the Cinema & Theatre Programme in the next issue. After renovation work and modernisation of the Theatre equipment and the lighting, it is anticipated there will be a full programme from February.

+ + + + +

IT IS REPORTED

that a last-ditch attempt to prevent the introduction of controls over water skiers on the River Avon has failed. The Chairman of the South Hams District Council Health and General Purposes Committee claimed the council 'Had bent over backwards' to help the skiers, and the committee agreed to take no action over a letter from the secretary of the Aune Valley Ski Club.

+ + + + +

DID YOU READ.....?

Parents of the John Galt Primary School in Irvine, Scotland, were told by the police that they could not have a controlled crossing near the school - because it would be too dangerous for the lollipop man !

+ + + + +

THE STAR AWARD OF THE YEAR....

must go to the South Hams Planners. In 1983 an application for an extension in our parish was given a 'refusal' because it was 'outside the limits of Thurlestone contrary to the provisions of the County Structure Plan. The site was situated in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty & the development would be detrimental to the character & appearance of this area where there is a presumption against development except where necessary to the economic or social well being of the area or where it will enhance its character, neither of which criteria are applicable and the site was within the Coastal Preservation Area, etc, etc,

In just one year - they forgot all that and gave a consent !!!



So you think you
pay too much rent
and rates?

District Councillor J. Thomas reports on a
conversation in Thurlestone Village Inn.

"Hullo Bill! Haven't seen you for a long time, will you have a half?"

"Thanks, Mr. Thomas, very kind of you. I don't seem to have got out recently, too busy! What with going self-employed and moving into my own house."

"Yes, that is a bit much all at once; where are you living now?"

"Oh, in one of that pair of cottages at the top of the village. Owners have gone abroad and I'm renting it - hard going though with being self-employed and having to pay rent and so on after living at home."

"Well then Bill, I think you want to apply for a rent allowance from the Council."

"But I don't qualify Mr. Thomas, I'm self-employed."

"Not so Bill. Anyone can apply: it's your gross income before paying tax that counts in the calculation, not where it comes from, by and large. They may also be able to help you with your rates as well."

"That would be good. I've just had a rates bill from South Hams and one from the Water Authority."

"Unfortunately you won't get help with the water rates, but you may get help with the South Hams rate demand, Bill".

"Would they be able to help my cousin, Mr. Thomas? He's in a bed-sit in Kingsbridge."

"Yes, he can make an application for what is called Standard Housing Benefit, if he succeeds or not will depend on his income compared with his rent and rates - even if he does only pay one sum to the landlord each week."

"But wait a minute Bill, what about your Grandmother? You ought to get her to apply."

"Well, Mr. Thomas, I do know that as she's on what is called supplementary pension, she gets all her rates paid for her."

"Ah yes, because she gets supplementary benefit, the DHSS instruct South Hams Council to pay all of her rent and rates for her."

"No, they won't pay all of it, because my brother is living there at the

Continued overpage...

PHILIPPA SAYER

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FOLLOWING A RECONSTITUTION OF THE
BODY OF GOVERNORS OF THURLESTONE
ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL the
following appointments thereto
have been confirmed:

Ex-officio Foundation:
The Reverend JOHN DELVE
Diocesan Education Committee

Mrs JEAN YEOMAN, Mr. JONATHAN PARKIN,
and (parent) Mr. MICHAEL TRELEAVEN
P.C.C. Foundation

Mr. MALCOLM GALLOWAY,
Mr. Roy Townsend, Mrs. L. Anderton.
County Council Representative

Mrs K. MORLEY
Parish Council Representative
Joint for S. Milton & Thurlestone P.C

Mr. Geoffrey Bell, South Milton
Teachers: Mrs Carole Ellis.
Parent: Mrs M. Brice (S.Milton)
Ex-officio. Head. Mr. T.E.E. Battekl.

Concluding.....

SO YOU THINK YOU PAY TOO MUCH
RENT AND RATES...

moment, but I must admit they do pay most of it. It all seems like a good scheme to me Mr. Thomas; what's the catch?"

"Well the only hiccough in the scheme that I know of Bill, is that the Council will only bring a certain amount of rent into their calculation; that's so as to stop private landlords pushing up rent levels generally at the expense of the public purse and so that people don't rent properties that are far too large for their needs."

"What happens if you are paying more rent than the Council feels is reasonable?"

"They include only the amount of rent you actually pay, up to their limit."

"What are the limits, Mr Thomas?"

£25 per week plus rates and water for a single person, £30 per week plus rates, etc. for a couple, £35 per week plus rates, etc. for a one child family and so on. There is no limit on rates."

"Great, what do I do for an application form or to find out more?"

"Contact the Rebates Office at South Hams District Council at Totnes - the phone number is 864499 - and they'll be pleased to send you a form or tell you more about the scheme."

"Sounds O.K. to me Mr. Thomas, you ought to write about it in 'Village Voice'."

NOTE. Mr Thomas thanks John Haslam, Senior., Revenue Accountant at Follaton House for this contribution. This proves that all officers at South Hams are not as, sometimes referred to, faceless wonders! Copies of forms are available from Miss R.S. Stocken 'Mariners' Ilbert Road, Thurlestone (560257) and Mr Thomas adds, it is your right if you qualify and he would be pleased (in strict confidence) to help any applicant.

See also item in 'Mrs. Villager' in this issue.



OCTAVIAUS OWL and his friends

by PEARL HAWKINS

Octaviaus Owl began his life as a cocoanut in the faraway Philippine Islands. This you may think very strange, but I will explain. The people who lived on the Islands would gather all the cocoanuts when they had grown large and round. They would drain out all the milk and keep it to drink, for it tasted very good indeed, and then they would leave the nut shells to dry in the lovely warm sun. When the shells were dry they would carve all sorts of things from them and send them in boats to places all over the world to be sold. They made dishes, and vases, and little animals - but one particular cocoanut which was extra large, was carved into the shape of an owl. The man who was making him painted on some wings, two sturdy feet, some ruffled feathers on the top of his head and a little red beak that looked more like a nose. Then he added two of the wisest looking eyes you ever did see, and to complete him a pair of wire spectacles. For a while he was then stood in the sun to let all the paint dry.

Well, the little sunbeams danced around him, and the more they danced the more Octaviaus's eyes seemed to shine and sparkle, until he too seemed to be alive. Yet he sat there very still though everyone who saw him said, "he is just like a real owl," and, do you know, Octaviaus's eyes would glitter and sparkle all the more, and as the little sunbeams continued to dance and flutter around him they said, "what a wise looking creature, let us give him some of our magic so that he really is wise and wherever he goes he will take some of our light and warmth with him and make people happy." And that is what they did, and so of course, that is why Octaviaus was very special indeed.

As time went on, he was packed in a crate with lots of other things, put on a boat and sent across the sea and finally ended up in the window of a shop in the great City of London, to be sold.

