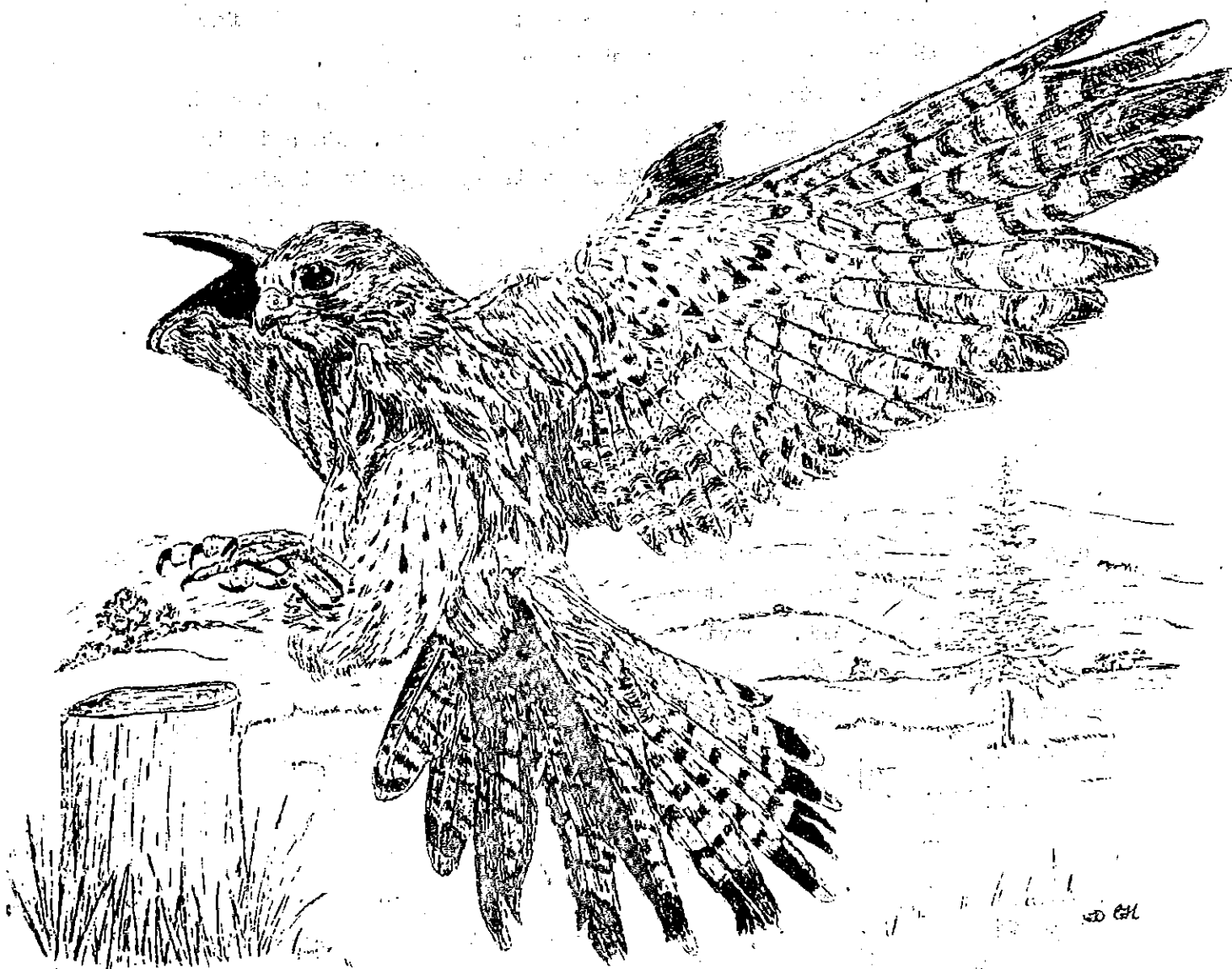




Number 19
JULY·AUGUST 1985



Published by Thurlestone Parish Council

Start the day with a Laugh!

ARRANGED FOR MILKING

(An essay written by a 10 year old boy at Kittybrewster School, Aberdeen.
The title 'BIRDS AND BEASTS')

The bird that I am going to write about is the owl. The owl cannot see at all by day, and at night, it is as blind as a bat. I do not know much about the owl, so I will go on to the beast which I am going to choose.

It is the cow. The cow is a mamal. It has six sides, right, left, and upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they will not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns, and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with. The mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk, the milk comes, and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realised, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell; one can smell it far away. This is the reason for the fresh air in the country.

The man cow is an ox. It is not a mamal. The cow does not eat much but what it eats it eats twice, so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing it is because its inside is full up of grass.

(Thank Mrs Joan Mills of Thurlestone for sending in
this delightful 'Schoolboy Howler' !)

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V I L L A G E V O I C E is published every two months on a very free - freelance basis for THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL and the views and opinions that may be expressed in any item herein do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of any member of the Council. Provided the writer of any item discloses his/her name & address anonymity may be requested but the Editor reserves the right not to publish anything that might be considered offensive. Contributions for the contents are essential to continued publication.

£250

"To be used in some way that directly benefits the locality concerned - and a Commemorative Plaque"

That is all on offer from the South Hams District Council to the winner in the 'SOUTH HAMS TIDY UP' Competition.

There will be a periodic inspection throughout the summer of the localities entered and the Parish Council have entered that part of Thurlestone which comprises the 'Conservation Area' - which is the area of the main street from west of 'Thatchways and 'The Old Rectory' to 'Rockhill' and just above 'Home Cottage' to the East. To make it fairly straightforward - from the War Memorial to the Primary School.

In West Buckland the Conservation Area has also been entered - this stretches from 'Kathleen Cottages May Cottage, Pound Cottage, Court Cottage, Belle Vne, Brook Cottage, Well cottage, etc.

Bantham does not have a designated 'Conservation Area' but the area from the 'Sloop' to the Ham gateway will be entered as a 'Locality'.

A great deal of community spirit is needed if there is to be any chance at all of being competitive against each other and against other areas of the South Hams - but the parish is well served now in having Leslie Dyer looking after the roadways - so you all have a grand starting point.

Wouldn't it be nice to look forward to a Parish Meeting to decide how to spend £250. This parish is lucky - with three chances to win!

VILLAGER

HAVE YOU SIGNED
THE PETITION?

The Parish Council hopes the PETITION FOR A NEW SEWERAGE SYSTEM FOR THURLESTONE will contain the signatures of all those concerned about the existing inadequate pipeline taking untreated sewage to the sea. PLEASE CALL IN AT THE THURLESTONE POST OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and add your name to the growing list.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY 10th. SPORTS DAY, PEARSON NURSERY SCHOOL. 10 a.m.

JULY 15th. INDOOR BOWLING. Meeting to discuss founding a Club 7 pm in the Parish Hall

JULY 27th. SOUTH MILTON CHURCH FETE - Backshay Park 2.30 pm

AUGUST 3rd. HORTICULTURAL SHOW at the Thurlestone Parish Hall 2.30 pm.

AUGUST 9th ANNUAL RAM ROAST & BARN DANCE at BANTHAM 7 pm to 1 am

AUGUST 11th 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. Bantham Surf Life Saving Club. Annual Open Day on Bantham Beach

AUGUST 18th. PEARSON NURSERY SCHOOL and SOUTH MILTON PLAYGROUP

GRAND PICNIC at 12 noon

at the LINKS FIELD (Football Ground) South Milton.

Please bring your own Picnic and Games. (Will be cancelled if the weather unsuitable)

AUGUST 24th. COFFEE MORNING 10.30 am to 12 noon in the RECTORY BARN at Thurlestone in aid of TRELOAR TRUST for Education of disabled Children.

MORE DETAILS OF THESE EVENTS ARE GIVEN IN VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS WITHIN THE MAGAZINE.

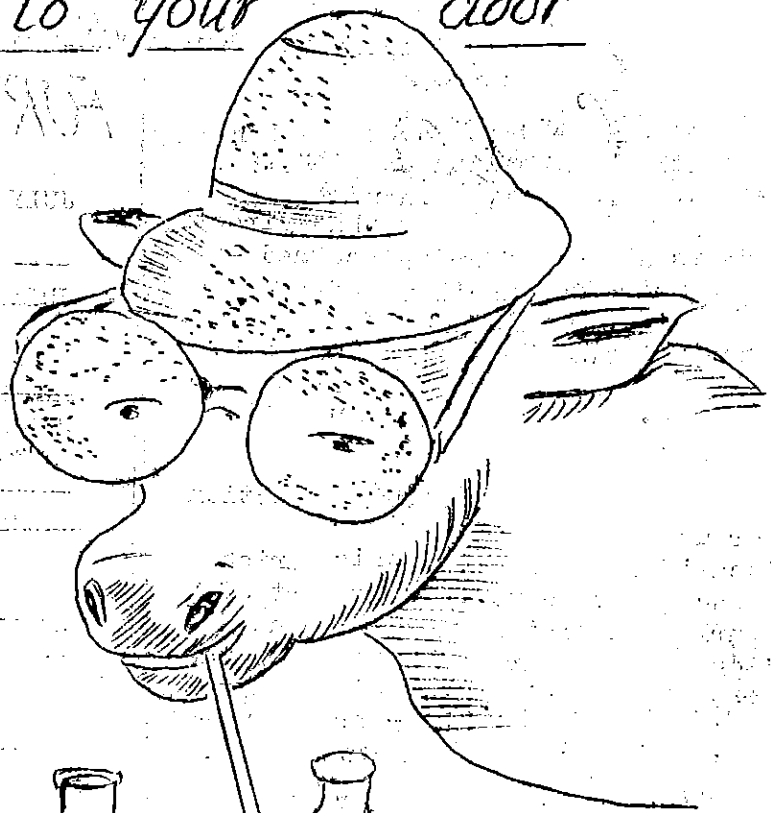
THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETINGS: Tuesday 16th JULY
Tuesday 27th AUGUST

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St. Luke's Hospice

oooo000oooo

So many prayers have been answered over the last few weeks here in our Villages of Thurlestone and South Milton. Firstly, there was the glorious sunshine on our Coffee Morning at the Rectory Barn and, secondly, the slightly cooler weather on Bank Holiday Monday inducing villagers and visitors to sample the goodies at South Milton in the comfort of their Hall.

Thirdly and by no means least, what a wonderful warmth of spirit linked our two villages in trying to raise £1,000 for OUR bed for St. Luke's Hospice.

The result of this splendid effort has realised £1,650.00 and I am now trying to say 'thank you' to everyone for their superb support, kindness and generosity.

My special thanks must also go to the many people who gave so freely and willingly of their time to helping at the various functions, and to 'Village Voice' for proclaiming the Appeal far and wide.

You will see that not only have we reached our £1,000 target for ONE bed, but are £650. towards a second one !

St. Luke's are astounded and delighted, and I look forward to handing over our cheque in a day or two to their Matron, Mrs. Olives, whose talk on the work of the Hospice was the inspiration for our Appeal.

JEAN COLE

=====

the importance of the Postcode. He certainly seemed to have enjoyed his job in what may be a much maligned service.

Members should note that at the July meeting Mr. A.D.Elliott will speak on the history of Big Ben, and on July 18 we are invited to join Kingsbridge Rotary on a Boat Trip, which will be from Totnes to Dartmouth where we shall land and stay for an hour before returning. There will be no meeting in August, but at the September meeting we shall be arranging the annual Golf competition for October. Please come prepared to say if you wish to enter.

PROBUS

At our May Meeting Mr. Chris. Allen presented a lively account of his life as a Tea Planter commencing in the 1930s, when he first went to India to receive training. For this his Father paid the company a premium of £100, plus the cost of his passage and £10 a month for the first six months for his keep! All this was with no guarantee that he would be given employment. In fact he was, which he ascribed modestly, was due to his prowess at Cricket and Rugby and he went on to manage estates in India, Ceylon and East Africa. He indicated that the title of Planter was something of a misnomer, for the Tea bush, a sort of Camellia, is long lived and fresh planting is seldom done, but he explained how the bushes were looked after, the crop picked and prepared for market. The labour force was large, one coolie per acre (his estate ran to 600 acres) plus a few extra, and there were the ladies who did the picking. In the 1930s handling of the labour force was less difficult than it became later; you were father and mother to the coolies and they responded accordingly, but after the 1939/45 war communist led Unions secured their hold over the workforce and the paternalistic approach was rejected. With increasing nationalism local management gradually took over and the day of the English tea planter was at an end. Mr Allen left the meeting with the feeling that he had worked hard, played hard, and enjoyed his career.

At the June meeting we were given another interesting talk by Mr. Roland Lewis, one time Head Postmaster of Leicestershire. His subject was, of course, the History of the Post Office from the time Henry VIII created the first 'Master of Posts'. He shed much light on the modernisation and mechanisation of the mail service, stressing

THROWN IN AT THE DEEP END!

Quite a few years ago now my husband and I were visiting my small son (6feet 5 inches tall now!) in Freedom Fields Hospital after his tonsils operation. He had great difficulty in speaking and made signs for paper and pencil; after grave deliberation he recorded the heart-felt sentiment, "I wish I hadn't had it done!"

I experienced somewhat similar emotions recently as I approached the Village Hall to speak to the Parish Council about the work of the Community Health Council. What on earth made me apply for a vacancy on the Council, of whose work I knew nothing? And why, when my application form was on the lines of: Honours and Decorations? - None; Degrees? - None; Experience with T.V. and News Reporters? - None, had they elected me? It could only be that they needed somebody ordinary to leaven the wealth of administrative talent, nursing experience, etc. already on the Community Health Council.