Now this is where my story really starts. A young man saw him and bought him as a present for his Mother, who lived a long, long way from him, all by herself in the country. This was not strictly true, as she had a dog and two cats. Lots of birds lived in the trees and hedges, and there were always cows in the field outside her garden fence, so she was never really lonely. Now this lady's name was, believe it or not for it is really true, "Mrs I Can't Make Up My Mind". She was called this because she never could make up her mind. She could never quite make up her mind what to have for her dinner for instance. Whether to dust the house or make her bed first. Whether to feed the two cats before the dog, or the dog before the cats. She would even wonder whether to hang her washing on the line to dry in case it might rain. Poor 'Mrs Can't Make Up My Mind' would stand in her garden and think, now which side shall I plant the vegetables and which side shall I plant the flowers. Really, at times life was awfully worrying. That is, until Octaviaus Owl came to live with her.

Now she had names for everything in her little house, and I don't just mean the two cats and the dog. There was 'Piggy Porker' where she put all her pennies. There was the garden gnome called 'Percy Peanut', a plastic bunny on the mantle-piece she called 'Yum-You -Billy' and lots more things I will tell you about another time. Well, as soon as Mrs. Can't Make Up My Mind had unwrapped the owl from the parcel, she just took one look at him and said, 'Octaviaus', and even without thinking about it at all, sat him on a shelf in her Sitting Room for that seemed just the place for him and where he seemed to belong.

CONTINUED:--

Concluding:

OCTAVIAUS OWL

Everytime she went in the room, which was very often, as she was always putting things down and forgetting where she put them, Octaviaus would gaze at her through his wire spectacles, and she took to talking to him. She would say to him, "Shall I hang the washing out or do you think it will rain Octaviaus?" and he would look her straight in the eye, and you may not believe this, but its quite true, he would blink both eyes very quickly, and that would mean, 'Yes, hang out the washing.' If he disagreed he would twitch his red beak of a nose, very quickly, you understand. At first Mrs I Can't Make Up My Mind was amazed, but as I have said, he was very special and full of 'sun magic'.

She always said "Good morning" and "Good Night" to him - she felt that he expected it, and looked so wise and dignified sitting on his shelf, and anyway it was only polite to do so.

They really seemed to enjoy each others company very much. There were times, of course, when Octaviaus would get a very little annoyed. That would be when he had either blinked his eyes very quickly for 'yes' or twitched his beak nose for 'no', and still she had dithered and fussed. To Octaviaus it was so simple - you make up your mind and do one thing or the other - which was very easy for such a wise owl as he was. However, these times were not very often and they really seemed to be made for each other, and Mrs I Can't Make Up My Mind often wondered how ever she had managed to make up her mind before he came to live with her.

+ + + + +

There are more stories about Octaviaus which will appear in 'Village Voice' if there are enough of you who would like to hear - all about his birthday, for instance.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD AT 7.30 p.m. in The Parish Hall on TUESDAY 29th. JANUARY 1985.

THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

The Chairman and Committee of the Parish Hall wish to express thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Bill Phillips for their kindness in running a Bridge Evening on November 2nd. 1984 in aid of Hall maintenance funds. The sum of £50 was raised and we are most grateful for this support and encouragement.

40 players turned out to make the evening a success and the Hall's new heating system came through with flying colours. Gone are the winter evenings when the thought of going to a 'do' in the Thurlestone Hall gave people the shivers!

A reminder.....The large car park at the Parish Hall may be used by residents and visitors alike in return for the following fees: 50p daily. £3.00 weekly. This charge, of course, is not applicable when parking at the Hall whilst attending events taking place at the Hall.

COOKWORTHY MUSEUM

would like to thank everyone who supported the fund raising event at the Thurlestone Parish Hall on Saturday 10th November 1984, in particular the good friends who manned the stalls.

Despite the fact that there were several 'counter-attractions' running on the same day, the sum of £75. was raised!

P.M.

AT THE JANUARY 29th. MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, Mr. George South M.B.E., Chairman of the South Hams District Council will be in attendance.

THE USUAL 'OPEN FORUM' SESSION with parishioners will be held

The annual Golf Competition was held on the Thurlestone course on 12th October. The weather was dry and quiet and the Course in excellent condition. Seventeen members played in the eighteen hole Stableford Competition, which was won by Geoff Wilkinson with 34 points. Ken Bole came second with 32 points and Reg Mahoney third with 31. Henry Crowe won the nine-hole competition with 17 points. Lunch was taken afterwards at the Golf Club at which the prizes were presented by the Chairman, Alec Morrison.

On November 9 a well attended meeting heard Mr John Davenport, one time Managing Director of the English edition of "Readers Digest" talk on the origins and history of that excellent journal. The strict editorial control and first class production is reflected in their circulation of 31 million world wide.

It is not possible to report on the Ladies Christmas Luncheon on December 11 at the time of going to press, but members should note that the next ordinary meeting is on January 11, when they should be prepared to nominate two Committee members and a Vice-Chairman for election at the February 8th Business meeting. Please discuss your nominations with the nominees.

A.H.Dudley Tyas
Kingsbridge 560656

A FOURTEENTH CENTURY DISH

Take hens and pork, and boil them together. Take the flesh and hew it small, and grind it all to dust. Take grated bread, and mix it with the broth, and add to it yolks of eggs. Boil it, and put therein powder of ginger sugar, saffron & salt - and look that it be stiff.

Cookery Book of King Richard II

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DO TAKE CARE

Despite earlier advice to householders on the method of disposing of broken glass and other sharp objects as part of household rubbish, minor injury is still being caused to some of South Hams District Council's refuse collectors.

Injury can occur when unprotected sharp objects are placed direct into polythene or paper refuse bags. Carrying and lifting refuse containers is part of the collection operation and when one remembers that bags and other containers are at eye level during part of the operation, the danger of sharp objects breaking through is clearly recognisable.

Everyone who puts out refuse for collection are asked to ensure that all sharp objects are well wrapped in newspaper or some other form of protection, before they are placed in any refuse container, and particularly plastic and paper bags or cardboard boxes.

from M.F. JOHNSON

Director of Technical Services

Here's Mrs
Villager
Just for a
change!



WHY BLAME THE DOG ?

There seems a general campaign against 'Man's Best Friend' these days. May I suggest that the blame for 'offences' committed by these pets is a case for the training of delinquent owners - and there do seem to be quite a few of them about!

+ + + + +

COULD YOU QUALIFY

No, no no!! Not as a delinquent dog owner. I heard District Councillor Jack Thomas say that he felt there were a number of people who could benefit from the rent and rate rebate scheme operated by Local Councils. After all, well over £2,000,000 is being granted in these rebates in the public and private housing sector by the South Hams District Council. Why not find out more - have a quiet word with Mr Thomas at Little Thatch, South Milton (Tel: 560269) or Parish Councillor Miss Rosemary Stocken at 'Mariners' Ilbert Road, Thurlestone (Tel: 560257) or the District Council (Totnes (97)864499

+ + + + +

WILL IT DETER THE LITTER BUGS ?

I gather that next Spring you will see some new little signs around drawing attention that under the Litter Act 1983, offenders can be fined up to £400. Obviously it will need the full support of more upstanding members of the public to

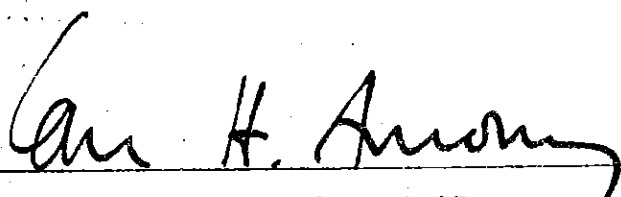
enable the South Hams District Council to take proceedings against offenders. Of course, there is now a potential fine of £40 for a dog 'messaging' footpaths and grass verges - but that, too, requires public support.

Devon Village Ventures

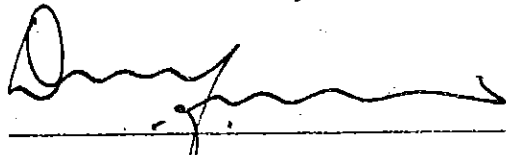
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Chairman Community Council of Devon



Manager, Lloyds Bank, Exeter

12.10.1984

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9284...2576
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93...26200
S.W.WATER - EMERGENCY- Freephone 920

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Jeffery & Penwell... 560525
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NEVILLE C. OSWALD on

How to grapple with the Devon Dialect



The Devon dialect poses several problems for the uninitiated. For a start, it contains words and pronunciations that are peculiar to the county which sometimes make it sound almost like another language. An elderly villager might say on a fresh winter's morning

"Us be praaper shrammed".. The replacement of the conventional "I am" by "Us be" is unlikely to be misunderstood, nor should the local rendering of "proper" present a major difficulty. "Shrammed", on the other hand, is in a difficult category. It happens to mean cold, just as grockles happen to mean holiday visitors; they are examples of words that have been added to the vocabulary over the years, but whose origins are for the most part unknown. Some of them are rather odd; people who live in the middle of the village may care to know, if they do not already, that the alternative Devon name for a donkey is a Jerusalem Canary.

Our elderly villager, on entering his home, might go on to say "Draa vore an yet yerzel." This sentence is easy for anybody in the know - it simply states "Draw forward (a chair) and heat (or warm) yourself" and incidentally gives the speaker a chance to roll a few Rs and to proclaim proudly the tongue of his forebears. It is indeed the language of Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh and may be traced even further back.. After the Saxon King Alfred the Great had been rescued by the men of Devon from the Danes in the fenlands of Somerset, he systematically developed his version of the English language, some of which reputedly survives in the local dialect.

Sooner or later, anyone trying to grapple with the Devon way of speaking will come up against the declension of the verbs "to be" and "to have", which is about as difficult to grasp as a piece of wet soap.

How to grapple with the Devon dialect

Conjugating the present tense of "to be" we find:-

<u>Standard version</u>		<u>Devon version</u>	
I	am	us I	be
thou	art	'e 'er	be
he she it	is	'e 'er 'im she it	be
we	are	us	be'm
you	are	you 'e 'er	be'm
they	are	they them	be'm

The knack, in the Devon version, lies mainly in choosing the right pronoun, the aitch ordinarily being silent and 'im or 'er usually being preferred to he, she or it. Thus we have " 'er was a queer 'un" or "us betterways had" or " 'im be that lazy". Just occasionally the verb is troublesome, as in "they'm all gone", using the contracted form of "am" with the third person pleural. In the negative, of course, "be" becomes "baint", giving " 'e baint settin' forth a lot", meaning he does not go out much. These variations are most easily learnt by hearing them spoken; once they have been mastered, the rest is pretty plain sailing.

Colourful turns of phrase grace the dialect from time to time. "Straight as a yard of pump water" seems to me to be admirably descriptive. "Us wouldna tie 'osses with 'e " goes back a long way to the days of "ride and tie" when two men with only one horse between them arranged for one to ride to a specific point, tie the horse and walk on while the second walked, untied and rode the second stage and so on. In time, the saying came to refer to a man's reliability. A quite different if rather uncharitable glimpse of the past was provided by a lady speaking of a spinster who married rather late in life when she declared " 'Er searched the orchard for the sweetest apple an' come up with a crab (apple) in the end".

One expression, in my view, marks a Devonian anywhere. Our daughter was recently playing golf in Cyprus when a lady, looking for her opponent's ball in the adjacent rough, found it and exclaimed "Yurr luck" (here look). When asked whether she came from Devon she said she certainly did.

So now you know.

NEVILLE C. OSWALD

A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER may provide that the local authority may give consent for the cutting down, etc. of a tree or trees covered by the order, subject to such conditions as the local planning authority impose, e.g. as to replanting. It is thus possible for a planning authority to give planning permission for development and, as a consequence allow the removal, etc. of trees which are subject to a T.P.O. It is not, however, lawful for a developer who has been given permission for development to breach the terms of a T.P.O. without the specific consent of the local planning authority.
(Section 60(1) Town & Country Planning Act 1971)(Local Council Review - 1974)

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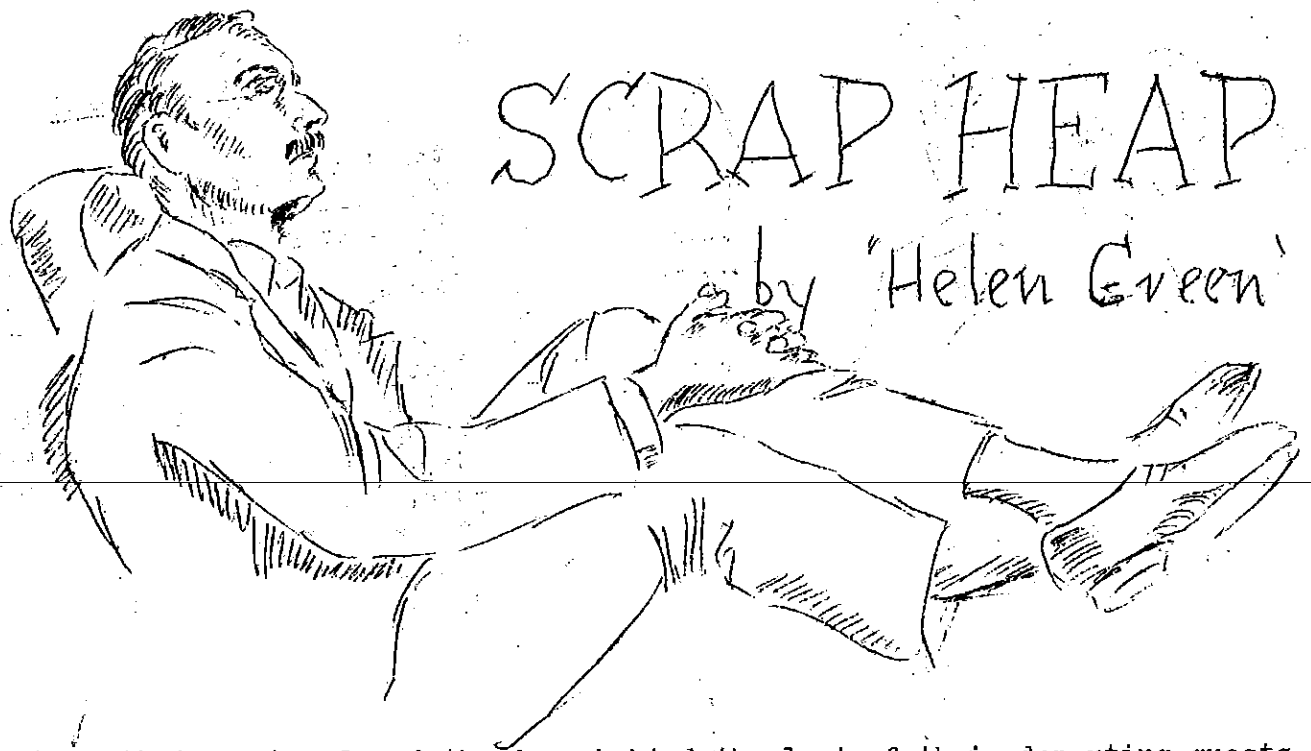
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SCRAP HEAP

by 'Helen Green'