After 8 months I have learned what prompted the Government of the day to set up CHC's some eleven years ago; until then the NHS patient had no established body to whom he or she could complain, or even suggest, with any guarantee that there would be a ready ear, let alone any subsequent action. I am only beginning to learn of the many problems that patients have and also, to be fair, those that beset hospital administrators and others on the other side of the fence from the patients. So many of the latter sort stem from the lack of money, not lack of awareness of need.

Paperwork and Committee Meetings have never before been my forte, and I tend to feel that rules are made to be broken when people are frightened, ill, and in need. Nevertheless, I am starting to hold my own and can now refer knowledgeably to extrapolation from demographic statistics", even if I could be hard pressed to explain the phrase! Although I realise that this side of the CHC work is essential, I think perhaps that I am happiest when talking to individual people, trying to put them at their ease and listening to their problems. Perhaps it is easier for them to respond to a homely freckled face than to an awesome being in a white coat!

By now you may be saying to yourself "What about the Village Hall? Well, it was rather like going to the dentist - my husband virtually had to push me in! (He swears that he has had literally to carry me in to the dentist on occasion). But what was I worrying about? There were friendly faces, a welcoming and helpful Chairman, and an informal yet ordered procedure. I cannot tell you now exactly what I said, but I do know that questions came thick and fast when I had finished, and there was a very helpful and interesting discussion; many points from which I am now following up. Your Editor has kindly said that he will grant me space in future editions of 'Village Voice' to tell you about matters of general interest to NHS patients.

I am very glad that my first speech ever made, however nervously, was in my own village, and I am most grateful for the support and encouragement I received; to say nothing of the applause as I left, although that may have been because they were glad to see the back of me!

MARY MOORE, Lampreys, Thurlestone
(Tel. 560548)

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY + + + SATURDAY 24th AUGUST

C O F F E E M O R N I N G 10.30 am - 12.00 noon in the RECTORY BARN at
Thurlestone on Aid of the TRELOAR TRUST

This is a special Boarding School in Hampshire founded by Lord Mayor Treloar in 1908, for the education of CHILDREN of both sexes, including three from Devon, suffering from severe disabilities such as SPINA BIFIDA, MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY, HÆMOPHILIA, etc.

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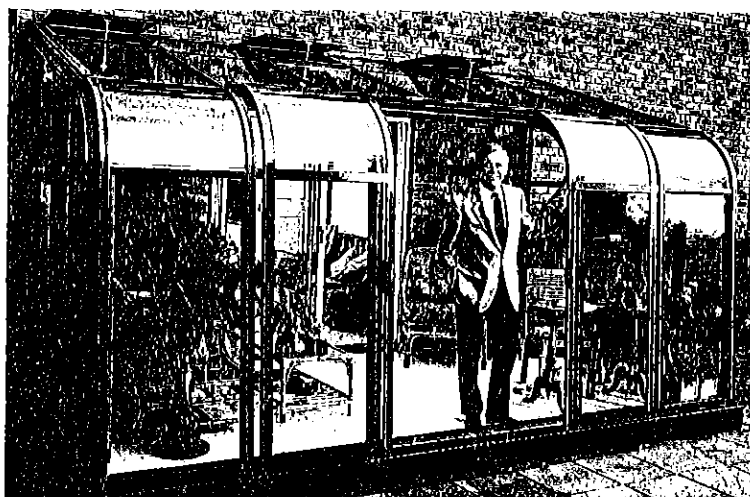
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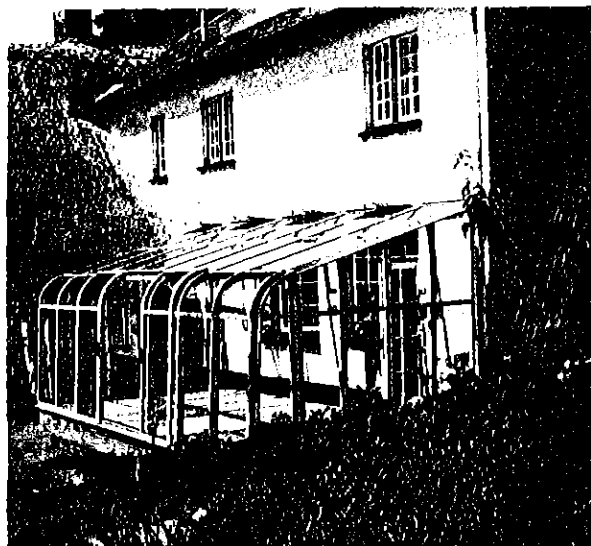
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(0548) 560504



FIRST IN WINDOWS
AND CONSERVATORIES

VILLAGE VOICE JULY/AUG 1985

NUMBER NINETEEN

FOURTH YEAR

PUBLISHED for THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL on a very freelance basis by the EDITOR
DUDLEY DRABBLE, 10 Backshay Close, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3JU

Telephone: KINGSBRIDGE (0548) 560533

PLEASE NOTE: The views and opinions expressed in any item in this publication do not necessarily express the views and opinions of any member of the Parish Council

500 Copies of 'Village Voice' are distributed every two months - free in the parish to residents - and on sale in the Village Stores at Thurlestone and the Post Office Stores at South Milton.
Readership estimated at 2,000.

ADVERTISING RATES QUOTED ON REQUEST ON APPLICATION TO THE EDITOR. IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO OFFER REPRODUCTION BY ELECTRONIC STENCIL OR PHOTOCOPIER.

The ANNUAL MEETING of THURLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL saw Mr P.W.J.Hurrell unanimously re-elected Chairman and Mr. D.J.Yeoman, Vice Chairman. All Members of the Council may be contacted as follows:

Mr. P.W.J.Hurrell (Chairman), Woodlands, West Buckland.	Tel. 560496
Mr. D.J.Yeoman (Vice Chairman), 8, Parkfield, Thurlestone.	" 560607
Miss R.S.Stocken, Mariners, Ilbert Road, Thurlestone.	" 560257
Mr. R. Adams, Buckland Farm, West Buckland	" 560247
Mr. D.W.P.Grose, Kennedy, Thurlestone	" 560395
Mr. J.Dayment, Lower Aunemouth Farm, Bantam	" 560295
Mr. G.L.Stidston, Court Park Farm, Thurlestone	" 560695
CLERK: D.W.Drabble, 10 Backshay Close, South Milton	" 560533
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: Mr. J.Thomas, Little Thatch, Sth Milton	" 560269
COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Mr. S.J.Day, Keaton, Ivybridge.	Ivybridge 2576

The Parish Council - and particularly the Editor of Village Voice wish to express their grateful thanks to Mr John Norris of West Buckland for presenting a NASHUA Photocopier - for use in the production of the magazine and will enable (at extra cost) a facsimile of any advertisement, including photographs, to be faithfully reproduced.



" Will the 'Economic and Social Well Being' proposed in your latest Strategy for our future include a recommendation for a proper sewage disposal system for Thurlestone - before the beach is overwhelmed with the stuff ? "

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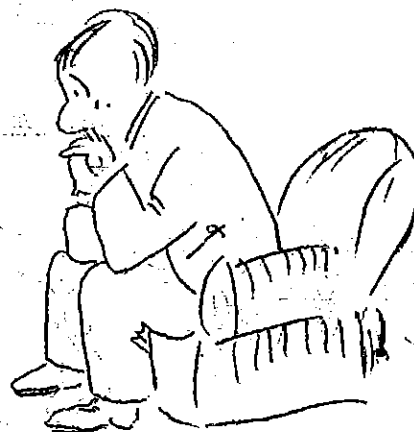
Villager!

South Hams District Council are on record as saying: "This Council believes in open government. The public are encouraged to come to meetings and observe the council at work."

The Community Rights Project carried out a survey high-lighting the growing problem of secrecy in local government. They say:

"Local Authorities throughout England and Wales were asked to give their reasons for holding closed sessions at meetings. The South Hams District Council did not reply to their questionnaire, preferring to keep its reasons for holding secret meetings - secret! They emerged in this survey as one of Britain's most secretive local authorities."

So, do they or do they not, just make believe 'open government. ?



There would not seem to have been a great deal of harmony when the District Council held its Annual Meeting. I see it reported that Mr William Ash accused the ruling political party of holding secret meetings and called for a more democratic approach to local government & Mr Austin Craven accused the 'group' of making decisions without consultation!

THE SLOOP INN

BANTHAM

EGON
RONAY
PUB GUIDE

Tel. Kingsbridge
560489/560215

'WHICH'
GOOD PUB
GUIDE

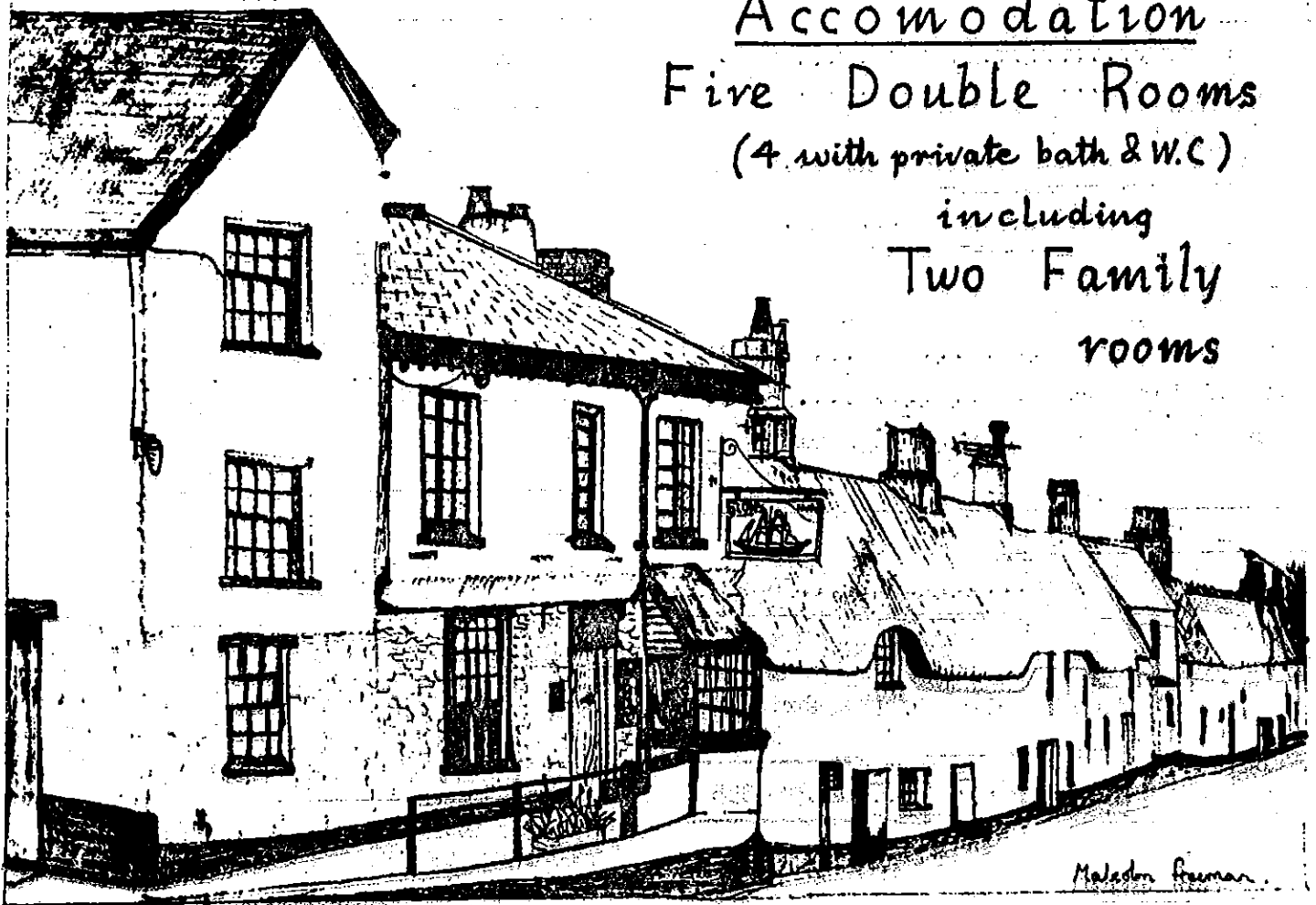
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KINGSBRIDGE HEALTH CENTRE.....3551
SALCOMBE HEALTH CENTRE.....2284
LOCAL LIFEGUARD.....560774
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Geoff Church. Kingsbridge 6626

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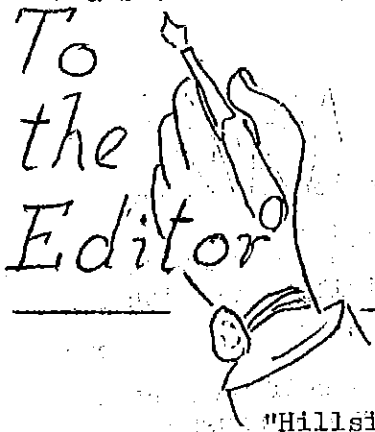
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3131

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2997
J & G. Perrot (D.O.I.Boulden)
Kingsbridge 2302

SEE THE ADVERTISEMENTS WITHIN
THE PAGES OF 'VILLAGE VOICE'

LETTER
on a SOUTH MILTON SUBJECT



3.5.1985.

"Hillside"
Sutton,
SOUTH MILTON

I am very glad that decency has prevailed and the War Memorial is to remain undisturbed on the site which was given by the late Capt. Douglas for this specific purpose.