Sally smiled as she closed the door behind the last of their departing guests. It had been a happy evening. She and John had given a small Dinner Party for Michael and Elise to celebrate Michael's retirement. "Come and sit down Sally, while I make a cup of coffee," John said. "We'll leave the dishes until later."

Sally sat down on the settee and let her eyes wander round the room. How lucky they were, she thought, to live in such a lovely old house. True, John had worked hard for long hours to get to be an Area Manager, and their twins, Graham and Jane, were studying at University. A shadow crossed her face as she thought of her last conversation with Graham - "What is there here in this country for the youth of today with so many unemployed." She sighed, poor Graham, poor Students, indeed the future looked bleak for the young ones. Sally had a part-time job which she loved. The hours were just right and her work brought her in contact with people, many of whom were helped by her concern and advice.

"Black or white, Sally?" asked John, interrupting her train of thought. "White, please John. It was a good evening, wasn't it. Everyone seemed to be happy and relaxed, and Michael can't wait to enjoy the freedom of retirement." "Yes," said John, "but it is going to seem strange not seeing him at his desk on Monday morning." Sally and John were the youngest among their friends and colleagues. The next few years would see the retirement of two more of them.

Sunday passed in a leisurely fashion and it seemed no time at all when the alarm shattered the peace of Monday morning. "Try not to be late to-night dear, Graham said he would ring at 7.30 - he wants to talk to you." "Right love, I'll see what I can do."

Sally heard the sound of a car in the drive-way as she prepared the evening meal. She glanced at the clock and saw it was only 5 O'clock. "Good, you've made it nice and early John - - why, whatever is the matter? Aren't you feeling well?" John looked white and drawn. He threw his coat on a chair and slumped into it. "Sally, I've lost my job! For the moment the room spun round and Sally felt sick. "What do you mean John, you can't have lost your job," but one look at his face told her all she needed to know.

"What has gone wrong darling," she asked. "The usual reasons," he said, "lack of orders and money." Sally's heart sank when she heard how many employees were to lose their jobs, some with young children who had been looking forward to Christmas in just a few weeks time. Oh, God! she thought, what can we do. A sudden vision of removal vans flashed before her eyes. Oh no! not their lovely home. Poor John, he deserved better than this. I must try and help him, she thought. "Come on darling, I'm sure you will find another job. Why, with all your experience something is sure to come along." John sighed. "Who would have thought at my age I'd have been thrown on the scrap heap." The silence was broken by the telephone ringing. Graham was waiting to talk to his father.



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*Time for a
Change?*

WELL, here we are - 1985.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR to all readers of my notes and notions - even those who don't agree with them. If you have read the forecasts of Patric Walker in the opening pages of this issue - you already know what is in the stars for you in 1985 !

But, of course, quite unexpected things can happen. For instance, we shall be having an Election for a representative on the Devon County Council in May. Is it, do you think, time for change? Do most of the County Councillors now in office put politics before policies? Should we not seek someone to represent our parish who not only lives within the area he - or she - is to represent, but someone to whom politics of any colour is not the dominant feature of their life?

Of course, it is only the freelance policy of this magazine that permits me to even murmur such a suggestion, but believe me, I am thinking in the interest of the communities served by all these good (or bad?) people. Thurlestone I am told, has not seen its present representative at a Parish Meeting since 1981 - though who will bet me you won't see him in 1985 !!

It is mighty important, you know. The County are the big spenders of our rate money - plus the government grants they receive - and they allocate that money where they think fit - be it education, housing, roads and so forth. They are

the 'Structure Plan' people - who will make decisions over the next few years that will be bound to impinge on all our lives.

I think it terribly important that we have a representative who is just a little bit closer to the people - and definitely lives in the area to be represented - be it here or Modbury or South Milton or --?

My father always said, "You'll find there are better fish in the sea than ever came out of it."

Can we do better ?

I'm all for a change !

+ + + + +

ACTION VAN is South Devon's Mobile Sports and Fitness Centre. It is equipped, I am told, to cater for a wide range of activities and is staffed by qualified sports leaders and their assistants. They are among many other things, offering 'SHORT MAT' BOWLS, which they claim is ideal for existing buildings, village halls, pubs and hotels. You need a clear flat area not less than 2m x 14m long. Short Mat bowls could be the game for you. The cost for the use of this facility is £5.00 per group, which includes coaching and advice. If there should be sufficient people interested get in touch with Ishbel Ramsey at 43, Fore Street, Totnes or give her a call on Totnes 866091. I don't suppose that £5 would cover the cost of Hall hire or even if the Hall Committee would sanction the use of the room for such a purpose.

* * * * *

THE FOURTH Annual report of the National Association for the Support of Small Schools highlights the rising rate of closure of village schools. From a mere 26 in 1979, 75 in 1982 and a horrendous 127 in 1983.

* * * * *

Are you troubled?

Twenty years or so ago, most sufferers from a serious rheumatic disease could expect little other than a lifetime of pain and progressive disability. But, fortunately, the situation has changed and the Arthritis & Rheumatism Council for Research state that 50% of arthritic patients, if treated early enough will now experience only minor joint abnormality and slight discomfort.

Altogether there are 200 forms of rheumatic disease, ranging from severe types of arthritis and connective tissue disorders to comparatively minor, but far from painless, soft-tissue diseases such as frozen shoulder, tennis elbow and housemaid's knee.

The most common arthritis disease is Osteoarthritis, which handicaps five million people in this country, including two out of every three over 65.

Rheumatoid Arthritis is common in all age groups, but most of its one million victims are women, it is a general illness of the whole body, characterised by chronic inflammation of the joint linings.

Whereas previously the rheumatic diseases were neglected by the medical profession, the younger generation of doctors is becoming skilled in their diagnosis and management, and proper treatment programmes and specialist departments of rheumatology now exist in hospitals. Better techniques of surgery and the development of artificial joints have brought relief and mobility to thousands who were helplessly disabled.

Report Extract.

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KENDALL McDONALD ASKS HAVE YOU GOT ANY SOUVENIRS FROM THE SEA?

THOUGH old Thurlestone was never intended to be a sea-side village, being built inland around the church and farms, it has always had close links with the sea. Of course it could hardly avoid that because after all the sea is only just down the hill, so close that smugglers found the church tower a handy hiding place for all those ankers of brandy they lugged up from landings down at Yarmer.

But today those links may be closer than you think. For instance, my friend Peter McBride, who is a Lieutenant in the Navy at Plymouth and a world-famous underwater archaeologist as well, has asked me to use part of this article to ask if anyone in the village can help him and his diving team.

You see he is supervising a survey and excavation of the man o' war, HMS Ramillies which was smashed to pieces only a few yards around the tip of Bolt Tail which we can see every day from the village. That tragedy took place on a wild February evening in 1760 - the 15th to be precise - and was one of the greatest disasters ever recorded in the annals of the Royal Navy. Of the 734 men on board the 90-gun warship, Ramillies, only 26 survived, and they say that Hope Cove, Thurlestone Sands, Leys Foot, Yarmer, and every other inlet right to the Avon Estuary at Bantham were covered with the bodies of seamen.

Peter McBride says that his work on the Ramillies will take at least three years as diving will usually only take place in the Spring and Summer - because of the weather not the cold of the sea. Many divers today have switched from the black wet-suits to the new dry-suits under which they can wear as many wollies as they like!

But it's not - you will no doubt be relieved to hear - your help with the diving which Peter wants. No, what he's after are any souvenirs of the wreck which might still be in Thurlestone today. He is

MORE----

cataloging every tiny fragment that he can find and thought he doesn't want to take anything away, he does want to make sure it is recorded in the fully documented and illustrated archaeological report which will emerge at the end of the diving work.

You see there was some diving work done on the ship in 1905-6 by Stephen Chapman of Hope. He had friends in Thurlestone and some of his recoveries may still be here. Certainly I'm sure that the big cannonballs which my grandfather had were from that sad ship, but where they are now is anyone's guess.

So turn out your attics and if you do find anything, Peter McBride at 36, Amherst Road, Milehouse, Plymouth will be delighted to hear from you.

If, on the other hand, on a sunny day, you'd like to look down on the divers at work on Ramillies, you can.

Best guidance I can give you is to walk up on Bolt Tail - choose a non windy day - and head to the East. There are two paths - a broad one which goes along the top and a lower one which you must not leave. I say this because the grassy slopes off the path are slippery and lower down plunge straight over the edge. So put the dog on a lead - better still don't take him - and stick to the path. This lower path leads beneath the Coastguard Lookout and is narrow. MORE OVERPAGE::

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HAVE YOU GOT ANY SOUVENIRS FROM THE SEA?

From previous page....

Soon the path leads you round an indentation called Whitechurch and then climbs up to a small peak. Now the path goes down and across a grass and bracken area. Sticking out of the centre of this grassy area and slightly below the path is a grey rock outcrop. Walk on 50 yards and you are standing right over the grave of Ramillies - literally, because her stern was driven into a cave under your feet and some of her cannon are still inside that cave underwater. And right below you too if you see a diving boat anchored close in - that's Peter McBride and his merry men.

The sort of thing that might, just might, be in the hands of someone in Thurlestone, South Milton or Hope and which was raised in early salvage attempts on the Ramillies is "a large brass wheel" (this is likely to have been part of her steering mechanism carrying the ropes to the rudder and would be marked with the broad arrow, which was cut or stamped into all Admiralty property)

Another item recovered in those salvage attempts at the beginning of this century was a brass buckle from the belt of some luckless seaman. Have you seen that around - a brass buckle with a story attached to it? I won't ask you about the gold coin which was also recovered at the time !

The Ramillies you see has many local connections. For example, her captain Wittewronge Taylor was married in Stoke Damerel, Plymouth not long before the wreck.

And the present owner of the wreck

of the Ramillies is David Langfield of Batson, Salcombe.

Owner? Surely she's Naval property? Well, she was of course, but it is possible to buy a ship even though it is lying on the seabed. It is the sort of thing that is done by salvage companies when after more modern ships for their cargo, or their steel plates or the brass from their condensers. And it is possible to buy old Navy ships or wrecks, though the Admiralty has become much more cautious about it since the boom in skin-diving around our coasts.

David Langfield bought Ramillies in 1964 and has dived her ever since. But don't believe anyone if they tell you that Ramillies was a treasure wreck laden with naval pay. Apart from that gold coin in 1905, the only other coin that I know of which was found on the site was a fine old half-sovereign dated 1759. And David Langfield has that.

You can see from all the above that wrecks and the stories of their sinking fascinate me, particularly those around Thurlestone or with some close connection. No snippet of information is too small for me!

For example, did you know that divers use a tree in Thurlestone to find another local shipwreck? Bet you didn't. But never mind I'll tell you all about that, if you like, in another edition of Village Voice.

Kendall McDonald.

=====

ENGLAND

AS SEEN BY A FOREIGNER IN 1575

The people are bold, courageous, ardent, and cruel in war, fiery in attack and having little fear of death; they are not vindictive, but very inconstant, rash, vain-glorious, light and deceiving, and very suspicious, especially of foreigners, whom they despise

The people are not so laborious and industrious as the Netherlands or French, and the most toilsome, difficult, and skilful works are chiefly performed by foreigners as among the idle Spaniards. They have a great many sheep which bear fine wool, of which these 200 years they have learnt to make fine cloth. They keep many lazy servants, and also many wild animals for their pleasure, rather than trouble themselves to cultivate the land. The Island which they inhabit is very large, and abounds with fish; they likewise have the best harbours in Christendom. They are also rich in ships; nevertheless they do not catch as many fish as they require, so that they are obliged to buy more from their neighbours; but they do catch a great quantity of herrings, of which they send away every year more than five or six hundred lasts to Italy and elsewhere.

Although the women there are entirely in the power of their husbands, yet they are not kept so strictly as they are in Spain and elsewhere... They are well-dressed, fond of taking it easy, and commonly leave the care of household matters and drudgery to their servants. They employ much of their time in walking and riding, in playing cards or otherwise, in visiting their friends and keeping company, conversing with their neighbours and their equals (whom they term 'gossips') making merry at child-births, christenings, churchings, and funerals; and all with the permission and knowledge of their husbands, as such is the custom. The women are beautiful, fair, well-dressed and modest.

(from 'History of the Netherlands')

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Surely we are concerned?

I wonder how many people realise that a quarter of the earth's land surface is in danger of becoming desert because of mismanagement of too much human pressure. Almost 80 million people are immediately threatened by the process. About 25 of the world's most valuable fisheries are seriously depleted, either because they have been overfished or because they are being polluted. Forests - home to most of the earth's plants and animal species, controllers of floods, suppliers of timber, and regulators of climate - are disappearing rapidly. Tropical rain forests alone are being felled and burned at the rate of 43,000 square miles every year. At that rate they will all be gone in just 84 years time.

What hope is there for conservation when faced with such overwhelming forces and trends? There has to be family planning control with regard to population growth; manpower training to help developing countries manage their resources; the organisation of health care systems; the provision of food and water supplies; and, above all, a rethinking of the relationship between developing and developed countries. The most fundamental imbalance is in the consumption of the earth's natural resources. We in the industrialised north of the world have become so accustomed to a consumer way of life that we surround ourselves with much more than basic necessities. As a result, each of us consumes as much as forty people in the developing world.