As regards to the need of a Village Car Park I consider this to be of only a secondary requirement. Now as for the need of a Village Hall Car Park this is a self imposed problem.

The document binding the Hall as a Charity to the Charity Commissioners very clearly states:-

"Its use is to be for the benefit of the Parishioners of South Milton."

Had this instruction been complied with, this problem would not arise.

I feel that before the Parishioners become involved in the unnecessary expense of a costly Car Park, this document is brought to light and the Hall Committee be instructed to obey this instruction by confining its use to Village organisations. Its membership to consist only of residents of this Parish. Failing this are the 'outsiders' willing to provide and maintain a car park for their own use and at their own expense in this village.

W.E. BRINKWORTH

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Better to check properly?

The most common causes of break-downs occurring on the M.5 in Devon during 1984 were:

Mechanical/Electrical faults	2,294
Lack of fuel -	363
Broken fan belts	141
Lack of water -	255
Tyre failure -	432
Broken windscreens	68

Vehicles running out of petrol showed a 6% increase over 1983 figures - but vehicles running out of water - radiators boiling dry showed a fantastic jump of 75% over the 1983 figure !!

[illegible]

In fact, neither is the case, as your Committee is a self supporting registered Charity No. 282906. In order to clarify any such confusion it was resolved at the Annual General Meeting on May 1st. last, to apply to the Charity Commission to change the name of the foundation to THURLESTONE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE, and to this the Charity Commission has agreed.

Our current Bank Balance is approximately £8 - (eight pounds !) - and we are sadly in need of funds. What is needed is a regular income to meet our outgoings which principally are Caretaker's Wages, and the charges of the Electricity and Water Boards. On previous occasions, to spread the finances evenly my Committee have asked the Thurstlestone Parish Council to include a levy in the Parish Rate of one quarter of one penny for the benefit of the Village Hall. This would produce an annual sum sufficient to cover the outgoings of YOUR Village Hall at a cost of approximately 55p per annum from each rateable property in the village. However, these requests have not been granted.

To achieve the aims of the Committee in maintaining and repairing your Village Hall we ask you to help by giving an annual sum of between £5 and £25 which, without cost to the donor, will benefit the funds of the Charity to the extent of £1.43 for every £1 promised. If you can, and will help, please telephone Kingsbridge 560595 and all the clerical work invilved will be done for you.

A.E.BICKFORD
Rear Admiral
President.

Oh, no! Not more
Waller Dee

Here is an extract from a letter which recently appeared in the Motoring press from a resident of Hong Kong referring to persistent suspension failure on his car:

"I hope I have not added to the gloom because it seems a real shame to have an otherwise entertaining machine treated with caution only because one is afraid of the unspeakable."

If my car suffered suspension failures
I couldn't have expressed myself more
effectively !

This little piece was supposed to continue the Walter Dee page. Sorry !

Only genuine when it bears this signature !.....

Walter Dea

The Balance?

The South Hams District Council in "Taking the South Hams into the 1990's" :

We intend to strike the right balance between development and conservation so that, whilst essential development which is necessary for the economic and social well-being of the District will be allowed, the environment will be protected for the benefit of visitors and residents.

Their Planning Officers interpretation of 'balance' has certainly not been in line with local thinking in this parish in the past, - perhaps there is hope for the future, after all ? VILLAGER.

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Electrics Ltd.



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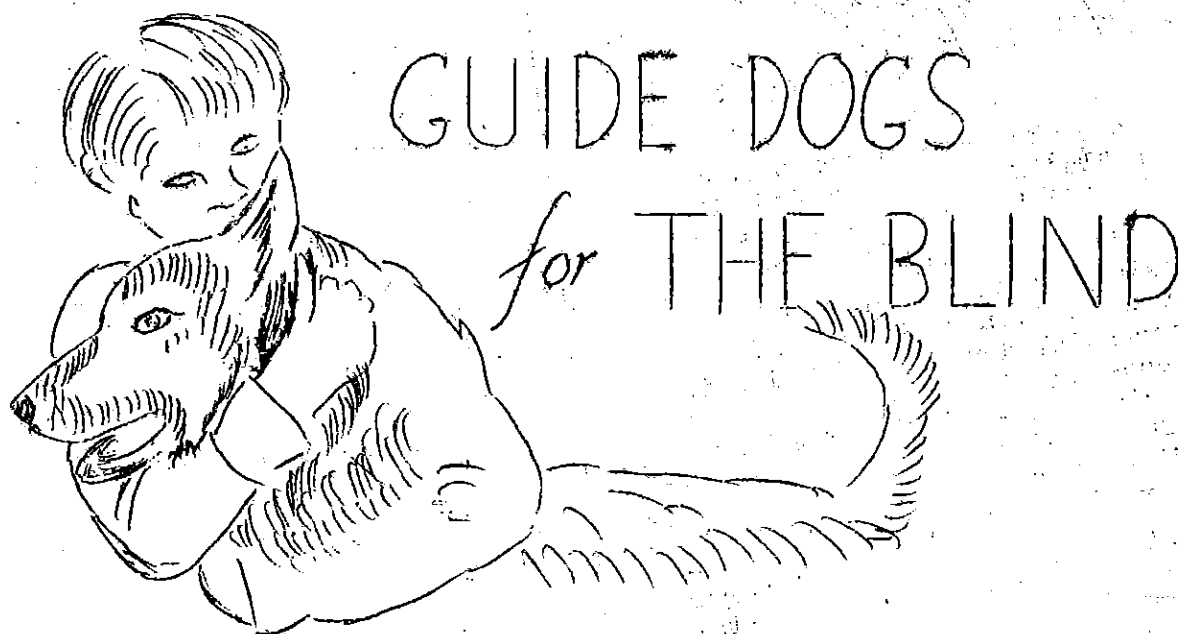
UNIT No: 2, ORCHARD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, UNION ROAD, KINGSBRIDGE,
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EMERGENCIES: KINGSBRIDGE 560348
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ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS BY J.I.B. APPROVED
ELECTRICIANS



The South Hams Branch is holding its ANNUAL DANCE & TOMBOLA (with GRAND DRAW) at the THURLESTONE HOTEL on SATURDAY AUGUST 10th 1985

AT 8. 30 p.m.

MUSIC WILL BE BY JONATHAN MATHYS - Tickets £2.00 each. Smart Casuals

Our Branch makes a big effort each year in August to raise funds for the training of GUIDE DOGS. With a well trained dog blind persons gain an independence which completely transforms their lives, for instance, they are able to go to work, to the shops, or just for a walk alone.

Over the years the South Hams Branch has paid for the training of a number of dogs and hope this year to be able to provide two or three more. Do please come to the Thurlestone Hotel on Saturday August 10th and help to achieve this.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE from The CARD SHOP (Mike Treleaven) Fore Street, Kingsbridge (Telephone 2178) or from the THURLESTONE HOTEL, Telephone (Kingsbridge 560382)

IF YOU CANNOT COME ON THE 10th - PLEASE BUY SOME OF THE GRAND DRAW TICKETS - or SEND A DONATION or a TOMBOLA PRIZE, large or small to Mrs. S. GROOM, 1 Horswell Cottages, South Milton, or Mrs. J. BARTON, 9, Meadcombe Road, Thurlestone (Tel: 560864) or Mrs. C. PARKIN, Horswell Mews, South Milton (Tel: 560509)

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*I always
thought --*

that it was the job of the Office of Fair Trading to protect us - the consumers - from monopolies and oligopolies which I thought created a market situation in which control over the supply of a commodity is held by a small number of producers each of whom is able to influence prices and thus directly affect the position of competitors - and surely controlling the competition also controls the price you and I are asked to pay.

There was a time in my younger days when a brand name really did mean something. If you bought an 'Austin' car - well, it had Lord Austin behind it - a 'Morris' had William Morris (later Lord Nuffield). Not any more I'm afraid.

When you buy products of Bird's Eye, Walls, Flora, Batchelors, Stork, Pears, Sunsilks, Lipton's Tea, Brooke Bond - to name but a few items - you are in actual fact supporting Unilever, which is part British and part Dutch. The same applies if you use Persil, Drive, Omo or Surf. In fact 90% of all washing powders sold in this country are the product of two concerns - Unilever and Proctor & Gamble.

Even our very own British Leyland - or Austin-Rover as they now tend to call themselves, use Honda and VW gearboxes in the Maestro and Montego cars and the Rover is very much a Honda! The Rover 213 and 216 models, that is.

Whatever sounds more British than 'Frank Cooper's Oxford Marmalade' - but it is made in this country by an American Co. - CPC International - and to think of that fine old British Institution 'The Times' now belonging to an Australian Co. Oh dear - but I suppose it all means foreign investment in the old country - so it cannot be too bad really - I suppose!

W.D.

Ancient Camp at the mouth of the Avon

BANTHAM, at the mouth of the Devonshire Avon, is the site of an ancient camp in a very strong position, surrounded on three sides by the sea and the Avon estuary and defended on the fourth side by a marsh.

The earthworks, as they exist, are no doubt Roman, but the contents of the refuse heaps outside the camp show that the stronghold was occupied for ages prior to the Roman era by people less civilised than the Britons described by Caesar.

The heaps of refuse are mainly composed of shells of edible shellfish, mixed with quantities of bones and teeth, mostly those of domestic animals. They are similar in character to the "Kjokken middens" of the Baltic shore. All the bones likely to contain the smallest quantity of marrow are split. In the lower stratum no metal is found. The stone axe, precisely of the Baltic pattern, has been ground into shape, but not polished. The presence of small quantities of charcoal and the fact that the bones have been cooked indicate a people advanced a little above the lowest point, enjoying the benefit of the greatest of all inventions - the discovery of the use of fire.

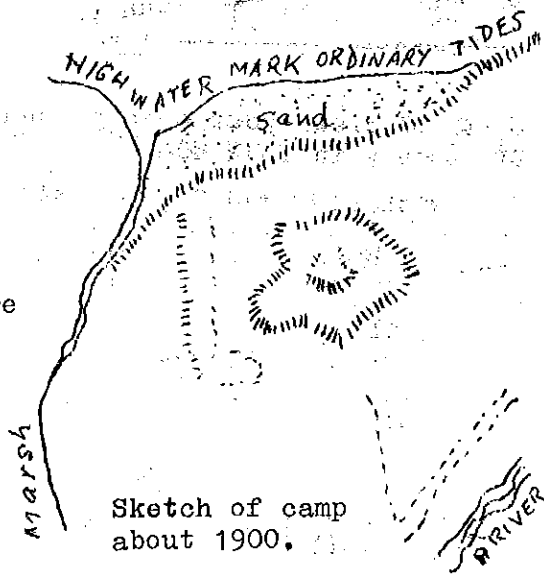
Local tradition is quite silent as regards the camp. The lines of the earthworks are so far obliterated by blown sands and by the bent grass, which gives its name to the place, as only to be distinctly traceable when looked at from the hills when the sun is low, and do not appear to have attracted the attention of persons living on the spot.

But the refuse heaps were first brought to light in modern times by the great disaster known locally as the "great November gale." The sea, revealing large quantities of shells, bones and teeth. Shells were not much out of place by the sea, but the bones and teeth were a puzzle. The only way in which they could account for them was to surmise that they must in some way have been the result of a vast number of shipwrecks in ancient times.

This great November gale of the Bantham villagers is, I think, to be identified as the great storm of 1703, which took place on the 23rd. of November and four following days. To corroborate the Bantham tradition as to the violence of this storm, there is the destruction of the Eddystone Light-house, fourteen miles distant, in which Winstanley, the architect, perished.

By this storm and succeeding storms during the last two hundred years great quantities of the refuse have been swept away, and Miss Fox, writing fifty years ago, relates that cartloads of bones were taken away by the farmers for manure. There still remain buried in the sand very considerable quantities, which are exposed occasionally by a high tide during stormy weather.

The great extent and depth of the deposit might seem to indicate that a considerable population once existed on the spot, but, as we are not limited to time, it would be more reasonable, perhaps, to conclude that the heaps of waste represents the litter and sweepings of a small number of people accumulated in a long period of time and preserved from decay to a great extent by the blown sand.



VILLAGE VOICE

It is said that Winstanley, confident in the stability of his edifice, had wished to be in it during the hardest gale that ever blew. The fact that the Bantham refuse heaps, which have been accumulating since Neolithic times, were partially diluviated by this storm goes to show that it was the greatest atmospheric disturbance in this part of the world since the quaternary epoch.

The account of the Ancient Camp at the Mouth of the Avon was published, in "The Ring of Bells - An Odd volume," and was written by the late H.L. Jenkins. (Published in 1909)

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL - STRATEGY INTO THE 1990s ;:::

Extract 6.8. We support the fostering of community spirit and are aware that community centres and village halls make a prime contribution to this end. We will continue to give support to major new projects under the scheme operated by the Community Council of Devon. Additionally we will continue to make available grants and low interest loans to meet the costs of specific improvement projects.

Extract 6.10. We will promote certain recreation projects where strong demands exist and where the existing environment will benefit from the development.

Recreation area for Thurlestone

??????



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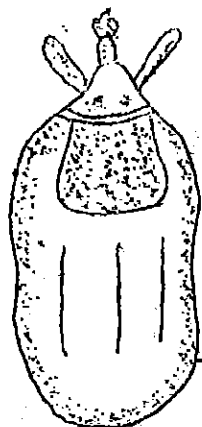
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WHAT HAPPENED IN THURLESTONE IN 1795?