We employ different standards for ourselves than for developing countries, for example exporting pesticides that we have banned in our own country as too dangerous. We spend £8.5 million every day on arms. we give scant regard for the environmental safeguards in the developing countries - that we would demand at home.

It has been said: "We should link our concern for the environment to our concern for man's plight, and for men who so far have been denied an existence worthy of being called human, for men who should be provided with hope for tomorrow lest in despair they succumb to resentment towards those more fortunate. Our global society will only be sustainable if there are no longer such resentments."

WALTER DEE

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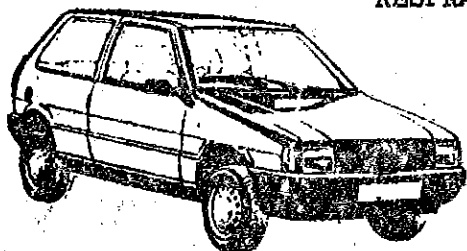
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SOUTH HAMS

A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1086 when the Domesday record was being compiled by order of the Norman King, William the Conqueror, Devon had but four towns; the only town within the South Hams being Totnes with a population of about 500. The remainder of the District was predominantly rural and consisted largely of small farms and a number of Saxon villages, such as Modbury and Ugborough, which had developed during the 7th and 8th Centuries.

Farming and fishing provided the main sources of food and clothing. The rivers, particularly the Avon and Dart, were well stocked, while the pasture land that existed proved to be particularly suitable for rearing sheep. Much of the land was heavily wooded and awaited cultivation and there was little or no trade other than in animal hides.

The 12th and 13th Centuries saw immense change. At home the Lords of the Manor began to realise the financial advantages of allocating the free peasants with specific pieces of land, often of very poor quality. As the holdings were improved and increased field by field, numerous farms evolved.

The Lord of the Manor was equally aware that revenues could be increased through the development of local towns and although many were established few attracted any immediate growth. One town created during the 13th Century in this manner was Kingsbridge and although growth was initially slow, by the middle of the 19th Century a busy and important Market town with a population of 1700 had developed.

Abroad changes were also taking place. The marriage of Henry II to Eleanor of Aquitaine generated a great increase in military and commercial traffic between England and France

during the 13th Century. The ports of Totnes and Dartmouth flourished and activity in both towns was further increased when tin was discovered in the South West foothills of Dartmoor.

At the end of the 13th Century the Water Wheel and Corn Mill were common sights but by the 15th Century many of the Corn Mills had been replaced by Fulling Mills. The manufacture of cloth was by now the most important industry next to farming. The cloth industry brought a certain amount of wealth to the District and during the first half of the 15th Century many new churches were built and existing ones developed and improved. Like much of the Country, the economy of the South Hams in the second part of the 14th Century was devastated by the Bubonic Plague when something like half the population perished. The depression lasted for the best part of two hundred years during which time food was scarce and expensive and numerous farmers became wealthy and many farmhouses were subsequently pulled down and rebuilt.

By the beginning of the 16th Century Totnes was a thriving town of great wealth and a major centre for the collection of cloth. The merchants built themselves fine houses and shops and the Guildhall, which is still in existence today, was commenced in the 16th Century as a Court Room and Prison and extended in 1624 to incorporate the Council Chamber. Dartmouth had also developed as an active port dealing in cloth, tin, hides and import/export of a whole range of goods. Both towns were involved in shipbuilding and in 1588 had jointly provided two ships to resist the Spanish Armada. Between 1635-40 the Butterwalk at Dartmouth was built providing houses for wealthy merchants of the day. The building is a splendid example of architecture of that period.

The Civil War followed shortly afterwards (1642-46) and action was seen at a number of towns and villages including Dartmouth, Salcombe and Modbury.

During the latter part of the 17th Century the importance of Totnes as a Port declined and gave way to the much more accessible Port of Dartmouth.

MORE:--

Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

The importance of Dartmouth was further accelerated by the wine trade and by the cod fishing industry around New Foundland which developed at this time and continued through to the 18th Century.

During the 18th. Century and beginning of the 19th. Century roads were improved through the Turnpike companies and Charity schools were developed. Cider became popular and orchards were developed in many villages, but for 63 years of this period we were at war with France and by the end of the 18th Century the disruptions had caused the cloth markets to close. Some people turned to fishing; the pilchard was then plentiful but this abundance was to be short-lived and within a hundred years had almost disappeared. Many lived with one hand on the plough and one on the tiller and smuggling (French brandy in particular) was an accepted way of life.

On the coast, Salcombe had become a busy port and during the 19th Century 200 vessels of differing size were built in her boat yards. In 1848, 355 vessels entered the Harbour with 16,700 tons of cargo consisting of coal, timber, groceries and fruit and 211 vessels took away 7,200 tons of corn, flour, malt, potatoes, slate and cider.

By the time Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 the Napoleonic Wars were 20 years distant but the life of the farm labourer in the South Hams was generally a wretched existence and a most significant migration from the District took place. Many were attracted into domestic service in the neighbouring towns of Torquay and Plymouth which had become very wealthy from the activities generated by the Napoleonic Wars. Within the South Hams there was also considerable wealth amongst the landed gentry but these were the fortunate few.

The arrival of the railway between 1840 and 1850 and the industrial revolution in the Midlands and North contributed further to the dwindling population of the South Hams. Between 1850 and 1914 it is estimated that the population decreased by approximately 30%. It was during this time however that Dartmouth rose one again to fame when in 1863 HMS Britannia, the officer training ship for cadets, was relocated to Dartmouth Harbour, being replaced at the turn of the Century by the Royal Naval College.

During the Great War 1914-1918, there was a considerable shortage of food and prices

increased. The South Hams farmers initially benefitted but immediately after the War food prices dropped, many farms became unprofitable and there was a further migration of labour from the South Hams.

By this time the holiday resort of Torquay had become well established and the motor car was beginning to introduce the tourist to our District. Farmers in particular were only too pleased to provide accommodation for the new visitors and the South Hams tourist trade was born.

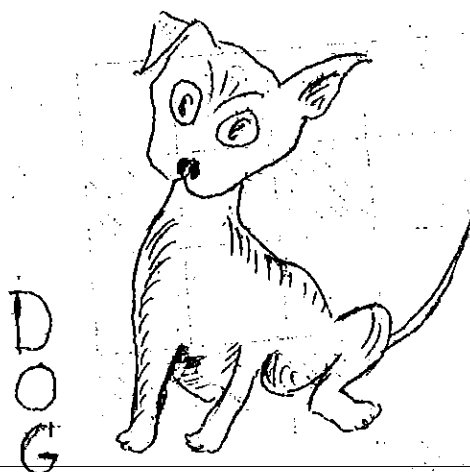
The South Hams now has a resident population of 70,000 spread over a predominantly rural area of 350 square miles and divided into 62 parishes. Boundaries extend from the English Channel coast in the South to the Dartmoor National Park in the North and from the City of Plymouth in the West to Torbay and Teignbridge in the East.

The plague, starvation and continued wars have all long gone as have the immense sea trading activities surrounding Totnes, Dartmouth and Salcombe. Today, Totnes with a population of approximately 7,000 is a busy market town and tourist centre of immense character, whilst Dartmouth is now again a busy port with a resident population of approximately 6,000, but leisure craft and small fishing boats have largely replaced the merchant men of years gone by.

Just around the coast to the South lies Salcombe, with a population of approximately 2,500 where you can now witness the hundreds of leisure craft that visit the harbour each year, and Kingsbridge higher up the Estuary with a population a little over 4,000 has continued to grow largely due to the tourist trade and new farming methods.

+ + + + +

The above is taken mainly from the South Hams District Council Report and Accounts 1983-84 - and due acknowledgement is offered to the author thereof.



LICENCES

A charge for keeping dogs was first raised in 1796 to provide income for the Government. In 1878 the fee became 7/6 and is still 37½p despite the nearing end of the halfpenny. Today's equivalent is about £10 !

In 1981-82 the costs were £3.1 million to collect only 0.9 m. Current costs are about £4 million to bring in £1 million

Legislation includes the Dog Licences Act 1959 (which specified exemption for puppies under six months and for sheep or cattle-tending dogs). The Local Government Act 1966 by section 36(1) gave the Minister of Agriculture power to amend by Order the provisions of the 1959 Act, and apparently the responsibility to raise the duty is still his, despite the 1972 Local Government Act, (s.213), which said the power to levy duties was vested in district councils.

An inter-departmental Working Party on Dogs in 1976 recommended an increase in the fee to £5 and said that a licence should be required if a dog under six months of age had ownership changed. It is estimated that half the country's dogs are not licenced.

Should the Minister of Agriculture now belatedly raise the fee and should the police be more active in pursuing unlicenced dogs and capturing strays (Dogs Act 1906) !

E.W.

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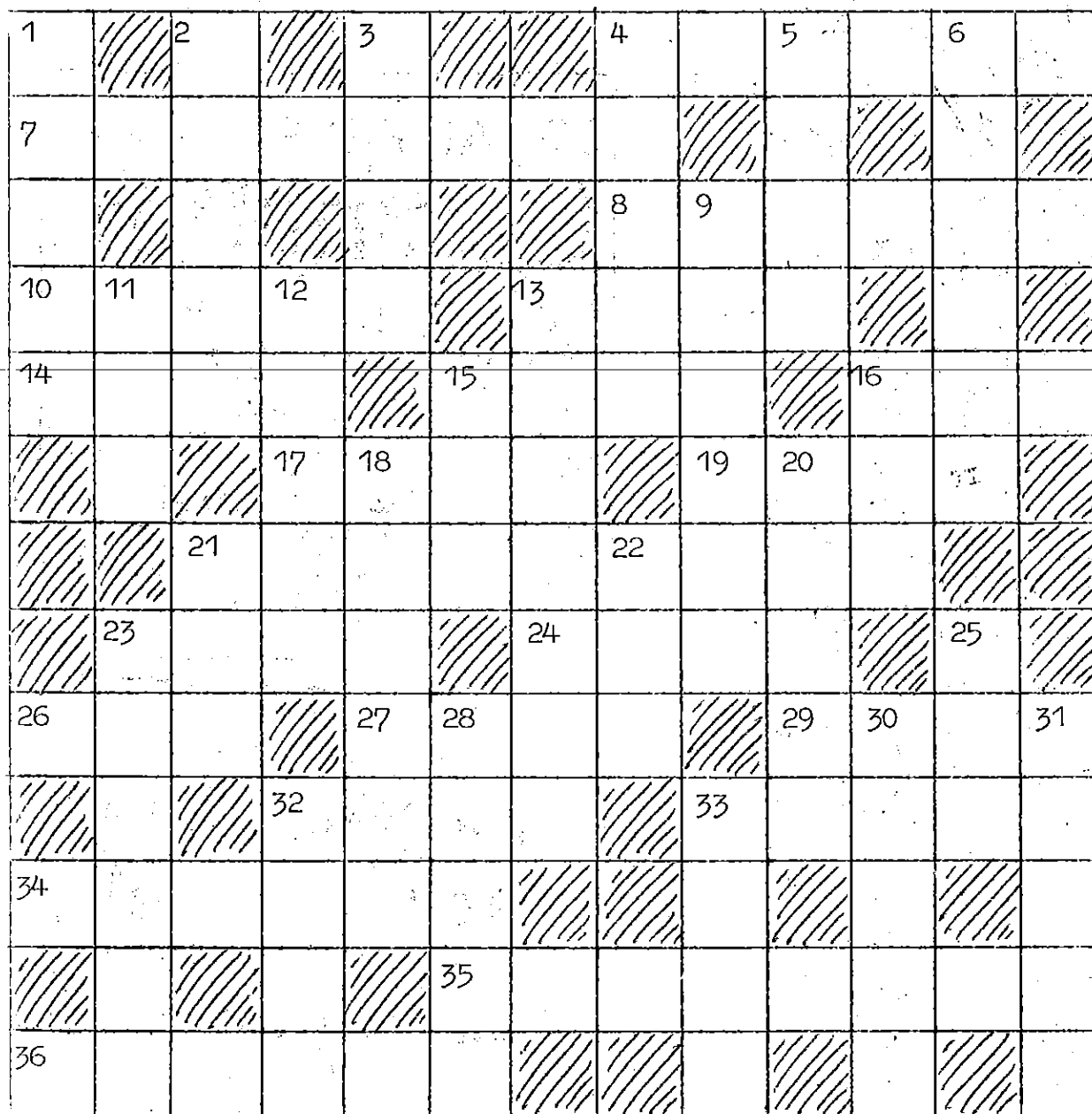
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VILLAGE VOICE CROSSWORD Number 12



Compiled by Arthur Edwards

EASY PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

CLUES DOWN

4. Parent (6) 7. Disease (8)
 8. Rasp (6) 10. Abhor (5)
 13. Side (4) 14. Orient (4)
 15. Lake (4) 16. Sizzle! (3)
 17. Rear (4) 19. Regiment (4)
 21. Honesty (9) 23. Group (4)
 24. Naked (4) 26. Cut (3)
 27. Tardy (4) 29. Planet (4)
 32. Muddle (4) 33. Advantage (5)
 34. Relates (6) 35. Offered (8)
 36. Drenches (6).

1. Home (5) 2. Sobs (5)
 3. Retired (4) 4. Hoarder (5)
 5. Period (4) 6. Skilled (6)
 9. Open (6) 11. Tease (3)
 12. Garret (5) 13. Skills (7)
 15. Twitch (3) 16. Fated to
 18. Stag Horn (6) die (3)
 20. Data (5) 21. Stitch (3)
 22. Feel sorry (3) 23. Pick (6)
 25. Exist (3) 28. Idiots (5)
 30. Separate (5) 31. Pore (5)
 32. Lake (4) 33. Top (4)

If you like Crosswords - why not have a go at compiling one for Village Voice ?