NEVILLE C. OSWALD

The early months of 1795 were unremarkable in Thurlestone, with the villagers going their various ways and minding their own business. Then in the second quarter fourteen of them died, including nine in April alone. With a population of about 400, they reckoned on six or seven people dying each year; instead, they lost twice that number in the space of three months. Who were they, where did they live and why did they die? These questions can be answered fairly accurately.

There is no difficulty in finding their names because they are entered in the parish register (now kept at the Devon Record Office, Exeter). They have the ring of South Hams about them, for example, BEVILL, EDGCOMBE, HARDY, HINGSTON, SHERIFF, TABB, WAKEHAM and WINSTON. We know where some of them lived from the list of tenants that was compiled a few years before for the Earl of Devon, who then owned almost the whole of the parish. They include:

Hugh DATE, aged about 60. He lived in Bantham opposite the lower end of the row of cottages on the site of The Whiddons, now a holiday home. It was then the Thurlestone Mill and comprised a mill, kiln and stable with an orchard on the slope on either side of the pathway leading down to the boathouse.

Susanna POLYBANK aged 50. Born and bred in Thurlestone, she was the wife of William. They lived in Buckland in the end house of the cul de sac off the steep hill (sometimes known as Sudden Death) and farmed 18 acres stretching towards Bantham.

Elizabeth REEVE, aged about 35. With her husband John she lived at Higher Well Park, about a quarter of a mile up the road to Kingsbridge beyond the turning to Kerse on the right, where they farmed 5 acres.

Ambrose RHODES, aged 62 and from an old Thurlestone family. He lived in a tenement with a tiny garden at Buckland and probably worked as a husbandman on somebody's farm.

Elizabeth SHEPHERD, aged 60. She was the daughter of William CORNISH whose family had farmed up around Aune for generations and married Benjamin Shepherd of Modbury. They lived at Thatchways in the village street opposite the rectory and farmed three small parcels of land, including Margaret Bevill's two acre field.

CONTINUED :-

VILLAGE VOICE

We know the ages of most of those who died because they were baptised in the parish church and others had their children baptised there, thus giving their approximate ages. Ten of the 14 must have been over 50.

In order to find out why these people died, we need to look around a bit outside the parish. We were at war with France at the time and Plymouth was full of ships and troops. Typhus (ship fever) broke out and killed about 1,500 people in the town, half of them soldiers, in the early months of 1795. The fever spread all over the county, carrying off perhaps one in five of those who caught it, especially the elderly.

Typhus is caused by a virus which attacks human body lice, the lice in turn passing on the infection to man through their bites. Regrettably, just about all our distant forebears had body lice, because they rarely washed properly or changed their underclothes. When Thomas à Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170, priests preparing his body for burial and finding his coarse underwear alive with lice, did not know whether to mourn the death of a saint or marvel that he had been such a martyr. Four hundred years later, Queen Elizabeth I had only two baths a year, the stench on State occasions being offset in part by expensive perfumes from the East, many of them coming in through the port of Plymouth (on one occasion a ship was ransacked by a drunken mob and the whole town reeked of scent for a week).

In 1795, the year we are now considering, the Morleys living in the grandest house in South Devon at Saltram had to be content with pretty inadequate hip baths on the floor of their bedrooms. How many Thurlestone homes then had tubs that were big enough to sit in will never be known but we may be sure that our ancestors, whether in Thurlestone or elsewhere, did not keep themselves clean.

What has all this to do with the sudden rise in deaths in Thurlestone in 1795? Someone must have come into the village with infected body lice and transferred some of them to the lice already here, possibly on a cold winter's night when people tended to huddle together for warmth. Thus the tragic train of events was set in motion. Probably about 60 to 70 people developed high fever, prostration and a rash, often accompanied by alarming mental disturbances. The distress and anxiety they caused can easily be imagined, with nobody knowing where the infection came from or who would be able to survive an attack. The epidemic continued until no more people were infected or the organisms lost their virulence.

POTATO CAKES: Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of boiled potatoes, a pinch of salt. Work well with the hands. Cut into squares, and fry for five to six minutes. Divide each square before serving, and butter well, and serve up very hot.

Recipe - Ring of Bells - published 1909.



The Font at South Milton Church

The Saxon font in South Milton Church is interesting, not only from its age, but because it preserves in carving an incident in English history which is not generally known.

The sculptures are three, and to those who can read sermons in stones the story will be plain. There are three human heads. Two, side by side, evidently man and wife, the man bearded and of reverend aspect. The third, the face of a Danish Viking, with long ears and moustachios, represents, as the ears, not the moustachios, show, the evil spirit. Above the man and wife a human figure in an agony of supplication (readers of Lewis Carroll will at once recognise the Anglo-Saxon attitude) is pointing with hands and feet (to show the urgency of his request) to a symbolic picture of an ox - the type of agriculture - in a perilous position between an immense bird of prey and a savage beast, of which the feet only remain, but which, on the principle of "ex pede Herculem," we may conjecture to be a lion. A knowledge of history makes the interpretation plain. In the year 879 the Danes, under Kings Guthrum and Hubba, were devastating England. Guthrum was in Wiltshire, while Hubba ravaged Devonshire. King Alfred was in hiding in the Isle of Athelney, and burning cakes. The suppliant figure on the font represents England begging the Lord and Lady of Milton to come to the help of the devastated land, and history records that the men of Devon - headed, though the jealousy of the historian has omitted this, by the noble thegn of South Milton - rose, slew Hubba, and took his raven banner, and afterwards aided King Alfred to win the final victory over Guthrum in Wiltshire.

The carvings of the evil spirit and the bird of prey are doubtless copies of King Hubba's head and his raven badge, while the lion may represent the badge of Guthrum, who surrendered to the men of Devon at Chippenham.

It is well to recall this story from the mist of ages. It is, perhaps, fair to add that men of more prosaic minds read the story of the stones in a different way, and say that the carvings represent Adam and Eve, the father and mother of all living - the four living creatures and the evil spirit; while the villagers have so far forgotten their ancient fame as to say that the figures on the south side represent the father, the mother, and the baby.

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District Council's "Strategy into the 1990's"

Government Rate Capping or reduction in their Rate Grant is obviously not going to lessen the South Hams District Council in progressing their 'Local Plan' for the South Hams. One must hope! The projected main objectives on Finance and Management lay emphasis on Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy - to ensure if at all possible that rate increases are kept below the rate of inflation - to ensure where possible that total spending is kept within Government guidelines and that increases are kept below the rate of inflation - to arrange finances so that the District obtains its maximum share of the rate support grant. Within these parameters to maintain our services, to undertake new work required by Government legislation, and even to modestly improve and extend them where possible. To achieve the above objectives by continuing searches for economies, through increased productivity, by setting strict budget margins for inflation and pay awards, and generally through making the best use of resources.

I am quite sure all of us will be very happy to see these main objectives fulfilled and do note this: The (District) Council believes in open government. The public are encouraged to come to meetings and observe the Council at work. The same goes for Thurlestone Parish Council - which has adopted 'open government' since re-organisation of local government in 1974!

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Once Upon A Fishing Time

K E N D A L L M c D O N A L D

[illegible]

He-Who-Must-Be-Obeded, which is what all the contributors to Village Voice call the Editor - (Nonsense says the Editor !) - has let it be known that you, his readers, would like some more of the late Geoffrey Ingham's memories of old Thurstlestone. So I obey.

Geoffrey Inchbald wrote the words which follow in 1968 in a privately circulated booklet which he called "Once Upon A Time." This extract describes the time after his family's first visit to Thurlestone in the summer holidays of 1905. They stayed at the old Thurlestone Hotel, "which at that time simply consisted of a fairly large house with a wooden annexe, and I do not suppose that there were more than about 40 guests altogether."

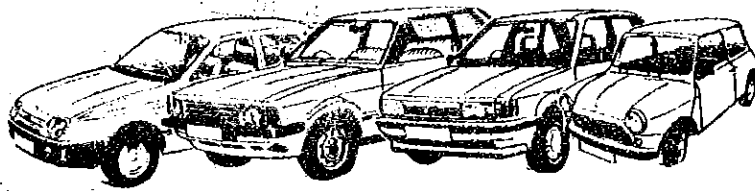
Geoffrey Inchbald's father liked Thurlestone.... "My father, who had known Thurlestone as a boy, was so impressed that he decided to build a house there and he was fortunate to be able to acquire a wonderful site on the high ground between the village and Bantham at the mouth of the Avon river." Building started the following year and "The Grey House" was ready in the summer of 1909. In 1925, it was sold and became the Downs Hotel.

With his brothers, the boy Geoffrey spent his holidays in Thurlestone. And this is how he remembered them....

"In those years before the First War Thurlestone certainly provided a boy with pretty well everything he could possibly want. There was the same golf club as today, but with only a nine hole course, one tennis court and a croquet court, which was amply sufficient for the number of people who wanted to use them.

"My father had also built a boathouse at Bantham which housed our two boats, an 18ft. sailing boat and a dinghy, and also contained a large living room with an attic above which could be used for sleeping in an emergency, and during the summer and Easter holidays we spent most days out at sea, or, if it was too rough, on the Avon which at high tide is navigable as far as Aveton Gifford, some three miles upstream.

"We had a boatman-cum-gardener, a man called Coleman, who had served for 20 years in the Navy and knew pretty well everything about sailing there.



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was to know, and it was from him that my elder brother learned how to handle a boat in any sort of sea and any sort of weather.

"In later years my brother became a fine yachtsman and for several seasons he used to race at Burnham-on-Crouch, where he gained a number of victories particularly with his yacht 'Joyce'.

"Our sailing boat was very solidly built and she was at her best when the conditions were really bad. In fact there were a number of occasions when Coleman and my brother took her out to sea when not even the fishermen were prepared to risk their boats, or for that matter their lives. To be quite frank they had one or two quite narrow escapes when she would certainly have capsized had it not been for Coleman's superb seamanship. But she was not a fair weather boat and, although in a half gale she could outsail any other boat in the neighbourhood, she moved very slowly in a light breeze.

"My brother had a great friend called Harcourt, who was either a sub-lieutenant or a midshipman in the Navy, and one summer they entered our boat

OVER 15

VILLAGE VOICE

Continuing 'ONCE UPON A FISHING TIME' by Kendall McDonald.


for a race in the Salcombe regatta. Unfortunately they had hardly started when the breeze which had been light enough to begin with almost faded out altogether and by the time the winner, followed by all the other yachts, had finished the course Harcourt and my brother were still only a few hundred yards from the starting post. However they made up for this by winning a dinghy race for which shovels had to be used in place of oars, but I think this was due to physical strength rather than any particular rowing skill !

I wonder if the late Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, who in September 1945 accepted the formal surrender of Hong Kong from the Japanese, ever cast his mind back to this episode in his life as a young naval officer !

"My other brother and I were, however, far more interested in fishing than sailing and in those days when there was no such thing as oil pollution in the waters of Bigbury Bay - stretching from Bolt Tail in the east to Stoke Point in the west - certainly used to provide us with an abundant harvest and variety of fish. In addition to mackerel and pollack there were whiting grounds about three miles out to sea which also abounded in dog fish, inedible but exciting to catch. There were also bass, bream, shad, gurnard, horse mackerel, conger eel, red and grey mullet, pilot fish - like eels with long beaks which guided the shoals of mackerel - angler fish every sort of flat fish and even squid. Curiously enough I can never remember any basking sharks and in fact do not believe there were any, although they are common enough in Cornish waters.

"The time to catch bream and shad was from just before sunset until it was virtually pitch dark. Once they started to bite it was as much as you could do to keep up with their voracity. It was on one of those nights that Coleman, who thought he was taking in a bream, got a nasty smack first in one eye and then the other which for a few minutes practically blinded him. It was not until we retrieved his 'fish' that we discovered it was a squid which, the moment it emerged from the water, had let fly from its ink sacs and scored a brilliantly executed double.

"There was also an occasion when we heard a great commotion going on in another boat which was anchored not far off and, peering through the gloom, we could see that there was a tremendous battle going on between the men in the boat armed with anything solid they could lay their hands on and what appeared to be a large snake. It was, of course, a conger which they finally overpowered and which turned out to weigh 45lbs. Not only that but when it was cut open it was found to have a 6lb. fish, I think a wrasse, inside it. I hardly dare add that the wrasse had recently swallowed a small pollack. I do not really expect to be believed but I can honestly aver that neither of these anecdotes is a 'fishing story' !



CONCLUDING: ONCE UPON A FISHING TIME

"At one time we had a spiller which we used to lay on Bantam beach, which at high tide is covered by several feet of water, but at low water provides a large area of sand. A spiller is a long line which is secured to floats and has dozens of short lines attached to it at intervals of a few feet with a baited hook at the end of each. The idea was to set this when the tide was flowing and then go back when the hooks were being uncovered as the water receded. It worked very well but, unless you were on the spot at exactly the right time, the fish you caught were instantly exposed to attack by hundreds of rapacious gulls and there would be little left for domestic consumption. So we gave it up soon after safely salvaging our largest prize which was a 12 lb. skate.

We also went in for spearing fish in quite a big way. We had stout wooden poles made for us about 8 feet long, to the thinner ends of which there were attached iron cross bars, something like a rake but with the prongs going straight forward in line with the shaft. The prongs were set well apart and each had a heavy barb.

"Three of us would take one of the boats up the three or four miles to Aveton Gifford with the incoming tide and come down very slowly on the last half of the ebb when the channel, though still quite deep, was narrowing sharply all the time. One of us had to hold the boat steady with the oars and the other two took up their positions aft and plunged their spears into the mud at the bottom. If you succeeded in spearing a fish, and this would be quite accidental as you could not see them, you would know instantly from the movement of the spear, and bear down with all your weight so as to make sure that the barbed ends had penetrated and then bring up your catch. There was every variety of flat fish - dabs, plaice, soles, skate, turbot and flounders, and some of them, particularly the turbot could be several pounds in weight. It was back-breaking work but very exciting during the hour or so for which it lasted and sometimes we used to get back with as many as 30 or 40 fish.

"The biggest prize of all did not, however, fall to our lot. A 12 lb. turbot got caught in a pool by the receding tide and one of the local fishermen succeeded in extracting it from the shallow water with a home-made spear.

"I must confess that none of the fishing activities which I have described required any skill, that I have never caught or attempted to catch a salmon and that such trout as I have persuaded to take a fly have been minimal both in size and quantity. In other words I am no fisherman. None the less I derived during those years at Thurlestone an enormous amount of pleasure and indeed excitement from sea fishing and I would have liked, had the opportunity permitted to have done it on a far wider scale. Deep sea fishing must be one of the most exciting sports in the world and I envy those who have been able to indulge it."

(The Geoffrey Inchbald story retold by KENDALL McDONALD)

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If you thought British Election Law odd!

After a number of residents complained that they were refused permission to vote in some Canadian municipal elections last November because they were unable to provide their occupation, the Municipal Affairs Minister has been asked by North Vancouver district council to drop this requirement from the Municipal Act.

Polling clerks had refused to accept either 'retired' or 'househusband' as an occupation, although 'housewife' was apparently acceptable from some women voters.

Every municipality in British Columbia, except Vancouver which has its own charter, is bound by this 10 year old provision.

Telecom Code of practice

British Telecom has published a code of practice setting out the legal rights of customers and how they can seek redress for any failure in service. The code is divided into six main sections: the network; service; telephone books; operator services; fault repairs service; and payphones. It offers an alternative to legal action through the courts in the form of legally binding arbitration through the Chartered Institute of Arbitration.

Copies of the code are available from British Telecom's local offices.

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From an interview
with the Editor of
Village Voice for
the Western Morning
News - April 1985.

By MARJORIE EDMUNDS

YOU COULD say that the story of Thurlestone village's own popular magazine, The Village Voice, began the day a well-meaning district nurse referred to a piece of advice she gave Mr. Dudley Walter Drabble as "one I give all my geriatric patients."

To Mr. Drabble the classification came as a bit of a shock. He was admittedly at the time approaching his biblical quota of three score and ten and was also recovering from a serious operation for lung cancer.

"But I had just never seen myself in that light. It made me think. And I thought that I had better do something about it."

He did. When I went to call on him recently at his South Hams bungalow, and he is 75 now, certainly did not seem to be any handicap in the busy life he is leading these days.

Fully recovered, he is editor, publisher and printer of a 50-page magazine that is not only in great demand locally, but is now sent all over the country to people who have sampled it on holiday and have taken out regular subscriptions.

Other visitors, nationally known writers, donate their work in tribute to this well-crafted little publication that last year won a Certificate of Merit in the Devon Villages Ventures competition.

"I dare say I always had this subconscious hankering to get into the publishing world," he said. "I remember I edited a magazine when I was at school. And when I was with the RAF I brought out a newsheet for the unit."

"But I certainly had never had the actual experience of practically producing anything, like cutting stencils, working a duplicator, that sort of thing."

Four years before his official retirement he accepted the post of clerk to Thurlestone Parish Council.

"It was going to be a job to keep me ticking over when I gave up working

full-time. Then, out of the blue I heard I had lung cancer and for a time it looked as though I wasn't even going to be able to do that. But I was lucky.

"In due course the doctors gave me the all clear. That was when I decided, if I was not going to become a fully-fledged geriatric, I had to get busy on something to occupy me fully."

For some time he had had the idea of starting a local newletter which would act as a forum for village opinion. He put the idea to the council and they responded by offering to subsidise it and provide the first duplicator.

"Fortunately that is all I have needed from them in terms of cash, so it has never been a charge on the rates. This year we hope actually to make a profit."

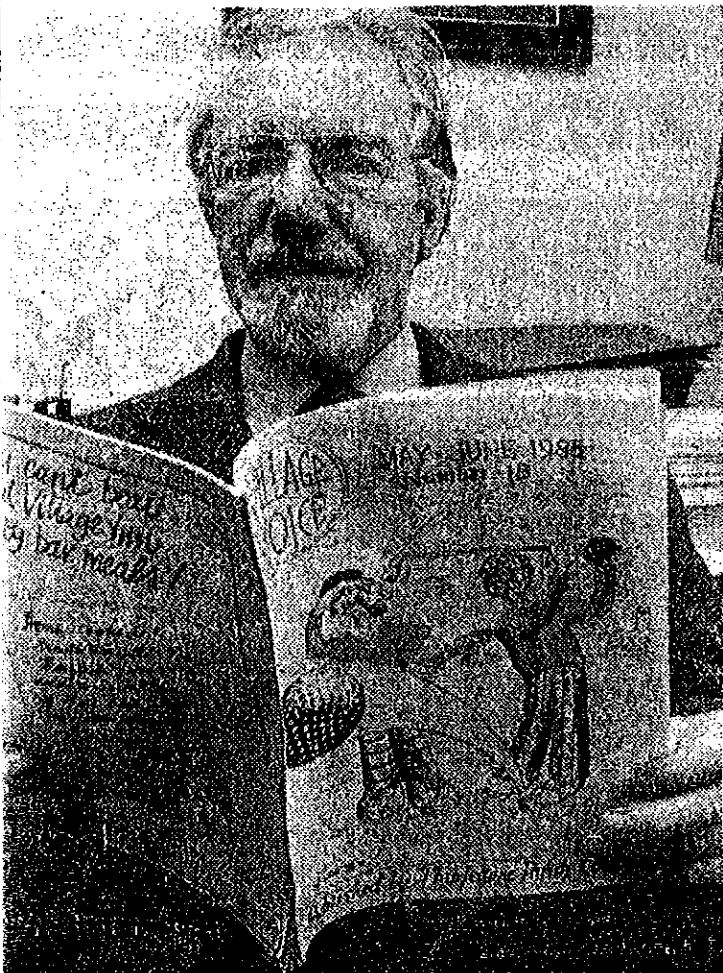
Far from having any professional journalistic experience to draw on, Mr. Drabble for many years until his retirement in 1975, held the post of registrar of births, deaths and marriages for the South Hams District. He also acted as secretary to the Kingsbridge and the South Hams Chambers of Trade.

A Derbyshire man, he spent his early years in Canada where his father was a building inspector, then at school in Cheshire and a first job with a Derby auctioneer.

To give some idea of how The Village Voice took off with the local readership, when a larger duplicator was needed 18 months later, the chairman of the parish council, Peter Hurrell, himself went round knocking on doors and in only two nights raised the sum of £303, more than enough.

Dudley Drabble is quick to give credit to those who fill his pages. "If you have no contributors you have no magazine. I am just lucky to have such a reservoir of interesting people to call upon."

And in a community like Thurlestone, composed largely of retired people, it seems there is a vast wealth of idle talent.



Dudley Drabble with a copy of The Village Voice.

His reservoir of around 50 contributors includes retired service people, doctors, solicitors, an editor, business people, farmers and the odd prize catch in the shape of professional writers who, spending their holidays in the village, offer their services as a tribute.

People like Kendall McDonald, former managing editor of the London Evening News and author of many books on underwater exploration, who sends articles regularly from his London home.

Patric Walker, nationally syndicated astrologer, who has donated a world exclusive horoscope just for Thurlestone readers because, he says "Thurlestone is pure magic."

Mr. Drabble has an eye for new talent too. For over a year the front cover of the Voice has featured the work of young Gary Blight, whose clever cartoonlike drawings are so perceptive and satirical it is hard to believe he is only 15 years of age.

The Voice has been going for some three years now. It is delivered free every two months by the local milkman, Peter Bromfield, on his rounds.

It has emerged as a highly readable little publication, well put together, well balanced, with just about something for everybody.

There are articles on things like local history, wild life, items of local and general interest, advice on legal and medical problems, short stories — and a crossword! Plus a wide variety of local news and comment.

The present circulation of around 500 could, says Mr. Drabble, be greatly increased. "But I simply cannot cope with any more."

Considering that he not only edits and produces the magazine, but has all the stencilling and duplicating and assembling to do himself — as well as providing most of the illustrations — this is very understandable.

But he feels that it is time to call in new blood on the enterprise. He has asked for help in "establishing a small group of interested persons" who might help initially in the simpler jobs and eventually in the production of the magazine itself.

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Tulips Poffertjes and Klompen

by IAN O'YOUNG

Have you ever flown the Channel at zero feet ?

We did, last April, as passengers in a Hovercraft, skimming at 60 mph on our way to Holland for three days of sightseeing.

Our journey from Calais to the Hotel in Monnickendam, on the shores of the IJsselmeer was, like all long distance coach trips, a mixture of sleeping and waking, interest and boredom. But our welcome at the Hotel convinced us all that our time in Holland would be happy.

The view from our bedroom window next morning could have been selected as a suitable subject by any one of the 16th century Dutch painters. Stately ships floating on still waters, lighted by a misty sun.

Refreshing sleep had keyed us all to anticipate what turned out to be a most enjoyable day. An hour long tour of the tree lined Amsterdam canals was guided, and instructed, by a most articulate courier. He pointed out the smallest house in the city, the merchants' houses with their fancy and decorated gables, and the palace which was occupied by Napoleon's brother, Louis, during his unhappy time as King of the Netherlands.

A break for lunch gave us the opportunity to sample 'poffertjes', small balls of a pancake mixture, served hot and drenched in fine sugar. Very enjoyable, but disastrous for a calorie controlled diet.

Dam Square, the impressive city centre dominated by the Royal Palace and the Monument commemorating the liberation of Holland from Nazi oppression, was where we rejoined our coach for a short journey to a Clog, or 'Klomp', factory, where the famous wooden shoes are made. Each is cut from a single block of wood, to an exact and pre-selected size.

We next visited the villages of Maarken and Volendam. Before the Zuider Zee was dammed, and the great fresh water lake now called the IJsselmeer was formed, they each sat on a private island. Now they can be reached by road, but they are still an attraction to thousands from all over the World. The villagers in their striking costumes are as eager as ever to welcome visitors into their homes and show their family treasures, as they were in the days of their isolation.

After the rush and almost continuous movement of the previous days, one to be devoted to gentle exploration was welcome; and I set out to get better acquainted with the little town which had, so successfully, played host to us since our arrival.

In the days when Dutch ships, and sailors, were dominating the trade routes to the East, and the merchant princes of Amsterdam were founding their

VILLAGE VOICE

country's Far Eastern Empire, Monnickendam was a busy and important port. The great ships, after their long and dangerous voyages from the Indies were glad to reach the sheltered waters of the Zuider Zee and tie up at its Quays where the cargoes were unloaded for transshipment throughout the markets of Europe. The town was then a wealthy and busy place, but for the past 200 years or so, the little community has quietly dreamed of its exciting past. Times are changing and a huge marina is being constructed.

Making my way along the cobbled streets I passed shiprights' workshops and a fish curing plant, where I paused to watch knife wielding girls head, tail, skin and clean a fish in five seconds and still have time to chat to their neighbour, who were stringing fish on racks for smoking over a slow burning fire of wood chippings.

A reminder of times past was the pillory which still stands on the quay, and the carved pictures above the doors of older houses indicating the trade or profession of the original owner. Two storks above one doorway could only have indicated the local Midwife !

The cheeful sound of the oldest carillion in Holland which hangs in the Town Hall tower, warned me that lunch-time was approaching, so I joined my wife at the Old Weigh-House, now converted to a comfortable restaurant and where we ordered a 'poffertjes lunch'.

Our visit to the bulb growing area was, as we had been advised, the highlight of our trip, starting at the warehouse of Rozen's, the oldest established bulb merchant in Holland - established in 1782 and still managed by descendants of the original owner. Here we saw in the extensive greenhouses, exotic examples from amongst the huge range of spring bulbs on show., which you normally only see in bulb catalogue pictures !

Within minutes of our arrival at Keukenhof Gardens we realised that our visit to Rozens, and our tour through the blazing colour of the bulb fields, stretching as far as the eye could see, was only an aperitif, to prepare us for the banquet of beauty which was to delight our senses in all too short a visit to these 'Gardens of Delight'. The Gardens, about 70 acres in extent, are the shop window for the Bulb Growers' Association and, as each member is allocated a section of the garden in which to display his own selection in his own way, there is no possibility of monotony taking over.

There are lakes across whose banks are laid huge swathes of colour; the reds, yellows and white of many tulips contrasting with the deep throbbing blue of thousands of grape hyacinths, planted so close together as to appear a sheet of solid colour, whilst among a group of stately trees the heads of daffodils flicker and dance in the sun-splashed shadow.

The greenhouses are magical places where, like the floor of a medieval jousting ground covered with discarded banners, the close packed flowers blaze with every colour in the spectrum, and freesias of unbelievable size drench the whole place with their glorious scent.

Keukenhof is not entirely winding paths and sheets of still water. There are many examples of the gardeners' craft - patios, rockeries and shrub lined avenues all demonstrating the versatility of bulbs as a source of garden decoration.