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CROSSWORD Number 12

CRYPTIC PUZZLE CLUES:

ACROSS

4. Booted - for goal, perhaps (6)
6. A pictorial story (8)
8. Did she always succeed in battle? (6)
10. So Tim is disturbed and forgets things (5)
13. Appears true because it is good and briefly generous (4)
14. Did he stutter when saying good-bye? (2-2)
15. Does this animal have a sore head? (4)
16. Required to unlock part of the piano, perhaps (3)
17. Was he of Peruvian descent? (4)
19. Parched as a result of a disorganized raid (4)
21. Are these provisions framed in gold? (4-5)
23. It usually ends the round (4)
24. Used when sailing but may be a maritime disaster (4)
26. There is nothing between the poles (3)
27. Was he an evangelist? (4)
29. Times of higher ascendancy (4)
32. The ability to write is not required for this examination (4)
33. The undergarment with a silencer! (5)

34. Again off the target - how careless! (6). 35. Does the learner pianist use only one finger instead of five for this? (8). 36. Did these confused Anglo-Saxons ever live in Greece? (6)

CLUES DOWN: 1. Famous racecourse not on the coast (5). 2. Worth a second hand, perhaps (5). 3. Was this film so-called because the cast continually chattered? (4). 4. This bear's habitat is on the other side of the world (5). 5. A nippy crustacean? (4). 6. Damaged part of a word or deed (6). 9. Thirsty? - Beware of this illusion (6). 11. Does he kiss his mother? (3). 12. It is understood if I exercise tact (5). 13. Is this officer a jack of all trades? (7). 15. Part of the course of a planet, perhaps (3). 16. Does this youngster wear gloves? (3). 18. Part of the book of Psalms changes (6). 20. Indicate, whichever way one looks at it (5). 21. When racing, wait for it! (3). 22. Not the end of this hiding place (3). 23. Powerful top ten (6). 25. Half wasted in the past (3). 28. Saves damaged ornaments (5). 30. A confused fashion expert sends message by this (5). 31. Rearrange these for bed linen (5). 32. European river that is half turtle (4). 33. The actress dislikes this (4).

FULL ANSWERS TO BOTH 'EASY' AND 'CRYPTIC' PUZZLE UP!SIDE!DOWN ON ANOTHER PAGE

Mr Grockle is Flabbergasted



"Mon Repos,"
London Road,
Birmingham AG1 2DT

The Editor,
Village Voice.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for printing my letter in the November/December edition of your splendid magazine.

I must say at once how flabbergasted I am by the response. The poor postman has been staggering under the weight of your readers' letters addressed to me at my humble semi.

I am sure that your readers - those few who did not write - would like to hear of the contents of all these missives. Basically, I think it fair to say that my correspondents fell neatly into three categories.

Category One writers seemed all in favour of my stand on behalf of Grockles everywhere.

Category Two writers were, I regret to say, mainly abusive and appear largely to have misunderstood most of the points I was making.

Category Three letter-writers seemed confused and didn't quite grasp what we Grockles were saying and what we stand for.

To analyse the categories a bit more closely. Category One amazed me. Are all the people living in your circulation area Grockles at heart? Certainly their numbers amazed me.

Category Two writers seemed mainly incensed by that part of the Grockle Code which referred to their driving. They seemed most abusive when referring to that paragraph in the Grockle Code which says: "Grockles can reverse in narrow lanes; locals can't because they never do." I am completely at a loss to understand the fury invoked by this simple piece of observation from many years driving around your beautiful lanes. I am always the first to give way and seldom get thanked for my pains.

And while on the subject of non-Grockle cars, there is another paragraph in the Grockle Code which reads: "Old locals never die, they merely rust away." I personally do not believe that the author of the Grockle Code was referring to the Devon mist which so often falls in your parts and its effect on the local inhabitants, but to the condition of their cars. However as I understand from the letters I received, motoring appears to be such a touchy subject I will say no more about it.

Finally to Category 3 of my letters. I do not know that there is much I can do to help these writers. They seemed so totally bewildered by the Grockle and anti-Grockle controversy. One dear lady even wrote to ask me whether Grockles are a protected species. To which interesting idea, I could only reply... "Not yet, Madam, but we are working on it!"

Once again, I am, Sir, your most faithful servant,

Arthur Benjamin Grockle (Mr.)

Where the rate money goes and what you get for some of it !

The Report and Accounts for the South Hams District Council for the 1983-84 financial year gives some interesting facts and figures which may interest you:

Total rates collected for the period was £9,817,712. 13,604 Final Notices were issued and 1,505 Summonses. Rate arrears at 31.3.84 stood at £146,217.

The rateable value at 1.4.84 was £7,912,785. 2,800 rent rebates were approved on council owned property totalling £1,667,000 and 1,620 rent allowances to private sector housing totalling £650,375.

375 miles of road are swept on a 12 day cycle. 34,000 premises are attended weekly for refuse collection.

An average of 4,200 houses were provided for rent during the year and 160 houses sold off during the year.

There were 2,650 car and boat parking spaces at 20 locations, the provision of 56 industrial sites/units for rent and 60 public conveniences throughout the district.

Dartmouth Ferry carried 218,000 vehicles and 141,000 passengers. 25 crab fishing vessels use the Quay, Salcombe - and to give you some little idea of the property turnover in the District they carried out 3,950 Land Charge searches.

612,055 daily tickets were sold for car and boat parking and (make a special note) 4,070 Excess Charge tickets issued.

Salcombe harbour had 661 council owned berths and 1,000 moorings subject to Harbour Administration and supervision. Salcombe harbour had approximately 9,500 yachting visitors.

30,000 bedding plants were provided for Parks in the area.

During the year 394 Home Insulation Act Grant applications were processed and 43 Improvement Grant applications and 86 Intermediate Grant applications and 78 Repair Grant applications were approved. House renovation grants amounted to £593,652 and Home Insulation Grants to £23,935. Loans to Housing Associations amounted to £123,664.

10 beaches are cleaned mechanically on a weekly basis and 7 beaches cleaned fortnightly. 60 Public conveniences are cleaned daily. There were 800 pest control visits concerning rats, mice, wasps, etc. and Pollution visits concerned noise 330, air 75, water 45.

110,000 carcasses were inspected at slaughterhouses and 55,000 Kilos of meat condemned at slaughterhouses.

152 Abandoned vehicles were removed

For the year 1983-84 - of the total revenue of £9.84 million - over one third came from Government Grants and Subsidies, the balance from ratepayers, tenants and users of services. Of the total received £9.573 million was spent on running all the services.

Money received from the sale of land, buildings or other assets is available for new capital expenditure or for repaying existing loan debt

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Here are a few people you can contact at the District Council on Totnes 864499:

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS. J.Bloomer Ext 244
RENT ALLOWANCES AND

RATE REBATES. J. HASLAM Ext 170

PLANNING ADVICE. K.COOPER Ext 289
or J. EATON Ext 277

CAR & BOAT Parking. J. HULME Ext 212

PEST CONTROL J.BLOOMER Ext 244

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. " " " Ext 244

COUNCIL HOUSE LETTINGS - B. HICKEY Ext 187

STREET CLEANSING. M.HALEY Ext 220

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