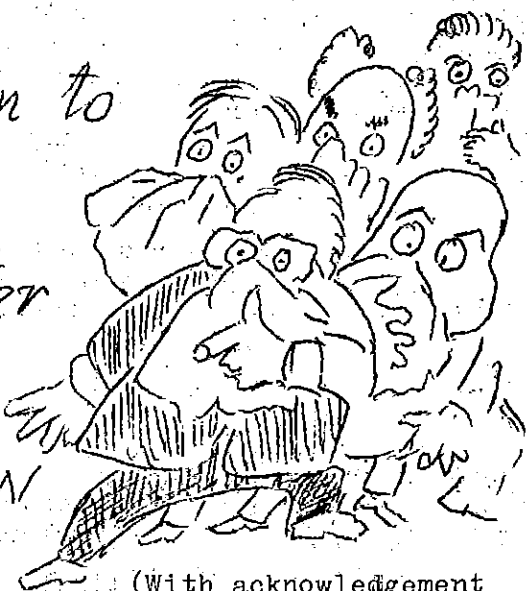
The focal point of the Park is a mighty windmill, whose huge sails dominate one end, and whose outside balcony gives all those who essay to climb up, a fascinating bird's eye view of beauty stretching in every direction.

Even now, at home in Devon my heart, in the words of Wordsworth, 'dances with the daffodils, and all the other sights and sounds of Holland.'

How Long, Mr Hill ?

THURLESTONE'S SEWER IS THE SEA. ARE YOU HAPPY ABOUT THAT ? DOES THE PERIODIC POLLUTION OF THE STREAM, THE ROCKS AND ROCK POOLS AND THE BEACH NOT DISTURB YOU ? OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO A SCHEME FOR A SEWERAGE TREATMENT WORKS FOR THURLESTONE, BANTHAM & BUCKLAND WAS DRAWN UP BY THE OLD SOUTH DEVON WATER BOARD. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO IT ? WHAT HAPPENS TO THE £38,000 OR SO PAID OUT IN SEWERAGE RATE EVERY YEAR JUST FOR A PIPELINE TO THE SEA ? WHY IS THURLESTONE NOT YET ON ANY PRIORITY LIST FOR ACTION WHEN IT WAS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO DRAW UP A PLAN FOR ACTION OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO. IN THAT 20 YEARS MORE THAN 200 ADDITIONAL DWELLING UNITS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE COMMUNITY. 200 MORE UNITS OF POLLUTION TO THE SEA, THE STREAM, THE ROCKS AND ROCK POOLS AND THE BEACH - AND THERE ARE STILL ABOUT 100 MORE UNITS TO COME. HOW LONG, MR. HILL MUST THIS COMMUNITY BEAR WITH SUCH A DISGUSTING ARCHIAIC 'SYSTEM' AS AN OVERLOADED INADEQUATE PIPELINE TO THE SEA CARRYING UNTREATED SEWERAGE AND FOUL WATER ? WHAT EXCUSE IS THERE AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS ?

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Autumnal memories stir my soul
The dusty bookshelves fade away,
I scent the salt breeze again,
I gaze upon a Western bay.

The river glides beneath the ham
To where the angry wavelets foam
And toss, and vainly strive to bar
The portals of his ancient home.

Beyond, the fisher plies his craft
And slowly dips a languid oar
That scarcely frets the languid plain
Between the Island and the shore.

The sunlight strikes the silver cliffs,
The sea is vexed by never a frown -
Ah, me - I wake to hear again
The turmoil of the murky town.

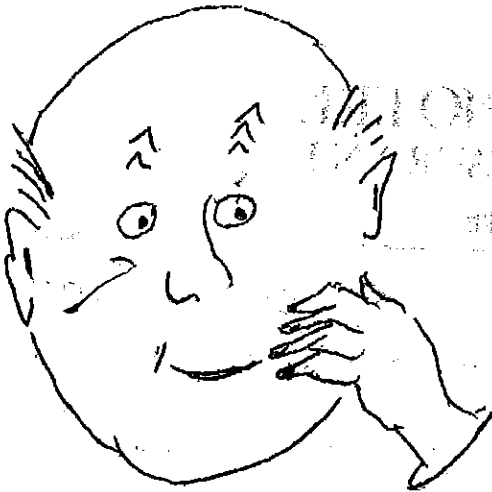
"Pollock on Torts" has charms for some,
Pollack on hooks have charms for me;
I'll flee the barren fields of law,
And glean the harvest of the sea.

Waiting for briefs is weary work,
To wait for fish were sweeter far:
I'll pluck the horsehair from my wig,
And practice at the Bantham Bar.

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America - even to Scotland !!!

PUBLISHING 'DEADLINE' FOR THE
SEPT/OCT ISSUE - AUGUST 15th



WALTER DEE

Mr. D. Elliott, Q.P.M., F.B.I.M. Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Constabulary writing in the Annual Report for 1984 remarked.... Devon and Cornwall Constabulary has always had an open and close relationship with the public and I wish to extend and develop this on a more regular basis, using the police section and sub-divisional structure as a framework. I am quite sure that a closer and better understanding between the police and the public can only bring benefits to the community. Again it must be two-way, with the police and the public growing closer in their understanding of the mutual problems".

....."My efforts to combat crime are costly in terms of manpower. There is a theory used on occasions which says that the more policemen you have on the streets and the more efficient the police filing system becomes, the more crime is recorded to justify more resources for the police. Perhaps if that is so, I should get rid of my officers on the streets and become more inefficient. I do not think so.

"The problems of crime and why there is crime is far more complicated than that and I can only use my officers in the most effective and efficient way possible, bearing in mind the complex nature of the general problem and also of individual cases."

"It will be seen from the statistics that crime rose overall by some 6%, which is not satisfactory, but it could be said that police efficiency was improved because more offenders were traced and dealt with." (End of quote)

I have been looking at statistics! The Force Area of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly comprises 1,024,086 hectares and a total population of 1,413,700 and the Rate and Grant borne expenditure amounted to £56,849,091. with a total strength in 1984 of 2,794 officers.

In 1984 there were 60,826 crimes committed of which 26,495 were detected. There were 2,294 cases of wounding and assaults - of which 1,991 were detected. There were 5,719 cases of burglary of which only 1,578 were detected. 1,354 cycles were stolen and just 192 such acts of theft detected. 7,551 thefts from unattended vehicles of which 1,653 were detected; 556 thefts of motor vehicles and only 200 detected and 3,697 unauthorised taking of motor vehicles - 1112 detected.

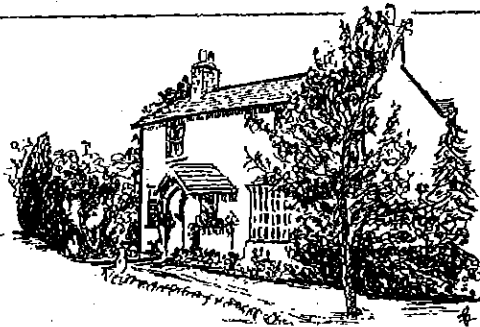
In all the value of property stolen in 1984 amounted to £11,466,385 - and recovered - £4,030,693.

All this leaves little doubt in my mind that we members of the public could be a darn sight more careful in the way we leave our cars and cycles- and in the way, as our own Community Policeman P.c. John Casson has told us at public meetings. If you have valuables endeavour to photograph them and wherever possible have some kind of secret or indelible marking. Crime is so often a matter of 'opportunity' - try to ensure you don't offer a 'gift wrapped package' to the opportunist. !

Something that must give all parents pause for thought is the age groups of juveniles involved in various offences. Under ten years 208. 10-13 years - 1,368. 14-16 years - 2,942. All just in the one year - 1984.

Worrying of livestock by dogs during the year amounted to 42 sheep being killed and 28 injured - 39 of the dogs were traced and resulted in fines of £815. And 2,287 stray dogs were taken to dogs' homes and 2,497 stray dogs were returned to owner !

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BACK TROUBLE

A review of many aspects of manual handling and lifting has been published by the Health & Safety Executive.

The book provides a valuable information for those interested in the problem of back pain associated with lifting.

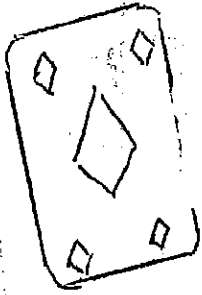
Information is presented in four main parts: statistical and epidemiological aspects of back injuries; biological aspects of handling and lifting; individual assessment and screening; and approaches to prevention including ergonomics. In addition to the review of these factors - presented in an easily assimilable form with plenty of supporting diagrams - the book provides a detailed

reading list for those wishing to pursue the subject further.

"It is hoped," says the preface, "that the reader will gain a general view of some of the human and biological factors that may have to be taken into account in the performance of handling or lifting tasks and some insight into the possible dangers of relying solely on any one of the several different preventative approaches." The review, written by Dr. Felicity Edwards, of the HSE, and Dr. Duncan Troup, of the University of Liverpool, is intended to provide background information to any guidance on manual handling which the Health and Safety Commission may issue in due course.

Copies of the Manual Handling and Lifting are available from HMSO, or booksellers price £5.50.

Source of these notes: SOUTH WEST
FARMER - No.48



PERHAPS NOT A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND...but

A Good deal

CAN BE HAD WITH A PACK OF CARDS !



Countless numbers of people around the world are shuffling a pack of playing cards at some time of the day - Bridge - Whist - Poker - Solo - cards have the same fascination for a tycoon, an obsessed gambler or even a member of the KGB dealing a hand over lunch and a vodka in the Kremlin.

On the flick of a card have rested fortunes running into millions - it is small wonder that cards have shuffled into a new game of solid investment eagerly sought by collectors and dealers everywhere.

Who dealt the very first card? How did playing cards originate? There is a colourful suggestion that they were invented by the frustrated wife of an Indian Maharaja in an attempt to occupy both hands of her husband who had the annoying habit of fiddling with his beard ! How, then, did they reach Britain and the rest of Europe? Two of the most popular theories are that they were brought over by the Crusaders or gypsies. However, more definitely, the first reference to playing cards in Europe is in Italy in 1376, when a decree in Florence forbade their use. Nevertheless, gaming with cards became so popular that over 70 years later St Bernardine of Siena publicly condemned 'the evil practice'. He moved the townsfolk so much that they made a bonfire of their cards.

Britain was one of the last in Europe to take up cards. The first reliable mention of them is in an Act of Parliament passed by Edward IV in 1463 prohibiting their importation. Edward supposedly slapped on the ban to protect English card makers. But nevertheless it 'suited' the English to adopt French suit designs, although the suit names of diamonds, clubs and spades are different. The English spades and clubs derive their names from their Italian and Spanish equivalents, the translation of the French names is spades - 'pike staffs' and clubs, 'trefoils'. For diamonds the English chose a name which suited their design, whereas the French name for diamonds is roughly translated as 'paving tiles' ! The only suit sign which is the same as the French is hearts.

By 1443, cards were an integral part of the Christmas spirit in England. In fact, gaming became so popular that both Henry VII, in 1495, and Henry VIII, in 1541, prohibited servants from playing cards except at Christmas time.

Few packs of English playing cards prior to the late 1600s have survived. For this the strict puritanical attitudes of Oliver Cromwell and his men are blamed - for thousands of packs were destroyed.

In 1628 the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards was founded by Royal Charter and, in exchange for the royal protection on imported cards, a duty of a farthing a pack was placed on cards. The levy remained until the reign of Queen Anne. Then, in 1711, to help pay for war, a 3d tax was made on every pack of imported cards. Eventually most English playing cards were made in London, although Birmingham made a big contribution in the 1800s, when the Kimberley firm produced a series of 'Royal National Patriotic Playing Cards'. Commemorative packs are always popular and there have been sets celebrating coronations, royal weddings and silver jubilees. Then the stars of Metro Goldwyn Mayer went on a film pack. So did the top models of a London agency, and there were seven packs with Joe Lyons waitresses on Queens and the question 'Where's George' on the Joker !

Concluded over:

Concluding: A GOOD DEAL

Cards have always successfully kept up with world events. They were produced to attack kings and rulers and cover wars: The Crimean packs were much in favour in the gilded salons and stately homes of Europe. The victories of Napoleon were colourfully depicted; and on one set, Nicholas I, Tsar of Russia, is there as the King of Clubs. Some of the rarest and most eagerly sought after are German cards which spread political propaganda during the First and Second World wars.

Some of the most sought after cards are British of the early 17th and 18th centuries, like the 'Popish Plot' pack issued in 1679 which told how Spain attempted to take over England with its Armada. They sell for around £1,500. That's what you would expect to pay for other political packs, like the 'Rump Parliament' from 1647 to 1655, 'Monmouth's Rebellion' of 1685, and the 'Rye House Plot' of 1683.

The highest price paid so far in Britain is £3,500 for a complete pack of John Lenthall's 'Love Mottoes'. Although brought out around 1710, they were in almost mint condition.

There is now enormous investment potential in playing cards and those of 100 years old or so are still fairly accessible to collectors. Look out, too for 'Transformation' packs - these have the suit symbols incorporated in the card's designs. Some packs are fetching £300 and other have doubled in price over the last two years to £150. One of the most undervalued areas in playing cards are those game cards like 'Snap' and 'Happy Families'. Examples of the late 1800's are to be had at around £15 - and modern sets at £6 - but they will only appreciate if you get them in very good order.

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FOR THE YOUNGER READER....

BIRD



FLIGHT

oooooooooooooooooooo Lung and air sacs of a bird ooooooooooooooooooooo

It was the development of feathers that made the flight of birds possible. They give the maximum strength with the minimum weight, and they make streamlining just about perfect.

Many bones of birds are hollow and contain air, which is connected to the breathing system. The Birds' lungs are different. They connect up with air sacs which are full of warm air. This reduces the weight of the bird and helps its breathing. There are nine of these sacs as illustrated above. Air is drawn directly into the air sacs, is then forced through the lungs (where oxygen is taken up) and passed out through the bronchial tubes. In this method of breathing the bird gets more oxygen, which is used to burn up the energy used in flying and other activities.

We have all listened to a skylark singing. The bird is soaring upwards, which requires considerable effort, and at the same time singing continuously - without stopping to take breath! A Swiss ornithologist made up a little poem which draws attention to this feat in an amusing way:

A mole heard from his earthy hole

A lark set heaven a-ringing,

And said, "Well, that one's up the pole,

Just fancy, flying and singing!"

It must be the construction of the bird's bones, its air sacs and lungs that make a skylark able to do this.

We may think of the rook as rather a clumsy bird, as we see it alight in a field, waddle about and then take off again. Yet rooks are skilful in flight. Witness them in strong winds wheeling round in the air and often using powerful up currents from a cliff edge to tower upwards and then allowing itself to be blown headlong down wind.

Many birds are sociable and fly together in an orderly manner. Some, like geese, fly in chevrons, or V formations, others like starlings or waders fly in compact flocks of evenly spaced birds. When travelling in migration they do so in flocks. Fieldfares and redwings, lapwings and golden plovers come across the North sea, starlings and wood-pigeons arrive from Europe, and robins and many other small birds come to Britain in winter in our milder climate.

The most spectacular flocks are probably those of waders. Visit areas like the estuaries of Devon and Ireland for flocks of waders, redshank, dunlin, and turnstone with plovers and curlews, and Knot. The Knot is a small wader that nests along the Arctic coasts of Russia, Siberia and Canada. As the snows of winter move in, the Asian birds move westward into Europe and at length to Britain. By the time they arrive here the flocks are usually very large. There are several reasons why birds should travel in flocks. Adult birds that have safely accomplished the journey before will know the route, and can lead the young birds over it for the first time. Then it is easier to travel in a flock for less energy is needed, and on a very long journey of thousands of miles this is important. The leading bird in a chevron of geese cuts into the wind, making it easier for those behind. A compact flock of waders is like a solid chevron, the leading birds cutting into the air for their fellows behind, and above, and below them, and it is also safer for birds to travel in a flock. In all these hundreds often thousands of hurtling shapes who ever saw, or even heard of, one bird touching another!

A Charter of King Aethelwulf

Helen Mary Petter

In 846 Aethelwulf, King of the West Saxons and Father of King Alfred, assigned to himself a tract of land. The charter describing this grant has been in the British Museum since the seventeenth century and was published in 1840, but it was not until the 1920's that the whereabouts of the land was discovered. The latin text of the charter gives no clue, but it is followed by a description in the vernacular of the landmarks defining the bounds of the land and this states that it was in 'Homme'. The identification of Homme with the South Hams is confirmed by the landmark "thurlestone", the holed stone on the coast which gives the village of Thurlestone its name.

In "Two Acts of State", published originally in 'Devonshire Studies' in 1952 and reprinted with corrections in 'West-Country Historical Studies' in 1969, Professor H.P.R. Finberg discussed this charter and identified the land given to King Aethelwulf as most of the coastal strip between the rivers Erme and Dart. By a brilliant piece of detective work he discovered most of the landmarks defining its northern boundary. In the ninth century it cannot have been easy to find clearly recognisable landmarks in a countryside which was largely wild and sparsely inhabited. Natural features such as springs, streams, and tors are for the most part the only things to go by; it took Professor Finberg three weeks to go over the ground and by and large his interpretation is indisputable.

As well as natural landmarks there are some in the western section of the boundary, between the rivers Erme and Avon, which have Saxon names. This does not make them easier to identify but it does suggest that there were more people living in that part of the country than in the larger part to the east, between the Avon and the Dart, where there are fewer landmarks and all of them are natural features. This might explain the name Kingston, the king's ton or settlement. It first occurs in a thirteenth-century document but may go back to a tradition stemming from the ninth century when it was a settlement in the king's possession. An even earlier settlement is suggested by the field named

VILLAGE VOICE

Yellons in the Tithe Map, now Yellands Park, for the name indicates a pre-Saxon settlement.

The Kingston History Society has studied the boundary from the Erme to the Avon, hoping that local knowledge of the landscape might make it possible to resolve some of the problems in Professor Finberg's interpretation of the charter. It is remarkable how frequently there are two similar landmarks to choose from, and it is possible to decide which is the correct one only by studying them on the ground. The conclusion reached was that between the Erme and the Avon the line of the charter boundary was the same as that which later became the parish boundaries between Kingston and Bigbury to the south and Modbury and Aveton Gifford to the north, and that it enclosed practically all of the parishes of Kingston, Ringmore, and Bigbury.

In "Two Acts of State" Professor Finberg gives the translation of the boundary landmarks and his identification of them, with grid references. The landmarks from the Erme to the Avon and Professor Finberg's identifications are given below (in the first paragraphs), followed by the alternative identifications suggested by the Kingston History Society:

1. FIRST INTO MERCECUMB, A combe which serves as a mearc or boundary. From the creek between Orcheton Wood and Tor Wood the boundary enters the mercecumb at (628490).

The name Mercecumb suggests that there was an existing boundary before the charter was written. The brook running down the valley is the boundary between Oldaport and Kingston parish, and Oldaport is a site which predates the charter. This valley and the brook named after it would, therefore, be the Mercecumb.

2. THEN TO THE GREEN PIT, The flat ground where Clyng Mill stands, at the foot of the steep combe.

Clyng Mill is very near the first landmark but there is a field further up the valley, where the road crosses the brook below Oldaport (638494), which is even more enclosed by steep hillsides and still looks like a green hollow.

3. THEN TO THE TOR AT THE SOURCE OF THE MERCECUMB. A towering rock pile now known as Tor Rock (636488), pierces the skyline near the head of the combe, down which a rivulet flows into the Erme.

The identification of the green pit in 2 takes the boundary beyond Tor Rock, (which stands above the side, not the head of the combe). Further up the valley Wastor, a cliff-like stone outcrop, overlooks the brook identified as the Mercecumb in 1 (645491). The source of the Mercecumb is about half a mile beyond Wastor; could the text mean 'then to the tor and the source of the Mercecumb?'

4. THEN TO DENEWALD'S STONE. A longstone which is not now to be seen; the Devonians have shown a propensity to remove these antiquities and use them as gateposts. It has, however, left traces of its former presence in the name Langstone. There was a field named Great Stone Park near Seven Stones Cross (659493).

Langston (without e) is more likely to derive from Lang's ton or farm; many properties in the district are named after former occupants. There were Langes in Kingston in the seventeenth century and Langs Farm, which still exists, paid Poor Law Rates in the eighteenth century. There was a small stream running down from Langston Farm into the Mercecumb and also a nearby field called Pillar Field but if 3 is correct the boundary followed the brook to its source. From there it is a short distance to the higher ground and Great Stone Park. For a short distance the parish boundary follows the road from Seven Stones Cross to

A C H A R T E R O F K I N G A T H E L W U L F

Modbury and on either side of this road there are two gates, each with a massive granite post cut from a larger stone (657494). The uncut faces are more weathered than the cut one. Could these gateposts be part of Denewald's Stone?

5. THEN TO THE DITCH WHICH ESNE DUG ACROSS THE ROAD. ? at (667495), where there is a curious kink in the road (B3392) and a lane leading down to Cumery. (The road has been straightened by road widening since this was written).

There was an Iron Age earthwork, probably a small fort or 'round', beside the B3392 at (666494), now a more or less circular field called Headfield. It is surrounded by hedges with high banks; on the road side the hedge has been cut away for road widening to expose the high bank. On the opposite side of the road, in a field significantly called Oldbury, the ground falls away abruptly and it is possible that the earthwork stretched across the road. The road is probably ancient and Esne's ditch may have been part of the earthwork. This area seems to have been important in early times. There must have been standing stones near Seven Stones Cross, perhaps a stone circle, and the earthwork is well placed to command a wide view to the north, the direction from which danger would threaten. In addition, five parishes meet here, Kingston, Modbury, Ringmore, Bigbury, and Aveton Gifford.

6. THENCE DOWN TO THE SOURCE OF THE SPRING. Either the spring by Upper Cumery (669491) or the one at Tetwell (682491), which is on the parish boundary between Aveton Gifford and Bigbury.

The Cumery spring is at the head of the valley that runs down towards the Avon but it is too near the earthwork to be a reasonable landmark. The Tetwell spring must be the right one; its name is Saxon - Tetta's or Tidi's well - and it is at the point where the boundary takes a sharp turn if, as seems likely, the charter boundary and the parish boundary are the same. It is now part of Bigbury parish boundary but near Tetwell it formerly bounded an outlying portion of Kingston parish.

7. THEN DOWN FROM THERE BY THE BROOK AS FAR AS TIDDESFORD. A ford over the Tetwell brook at (679478). There is no ford now; the brook is carried through a culvert under the road.

The parish boundary, now of Bigbury but formerly Kingston, runs down the Tetwell brook and then to below Challonscombe and down the brook coming from Cumery and Combe. The Tetwell brook runs into this brook at Tiddesford. The charter boundary may have followed the Tetwell brook all the way or have run along the line of the parish boundary; it depends which brook is meant.

8. THEN UP THE BROOK AS FAR AS HEOTT'S DITCH TO THE WATER-HOLE (FLODAN) The boundary now turns up another brook, one which flows down between Challonscombe Wood and Easton Wood. It rises at Holwell (665474) from a spring (later known as Holy Well) which gushes from the hill-side.

This brook, part of which was the boundary of the outlying part of Kingston parish, runs into the larger brook near Tiddesford.

9. FROM THE WATER-HOLE DOWN WHERE THE VIXEN'S DITCH MEETS THE BROOK. I am told that foxes still come down from Easton Wood to drink at the rivulet which means 'meets the brook' near Foxhole (676473). The brook here is the united waters of the three streams that have met at Tiddesford.

There is a steep hill between Easton Wood and Foxhole and a small stream beside Foxhole is more likely to be the vixen's ditch. If so, the Charter boundary makes a detour round the hill though Bigbury parish boundary follows the brook from Tiddesford. Bigbury Tithe Map shows that much of the land excluded by this detour was glebe.

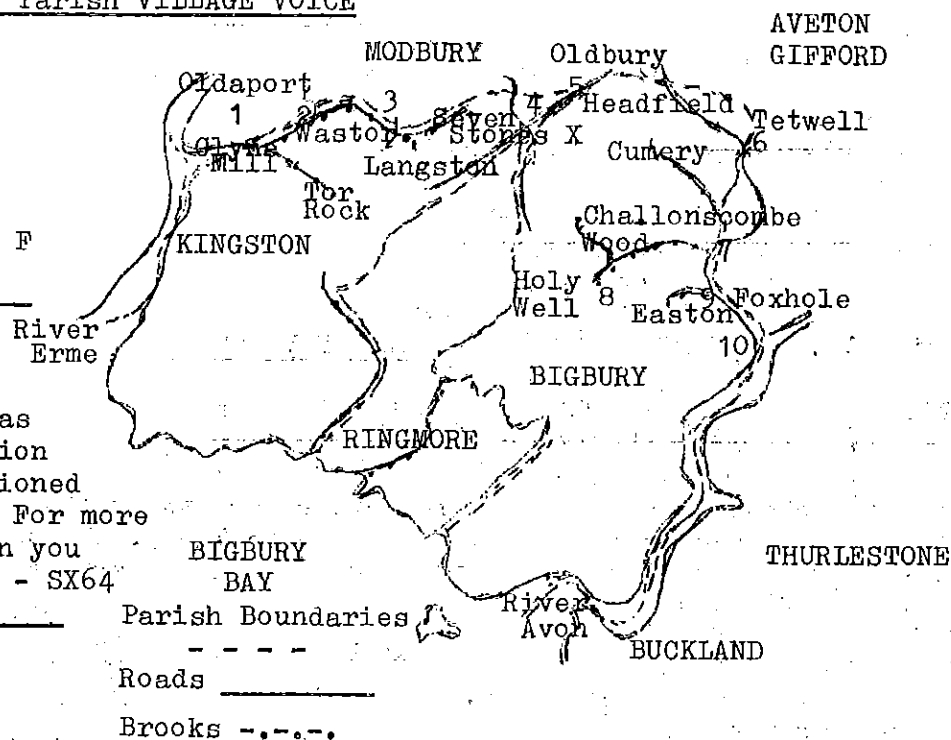
CONCLUDED OVERPAGE...

Thurlestone Parish VILLAGE VOICE

Concluding...

A C H A R T E R
for K I N G
A E T H E L W U L F

This sketch map
is only intended as
a helpful indication
of the sites mentioned
in this article. For more
specific direction you
should consult OS - SX64



10. and then down the brook to the sea. The brook flows into the Avon at (684468), after which the boundary runs downstream to Avon Mouth. This portion of the charter land takes in some 6000 acres, comprising the greater part of the three parishes: Kingston, Ringmore and Bigbury.

If the suggestions made by the Kingston History Society are correct, nearly the whole length of the charter boundary later became part of the boundaries of Kingston and Bigbury parishes and, with the exception of the hill excluded in 9, enclosed the whole of the three parishes. It would seem reasonable that the later boundaries should follow an existing one, which means that this Anglo-Saxon Charter still affects the political geography of the South Hams more than a thousand years later.

The charter boundary starts again at Thurlestone, running up the valley from the holed stone towards West Alvington. It turns west down to the Avon at Aveton Gifford, up the river to Sorley, and again down to the Avon at Gara Bridge. From there it goes east to the Ashwell Brook which flows into the Harbourne river, taking the boundary of the dart by Bow Creek and down the Dart to the sea. The area between the lower part of the Avon and Thurlestone is excluded from the charter land, probably because it had already been granted to someone else and so was not available to the King. The name Buckland indicates that it was 'book' land, that is, land granted by 'book' or charter, and a site earlier than the Charter has been excavated at Bantham.

This article was published in the April issue of the 'Devon Historian' and grateful acknowledgement is offered to the author, Helen Mary Petter, and the Editor of the 'Devon Historian', for their kind permission to allow me to include it in this issue of 'Village Voice', and I would like to acknowledge the work of the Kingston History Society for their part in tracing the boundaries of 'A Charter of King Aethelwulf'.

Editor

If you are away at the time 'Village Voice' is distributed by Peter Bromfield and would like to have a copy of the magazine, a few spare copies are always held in reserve for a few weeks - and you might just be lucky if you care to give me a ring on 560533.

DWD

VILLAGE VOICE

Badger scare

It is being claimed that certain members of animal welfare groups are helping the spread of tuberculosis in cattle by objecting to the crack-down on badgers.

This is a stern warning from the British Veterinary Association who say that they are concerned that any relaxation in the policy of stamping out badgers in highly infected areas will lead to a serious escalation of T.B.

While the disease remains a serious problem in the south-west, the BVA warn that unless the Ministry remains tough with its policy, the national herd will be put at risk, and the U.K. could return to an annual testing-round system.

The vets insist that badgers remain the single biggest culprit in the spread of the disease. Ninety percent of outbreaks, they claim, are caused by infected badgers.

"We have already been stopped twice in eradicating infected badgers by certain animal welfare groups" said the President of the BVA.

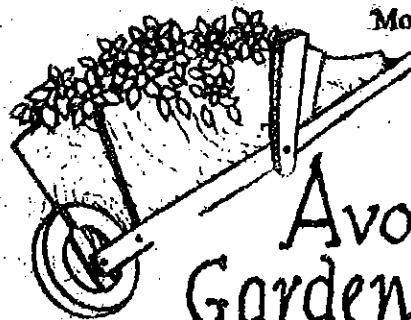
"It is hardly logical to suggest we should wipe out cattle in order to preserve the badgers."

The BVA has also warned the Government that the new move to ask farmers to pay for eradication of notifiable diseases such as TB could induce some farmers to hide the disease.

"Farming News" Report.

The Sept/Oct issue - 'deadline' for copy about 14th August.

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The Raptors by Chris. Hawkins

(An occasional series with illustration by the Author)

THE Raptors are day flying birds of prey and number amongst their species some of the most spectacular of all wild birds.

In introducing this series I have to admit to being an enthusiast rather than an expert in the field of ornithology, and as such I tend, perhaps, to propound an aesthetic view of these wonderful birds rather than the scientific observations of the expert.

In this country we have 14 different birds of prey. This figure does not include the Owls, nor does it take into account the attempted repatriation of former indigenous species such as the Fish Eagle in the Scottish Islands. They vary in rarity from the migratory Osprey with its precarious but well guarded toehold on the remote Loch Garten to the resident ubiquitous Kestrel hovering over fields, motorway embankments or even city parks. The Kestrel is perhaps the exception in it's exploitation of man made environments. For most raptors human expansion has meant a reduction in their numbers. This decline follows destruction of habitats, the use of chemicals in agriculture, and direct, and often unjustified, persecution.

The drawing on the cover of this issue is of a kestrel, but the drawing on the left is of THE EUROPEAN HOBBY (Falco Subuteo). We are all familiar with the sight of swallows and swifts wheeling and diving after insects on a warm summer evening and most of us, at some time, will have sat beside a pond or stream and wondered at the dazzling light show provided by flashing multi-coloured dragonflies. Next time you witness one of these 'aerial spectaculars' imagine a bird that can outspeed, outmanoeuvre, capture and feed off such displays! This bird is called the Hobby.

In fact on a July or August evening, when there are chicks to be fed, you may see the Hobby's Swift like silhouette diving amongst feeding swallows, snatching large insects and feeding on the wing. The casual observer is only likely to see the Hobby whilst it is feeding, for in this country it tends to nest well away from human habitations. When it returns from its winter quarters south of the Sahara Desert, the Hobby seeks out an old crow's nest or something similar, for it never builds one of its own, in which to brood the 2 to 4 eggs which are laid in June.

This small agile raptor is about the size of the Kestrel, but has a shorter tail. It is dark blue-grey above, heavily streaked below and has chestnut flanks with a dark 'moustache'. The Hobby may be seen in lowland southern England, where up to 400 pairs may nest each summer.. It has an elusive life-style and has therefore escaped the persecution suffered by its larger less elusive cousins. Because of this, and its ability to survive on a varied diet it is thought that the number of Hobby's is on the increase.

Birds of prey have always elicited a variety of emotions in mankind. They have been used as images of diety and symbols of evil. They have been worshipped and villified - but whatever your feelings may be, the sight, for instance, of a pair of courting Buzzards spiralling effortlessly upwards on the spring thermals, or of a peregrine reaching speeds in excess of 200 mph. on its killing dive, will confirm that the raptor specie of bird is the absolute master of its aerial environment. The raptor's vision is considered at least three times more powerful than our own, with equal if not superior colour definition. Indeed, a hawk's eyes are so large that they rub against each other inside the skull, and are heavier than the brain. Raptors do not possess a highly developed sense of smell, and acute hearing is the preserve of the nocturnal owl.

With this somewhat brief outline I hope I may arouse an interest in the subject regardless of delving too deeply into a subject already covered by many books written by far more learned people than myself.

C. H.

Thurlestone & South Milton

HORTICULTURAL SHOW

SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST 1985

at 2-30 p.m. in Thurlestone Parish Hall

SECTION A - Vegetables and Fruit AMATEURS ONLY (see rules in Schedules)

Class No.

1. 4 kidney Potatoes, white, shown on a 9" plate
2. 4 kidney Potatoes, coloured, shown on a 9" plate
3. 4 round Potatoes, white, shown on a 9" plate
4. 4 round Potatoes, coloured, shown on a 9" plate
5. 8 Pod peas.
6. 8 runner beans
7. 8 French beans
8. 3 Onions, grown from seed, shown as grown
9. 3 Onions, grown from sets, shown as grown
10. 8 Shallots, excluding hybrids, shown on plate
11. 8 Shallots, hybrids, shown on plate
12. 3 Carrots, stump
13. 3 Carrots, long or intermediate
14. 3 Turnips, garden
15. 3 Beetroots, globe
16. 2 Lettuces
17. 2, Cucumbers, ridge
18. 6 Tomatoes, with stems
19. 6 fronds Parsley
20. Pair vegetable Marrows
21. 2 Cabbages
22. 3 Leeks
23. 3 sticks Rhubarb
24. Plate of soft fruit, shown with stems
25. Collection of Herbs, 3 distinct kinds, 3 stems of each
26. 2 of any one vegetable not quoted on Schedule.
27. The Longest Runner bean
28. Collection of vegetables, four distinct kinds
number of each to conform with the numbers in
single classes. Space allowed 18"x 24".
Parsley may be used for decoration.

JUST ABOUT A
MONTH TO GO -
THE LIST OF
CLASSES GIVEN
IN VILLAGE
VOICE IS TO
HELP YOU IN
YOUR PREPAR-
-ATIONS -
MAKE SURE YOU
GET THE OFFICAL
SCHEDULE AND
RULES - WHICH
INCLUDES THE
ENTRY FORM.
ASK ANY MEMBER
OF THE SOCIETY

SECTION B - Vegetables & Fruit OPEN (see Rules)

Class numbers 29 to 56 are the same as for Amateurs Only

SECTION C - Cut Flowers & Pot Plants

Class No. 57 Vase of 6 decorative Dahlias.

- " 58. Vase of 6 cactus Dahlias
- " 59. Vase of 6 double Asters
- " 60. Vase of 9 mixed Sweetpeas
- " 61. Vase of 3 Gladioli

MORE 113

VILLAGE VOICE

SECTION C - Cut Flowers and Pot Plants - continued

- Class 62. 6 Pansies Class 63. Bowl of 6 hybrid Tea Roses, grown outside.
Class 64. One Rose bloom, grown outside.
Class 65. One stem floribunda Rose, grown outside
Class 66. One flowering pot plant (pot not to exceed 9")
Class 67. One foliage pot plant (pot not to exceed 9")
Class 68. Vase 12 stems mixed Annuals.
Class 69. Vase 6 stems, 3 distinct kinds, flowering Shrubs.
Class 70. Vase 6 stems mixed herbaceous Perennials.

SECTION D - CHILDREN * Classes 71-74 for 5/8 year olds. Classes 75-78 for 9/15 year olds.

- Class 71. Arrangement of wild flowers. 72. Miniature garden on a dinner plate
NEW 73. A decorative item using hand embroidery (own original design)
NEW 74. Any type of small cakes or biscuits (5 in number) presented on a (plate
75. Model of any item from any material.
76. Item of sewing (machine or hand) NEW 77. Item from cane
NEW 78. A small arranged salad, to include at least one item grown in garden of exhibitor's home

SECTION E - HOME ECONOMICS

- Class 79. 1lb jar approx. Chutney (should be at least 3 months old)
NEW 80. Salad Cream. 81. 1lb jar approx. Strawberry Jam. above
82. 1lb jar approx. Raspberry Jam. 83. 1lb jar approx any jam other than
84. Jar jelly, any variety, not less than ½lb.
85. Sponge flan, fruit filled and glazed (no cream) approx. 8".
86. A picnic lunch box, size approx. 8" x 5"
87. Lemon meringue pie, approx. 8"
NEW 88. Banana Cake, using printed recipe. 89. Four fruit scones
90. Ginger Bread, using printed recipe.

SECTION F - FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

91. A DEVON GARDEN - an exhibit featuring flowers & foliage. Space: niche, neutral background approx. 22" wide x 22" deep.
92. DAHLIA DELIGHT - an exhibit incorporating a basket featuring dahlias and any other plant material. To be viewed all round.
93. CRYSTAL CLEAR - a petite exhibit featuring glass, not less than 4" and not more than 9" in height, width and depth
94. THREE'S COMPANY - an exhibit featuring three flowers with any foliage. Space: niche, neutral background, approx 18" x 18"

MORE OVERPAGE:

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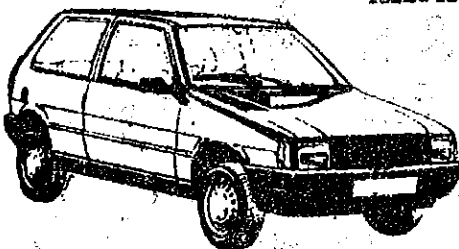
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SECTION F

Continued:

Class 95

IN THE SHADE - an exhibit for a dark corner. Space 2'6" wide x 2' 6" deep. height unrestricted

Class 96

AS I LIKE IT - An exhibit of entrant's own choice. Space: niche, neutral background. Approx 22" wide x 22" deep.

These details of the Classes for the Horticultural Show are intended only to arouse your interest and help you plan your entries. It is essential that you obtain an official Scheduel and Entry Form, and whilst every care has been taken in publishing the list of classes in this magazine, it is up to you to ensure you have the correct entry number(s) for your entries when you complete the official Entry Form.

Contact any member of the Committee or if you have any particular difficulty consult with Mrs. Pat MacDonald on Kingsbridge 560436.

=====

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Oh, dear!

The HORTICULTURAL SHOW

If you had thought there were no classes for Handicrafts - Here they are:-

SECTION G - Handicrafts
(original work only - no kits)

Class

- 97 Article in knitting
- 98 Article in crochet
- 99 Article in canvaswork
- 100 Any other form of embroidery
- 101 Article in patchwork
- 102 Painting in oils or water colours
- 103. Hand or machine sewn garment
- 104 Stuffed toy

=====

INDOOR BOWLING

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING

on MONDAY 15th JULY 1985

at 7.0 p.m.

in the THURLESTONE PARISH HALL

TO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF AN

INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Rear Admiral A.E.Bickford will be
in the Chair

=====

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AUNE VALLEY & BANTHAM TUG-O-WAR
CLUB

at BANTHAM on

FRIDAY 9th AUGUST 1985

7.0 p.m. to 1.0 a.m.

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ALL THE USUAL STALLS & GAMES

=====

Why not?

HIGH TIME TO DECIMALISE THE CALENDAR

I apologise to a Mr. Richard Johnson for quoting part of this letter he wrote to the 'Daily Telegraph'....

"I have been interested in the recent correspondence concerning the abolition of long division in schools and the encouragement being given for the use of calculators in classroom and in examinations.

I feel, however, that we are not going far enough to ease the burden of work on school-children and their teachers.

I have in mind several measures which could be taken, not only to make things easier in schools, but also to enhance the quality of life for all of us.

For instance, I can see no point in having 12 months in the year. Things would be simplified if, instead we could have ten months each of 30 days.

January & February could be done away with because nobody really likes January and many people have great difficulty in pronouncing "February" to say nothing of spelling it.....it would also mean more leisure time because the thirty-day month could comprise six five-day weeks. Monday could be done away with because no one, school-children least of all, likes Mondays, and I could suggest the abolition of Wednesday because it is a hard word to spell. This would leave us with Saturday & Sunday preserved intact and a three-day working week which could lead to a reduction in unemployment....."

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